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Issue #1225

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Judging of Teddy Bear Reunion parade entrants for best-decorated bike and/or wagon took place at the high-school parking lot Sunday before the parade. First place was won by Layla Rose and Chevy Siegner with their theme, Peace & Love. For more photos from the Teddy Bear Reunion, turn to page 3. Photo by Wendy Lamond

Stratford chamber of commerce announces Perth South's Aaron Martin as new general manager

By Galen Simmons

The Stratford and District Chamber of Commerce has announced the appointment of Perth South's Aaron Martin as its new general manager.

Martin previously worked with the Western Fair District in London where he led the Grove Agri-Business Incubator and Accelerator, a position in which he supported agri-food businesses on the cutting edge of the industry.

"The incubator; I like to think of it like

the AirBnB of commercial kitchen spaces," Martin said. "There are four spaces for companies that have a great product, but they may not have the financial literacy, track record or even the regulatory literacy, so we build them up, get their track record up and going, get those companies to the point where they can kind of get their own brick-and-mortar place or possibly to the next step, which is the accelerator.

"The accelerator is an area where we

Continued on page 2

Work begins on Wellington Street South reconstruction

By Galen Simmons

After a slight delay caused by heavy rain earlier in the summer, work on the reconstruction of sections of Wellington Street South and Victoria Street has begun.

The project, which spans from Park Street to St. Maria Street on Wellington Street South and from Church Street South to Water Street South on Victoria Street, is a continuation of the reconstruction of Wellington Street downtown from the Wellington Street bridge to Park Street East completed last year.

"There are separate driving factors (for the reconstruction of both sections of Wellington Street)," said town infrastructure services manager Jeff Wolfe. "The one downtown; we prioritized the core when we were looking at prioritization of capital projects, so Wellington Street floated to the top there. We were replacing some storm sewer and we were doing some minor modifications to the water system, we were replacing water services from the main to the property line and then we were improving (accessibility).

"... This year's project, though, heavily revolves around the condition of the existing roadway and storm sewer. We're replacing storm sewer from St. Maria Street to Victoria Street and then we're improving the water-distribution system in the area. We're installing a short section of water main to connect two dead ends that exist."

Continued on page 8

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COMMUNITY

Stratford chamber of commerce announces Perth South's Aaron Martin as new general manager

Continued from page 1

had 20 places built out and (they are) below market rate for what a company would generally pay for a space at that calibre. And, if there was certain infrastructure they need to put in, we could cover some of that with the federal money that we received."

In that job, Martin said he worked with a lot of companies focused around agricultural technologies, including agri-robotics, that could be applied in other sectors.

Martin, who has a Bachelor of Arts in general studies at Athabasca University and a diploma in agriculture from the University of Guelph's Ridgetown campus, not only brings a wealth of business connections, experience and knowledge to the chamber, but he is also familiar with Stratford, St. Marys and the surrounding Perth County.

Martin lives on his in-laws' 800-acre farm on Perth Line 26 south of Sebringville. Both he and his wife have been busy starting their own small businesses: a winery/cidery, a business Martin says is lacking in the Stratford area, and his wife manages logistics for shipping milk, cheese and meat products, a business that has been growing exponentially.

"I'm a big proponent of serving your local community," he said. "... This opportunity came up; it means I can be closer to home.

"... For the area that the chamber's serving, I feel that we're positioned really well because we're in Perth South kind of smack dab between St. Marys and Stratford and Mitchell. Two things I know the chamber's



Perth South's Aaron Martin has been appointed the new general manager of the Stratford and District Chamber of Commerce. Photo courtesy of Stratford and District Chamber of Commerce

identified they want to see more involvement is in manufacturing and with agriculture, and I have a background with both of those. Through family connections and through my own personal connections, I think we'll be able to reach out to a lot of those people and bring them into the chamber. I think that's going to make the chamber stronger as a whole."

As a small-business owner in Perth South, Martin said he is hoping to bring more businesses in St. Marys, Perth South, Perth East, West Perth and those further afield into the

fix these issues," Martin said. "That's the whole point. We want to talk with each other and find out how we can help. On the flip side, we can be a huge value-add to all three levels of government with the representation there. We can tell them, 'This is what we've been hearing with the local constituents, this is where we've been having issues with local job creation,' or anything along those lines. We want to be able to value-add to them - we scratch their back and they scratch ours - to ensure everything is moving smoothly for local businesses."

Martin says he is excited to hit the ground running when he officially starts in this new position at the end of August, and begin meeting with local business representatives and touring their businesses to find out how best the chamber can serve them.

"His hands-on approach and dedication to fostering business growth have made a significant impact in his previous roles," the chamber board of directors said in a press release. "Aaron's commitment to supporting local businesses and driving economic development aligns perfectly with our chamber's mission. We look forward to the fresh perspectives and energy Aaron will bring to our team."

chamber fold, something previous chamber general manager Eddie Matthews also tried to do.

"I want to find out what issues businesses are having and what level of government can help solve that ultimately, and what ways we as a business community can come together to



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COMMUNITY

Despite the rain, the Teddy Bear Reunion still a success



Taking her turn on the pony is Yvonne Menezes (Stroud). Photos by Wendy Lamond

By Wendy Lamond

Despite the sporadic downpours that took place on Sunday, the 37th annual Teddy Bear Reunion at East Ward Park still drew a crowd.

The popular event, which is run by Marlene Forman, consisted of a parade starting at the high school and making its way to the park. There were bouncy castles, games, face painting, pony rides and so much



Coming in second place was Levi Shute seen here with parents Stephanie and Brock.

more.

"Thank you to everyone that came out despite the rain, to all of those that volunteered their time and to all of those that donated towards the event," Forman said.

The winner of the quilt was Brenda Sims. The money raised from the Teddy Bear Picnic goes towards providing teddy bears to St. Marys Memorial Hospital.

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EDITORIAL

Dough-not talk to me about doughnuts

By Galen Simmons

This past weekend, my girlfriend, Julia, and I hosted my sister and her boyfriend at our home in Stratford for the first time since we moved in back in January.

It was a really nice visit with good food, good conversation and some fun games inside since the rain kept us from spending much time in the backyard, as originally planned. To cap it all off, my sister brought us a box of doughnuts from Monster Doughnuts in Hamilton – supposedly one of the best doughnut shops the Steel City has to offer.

While I've had Monster doughnuts before – and enjoyed them – this time, I found the offering a little lacking (though much appreciated). There was a peanut butter-and-jam doughnut, a peach-cheesecake doughnut, some kind of cinnamon-toast-breadcrumb concoction, and an apple and a peach fritter. While I liked the fritters best – those are my favourite across the board – I've recently come to the conclusion that specialty doughnuts are more miss than hit for me, no matter where you get them from.

It's so easy to overcomplicate what should be quite simple with icings, sprinkles, fillings and a host of other ingredients that only serve to distract from what is already doughy, fried perfection.

A couple weeks ago, Julia and I picked up a box of goodies from Green Haven Bakery – the one in Stratford that spun off from the much-beloved St. Marys bakery – to share with friends at a cottage up in Minden Hills. We bought

their original glazed doughnuts, apple fritters and a bunch of other delicious treats like hand pies, cinnamon buns and whatever else they had in their display case at the time.

The box went so quickly, Julia and I hardly had a chance to try a piece of everything that was in there. So, later that same week while camping at a friend's trailer in Wildwood, we ran over to the original Green Haven Bakery in St. Marys and picked up more doughnuts, hand pies and cinnamon buns.

Let me tell you, that box of goodies went almost as fast as the first one, and this time, I definitely had a chance to try (and eat most of) everything we bought.

While Green Haven Bakery should be applauded for everything they make, their glazed doughnuts and fritters of all fruit flavours are exactly what they should be: fried to perfection, lightly glazed and, in the case of the fritters, fruity without taking away from the doughnut itself.

They're on par with the doughnuts from Anna Mae's Bakery and Restaurant in Millbank – which for me, is high praise.

Having such great doughnuts so close at hand is a little scary for me, so I'm doing my best to practice self-control. With Costco in Waterloo recently offering free samples and discounted prices on Krispy Kreme doughnuts, staying strong is harder than it has been for a long time.

Doughnuts are my weakness. Pray for me.

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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Congrats to the golf course on their new rental accommodations. Great views.

Despite the rain, the teddy bears still had their picnic

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

Bravo

We have 1 Bravo this week.

1) A huge bravo to all of the businesses in St. Marys that support each other. A special mention to the St. Marys real estate companies that continue to sponsor events, sports teams and anything else they are asked. A lot of realtor's personal time, effort and money is reinvested in our town through the volunteer work they do. They are also the ambassadors that welcome new people to our town and showcase what an amazing place it is to live, work, invest and raise families.

Boo

We have 2 Boos this week.

1) Unfortunately I feel the need to express a concern about the amount of garbage being left in the parking lots of the Quarry after the customers have gone. I often walk the trail in that area and on Sunday morning was surprised to see how much trash had been discarded on the grounds of the parking area. If the town wants to have an attraction that brings in a lot of people, perhaps Quarry staff need to pick up this garbage after closing. There are trash containers close by but those visiting are choosing to just dump it beside their vehicles.

2) Boo to those charitable organizations that spend huge amounts of money sending out gift cards, address labels and even coins trying to solicit donations. A general mailing would be fine but don't waste donated funds on trivial items.

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

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

Quote of the Week

"The tornado's path was "just a bit" over five kilometres long, the path and the maximum width was 230 meters and the maximum wind speeds were about 165 km/hr. That's what puts it in the category of EF1 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale, which is used to measure tornado wind speeds based on damage."

- David Sills, the executive director of the Northern Tornadoes Project at Western University in London, Ont., was on the ground assessing damage from the tornado in Ayr on Saturday.

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COMMUNITY

Melodies at the Museum week two



On Aug. 14, the group Jazzm@x entertained the crowd at the second Melodies at the Museum concert series. This very talented group played a range of styles from jazz to bossa nova to funk. There are two more Wednesday night concerts in the series yet to come. Photo by Nancy Bickell



PROPERTY TAX REMINDER

All Final Tax Bills have been mailed. The First Final Tax Instalment is due on

August 29, 2024

You can make payments through Telephone/Online Banking (**allow 3-5 business days for processing**), ATM, at most financial institutions, or by mail. We also offer payment by cash, cheque or debit card at the Municipal Office. Post-dated cheques are accepted. **New – Online Credit Card Payment option.** Please visit Thames Centre website for more information. Our office is open to receive payments from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. After 4:30 p.m., a payment slot is located to the left of the office door.

Failure to receive a property tax bill does not exempt you from paying on time. If you have not yet received your property tax bill, please call the Municipal Office at 519-268-7334.

Please make sure your payment is received at our office by 4:30 p.m. on August 29, 2024.

Penalty/Interest of 1.25% will be charged on the first day of default and the first day of each month thereafter, per the Municipal Act, 2001 s. 345 (2).

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STONETOWN CRIER The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



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COMMUNITY

A perfect day for a barbeque



The end of the season barbecue was held outdoors at the library on Wednesday, Aug. 14. Bottom left, Kate Gregg was very busy making different things out of balloons, while Amelia Baker-Thompson holds her special balloons after having her face painted. Bottom right, Victoria Zhu, the summer reading program assistant and Ben Armstrong, the summer reading program coordinator made popcorn for many to enjoy. Photos by Nancy Bickell



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Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Jacques Cousineau who just turned 82 on Aug. 17. Jacques was born in Smooth Rock Falls, Ontario. He moved to St. Marys to play hockey for the Lincolns. He met Jane Hogg and the two were married in 1967. He has four children but according to his daughter, she is his favourite. Jacques also has nine grandchildren. He still loves playing hockey and is on the Lincolns Alumni. He loves spending time on the farm and with his family.

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



Weekend Quiz

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1. What is a catacomb?
2. What did golfers originally use to tee up a ball?
3. What kind of radiation has the shortest wavelength?
4. Where did Terry Fox start his run for cancer?
5. What is the approximate speed of light?
6. Who plays Wolverine in X-Men?
7. Who sings the song "Closer" (2016)?
8. What year did the World Series of Poker begin?
9. What is the national flower of Ukraine?
10. Who was the husband of Virgin Mary?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

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COMMUNITY

Come and knock on our door: Mrs. Roper's Romp Pub Crawl



Many Mrs. Ropers got in the spirit and took part in the Roper's Romp Pub Crawl that took place on Aug. 10. Contributed photo

By Wendy Lamond

Many remember the popular comedy TV series, Three's Company, that ran from 1976-1984. The show was known for pushing the envelope and was based on two girls and a guy all living under one roof as roommates causing many laughable moments.

Two other well-liked characters that were front and centre on the show were the nosy neighbours, Mr. and Mrs. Roper. Known for their quirky personalities and dress style, the Ropers became a mainstay in TV history and resulted in Mrs. Roper Romps or Pub Crawls that still take place to this day.

The event really began gaining ground in New Orleans in 2013 with a parade. The original Facebook page currently has over 58,000 members and pub crawls are happening all over North America and Europe.

The event can be in any form, however, the only consistent component is that people dress as Helen Roper, her husband, Stanley, or other characters from


the show.

How did it make its way to our small town? Ev Scott was at their house in Herring Neck, Nfld., when Twillingate, the town near them, hosted one. As someone who is always looking for something fun to do, Scott thought it would be a great event.

"I thought I should have a small one with some friends here, and then thought, 'Why don't I just have something bigger and invite everyone?' It's just all about having fun," Scott said.


Both O'Learys Creamery and Gilly's Pub welcomed a chattering gaggle of Helens and one Stanley on Aug. 10. More than 30 people participated, enjoying the signature Mrs. Roper cocktails both locations offered.

The opening theme song of Three's Company was playing as the group walked into the Creamery. Scott also shared that a handmade, little Roper penguin was dropped off for the group to take along on the pub crawl.



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COMMUNITY

Work begins on Wellington Street South reconstruction

Continued from page 1

That extra section of new water main, Wolfe explained, means fewer residents in the area will be without water service in the event of any kind of issue where water needs to be shut off to make repairs. The improvements are also expected to nominally improve the system pressure in times of heavy use.

This year's project will also see replacement of the deteriorating asphalt roadway, which Wolfe described as one of the worst in town, improved drainage with grading, new catch basins and curbs, and, according to town policy, the removal of one sidewalk along the west side of Wellington Street and improvements to the grading of the remaining sidewalk to make it more accessible.

"We have a policy now on sidewalks where local roads only get one - there's more criteria than that - but basically we're taking one of the sidewalks and eliminating it," Wolfe said. "... (The remaining sidewalk) currently doesn't meet accessibility standards so it will meet today's standards for that.

"The (one-sidewalk-for-local-roads)

policy is a policy approved by council. It's a way to control budget. The policy itself helps us with some decisions. Sometimes it can be contentious when you're putting sidewalks in. Usually, we're not taking sidewalks out. Usually we're putting sidewalks in because there's more people around and we're trying to keep them from walking on the roads. The policy gives us a little guidance for where we're putting a sidewalk."

The project is expected to last 15 weeks. There will be some service disruptions during that time, including street parking and sidewalk closures, as well as water-service interruptions. Access to some residential driveways may be limited at times.

The town plans to communicate actively and regularly with affected residents throughout the process. Residents are encouraged to follow the town on Facebook (facebook.com/stmarysontario) and Twitter (twitter.com/townofstmarys) or subscribe to the town's website for the latest information (townofstmarys.com/construction). Information will also be provided through local media for those that don't use the internet.



This year's reconstruction of Wellington Street South from Park Street to St. Maria Street and the reconstruction of Victoria Street from Church Street South to Water Street South officially got underway on Aug. 12. Photo by Wendy Lamond

collette

STONETOWN TRAVEL

GROUP TRAVEL INFORMATION SESSION

Come join us in either New Hamburg or St. Marys on Thursday, September 5th to learn more about the following group trips offered in 2025:

AFRICAN SAFARI: KENYA AND TANZANIA: JULY 28 - AUG 11, 2025

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Summer Produce at McCully's

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COMMUNITY

York Street Thought Process thrilled to share new tunes on Colder tour

By Emily Stewart

It may have been the first night of the Colder tour, but it was an evening full of warmth as the joy of music and community filled the room.

Folk duo York Street Thought Process, made up of St. Marys' Jaron Camp and Stratford's Rachael Frankruyter, kicked off the Colder tour Aug. 17 in London, Ont. at Rum Runners. The tour celebrated the release of the band's latest album, *Colder*, and the duo performed songs from the new album including "Lawn Mower," "White Lie" and "Stars and Machines."

"I feel great about tonight," Camp said after the show. "I felt it was really fun to play some brand-new original music to an attentive audience that was into it. That's always nice and Wild Bloom opening up the show too; they were absolutely amazing and we're honoured to have them on the tour."

"I would totally agree," Frankruyter added. "It's just very exciting being able to sort of premiere all of our new music in a live setting like this. It was a very special first show for the tour."



Jaron Camp and Rachael Frankruyter of York Street Thought Process held their *Colder* tour to promote their latest album of the same title. The tour kicked off in London Aug. 15 at Rum Runners before stopping in Stratford, Toronto and St. Marys. Photo by Emily Stewart

The intimate show had Stratford and St. Marys residents alike attend the event and cheer on the musicians. Bev Camp, known within the London

music scene as "The Dancing Cowboy," had his art up for sale and he danced and tapped his feet throughout the night, supporting his grand-

son. During the show, Jaron Camp gave his grandfather a shoutout and talked about how he influenced him.

Before York Street Thought Process took the stage, Toronto based trio Wild Bloom entertained the audience and even got guests to waltz during one of the band's songs. Wild Bloom, which met York Street Thought Process while studying at Humber College, later joined the duo on stage. Juno-nominated musician Emm Gryner, who Jaron Camp performed with as a backup musician at the Home County Music and Arts Festival, was also in attendance.

York Street Thought Process also had tour stops in St. Marys, Toronto and an album-release show in Stratford's The Bunker Lounge and Performance Café. Both Camp and Frankruyter have new music on the way as solo artists and will soon release another single as York Street Thought Process.

More information can be found by visiting www.yorkstreetthoughtprocess.com.

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ARTS & CULTURE

All of Canada is her stage

By James Giles, edited by Alice Rixson

For more than three decades, St. Marys resident Brenda Bazinet has performed major roles on prominent stages across Canada, including Canadian Stage, Factory Theatre, Neptune Theatre, Citadel Theatre and the Blyth Festival, to name but a few.

She recently took on multiple roles in Tony Kushner's two-part mountain of a play *Angels in America* at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre in Toronto. Reviewer Lynn Slotkin described Bazinet's performance of multiple characters as "formidable, with each of her characters distinct, detailed and full of nuance."

But her talents don't stop there. This summer the Here For Now Theatre company staged its dramatic and emotional production of *The Saviour* in Stratford, directed by Bazinet.

The Saviour is Bazinet's first collaboration with Here For Now Theatre, an award-winning, feminist theatre company that offers an off-Broadway experience in Stratford, Ontario. Founded by artistic director Fiona Mongillo in 2019, it began producing plays in pop-up venues around Stratford. The company's mandate is to "challenge and inspire its audiences by producing a bold annual theatre season comprised of new or underproduced plays as well as tell a variety of stories centering around 'othered' voices and silenced or lost histories, especially those of women." Here For Now Theatre company's productions run in Stratford until the end of September.

"I think Mongillo is a visionary in starting this theatre company, and I love the intimacy that a 50-seat theatre presents," said Bazinet. The company announced it recently found a permanent home and plans to renovate the historic Perth County Land Registry Office into a theatre space. This 1,350 square foot Stratford building, which was initially slated for demolition, will now be saved from the wrecking ball and reimagined with a plan to have the doors open in June of 2025.

Born and raised in rural Saskatchewan Bazinet attended high school in Stoughton but never entertained the idea of a career in theatre until her British French teacher encouraged students to perform one-act plays, recognized Bazinet's talent and encouraged her to pursue theatre at Regina University. To broaden her skills, she moved to Toronto in 1979.

Bazinet has claimed St. Marys home for the past 16 years. "I was getting tired of living in Toronto and wanted a change," she said. "My friends suggested St. Marys and in no time, we were calling Stone-town home."

Bazinet has over a hundred film and television

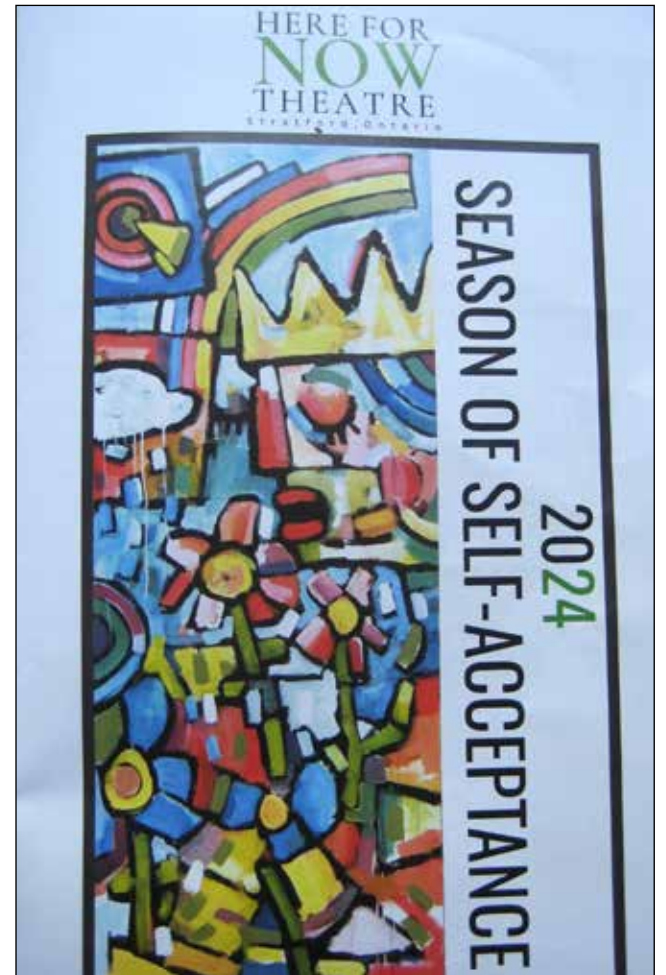


Actor, director, and acting instructor Brenda Bazinet.

credits, including the critically acclaimed TV movie *Sins of the Father*, *Anne With An E*, *Shoot The Messenger*, *The Strain*, *Utopia Falls*, *Haven*, *This is Wonderland*, *Saving Hope* and *The Secret Path*. She was a Gemini Award recipient for Best Actress in a television film at the Gemini Awards in 1992, for her performance in an episode of the drama anthology series *Saying Goodbye*. She was nominated four times for the Dora Mavor Moore Award.

In 2002 she directed Edward Bond's *The Sea*, which received three Dora Mavor Moor Awards nominations with one win. She also directed productions of *Unity 1918* by Kevin Kerr, *Problem Child* by George F. Walker, *Of the Fields*, *Lately* by David French, *The Penelopiad* by Margaret Atwood, *Other Desert Cities* by Jon Robin Baitz and *Outside Mullingar* by John Patrick Shanley.

Bazinet taught at National Theatre School, George Brown Theatre School, Humber University, the former Ryerson University Act II, Equity Showcase, the Actors Workshop and conducted Acting for the Camera classes across Canada. She was also an acting instructor for the Citadel Theatre/Banff



2024 Programme from Here and Now Theatre.

Professional Theatre Program. "There is a famous George Bernard Shaw quote, 'Those who can, do; those who can't, teach.' I totally disagree with that," she said, "as I loved teaching and learned a great deal about the art of acting through engaging with students. Teaching made me a much better actor and director."

There are no slack or dull moments in life for Bazinet. The month of September has her playing a major role in Coal Mine Theatre's production of *Infinite Life*, in Toronto under the direction of Jackie Maxwell, a comedy set in Northern California about five women philosophizing while suffering from chronic pain.

When asked what she has learned from her extensive career, without hesitation Bazinet quotes Here For Now's director Mongillo, "To take risks and to lead with curiosity. To keep going in the face of fear and embody the mantra of 'let's give it a go', to embrace each unique process and even, on our more evolved days, to embrace the failures."

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COMMUNITY

O'Grady's Clothing, Stone Home Creatives announce big moves in 2025

By Stewart Grant

You can say this about many things in life: it's all about communication.

In this story, it's about how open conversations between downtown-business owners paved the way for exciting new chapters for both Sue Griffiths of Stone Home Creatives and Jennifer Dungo of O'Grady's Clothing and Accessories.

Come March 2025, Stone Home Creatives will be moving to Griffiths' home, and O'Grady's will be moving across the street to occupy Stone Home's larger space at 158 Queen St. E. In both instances, the moves are perfect for where each business owner is within their respective career path.

For Griffiths, the timing was perfect to take Stone Home Creatives home in 2025.

"I've been in town since 2002 so, for 22 years, either I've been unlocking the door or paying somebody to unlock the door, and I'm just ready to go to Australia," she laughed as she contemplated some potential travel plans in the future.

Griffiths wants to emphasize that Stone Home Creatives is not going out of business, but instead will evolve towards pop-up events, craft shows, school activities and home parties. She will also continue to supply candles to retail stores, including O'Grady's in St. Marys, and various outlets of Home Hardware and Pharmasave throughout southwestern Ontario.

"I want to be able to get the word out, too, because I still do have a bunch of candlemakers that rely on this store to buy their supplies to go out and do their craft shows," Griffiths said. "That part, I don't think I'm going to carry on, so I'm just trying to get the notice out there so they can order their stuff and get ready well in advance. I've already talked to all of my makers, and they're all prepared to ramp up and make this the best Christmas ever."

Griffiths added she has also ordered lots of new toys for the Christmas season and has something very special planned in her store for this year's Merchant Open House, which will be announced in the fall.

Griffiths beamed when she spoke with Dungo and the Independent about the plans for O'Grady's to expand into the larger space.

"This feels right", she said. "It feels fuzzy and warm and what's happening here is going to be really good."

It has certainly been a successful first year for Dungo as new owner of



St. Marys business owners Sue Griffiths (Stone Home Creatives) and Jennifer Dungo (O'Grady's Clothing and Accessories) met with the Independent last week to discuss their exciting plans for 2025. Photo by Stewart Grant

O'Grady's Clothing and Accessories, and moving into a larger space already is well beyond her initial expectations for the business.

"We've had a phenomenal first year; it's gone really well and we're having a lot of fun," Dungo said. "My mom and I are just loving life."

Dungo's mom, Jan Westman, worked for Heather Parkinson at O'Grady's for eight years following a successful retail career in London. In the past year since Dungo bought the business, it has primarily been a mother-daughter team at the store, with some help behind the scenes from Dungo's husband, Chris, and their three young daughters.

"For women shopping, I've watched my mom do retail her entire life and it was always that fun event when ladies got together' ... you go out with your girlfriends, try a bunch of stuff on. It's great to see ladies coming back and having fun shopping and getting new things and new pieces," she said.

Dungo explained that they've really tried to listen to the wants and needs of their customers, and, in doing so, have greatly increased their inventory. By accommodating a larger size range (i.e. going right from a two to an 18, carrying an XS to a 2X), they have gained a whole new clientele. They have also introduced a menswear section and would like to bring in a kids' section too.

"We're trying to be that one-stop shop for people for clothing, for accessories and to make shopping fun again."

Despite renovating their store at 143 Queen St. E, the business is limited to the space within the walls.

"We are bursting at the seams," she

that can tie in other downtown businesses.

Both Griffiths and Dungo want to express a huge thank you to their customers for their support. It is with those customers in mind that both business owners wanted to announce their 2025 plans well in advance.

Stone Home Creatives and O'Grady's Clothing and Accessories look forward to a busy four months at their present locations leading up to Christmas.

"I'm going to be open until Dec. 24th and then I'm going to shut down until January 2," Griffiths said. "And then I'm going to aggressively start to move stuff that I'm not going to take with me and Jennifer's not going to keep with her."

During February, renovations will begin to take place at 158 Queen St. E in preparation for O'Grady's arrival in March, with the intention for O'Grady's to open for business at the new location after March Break.

"It's such a good synergy," Griffiths summarized. "I'm excited for her and I'm excited for me."



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real estate that comes with so many years of practice as a busy agent. She expertly provides needed strategies and up-to-date information to her clients in a friendly, honest and professional manner. Many of her clients return to Sue time and again, often calling her with questions about real estate, and are the reason why her tag line "Just ask Sue" was born.

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COMMUNITY

St. Marys Fire Department donates bunker gear to Firefighters Without Borders Canada

By St. Marys Independent staff

After receiving brand-new bunker gear for all St. Marys firefighters, the town's fire department recently donated its gently used equipment to Firefighters Without Borders, an organization that provides firefighting equipment to departments in need around the world.

The donated items included 20 sets of bunker gear, six sets of cold-water rescue suits and four firefighter helmets.

In 2022, Fire Chief Richard "Andy" Anderson started the initiative with the aim of supporting the organization with their important cause as firefighting equipment is urgently needed worldwide.

The decommissioned bunker gear, water-rescue suits and helmets are still in great condition and suitable for service, however they expire for use in Canada after 10 years.

"A number of places in the world often don't have suitable equipment for their firefighters," said Anderson in a press release. "We have the unique ability to be able to help support other communities in need while establishing a bond with our fellow firefighters all around the world in places like Honduras, Dominican Republic, South America and the Philippines."

Anyone wishing to donate or learn more about Firefighters Without Borders can do so at firefighterswithoutborders.org.

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



The St. Marys Fire Department recently donated decommissioned bunker gear, cold-water rescue suits and helmets to Firefighters Without Borders. Vice president of Firefighters Without Borders Carl Eggiman, St. Marys Fire Chief Richard "Andy" Anderson and Capt. Greg St. Clair are pictured with boxes of equipment that are being donated to Firefighters Without Borders. Photo courtesy of the Town of St. Marys

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COMMUNITY

West Nile Virus Activity Reported in Huron Perth

By St. Marys Independent staff

Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) is reminding residents to protect themselves against mosquito bites after mosquitoes collected from traps in Stratford and southern Huron County tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV).

These are the first positive-mosquito findings of the season for Huron and Perth counties. The findings indicate that WNV-positive mosquitos could be present anywhere in Huron and Perth. HPPH was also notified of an American

crow testing positive for WNV in the North Huron area. Crows are a known carrier of WNV.

"It's not surprising to see positive-mosquito pools in the month of August," said HPPH senior public health inspector Dale Lyttle in a press release. "People are at greatest risk of contracting West Nile virus in late summer, so it is important to protect yourself while outdoors when mosquitoes are most active."

As part of its annual surveillance,

HPPH has been trapping and testing mosquitoes in locations across Huron and Perth since June 17. To help reduce mosquito breeding and lower the risk of potential WNV transmission, larvicide has been applied to roadside catch basins in Stratford, St. Marys, Listowel and Mitchell this summer.

In Ontario, three confirmed human cases of WNV have been reported in 2024. Not everyone who is bitten by an infected mosquito will show symptoms of the virus. Of those who do show

symptoms, most will experience mild illness including fever, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting and a rash on the chest, stomach or back. About one in 150 people infected will get seriously ill, with symptoms like high fever, muscle weakness, vision loss and coma. WNV can lead to death.

Symptoms usually develop between two and 15 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. People older than 50 and those with weakened immune systems are most at risk for WNV infection.



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St. Marys hosts Midwestern District Jr. Optimists golf tournament

By Spencer Seymour

The Midwestern District Junior Optimists Championship tournament was held Aug. 13 at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club (SMGCC) with eight regional golfers, including one from St. Marys, qualifying for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship at Doral, Fla. slated for July 2025.

Two of the golfers from the region to qualify for next year's International Championship came in the Boys 14-15 age bracket, with Kolton McAllister of St. Marys and Belgrave's Aiden Harding tying for second in their division. The top spot went to Noah Turner from LaSalle, who qualified for the next year's global finals out of district.

McAllister described his enthusiasm for competing on the international stage in 2025.

"It feels great to have qualified to go to Florida next year," said McAllister. "I'm super excited to get to go and play on a course as nice as the one in Florida, as well as get to compete with the best from around the world."

McAllister said he felt himself getting in a groove early in the day before he began the actual round, and quickly rebounded after a misstep on his first hole.

"It started from the warm-up. I was hitting the ball really well on the driving range and my putting felt strong too. I actually didn't start the way I wanted on my first hole, but I really locked in after that and felt I did a good job taking my time with my shots."

McAllister also recounted one of the highlights of his rebound.

"On hole number 11, I had a really good drive and an even better secondary shot, which gave me the opportunity to putt for an eagle. Unfortunately, I missed the eagle putt but thankfully, I sunk the birdie putt after that."

Alexa Todd of Owen Sound, the lone competitor in the Girls 15-18 division, shot a score of 80 that earned her a qualification for next year's tournament in Florida. In the Boys 12-13

category, Mark Miller from London finished first and Shallow Lake's Ashton Amyot took second, which earned both a spot in Florida. In the Boys 10-11 division, the top three each did enough to qualify for Florida, including Egmondville's Jake McIlwain, Stratford's Braden Keating, and Kincardine's Hendrik McDougall.

South Huron Optimist Club President Rachel Skillen expressed gratitude for those who helped the young athletes compete and the St. Marys course and its employees for their work in getting the club playable after such heavy rainfall this summer.

"I want to thank the staff of the St. Marys Golf and Country Club for being wonderful hosts," Skillen said. "We know they had to do a lot of hard work to get the course ready to play with all the rain we've had recently. We also are very thankful for the Optimist members who helped plan and execute the day, and to our starter, rules officials and marshalls for assisting our golfers throughout the day. Last but not least, thank you to the parents and grandparents who provided transportation and/or came to be spectators during the round."

Peet-English foursome wins Mixed Scramble



Pictured from left to right are John Peet, Maureen Peet, Hazel English, and Barry English. The quartet shot a 12-under-par score of 60 on Aug. 15 to win the Mixed Scramble tournament at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club (SMGCC). Narrowly behind by just one stroke was the team of SMGCC members Melanie Fisher, Steve Fisher, Kenny Hutton, and Leslie Monroe, who posted a 61. Other notable results included Janis Kapp, Chris Knowles, Jan Knowles, and Rich Parsons, who were the winners of the 'A' Flight. In the 'B' Flight, Tim Campbell, Joel Carlberg, Jen Dong, and Patrice Green took the top spot. Bruce Kraemer, Leah McMullan, Mike McMullan, and Barb Vossen won the 'C' Flight, while Sam Hall, Mariah Huehnerhard, Ellen Major, and Jake Near won the 'D' Flight. The tournament saw 120 golfers participate. Contributed photo



Kolton McAllister makes a putt during the Midwestern District Junior Optimists golf tournament hosted at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club Aug. 13. McAllister was one of eight golfers from the region to qualify for the 2025 International Junior Golf Championship at Doral, Fla. slated for July 2025. Photo by Spencer Seymour

SPORTS

U18-GT3 Storm clinch league title with 2-0 win

By Spencer Seymour

The U18 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm clinched a league championship with a 2-0 victory over the highly potent St. Columban FC Aug. 14.

Head coach Nathan Brown said the game was the culmination of all the team worked on for three months.

"They took everything we've been working on for the last 12 weeks and put it all together," Brown told the Independent. "They were defending by committee while always thinking about offence. In the first half, I think we controlled play for about 42-and-a-half minutes. They had a couple of little slip ups, but they recovered and defended really well. We've got probably the best defensive team in the league. Our defenders are always talking to each other and they work together really effectively."

Brown added that their win over St. Columban was their most complete performance this year.

"For a full 90 minutes, I would say that was their best overall game of the season. Sometimes, they're like old diesel engines and we take some time to warm up, but in this game, they started on time and they hustled right from the first whistle to get the job done. I told them to just keep firing shots at the goalie, who is one of the best in the league. I didn't care if they missed; I just wanted them to keep shooting and finally, they got rewarded."

The Storm got on the board first with Maddie Brown heading an Abby Martin corner kick home to take a 1-0 lead. Coach Brown noted their suc-



Maddie Brown rushes the ball up the field during the U18 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm game. Brown scored the first goal of the game which the Storm ended up winning 2-0. Photo by Spencer Seymour

cess off corner kicks was a significant aspect of a scoreless draw earlier this year between St. Marys and St. Columban and a focal point in their practices ever since.

"The last time we played them, we probably had nine corner kicks and their goalie got every one, so we specifically drew up and have worked on that corner kick formation for about five weeks. Everybody has a place they need to be. Maddie scored on our high cross formation, which caused some confusion for the defenders. What our girls worked on for five weeks ended up being what got us going."

Later in the game, Avery Jones found

the back of the net after cutting into the 18-yard box and firing the ball into the bottom right corner of the net.

"Avery was able to focus her fire and give us some breathing room," said Brown. "Avery is at her best when she's playing on the edge and playing with a bit of fire. She's one of our captains, she drives our team with her compete level and she really leads this team. Once she gets fired up and she's yelling and screaming on the field, that's when she's at her absolute best."

On the other side of the ball, the Storm was spectacular, with Brown noting a pair of defensive stalwarts

turning in a masterclass in front of their net and goalkeeper Isla Unich, who earned her seventh shutout of the year.

"St. Columban has three girls in the top ten in scoring. I think they've scored over 50 goals as a team and three of their players have 40. So, I tasked the defence, especially Harvest (Elliott) and Ella (Carter), to mark up with their leading scorer, who has 18 on the season. Harvest and Ella absolutely shut her down."

"I can't say enough about Isla," continued Brown. "She's usually so calm, cool and collected back there, but she's now playing with a level of intensity that I haven't seen in past years. She totally controls that 18-yard box and runs everything from the back. It's pretty awesome to watch."

The win made it mathematically impossible for St. Columban to catch the Storm, meaning St. Marys secured a league title with the victory. Brown explained what stands out to him about his team's season.

"They all get along really well. They practice and play very happy. Everybody is always rowing in the same direction. At the start of the year, I said we're not going to set any goals this year and the only question any of them would get would be, 'Is that your best?' Before our match with St. Columban, we talked about that and bringing our best and nowhere throughout that game did I have to ask someone if they were giving their best. They all communicate well and there are no passengers. They play for each other."

U13 HP Red Rockies take second at year-end tourney

By Spencer Seymour

The Wildwood Care Centre U13 HP Red St. Marys Rockies concluded their season strongly, finishing second in their year-end tournament, which was hosted Aug. 9-11 in Stratford.

On Aug. 9, the Rockies opened their round-robin play with a game against the Londesborough Legends. The teams stayed deadlocked at one run apiece until the third inning when Laine Leis hit a single, scoring Alexandra Wilson over home plate. Reese Crawford followed that up with a single of her own to give the Rockies a two-run lead.

It appeared the Legends were on the verge of tying the game up in the bottom of the third when they had the

bases loaded, but an incredible triple play by St. Marys stranded Londesborough's runners to end the inning. Morgan Reid and Teadora Walsh put the game away in the sixth, each adding a run to give the Rockies a 5-1 win. Walsh and Chloe Phillips combined for just one run surrendered in six innings on the mound.

Reid was also a highlight of the tournament overall, serving as the catcher for the entirety of the tournament and playing consistently solid defence throughout the weekend.

The next day, the Rockies found themselves in a back-and-forth contest against the Blyth Gritty's, eeking out a 13-12 victory. Phillips and Crawford had early-game highlights, with the former posting a triple and the

latter hitting a home run. After Blyth took the lead, Wilson and McKenna Ross each stole their way home to tie the game at 4-4. Both teams came up with five runs in the third to keep the game tied heading into the fourth. St. Marys outscored Blyth 4-3 in the second half of the game to narrowly beat the Gritty's by a single run. Phillips went the distance and got the win on the mound.

A "true team effort" was cited regarding the Rockies' 15-9 win over Lis-towel in their third game of the tournament. Phillips slammed a three-run homer in the opening inning to bring Leis and Wilson back home. The latter half of the order came up big throughout the remainder of the game, with Ross, Rylee Cunningham, Maelle Hachler, Dayna Hinz, and

Meredith Stokes getting on base a total of 12 times and scoring eight of St. Marys' runs.

Unfortunately, the Rockies' offence dried up in the tournament finals when St. Marys had a rematch against Blyth. The Gritty's came away with a 10-4 win.

Head coach Scott Walsh was delighted with his team's showing at the tournament.

"This weekend proved how much fastball is a team sport," said Walsh. "It was everyone's individual contributions and hard work put together that took this team to the finals. Assistant coach Deanna Cunningham and I are very proud of the girls for everything they accomplished during the entire season."

SPORTS

Lincs add McLellan; Powers previews roster mix

By Spencer Seymour

As their first preseason game against the Kitchener-Waterloo Siskins on Aug. 30 approaches, St. Marys Lincolns general manager Pat Powers continues to fine-tune the roster.

The Lincolns' GM recently completed a trade that saw the organization bring in 20-year-old forward Jacob McLellan. The overage forward and native of Kingston spent the last two

years in the CCHL with the Cornwall Colts. According to Powers, McLellan adds several intangibles to the Lincs' forward group.

"Jacob is a character player who can play a gritty and responsible style," Powers told the Independent. "We also think there is an upside for Jacob to produce offence for us. He comes highly regarded for his leadership and willingness to sacrifice for his team."

With the home opener less than a month away, Powers previewed the roster that has taken shape during the offseason, which he says shares many of the best qualities last year's conference-winning squad possessed.

"I feel this group is very similar to the team that made a charge in the playoffs last year," said Powers. "We have a returning core that has earned some battle scars during last year's

run. We have added some talented first-year players and some talented veterans to help lead the way. Hopefully, we can play a style that is defensively responsible but offensively potent."

The Lincs play a pair of exhibition games against the Siskins and the Stratford Warriors before starting the 2024-2025 regular season on Sept. 13 against the St. Thomas Stars.

U13 HP Red Rockies take second at year-end tournament

By Spencer Seymour

The Wildwood Care Centre U13 HP Red St. Marys Rockies concluded their season strongly, finishing second in their year-end tournament hosted Aug. 9-11 in Stratford.

On Aug. 9, the Rockies opened their round-robin play with a game against the Londesborough Legends. The teams stayed deadlocked at one run apiece until the third inning when Laine Leis hit a single, scoring Alexandra Wilson over home plate. Reese Crawford followed that up with a single of her own to give the Rockies a two-run lead.

It appeared the Legends were on the verge of tying the game up in the bottom of the third when they had the bases loaded, but an incredible triple

play by St. Marys stranded Londesborough's runners to end the inning. Morgan Reid and Teadora Walsh put the game away in the sixth, each adding a run to give the Rockies a 5-1 win. Walsh and Chloe Phillips combined for just one run surrendered in six innings on the mound.

Reid was also a highlight of the tournament overall, serving as the catcher for the entirety of the tournament and playing consistently solid defence throughout the weekend.

The next day, the Rockies found themselves in a back-and-forth contest against the Blyth Gritty's, eking out a 13-12 victory. Phillips and Crawford had early game highlights, with the former posting a triple and the latter hitting a home run. After

Blyth took the lead, Wilson and McKenna Ross each stole their way home to tie the game at 4-4. Both teams came up with five runs in the third to keep the game tied heading into the fourth. St. Marys outscored Blyth 4-3 in the second half of the game to narrowly beat the Gritty's by a single run. Phillips went the distance and got the win on the mound.

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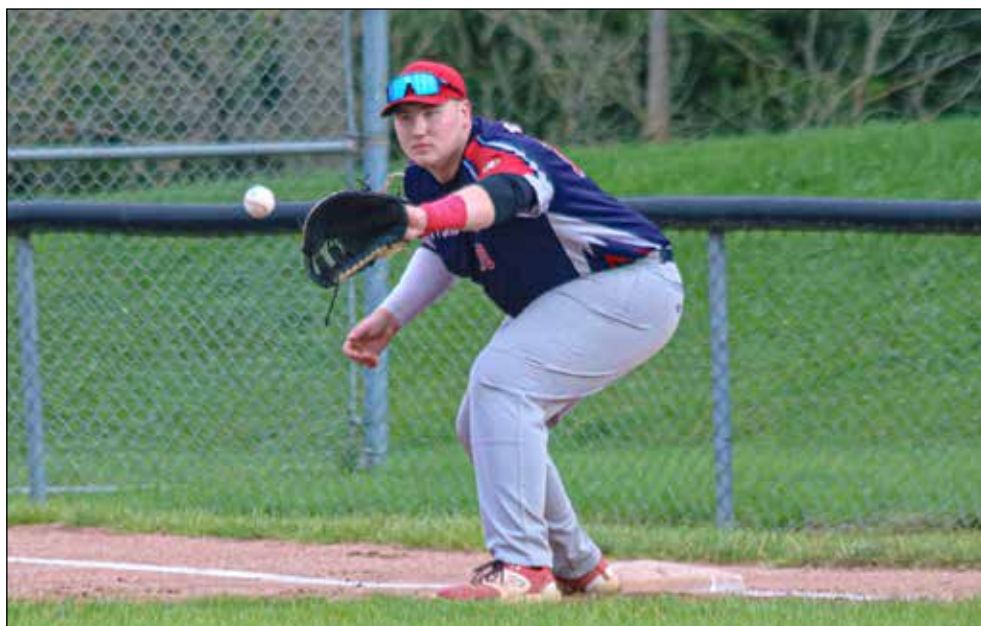
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Mark Richardson prepares to release a pitch during the Forman Electric U13 WOBA Blue St. Marys Rockies game last Wednesday



Grayson Leblanc-Mossey launches a pitch toward the plate during last Thursday's Red Rock Construction U15 OBA St. Marys Rockies game.



Michael Ewing catches an out during the Happy Valley Health Team U16 OBA St. Marys Rockies game this past Monday.



Ben Kittmer cracks the ball through the infield during last Tuesday's St. Marys Cement U18 WOBA Blue St. Marys Rockies game.



Danika Terpstra pushes the ball up through the midfield during the U12 Girls Tier Two St. Marys Storm game last Wednesday,



Roger Sebben sends the ball towards the net with a corner kick during last Wednesday's U18 Boys Tier One St. Marys Storm game. Photos by Spencer Seymour

SPORTS

K-W Optimists host annual slow-pitch tournament



The Squad were the 'A' division Champions at the Kirkton-Woodham Optimists annual slow-pitch tournament on Aug. 10-11. Contributed photo



The Terrible T's captured the 'B' division title at the Kirkton-Woodham Optimists annual slow-pitch tournament on Aug. 10-11. Contributed photo

By St. Marys Independent staff

Except for a little rain on the Sunday, one couldn't have asked for better weather for the annual Kirkton-Woodham Optimist mixed slow pitch tournament.

The Kirkton Community Park was the site of the tournament Aug. 10-11, which featured 12 teams competing in three divisions.

In one of the C-division semi-finals, Joe Buck Yourself, last year's C champs, got past the KW Kids by a final score of 19-11. The other C semifinal saw the Mighty Oaks prevail over the Kometz Kidz with a 16- 9 final.

The division's final game started close, but the Mighty Oaks' bats exploded in the third inning. The Mighty Oaks rode the momentum and stopped Joe

Buck Yourself's bid for a repeat title with an 18-2 win.

In the B division, RB's Gang and the Terrible T's had a tightly contested match that was tied 10-10 after six innings. In the final inning, the Terrible T's pulled ahead by four runs to earn their spot in the B final. In the other semifinal, Blue Steel led Cut'N'Two until the sixth inning, but with an eight-run surge late in the game, Cut'N'Two managed to pull out a 19-15 win.

Cut'N'Two was formed by splitting the original Terrible T's team, both made up of Thomson family members. With both winning in the semis, the Thomson family squads met in the B division final. The Terrible T's bats were hot and they jumped out to an early lead. Though Cut'N'Two bat-

tled hard, they weren't able to pull off another comeback, and the Terrible T's took the B final 24-12. Thankfully, no family feuds or hard feelings were reported after the game.

In one of the A division semifinals, Muff'N'Men got off to a good start while JAFT failed to score a run for the first three innings. However, the script was flipped soon after that with JAFT's offence coming to life and the team went on to win 10-8.

The Tall Oaks were pitted against The Squad in the other semifinal. It was fairly close midway through the game until The Squad took a commanding lead in the sixth inning and made it to the A finals with a 14-5 victory.

With JAFT and The Squad fairly evenly matched, the final proved to be a nail-biter as both teams were tied at

11 after six innings. In the top of the seventh, JAFT had two base runners but couldn't cash them in. With one out in the bottom of the seventh, in dramatic fashion, The Squad claimed the A-division title with a walk-off home run.

It was noted that JAFT was deflated but should be proud of their valiant effort in what was a heck of a game and a very entertaining finish to the tournament.

Proceeds from the tournament will go to the Kirkton pool and all the winning teams generously donated their prize money back. The tournament organizers would like to thank the pool committee and their volunteers who ran the food booth, as well as all the players, bartenders, umpires and setup and take-down crews.



The Mighty Oaks earned the top prize in the 'C' division at the Kirkton-Woodham Optimists annual slow-pitch tournament on Aug. 10-11. Contributed photo

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SPORTS

U12-BT3 Storm battles for big win over South Huron

By Spencer Seymour

Despite a handful of absences, the U12 Boys Tier Three St. Marys Storm combined several star-level individual performances with a teamwide commitment to structure to defeat the visiting South Huron Lightning 5-2 Aug. 13.

Head coach Jon McDonald pointed out after the game the team's large group of call-ups managed to fit in seamlessly.

"We had a lot of players out," McDonald told the Independent. "Seven of our regular players were unavailable so we had four kids from U10 teams come up to play for us. They all did very well. They didn't look out of place at all. They were really good replacement players for us. They didn't look back and they worked hard. They rose to the occasion for us and their efforts were a big help to us winning."

While the entire team was operating like a well-oiled machine, several players contributed massive displays of excellence, including Lexxandre Nieto Estepan who

registered all five St. Marys goals.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the pitch, McDonald noted netminder Cohen McKichan as having an incredible game and helping the Storm get through a turbulent second half that saw their opponents bombard the St. Marys keeper.

"Goaltending was exceptional for us. Cohen had an absolutely incredible game in net. Lexx was obviously outstanding. But the whole team made a lot of good passes and helped generate chances to score. At one point, South Huron made a big push in the second half but we weathered the storm pretty well and calmed things down by the end.

"We were able to talk and settle things down during the water break in the second half," continued McDonald. "One thing we weren't doing quite as much before that break was just clearing the ball away from the net. I felt that, in the last 10 minutes or so, they were doing a much better job and that really helped us close it out."



Lexxandre Nieto Estepan loads up a shot during the U12 Boys Tier Three St. Marys Storm game on Aug. 13. Estepan scored all five St. Marys goals. Photo by Spencer Seymour



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SPORTS

Lorentz wins medals at Maryland karate tournament

By Spencer Seymour

Sensei Jalyne Lorentz brought a pair of Bronze medals home from the U.S. Capitol Classics Open Martial Arts Tournament hosted Aug. 2-3 in National Harbor, MD.

Lorentz won third place in both the 18+ Traditional Team Synchronized Forms and Kenpo Forms competitions.

According to Jalyne, she was enthusiastic about taking part in a new and incredibly challenging competition.

"This tournament is part of one of the largest and most competitive sport karate competitions in America," Jalyne told the Independent. "It held significant importance for me as I entered the 18+ age category, which is widely recognized as the toughest division in the circuit. Achieving a position in the top three involved outperforming athletes who were multiple-time world champions, which is a big accomplishment for me."

The U.S. Capitol Classics tournament is

part of the North American Sport Karate Association (NASKA) circuit, which draws competitors from both Canada and the USA. It is also a circuit different from the Canadian circuit in which members of the Stonetown Karate Centre usually compete.

Sensei Jeremy Lorentz credited Jalyne for her desire to test herself against as much high-end competition as possible.

"Sensei Jalyne has been training hard to earn her spot in the NASKA circuit," said Jeremy. "This is her first year attending the NASKA tournaments and competing against the USA's best competitors. Jalyne firmly believes that to be your best, you must challenge yourself by competing in different circuits and facing new competitors."

Jalyne will be attending more tournaments and continues to train hard as she prepares for the World Karate Championship in Portugal this October, where she will be a part of Team Canada.



Sensei Jalyne Lorentz captured a pair of Bronze medals at the U.S. Capitol Classics Open Martial Arts Tournament on Aug. 2-3 in National Harbor, MD. The tournament was part of a new circuit for Lorentz, which saw the Stonetown Karate Centre member compete against the best from Canada and the USA. Contributed photo

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COLUMN

GET OUTDOORS: Try something different this fall



By Jeff Helsdon

Outdoorspeople love their time in nature, but often tend to partake in the same activities each fall.

Be it hunters, anglers, hikers or birders, many fall into a routine. With all the opportunities that southwestern Ontario has to offer, try something different this fall.

From what I've seen at the launch ramps when the Lake Erie walleye fishing is on, there is no shortage of anglers who are taking advantage of the numerous walleye to add to their freezers. Along the way, they pick up some steelhead (rainbow trout) as well. Catching a good-sized

steelhead is always a thrill. Now, imagine the fun catching those fish on lighter rods in the river. There are many rivers on both Lake Erie and Lake Huron with steelhead or salmon runs to take advantage of.

There is nothing like the thrill of tying into a muskellunge. Known as the king of freshwater game fish, these large predators are also known as the fish of 1,000 casts for their elusiveness. The good news is trolling for muskies has a better success rate, and fall is prime time as they feed to prepare for winter. Lake St. Clair and the Niagara River are known for their muskie fishing, and Long Point Bay is gaining a reputation for muskie fishing. Not comfortable with bringing a fish four feet long into the boat? Try going with one of the guides who have great success.

Southwestern Ontario has many opportunities for upland game hunting. Having

a cackling male pheasant take flight from under your feet is heart-stopping excitement, and one that ends up with fine eating. There are several spots for pheasant hunting, ranging from the well-known Pelee Island to Norfolk County, Fingal Wildlife Management Area in Elgin County and Hullet Marsh near Clinton.

The majority of duck hunters pursue puddle ducks because they are more easily accessible and require less equipment. Hunting for diving ducks is a whole other game, and one I would recommend hiring a guide for. Large numbers can be found on Lake St. Clair, Rondeau Bay and Long Point Bay. Even if the hunting is slow, one of my favourite things about this type of hunting is seeing the huge number of birds at peak migration – the clouds of ducks is a sight to behold.

A few years ago, several individuals in the outdoor community put a lot of effort into

having a dove hunt in Ontario. These birds are popular for hunting in the United States and people pay thousands of dollars to hunt doves on their wintering grounds in South America, but it hasn't taken off here. Typically done with decoys from a blind like duck hunting, but over a field, I have plans of hunting field edges with my dog this season.

Fall turkey hunting is a different sport than pursuing male turkeys in the spring. It's also a good way to learn more about turkeys, their calls and interactions with each other. And a bonus is the fall turkey woods is a lot less crowded than in the spring.

For some reason, small game hunting isn't as popular as it used to be. My grandfather and uncle talked of doing weekly jackrabbit drives in Oxford County in the 1950s and '60s. While jackrabbit numbers aren't what they once were, rabbit and squirrel populations are healthy.

Opportunities also abound for hiking, bird watching and butterfly watching in the fall across southwestern Ontario. Fall colours add another element to any hike. It's prime time for bird watching and southwestern Ontario is on the migration corridor for many species. The Lake Erie shoreline is used by migrating raptors and the lake's three points – Long Point, Rondeau and Pelee – are used for crossing the lake by birds. Catching peak butterfly migration is a little trickier, but seeing a whole tree filled with monarchs is awe-inspiring. The best times to catch them are late in the day or the morning.

Make a vow to yourself or your companion in the outdoors that this fall you are going to try something different.

Jeff Helsdon is an award-winning outdoor writer, a columnist for Ontario Out of Doors and writes for several other outdoor publications.

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HISTORY

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Historic house on Peel Street North

By Mary Smith

The foliage has to be off the trees and shrubs for passers-by to get a good view of the 150-year-old house at 140 Peel Street North. Even then, it is set well back from the street and hard to appreciate in its entirety. Its floorplan follows the traditional L-shaped design, with the front entrance leading in from the veranda on the south facade. This house has a unique double-gable roof; the gable on the L portion of the house rises behind the veranda. Through the years, there have been few changes to the exterior of this house. The brick walls have been painted for decades to protect the masonry, but otherwise it looks much the same as when it was built in 1873.

The current owner has requested a property history with the aim of eventually having the house designated. It is a history worth noting. Through the years, the house was owned and occupied by people who made contributions to their community. The property originally consisted of five full lots: 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 on the west side of Peel Street going north from Widder Street. In other words, it extended from the northwest corner of Widder and Peel Streets north to the crest of the Peel Street hill, opposite the entrance to Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church. This property was surveyed as early as 1858 and had been bought and sold several times by people who acquired land as an investment, selling it at a profit. Although it was within town limits, it seems to have been undeveloped until the late 1860s when it was bought by Daniel McLaren, a Blanshard Township farmer.

Daniel McLaren was born in 1818 in Stirling, Perthshire, Scotland. He married Charlotte Donald before they emigrated to North America. They arrived in New York where their first two sons, John and Robert, were born in 1842 and 1844. They made their way into Canada and took up a farm in the North Boundary Concession of Blanshard Township, just east of the St. Marys Junction. There were other Donalds in that area who had also come from Perthshire. They were likely related to Charlotte and may have encouraged the McLarens to settle in this area. By the 1851 census, the McLarens had five children, three sons and two daughters. The three youngest – Daniel, Mary Ann and little Charlotte – were all born in Canada. By 1861, there were three more: Elizabeth, James and Isabella. In all, the McLarens had eight children between the years 1842 and 1859.

In November 1868 when Daniel McLaren purchased the property on Peel Street North, he was 50 years old and possibly planning to retire from farming. But he wasn't in a hurry. Although the 1869 assessment records show him as owner of the property, he was a resident of Blanshard Township. He was still farming there when the 1871 census was taken. By this time, two of his children had gone – John and Mary Ann had both married and moved to homes of their own. But there were still six children at home, ranging in age from 11 to 24 years of age. Daniel's St. Marys property was spacious – a full acre of land. As he planned his new residence, he probably envisioned a small barn and other useful outbuildings as well as a house large enough to be a comfortable home for his family.

With some 1870s assessment records missing, it is usually difficult to find the exact date of construction of a house built during that period. However,



This beautiful house at 140 Peel Street North was built in 1873 for Daniel McLaren, a retired farmer from Blanshard Township. Photograph courtesy of the St. Marys Museum.

with the McLaren house, we are lucky. We know it was under construction in 1873 because a small notice appeared in the St. Marys Argus on August 14 of that year. A mishap had led to "total destruction of the brick gable ends of the new residence of Mr. McLaren, in course of erection, opposite the Catholic Church on Widder Street." Note that the house was on Widder Street. At that time, the large, red brick house at 197 Widder Street East had not yet been built. Daniel McLaren's new house faced onto Widder with an uninterrupted view across the valley of Trout Creek. The Catholic Church referred to is the original rectangular limestone church, built in the 1850s, and pre-dating the 1893 church with its magnificent spire on this site today.

Daniel McLaren's contractor rebuilt the gable ends, finished the house, and the family probably took occupancy by the end of the year. The next surviving assessment record in 1875 shows the family as residents on this one-acre property on the west side of Peel Street. The record also shows that they kept a cow. Daniel and Charlotte had earned the comforts of a house in town. Like so many immigrants to this country, they had worked hard and prospered and were able to offer their children a good start in life. Daniel died of heart disease in March 1889, age 70. In his will, he left all the household effects to his wife, Charlotte, and recognized each of his five grandchildren with a \$100 bequest held in trust until they turned 21. The rest of his assets were divided among his children, except for John and James who "already had been given their share" when they set out on their own. The large Peel Street house was sold, and Charlotte McLaren moved into a brick cottage on the south side of Widder Street, on a smaller property, easier to maintain.

John Wesley Poole, a Widder Street neighbour, purchased the Peel Street property in 1892 but only owned it briefly. It was about this time that lots 10, 11 and the south part of 12 were severed from the five-lot block that had belonged to the McLarens. This property was sold to David Maxwell, a local industrialist, and the two red brick houses at 191 and 197 Widder were built for his family. This meant that the McLaren house lost its Widder Street front-

age; access was now from Peel Street North. In 1894, John Poole sold this house to Archibald McDonald who had a farm in North Easthope Township. He in turn sold it to a family associated with the property for many years – the Egans.

In 1912, Michael and Margaret Egan and their family, moved into 140 Peel Street North. They had been married in 1891 and had previously lived in Stratford. Margaret was the daughter of Thomas and Margaret Phalen of West Nissouri Township. The Egans were devout Roman Catholics and their home on Peel Street was close to the church, convent and school. Margaret was very involved in church activities and a member of the Catholic Women's League. She loved to garden and provided beautiful flowers to decorate the church for special occasions. Their youngest son, Tom, began to work as a clerk in Fred Hutton's grocery store on Queen Street when he was still a teenager. His father died in 1934. Soon after, Tom married Anne Teahen from Downie Township. Their first child was born in 1936. When his mother died in 1944, Tom inherited the house. He still worked at the grocery store, assuming increased responsibility. When Fred Hutton retired in 1944, Tom Egan bought the business. Egan's was a popular place to shop until Tom moved to Mount Brydges after his wife, Anne, died in 1954.

In June 1957, Cardiff (Cy) and Mabel Cline bought the Egan property. In 1967, Mabel Cline became the second woman to serve as mayor of St. Marys, a gracious representative of the town on the many ceremonial occasions associated with the Canada's Centennial. Cy Cline first had a men's clothing business at 115 Queen Street, and he was also an antiques dealer as a sideline. After a fire at 117 Queen Street in 1975, his stock was badly smoke damaged, and he closed his clothing business. He opened a new antique store at 14 Church Street North, opposite the public library. He and Mabel did a great deal of restoration of the interior of their home at 140 Peel Street and filled it with antiques. They sold the house in 1985 and moved to British Columbia.

This fine old home, is set in a beautiful garden, enhances its neighbourhood and the entire community.

Thorndale News

A section within the St. Marys Independent

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Countdown to September

By Nancy Abra

Counting down to September can be fun and engaging as children finish their summer holidays. Besides preparing for going back to school, fun activities such as crafts can help reduce “I’m bored” comments and help relieve some of the anxiousness as school approaches.

With September also comes the Thorndale Fall Fair. The Thorndale Fall Fair has been the highlight of the community for more than 165 years. One of the main reasons for the longevity of the fair is the community’s participation. Whether it is attending to have fun or entering in the various competitions, there is something for everyone.

Anyone looking for some craft ideas to fill children’s afternoon hours should check out the School Fair competition. This category is for kids in preschool to Grade 5. What better place for young, budding artists, engineers, designers, photographers and horticulturists to show-

case their talents.

Children love to see what they have made laid out for everyone to see and beam with pride when there are ribbons attached to their entries. The School Fair competition’s rules and entries are listed in the Thorndale Fair book, which is available free at Sassy’s, Thorndale Farm Supplies, Thorndale Hardware, the library and the Thorndale Lions Community Centre, or online at www.thorndalefair.com/school-fair/.

When it is time to take them to the fair, the process is easy. Either complete the online entry form at www.assistexpo.ca/thorndalefair/ or the paper version and hand it in at the registration area on Sept. 18 or Sept. 19 from 6-8 p.m. The school fair committee encourages the children to assist in bringing in their own entries. Children can win money to spend at the fair. For ages older than Grade 5, they can exhibit their talents in the Youth Fair category under the Homecraft Division.



The 2023 Thorndale Fall Fair school-fair display. Photo by Nancy Abra

Thorndale and Area Horticultural Society always learning something new

By Nancy Abra

On Wednesday Aug. 14, the Thorndale and Area Horticultural Society held its monthly meeting with guest speakers Sherry Burgess and Shelley Mackenzie from the St. Thomas and Area Horticultural Society, who spoke about the St. Thomas Elevated Park.

This unique park is built on a historic railway trestle bridge that offers breathtaking views above the Kettle Creek Valley. Burgess and Mackenzie shared that the St. Thomas horticultural society

played a role in the development of this unique park, adapting a 300-metre section of the eastern approach to the park with the help of many other volunteers.

There are two distinct gardens. A “scree garden,” a type of garden designed to mimic the natural conditions found on a mountainside, specifically loose, rocky debris, is ideal for sun-loving, drought-tolerant plants that thrive in well-drained rocky soil. The other is a “stumpery” garden along the elevated portion of the approach featuring tree stumps, logs and other wood pieces to

create a natural woodland-like environment along with shade-loving plants to offer an artistic and rustic appeal.

The guest speakers said the vision of their horticultural society was to create and maintain a naturalized community trail on this portion of the bridge for future generations to enjoy.

“Our members were fascinated to hear the stories of some of the challenges the St. Thomas horticultural society had to face while taking on this incredible undertaking,” said Liz Iglesias, who books

the educational speakers for the Thorndale Horticultural Society. “It truly has become a wonderful addition for their community.

“Our next meeting is Sept 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre with guest speaker Amy Turnbull presenting “Harvesting, Cure and Simple.” Guests are always welcome. We will also be at the Thorndale Fair, so stop in at our booth to learn more about the club and purchase or renew memberships.”

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COLUMN

UKRAINIAN CORNER: Getting to know Kyiv, the heart of Ukraine

By Tetiana Didkovska

Ukraine is a beautiful country with a long and fascinating history, boasting an incredible variety of architectural styles that vary from city to city.

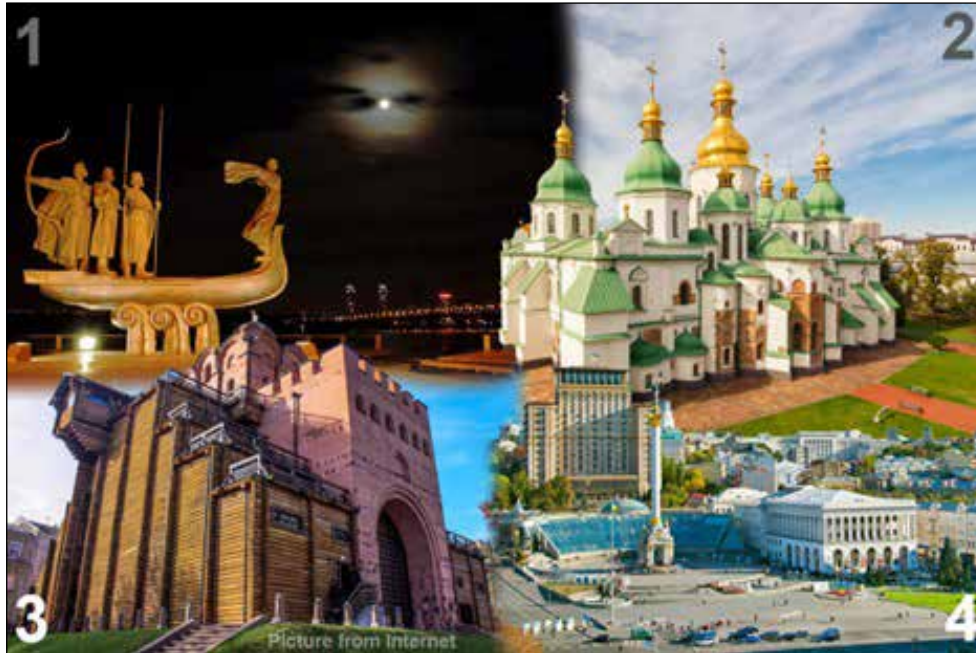
In this series of articles, we, as Ukrainian newcomers, aim to showcase the beauty of Ukraine and express our gratitude to you, our dear readers, for supporting all Ukrainians during these challenging times.

Today, we would like to introduce you to the heart of Ukraine, a city with a 1,542-year-old history, Kyiv – the Ukrainian capital of freedom.

The legend of Kyiv’s foundation talks about three brothers, Kyi, Shchek and Khoryv, along with their sister, Lybid, who named the city after the eldest brother, Kyi in the fifth century. Even now, residents of Kyiv have not forgotten about their past and, on the hills of the city, stands a monument commemorating these founders, depicting the boat they sailed through the Dnipro River to the place where the city was established.

Kyivites have a tradition. On their wedding day, they come to this monument and, standing with their backs to it, try to throw a bouquet of flowers into the boat. It is believed those who can do this will live together happily ever after.

Kyiv is not only remarkable for its foundation story, but also for housing one of the oldest orthodox cathedrals



Some unique marvels in Kyiv, the heart of Ukraine. Contributed image

in Europe, Saint Sophia Cathedral.

Built from 1017-1037 by order and at the expense of Prince Yaroslav the Wise of Kyiv, it was named after Saint Sophia. The legend says that when the craftsmen were decorating the altar of the Saint Sophia Cathedral, a miracle occurred. The image of the Virgin Mary appeared on its own and shone brighter than the sun. From the lips of the newly appeared image of the Virgin Mary, a white dove flew out and ascended towards the image of the Savior.

Initially the main church of the So-

phia Monastery (since 1638), it is now part of the National Reserve "Sofia of Kyiv" and a monument of Ukrainian architecture and monumental painting from the 11th-18th centuries. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1990 and again in 2023, it remains a treasure of Ukrainian heritage.

Not far from Sophia Cathedral, on Volodymyrska Street, is the famous Golden Gate which is not a bridge but an actual gate. It served as the main entrance to ancient Kyiv and is one of the oldest dated buildings in

Eastern Europe.

The reconstructed pavilion of the Golden Gate houses an exhibition dedicated to its history, existence and reconstruction. Some original parts of the gate remain, making it a significant place for all Ukrainians and a popular tourist attraction. Once a fortification, it is now a favourite spot for romantic dates, casual strolls and hanging out with friends.

Finally, we arrive at the most iconic place in Kyiv, Independence Square or Maidan Nezalezhnosti, along with Khreshchatyk Street. Known not only to Ukrainians but also around the world, this site was the centre of the 2014 fight for Ukrainian independence and democracy.

Since 2015, monuments have been erected on the Maidan to honour the heroes of the Heavenly Hundred, who died during the Revolution of Dignity. Before February 2022, Khreshchatyk Street hosted annual military parades on Independence Day (Aug. 24). The heart of Kyiv remains popular among residents and visitors alike.

We could talk endlessly about Kyiv, but one thing is certain; even a week isn't enough to see all the city's sights. We hope that when Ukraine wins the war, everyone will be able to visit this incredible city peacefully and experience the warmth and hospitality of Ukrainians.

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COLUMN

EAT AT OUR HOUSE: End of Summer Recipes



By Lauren Eedy

As the weather grows cooler in the evenings and back to school is approaching, the following recipes take very little time to prepare but pack a punch in flavour.

The barbeque sandwiches are great for a ready-to-eat meal for supper or an end-of-summer gathering, the salad is comforting and great for a special meal and the cookie recipe is a fun twist on traditional shortbread. I'm excited to explore more upcoming fall recipes!

Bistro beef barbecue sandwiches

Prep: 25 minutes; Cook: 8 hours; Serves: 16

- 1 ½ cups ketchup
- ½ cup brown sugar

½ cup picante sauce (smoother than regular salsa, Valentina is a good brand)

- ½ cup dry red wine
- ¼ cup balsamic vinegar
- 2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- ½ tsp salt

- ½ tsp pepper
- ¼ tsp ground allspice
- 1 beef sirloin roast (4 lbs)
- 4 garlic cloves, sliced
- 16 kaiser rolls, split and toasted
- 2 cups deli coleslaw

Method:

- Mix first nine ingredients. Cut roast in half; cut slits in roast and insert garlic. Place in a five-quart slow cooker. Pour sauce overtop. Cook covered on low until tender eight to 10 hours.

- Remove beef. Skim fat from cooking liquid. Shred beef with two forks; return to slow cooker and heat through. Serve on rolls with coleslaw.

- Freeze option: freeze cooled mixture and sauce in freezer containers. To use: partially thaw in refrigerator overnight. Heat through in saucepan, stirring occasionally.

Bacon pear salad with parmesan dressing

Total Time: 15 minutes; Serves: 6

- 2 cups chopped leaf lettuce
- 2 cups chopped fresh kale
- 2 medium pears, thinly sliced
- 1 cup shredded Monterey jack or mozzarella cheese
- 4 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled

Parmesan Garlic Dressing:

- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 2 tsp grated parmesan cheese
- ½ tsp garlic powder
- 1/8 tsp pepper
- 2-3 tbsp milk

Method:

- In a large bowl, combine lettuce and kale. Top with pears, cheese of choice and bacon.

- In a small bowl, whisk mayonnaise, mustard, parmesan cheese, garlic powder and pepper. Gradually whisk in enough milk to reach desired consistency. Drizzle over salad and toss.

Buttery potato chip cookies

Prep: 15 minutes; Bake: 10 minutes per batch;

Makes: 4 ½ dozen cookies

- 2 cups softened unsalted butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 3 ½ cups flour
- 2 cups crushed potato chips (plain, brand of your choice)
- ¾ cup chopped walnuts

Method:

- Preheat oven to 350°F. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until

light and fluffy, five to seven minutes. Beat in vanilla. Gradually add flour to mixture and beat well. Stir in potato chips and walnuts.

- Drop mixture by rounded tablespoons two inches apart onto ungreased baking sheets or use parchment paper to cover baking sheets. Bake 10-12 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool two minutes before removing from pan to wire racks.

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Ask the Arborist

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



Dear Arborist,

I have a tree with big, gnarly bark; in the spring, it has little white flowers and it has lots of thorns like a rose bush. It also has little leaves. Do you know what kind of tree this is?

Sincerely
Debbie

Dear Debbie,

Sounds like a Black Locust (Robinia pseudoacacia). Black Locust are a hardwood tree native to the Southern USA. They are invasive in our area, and tend to out-compete native species. The wood is very hard and rot resistant, so it is used for fence posts and other timbers, such as

rail roads or mines. Almost all parts of the Black Locust are toxic and have been known to poison livestock.

Additionally, the tree is known to grow to 80 ft tall. I have read it is the tallest legume in the world (pea family) and enriches the soil with nitrogen. Once again, even though it is categorized as a legume or pea, it is poisonous to humans and animals.

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



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Riddles

- Why are cooks cruel? **ketchup?**
- Because they whip cream and beat eggs **"Catch up"**
- How is bubble gum similar to a Wookiee? **How do you make a Kleenex dance?**
- It's Chewy. **You put a little boogie in it**
- How do you know carrots are good for your eyes? **Where do horses go when they are sick?**
- Have you ever seen a rabbit wearing glasses? **HORSEpital.**
- What do you call a person with a tree for a briefcase? **What did the baker give his wife for their anniversary?**
- A branch manager. **Flour.**
- What do you call a pig that does karate? **What is a cat's favorite color?**
- Pork Chop **PURRple**
- What did the running ketchup said to the walking **Did you hear about the man who got his left arm cut off?**
- He's all right now.
- What do you call a polar bear in the desert? **Lost.**

- Word Search -

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 C H U R C H S T K H O B U J O Y S R M Z

Word List

- Quarry swim
- Historic
- Hall of Fame
- Stonetown
- Limestone
- Thames River
- Trout Creek
- Churchs
- Museum
- Grand Trunk trail
- Public library
- Downtown
- Shopping
- Opera house



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What do you call a dancing cow?



A milk shake!

Joey Smith (3)

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

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PET OF THE WEEK

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



Our Pet of the Week is Pekoe who is approximately nine weeks old. He was found outside and the Jones family were quick to adopt him. Pekoe loves to snuggle and be with his new family, and enjoys playing with the kids and Nora, their dog.



St. Marys Veterinary Clinic is pleased to be the sponsor of the **PET OF THE WEEK** Preparing your pet for back to School

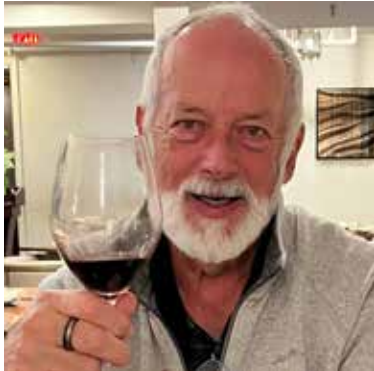
Determine Bathroom Breaks

While cats and small critters may be self-sufficient with their bathroom needs, during back to school dogs require regular breaks. The frequency depends on factors like your dog's age and habits. Before school starts, determine how long your dog can stay home alone before needing a bathroom break.

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COLUMN

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Embracing my inner nerd at Disney



By Paul Knowles

Let's be honest here; there are a lot of reasons to plan a trip to Walt Disney World in Florida, and also, a few reasons not to. After all, Disney is expensive, it's always busy, lineups can be long and merchandizing is ubiquitous.

On the other hand, Disney is fun, especially for an adult willing to abandon any pretence of sophistication and spend a day or two celebrating his or her inner nerd.

I use that term knowing it may sound a bit insulting. But I am claiming it myself. And what else could you call someone who rushes through the streets of Disney World to ride a space ship piloted by C-3PO, or to thrill at a stunt show based on Indiana Jones, or to take a boat trip through the animatronic world of the Pirates of the Caribbean, or, for that matter, to giggle my way through the MuppetVision3D show?

Nerd, right?

Now, clearly I am not alone. Orlando's Walt Disney World is the most-visited vacation resort in the world. Over 58

million people show up at the attraction every year.

And let me say this right here: in my opinion, some of those people should not be visiting. I'm referring to young families who have planned their visits while their children were still in the planning stage and now can't wait to get to Disney, where they push two-year-olds around in strollers and try to quiet crying toddlers as they wait in line to discover that "it's a small world, after all."

I'm not saying they should not go to Disney; I simply suggest they wait until the kids are all old enough to actually enjoy the place. Then, have a ball!

Now, kids aside, Disney can be a lot of fun for adults as well. Even some of the attractions designed for children can be enjoyed by the grey-haired cohort, like the stage shows (we saw Beauty and the Beast), which are always well-produced and well-performed.

But if you are willing to surrender to the fantasy, those nostalgic attractions like the several Star Wars features and The Muppets movie are a whole lot of fun. I mention these, particularly, because Disney has accomplished something that seems counter-productive; the designers have made waiting in line fun.

With the ride, Star Tours: The Adventure Continues, you make your way in the queue among active droids and oth-

er Star Wars features until you eventually reach the flight simulator, which takes you on a convincingly exciting and action-packed voyage in space.

With MuppetVision3D, the wait in the entrance lobby is almost as entertaining as the 3D movie/live-action experience awaiting in the actual theatre. As guests loiter in the lobby, sundry Muppet characters – chief among them, Gonzo, Bean Bunny and, of course, Kermit and Miss Piggy – are in a frenzy to prepare for the show you're about to see. Naturally, mayhem ensues and I giggle.

There were plenty of other features that we enjoyed at Disney. The name, the "Indiana Jones Epic Stunt Spectacular," may sound like hype, but the show honestly lives up to the promo. The stunts echo many of the famous action scenes in Raiders of the Lost Ark, and they are the real deal. Falls, fire, explosions and fights carry Indiana Jones fans – nerds like me – right back into the heart of the Harrison Ford adventures.

Pirates of the Caribbean is an intriguing ride, especially if you know the history. The ride first debuted at California's Disneyland in 1967, one of the last Disneyland attractions where its development was overseen by Walt Disney himself. Decades later, the first Pirates of the Caribbean film was created based on the ride! The initial film was released in 2003, launching



The iconic "Cinderella Castle" at Disney World in Orlando. Photos by Paul Knowles

a highly successful movie franchise. There are now five Pirates of the Caribbean movies, the latest released in 2017, all starring Johnny Depp as the pirate, Jack Sparrow.

Three years after the first movie was released, the Jack Sparrow character was added to the Disney ride and, as we drifted on our boat through the piratical world, Jack Sparrow popped up a few times.

So, to sum up, the ride came first, inspiring the movies, which inspired a change to the ride!

One other ride that we thoroughly enjoyed despite the typical waiting line was the Big Thunder Mountain Railroad. Here, too, my inner nerd emerged in full form. It's been a while since I road a roller coaster, but in the days of my youth (lo those many years ago), I loved them.

Turns out, I still do and Big Thunder Mountain Railroad is an authentic, spine-shaking, gasp-inducing, old-fashioned coaster, just right to satiate my nostalgic appetite.

So, can adults have fun at Disney? Absolutely, but bring your patience and your gold card, and check the details of scheduling and accommodations. We stayed at the Marriott Village, which advertised a shuttle service which ran only on a very limited schedule. So, we opted for Uber and made our way to and from Disney efficiently and inexpensively.

And when you're there, say hi to Kermit for me, would you?

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.



Adult visitors to Disney will especially enjoy the nostalgic but thrilling feel of the Thunder Mountain Railroad roller coaster.



The Disney paddlewheeler can provide a nice break from the bustling crowds throughout the iconic theme park.

OBITUARY

Kennedy



Douglas "Doug" Kennedy, with family and a few close friends by his side, passed away on Thursday August 15, 2024, at Huron Shores Hospice, Tiverton, in his 70th year.

Beloved husband of Cathy Alcombrack.

Proud father of Jeff Kennedy of St. Marys, Jon Alcombrack (Emily) of Renfrew and Jeff Alcombrack of Kincardine.

Cherished grandpa of Owen Hearn of Stratford, Jack Alcombrack and Morgan Alcombrack of Renfrew.

Survived by his brothers Richard of St. Marys and Bob (Kathie) of Ocala, Florida. Brother and sister in-laws, Bill and Susan Pym of Port Elgin, Elaine Pym of Kincardine, Jane Pym and Lorne Power of Sarnia, Kim Crickett-Pym of Penticton BC and Richard Pym of Kincardine.

Fondly remembered by Lil and her son Vince Marziali, his extended family, several nieces and nephews and many friends.

Predeceased by his parents Alan and Marjorie Kennedy, in-laws Jack and Grace Pym, brothers-in-law John Pym, Donald Pym, and sister-in-law Marion Pym.

Doug, to put it simply, was community; he cared about his town and the people who lived there. He participated, organized and worked to make his community a better place. He was greatly admired and will be missed by all those who knew him.

A Memorial Service, to honour Doug's life will be held on Sunday, September 1, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the Davidson Centre-Gymnasium Hall (601 Durham Street, Kincardine). Doug's "final fundraiser" aka reception will be in the Davidson Centre-Kincardine Hall, immediately following the service.

At Doug's request, please wear your favorite sports jersey.

Private family interment, Kincardine Cemetery

Memorial donations in Doug's memory to the Kincardine and Community Health Care Foundation or Huron Shores Hospice would be appreciated by his family.

Portrait and memorial online at www.daveylinklaterfuneralhome.com

ANNOUNCEMENT

Happy 50th Anniversary



Michael and Diane O'Shea August 24, 1974

With love and continued blessings from your family

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THANK YOU

Brunsdon

I would like to take the time to thank everyone for their hard work, time, donations and generosity on July 27/24 for a successful golf day.

Thanks to Rhonda, Jason and all their staff at Science Hill Golf and Country Club for an amazing course and a fantastic meal afterwards.

To Dave Zehr and all of his volunteers for the well organized day that went off without a hitch. Also, thanks to Kerry Vergeer for coming out and taking so many wonderful pictures.

To all my friends and family for taking the time to join me in making everlasting memories and for all the laughs.

Thank you
Garry Brunsdon "Bull"

IN MEMORIAM

Doyle

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.
An Irish toast to the late Frank Doyle who left us
one year ago on August 21st.
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COLUMN

Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

Cooking Club is returning from its summer break on Tuesday, September 3 at 10:30 a.m. Converse with fellow cooks about the current topic, the late-summer fruit with oodles of potential (and the name of Charlie XCX's summer hit), the beloved apple. Interested in attending? Please contact the Library to receive the Zoom link.

This Week's Recommendation

While the word "ate" is the past tense of eat, it has also come to mean doing a good job at something. "She ate" is a common phrase used to describe drag queens who are at the top of their game. One such queen is Sasha Velour. After shooting to stardom with their memorable Drag Race win a few years back, Velour has made it their mission to show the world how incredible and freeing drag can be. In "The Big Reveal: An Illustrated Manifesto of Drag", Velour discusses their personal journey with self-expression while detailing the broader history of the art form. Read "The Big Reveal" in hard copy form or listen to Velour narrate the eAudiobook version via Libby. Place a hold today!

Up This Week

Fri., Aug. 23: Stone Home Creatives Workshop* (11 a.m.)

Sat., Aug. 24: Dungeons and Dragons (10 a.m.)
 Mon., Aug. 26: Open 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Tues., Aug. 27: Tuesday Book Club* (11 a.m.)
 Wed., Aug. 28: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30-10 a.m.), Mahjong Intro (1-2 p.m.), Mahjong! (2-4 p.m.)
 Thurs., Aug. 29: Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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	8	6			1	3		
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	2	8		5	9			
			8				1	9

Solutions on page 31



ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

STONETOWN TRAVEL

GROUP TRAVEL INFORMATION SESSION

Come join us in either New Hamburg or St. Marys on Thursday, September 5th to learn more about the following group trips offered in 2025:

**JOURNEY THROUGH THE CLOUDS
MAY 7 - 15, 2025**

Wilmot Recreation Centre (New Hamburg): September 5, 2 p.m.
Pyramid Recreation Centre (St. Marys): September 5, 7 p.m.

To RSVP, email stew@stonetowntravel.com or call our offices at either 226-333-9939 (New Hamburg) or 519-284-2332 (St. Marys).

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LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

Bobbing craze

25 years ago (1999)

Barry Forman, a junior in the Exercise and Sport Science program at Spring Arbor University in Michigan has been named to the Dean's List. Barry is the son of Lyn and Karen Forman of St. Marys.

A two-on-two volleyball tournament is scheduled for the Quarry on August 21 and 22. Cost of admission is entry to the Quarry. Jeff Richardson is taking registrations.

After 60 years of service to St. Marys, the Nora Clench Chapter IODE is disbanding. The branch still had 14 members but the decision announced this week has been planned for about a year.

50 years ago (1974)

The new addition now under construction at the rear of the Golden York Co plant on Thames Road, West Ward, will be used primarily for production of dried egg powder. It will be the only plant producing such a product east of Winnipeg, according to reports.

Resuscitatory Anne will make a guest appearance at the local swim quarry this Sunday afternoon. The plastic, or maybe rubber, damsel will be used in connection with a St. John Ambulance Save-A-Life program slated for the popular swim spot.

The last day for tender submission on the 32-unit Senior Citizen Apartment building slated for Queen Street West is August 29. Numerous contractors have shown interest in tendering.

75 years ago (1949)

The Lion-sponsored St. Marys Golf Club has 249 members so far this year. The Lions Golf Committee hopes to gain at least one more to break the 250 mark.

The new vault for the Bank of Toronto will soon be taking shape in the rear of that building. Workmen have removed the former stairway to the apartment above the bank and are now preparing the forms for the steel and concrete structure.

Last Saturday, some of St. Marys' more stalwart swimmers traveled to London to represent our fair town in the annual Western Ontario Playgrounds Swim Meet. The swimmers were Jacqui Fort, Ron May, Doug Parkin, John Bettridge, Ted Courtnage, Jack Noble, and Hugh Simpson.

100 years ago (1924)

The Journal office received a pleasant call from Mr. F.W. Aylesworth, the new Principal of the St. Marys Public Schools on Tuesday. Mr. Aylesworth has just moved to town with his wife and family and household furniture. He is a genial chap with a wide knowledge of his profession, having been Principal of Lindsay Central School and both Strathmore and Victoria Public Schools in Owen Sound.

Many young men in American cities are learning the barber trade to supply the labour demands the bobbing craze has brought about.

A local man was hailed before Police Magistrate Butcher on Monday afternoon, charged with indecent exposure. He was found guilty, placed on parole, and paid a \$50 fine with costs.

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

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THE WEEK AHEAD

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

St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 29

Friday, August 23

- Woodstock Fair
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 p.m.

Saturday, August 24

- Woodstock Fair
- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 a.m. to Noon.
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 p.m.

Sunday, August 25

- Woodstock Fair
- Lakeside Cemetery decoration day
- Avonbank Community Cemetery decoration service - 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 28

- Melodies at the Museum featuring York Street Thought Process at Cadzow Park - 7 p.m.

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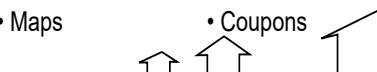
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