

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1212

Thursday, May 23, 2024

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Cooling their heels. This group of Amish women from Vestaburg, Mich. enjoyed frolicking below the Falls in St. Marys on Saturday. One to two years ago, several St. Marys area families relocated to two church communities in central Michigan. A total of 46 Amish made the bus trip to this area on the weekend. Photo by Pat Payton

Order of the Eastern Star St. Marys chapter to close after 99 years

By Wendy Lamond

After 99 years of being a quiet but impactful presence in our town, the fraternal chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star is going to be closing the St. Marys division and consolidating forces with the London Daylight chapter.

The Eastern Star was originally started for the protection of the women and children of the Master Masons, though they are not formally a part of the Masons organization. It is a non-profit organization comprised of members dedicated to improving the quality of lives in the communities in which they live while partaking in fellowship, social fun and charitable works.

Worthy Matrons of each chapter will select the charity that benefits from their fundraising efforts. Sheila Greason, who would have been a 48-year member, was going to be installed as the Worthy Matron for this term and had selected the Salvation Army Food Bank as her project before her passing. Sharon Bragg-Garvey was elected to stay on in that position she was currently holding.

Current Worthy Matron Bragg-Garvey told the Independent, "While it is sad to be closing our Chapter in its 99th, I am excited to join London and work with a larger group of people to better the community."

After meeting with member Lois Bragg, the Independent learned much about the Eastern Star and its 99-year history.

The five points of the Eastern Star represent daughter, widow, wife, sister and mother.

Continued on page 2

St. Marys council awards nearly \$1.8-million contract for Wellington Street South reconstruction

By Galen Simmons

St. Marys council has awarded a nearly \$1.8-million contract for the reconstruction of portions of Wellington Street South and Victoria Street this summer to Omega Contractors Inc. of London.

Budgeted at \$2.13 million this year,

the project includes the reconstruction of Wellington Street South from Park Street to St. Maria Street, and Victoria Street from Church Street South to Water Street South. The project will replace old water services from the watermain to property line, install new watermain on Vic-

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COMMUNITY

Order of the Eastern Star St. Marys chapter to close after 99 years

Continued from page 1

The very first meeting in St. Marys took place March 25, 1925, at the Oddfellows Hall, which was in the old Molson Bank building on Queen Street. Some members of their sister club in London took the train to St. Marys to attend. At that time, there were 36 members of the new chapter and 53 visitors.

Throughout the years, the Order of the Eastern Star has donated to many projects in town such as the Festival of Lights display at the flats, community youth, Salvation Army Food Bank and the Lung Association, and they have furnished a room and donated towards equipment at the

St. Marys Memorial Hospital.

It will be an emotional time for the members with the closing of the local chapter. The aging club decided it was time to close the local chapter as it has become harder to get members and the work has become too much for the remaining members to handle.

The schedule for Daylight chapter meetings differ from the St. Marys meetings. Instead of 7:30 p.m., the Daylight chapter meets at 1 p.m. and that will affect some of the current members.

According to Bragg, who had five generations of her family join over the years, "It is an end of an era for

the St. Marys chapter. The current Worthy Patron, Zachary Longeway, is the great grandson of their first Worthy Patron, Scott Whaley. It is a nice full-circle time for the club."

The Order of the Eastern Star is open to all religions and is based on biblical teachings. However, it is also a fun social group that offers assistance to members in tough times and provides strength through mutual camaraderie.

"My favourite part of belonging to the chapter are the friendships that we have made through the organization and the charities that have benefitted from our fundraising over the years," said Bragg, who is a 49-year member.

As mentioned earlier, Bragg has five generations of her family involved in the local chapter, the latest being her granddaughter, Leeanne Garvey.

Garvey commented, "It's an honour to be joining Eastern Star in my family's footsteps. I have grown up around the organization, and it's exciting to learn more about what they do. I am continuing my family's vision for a better community."

With the drop in membership numbers for local service clubs, it is great to see the younger generation coming forward and signing up to carry on the traditions and, to do so in her mother, grandmother and great-grandmother's footsteps, is extremely meaningful.

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COMMUNITY

St. Marys council awards nearly \$1.8-million contract for Wellington Street South reconstruction

Continued from page 1

toria Street from Wellington Street to Water Street to improve system redundancy and replace storm sewers from Victoria Street to St. Maria Street. It will also include miscellaneous sewer repairs throughout the project area and a new sidewalk along the east side of Wellington Street as well as new concrete curb, asphalt roadway and subdrains.

“This is sort of the second-largest project we have this year in the capital plan following the sewage plant (upgrades),” town infrastructure services manager Jeff Wolfe said at the May 14 council meeting. “ ... With a budget of \$2.1 million, roughly, we end up being quite a bit under budget (by about) \$350,000, so that’s good news.”

Following conversations with the contractor, Wolfe said the project is expected to get underway at the end of this month or in early June and it will take roughly 15 weeks to com-

plete. All included work will be finished before the end of September with the exception of topcoat asphalt, which will be laid in spring 2025.

During the council discussion that followed Wolfe’s presentation, Coun. Marg Luna asked Wolfe whether any trees will need to come down during construction. Wolfe said there will be two large tree removals as part of this project, both of which were recommended to be removed by the town’s arborist after they were found to be hollow or partially hollow and not necessarily because of the work in the roadway.

“When I think back, we did the whole downtown there (for less than this project costs) not that many years ago,” Mayor Al Strathdee said, laughing. “I think that’s our new reality now. You have to keep that in mind. This is a smaller-scale project ... and look how things have changed. I’m glad we got a competitive bid from a contractor I think we’re all familiar



with.

“ ... I know a number of the residents in the area ... are quite excited about

this and thankful for the communication (from town staff).”



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EDITORIAL

Phoebe the travelling puppy: Taking a dog on holiday

By Galen Simmons

As I write this column, I am sitting in a quaint cottage on the shores of Longbow Lake just outside of the City of Kenora in northern Ontario.

My mom, sister, girlfriend and I made the trip up to Kenora last week to visit family, something my immediate family has done every summer – or every other summer after my dad passed – since I was a baby.

The trip is a somewhat long one. It's about an hour and a half by car from Stratford to Pearson Airport, a little more than a two-and-a-half-hour flight from Toronto to Winnipeg, and then another two-and-a-half-hour drive from Winnipeg back over the Ontario border to Kenora.

This year, my girlfriend, Julia, joined us for the first time on our annual pilgrimage to my patrilineal roots, and we decided, instead of paying for doggy day-care, we would bring her dog – a one-and-a-half-year-old mini cockapoo named Phoebe who looks more like an Irish setter puppy – along for the ride.

Neither Julia or I have ever travelled with a pet in any mode of transportation other than a car, and Phoebe, too, has never known any other way to get from Point A to Point B, so we weren't sure what to expect.

Because of her size, we had to stow Phoebe in the pressurized-cargo compartment of the plane, so we called the airport well in advance and booked a spot for her and her kennel in the belly of the beast. Even so, the ticket agent said there was no guarantee there would be room for Phoebe in the plane and we would only know for sure on the day of our flight.

Needless to say, both Julia and I were a bundle of nerves when we arrived at the Park 'N' Fly lot at Pearson and boarded the shuttle bus to Terminal 1. Once we arrived, we were told to wait in line to speak with a ticket agent since we were flying with a live animal and would need to drop her off at the oversized/fragile luggage desk.

So, we waited, and we waited, and we waited. Forty-five minutes later we stepped out from the front of the line and walked up to the counter to speak with a perfectly pleasant and slightly inexperienced ticket agent. With a little less than an hour before we were to board, the ticket agent and her supervisor did their best to have us fill out the tags, place the stickers, and tie down the hard-top dog carrier we'd purchased somewhat last minute the night before.

Everything seemed to be going smoothly. We had our boarding passes and we brought Phoebe to the oversized-baggage counter to have her carrier scanned for dangers (drugs, weapons,



Flying with a dog for the first time is definitely stressful, but totally worth it. Photo by Rhianna Simmons

illegal immigrants; who knows what people smuggle in their dog carriers). As another ticket agent was checking out the carrier, she suddenly realized we hadn't gotten a luggage tag and, according to her, Phoebe would not have made it to Winnipeg if she hadn't noticed it was missing, and we likely would have been pulled off the plane, too.

So that was another layer of stress, worrying about what could have been, but my girlfriend quickly ran back to the original ticket agent, explained the situation and had a luggage tag printed and stuck to Phoebe's carrier in no time.

We were then instructed to leave the luggage cart carrying Phoebe in her carrier at the oversized-luggage desk – one of the hardest things I've ever had to do – and proceed through security to our gate. With all the confusion and chaos of getting Phoebe ready to fly, we only just made it to our gate with less than 10 minutes to spare.

Julia and I worried about Phoebe for the whole flight. Did she make it on the plane alright? Was she hungry? Thirsty? Did she have to go to the bathroom? Where would we find her when we got to Winnipeg?

As it turned out, we had nothing to worry about. A luggage staff member at the Winnipeg Airport brought Phoebe out from behind a door at the back of the luggage-carousel area shortly after we picked up our other bags, Julia took her out for a quick pee and a runaround in the small dog park just outside the airport, and we all loaded into a rental car and headed toward our rental cottage in Kenora.

While the first time flying with a dog was stressful, I don't regret bringing Phoebe at all. She's having so much fun exploring her new surroundings, riding in a boat for the first time, and going for an entirely unintended swim off the dock – and we're having fun watching her experience all of it.

Bravo

We have 1 Bravo this week.

1) Bravo to the health-care staff and facilities that we have in St. Marys. You often hear of excessive wait times for appointments and services in larger cities but that is not what I experienced locally. I had a health issue a couple of weeks ago and was able to get a same day appointment when I called Happy Valley and two days later, an x-ray at St. Marys Memorial Hospital. We are very fortunate in St. Marys.

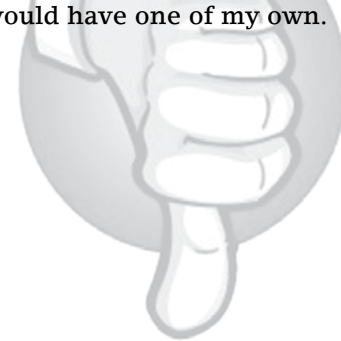


*Please note all Boos and Bravos must be signed in order to be considered.

Boo

We have 1 Boo this week.

1) To the person that let their dog (seemingly the size of a small pony) poop in the middle of our large front lawn. Unless the dog was running free, even a leash would not allow a dog that far from the sidewalk. I would rather you knock on my front door and ask for a bag to pick it up, than leave it for us to do. Worse yet, left for our grandchildren to discover. Show some respect - I love dogs but if I wanted to clean up their poop I would have one of my own.



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

Quote of the Week

"As far as best rounds of my career, I would say it was pretty good. I definitely never imagined ever going to jail, and I definitely never imagined going to jail the morning before one of my tee times."

Scottie Scheffler who faces second-degree assault of a police officer, criminal mischief, reckless driving and disregarding signals from an officer directing traffic charges stemming from the early Friday morning incident.

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The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS
OF THE WEEK

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The best thing
about the future
is that it comes
one day at a time

Time is what we
want most but
use the worst

Healing is a
matter of time
but also a matter
of opportunity

Hard work beats
talent when
talent doesn't
work hard

COMMUNITY

Festival Sounds Chorus to host Crazy Dreams, a spring concert at St. Marys Pyramid Recreation Centre



The Festival Sounds Chorus will perform in its spring concert, Crazy Dreams, at the St. Marys Pyramid Recreation Centre June 2. Contributed photo

By Wendy Lamond

On Sunday June 2, the musical group, Festival Sounds Chorus, is hosting a spring concert, Crazy Dreams, at the St. Marys Pyramid Recreation Centre.

The Stratford based chorus is made up of 21 female singers that come from Perth, Huron, Oxford and Middlesex counties. The group was formed in 1957 as a chapter of the Sweet Adelines International and perform a variety of music from traditional barbershop to modern show tunes.

The ladies meet for rehearsals every Wednesday evening at St. Paul's Anglican Church on Douro Street in Stratford. The chorus members represent all age groups and have come together for the sole purpose of having fun and for the pure joy of singing.

Local native Brooke Dufton leads the group and shares her passion of teaching music and experience with the chorus. Dufton has a doctorate from the University of Toronto in vocal performance and has more than 20 years teaching experience.

The chorus covers a four-part a cappella harmony. The leads sing the melody and keeps the tune moving. The basses provide the strong support with the bottom notes. The baritones are often the group that sing between the leads and basses and the tenors sing the highest notes. When all four parts come together, it brings out the magic of the music for the audience.

The chorus has performed locally in long-term-care homes in St. Marys

and Stratford for Christmas, and has competed in Detroit and Flint, Mich. They recently performed at Caesar's Windsor as part of Borderlines Region 2 competition placing ninth among many choruses from all over.

The members will learn the songs by listening to the tracks and then they come together at rehearsal to fit it all together.

"Over the 15 years I've been with Festival Sounds Chorus, I've come to treasure the relationships developed with the other chorus members, but the main reason to go every week is to sing," chorus member Annamarie Murray said. "I'm proud of how my singing skills have developed over the years and after Wednesday night practices, I always drive home feeling energized with a smile on my face."

Special guests that will be performing June 2 are Maple Reserve, Canada's finest a cappella men's quartet, all originally from the Toronto area.

Stratford's CJCS morning show host, Jamie Cottle, will be the host of the show. Money raised from the concert will go towards chorus expenses like the rehearsal hall, costumes, director, and music.

Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased from any chorus member, at the door or by calling 519-301-5636 or emailing sweetfestivalsounds@gmail.com.

The Festival Sounds Chorus is always looking for new members to join them on Wednesday nights from 6:30-9 p.m.

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



FRIENDSHIP CENTRE CHOIR CONCERT

Wed., May 29, 6:30 PM | Pyramid Centre

The Friendship Centre Choir presents "Music Sweet Music", an enchanting evening of music and sweet treats. Tickets are \$12 and pre-registration is required.

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Seniors of the Week



Our seniors of the week are Bill and Donna McKay who were married in Dorchester, Ontario on May 29, 1954. They have five children, 16 grandchildren, 29 great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren. The McKays have lived in Medina for 68 years. In their spare time they enjoy gardening, attending church, baking, visiting with family and friends, going for drives, crossword puzzles and helping in their community. The family wishes them all the best on this special day and thank them for being wonderful parents and grandparents and always being there to help in anyway.

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

Weekend Quiz

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1. "99 red balloons" was originally sung in what language?
2. What planet has the strongest gravity in the Milky Way Galaxy?
3. What is the capital of Puerto Rico?
4. When was the selling of raw milk banned in Canada?
5. Who was the leading voice of Coach's Corner on Sportsnet?
6. What is Heliophysics the study of?
7. In which sport would you perform the Fosbury Flop?
8. Who is the author of "Oliver Twist"?
9. What is the name of the tallest building in New York City?
10. What does the Roman Numeral "X" stand for?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

COMMUNITY

Walk for Alzheimer's kicks off end of May across region

By Connor Luczka

Get your runners laced up and your teams ready. The annual IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's, hosted by the Alzheimer Society Huron Perth, takes place across the region on May 25.

The annual walk is vital to the local organization, as Sarah Dunn, fund development assistant with the society, said.

"It is our biggest fundraiser of the year and crucial for us," Dunn said, "because we only get about 60 per cent of our operating budget through government grants."

The walk raises funds for the programs and services that the society offers for those living with dementia and their caregivers in Huron and Perth counties.

This year, the fundraising goal is \$130,000, higher than the \$123,000 raised last year. Dunn said they are optimistic they'll reach their goal.

"This disease is becoming more and more prevalent," Dunn said. "Currently 76,000 more Canadians are diagnosed with dementia each year, and with an aging population that is only expected to increase."

By the year 2050, the society estimates that more than 1.7 million people will be living with dementia in Canada. Currently, there are 650,000 Canadians living with dementia.

"On May 25, we're calling on you to make connections matter and show your support by walking or donating towards a walk event in a community near you," Cathy Ritsema, executive director at the society, said in a media release. "The funds raised at the walk stay in Huron and Perth counties and provide crucial funds for the Alzheimer Society."

To get involved, register for a local walk as an individual or team, start fundraising, using the hashtag #IGWalkForAlz and join everyone on May 25.

More than 150 communities nationwide host walks each year. The local society is hosting seven walks this year, taking place in:

- Exeter – South Huron District High School
- Clinton – Central Huron Secondary School
- Goderich – Goderich District Collegiate Institute
- Listowel – Between the Lines
- St. Marys – Solis Park
- Stratford – Upper Queen's Park
- Wingham – Maitland River Community Church

The easiest way to register, Dunn said, is to go to walkforalzheimers.ca ahead of the walk, though registration will be open day-of as well.

Registration will open at 9 a.m. that morning and the walk will start at 10 a.m. sharp.

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COMMUNITY

Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign Raises \$20,000 for environmental services team



Pictured from left are Paul Whaling, owner of St. Marys Tim Hortons, Bernice De Decker, communications and fundraising coordinator for the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation, Shari McHardy, Tim Hortons Manager, Linda McFadyen, foundation director, Allison Cornish, supervisor of housekeeping at St. Marys Memorial Hospital, Karen Ford, housekeeping staff, and Arlene Lanting, St. Marys Memorial Hospital inpatient and emergency department manager. Photo by Wendy Lamond

Submitted by Bernice De Decker, St. Marys Healthcare Foundation

Once again, Tim Hortons' Smile Cookie Campaign has proven that a simple gesture can make a significant impact.

This year's campaign has not only brought smiles to many faces but has also raised an incredible \$20,000 for the St. Marys Memorial Hospital. The funds raised through the Smile

Cookie Campaign have been directed towards a new washer and dryer for the environmental services team, something that has not been updated in 35 years.

We are so grateful for the support we've received from our volunteers, Tim Hortons staff and the entire community. We cannot thank you enough.

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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It's planting time. Local nurseries are doing a brisk business.

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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 with the title "Overheard at The Coffee Shop", call 519-284-0041 or drop by the office to let us know!

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COMMUNITY

2024 Discover More tourism brochure highlights everything Perth County offers

By Emily Stewart

The latest Perth County Discover More Tourism Brochure has all the listings for alpaca walks, farm-to-table dining, cycle routes, wine tasting and so many more adventures.

A May 15 press release from Perth County Economic Development and Tourism announced the 2024 Discover More brochure is jammed packed with a variety of adventures. The 34-page brochure features the Perth County Bakery Trail with 13 stops, the top-10 family friendly adventures, listings for small-town shops and unique dining and hands-on culinary experiences. The brochure's Farm Gate Map also features 80 on-farm shops to visit.

Additionally, the Discover More Brochure includes 13 Discover More Adventure Experiences, including Sip and Graze sampling at Perth Farmhouse, Perth County's only winery that opened May 18 in New Hamburg. Perth Farmhouse also offers goat socials.

Other adventure experiences include pick-your-own bouquets at Black Creek Flower Farm, afternoon high tea at Victoria Inn and Spa, outdoor exploration at the Stratford-Perth Museum, and an open-barn event at Aspens Ojibwe Horse Sanctuary.

"If you're really looking to capture the essence of Perth County, I would definitely encourage folks to start with these Discover More adventures signature experiences," said Perth County tourism officer Clara Leney.

The brochure also lists activities to do throughout the four seasons including apple picking, ghost tours and witches walks in the fall, skating, snowshoeing and picking out Christmas trees in the winter, and nature retreats in the spring and summer

months.

"Whether it's the vibrant colours of fall foliage," Leney said, "the tranquility of winter snowscapes, the blossom fields of spring or outdoor lively activities of summer, each season brings its own, unique charm to the region. By highlighting these seasonal attractions, we can encourage repeat visits from folks who want to experience Perth County in different seasons."

Leney says domestic tourism has been growing over the past few years. Promoting tourism both attracts visitors and leads residents to hidden gems of the region. Tourism programming like Discover More boosts Perth County's visibility on a national, provincial and regional level which, in turn, can lead to more investments and partnerships in other sectors like technology, manufacturing and agriculture.

"By attracting visitors, we're supporting those local businesses, we're creating job opportunities and we're enhancing the quality of life in our resident community," Leney said.

Leney also said featuring nature retreats, walks, outdoor-cycling trails and other outdoor activities can also lead to more sustainability and conservation.

"By showing natural landscapes and biodiversity in Perth County through conservation areas, trails, signature cycling routes, it helps us raise awareness of preserving our beautiful environment," she said.

The 2024 Discover More Brochure can be found by visiting any of the stops on the Farm Gate Map, in municipal offices and at community centres, as well as online at www.perthcounty.ca/en/discover.

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COMMUNITY

Movie Nights in the Park offering outdoor-cinema experience

By Emily Stewart

St. Marys residents will have four outdoor movie nights to look forward to this summer.

The St. Marys Public Library will host Movie Nights in the Park from June to September in Cadzow Park. Each movie night will begin at dusk. The outdoor movie nights are sponsored by the Friends of the St. Marys Public Library, which covers the cost of the equipment and licenses to show the movies and provide free popcorn to guests.

Rebecca Webb, library services coordinator with the St. Marys Public Library, said as the town does not have a movie theatre, the Movie Nights in the Park give residents the cinema experience.

"You don't have to leave town to get

that big-screen-movie experience," Webb said. "You get a chance to experience one of the parks in St. Marys, a really beautiful park in St. Marys in Cadzow Park, and get out in the community, see other people, watch a new movie that maybe you haven't seen yet and just have that experience without ever having to leave town."

The first Movie Night in the Park will be a screening of the blockbuster, Barbie, on June 7 in partnership with St. Marys Pride. Before the film, attendees can enjoy cotton candy, music and lawn games.

"It's suited well for the partnership this year with Pride because there is some 2SLGBTQ+ themes in there," Webb said. "So, we were trying to find something that would kind of accommodate that partnership and make it

a nice complement to the weekend."

The St. Marys Public Library will also be at Pride in the Park in Milt Dunnell Field June 9.

Other Movie Nights in the Park will occur on July 12, Aug. 9 and Sept. 13. However, Webb said the movies will not be announced until closer to the screenings.

"We leave them as to be determined," she said, "because we want to show the newest release possible and the most-popular movie possible, and those dates don't really get announced until the last minute."

The events are free, but donations to Friends of the St. Marys Public Library will be accepted. Before the movie starts, a slideshow about the friends of the library will be shown.

"It just gives them an opportunity to tell people what they do," Webb said. "It gives us an opportunity to talk to people about what the library does, what friends of the library does to market some of their programs and then just, really, it supports the library in that one of our aims is to provide fun programming to get families out in the community."

Webb hopes to see many residents attend the events. Up to 350 spectators have watched a Movie Night in the Park in the past.

"It's awesome to see that many people out in the park," she said.

All of the events are bring-your-own-chair or blanket (BYOC). More information can be found by visiting www.facebook.com/StMarysPublicLibrary.

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COMMUNITY

St. Marys council approves \$45,000 BIA levy for 2024

By Galen Simmons

St. Marys council has approved a \$45,000 business improvement area (BIA) levy – a levy that hasn’t changed since 2008 – to fund the St. Marys Downtown Business Association’s operations and activities this year.

Presenting the BIA’s levy request to council at its May 14 regular meeting, BIA treasurer Sue Griffiths told councillors the BIA’s 2024 budget, approved at its annual general meeting April 8, is focused around four pillars – beautification, marketing and communication, sponsorship and partnerships, and BIA operations.

“This year there was actually a subcommittee in order to organize the budget, and it was kind of done around four pillars, so it wasn’t as wide-ranging as opposed to how it’s been done in past years,” Griffiths said. “One thing that didn’t change and hasn’t changed for 16 years was that the levy is still at \$45,000.”

In addition to the \$45,000 levy, the St. Marys BIA will also receive \$9,000 in HST rebates, \$5,700 of which will go to fund this year’s budget while the rest will go toward future or ongoing projects including ongoing branding work, the purchase of 26 self-watering planters to help reduce the BIA’s beautification costs and the purchase of new Christmas lights.

Within the budget, the BIA plans to spend a total of \$50,700 this year with \$17,500 going toward beautification for things like hanging baskets, streetscape decoration for the spring, fall and holiday seasons, and other beautification ideas.

A total of \$20,000 will be put toward marketing and communication, which covers the costs of paying staff for social-media management and promotion, the BIA newsletter, creating engagement oppor-



tunities for business owners, implementing the aforementioned branding project, member education in marketing and communication, the management of a BIA-members-only Facebook page and a member-liaison position.

Under the sponsorship and partnerships line, the BIA intends to spend \$8,500 this year to partner with other local clubs and groups on events and special promotions like the Stonetown Heritage festival, the Christmas Parade, Poetry Month and Pride Month among others.

Finally, the BIA expects to spend \$4,700 this year on general operations, which includes the costs of an Ontario Business Improvement Area Association membership, the BIA’s annual general meeting, office supplies, the annual audit, internet, print publications and advertising.

Town staff calculate the levy based on the commercial assessments within the BIA boundary, taking into account the minimum levy of \$100 and maximum levy of \$761.25 for single-unit and \$971.25 for multi-unit properties.

“What about the vacant properties in the district,” Coun. Jim Craigmile said. “Can we set that up at a high rate? ... If we can control that, I think it’s something (the BIA board) should be doing ASAP because each business owner downtown has to work especially hard on their marketing and promotional material because of the vacant structures that might be in the view from their front door or something. Something needs to be done and, if we can do that, if this is a mechanism because the other mechanisms won’t work, I think we should do it.”

St. Marys corporate services director André Morin said staff would need to research whether council could create a subcategory for vacant properties within the BIA boundary and take Craigmile’s suggestion to the BIA board for comment before he can say for sure whether properties with vacant buildings can be levied at a higher rate than properties with active businesses on them.

“The way the calculation works is it’s always based on assessment,” Morin said. “We can set up categories and that’s kind of where Coun. Craigmile is going (with his suggestion), so I’d have to do a little more research in regards to that.”

“It may be that there is not an option in relation to that because the assessment will fall within where it falls (now). Having said that, there may be an option to subcategorize. We have a category now for large properties whereby we set the maximum (levy) at \$971 versus the \$761. Certainly, we’ll bring this back to the BIA board to have some further discussions and possibly some research.”

While other members of council seemed to be supportive of Craigmile’s suggestion, Coun. Rob Edney noted he doesn’t think it’s the BIA’s job to tax vacant properties at a higher rate as a kind of disincentive against vacancy, and that should instead fall under council’s purview.

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COMMUNITY

Chris Campbell seeks community's help to become the next Favourite Chef

By Wendy Lamond

Owner of Campbell's Catering, Chris Campbell is competing for the title of Favourite Chef in a competition that could win him \$25,000, an appearance on the cover of Taste of Home Magazine and an exclusive cooking experience with Carla Hall.

Hall is an acclaimed chef and TV personality and rose to fame on Top Chef and the The Chew. She now hosts her own HBO show called Chasing Flavor and is also the presenter of the Favorite Chef.

Anyone who has tried Campbell's delicious food knows "Favourite Chef" is a title he deserves.

The competition is based on a voting system. Votes can be cast for Campbell once every 24 hours, however a Facebook account is required to vote. Those who don't have a Facebook account can also vote through a verification-by-card process.

Voting for the first round started May 20 and goes until May 30.

When Campbell applied for the com-

petition, he had to answer some questions about his love of cooking and where it started, his favourite dish to make and what he would do with the \$25,000.

Campbell shared that his grandmother was his biggest inspiration as she was always in the kitchen whipping up tasty treats. His favourite dish to make is chicken parmigiano with creamy bacon and parmigiano penne.

With the money, Campbell said he would like to invest in his brick-and-mortar location on Water Street, finish the patio and invest in equipment. He would also like to continue to help the community food bank with another Free Food for Food initiative.

"This would be a dream come true," Campbell told the Independent. "All of my trials and tribulations have led me to this possibility. This community has been a driving force for me, and for that, I am eternally grateful. Let's rock this!"

Let's get voting, St. Marys! For voting go to favchef.com/2024/christopher-campbell



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COMMUNITY

Jackie Noble Memorial Trophy awarded to local music students

By Gary West

Music students from various grades at North Easthope Public School west of Amulree brought home the hardware to the school after the recent 96th annual Kiwanis Festival of the Performing Arts in Stratford.

Music teacher Colleen Rothwell said the school entered four choirs into the festival, including a girls choir and three classroom choirs – grades 1, 2 and 3/4.

According to Rothwell, the dedication and focus of each student was evident at the competition and their hard work resulted in first-place standings for each group.

Additionally, the girls choir was awarded the Jackie Noble Memorial trophy in memory of Jacqueline Candice Noble of St.

Marys who died in 1989 of Leukaemia at the age of 14. She was a talented singer and brought joy to her family, friends and to all who knew her.

At the Stars of the Festival evening, North Easthope was presented with two more awards, including the Ida Kollman Memorial Scholarship and the Bottomley Trophy for the highest average score in three or more Elementary School vocal classes.

The winning singers from North Easthope thanked Mitchell area farmer Dave Murray as their dedicated accompanist during this year's festival.

Rothwell also sends out many thanks to the school's parent council, which supported this effort by providing funding for entrance fees and busing.



Music Teacher Colleen Rothwell with award winning musical students at North Easthope Public School with their trophies on full display last week. They were proud to be showing off their four wins at this year's Kiwanis Festival of the Performing Arts in Stratford. Photo by Gary West



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COMMUNITY

Special Olympics athletes fundraise at St. Marys Foodland



Thank you to St. Marys Foodland for your support for allowing local Special Olympics athletes do some fundraising in the store. Thank you also to the community of St. Marys for your contributions to Special Olympics Stratford and Area to help local St. Marys athletes be able to participate in the sports they enjoy and be part of the community. Pictured from left are athlete Sean Darling, St. Marys Foodland Owner Corey McKay, Manager Bridget Flanagan, Manager Alex Munnings, and athlete Mike Hitchcock. Contributed photo

Celebrate summer with the St. Marys Museum

By St. Marys Independent staff

The St. Marys Museum is celebrating the change in seasons with its Summer Open House on Saturday, June 1 from 12-4 p.m.

This event is co-sponsored by the London District Weavers and Spinners Guild and the range of activities planned will appeal to visitors of all ages.

The museum's summer exhibit, Spinning a Yarn, will officially open on June 1. It explores some of the interesting artifacts in the museum's collection that relate to local textile production. St. Marys was the site of many mills, including flax and woolen mills, and a place where professional weavers and spinners produced yarn and textiles for the community.

The exhibit also showcases the history of the London District Weavers and Spinners Guild, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary. Guild members will be providing demonstrations of their craft throughout the event so members of the public can learn more



through hands-on activities.

"We're thrilled to be able to display some of the unique pieces from members of the London and District Weavers and Spinners Guild," said St. Marys museum assistant curator Emily Taylor in a press release. "This is a way to celebrate the long history of this organization and place it within the historical context through objects in our collection."

The St. Marys Museum is located at 177 Church St. S in Cadzow Park. Everyone is welcome at the Summer Open House and admission is free. For more information, call the St. Marys Museum at 519-284-3556.



PROPERTY TAX REMINDER

All Interim Tax Bills have been mailed. The Second Interim Tax Instalment is due on

MAY 30, 2024

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SPORTS

DCVI wins team title at H-P Track & Field meet



The St. Marys DCVI track-and-field team won the overall team championship and captured a litany of excellent individual results at the Huron-Perth Championship held May 14-15 at St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School in Clinton. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Trevor Richardson, Oliver Black, Charlie Bender, Zach Matheson, Vaughn Barr, Lila Corby, Kiara McGregor, Holly Black and Jane Arthur. In the back row, from left, are Coach Megan Bryan, Eden Sinnett, coach Nathan Good, Harvest Elliot, Adrianna Hollestelle-Black, Kylie Fifield, Payton Blight, Abe Bender, Ezra Bender, Bronwyn Hawkins, Kaleb Dingman, Donovan McGregor, Nic Brintnell, Tristin Langille, Anna Ropp, Danny Switzer, Bailey Ross, Walker Wakem, Charlotte Richardson, Cora Weber and coach Ian Morton. Not pictured are Luci Steffler, Charlotte Clinton, Avery Jennings, Becca Sleeper, Raella Brodhagen, Zach Larmer, Ethan Henderson, Myles Clinton, Owen Collings, Kyler Rooney, Charles Black, Trevor Aarts, Colton Hawkins, and Garrett Steffler. Contributed photo

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys DCVI track and field athletes won the overall team championship May 14-15 at St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School in Clinton.

Coach Nathan Good praised the group for being a tight-knit and supportive cast of athletes.

"They are great teammates," Good told the Independent. "At meets, we always see many of our athletes out supporting each other and cheering each other on rather than sitting in the tent waiting for their event. Another coach even commented how impressed they were with how our athletes supported not only each other but athletes from other schools as

well."

The Salukis placed in the top three in every division, including the top spot in the novice boys and senior girls categories. The junior girls and boys claimed the second place, while the novice girls and senior boys both took third.

Additionally, several DCVI athletes earned overall awards individually, including Vaughn Barr in the novice boys division and Payton Blight in the junior girls bracket who both took first. Anna Ropp finished second in the senior girls group while Charlotte Richardson and Bronwyn Hawkins each secured third in the novice and junior girls divisions.

Charlotte Richardson - 1st place, novice girls 800-metre run -- 1st place, novice girls 1500-metre run -- 2nd place, novice girls 300-metre hurdles

Holly Black - 1st place, novice girls pole vault -- 3rd place, novice girls 80-metre hurdles -- 3rd place, 300-metre hurdles

Bronwyn Hawkins - 1st place, junior girls 1500-metre run -- 1st place, junior girls 3000-metre run -- 2nd place, junior girls pole vault

Payton Blight - 1st place, junior girls shot put -- 1st place, junior girls discus -- 1st place, junior girls javelin

Lila Corby - 1st place, senior girls pole vault -- 2nd place, senior girls 100-metre dash

Kiara McGregor - 3rd place, senior girls 100-metre dash

Charlotte Clinton - 1st place, senior girls 3000-metre run -- 1st place, open girls 2000-metre steeplechase

Anna Ropp - 1st place, senior girls 100-metre hurdles -- 1st place, senior girls long jump -- 2nd place, senior girls shot put

Harvest Elliott - 2nd place, senior girls high jump

Eden Sinnett - 1st place, senior girls javelin -- 3rd place, senior girls shot put

Abe Bender - 1st place, novice boys 800-metre run -- 2nd place, novice boys 400-metre run

Charlie Bender - 1st place, novice boys 1500-metre run -- 1st place, novice boys 3000-metre run

Nic Brintnell - 2nd place, novice boys 1500-metre run -- 2nd place, novice boys 3000-metre run -- 2nd place, novice boys 300-metre hurdles

Vaughn Barr - 1st place, novice boys 100-metre

hurdles -- 1st place, novice boys 300-metre hurdles -- 1st place, novice boys pole vault

Zach Larmer - 2nd place, novice boys 100-metre hurdles -- 2nd place, novice boys pole vault -- 2nd place, novice boys long jump

Ethan Henderson - 3rd place, novice boys pole vault

Donovan McGregor - 1st place, novice boys shot put -- 3rd place, novice boys discus

Danny Switzer - 1st place, junior boys 100-metre dash -- 1st place, junior boys 200-metre dash

Kaleb Dingman - 1st place, junior boys 3000-metre run -- 2nd place, junior boys 1500-metre run

Tristan Langille - 3rd place, junior boys long jump

Trevor Aarts - 2nd place, senior boys 110-metre hurdles

Trevor Richardson - 2nd place, senior boys javelin -- 3rd place, senior boys 110-metre hurdles

Charles Black - 2nd place, senior boys 400-metre hurdles -- 2nd place, senior boys pole vault

Colton Hawkins - 1st place, senior boys pole vault Oliver Black - 3rd place, senior boys pole vault

Ezra Bender - 1st place, open boys 2000-metre steeplechase

Myles Clinton - 2nd place, open boys 2000-metre steeplechase

DCVI Teams - 1st place, junior boys 4x100-metre relay -- 1st place, senior girls 4x100-metre relay -- 2nd place, open girls 4x100-metre relay -- 3rd place, novice girls 4x100-metre relay -- 3rd place, novice boys 4x100-metre relay

The Salukis will be well-represented at WOSSAA with 37 athletes qualifying for the regional meet being held this week.

According to Good, one of the keys to the Salukis' success was a willingness to compete in events they aren't typically used to.

"A lot of athletes went outside of their comfort zone and tried some of the less popular events. Many had a lot of success in these events like pole vault and hurdles. Athletes stepped up to

be part of relay teams, even if they aren't sprinters. They participated to ensure the team could still compete.

"Despite the fact that we are a small school and many athletes are participating in two or three sports at the same time, most have good practice attendance and work hard to improve," Good continued. "There was a general feeling that this was a year we had a shot at a championship, and they all rallied around that goal."



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Colton Henderson of the St. Marys Cement U18 A Boys St. Marys Rock was the recipient of the Bob Searles Award as the most outstanding male player in the St. Marys Minor Hockey Association (SMMHA).



Josh Ballantyne, pictured with his father Rich Ballantyne, won the Donald K. Mossip Memorial Award for outstanding male goalie. The awards were presented during the SMMHA's annual general meeting on May 14.



Pictured on the left is Isaac Zurbrigg, who earned the Mike Mattiusi Award as the most sportsmanlike male player. On the right is Lucan Vernooy, the winner of the Terry Crisp Award as the most colourful and hardest-working player.



On the left is Delanie McKay, who received the Lindsay Atkinson Memorial Award for the most sportsmanlike female award. On the right is the winner of the Doug Hicks Memorial Trophy for outstanding female leadership, Ally Wheel.



The co-winners of the Dixies Award for the most skillful and hardest-working female players in the SMMHA were, from left to right, Madeleine Monisit Brown and Marin Chateauvert.



Marta Rintoul, an all-star member of the Hubbard Pharmacy U18 B Girls St. Marys Rock, was presented with the Ernie Little Trophy for outstanding female goalie. All photos by Spencer Seymour

SPORTS

Lincolns host annual awards banquet



The St. Marys Lincolns hosted their annual awards banquet this past Saturday. During the event, Luca Spagnolo received the Harold Maxwell Trophy as the team's leading scorer in the regular season. Spagnolo led the Lincolns with 47 points in 43 games, which included 19 goals, tied for first on the team. The award was presented by assistant coach Mike Siddall. Spagnolo also accepted the Fan Appreciation and Frank Edge Awards on behalf of teammate Jaden Lee.



Goaltender Brandon Abbott was the winner of the Jacques Cousineau Award as the Lincs' Most Valuable Player of the playoffs. The award was presented to Abbott by Cousineau himself. Abbott started every game in the post-season for the Lincolns and posted a 0.919 save percentage in 24 games. Abbott also received a framed action shot from McGinny Photography. The banquet was held at River Valley Golf Course and Tube Slide.



The R.G. Kelly Hearn Award, representing the Lincolns' most improved player, went to Ryan Hodkinson. The hometown product became a mainstay in the lineup and was trusted by the coaching staff to play up and down the lineup and in high-pressure situations with veterans like Maddox Callens and Billy VanSumner. Vice-President Pete Frehner presented the award.



The Earl Leslie Memorial Award went to goaltender Colby Booth-Housego. A rookie revelation, Booth-Housego posted the league's second-best goals-against average of 2.06 as well as a save percentage of 0.922, good for seventh in the GOJHL. Booth-Housego was presented the award by Owen Robinson, a fifth-generation Leslie family member to be involved with the team.



Chase MacQueen-Spence was recognized for winning the GOJHL's Western Conference Playoff MVP Award. In the 15 games leading up to the Lincolns' Western Conference Championship win against the London Nationals, MacQueen-Spence exploded for 13 goals and 26 points. The award was presented by Assistant General Manager Jeff Roy.



Captain Adam Barkley captured the David Baynes Award as the Lincolns' top defenceman. Former Lincs' General Manager Mike Brogden presented the trophy to the overage blueliner. In addition to his all-star defensive play, Barkley had nine goals and 23 points in 42 games, before posting 24 points in 23 playoff games. All photos by Spencer Seymour

SPORTS

Lincolns host annual awards banquet



Jacob Montesi won the Carman Stacey Memorial Award, formerly known as the Bert Stacey Memorial Award. The award goes to a player for exceptional ability and sportsmanship and was presented by Steve Shaw on behalf of the Stacey family. The family proposed renaming the award after Carman Stacey to honour his exceptional volunteer and community work.



Billy VanSumeren was the recipient of the Bannerman Memorial Award as the Lincolns' Veteran of the Year. VanSumeren joined the Lincolns in October 2023 and posted eight goals and 34 points in 41 games in the regular season. The native of Midland, Mich. added eight goals and 16 points in 24 playoff games. Mike and Chris Bannerman presented the award.



Defenceman Ryder Livermore received the Jack Boyd Memorial Award. The award, presented by head coach Jeff Bradley, went to the Lincolns' most dedicated player. Livermore brought a hard-working, physical style to the Lincs' back end and could always be counted on for stellar lockdown defence in the St. Marys end.



The D.R. Stevens Award for exceptional leadership was presented to Noah VandenBrink by Sheila Cameron. Playing his third full GOJHL season, two of which were spent with the Lincolns, VandenBrink played his 100th career game and recorded his 100th career point. VandenBrink also served as an assistant captain. All photos by Spencer Seymour

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SPORTS

Ontario Seniors Games pickleball tournament coming to St. Marys

By St. Marys Independent Staff

The St. Marys Pickleball Association (SMPA) is pleased to have been selected by the Ontario Seniors Games Association to host a 3.0-level pickleball tournament June 8 at the Pyramid Recreation Centre (PRC) for District 29.

This event is anticipated with great enthusiasm by the local community and participants. This tournament promises to bring together 3.0 level players in a display of athleticism and sportsmanship. SMPA, known for its well-organized events and dedication to promoting pickleball, is the perfect host for such an occasion. The association's commitment to fostering a vibrant pickleball community ensures a memorable experience for all involved.



The tournament is part of the Ontario Senior Games for District 29, which includes Perth, Huron and Middlesex counties and is an organization dedicated to promoting active lifestyles among seniors aged 55 and over. From bocce ball and lawn bowling to euchre and golf, the district ensures there is something for

everyone. The inclusion of pickleball in the district's lineup reflects the sport's growing popularity and its appeal among seniors for its balance of physical activity and social engagement.

The 3.0-level pickleball tournament hosted by SMPA June 8 will be a testament to the vibrant sporting culture within District 29, celebrating the competitive spirit and community involvement that define the On-

tario Senior Games.

Winners in men's, women's, and mixed doubles in the 55-64 and 65-plus age categories have the opportunity to advance to the Southwestern Ontario Regional tournament being held in Stratford July 12.

For those wishing to participate, applications are available at the PRC or online at <https://tinyurl.com/District29Pickleball>.

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WOODSTOCK INGERSOLL ECHO: JUNE 7

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT: JUNE 6

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE: JUNE 6

GODERICH SUN: JUNE 13

STRATFORD TIMES: JUNE 14

Introducing our Seniors Month feature, celebrating the remarkable seniors who enrich our communities during Ontario's Seniors Month in June. This annual nationwide celebration is more than just a tribute—it's a recognition of the invaluable contributions seniors make to the vibrancy of our community.

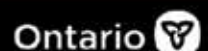
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CANADIAN TIRE
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COMMUNITY

Amish group from Michigan enjoys Stonetown on weekend



An Amish group from Vestaburg in central Michigan visited the Stonetown on Saturday, and enjoyed a game of slow pitch at the Flats. Several of them used to live in this area before relocating to two church communities in Michigan one to two years ago. They planned to attend church in Aylmer on Sunday and visit Niagara Falls on Monday.



Saturday was a great day to cool off in the water, and this group of Amish women took advantage of that below the falls in St. Marys. A total of 46 Amish made the bus trip from Vestaburg, Mich. to southwestern Ontario this past weekend. Several St. Marys area families relocated to central Michigan one to two years ago.



A total of 46 Amish made a bus trip from Vestaburg, Mich. to southwestern Ontario this past weekend. They made a stop in St. Marys, enjoying the falls and playing a game of slow pitch at the Flats. Vestaburg is located west of Saginaw and north of Lansing in the middle of the state.



Several of the Amish group from Vestaburg, Mich. enjoyed a game of slow pitch on Saturday at the Flats. Several of the young ladies played ball in bare feet on the stony infield.



Fun at the Flats. Shortly after arriving in St. Marys on Saturday, a group of Amish (46 in total) enjoyed a game of slow pitch at the Flats. Several Amish women also cooled their feet below the falls. They planned to attend church in Aylmer on Sunday and visit Niagara Falls on Monday. Photos by Pat Payton



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HISTORY

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Seeing the Sights

By Mary Smith

A St. Marys Collegiate student, Ted Rice, had an adventure in May 1937. He had the opportunity to travel to England under the auspices of the Overseas Education League (OEL) for the coronation of King George VI. Ted, born in 1920, grew up in his family home at 224 Jones Street East, an only child, loved and probably indulged by his parents and grandparents. Within a block or two of his home, he had a number of contemporaries and close friends. They included Jack Richardson who later became general manager of the family's C. E. Richardson & Co. Ltd., and Frank Ball who took over his father's business, L. A. Ball Funeral Home and Furniture.

Alan Andrews, the son of William Andrews, owner of Andrews Jeweller, the beautiful building at 135 Queen Street East, also lived on Jones Street East. A good friend of Ted's, Alan later became an optometrist, practicing in Galt, Ontario. A block away, another close friend, Ron Laidlaw, lived on Elgin Street. He later had a career as a newspaper photographer and eventually became the first news director of the CFPL television station in London. A few years older, John Eedy, son of L. A. Eedy, publisher of the St. Marys Journal Argus, also lived nearby. As teenagers, these three boys were all keen photographers. The St. Marys Museum has a number of photographs that they took in the 1930s, preserved in the R. Lorne Eedy Archives.

Ted Rice was not as serious about photography as his friends, but perhaps they encouraged him to take along a camera on his coronation trip. Several dozen of his photos are pasted into the scrapbook that records the events of his time in England. He did not have a very complex camera, probably a Kodak Brownie. Nevertheless, he took pictures of the outdoor events that his group attended and would have enjoyed seeing the prints when they were developed. Ted took the photograph with this week's column from Stand 34, one of the many temporary banks of stadium-style seating lining both sides of the Mall leading from the palace. Shown at a distance is part of the coronation procession. The figures, small and blurry in this photograph, would have seemed much closer to Ted on the showery coronation day. And we do get the general impression, but the heads of the school boys in front of him, wearing their caps and hats, dominate the picture.

The coronation was just one of the



Ted Rice and the other Canadian students in London for King George VI's coronation, had seating facing Buckingham Palace to see the procession. Photograph from the St. Marys Museum's collection. Contributed photo

events that Ted Rice and the other Canadian students in the group attended during the three weeks they were in London. While they did have some free time, the OEL had pre-scheduled a number of activities for the students' entertainment and education. The coronation was, of course, the highlight, but there were also events planned both before and after May 12, coronation day. The Canadian students did not all follow the exact same schedule; some events were for the whole group, but some were for the boys only and others just for the girls.

From the moment they left Canada, the boys and girls on the tour were segregated, travelling on separate ships. The boys on RMS Montcalm arrived on Friday, May 7, in Southampton and went on to London by railway. They were then taken by bus to their hostel, King George House on Stockwell Road. The girls arrived a day later on RMS Duchess of Athol. While the boys all stayed together in one location, the Canadian girls were sent to six separate smaller hostels including the YWCA Central Club on Great Russell Street. All were within walking distance of the Palace. On May 12, as the instructions noted: "In view of the extremely difficult traffic conditions that will obtain, all students will walk from their residences to Stand No. 34 immediately facing Buckingham Palace. Detailed instructions will be issued in due course." Each student had been given a ticket with section, row and seat number in Stand No. 34. Ted saved his ticket in his scrapbook.

The events planned for the days before the coronation included an illustrated lecture by the keeper of the muniments for Westminster Abbey. Its purpose was to "enable students to follow the Coronation Ceremony to the utmost advantage and to understand something of the significance which lies behind this great display of pageantry." On Sunday afternoon May 9, the students had reserved seating for the afternoon service in St. Paul's Cathedral. On May 10, it was a trip to the Tower of London. There was also a reception at the General Post Office with Canada's Governor General Lord Tweedsmuir present. The day before the coronation, the boys and girls were divided into manageable groups to attend afternoon tea-parties. This gave them the opportunity to experience the famous English high tea served in places like the Dorchester Hotel, the Royal Empire Society and the Ladies' Army and Navy Club at St. James's Place.

For the OEL, the major event following the coronation was the Rally of Empire Youth in Royal Albert Hall. Constructed in 1871, the Royal Albert remains today a famous concert venue. On May 18, 1937, the hall reached its 5000 seat capacity, filled with student representatives from British Empire nations around the world. The OEL's goal was to make this an annual event. Equally important was the Empire Day Service on Monday, May 24. It was held in Westminster Abbey with the King and Queen present. By special arrangement, the Abbey remained set with its corona-

tion regalia for this special service. Ted Rice saved his admission ticket for a seat in the south transept.

During the rest of the time in London, the girls had a day in Surrey with a picnic lunch, a tour of Hampton Court and tea in Kew Gardens. The boys attended a cricket match at Lords and the Coronation Fleet Review at Portsmouth, called "the last parade of the Royal Navy as the world's greatest and most prodigious navy." For general sight-seeing, the OEL recommended that with the great congestion in London during May, the students go in small groups with volunteer helpers to see such attractions as the British Museum and the Tate Gallery. From the souvenir items saved in the scrapbook, it seems that Madame Tussaud's Exhibition had been one of Ted's favourites.

On Friday, May 8, the students broke into separate groups to travel for a stay of two or three weeks at an English boarding school. Ted's souvenirs show that he was a guest at Wellington College in Berkshire. Founded in 1853 by Queen Victoria as a memorial to the Duke of Wellington, it was strictly a boys' school when Ted visited. Today its website describes it as "a pioneering institution ... one of the UK's - and, indeed, the world's - great co-educational boarding and day schools." Following the school stay, the Canadian group reconvened for a holiday by the sea at Eastbourne. Most of them left for home by the end of June. Ted Rice stayed behind in England visiting his mother's relatives for the summer, returning to Canada with another student group at the end of August in time for the start of school.

In 1939, World War II was declared. The lives of the students on the OEL coronation tour would have been disrupted. Many would have crossed the Atlantic again as members of the Canadian Armed Forces. Ted Rice was a lieutenant in his father's Perth Regiment, Reserve Force, during the war. Soon after the death of his grandmother in 1941, his parents moved to a smaller house at 108 Robinson Street. After the war, they renovated the barn behind the house as a private apartment for Ted. Following his 1937 trip, Ted became a staunch royalist, admiring and imitating the style and dress of various dukes and princes. He worked in London, commuting from St. Marys in a large Cadillac. He stayed close to his circle of friends from high school days and they enjoyed his company. Later in life, he married a wealthy widow and moved to Guelph. Ted Rice died in 1997.

Thorndale News

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With the crack of a bat: A history of baseball in Thorndale

By Nancy Abra

The crack of the bat summons the summer season.

Baseball has been a popular summer sport and pastime for over 150 years with the first recorded game in Beachville, Ont., a match between two teams from Oxford and Zorra township, in June 1838. The equipment was simple. The players didn't wear gloves, the ball was made of double twisted woolen yarn with a calfskin stitched cover, and the club or bat was a strong piece of cedar blocked out by an axe with a shaved finish.

The game of baseball was introduced to this area in the late 1880s, according to the West Nissouri, Our Heritage Book. As the popularity of the game grew, many communities and hamlets in the township had their own ball team. Throughout the 1920s, '30s, '40s and '50s, local teams played in various area leagues with great rivalry and success winning many championship trophies.

The Thorndale Angels was a men's hardball team of the 1960s with a talented roster of players from the former Devizes, Evelyn, and Thorndale Clubs. The Angels played in three leagues and won two All-Ontario Championships in 1970 and 1973. The club disbanded in the mid 1980s. Baseball in Thorndale didn't fade

from popularity but became very popular with the youth of the area. Minor ball advanced in the '60s and '70s. Children began their baseball calling at the young age of four years in T-ball learning the basics of the game. This also inspired many to progress and join the next age-levelled teams. Both the girls and boys minor-ball status grew throughout the years with many enthusiastic players continuing to play into their late teens. Some of these talented players went on to play for regional rep teams.

In recent years, soccer has become more popular with area youth and busy families, with many not choosing to play organized ball. Currently, minor ball in Thorndale consists of three co-ed teams of U6, a U9 team that plays against three other area teams, and a U11 co-ed team in the Eager Beaver Baseball Association in London, with their home games on Friday evening.

Slo-pitch, a recreational softball variant, developed in the summer of 1980, was initiated in Thorndale between the Thorndale Fire Department and their counterparts from Arva, Ilderton and Granton. The popularity of the game rapidly grew as players were recruited from the area and teams added to the league. This men's slo-pitch league is still playing strong with twelve teams including the Brewers, Slammers, Gators, Tribe and

a couple more that were part of the original roster of teams of the '80s. Some of the players today are the second generation. The league plays on Sundays from late May through the summer with their championship finals in September.

Slo-pitch is not limited to the men of the community. The ladies of the area created a league of their own in the '90s. Over the years, some of the teams have disbanded, but this women's league continues to maintain six teams, recruiting enthusiastic players who enjoy playing ball and having fun on Wednesday evening from late May through the summer with their

league playoffs in August.

Besides the regular slo-pitch leagues, the Thorndale Ag Society is hosting a co-ed slo-pitch tournament this summer July 12-14 for a fun event and fundraiser for their annual fall fair in September. Check out their Facebook page for more information.

Baseball holds a special place in this community with its history of over 100 years of this summer pastime. Whether being a player or a supportive fan, the crack of the bat and rousing cheers from the bleachers can be heard at the Thorndale ball diamonds from May to September.

Thorndale Optimist donates to Library Youth Program



Pictured from left, Thorndale Optimist members Wilf Kemp and Michael Fernando present a cheque to Thorndale Library branch supervisor Jean Moir. Photo by Nancy Abra

By Nancy Abra

In the past and for many years, the Thorndale Optimist Club has been a partner in some of the children's programming at the Thorndale Library.

When the branch supervisor Jean Moir was looking for a sponsor for the Youth Summer Learning Program at the Thorndale Library, the Thorndale Optimists were happy to contribute and renew their partnership with the library.

With the mandate of "providing hope

and positive vision for the youth of the area," the Thorndale Optimist Club has been a vital group in the community for almost 55 years, supporting youth activities such as children's community teams of baseball and soccer as well as youth sports and other activities at West Nissouri Public School.

As the community continues to grow, the Optimist Club shares the vision of Optimist International, "To value all children and help them to develop to their full potential."

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COLUMN

HOSTING UKRAINE: So Much to Celebrate

By VJ Knutson

"The heart has unlimited capacity when the mind is willing to focus beyond self." I wrote these words in a blog post (yes, I'm a blogger) May 20th, 2022. It was four days after Ruslan, Nataly, and children had arrived on our doorstep. Two years ago, now. Hard to believe that so much has happened in that time.

"If we could help just one family," was another sentiment expressed back then. I smile at this thought. Nowadays, we have a hard time keeping track of everyone. "Which Tania is that?" is a common question during conversations, as there are at least nine. Lately, with the arrival of extended family members, I have lost count. I am just happy to have been part of it all.

I have many updates for you this week. Without naming names, I can tell you that there is another baby on the way, a wedding in the works, and one family has achieved the coveted Permanent Residency status. Uplifting news all.

I've been busy this week helping newcomers polish their resumes and search for employment. Everyone is willing to work 'survival' jobs to begin with, but the motivation remains to find more substantial and rewarding work.

Remember the couple in their 60's who had found work but couldn't



Artwork by VJ Knutson

find a host, so were faced with returning home? The employer agreed to put them up. It was revealed that they had a son injured in the war and they came to Canada to make enough money to pay his medical bills. I'm so glad that has worked out for them.

I wrote many months ago (maybe

last year) about two families that I helped settle in Strathroy. Both fam-

ilies had opened businesses: Alla's Perogies and U.Cake. I'm pleased to report that Alla's business has expanded to a larger restaurant across from her original one on Frank St, Strathroy. Alla sells traditional Ukrainian food and has mastered gluten free perogies – a happy bonus for me. Mykola and Irina, owners of U.Cake, also started small, offering Ukrainian coffee, the 'best' tea, and homemade macarons. Not only have they grown into a larger space, but now have locations at Fanshawe College and more recently in St Thomas. They even offer franchises.

Dining out with friends this week at Gilly's Pub, we ran into Vira. Happily, she has found the kitchen she needs and we excitedly await news of her opening. With the recent reopening of Westover Inn's restaurant, we also look forward to a meal cooked by Tanya Ianchuk.

So much to celebrate, two years later. Until next time.

(Reach me at english.knutson@gmail.com. I love to hear from you.)




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COLUMN

FROM THE GARDEN: Plants for Punch and Pizzazz



By Nancy Abra

Many gardeners, myself included, are always looking to add a little punch of colour or some pizzazz to our gardens. The perennial beds now are bursting with life but there is always room to add more colour and interest. This can easily be achieved with annuals. There are a variety of annuals that will brighten up a dark corner of your yard, add a punch of colour to your existing beds, as well as create interest and beneficial properties to your vegetable garden.

Zinnia is a well-known annual that has a known history in our gardens for decades. They provide bright long-lasting colour during the heat of the summer, prefer well-drained soil, and have no known pesky enemies, except the odd hungry Japanese beetle. They will attract beneficial pollinators to our gardens as well

as beautiful butterflies. There are a wide variety of zinnias, from old traditional varieties to new hybrid varieties with a tolerance to powdery mildew and hot dry temperatures. There are varieties of zinnias with varying flower sizes that range from 20cm tall to well over a metre in height, with their blooms measuring almost 10cm across, these being perfect for a cutting garden.

Marigolds, another old traditional flower, has become increasingly popular for today's gardens. Some people don't like the strong smell of the marigolds, but you must admit they are very easy to grow and will certainly brighten up any flowerbed or border. Humans aren't the only ones who find the scent of the marigolds a little unpleasant and this may help repel rabbits in your garden. Plant these colourful beauties with your tomatoes or interplant with brassicas. They also make good companions for potatoes, and squash. Besides helping to deter pesty insects, marigolds attract beneficial insects to our gardens.

Geraniums have been an old reliable annual. In a sunny location, they will continually bloom, if the spent flowers are removed, from late spring

right through the summer to the first hard frost. Geraniums grown from seed are excellent for mass carpet plantings and along borders. Seed geraniums grow to approximately 30cm and have a smaller flower cluster of whites, pinks, and reds. Geraniums propagated from cuttings are referred to as 'Zonal' or 'Pelargonium' and are a larger and sturdier bushy plant with full, big cluster flowers of whites, pinks, oranges, purples and reds. Besides being a popular bedding plant, they make an awesome display in patio pots, and window boxes. They also make excellent companions for your roses to protect them from Japanese beetles. Ivy geraniums with a trailing habit thrive in hanging baskets and window boxes. They will also tolerate dry soil, and are forgiving if you forget to water them occasionally.

Gazanias, over the years, are becoming trendy. They are easy to grow and provide a dazzling display of orange, yellow, bronze, pink as well as bi-colours with their 4"/10cm daisy-like flowers. They grow to a height of 8"/20cm in well-drained soil. They require less water than most flowers and therefore are an excellent choice for hot summer



days along paths, rock gardens or even for containers.

As for those shady garden areas, coleus with variations of colourful unique foliage, is a long-time favourite. Begonias are another excellent choice with outstanding varieties that will thrive in shady, dry areas and bring a vibrant of colour to the space. From the

glossy-leaved and cheerful blooms to the larger stunning varieties, they are very forgiving and always great performers.

So, when you want to add some pizzazz to your landscape or perennial gardens consider some bright colourful annuals to deliver that punch.

Sudoku

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9	6					1	7	
		2						
3					5			2
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5		4	3					6
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Solutions on page 31



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Riddles

How much is a skunk worth?

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What did the laundryman say to the impatient customer?

Keep your shirt on

What's the difference between a TV and a newspaper?

Ever tried swatting a fly with a TV?

Why can't your nose be 12 inches long?

Because then it would be a foot

What did one elevator say to the other elevator?

I think I'm coming down with something

Which hand is it better to write with?

Neither, it's best to write with a pen

What makes the calendar seem so popular?

Because it has a lot of dates

What goes up but never goes down?

Your age

Why do sharks only swim in salt water?

Because pepper water makes them sneeze

- Word Search -

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Word List

Saturday

Local vendors

Milt Dunnell Field

Fresh food

Nourishing

Organic options

Vegetables

Fruits

Meat

Baking

Preserves

Honey

Maple syrup



The **Riddle Kid** OF THE WEEK

Why is being a good pitcher like making pancakes?



You have to really mix up the batter

Kuno Hartman (6)

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

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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 Beau, a 6 year old Doberman Poodle. Beau loves to go for car rides, runs on the beach, enjoys going for swims and likes chasing cats. Owners Gail and Roy Rader spoil him with liver bites and frozen green beans.



St. Marys Veterinary Clinic is pleased to be the sponsor of the PET OF THE WEEK

Fireworks Safety For Pets

While the experience of witnessing fireworks is magical to us, it can be very scary for our pets.

*Keep your pets secured INSIDE your home

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*Use ambient noise to mask the loudness- Remember their hearing is far more sensitive than ours

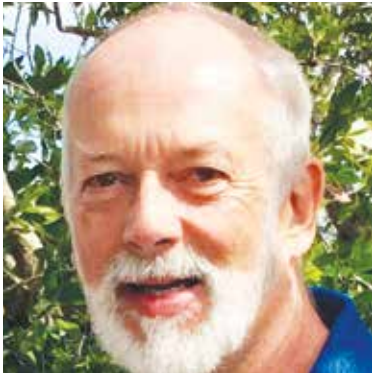
*Update their ID's and microchips just in case they escape

Wishing everyone a safe and happy long weekend!

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COLUMN

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Bleu Lavande: a blooming wonderful surprise



By Paul Knowles

There are occasions in this peripatetic life of mine when I stumble into a perfect day out. Last summer, that happened in and around the town of Magog, Que..

Half of the day was not really a surprise. We were booked to do a luncheon cruise on Lake Memphremagog aboard the vessel, the Grand Cru. Lunch on the water; what could be nicer?

The other part of the day was more mysterious. We were to visit a place called Bleu Lavande – Blue Lavender in English – where they grow lavender. Okay, big deal, right?

Actually, yes. The cruise was great, but the time at Bleu Lavande was simply amazing.

Let's start on the water. It was billed as a luncheon cruise, but it was much more than that. We checked in at the dock before 11 a.m., boarded the boat and found our reserved table in one of the several dining areas. But then we were free to wander out on the deck, find some comfortable chairs and enjoy the scenery on this cruise

that lasted at least a couple of hours.

This is no small body of water. Lake Memphremagog covers 110 square kilometres and reaches a depth of 107 metres. The shoreline is dotted with elegant summer homes, but the highlight is a working monastery – the Abbaye Saint-Benoit-du-lac, itself well worth a visit (and also worth the feature I wrote for this space a few months ago).

The three-course meal was excellent. For instance, the mains on offer included local rainbow trout, Québec lamb and waffles with herb confit duck. Desserts included salted caramel mousse, and I see no reason to go any further! Onboard entertainment – a duo of musicians playing on the main deck – was top notch. Sailing on the Grand Cru was one of those experiences you don't want to end.

But I'm glad it did because then we headed 10 minutes away to Bleu Lavande. I guessed we would stay there for 15 minutes; we stayed for hours.

Bleu Lavande has been in its present location for only six years and officially opened there in 2021. The highlight, of course, is the many rows of beautifully blooming lavender. In season (high season runs from June 17 to Sept. 7 this year), it is gob-smackingly exquisite.

Visitors stroll around the lavender beds, frequently

sinking into one of the many garden chairs that are there because you need to relax to really take in the wonder.

The wonder is a bit noisy, by the way. Not because of any outside clamor but because the lavender is so laden with busy bees. They ignore the humans, probably because they are so enraptured with the flowers. So, the bees and the humans have that in common.

Honestly, I could have sat and soaked in the ambience all afternoon, but there is much more to do at Bleu Lavande.

Not surprisingly, there is a well-stocked and nicely designed shop selling everything lavender. That includes essential oils – and we learned that it takes 180 kilograms of lavender to produce one kilogram of essential oil, which is why Bleu Lavande buys most of its lavender for production elsewhere, much of it imported from Bulgaria. The beds on site are for beauty, not product.

The facility also includes an interpretive centre where visitors learn more than they ever dreamed about lavender, including the fact that there are 39 species of the flowering plant.

Included in the centre is a magical feature created by the groundbreaking digital-entertainment company, the Moment Factory. This one is called Champs Chromatique – Fields of Colour – which sounds less exciting in English. Visitors are im-



Visitors to Bleu Lavande surrender to the beauty of it all. Photos by Paul Knowles

mersed in four walls of colour and discover that you can change the display by moving your body. Those less inhibited end up dancing with the light show.

But the real focus here is relaxation. Bleu Lavande offers aromatherapy massages in the gardens. Less costly but also relaxing is lunch on the patio, often accompanied by live music of an appropriately bucolic kind. When we were there, we enjoyed the talents of a classical harpist.

We had to tear ourselves away from Bleu Lavande – exactly the opposite response that I had been anticipating. Maybe it's the aroma, maybe it's the visual display, maybe it's the music, but there is something perfectly hypnotic about spending time at this unexpected jewel.

Bleu Lavande attracts about 30,000 visitors a year. In high season, admission is only \$15 for adults. That may sound like a lot of people, but as they spread out over acres of lavender and lots of indoor space, it is simply not crowded.

This was one great day in Québec's Eastern Townships. Rest assured, you can find many more in this intriguing part of our country – great food, terrific wine, beautiful countryside and lots of history.

A wonderful destination, right next door to Ontario.

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.



A classical harpist performs on the patio.



The Bleu Lavande shop sells everything lavender!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor's note: The author of this letter expresses confusion over a recent decision by council to remove a provision allowing an on-street seating option for downtown patios. While the author writes in his letter that downtown sidewalk patios are no longer allowed, they are in fact still permitted, however patio seating can no longer be located overtop on-street parking spaces as was previously allowed. Instead, seating is allowed on the sidewalk portion of downtown patios and pedestrian boardwalks are installed overtop street parking stalls to allow pedestrians to walk safely around the sidewalk patios.

I was really glad to read in the April 18 edition of

Dear Editor:

I read with great interest the article in last week's newspaper about the Town of St. Marys planning to close Water Street South and a long portion of Queen Street (Water Street to Charles Street) for the mornings of Friday August 2nd and Saturday 3rd for all traffic to facilitate the cycling stage of the Ontario Summer Games triathlon.

After raising a few questions on local social media it was obvious the Town was going ahead with this proposal even though the details of precisely what this means are still evolving.

I suspect the minds at Town Hall know more than I do about this and I am supportive of the event just not the complete closures of these roads. Why can't the cycling route avoid our major arterial roads?

It does make my driveway on Water Street South non-functional but I can work around that issue.

the Independent paper that the sidewalk patios were no longer allowed and to quote the headline in the paper itself, "Council amends downtown-patio policy to eliminate on-street-seating option."

So, imagine my surprise when I went down to the laundromat on Water Street and, yet again, I had to carry my laundry from half a block away because there is a patio yet again taking up parking spaces.

I do have some questions for council though.

1. If these patios are being lagged down, what happens when the water goes into the holes left behind and in the winter freezes and cracks / breaks the

sidewalk and pavement? Is the business going to pay for repairs, or is the taxpayer going to have to pay for having these patios?

2. Increasing the square footage of said restaurant; is this reflected in the tax bill for said business during patio season?

I really wonder what the point of the newspaper article was just to tell us that nothing was going to change but in more words?

Thank you.

Dave Lotte, St. Marys

My concern is that at face value every business on Water Street South (dentists, vets, electrical contractors, Canadian Tire, Foodland, McLean Taylor, Gilly's, Flour Mill and others) will have to not open in the morning on those dates. Customers can't easily get access nor can their employees either. Ditto for Queen Street businesses.

More critically this impacts public works, emergency services (ambulance, fire, etc.), contractors, farmers, milk, grain, cement, and gravel trucks and the Mobility Bus to name a few. When I raised these issues as a taxpayer I am informed I am negative and want nothing to happen at all. That is not true.

I am concerned what the impacts will be for the civic budget (who pays for extra policing) and also on Town employees who work in the central business district. Do town staff have to take a vacation day?

How will the public access those services assuming they can get to the administrative building?

So many questions, so little real information for the body politic to consider. I understand the effort to make St. Marys a destination location and I applaud it but keeping impacted businesses and residents in the dark at this late stage is unacceptable.

Insofar as I can discern the fix is in, the roads will be fully closed regardless of public feedback and concerns expressed are ignored as being negativism. I wish the businesses and the impacted residents good luck on that weekend. I will choose to flee town versus lingering in a diesel stew from idling trucks slowly lumbering through residential street detours.

Respectfully,

John Boudreau, St. Marys

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 29

Friday, May 24

- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog/sausage lunch at Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 25

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 a.m. to Noon
- Walk for Alzheimer's at Solis Park - Registration at 9 a.m., Walk at 10 a.m.
- David Glanville Celebration of Life at Kin Station, 555 Binning St W, Listowel - 1 to 4 p.m.
- Order of the Eastern Star BBQ chicken dinner at Exeter Masonic Hall - Pick up time 4 to 6 p.m. Advance tickets only, take out only - Call 519-229-6947 or 519-236-4134
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 26

- Thames Centre firefighters' community breakfast at the Thorndale station - 8 a.m. to Noon

Wednesday, May 29

- Kingsway Lodge clothing sale - 10 a.m., Fashion show and tea - 2 p.m.
- Friendship Centre Choir presents "Music Sweet Music" at the PRC - 6:30 p.m.



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Wed. May 15 - Murray Matthison, Stratford	\$50.00
Thur. May 16 - Travis Runstedler, Stratford	\$50.00
Fri. May 17 - Carl & Debbie Ribey, Hanover	\$50.00
Sat. May 18 - Joan & David Harvie, Stratford	\$200.00

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Community Liaison Committee

The next Community Liaison Committee Meeting will be held on June 14th at 10am at the St Marys Municipal Operations Center. Members of the public who wish to observe are welcome to attend.

Residents who wish to speak in front of the Committee may submit a detailed request in writing at least 3 days prior to the meeting in writing to the Committee. The request will be considered by the Committee and approved prior to the meeting. Please submit all requests, questions, and concerns for the meeting to kara.terpstra@vcimentos.com by June 12, 2024.

COLUMN

Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

It's almost time for the return of Movies in the Park! Mark your calendars with the following dates: June 7, July 12, August 9, and September 13. For our 2024 movie in the park debut, we will once again be partnering with St. Marys Pride for a night of lawn games, treats, and a movie showing of Barbie, all as part of a weekend full of Pride celebrations. Be sure to join us at Pride in the Park on Sunday, June 9 at the flats too. All movies will be shown at dusk at Cadzow Park (177 Church Street South, St. Marys) and are free to attend. Movies in the Park are made possible by the Friends of the Library, who will be on hand to serve free popcorn! Remember to bring your own chair or blanket and stay tuned for future movie title announcements.

This Week's Recommendation

The process of adapting books for the screen is a fascinating one. Naturally, a lot of changes must be made, and sometimes the very title is altered. Take "Knock at the Cabin", a 2023 M. Night Shyamalan film adaptation of Paul Tremblay's 2018 novel, "The Cabin at the End of the World". The source material follows the story of Eric, Andrew, and their

seven-year-old daughter, Wen. While on vacation in a remote cabin, they are interrupted by a series of strangers who claim that they need the family's help to save the world. Can the intruders be believed? Find out by borrowing "The Cabin at the End of the World" in hard copy format or as an eAudiobook on Libby, then see how the movie stacks up by borrowing "Knock at the Cabin" on DVD.

Up This Week

Friday, May 24: Open 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday, May 25: Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Monday, May 27: Trivia Night at Gilly's Pubhouse (7 p.m.)

Tuesday, May 28: Open 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m.

Wednesday, May 29: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30-10:30 a.m.), Mahjong Intro (1-2 p.m., 6-6:30 p.m.), Mahjong! (2-4 p.m., 6:30-8 p.m.), Scrabble (6-8 p.m.)

Thursday, May 30: Article Club* (2:30 p.m.)

*Registration Required

^Held at Gilly's Pubhouse (17 Water St., St. Marys)

LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

A Thamesview Tale

25 years ago (1999)

The Town and Unifine Richardson inked a deal early Monday evening that will see the local company build a new manufacturing facility one kilometer south of its present location on James Street South. The \$15 million project will mean the company stays in St. Marys, something town officials and Unifine president Mike Thompson have been working together on for more than two years.

A rather controversial subdivision proposal will provide St. Marys with its first opportunity to exercise new powers granted to the town by the province. The 41-lot subdivision off Emily Street was turned down by Council three years ago because it was considered scattered development on land zoned agricultural at the north end of town. At last week's council meeting, the owner of the property (Stan Ptasznik) was back after a successful appeal of council's earlier decision to the Ontario Municipal Board. In the meantime, St. Marys has become one of three towns in the province given the authority by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to deal autonomously with Official Plan amendments and approval of subdivision.

50 years ago (1974)

Mrs. R.D. Crosby on Tuesday morning took some of the little 4-year-old tots from the Happy Times Nursery School across the street to visit Mrs. John O'Rourke, who was in her favourite chair on her verandah. The visitors couldn't understand how Mrs. O'Rourke could really be 100 years older than they were.

Two East Ward backyard swimming pools are filled and ready under sunny skies. They are the pools of Earl Staffen and Doug Ross, both on Elgin Street East.

The flooding of the Flats recently was all according to plan, we are informed. The Flats is designated as an emergency reservoir under an agreement with UTRCA and a low spot was left for this purpose at the time the present roadway was built around the Flats.

75 years ago (1949)

At least one local fisherman, who spent the 24th along his favourite trout stream in the Durham district, is still drying his pants and rubber boots after stepping into a silt-filled deep hole.

Congratulations are in order for Mr. and Mrs. Percy Howell, Peel Street North. During the past week Mr. Howell has built a smart-looking picket fence across the dead end of the street in front of his residence to match a similar fence erected last year by Mr. and Mrs. George Harah. These citizens are setting an example to others in improving town property and incidentally their own at their own expense.

Constable Frank Taylor, who heads the local Provincial Police detachment, is now wearing Corporal's stripes with the promotion dating from May 1.

100 years ago (1924)

Dan Cappa, the local merchant who kept his store open for business during the first two Wednesday half-holidays in defiance of the by-law passed by the Town Council, has found his attitude to likely lead him into serious trouble as the machinery has been set in motion to have him arraigned before the local magistrate.

Vendors of such soft drinks as lemonade or orangeade, sold from large containers, will be governed by regulations concerning the contents of the beverages. The name of the drink must be printed on a label on the container, warns the department of health, and if colouring matter is used the word "colored" must appear on the label.

HELP WANTED



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Thank you to all applicants who apply.

Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

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



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

OBITUARY

Weeks

Erma Weeks (nee Coddington) passed away peacefully at home in St. Marys on May 15, 2024 at the age of 94.

Predeceased by her husband Robert G. Weeks (2001). Loving mother Linda Robinson (Bruce) of Woodstock, Shirley Pite (Brian) of Sarnia, Sharon Haynes (Gery, deceased) of St. Marys, Barbara Jane Askey of St. Marys, Gordon Weeks of St. Marys. Survived by nine grandchildren Carol Robinson, Mike Robinson, Amanda Swangard (Keith), Blake Pite (Anne), Adam Pite (Leslie), Kevin Haynes (Chantelle), Robert Haynes (Martha), Amy Askey, Reed Askey and Stephenie Askey. 17 great-grandchildren Kelly Hodgins, Greg Hodgins, Tori Purdy, Derek Robinson, Owen Robinson, Sophie Swangard, Graeme Swangard, Teighan Pite, Kyle Pite, Cole Pite, Cameron Pite, Nathan Pite, Justis Haynes (Taylor), Taegan Hiscock (Jeff), Atticus Haslam, Colby Askey-Donaldson (Kayla), Laine Donaldson. Seven great-great children Luci and Lili Steffler, Emrie and Walker Haynes, Leni and Scottie Hiscock, and Colton Askey-Donaldson. Predeceased by her son Bill Weeks (1980).

Cremation has taken place with a private family interment in St. Marys Cemetery at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to a charity of choice. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

THANK YOU

Wilson

The family of Rena Wilson wish to thank all of the caregivers, PSW's, nurses and doctors who cared for her and gave comfort. Special thanks to Andrew Hodges for his guidance. Thanks also to friends, neighbours and relatives for the flowers, food, cards, visits and donations. We are very grateful for all of your kindness.

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The Coulthard twins are turning 85!



Please join us in celebrating **Norma Howe & Gordon Coulthard's birthday** Sunday, June 16th from 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Downie Optimist Hall in St. Pauls

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