

# St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1204

Thursday, March 28, 2024

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## United Way celebrates spirit of community, sets new fundraising record



Campaign co-chair Leslie Edney, United Way Perth-Huron Executive Director Ryan Erb, and Campaign co-chair Rob Edney celebrate a record-breaking year for United Way at this year's gala event. Photo by Amanda Modaragamage

By Amanda Modaragamage, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

United Way Perth-Huron hosted its Spirit of Community Celebration at the Best Western Plus Arden Park Hotel on March 21, announcing a record-breaking year of fundraising efforts.

After a record-setting campaign, United Way raised \$2,345,792 to support its efforts to address unignorable issues, including homelessness, mental health and access to support services.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support of our community throughout the campaign," said United Way Perth-Huron executive director Ryan Erb. "This has been a challenging year for everyone, locally and beyond, with costs for individuals, families and organizations continuing to rise, but donors from across Perth-Huron really stepped up to help support our work. We appreciate the generosity and caring of the place we call home."

Some key highlights include recognizing top individual and workplace donors and presenting awards to organizations with the Volunteer Spirit awards.

This recognition was presented to Lee Anne Andriessen, Andrea Bernard, Don Dingwall, Tabitha Fisher, Wendy Haggitt, Susan Moffat and Patricia Smith. Penny's of Blyth, Festival Hydro and the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board also received Community Spirit awards.

FIO Automotive Canada topped the list of workplace-fundraising campaigns by raising almost \$96,000. FIO also provided a dollar-for-dollar, matching corporate donation to United Way.

Kathy Vassilakos from United Housing discussed an update on the new housing initiative, United Housing, which has already raised over \$72,000

## Destination Stratford looking for more St. Marys businesses to partake in culinary and seasonal trails

By Emily Stewart

Destination Stratford wants more St. Marys businesses to sign up as stops for its tourism trails, including the Chocolate Trail.

The culinary and seasonal trails run by Destination Stratford include the Chocolate Trail, the Bacon and Ale Trail, the Christmas Trail and the Sip and Savour Trail. The trails, according to the Destination Stratford website, have been part of local tourism pro-

Continued on page 2

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# COMMUNITY

## United Way celebrates spirit of community, sets new fundraising record

Continued from page 1

from donors throughout Perth County.

Vicky Parent from Huron Safe Homes for Youth, Meagan Partridge from United Way and Kyle Betts from the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Huron Perth delivered heartfelt messages throughout the evening.

During the presentations, retiring campaign co-chairs Rob and Leslie Edney, who held these roles during the COVID-19 pandemic, were also recognized.

"It has been a pleasure and an honour to be able to work with and cheerlead for the communities within Perth-Huron," said co-chair Rob Edney. "We have met incredible individuals looking to support and advocate for the

vulnerable within their communities, as well as championing policies and projects to remove impediments to housing, dispelling stigmas around homelessness and creating a more equitable community in which all citizens have the opportunity to thrive."

The new campaign co-chairs, John Wolfe and Kristin Sainsbury, were introduced and will be heading the United Way campaigns for the next two years.

United Way also praised its sponsors including Best Western Plus, The Arden Park Hotel (the Hayter Family), Chartwell Anne Hathaway Retirement Residence, Famme & Co., Horizon Solutions, KDB Law, RE/MAX a-b Realty, IATSE Local 357, investStratford, Samsonite, SBS Metals and the Stratford Festival.



The United Way Perth-Huron celebrated a record-breaking year for fundraising at its Spirit of the Community celebration March 21, announcing it had raised more than \$2.3 million through its 2023-2024 campaign. Photo courtesy of United Way Perth-Huron

## Destination Stratford looking for more St. Marys businesses to partake in culinary and seasonal trails

Continued from page 1

gramming for more than 15 years. The trails include businesses from Stratford and from nearby towns such as St. Marys.

April Murray, Destination Stratford's destination brand manager, said the organization works closely with St. Marys and will share what programs and trails could be of interest to businesses in the area. The 2023 Christmas Trail had 14 businesses from St. Marys participate, the most in the entirety of the trail's history.

"It's very important for us to work with communities such as St. Marys to really help provide more reasons for visitors to stay within the destination longer," Murray said.

The Chocolate Trail also saw success last year, with a 79 per-cent increase in chocolate sales at participating businesses when compared to sales before the COVID-19 pandemic. The trail features St. Marys businesses Stone Home Creatives and Snapping Turtle Coffee

Roasters. People who visit either business as part of the trail can get either a free mocha latte from Snapping Turtle or a chocolate-mint-smoothie-scented candle from Stone Home Creatives.

Sue Hyatt-Griffiths, lead creative for Stone Home Creatives, has had her business on the Chocolate Trail for about five years. She also participated in the Christmas Trail and the Bacon and Ale Trail. Hyatt-Griffiths said that the culinary and seasonal trails bring lots of tourism to St. Marys.

"People were in Stratford and heading back to Windsor or whichever direction," she said. "And then they would just stop in, and they would just say to us, 'We wouldn't have even known St. Marys was here, but we have this ticket and you're on the way home and so we thought we'd come in and check it out.'"

The most recent Christmas Trail brought in lots of traffic with some people buying the vouchers just to explore St. Marys. Destination Stratford will pay participating businesses

for collected vouchers. Hyatt-Griffiths wants to see more St. Marys businesses participate to bring in more new customers visiting the town during their travels.

"Tourists will come if there's one or two stores, but as soon as there's more,

there's some momentum going and it's worth a side trip," she said.

Interested businesses can get more information and sign up for a trail by sending an email to [hello@visitstratford.ca](mailto:hello@visitstratford.ca), indicating if they have a product suitable for the trails.

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## COMMUNITY

# Avon Maitland District School Board adapts current strategic plan and extends it for two more years

By Galen Simmons

To help prepare area students to face and overcome the challenges of today, the Avon Maitland District School Board (AMDSB) has slightly modified its current strategic plan and will use it to guide the administration of public education in Huron and Perth county schools over the next two years.

Over the past four years, AMDSB's strategic plan has been focused around three pillars for a successful graduate: I am prepared; I am well; I am engaged. For the modified plan, the school board is maintaining those three areas of focus while expanding the definition of what it means to be prepared, well and engaged.

"It is still very relevant to the work we are doing and the work we see ahead of ourselves," AMDSB director of education Dr. Lisa Walsh said. " ... That's still the core work with a few additions and modifications. Preparedness is all around the students having the opportunity to develop the skills needed to thrive in a global world. Wellness is about creating the conditions that support and enhance the wellbeing of both

students and our staff. Engagement is all about creating a community that respects individuals, as well as everyone in society. It's all about the promotion of continuous, ongoing learning."

Under the I-am-prepared pillar, the school board's strategic plan says the board will create high expectations and provide supports in all areas with particular focus on the foundational skills of literacy and numeracy; innovate by prioritizing the development of future-ready skills, including social, emotional, digital and global competencies; and provide multiple pathways for future success.

"We've developed multiple pathways to success, so we've expanded our image of a successful graduate, if you will," Walsh said. "We all believe that in this day and age there's multiple pathways to success. It's not just the old image of you finish high school and after you go to university ... and other pathways fall short of that definition. We define successful graduates as students who achieve a diploma, they obtain a certificate or they transition to a community based opportunity or pathway like

skilled trades, college, university, workplace or community.

Under the I-am-well pillar, the school board's strategic plan says the board will provide and encourage physical and mental health and wellness; cultivate a sense of belonging and inclusion for all; commit to Truth and Reconciliation; and establish safe and caring learning environments and workplaces.

Finally, under the I-am-engaged pillar, the plan states the board will cultivate a sense of ownership by amplifying voices and choices in the classrooms, schools and district; enhance leadership opportunities and relevant, authentic, real-world learning; enrich and encourage positive relationships and partnerships within schools and communities; and encourage active participation in environmental-sustainability initiatives.

"These are all the things that we really have to grapple with in this world as individuals and also as a collective," Walsh said. " ... When you put things down in black and white on a piece of paper, it shows a stronger commitment. It's not just, 'Oh, well, yes, we're thinking about

(these things) too.' These are our goals."

The school board has also included a framework for monitoring the strategic plan's impacts on individual students and schools, and the board as a whole. Over the next two years, the school board will review high-level data like graduation and EQUAO rates to illuminate patterns; mid-level data more focused on particular groups of students and staff like report-card data and results from feedback surveys to determine which parts of each pillar requires more focus; and specific data pertaining to individuals to help the board understand student, staff and caregiver experiences.

As Walsh is preparing to retire from her role as director of education in April and a new director will be coming onboard, she said extending this modified strategic plan for the next two years only will give the new director and the board of trustees a chance to evaluate its success and determine if it needs any additions or modifications as new challenges and issues emerge in the world such as the growing presence of AI and AI-based technology.

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## EDITORIAL

# From the editor's desk: Spreading that second-hand love

By Galen Simmons

In a society where we're constantly inundated with advertisements for that next, new thing, buying used can be an oddly exhilarating and environmentally friendly way to save money.

Since moving into our new house in January, my girlfriend and I have been scouring Facebook marketplace and frequenting the Habitat for Humanity Restore in Stratford in search of the furniture and appliances we need (and want) to make our house a home.

On a shoestring budget, we've managed to buy couches, a dining-room table and chairs, two shelving units, three bathroom cabinets and a chest freezer – the latter of which the seller told us was made by a company that went out of business because its freezers were too good and no one ever needed to buy a new one.

While only time will tell if that seller was just giving us a sales pitch, there really is something strangely satisfying about finding a piece for a good price that is still functional and was well taken care of, and seeing it find its place in your home.

Even better than finding that used treasure at a good price is finding something for free. Recently, I was scrolling through Facebook while at the gym when I noticed a post on a Shakespeare community page by someone giving away an espresso machine for free. It had been posted an hour before I saw it, so I figured someone had likely scooped it up.

My girlfriend, however, wasn't so sure. The post only had three likes when I read it and no one had commented, so we jumped in her car after finishing our workout and drove out to Shakespeare where, lo and behold, the foretold espresso machine was sitting there, on a stump, waiting for us to take it.

After bringing it home, we bought some espresso beans which we ground fresh the next morning and enjoyed the first of many cappuccinos to come. I swear the coffee tasted better somehow because the machine that made it was free.

While playing the second-hand game can be a bit of a gamble – used things aren't always as functional as advertised – the benefits, in my opinion, outweigh the risks. Not only have we saved hundreds if not thousands of dollars buying used instead of new, by giving these items a new home, we're essentially helping keep them out of landfill.

As Earth Day approaches, that ubiquitous phrase, "Reduce, reuse and recycle," comes to mind. By buying used, we've managed to both reduce someone else's waste and reuse something that might otherwise have become garbage.

While we can all do more to protect and preserve our environment, this is just enough to assuage my ever-present eco-guilt, at least until the next time I'm forced to recycle single-use plastic.

I love when saving money and saving the environment are one in the same, don't you?

## Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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I am not saying my memory is bad but I can now hide my own Easter eggs.

It is now officially the "I'll pay you back when I get my tax refund" season.

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

## Bravo

We have 1 Bravo this week.

1) Bravo to Mary Smith and The Independent newspaper for the great history and story of Adanac Images, a long history in St. Marys, Ontario and beyond. It was good of Mark Oliver to make the donation to the St. Marys Museum after he sold the business his dad started so many years ago.



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

## Boo

We have 1 Boo this week.

1) Boo to those that park downtown and ignore traffic while entering or exiting their vehicle. There is a possibility of losing a car door or worse. Wait for vehicles to pass before opening doors!



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

## Quote of the Week

*"It has taken us time to explain everything to George, Charlotte and Louis in a way that is appropriate for them, and to reassure them that I am going to be ok. I am well and getting stronger every day by focusing on the things that will help me heal; in my mind, body and spirits."*

**Princess of Wales Kate Middleton after announcing that she has been diagnosed with cancer and has started chemotherapy.**

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**The St. Marys  
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THOUGHTS  
OF THE WEEK**

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Egg hunts are proof that your kids can find things when they really want to.

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# COMMUNITY

## Donation to the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation



The Optimist Club of Kirkton-Woodham hosted a breakfast Feb. 18 at the Kirkton-Woodham Community Centre to raise funds for both the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation and the South Huron Hospital Foundation. Bernice De Decker, communications and fundraising coordinator, and Cindy Bilyea, St. Marys Healthcare Foundation chair, accepted the generous donation from the breakfast committee. Pictured above, from left, are Bernice De Decker, Jeff McLean, Daniel Cipriano, Jim Hodgins, Cliff Thomson and Paul Anderson of the Optimist Club of Kirkton-Woodham, and Cindy Bilyea. Photo by Nancy Bickell

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# STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



### UPCOMING MUSEUM CLOSURE

March 27 to April 22

The exhibit spaces are getting a makeover! Staff will be on-site during the closure to accommodate research appointments in the archives and answer phone inquiries.

[townofstmarys.com/museum](http://townofstmarys.com/museum) or 519-284-3556

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# ACTION

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## Senior of the Week



Our Senior of the Week is Thelma Chambers. Thelma has four children, seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. She likes reading, knitting, singing and spent 22 years volunteering for VON and many other things at the friendship centre. She is a part of a knitting group every Thursday and attends choir every Wednesday. Thelma turns 90 on Saturday, March 30. Happy birthday Thelma!

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

## Weekend Quiz

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1. In what country did the tradition of the Easter Bunny originate?
2. What Christian event does Easter celebrate?
3. In what Canadian town would you find the Giant Ukrainian egg?
4. What baked good is a Good Friday tradition in England?
5. How many marzipan balls are traditionally on a simnel cake?
6. When was Cadbury founded?
7. What is the 40-day period before Easter?
8. Children in Finland dress as what on Easter?
9. What egg-shaped candy is illegal in the United States?
10. What US city hosts "The April Fool's Day Parade" each year?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27

## COMMUNITY

# Police calls for service, charges laid down in February

By Galen Simmons

February appears to have been a relatively quiet month for police in St. Marys, the Stratford Police Service reported at a recent community policing advisory committee.

At the March 20 committee meeting, deputy police chief Gerry Foster reviewed the monthly crime-statistics report for St. Marys with members. Almost across the board, the report showed a reduction in calls for service, charges laid and even traffic tickets issued.

In total, police responded to 153 calls for service, down from 218 in January and 208 in February 2023. Police also laid fewer charges – 29 last month compared to 41 in January and 43 in February 2023. Mental-health related calls were down from 10 in January to six last month, and police were called to just seven domestic occurrences – one of which resulted in charges – compared to 10 in January.

St. Marys did see an uptick in false alarms, frauds and vehicle thefts. Officers responded to six false alarms in February compared to five in January; six reports of fraud in February compared to just three in January; and three stolen vehicles compared to

none in January.

Foster said all three stolen vehicles were recovered by police and those responsible have been charged.

Motor-vehicle collisions were also down last month with police responding to four in St. Marys – all of which resulted in property damage only – compared to six in January.

While the number of traffic tickets issued was down from 14 in January to eight in February, Foster said in response to a question from Coun. Rob Edney the reduction could be a result of having fewer officers on the road last month.

"There's no denying we have been down a (community resource officer) position in St. Marys," Foster said. "Not actively – we have one on the road now – but obviously that will play a factor because a lot of the stats you see, especially the traffic stats, are self-initiated, proactive by officers. So, the more officers we've got on the street, the more opportunity (for tickets to be issued)."

Broken down further, police in St. Marys issued three speeding tickets, one ticket for driving with a suspended license and four tickets for driving without a valid permit in February.



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# COMMUNITY

## Easter hours for Town of St. Marys

By St. Marys Independent staff

The following hours will be in effect at Town of St. Marys facilities on Good Friday (March 29) and Easter Monday (April 1).

- Child Care Centre, Before/After School Programs and EarlyON Centre

Closed Friday, March 29 and Monday, April 1

- Curbside Collection

Garbage and recycling will be collected as normal on Friday, March 29

- Fire Hall

Closed Friday, March 29 and Monday, April 1

- Friendship Centre

Closed Friday, March 29 and Monday, April 1

- Landfill

Closed Friday, March 29, Saturday, March 30 and Monday, April 1

- Library and Adult Learning

Closed Friday, March 29 and Monday, April 1

- Mobility Services

Closed Friday, March 29 and Monday, April 1 (rides must be booked by 12 p.m. on Thursday, March 28)

- Museum and Archives

Closed Friday, March 29 and Monday, April 1

- Pyramid Recreation Centre

Arena closed Monday, April 1

Youth Centre closed Friday, March 29 and Monday, April 1

Pool closed Friday, March 29 and Monday, April 1

- Town Hall

Closed for renovations until May 2024

- Municipal Operations Centre

Closed Friday, March 29 and Monday, April 1

- Service Ontario

Closed Friday, March 29 and Monday, April 1

- Train Station

VIA Service hours will be 10:15-11:15 a.m. and 8-9 p.m. on Friday, March 29 and Monday, April 1. Visit [www.viarail.ca](http://www.viarail.ca) for train scheduling.

## Easter Egg Hunt and Fun Day at Country Roots Fresh Market



On Saturday, March 23, Country Roots had a fun day planned – an Easter Egg Hunt complete with photo-ops with the Easter Bunny and in-store specials. Pictured above are Hannah Bickell, the Easter Bunny and Izzy Reid enjoying a visit. Photo by Nancy Bickell

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# COMMUNITY

## Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board launches international student program

By Galen Simmons

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board (HPCDSB) is expanding its efforts to bring international students to live and study in local communities.

With its launch planned for the 2024-2025 school year, the International Student Program is intended to provide students from around the world with an enriching Canadian educational experience while giving local students the opportunity to expand their worldview by having international students in their classrooms.

"The board has had students from various countries attending our schools since 2017," said International Student Program principal Chris Grace. "HPCDSB has worked with a partner organization to recruit students from Mexico and Spain, but that changed as a result of the pandemic. The board is working with a new partner this year and it has expanded its focus to include new countries in Europe to recruit from with the help of education travel agencies in those countries."

International students will attend ei-

ther St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School in Clinton or St. Michael Catholic Secondary School in Stratford. They will have access to the same educational experience and academic standards all Huron-Perth Catholic students receive while experiencing life in the local community.

"We believe we have something really special to offer here," said superintendent of education Karen Tigani. "We're very proud of our rural communities, our small towns. We feel like we have the best of all worlds; we're close to bigger centres but we can offer that kind of small-town, rural experience we think people might be looking for around the world."

Through a new partnership with MLI Homestay – an organization that provides meaningful learning experiences across Canada for international students – and a continuing partnership with Red Leaf Group, another organization specializing in bringing international students to live and study in Canada, HPCDSB is initially working to attract students from European countries including Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, France, Germany

and Belgium, and will look at expanding into other countries in the future.

"Having international students here in our schools will benefit all of our students," Tigani said. "I think it's a benefit for the students coming to have this experience in our communities and our schools, but also, we really believe bringing people from around the world into our schools, into our communities is going to be very enriching for our students, for our staff and for our communities."

"... As we begin, we want to make sure we can manage what we're doing. Already, there's quite a bit of interest from some of those (European) countries. My understanding is there's a lot of interest in coming to Canada, coming to Ontario, and coming to southwestern Ontario seems like a good match for some of those people in those places. However, we know there are many other people in places around the world we would love to welcome. Students are welcome to come from anywhere around the world. It's

just currently, we're pursuing and we have relationships with those (European) markets in particular. That's not to preclude anyone else."

The school board and its partners are looking for locals to serve as host families for international students while they're here. Host families are compensated and commit to include the international student in family life and to provide:

- Three nutritious meals per day and snacks;
- A private room with a door, a window, a bed and a desk;
- A shared bathroom; and
- Supervised internet access.

For more information about the International Student Program, visit [huron-perthcatholic.ca/programs-and-services/international-student-program/](http://huron-perthcatholic.ca/programs-and-services/international-student-program/) or contact the Catholic Education Centre directly. For more information about hosting an international student, visit [mlihomestay.com](http://mlihomestay.com).



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# COMMUNITY

## St. Marys Public Library offers solar glasses for upcoming eclipse

By Emily Stewart

The St. Marys Public Library is offering solar glasses for safe viewing of the upcoming total solar eclipse.

The library announced glasses will be available starting March 25. The glasses are required for safe viewing of the eclipse on April 8. Not wearing the protective eyewear can cause irreversible eye damage.

Rebecca Webb, the library services coordinator, told the Independent that patrons are excited that they can pick up a pair of glasses at the library.

"We've heard that finding the glasses can be difficult and that some retailers are using surge pricing due to the upcoming eclipse date," Webb said. "Plus, having them available at the library means that families don't have to buy bulk packages for only a few people. We've already had lots of questions about the glasses and anticipate that there will be quite a demand for them, and they will go quickly."

As of March 25, the library told the Independent that the glasses were being claimed quickly and staff did not expect supplies to last beyond the end of the day, however staff said more glasses were ordered and expected to arrive at the library on Wednesday.

Initially, the library offered the glasses for free to patrons with a library card with a maximum of one pair of glasses for each family.

"Remember that the eclipse will last for over two hours in total so it may be best to take turns with the glasses where possible," Webb said.

Webb added that, as unsafe viewing of the once-in-a-lifetime event can cause eye damage, providing the glasses to patrons will ensure they can view the eclipse affordably and safely.

"Offering these glasses for free at the library ensures that we are promoting the opportunity to watch the eclipse in a safe way," she said. "It also means that the glasses are available to families in our community who might otherwise experience financial barriers that prevent them from being able to purchase them, and thereby not being able to experience this rare event."

In addition to offering solar glasses, the St. Marys Public Library also has displays of eclipse-related materials and information about the science behind the eclipse. The library also has eclipse printables for children and an eclipse-simulation tool that can be viewed via [tinyurl.com/stmaryseclipse](http://tinyurl.com/stmaryseclipse).



## St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary update

By Janis Fread

If you're busy planning an Easter celebration for friends and family, let us help you expand your dessert table!

The Auxiliary's Bake Sale is Saturday, March 30 from 9 a.m. to noon at Troyer's Spices. There will be a delicious selection of homemade delectables to choose from.

Mother's Day is always a welcome spring celebration. The Auxiliary is having a raffle, with the winning tick-

ets to be drawn on Friday, May 10, just in time for Mother's Day! First prize is a limited-edition framed print by Heather J. McDonald. Second prize is a cheerful quilted wall hanging, and third prize is a \$75 gift certificate from Petals and Foliage. Tickets are \$5 and are available at the Hospital Boutique and from any Auxiliary member.

Over two dozen comfort cushions have been stitched by Auxiliary members for distribution to the newly refurbished patient rooms when the

east wing reopens. The Auxiliary has also recently funded the purchase of a Dynamic Tilt Wheelchair for the St. Marys Memorial Hospital.

For updates on fundraising events or

to become a volunteer follow the Auxiliary on Facebook by searching The Boutique at St. Marys Memorial Hospital or email [smmhauxiliary@gmail.com](mailto:smmhauxiliary@gmail.com).

## SPORTS

# Lincs shock Rockets in first three games of West semis

By Spencer Seymour

For the second straight year, the St. Marys Lincolns unexpectedly won three straight games to open their Western Conference semi-final, putting the Strathroy Rockets on the brink of elimination heading into the fourth game of the series, which took place Tuesday night after press time.

The series began last Friday, and the Lincolns turned in a dominant performance while the Rockets looked rusty for much of the contest that ended in a 5-0 St. Marys win. When asked about who stood out, head coach Jeff Bradley said no one performed poorly for his squad.

"It really was the whole team," Bradley told the Independent. "Mike (Herman) brought up a good point in saying that was the team we talked about being at the end of the season. That was what we hoped to see and the version that we believed we were going to see by this point in the season, and that's who showed up Friday night. From start to finish, I thought we dictated play. We pushed the pace."

Adam Barkley scored the game's first goal just 23 seconds into the first period when he tipped a bouncing puck by Strathroy netminder Colin Androlewicz. The floodgates opened in the second frame with Noah VandenBrink, Matt Prendergast and Maddox Callens scoring three goals in less than three minutes. Luca Spagnolo added one at the 14:36 mark of the period.

The first 40 minutes were especially dominant for the Lincolns, who out-shot the Rockets 39-16 in the first two periods. Bradley credited his team for its strong defensive play in limiting the speedy and skilled Rockets to very few high-danger chances.

"We kept their big guns as limited as we could. Anytime you can hold a team like that scoreless, you've done a good job all the way around. I know they had some good chances, but not many. They're a highly potent offensive team, but we played like we wanted it and we played like the older team. We looked like a team that was on a mission. We executed, we attacked and we played with intensity."

After sweeping the Sarnia Legionnaires, the Lincs had an eight-day layoff before the start of the second



Luke Bogart lays a body check during game two of the St. Marys Lincolns' second-round series against the Strathroy Rockets. The Lincolns led the series three games to none heading into the fourth and potentially-deciding game of the series this past Tuesday. Photo by McGinny Photography

round. Despite the lengthy pause halfway through the post-season, the Lincolns showed no signs of rink rust.

"We had three practices between the two series which were at a very high pace. We had a really good meeting Thursday night before the game and it centred everybody. It got everyone realizing that it's time to be serious now. It's nice to have some fun between the series and see the guys have some fun together, but these guys have got a lot of real hockey players on this team. When it's time to play hockey, they are there and ready to do the work."

## Lincs pull off record-tying comeback in game two

One day later, it was Strathroy's turn to dominate the first two periods but, despite leading 4-0 at one point and taking a three-goal lead into the third, the Rockets were left stunned on home ice when the Lincolns scored six unanswered goals in the third frame to win 8-5 and take a two-game series lead.

Although the end result went in his team's favour, Bradley admitted the overall performance by St. Marys was

far from flawless.

"It wasn't very good. We looked like we weren't ready for what they were bringing. Strathroy was desperate, they played hard and we were too deliberate. It's not that we didn't have the puck a lot, but we were just too deliberate. Everything had to be set up and against a team with speed who plays that in-your-face style. It was just too much for us when we were playing slow and deliberate.

"You try not to be negative," Bradley continued. "You've got to enjoy hockey. You've got to enjoy playing with your teammates. You know there are some things that may never happen again. To come back and win a game the way we did is special, and you want to make sure you enjoy those moments, but you can't get blinded by that either. There was a problem and, fortunately for us, we were good enough to overcome that, but we also better learn from it because we're not going to win much playing the way we did in the first half of the game."

The Lincolns found themselves in a deep hole after 20 minutes with goals

by Rene Van Bommel, Ethan Facchina and Noah Jenken putting the Rockets ahead 3-0 going into the second stanza.

Facchina potted his second of the game to make it 4-0 midway through the second, only for Cohen Bidgood to score just one minute and nine seconds later to cut the lead back down to three and extend his playoff point streak to six games. Lee followed that up 50 seconds later with his third of the playoffs which also made it six straight playoff games with a point.

With 58 seconds remaining in the period, Van Bommel fired his second of the game to put Strathroy ahead 5-2. The Lincs got a lucky break at the end of the period when a goal by former Lincoln Damian Pancino was disallowed as it was scored less than a second after time had run out in the second.

Coach Bradley explained what went on in the Lincolns' dressing room after the second period.

"We went into the dressing room and the message was to just go out and play and see what happens. At that point, it doesn't matter if we lose 10-2 or 5-4. Just go out, play hard and see what happens. Get one goal and see what happens. Get two and see what happens. That's what we did and by the time it got to 5-5, I think there was that mentality of we're not losing this game."

The group that emerged from the intermission was a team possessed, with Luca Spagnolo scoring three goals and five points while the St. Marys powerplay went three-for-three as part of a six-goal third period that not only erased Strathroy's 5-2 lead but gave the Lincs the 8-5 victory. Lee had his second goal of the game while Chase MacQueen-Spence and Ethan Weir also found the back of the net, the latter of whom potted the game-winner.

The explosive offensive output in the third tied an all-time Lincolns playoff record for most goals in a single period. The Lincolns also scored six goals in the third period of a game against the Strathroy Blades on Feb. 22, 1977.

Bradley, usually stoic and unshakable, couldn't help but feel the excitement of the epic comeback.

Continued on page 11

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## SPORTS

# U15 C Girls advance to division final with OT win

By Spencer Seymour

The Home Hardware Building Centre U15 C Girls St. Marys Rock secured their spot in the Championship Round Division IV final to be held April 6 with a 3-2 overtime victory over the Woodstock Wildcats this past Sunday.

Head coach Kelly Linton noted the team's defensive attention to detail as a major factor in coming away with the win.

"We did some serious back-checking tonight," Linton told the Independent. "Our back-checking was what led to the overtime goal. We preach that all the time, but it's a hard thing to do consistently well. Tonight though, they were all over it."

Linton mentioned the line of Georgia Agar, Abby Russell and Lena Thompson for its defensive responsibility and intelligent, all-around play.

"Of course, our leaders did a great job again holding us together and driv-



The U15 C Girls St. Marys Rock secured their spot in the division finals with an overtime, 3-2 win against the Woodstock Wildcats March 24. Photo by Spencer Seymour

ing the play in the offensive zone. I thought our third line did a really good job getting the puck out of our

end. They carried it out of our end, they found a way to get it out of our end, when they were tired, dumped it

in and got off quickly. They played a really smart, effective game for us."

Ella Frayne opened the scoring with the only goal of the first period to put the Rock ahead 1-0 assisted by Ellie MacArthur. In the second frame, Kayla Visneskie extended the St. Marys lead to two goals with a goal at the 10:15 mark of the period. Marci Linton collected the lone assist.

With the spot in the divisional final at stake, the Wildcats clawed back in the third, scoring twice to bring the game back to even and force overtime. In the extra period, MacArthur got into the slot and fired home the game-winning goal.

"They're tough, there's no question," Linton said of the team's ability to bounce back after giving away their 2-0 lead. "They are a tough group of girls. They never stop. They never quit. They keep working until the last moment and until they have nothing left. They play for each other, and they want to win for each other."

# Lincs shock Rockets in first three games of West semis

Continued from page 10

"It was great," Bradley admitted. "It was awesome. I usually am reserved back there when we score and have a good period but during something like that, it's hard not to feel the excitement. It was amazing. It's not only about enjoying the moment with the players, but it's the energy they had to band together and do something special like that. It's fun to watch because they are a special group and they are great kids."

## Lincs rout Rockets in game three

Going into the third game of the series, the Lincolns were averaging approximately eight goals per game in the playoffs and were operating at 35 per cent on the powerplay, two metrics that were maintained when the Lincs took a 3-0 series lead with an 8-3 thrashing of the Rockets this past Monday.

The Rockets got off to a hot start with Dylan Richter snapping a four-game goal drought to put Strathroy ahead 1-0. However, less than two minutes later, Weir cranked a powerplay one-timer by Rockets' netminder Hayden Duncan to tie the game at one apiece. Later in the first, Owen Voortman, playing in the 20th playoff game of his GOJHL career, was sprung on a breakaway by Prendergast and Voortman's shot trickled through Duncan's legs and crossed the goal line with one second left in the opening frame.

Much like game one, the second period saw the Lincolns' offence explode, this time with St. Marys scoring five times. Weir, Prendergast and Barkley each had a goal while VandenBrink scored twice. All five goals came within the first 10 minutes and 57 seconds of the period and Bradley felt the lopsided frame snuffed out Strathroy's hopes for cutting the Lincs' series lead to one game.

"We knew there was some fatigue there on both sides," explained Bradley. "We also knew they play

their top guys a lot so we just figured if we had a little bit more, maybe 10 per cent more in the tank, then we could probably put them away early tonight and it took us about 30 minutes to do it."

Barkley's goal was part of a four-point night and, in his last four games before Tuesday's game, the Lincs' captain has recorded 10 points. VandenBrink, meanwhile, had points in five straight before Tuesday's contest, which includes four goals and 11 points in those five outings. MacQueen-Spence, who tallied three assists on Monday, recorded at least a point in each of the Lincolns' first seven playoff games.

"We have four lines that we play pretty evenly," Bradley noted. "When you're playing a team that plays their top guys 25 minutes plus, and then you consider that you have four games in five nights. If you stay true to using your depth, you should be successful, and we were."

Overall, the Lincolns have scored 55 goals in just seven playoff games. Impressively, as it relates to the team's depth, only two of those goals have been scored by Callens, who spent much of this year with the OHL's Kingston Frontenacs and scored at nearly a goal-per-game pace with 10 goals in 15 regular-season games for the Lincolns.

Before the second period was through, the Rockets got a shorthanded tally from Jenken to stop the bleeding before the intermission. Jimmy Sutherland cut the lead to four with a goal in the final frame, but a powerplay goal by Weir not only completed the hat-trick for the Frontenacs' second-round pick but restored the five-goal deficit.

St. Marys scored four of their goals on the man advantage, posting a 40 per-cent efficiency on the powerplay, which Bradley once again mentioned as a product of the team's depth and ability to adapt.

"You have to take what's being given. In the first two games of the series, Strathroy was really tight,

so we had to make a slight adjustment. We started to sit on our breakout a little bit too heavily, so we changed that tonight. It had the desired effect. Tonight, they decided they wanted to pressure us a lot and it played right into our guys' hands. When they were coming out to pressure, we were finding seams and open ice. Last game it was the Cornfield unit and tonight, it was the Barkley unit that shined for us. It's a big positive that we have more than one unit that can get the job done for us."

Bradley added that the team's massive uptick in goal scoring is because of the group is doing the right things in their own end.

"I think in the playoffs you put an onus on doing the right things defensively and, when you do good things defensively, you're going to frustrate teams and that will put you in good spots offensively. I think it comes from being responsible defensively and, to a certain degree, when you've got it going, you've got it going."

Game four took place on Tuesday after the Independent went to print. The winner of this series will play for the Bill Weir Trophy against the winner of the other Western Conference semi-final between the London Nationals and LaSalle Vipers.

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## SPORTS

## U16 A Boys win Shamrock title

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys Legion U16 A Boys St. Marys Rock have punched their ticket to the OMHA Championship after capturing the Shamrock League title last Thursday when they defeated the South Oxford Storm in their championship series.

Head coach Gord Cookson praised his group for sticking to their keys to victory.

"The game went according to plan," Cookson told the Independent. "We had the goal to forecheck hard, pressure their defence to turn the puck over, throw it away, or ice it. We wanted to be the first body on any loose puck and, when we got a chance in the house, take the puck to the net and have some support to bury a rebound or get possession back. The boys did a great job executing the game plan and South Oxford did not have an answer."

The game remained scoreless until Evan Ballantyne fired home the ice-breaker with one minute and four seconds remaining on the clock in the first period. The eventual game-winning goal came in the second frame when Blake Lalonde scored at the 10:40 mark of period. Four-and-a-half minutes later, Nathan Wolfkamp extended St. Marys' lead to three



Evan Ballantyne fires a shot during last Wednesday's St. Marys Legion U16 A Boys St. Marys Rock playoff game against the South Oxford Storm. Ballantyne had a goal and an assist the next night when the Rock defeated South Oxford on the road 4-1 to claim the Shamrock League title and advance to the OMHA Championship. Photo by Spencer Seymour

goals.

Just over two minutes after Wolfkamp made it 3-0, the Storm stopped the

bleeding and cut the lead back to two goals, but they would come no closer as the only other goal came off the stick of Evan Pym in the final minute

of the third.

When asked what stood out to him about the team's performance in the series against South Oxford, coach Cookson mentioned an element that was also one of the team's strong suits during the season as a whole.

"What stands out to us not only in this series but throughout the year is just how hard these guys work. We are not exactly the biggest centre in our league or in the tournaments we've played in, but we can guarantee these boys are the hardest-working team wherever we go.

When the season began, Cookson, whose team hung multiple banners on the wall last season, acknowledged this season's squad would need to raise its game to new heights to get back to where they went a year ago, which he feels they have done.

"The boys have had to make some minor adjustments to this year's move up a league, but a lot of our success came from being resilient and always being in the fight until the end of each game. Whether we were down a goal or two or the other team was making a comeback, the boys kept pushing and had no quit. We're really proud of the boys for how hard they work no matter the circumstances."

## Offence ignites in U15 LL Boys' 'refreshing' win

By Spencer Seymour

The Ashton Tire Service U15 LL Boys St. Marys Rock have been working through plenty of adversity in the second half of their season, but their 7-2 win over the visiting Point Edward Black Hawks finally saw them achieve the compete level they've been searching for.

"We were so successful at the start of the year that when it came time for them to face a loss or a few ties, it's been a hurdle to find that next level in their compete when they get down a goal," said head coach Burton Pickel. "It's nice to see them find that next level tonight and it was nice to see that they weren't hanging their heads, but it's been a struggle to find that since January, so tonight was really refreshing."

After giving up the game's first goal early in the opening frame, the Rock rebounded and tied things up on a goal by Logan Oake. Before the end of the first, however, Point Edward retook the one-goal lead.

A major turning point came early in the second when Mac Hern netted a controversial goal for St. Marys



Logan Oake scores a goal during the Ashton Tire Service U15 LL Boys St. Marys Rock's 7-2 win last Thursday. Photo by Spencer Seymour

which tied the game at two apiece and, according to coach Pickel, gave the team a shot in the arm.

"We haven't been getting the bounces we were at the start of the year and that has made it harder to maintain the compete level we want to have. Tonight, I think we saw our second

goal go in and it wasn't the nicest goal and it maybe shouldn't have counted and they decided that this would be the night they rally around their goalie and once they potted that second and third goal, they found the confidence that makes them successful."

This lit the fuse on an offensive powder keg for the Rock as, over the next four minutes and 56 seconds, St. Marys added four more goals, including the second of the night for Hern, the second and third of the game for Oake, and a tally by Tys De Wit.

Jaxon Brown added one more goal in the third en route to the 7-2 final score with Landon Lichti earning the win in between the pipes.

According to Pickel, who felt the performance was a breath of fresh air for his group, a major factor in the team finally overcoming their adversity was what he described as a "void of negativity."

"When they're having fun and playing with confidence and swagger, they play a harder brand of hockey and a better brand of hockey," Pickel told the Independent. "When we had a couple tough goals against us, everyone took responsibility as a team, they put their heads down and decided they were going to fight back. As soon as they get one and start patting each other on the back and everyone's smiling, that's when they're playing their best."

# SPORTS

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Lincoln Jennings pressures an opposing puck carrier during this past Sunday's Finnbilt Construction U9 MD Boys St. Marys Rock game.



Bentley Folkes skates towards the front of the net to hunt for a scoring chance during the U9 LL Boys 3 St. Marys Rock game this past Sunday.



Isaac Palmer gloves an incoming puck during last Wednesday's Dunny's Source For Sports U10 A Boys St. Marys Rock game.



Jude White tracks down a loose puck in the offensive zone during the U11 LL Boys St. Marys Rock game this past Sunday.



Landon MacDonald carries the puck over the opposition's blueline during last Wednesday's St. Marys Fire Department U13 A Boys St. Marys Rock game.



Lily Johnston skates into the slot with the ring during the U12 St. Marys Snipers game last Saturday. Photos by Spencer Seymour

**SPORTS**

# Seven SKC students earn medals in London tourney



Eight Stonetown Karate Centre (SKC) students had a strong showing at the Power Nationals Martial Arts Challenge earlier this month. The haul of medals for SKC representatives included seven gold medals. Pictured from left are Shannon Campbell, Isabelle Lariviere and Morgan Houston. Contributed photo

By Spencer Seymour

Eight students of the Stonetown Karate Centre (SKC) claimed medals at the Power Nationals Martial Arts Challenge held at the East Lions Community Centre in London earlier this month.

Marieke van Lierop, competing in the 15-17-year-old girls advanced belt division, captured first place in both traditional forms and traditional weapons. This propelled Van Lierop to go head-to-head with the first-place winners from all coloured-belt divisions, from which Van Lierop emerged as the overall grand champion.

Isabelle Lariviere captured a haul of five medals in the 18+ women's division, including a gold in traditional weapons and freestyle forms along with a silver in point sparring and two bronze medals in traditional forms and creative weapons.

Sensei Jalyne Lorentz added a pair of golds to the SKC total, coming in first in traditional forms and traditional weapons in the 15-17 girls black-belt category.

In the 35+ women's coloured-belt division, Shannon Campbell earned the top spot in point sparring while taking second place in traditional forms.



Pictured in the front row, from left, are Santiago Tierra and Rowan Meekes. In the back row, from left, are Sensei Jalyne Lorentz, Fox Houston, and Marieke van Lierop. Lorentz, Houston, Van Lierop and Campbell will represent SKC at the Team Canada Provincial Tryouts on April 6. Contributed photo

Fox Houston captured a silver medal in the 13-17 boys junior black-belt division while Santiago Tierra, competing in the 11-12 novice division, and Morgan Houston of the 35+ women's coloured-belt division, each captured the bronze in their respective bracket in traditional forms.

It was also a special event for Rowan Meekes, who took fifth in the 9-10 intermediate bracket, as Meekes was competing in his first tournament.

Sensei Jeremy Lorentz explained his elation about his students' accolades.

"Our students have been doing amazing for the start of this year's tournament season," Lorentz told the Independent. "We are so proud of them all. We are having new students who are new to the tournament experience, trying them out which is great to see. Tournaments not only create a special bond between members, but also create new friendships among competitors at every tournament. We're excited to watch our students continue to grow and excel with every tournament."

This was also the last tournament for SKC's students before the provincial tryouts in London April 6. Fox Houston, Campbell, Lorentz and van Lierop will attend the tryouts.

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**COMMUNITY**

# Badminton Club thriving with massive membership uptick



In the photo on the left, Toto Salyasen lunges to hit the birdie back over the net with support from partner Jason Whaling during last Wednesday's night of weekly play for the St. Marys Badminton Club. On the right, Carter Quinlan reaches up to smash the birdie back with teammate Noah Atlin guarding the other half of their side. The Badminton Club has experienced massive growth this year, with their membership doubling from around 50 players to well over 100. Club President Peter Rice, who has served in that role for 30 years, told the Independent he is "thrilled" to see the Club's growth and recognized the strong leadership by Don Fletcher, the Club's Founder, as well as past members Ron Marriott and John McCarthy.



On the left, Lauren Thomson stretches out to keep the birdie in play with Joel Azzano in position at the back. On the right, Marco Marfil backhands the birdie with partner Arjun Singh readying for the next return. To accommodate the Club's explosive increase in members, their weekly night of action on Wednesdays has increased to two shifts. The Club's membership includes lots of generational mixing with players in their teens to adults in their 70s. While the Club wasn't formally founded until the early 1970s, the origins of the club may date as far back as the mid-1950s when Mary Smith recalled playing in the now-demolished gym at the United Church in a club for young teenagers. Photos by Spencer Seymour

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**SPORTS**

# Mills wins long-jump gold at nationals

By Spencer Seymour

St. Marys resident Isabella Mills capped off her indoor season with a gold medal in U16 female long jump at the Canadian Indoor Track and Field Championships held in Montreal, Que. earlier this month.

Mills described to the Independent how she feels now with several days to process her massive accomplishment.

“Obviously, there is a lot of joy,” Mills said. “There is a lot of hard work that goes into achieving something like this, such as going to London three times a week for two hours each practice. It took a lot of hard work to reach this point and it definitely is a big accomplishment that I’m really proud of.”

Even though she was turning in very solid efforts in the early stages of the competition, Mills admitted she knew she could elevate her performance as she approached her final jump.

“I felt really good going into nationals, but then we started jumping and, to me, it didn’t feel like it was going too great,” explained Mills. “They were good jumps. It just was not what I wanted to be jumping at this competition and I knew I could do better than what I was, but I was just trying to stay relaxed and stay focused on what I was doing and making my next jump a good one.”

Mills wasn’t jumping the farthest over the first five jumps with Léa Ann Joseph-Ngô of Quebec putting forward greater distances. However, two faults by Joseph-Ngô put Mills, who didn’t fault on any of her first five jumps, within striking distance of the top spot when she set off for her sixth and final leap.

Mills then turned in an all-time, personal best of 5.40 metres, which secured the gold medal for the St. Marys native.

“I was very happy,” Mills said, recounting the moment she realized she had not only set a personal best but captured the gold as a result. “I started crying. I was over the moon. I really felt the weight of how big of an accomplishment it was, and it was just so overwhelming.”

The victory on the national stage was the culmination of a very strong indoor season for Mills, who



St. Marys native Isabella Mills recently won gold in U16 female long jump at the Canadian Indoor Track and Field Championships in Montreal, Que. Contributed photo

also racked up first-place finishes in long jump at both the Ontario championships and the Ontario vs. Quebec inter-provincial clash.

“It was a really good season, full of big accomplishments like being at the provincial championships and getting to represent Team Ontario for the dual meet. I recently switched to focusing just on jumps and hurdles, so I’ve had more time to work on long jump, which I do think I’ve gotten a lot better at and it’s helped having a specific long-jump coach

who is amazing.”

That coach is Donna Tomicevic, Mills’ long-jump coach at the Western University Track and Field Club, who Mills credits with helping her develop both a new jump technique and stronger mental resilience to combat mid-meet adversity.

“A big thing is to stay calm during the meets and not get flustered when you’re not doing as well as you know you can,” Mills said of how Tomicevic has helped her improve. “I did change up my jump a bit. I switched to a hitch and no longer a knee drive, so that was also a big change. But I would say a lot of it is mental for me and not trying to get into my own head about things and just focus on myself and not about the other people at the meet.”

Her coach echoed those sentiments.

“I am so proud of her improvement,” Tomicevic told the Independent. “We introduced a hitch kick and moved her mark back by six steps to give her more room to accelerate. She has also become more self-aware to know what needs to be improved after each jump without me telling her what to do. Self-awareness is key to success, and she has that.”

Tomicevic also described Mills as a “delight to coach.”

“Isabella had her heart set on getting a personal best in Montreal. Throughout the competition, her run-throughs were consistent with no faults. Her form was accurate so all she needed was to focus, lock in and drive, and that is what she did to get that personal best and the gold medal. She loves the sport, she is a great peer, a very positive athlete and extremely coachable. I enjoy coaching her and love seeing her smile shine at every practice.”

Kene Mills and Christina Boscarato, Mills’ parents, watched their daughter win gold, and the latter described the thrilling feeling.

“Kene and I are beyond proud of Isabella,” said Boscarato. “When you hear your child’s name called and she walks on the podium as Canada’s national champion, it gives you goosebumps. Isabella’s unwavering dedication, countless hours of practice and her sheer determination have led her to this moment where her talent and resilience shine brightly. We feel truly blessed.”

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## HISTORY

## HISTORIC ST. MARYS: The Woolways of St. Marys

By Mary Smith

A large marble tablet is mounted on the wall just inside the Church Street entrance to the St. Marys Public Library. It was unveiled when the building was officially opened to the public on August 18, 1905. An earlier date – 1904 – was carved in the façade of the building when the exterior stonework was completed but the library was not actually opened until the summer of 1905. On the commemorative tablet are the names Andrew Carnegie, whose grant made building the library possible, and J. A. Humphris, the architect and project supervisor. The building committee was chaired by Robert Graham, mayor of St. Marys. Other committee members were town councillors, appointed to oversee this municipal development.

These people were well-known in the community at that time. But time passes and even the most significant contributors to the town fade from memory. Still, researchers with local history projects find these names popping up as former owners of property or downtown businesses or as participants in various events. This is the case with the last name alphabetically on the library tablet: G. Woolway. Woolway is an interesting name, certainly no longer common in this area. There are several suggestions on the internet about its derivation, none of them particularly convincing. A number of people with the surname Woolway lived in the south of England, with one large group concentrated around the village of Burrington in North Devon.

Burrington, Devon, was, in fact, where William Woolway and his wife, Ann Babbage, lived before emigrating. In 1850, they arrived in Canada with their children, all young adults, and settled on a farm in London Township, just north of the city of London. Thomas's father, William Woolway was not young when he came to Canada. He left his home in England, presumably for better opportunities for his family. He died in 1862, age 64. His wife, Ann, lived two more decades, dying in 1885 at the age of 87. They are both buried, as are several of their children, in the pioneer Carmichael Cemetery on Nine Mile Road, just northeast of Arva.

William and Ann's son, Thomas Woolway, was born in Burrington, in June 1831, the third in the family of six. He was 19 when his family arrived in London Township in 1850. Thomas did not waste much time in establishing his own household. In



The old Grand Trunk Railway Station at the Switch, just south of the Elizabeth Street crossing, ca 1900. Part of the storage buildings that buyers like Thomas Woolway used for grain are just visible at the extreme right of the photograph. Photo courtesy of the R. Lorne Eedy Archives, St. Marys Museum

1853, he married Fanny Jane Gleason (or Gleeson) whose family were also residents of London Township. By the 1861 census, Thomas and Fanny were living in St. Marys and were the parents of three little boys, Christopher, Thomas Junior, and William. Thomas held the position of village constable. William Johnston's History of Perth County records that Thomas was promoted to chief of police, a position he held from 1863 to 1866. The Woolways had two more sons, born in St. Marys – George and Edward. Then the family suffered a sad loss. Fanny Woolway died in early January 1873, age 41. Her oldest son, Christopher, was 19; her youngest, Edward, was still a toddler.

By the early 1870s, Thomas Woolway's position in the community had changed and he was no longer working for the town's police department. He had taken advantage of Britain's increased demand for Canada's wheat. The Ontario Gazetteer and Directory for 1869 lists Thomas Woolway of St. Marys as a grain merchant, one of half-a-dozen men in the town who also listed this as their occupation. It is almost impossible today to envision the market square at the intersection of Queen and Church Streets around the old town hall congested with wagon-loads of grain. We can only imagine the dust, the odours, and the shouts of both buyers and sellers vying to get the best price for the best wheat, oats and barley – all this activity happening every market day from the mid-1860s into the 1870s.

By 1869, Thomas Woolway had also become a landowner. According to

the assessment roll, the Woolways lived in a modest storey-and-a-half frame house on the west side of Elgin Street, across Church Street from the Anglican Church. (In a few years' time, this property would be acquired as part of the parcel of land for the new Knox Presbyterian Church.) In 1869, Woolway owned more property on both the east and west sides of Wellington Street South, near the downtown core. He was a landlord; a family of eight occupied a very modest home on one of these Wellington Street lots. He also owned a lot on the east side of King Street, just south of Elizabeth Street next to the Grand Trunk Railway tracks. On this lot was a storehouse to hold grain for shipping. This building had an assessed value higher than that of the Woolway house.

When Fanny died, it must have been challenging for Thomas, as a single father, raising a family of five boys. He did have help. According to the 1881 census, his mother, Ann Babbage Woolway, was living with the family. But Ann was elderly – 83 years old in 1881. She died four years later. It was fortunate that Thomas could also afford a housekeeper, 25-year-old Emily McLeod, who remained with the family for many years. By 1881, the Woolways seemed to be prospering. The two youngest were schoolboys. Christopher, the eldest son, now 27, had been to university and was a medical doctor. Thomas's next two sons, Thomas Junior and William, were also grain buyers and had invested with their father in improvements to the grain storage building on King Street. Thom-

as had extended his holdings along the east side of Wellington where, as assessment records show, he either improved an existing house or built a new house of a higher value.

By the mid-1880s, however, there was a downturn in Thomas's fortunes. The railway system through southwestern Ontario provided several alternate shipping routes and the St. Marys grain market was adversely affected. In the mid-1880s, the Woolway house on Wellington Street was destroyed by fire. It was not rebuilt. By 1891, all of the Woolway sons had left home. Dr. Christopher and his younger brothers, George and Edward, had moved to the United States. Thomas lived on a smaller property and worked as a gardener. The faithful Emily McLeod was still part of his household and there was a lodger to help make ends meet. By the late 1890s, Thomas lived alone in a rented room above a store on Queen Street and gave his occupation as fish merchant.

His situation did improve. In his final years, thanks to the intervention of his sons, Thomas moved into a house in the west ward. In March 1909, he married Emily, his former housekeeper, some 20 years his junior. She and his son, George, who had returned from the States, were able to support him in his final years. When Thomas Woolway died in March 1912 in his 82nd year, his obituary in the St. Marys Journal called him "one of the oldest and most widely known residents of St. Marys." The writer explained: "Forty years ago, when wheat growing was the great industry of Western Ontario, Woolway was one of the large grain buyers of the town and had a reputation for honourable dealing." Thomas and Emily are buried together in the St. Marys Cemetery although their gravestone can no longer be found.

Thomas's son, George Woolway, returned to St. Marys ca 1900, perhaps because his father needed him. By the 1901 census, George and his wife, Josephine, lived in the west ward with their two young daughters. While in St. Marys, George had various occupations, including hotel manager, auctioneer and mortgage agent. He was involved in municipal politics and served on council during the years that the St. Marys Public Library was being built. He later moved to Stratford where he and his brother, Thomas, had a shoe store. George died in April, 1923, age 54, and is buried in St. Marys.

# Thorndale News

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## 'The Cure for Drowning' book debuts at the Thorndale Library

By Nancy Abra

Three children set out across snow covered fields, into a forest in their quest for some beechnuts and maybe, if they were lucky, some cranberries. This cold, gloomy January afternoon turned into a tragic stormy evening when the two brothers made it safely across the ice-covered river, but their sister, Kathleen, did not.

What follows the opening pages of *The Cure for Drowning* immediately draws the reader into this brilliantly written and captivating novel of magic, love and identity by Loghan Paylor.

Paylor, a queer and trans author raised in the Thorndale area, now resides in Abbotsford, B.C. They attended Plover Mills Public School as a young child and schools in London, then later the University of British Columbia, achieving a Masters in creative writing. Over the years, Paylor has received notable awards for their published short fiction and essays. *The Cure for Drowning* is their first novel and it launched at the Thorndale Library last week.

Paylor thanked the Thorndale Library for this opportunity to present their book and shared some memories

of the library being instrumental in their fondness of reading and books. In addition to reading a few pages from *The Cure for Drowning*, Paylor opened the rest of the evening up for questions from the gathering.

"I chose the title," Paylor explained, "because it spoke to one of the primary themes I wanted to explore in the novel. Namely, what can save us from drowning literally, but also in the metaphorical sense of drowning in ego, in prejudice, in despair, or in the sense of being overwhelmed by negative social pressures. The cure, in both cases, is other people."

Paylor's *The Cure for Drowning* is a fascinating work of historical fiction set in southern Ontario and spans over two decades from 1931 to 1953. Their brilliant writing weaves together various themes of emotional truth, love and individuality, all the while boldly centering queer and non-binary characters in extraordinary ways. Kit and Rebekah, the two protagonists, have strong voices as Paylor explores their lives.

There is a waiting list to check out *The Cure for Drowning* at the Thorndale Library, but copies can be purchased at Betty's Bookshelf in St. Marys and at other area bookstores.



Thorndale-area author Loghan Paylor recently launched their first book, *The Cure for Drowning*, at the Thorndale Library. Photo by Nancy Abra

## Lions host fun and successful Social Gaming night in Thorndale

By Nancy Abra

For almost five decades, the Thorndale Lions Club has held a Social Gaming and Elimination Draw Night, an annual fundraiser for the club.

This is always a fun evening for the community and area residents. Whether people were enjoying visiting and chatting over drinks, trying their luck at the blackjack tables and the other popular games of chance, or cheering on their horse in expectation to be the winner, this event on March 23 at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre was another sold-out success. The evening also

included music, a prize raffle, a live auction, a late night buffet and the elimination draw for ticket holders.

"We greatly appreciate everyone coming out tonight," said Thorndale Lions president Tyler Wilson. "With the continued support of this community for our breakfasts, bingos and this event, we have exceeded our pledge to the St. Marys Hospital, and we will be donating \$20,000.00 this year."

The proceeds from this fun evening will go back into the community to support local projects and other community groups.

## Thorndale Horticultural Society report

By Liz Iglesias

At our February meeting, Heidi Michitsch from Treehuggers Farm and Gift Store spoke with us about everything garlic.

In 2019, she and her brother, Brody (15 and 14 years old at the time), teamed up and planted an approximate 2.5 acres of garlic. Their first harvest in 2020 was a true bumper crop, so they continued through until 2023.

Heidi is currently studying at Fanshawe College and is taking a short break from growing garlic this season to focus on her studies. We learned how to grow and harvest garlic ourselves and to appreciate and support our local garlic growers here in Ontario.

At our March meeting, Brenda Gallagher spoke to us on "The Secret Life of Birds." She is a forestry technician and vegetation specialist from the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. This was a beautiful presentation with candid photos of our local birds, giving us an appreciation for them and hints on how to help them flourish in our own gardens.

The Thorndale Horticultural Society meets on the second Wednesday of every month, except January and July, at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre. At our April 10 meeting, Jennie Girard will present on native bees and at our May 8 meeting, Dr. Andrew Peregrine will speak about ticks and Lyme Disease.

Guests are always welcome and new members are encouraged to join.

## Annual Crop Meeting held at Thorndale Farm Supplies



Thorndale Farm Supplies hosted their annual crop meeting and lunch on March 12 with approximately 40 farmers and representatives from Pride Seeds and BASF Canada attending. Several area farmers participated in the 2023 Pride Seeds high corn yield challenge and the winners were Ron and Jeremy Tomlinson operating Shady Road Farms on Cobble Hills Road. This was the first time the father and son cash crop operation earned this achievement. Last year marked the 20th anniversary of Pride Seeds yield challenge. Pictured is Jeremy Tomlinson and Gord Johnson from Thorndale Farm Supplies. Contributed photo

# COLUMN

## FROM THE GARDEN: Ornamental Plants vs Edimental Plants



**By Nancy Abra**

We live in a society that follows trends. Whether it is what we wear, how we decorate, how we shop or even how we garden, much of our lives are influenced by these trends. But also, certain trends can inspire us. As we plan for the 2024 season, consider what to grow and how it is grown can benefit the diversity of our garden landscape as well as being functional.

From one garden season to the next, there usually isn't big changes in horticultural tendencies except maybe being a stronger movement towards a certain trend. For instance, during the pandemic there was a robust movement towards getting back to nature and gardening as important havens for our well-being. The last couple of years, there has been a sharp increase in growing vegeta-

bles and small fruits. With the cost of food on the rise, this movement is trending to be even stronger this year.

Many people are familiar with the term 'ornamental' plants. These are a wide range of plants which are primarily chosen for their aesthetic appeal. They enhance the visual beauty of a garden, often with their colourful flowers, interesting foliage, or unique shapes. Ornamental plants serve as decorative elements, creating pleasing compositions, focal points, or borders. Some examples of ornamental plants include flowering shrubs, decorative grasses, and flowering perennials. Their primary function is to delight the senses and create a visually appealing landscape.

The term 'edimental' plants combines 'edible' and 'ornamental'. These plants bridge the gap between function and beauty. They offer dual benefits of attractive visual appeal and food production. Edimentals can easily be incorporated into our gardens, providing fresh produce while maintaining charm and beauty.

Fruit trees such as apple, pear and cherry can be key play-

ers in our garden landscape. Their spring blooms add beauty and in summer they provide shade, not to mention the delicious fruit for our table. As for edimental shrubs such as gooseberry and currants, they also can enhance our garden design and produce yummy fruit for making jams, and desserts.

No longer reserved for large spaces, vegetables can be grown with success in nearly every type of outdoor space. How about planting some varieties of kale, or a rainbow variety of Swiss Chard in your flower beds? The colourful leaves and stems of these varieties of chard add a splash of vibrancy to perennial gardens as well as certain kale varieties can also add colour, height, and texture. Spicy peppers and eggplant, for instance, can also be planted in flower gardens. They too offer both a visual appeal and nutritious food for the table.

There is a long list of herbs that also can be planted in your floral display. Perennial herbs such as lavender, chives, oregano, sage, and thyme are low maintenance and wonderful additions to any garden. And various annual herbs such as purple basil, parsley or dill will also



add interest and texture to your floral display.

Container gardening will never go out of style. Instead of using ornamental flowering plants, how about planting edible flowers, kale, lettuces, and herbs in your containers. These types of container gardening will enhance the

visual charm and provide nutritious harvests.

As the growing trend for 2024 seems to heighten 'edimentals', experiment where you can tuck these plants into your garden landscape for a harmonious blend of unique beauty and tasty sustenance.

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COLUMN

# HOSTING UKRAINE: Preparing for Easter

By VJ Knutson

“How can we ever thank you enough?” It’s a question I’m sure all hosts hear. For Ric and I, the answer is easy: “Pay it forward.”

Tania and Koyla have been doing just that, having invited a family of five to stay with them during their transition, and now hosting two other friends, and Koyla’s oldest daughter. We had dinner with them last week, and were reminded of our days with a full household – lots of food, chatter, and the constant chirp of the children playing.

Others have made room for family members, quietly growing the numbers of Ukrainians in our community. It is good to see families reuniting, and I pray our government will help them stay, as things in Ukraine worsen again, with Putin declaring war this past week.

Yes, you read that right. Up until now, he has proclaimed his attack was a special operation to free Ukrainians from the Nazis. He’s given up that charade now, and declared an all-out attack. Many shattering images came out of Ukraine this week, not least of which featured crowds of people crammed into the subway, even sleeping on the tracks.

This week, we are focusing on the upcoming Easter celebration. For my part, I have booked the hall at the Presbyterian church and am keeping track of those who plan to attend. Several of the Ukrainian women have been meeting and messaging, planning the event. I am privy to enough of the plans to be excited about it. Not since the first Christmas has there been such a well-orchestrated event. There are still a few places left, if you’d like to attend. The event is potluck.

Our own Nataly will be busy baking bread for the occasion. Paska, is a sweet, egg bread, traditionally prepared for the Easter season. It is round, and of-



Photo Credit: Nataly Shyshivska

ten tall, and decorated with fruit, chocolate and either topped with braiding, reminiscent of the cross, or sweet icing. In my research, I found that Paska represents what is sacred about Easter: the suffering and resurrection of Christ. In this time of war and separation from country, I think the baking of Paska also stands for the resilience and unity of all Ukrainians. Sacred bread, indeed.

In Ukrainian tradition, Paska would be carried to

church on Easter Sunday, and blessed by the priest before sharing. From my observations, this is the holiest of holidays, and celebrated with a deep reverence and zest for life. All preparations are mindful and imbued with prayers for a brighter future. Getting together with family and friends is an essential part of the holiday.

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

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ST. MARYS, ONTARIO

## Ask the Arborist

By Joel Hackett | 519 272 5742 | [jtsquote@gmail.com](mailto:jtsquote@gmail.com)

*Dear Arborist,*

The Maple trees are all losing their bark. Why? Also, they are not looking very healthy.

Just wondering why.

-----

*Dear Just Wondering Why,*

Some maple trees, particularly Norway Maples, are getting a disease which appears to be new to this area. In the last two years this disease has become a real problem. Unfortunately, without doing actual testing in a lab, we cannot be

sure which disease it is. However, it appears to be either Sooty-Bark disease or Hypoxylon canker. Sadly, there is not much you can do aside from remove and replace with a different species less prone to the problem.

Sincerely  
The Arborist

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

# Riddles

What did the mom  
corn ask baby corn?

“Where is pop corn?”

Why did the kid  
put the mail in the  
oven?

Because he wanted  
to have hotmail

What kind of mail  
does a superstar  
vampire get?

Fang mail

What did Dracula’s  
teacher say when he  
failed his math test?

“Can’t you count,  
Dracula?”

What did one math  
book say to the  
other?

“Don’t bother me,

I have my own  
problems”

What kind of light  
did Noah use on the  
ark?

Flood lights

What goes up but  
never goes down?

Your age

What happens when  
you throw a green  
rock in the Red Sea?

It gets wet

What part of a  
computer does an  
astronaut like best?

The space bar

Q: What did the  
beach say when the  
tide came in?

Long time no sea

## - Word Search -

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### EASTER

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

### Word List

Good Friday

Resurrection

Christian

Holiday

Egg decorating

Pysanka

Basket

Bunny

Chocolate

Egg hunt

Daffodil

Parade

Bonnet



The **Riddle Kid**  
OF THE WEEK

Why did Elvis like  
milkshakes so  
much?



They're all  
shook up!

Jack Rietmeyer (11)

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

## TONS OF FUN FOR KIDS EVERY WEEK!

### PET OF THE WEEK

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



Our pet of the week is Otis, an 8 year  
old maximillian pionus parrot. Otis is  
very shy but can say a few words. His  
favorite word is cookie because he likes  
arrowroot cookies. He lives in St. Marys  
with Joanne and Howard Reinhart



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

#### Easter Treats and Decorations

Keep lilies and candy in check- Chocolate is toxic  
to cats and dogs and all true lilies can be fatal if  
ingested by cats. Be mindful that some pets love  
to nibble on colourful plastic grass, which can  
lead to an obstructed digestive track or severe  
illness.

From our family to yours, SMVC wishes you a  
very happy Easter!

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## COLUMN

## OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: An unexpected artistic treasure trove in the Nation's Capital



By Paul Knowles

I couldn't believe my own eyes. I had walked into a large exhibition hall in an art gallery I had never heard of.

Admission was free – open the door and you're in. And I found myself alone, surrounded by the works of many of the best artists Canada has ever known.

There were wonderful paintings by every member of the famed Group of Seven. And, as art lovers will know, the group actually numbered 10, thus demonstrating that art is not necessarily rational.

There were fine examples of Canadian impressionist art and terrific abstracts.

And there was an inspiring display of A.Y. Jackson artifacts, paintings and sketches, including multiple pull-out drawers containing examples of his pencil sketches, works that led to some of the masterpieces of this prolific, original member of the Group of Seven.

I was in the Ottawa Art Gallery, an imposing, multi-storey building that somehow manages to be ignored by most visitors to Canada's capital city.

Actually, I understand this. As the nation's capital, Ottawa is replete with cultural attractions. Visitors with an eye for art will flock to the admittedly wonderful National Gallery of Canada. While in Ottawa, I got a chance to chat with Liliane L , vice president of public affairs and marketing at the national gallery, and she told me of many exciting things that are happening or are about to happen at that attraction. But's that another article.

Visitors come to Ottawa with a long to-do list: The Museum of History in Gatineau, The National War Museum, Parliament Hill, Rideau Hall House and Gardens, the Canada Science and Technology Museum, the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum, and much, much more.

But honestly, most of those to-do lists will not include the Ottawa Art Gallery because most visitors are not even aware of its existence. It lives in the reputational shadow of the national gallery.

I stumbled on it by accident. I was attending the Indigenous Tourism

Association of Canada's annual conference and stayed at a hotel new to me – Le Germain – only a block or two from Parliament Hill, the Shaw Centre (which hosted the conference), the Byward Market and all the other interesting sites around downtown Ottawa.

Le Germain was terrific. I would highly recommend it as your headquarters for your exploration of Ottawa.

As soon as I arrived at the hotel, I noticed, right next door, a clearly marked entrance to the Ottawa Art Gallery. I assumed, quite mistakenly, this was a cute little facility offering exhibition space to local artists. But when I took the time to check it out, I realized how wrong I had been.

There are five floors with exhibitions, though only a very limited number on the lower floor, which houses a caf .

The floor labelled 1 because it opens from the front entrance, one floor up from the back door I had discovered, has a big exhibition space that does, indeed, feature work by local artists. But this is not to be dismissed. Many of the works are excellent art by talented people.

I climbed the stairs to the second floor and entered a room called the Firestone Gallery. Here is where the wonder re-

ally set in. Here I was alone with Lawren Harris and A.J. Casson, Emily Carr and Paul- mile Borduas. Wonderful works by artists of international significance but with a distinctly Canadian point of view.

Jack Firestone was an Austrian immigrant to Canada in the 1930s, a man who fell in love with his adopted country and its culture. A successful businessperson, academic, author and advisor to political leaders, he began to collect art in the 1950s when, let's be honest, a Lawrence Harris painting could be acquired for a tiny fraction of today's multi-million-dollar price tag. But the Firestones went all out. They collected 1,600 paintings and, in 1972, donated the entire collection to the Ontario Heritage Foundation with one proviso. The paintings had to be made available for the public to enjoy.

The Heritage Foundation decided to pass that challenge on and gave the paintings to the City of Ottawa, which made the Ottawa Art Gallery stewards of the collection. A smart move in my opinion because today you and I can see these wonderful works of art free of charge.

One floor up was a temporary exhibit of the striking work by Ottawa artist Norman Takeuchi,



A 2016 work by Ottawa artist Valerie Ryan, "Out of Curiosity." All photos by Paul Knowles

spanning his work from 1961 to 2022. I did not know his work before my visit. I am very glad to have encountered this visionary creator.

I finished my tour of the Ottawa Art Gallery by returning to the Firestone Gallery, where I spent another half hour, once again alone, drinking in the delight of being up close and appreciative of such great work.

And then, as I was about to descend the elaborate staircase to

return to the first floor, I read the panel that explained the staircase – like the paintings – had actually been moved to the art gallery from the Firestone mansion.

A perfect pathway to important Canadian paintings.

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



The A.Y. Jackson corner at the Ottawa Art Gallery includes Jackson paintings, drawers full of his sketches and his snowshoes and palette box.



A wall full of paintings by Group of Seven member A.J. Casson.

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# OBITUARY

## Faulds



**FAULDS, Robert (Bob) Morley**  
 Passed away peacefully at McGarrell Place, London on March 18th in his 84th year.  
 Bob is missed by his "bride" of 60 years, Janet, and their children, Jennifer (Rick Fondacaro), Megan Alink, and Sean (Debbie). He is remembered with love by grandchildren, Ryan Fondacaro, Dylan Alink, and Braden and Jackson Faulds, and by nephew and niece, Jason and Jaime Hagen.  
 Predeceased by his parents, Colin Patrick (Pat) and Aleta Pearl (Lee) Faulds and his sister and brother-in-law, Valerie and Eric Hagen.  
 After a 35-year career teaching highschool English in Glencoe, Port Colborne, and St Marys, Bob enjoyed a fulfilling retirement, during which he pursued his stained-glass hobby, attended many plays, created art pieces from found "treasures", traveled in North America and Europe with Janet, puttered around in his 1951 MG TD, and read countless books.  
 Bob's family wishes to express deep gratitude to the staff of McGarrell Place, particularly Dr. Karen Lo and the nurses and PSWs on Harris House, for their kind and compassionate care.  
 In keeping with Bob's request, there will be no funeral service or visitation. In accordance with Bob's desire to be of use to others, the Dale E. Creighton Brain and BioBank of London has been contacted to help further the study of frontotemporal and Lewy Body dementia. Donations in Bob's memory may be made to the Dale E. Creighton Brain and BioBank ([www.londonbrainandbiobank.ca](http://www.londonbrainandbiobank.ca)) or the London Public Library ([www.lpl.ca/donate-online](http://www.lpl.ca/donate-online)). Condolences can be made through [www.londoncremation.com](http://www.londoncremation.com).

# ANNOUNCEMENT



*Marianne Schoelier*  
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# OBITUARY

## Dunseith



**DUNSEITH, Wayne**  
 We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Wayne Edward Dunseith, who left us suddenly on Sunday March 17, 2024, due to a heart attack at the age of 76. He has been reunited with the love of his life Martha (2020).  
 Wayne was a man of many virtues—funny, thoughtful, and exceptionally handy. His laughter was infectious, and his ability to brighten a room was unparalleled. He was the devoted father to Tony (Melanie), Brent (Deb), and Mark (Stacey). Wayne wore the title of 'Papa' with honour, doting on his grandchildren Courtney Milton (Trevor), Kurtis Dunseith, Bradley Dunseith (Neha), Megan Dunseith (Anthony), Emily Dunseith (Chris), and Spencer Dunseith (Jillian). His joy was further multiplied by the arrival of his great-grandchildren Elyse, Edward, Terrell, Myles, and Leon.

Throughout his life, Wayne's career encompassed both sales and driving truck, fields where he was known for his strong work ethic and gregarious nature. His colleagues will remember him as a man who could always be counted on for a supportive word and a hearty chuckle. Wayne's involvement in various associations throughout his career was marked by his commitment and camaraderie.

In his personal life, Wayne was an avid woodworker and took great pleasure in building custom golf clubs. His creations were not just objects of utility but also of beauty and precision, a testament to his skill and passion for craftsmanship. His workshop was a place of solace and creativity, where he happily spent countless hours perfecting his craft.

Wayne's legacy will be carried forward, not only through his family but also through the many lives he touched with his generosity and kindness. He had the rare ability to make each person feel valued, and his thoughtful nature ensured that he was a friend to many. Wayne will be deeply missed by his family and all who were graced by his presence. His spirit, characterized by humor and helpfulness, will continue to live on in the hearts of those he leaves behind.

In keeping with Wayne's request cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life was held on March 27, 2024, from 1 to 3 p.m., at the Oxford Centre Hall, 505386 Old Stage Rd., in (Oxford Centre) Woodstock, Ontario. Wareing Cremation Services, 225 Norwich Ave., Woodstock, Ontario has been entrusted with Final Arrangements. Your messages of remembrance and condolence may be shared at [wareingcremation.ca](http://wareingcremation.ca)

# THANK YOU

## Kittmer

Special thanks to my family for all the care, visits, food and phone calls. Also thank you to all friends and neighbours for the food, phone calls and cards. Thanks to Canada Post, Joe's Diner and Brown's Corner for all the thoughts and cards. And last, a big thank you to St. Marys and Clinton Hospitals for the special care.

Ken Kittmer

# OBITUARY

## Bryan



It is with great sadness that the family announces the passing of (Leona) Ann Bryan (Russell) on Sunday, March 17, 2024 at St. Marys Memorial Hospital.

Proud mother of Arden (Thomas) Longeway (St. Marys) and Linda (Mike, deceased 2023) O'Hara (Port Franks). Cherished grandmother of Tom VanOosterhout (Kitchener), Cathy (Justin) VanOosterhout (Cambridge), Samantha (Annanth) Brown-Aravinthan (Toronto) and Olivia (Geon) Brown (Toronto). Adored great-grandmother of Henry, Alice and Edison Cumby (Cambridge). Survived by her sister Lyla Allan (Whitby).

Mom treasured her time with family and friends. She was very active in the St. Marys community through the St. Marys Presbyterian Church, St. Marys Friendship Centre and volunteering through her gift of music. She thoroughly enjoyed her time with the "lunch bunch," playing bridge, singing in the choir, and going on numerous trips with Hope for Haiti. Mom loved animals and enjoyed the companionship of many beloved cats throughout her life. Mom will truly be missed by all who knew her.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at the St. Marys Presbyterian Church, 147 Widder St. E. St. Marys, on May 30, 2024 at 1 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Music Fund at the St. Marys Presbyterian Church or the London Humane Society. The family would like to express their gratitude to Dr. Gatfield and the staff at St. Marys Memorial Hospital for the exceptional care given to mom and our family. Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

# CELEBRATION

## Look Who's Turning 90!



**Open House Celebration for Thelma Chambers  
 Grace Community Church St. Marys  
 Saturday March 30th  
 from 1 pm - 4 pm**



**OBITUARY**

*Murray*



David Gordon Murray passed away peacefully in his 80th year surrounded by his families' love on Sunday, March 24, 2024 at the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth. He was born April 18, 1943, son of the late Harold "Ting" and Florence Murray.

Survived by his beloved wife of 59 years Linda (Riehl) Murray and his children, Paula (Leo) Stock, Darren (Julie) Murray, and Bentley (Pamela) Murray, his adored grandchildren Ashley (Scott) Kelly, Jennifer (Jorn) Steen, Dan (Hilary), Ryan (Chloe), Riley and Carter and his precious great grandson Wes. He is survived by his brother Keith (Karen) Murray, as well as his brothers and sisters-in-law Mona Doerner, Carlton (Pam) Riehl, Susan Sanderson, Brenda Eckstein, Judy (Gary) Schellenberger and Joanne Ballantyne. Dave is survived by many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brothers-in-law Bill Sanderson, Barry Eckstein, Barry Ballantyne and Laurie Riehl.

Dave was born and raised on Avonhill Farms in Avonton, Ontario. He farmed the land that his family settled on in the mid-1800s and proudly passed the farm onto the next generation to continue the 175-year century farm in the Murray name. Dave and Linda were married on November 13th, 1964. They lived in a small apartment in Sebringville for a year before moving to the farm in Avonton. Dave and Linda welcomed their daughter, Paula in August 1966, followed by their first son, Darren, in September 1968, and later their second son, Bentley, in March 1974. Throughout his life, Dave maintained an interest in agriculture and had a lifetime of wisdom to share with others. Growing up, Dave played hockey for the Avonton Drainers and the Milverton Four-Wheel Drives and baseball for teams in both St. Mary's and St. Paul's. He made lifelong friends and had great memories playing sports over the years which led to a passion for watching his grandchildren compete in their sporting activities. Dave spent many wonderful years at the cottage in Grand Bend and never passed up an opportunity to go boating on Lake Huron. In their retirement, Linda and Dave thoroughly enjoyed 'garage saling' and thrifting for unique treasures.

Dave will be remembered for his great sense of humour, his "useless information" stories, his passion for farming, the time he always had for a visit, and his great love for his family.

Thank you to the Stratford Palliative Care Team, Stratford Rotary Hospice, as well as the many doctors, nurses and community supports who gave Dave the best care and a great final stretch of life.

A Celebration of Dave's Life will be held at the Sebringville Community Centre, 302 Huron Rd, Sebringville, ON., on Saturday, March 30 from 2:30-5:30 pm.

As expressions of sympathy memorial donations may be made to Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth, Ivey Eye Institute or Canadian Red Cross through the W. G. Young Funeral Home, 430 Huron St, Stratford, ON N5A 5T7. [www.wgyoungfuneralhome.com](http://www.wgyoungfuneralhome.com)

**OBITUARY**

*Cortez*



Marie Jennifer Cortez unfortunately took her own life on March 17, 2024 at the age of 48.

She is survived by her son Alex, her mother Nancy Muir (John, deceased, 2001) and brother Brian. Marie will be missed by aunts and uncles Robert Muir (Elizabeth), Linda

Sharman (Richard), Paul Slater, Janet Slater (Peter), Mary Van Der Pryt (Bob), her cousins Michell (Bill), Stephen (Megan), Lisa, Jennifer (Daryl), Laura, and special friend Tim Brady, Marie will also be remembered by the family of the late John Bak, his daughter Sheila Hunt and her children Ethan, Aidin, Tyla, extended family members and her loving dog Bella. Predeceased by her grandparents Alex Muir, Wilma (nee Gough) Muir, Reg Slater and Margaret (nee Neeve) Slater.

Marie ran her own painting business, she had a great passion for art and art history. Cremation has taken place. A private family interment will be held.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the St. Marys Legion, 66 Church St. N. St. Marys on May 4, 2024 from 2 – 4 pm with Words of Remembrance at 3 pm. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Canadian Mental Health Association or Stratford Perth Shelterlink. Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

**LOOKING BACK**



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

**Rotarians visit South Africa**

25 years ago (1999)

With the largest facility in the Huron Perth Hospitals Partnership (Stratford General) in his care, as well as St. Marys Memorial and Seaforth Community Hospitals, Andrew Williams knows he's got a full agenda. The new Vice-President Multi-Site Administration is trying to make out his work week so he spends three days at Stratford General, and one day each in St. Marys and Seaforth.

Last week, the Dunny's Petites were the first St. Marys team to ever compete at a provincial ringette tournament, and the Shirley Patterson coached team responded with a strong performance in the competitive A division. The squad fell short of reaching the championship game, but still brought home bronze medals from the week-long event.

50 years ago (1974)

Workmen are busy removing 45 feet from the tall chimney of the Domtar Packaging Ltd. plant this week. The plant is being converted to use steam generators, but the chimney of the former furnaces is being saved, minus the 45 feet.

In Police Briefs, there were two traffic complaints last week: one of a vehicle driving through a backyard and damaging a lawn, and one complaint of vehicles being stranded on the Queen Street hill in a recent storm. There was one animal complaint in regards to a pony running at large. The owner was called and the animal was locked up.

A group of six district Rotarians will leave on April 13 for a tour of South Africa. While in Africa, they will be hosted by some 45 different Rotary Clubs, and will visit schools, churches, factories, mines, hospitals, and agricultural areas. Maurice Oliver of St. Marys will be one of the six men on this tour.

75 years ago (1949)

Mr. Wm. Yule, aged 91 and one of the district's oldest residents, was in town on Monday doing his shopping as usual. Mr. Yule is active and retains a good memory for his age.

Several merchants and residents occupying the lower reaches of the town along the Thames spent a few anxious hours Tuesday evening when the continued mild weather and half day rain brought the level of the Thames and Trout Creek up. A turn to colder weather during the night caused waters to subside and removed the threat of flood.

Judge Ian MacRae on Tuesday ordered \$1,600 paid out of the estate of Robert Murrell, Thorndale district cattle breeder, who died in August leaving \$21,000. Mr. Murrell died without making a will and the residue of his estate is to be divided among 24 heirs throughout Canada and the United States. One nephew is to get \$1,100 of his claim for \$2,920. He said he worked four years for his uncle without pay.

100 years ago (1924)

Mr. Clarence Moir, an employee of the C. Richardson Company, had a narrow escape from serious injury when an oil tank he was welding caught fire unexpectedly. He was not badly injured although partially overcome by smoke.

Owing to the severe nature of the Smallpox epidemic in some parts of Ontario, the Biddulph Board of Health hereby urge all citizens to be vaccinated. More especially does it urge parents to present their children for vaccination, which will be done for free by the Medical Officer of Health.

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

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

**Friday, March 29**

- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog/sausage lunch at Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 pm
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Strathroy Rockets at the PRC, Game 5 if needed - 7:30 pm

**Saturday, March 30**

- St. Marys Farmers Market at the PRC - 8 am to Noon
- St. Marys Hospital Auxiliary bake sale at Troyer's Spices - 9 am to Noon
- St. Marys Kinettes Easter egg hunt at Lions Park, Milt Dunnell Field - 10 am to Noon
- McCully's Maple Syrup Festival - 10 am to 2 pm
- Thelma Chambers 90 Birthday open house celebration at Grace Community Church - 1 to 4 pm
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Strathroy Rockets at West Middlesex M.C., Game 6 if needed - 7:30 pm

**Sunday, March 31**

- Easter Sunday

**Tuesday, April 2**

- St. Marys Lincolns vs Strathroy Rockets at the PRC, Game 7 if needed - 7:30 pm

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## SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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Celebrate Easter with local food!  
Egg sandwich breakfast fundraiser

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- |                                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Germany                      | 6. 1824           |
| 2. Resurrection of Jesus Christ | 7. Lent           |
| 3. Vegreville, AB               | 8. Witches        |
| 4. Hot cross buns               | 9. Kinder Suprise |
| 5. Eleven                       | 10. New York City |



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