

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1229

Thursday, September 19, 2024

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Whether you are running or walking, the annual Terry Fox event is a great day for all. See more photos on pg. 11. Photo by Gord Barnett

Former driver and new owner bring Stonetown Taxi back to St. Marys

By Galen Simmons

Anyone who has tried to call a taxi in St. Marys over the last couple of years will be pleased to learn Stonetown Taxi is making its triumphant return to St. Marys under a new owner after it shut down in 2022.

Mohit Kamboj, who drove for the previous owner of Stonetown Taxi before health issues led to the company's shutdown in 2022, officially brought Stonetown Taxi and Delivery Service back to St. Marys with the company's first full day of service Sept. 9.

"I used to work for Stonetown Taxi but the owner's health; he was just sick and he moved out of town and that's why at that time we had to shut it down right away," Kamboj said. "Then I'd just seen on social media ... there was just a huge demand for that and I also know a lot of people in the town who were asking me questions like, 'Why did (Stonetown Taxi) close?' Then I decided I would be opening a cab company.

"I'm just really excited to serve the town."

Continued on page 6

St. Marys council endorses agreement to move Service Ontario to Municipal Operations Centre

By Galen Simmons

Though it hasn't yet been finalized by the province, St. Marys council has signalled its intent to renew an updated service agreement that will see the relocation of the town's Service Ontario office to the Municipal Operations Centre (MOC) at 408 James St. S.

At the Sept. 10 council meeting, director of corporate services André Morin presented a number of changes that will be included in the town's 2024 service-renewal agreement with the Ontario Ministry of Government and Consumer Services. The current service agreement first designated the town as a service provider in October 2021 after the retirement of St. Marys' previous Service Ontario franchisee in 2020 led to the office's closure. Public outcry at the loss of the local provincial-services office led to it reopening in October 2021 under the town's administration.

The town renewed the agreement for one year in October 2023 as staff worked through a plan to move the Service Ontario to a town-owned facility.

"The idea when we first went into this agreement with Service Ontario was to pilot synergies that Service Ontario and municipalities can have together," Morin said. "Since then, I believe there's been a few different partnerships with other municipalities and obviously you've heard about the partnerships Service Ontario and Staples has as well. That was kind of the start of those types of relationships Service Ontario was trying to have.

Continued on page 8

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COMMUNITY

Council endorses plan to revitalize downtown St. Marys' Lind Park

By Galen Simmons

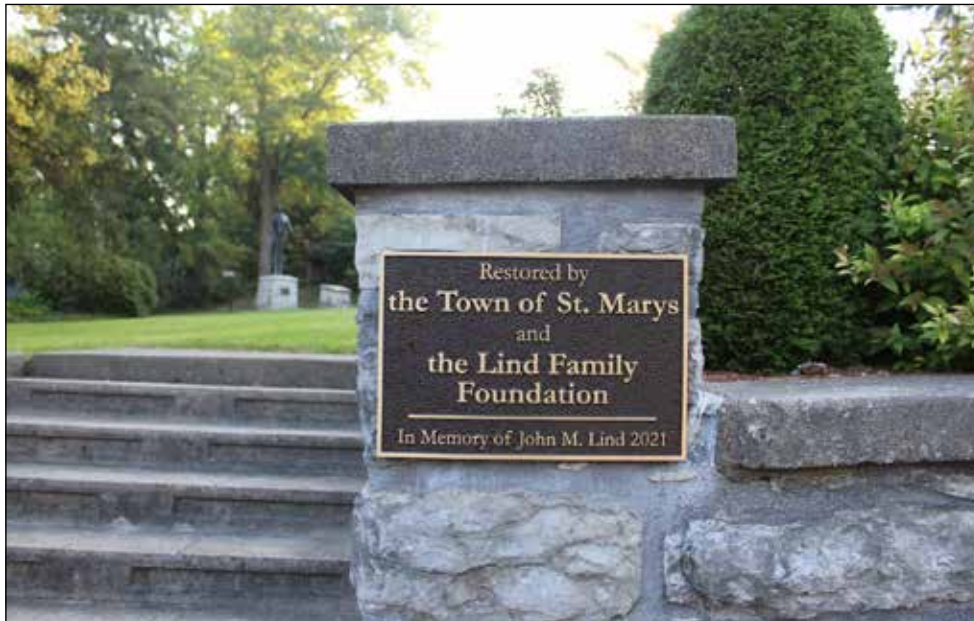
The Town of St. Marys will apply for federal funding to revitalize an underutilized park downtown in the hopes of turning it into an accessible picnicking destination that would benefit restaurants without outdoor patios.

At the Sept. 10 town council meeting, councillors unanimously endorsed a plan to apply for as much as \$30,000 in FedDev Ontario funding towards upgrades to Lind Park at the corner of Jones Street East and Church Street South. According to the report presented to council by tourism and economic development manager Kelly Deeks-Johnson, Lind Park is an underutilized space despite its prime location just a block from Queen Street in downtown St. Marys.

"The concept is simply to enhance Lind Park, which is just on the edge of our downtown, to be more of a spot for picnic and benches etc.," Deeks-Johnson said. "Currently, the park itself has two round tables with four seats, a bench and a lot of grass. It's also home to the Arthur Meighen (Canada's ninth prime minister) statue and two of the sapling trees that came from Parliament Hill way back when that are growing next to the statue itself.

"The vision came from discussions with some of our downtown, local eateries who don't have patios to offer and would like to enhance the picnicking areas within St. Marys and predominately closer to downtown. That spot seems like a really underutilized, great location that people can pick up a lunch and go and enjoy the park."

In addition to benefiting the local economy, upgrades will enhance the park's accessibility, making it a more inclusive space. The park is also situated near the town-hall public wash-



The Town of St. Marys is planning upgrades to Lind Park downtown that will make it an accessible picnicking spot where customers of downtown restaurants without outdoor patios can enjoy a meal. Photo by Wendy Lamond

rooms, increasing its potential as a convenient and inviting destination. Deeks-Johnson said the inclusion of low-maintenance gardens, picnic tables (including accessible tables), benches, bike racks, shrubs, trees and walkways will create a serene environment perfect for reading, eating and socializing.

While Deeks-Johnson said her project proposal prioritizes making the park as accessible as possible – a notion backed by every member of council – she said the budget, which council gave pre-budget approval for \$35,000 through the 2025 capital budget on top the potential FedDev Ontario funding, includes funding for a design plan that will help determine the best way to make the park accessible.

"I drove by there today and the whole area of the park is kind of on an incline," Coun. Marg Luna said. "To get into it, someone with a wheelchair or

pushing a walker would have to go up and around to Jones Street to come in if they couldn't do the stairs. I'm just concerned about the accessibility part of the whole thing and how you think you can address that."

"The plan will help us address that," Deeks-Johnson responded. "That's why I think at this point I can't say (it will be) fully accessible because fully accessible has very (specific) meanings, but at this point there is a

flat-surface area from Jones Street to come into the park. There is a slope there for sure, and I identify that, so I can't say whether or not that will be fully addressed, but there will be that entrance and we will definitely be looking at that."

With council fully behind Deeks-Johnson's proposal, Coun. Jim Craigmile even went as far as suggesting the town do everything in its power to make Lind Park fully accessible, even if that means increasing the proposed budget – something Deeks-Johnson said she will keep in mind as the project moves forward.

"I'm getting a sense there's a strong feeling that's supportive of the project," Mayor Al Strathdee said. "The other reality is there have been members of the public (who) supported this park before through donations. I think that could be something we look into again as well. The Lind family has supported quite significantly the upkeep of that park, so that's something we could explore as well just to (expand) the budget. There's a lot of wish here for little money, but you're not unused to that.

"But I'm getting the feeling there is a lot of support from council for upgrading that park, so we may have to have more conversations but ... I think the reality of getting a grant proposal on track is important as well."



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COMMUNITY

St. Marys Library's Pantry and Friends Fridge program shifts to weekly service

By Emily Stewart

After evaluating the Library Pantry and Friends Fridge program for the past year, the St. Marys Public Library is changing its structure.

The library announced on social media that the pantry and fridge program will move to a new weekly model. Instead of first-come-first serve, the library will prepare 20 bags per week filled with grocery essentials for those in need. Sarah Andrews, CEO of the St. Marys Public Library, said the library was monitoring the effectiveness of the pantry and fridge program and how well it serves patrons.

"It's come to our attention that it isn't meeting as many needs as we could be meeting because the demand is so great," Andrews said. "There's also some patrons that are in their state of need really struggling to leave any-

thing for other patrons on the shelf, so there's a bit of a hoarding tendency showing up in a few people, and because of that it means there isn't equity of distribution among people."

Instead, the library will fill 20 bags with the same items each week for patrons to pick up. Patrons can go to the front desk and ask for one if they would like to take home a bag. If they need more items than the bag's contents, then the patrons can pick up a gift card worth about \$15 each to purchase their own items.

"We've asked users of the pantry if that meets their needs and they say, 'Yes, it does,' so we're moving to this bag model," Andrews said.

Fresh items in the fridge will still be available. For the bags, the library will purchase 20 of each item to include, and it will be based on seasonal availability and what is on sale. For

example, the library is more likely to purchase soup packets in the colder months than in the summer. Boxed macaroni and cheese might be included if it's on sale.

The library is encouraging residents to donate either 20 of the same item, unwanted reusable grocery bags, and gift cards for McDonald's, Foodland, or Tim Hortons for last minute-purchases. However, the organization is happy to accept other donations from the community.

"We will still take grocery items for the shelves or the fridge. We'll take fruits and vegetables from your home garden," Andrews said. "We will gratefully accept monetary donations to turn into the gift cards."

Andrews also said feedback from the patrons was positive when the structural change was in development.

"People felt heard," she said. "They were really appreciative of the process being something that's going to last as long through the week as possible for other people to come in and get a bag, but they're also grateful for this idea of the gift cards so they could purchase their own items if it's not meeting their needs."

In addition to the Library Pantry and Friends Fridge, patrons can also pick up free diapers, bladder-support products and menstrual products from the Period Pantry on the upper level.

"People can come in and get that outside of those bags at any time," Andrews said. "We've had really positive feedback about it too."

Anyone with questions or comments can send an email to sandrews@st-maryspubliclibrary.ca.





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



How Can My Neighbourhood Participate?

While the weather is nice and neighbours are still outside, have a chat about how your neighbourhood can participate in Giving Tuesday on December 3rd. Here are a few ideas to get the conversation started:

- Plan a food drive and meet in someone's garage on Giving Tuesday to bring the donations and have a little social time while you are there.
- Create a theme to decorate your neighbourhood for the holiday season and sign up to be part of the Town's Holiday Home Light Tour. Plan to turn your lights on December 3rd to celebrate Giving Tuesday!
- Plan a neighbourhood cookie exchange. On Giving Tuesday get together to trade your cookies and collect something to donate (mittens, non-perishable food, socks, hygiene products).
- Think about the people in your neighbourhood, is there someone who could really use help with snow removal this year? If yes, get together and make a calendar to take turns to be their snow removal person. Be sure to let the person or people (if you could help more than one neighbour) know, it could relieve a lot of stress.
- If you live in an apartment building consider doing a non-perishable food drive. Last year the residents at 50 Stone Ridge collected a different food item each day for a month and on Giving Tuesday they donated all of it to the Salvation Army Food Bank in St. Marys.
- Get together on Giving Tuesday and write Christmas cards for people in the nursing homes or hospital.

Once you start the conversation amazing ideas will start to flow. Your neighbours and neighbourhood are unique and your plan should be something that everyone can participate in. Make it fun, make it matter, remember we are all Better Together.

Dec 3

www.givingtuesday.ca

For More Information Contact:
jdockerjohnson@gmail.com

Bravo

We have 1 Bravo this week

1) We're new to town (Ridgewood area) and would like to extend a BIG bravo to our neighbours Rob Zensner and Jim McCann. My husband suffered a mild heart attack resulting in surgery and these two very fine neighbours have been cutting our grass ever since the incident. Not sure what we would've done without their help. Saying thank you doesn't seem like enough. There are kind people in this world and they live in St. Marys. Thank you Jim and Rob. Your kindness speaks highly of you both.

Boo

We have 2 Boos this week.

1) Boo to the offroad vehicles like ATV drivers, snowmobilers and dirt bikers that drive on town streets or parkland. They are not permitted. Skunks Hollow is not your private racetrack where anything goes.

2) Boo to the removal of the kayak and canoe launch pad already. September and October can be some of the most beautiful months of the year. The launch pad has brought people from afar to our fine town. Could the removal not have waited until at least after thanksgiving?

*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

"We are relieved that Air Canada has reached a tentative agreement with the Air Line Pilots Association. We hope to see it ratified by membership in the coming month, putting an end to the uncertainty for Canadian travellers, as well as businesses and communities who depend on Air Canada's cargo network every day."

- Candace Laing, president and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce after a four-year collective agreement deal was reached preventing a pilot strike.

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The St. Marys Independent
THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK

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COMMUNITY

Scrapbooking garage sale held Saturday



A scrapbooking garage sale was held at the Pyramid Recreation Centre on Saturday, Sept. 14 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There were 30 vendors selling items including gently used and new scrapbooking supplies. Admission was free and a large group of people attended. Photo by Nancy Bickell

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



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EARLYON PLAY & LEARN

Sept. 21, 9 - 11 AM | Cadzow Park

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townofstmarys.com/earlyon or 226-374-6544



TREE POWER PROGRAM

We've partnered with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) to offer native hardwood trees for \$25 to St. Marys residents. Tree sales are open, with pickup on October 5 at the Municipal Operations Centre (408 James St. S). www.thamesriver.on.ca or 519-284-2340



EARLYON PLAY & BROWSE

Sept. 23, 9 - 11 AM | Community Closet

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Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Marguerite (Stevenson) Garrett. She was born in 1927 near Kirkton, married in 1950 and farmed with her husband Wilfred near Granton where they raised their four children. Marguerite enjoyed dairy farming, gardening, reading and being an active member of Granton UCW. She has eight grandchildren and eight great grandchildren and lives in Wildwood retirement home.

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

COMMUNITY

Former driver and new owner bring Stonetown Taxi back to St. Marys

Continued from page 1

Since the shutdown of Stonetown Taxi, St. Marys has been without a local taxi service, something that was compounded by the fact St. Marys also doesn't have any local public-transit services offering in-town transportation. While town staff have actively tried recruiting taxi companies to set up shop in St. Marys, the high costs of insurance, wages, gas and vehicle maintenance prohibited many prospective business owners from making the numbers work.

However, since Kamboj only has one vehicle that he and fellow former Stonetown Taxi driver Michelle Robinson will drive from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days week, he believes he can keep those costs manageable.

"We're both going to be driving, so it will cut down the cost of employees. Sometimes in the winters, we had issues with Stonetown Taxi during the holidays because we were a 24/7 service at the time, and during holidays we would only get between two and three calls. We had to pay the staff and the vehicles had to be running."

Now, Kamboj says he and Robinson will operate their taxi as an on-call service where the vehicle will only be running when there are passengers to pick up or deliveries to be made, cutting down on gas and vehicle-maintenance costs.

"It's very exciting," Robinson said of the return of Stonetown Taxi. "I know a lot of people from driving here and St. Marys is a great town with great people. I know that a lot of seniors plus our regulars need a reliable way to get around because it's a lot for people to walk from one side to the other side of St. Marys. St. Marys is growing so much; it's



Stonetown Taxi and Delivery Service owner Mohit Kamboj and driver Michelle Robinson proudly hold their brand-new taxi license outside St. Marys town hall just two days after the taxi company officially began serving the community. Photo by Galen Simmons

just getting bigger and bigger."

As it stands, Stonetown Taxi is charging a flat fee of \$12 for in-town rides (\$11 for seniors). For out-of-town rides, the taxi service is charging \$1.75 per kilometre plus tax. As the service only has one vehicle, Kamboj recommends customers book their taxi rides in advance, especially if they are travelling out of town, by calling 519-301-1252 or emailing either moe.stonetowntaxi@gmail.com or Michelle.stonetowntaxi@gmail.com.

"We are thrilled to welcome Stonetown Taxi and Delivery Service to our community," St. Marys Mayor Al Strathdee said. "We have been without a local taxi service for some time and we are excited that this important transportation service will be available to local residents."

Weekend Quiz

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1. What colour is the Cookie Monster from Sesame Street?
2. How many inches in a yard?
3. Who directed Die Hard (1988)?
4. What is Toronto Pearson's airport code?
5. Who voiced Darth Vader in Star Wars?
6. What band was Tito Jackson a part of?
7. Who is performing at Super Bowl 2025?
8. Who sings "Wake Me Up When September Ends"?
9. What is the largest constellation?
10. What is the only group of birds able to fly backward?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

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COMMUNITY

St. Marys Firefighters and Stratford Police collect donated cereal boxes for local food bank



St. Marys Fire Department and Stratford Police with boxes of cereal being donated to the St. Marys Salvation Army. Contributed photo

The Stratford Police challenged the St. Marys Fire Department to a friendly "Guns and Hoses" competition and participated in the Cereal Box Challenge to see which department could collect the most boxes of cereal. All donations were delivered to the St. Marys Salvation Army food bank to help fight food insecurity.

On Wednesday, September 4, Stratford Police and St. Marys Firefighters met at the fire hall to conduct a final cereal box count. The Firefighters collected 348 boxes with the police collecting 107 boxes for a grand total of 455.

Constable Aaron Mounfield and Fire Chief Richard "Andy" Anderson spearheaded the initiative in St. Marys.

"We are amazed with the overwhelming generosity and support of local residents and businesses that donated cereal for such an important cause," said Deputy Fire Chief Phil West. "It's just so important for everyone to understand that there are so many families in our area that are hungry, food insecure and how much food insecurity can affect a family. Working in conjunction with the police, we really wanted to do our best to give back to our community."

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

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COMMUNITY

St. Marys council endorses agreement to move Service Ontario to Municipal Operations Centre

Continued from page 1

"Our Service Ontario service has remained fairly stable over the last three years that we've operated it. ... Fundamentally, we're still seeing between 30 and 45 transactions per day, which continues to be fairly consistent. Service Ontario has identified that, for one kiosk, as fairly significant."

While the original agreement with Service Ontario covered the cost of staffing and provided a \$22,000 stipend to the town for administration, general office supplies and rent, the revised agreement no longer includes the stipend and instead reimburses the town for eligible costs. They include a one-time start-up cost for renovations not to exceed \$25,000 and monthly contract compensation of \$8,137.33 with up to a five per-cent increase after year one to cover the cost of staffing, administration, facility and office costs.

The new contract also stipulates the Service Ontario office be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with a one-hour closure over lunch, and it will expire every two years.

"There are some challenges, of course, for the town in relation to an agreement like this," Morin said. "There's some administration burden; some



time that ... finance spends for paying bills, HR for paying payroll, those types of things that happen. We will see a significant increase in our front-counter coverage at the MOC. There will be a lot of traffic. Having said that, that traffic will be able to do double duty; pay their taxes and get their license renewed or whatever the case may be. ... There should be some benefits for the community there, but there will be increased traffic at the Municipal Operations Centre which will take some time away from our other staff."

To accommodate Service Ontario at the MOC, Morin said the town will need to reallocate one office and workspaces for town staff will need to be re-aligned. Morin said that is

possible, however it may limit future space needs in the MOC building.

On the positive side, Morin said the town is providing an in-person service supported strongly by the community, there should be some synergies through cross-training Service Ontario staff to be able to handle front-counter duties at the MOC, thus freeing up town staff to complete other work, and the partnership with the province could lead to future opportunities for St. Marys.

"Providing Service Ontario is not a standard, municipal service that we would normally provide," town CAO Brent Kittmer said. "So, it's something that's new, but I think we heard loud and clear back in 2020 and 2021 that it was something the community

deeply desired. So, council made the decision it was a service we should provide and, if we're going to provide it, this is the most efficient way to do it. It's the most efficient way to deploy our resources, to use our existing facilities, avoid a rent payment and also to ensure it stays in the community. It is a creative way to also help our operations."

"The province was pretty clear when there was a retirement and the office shut down they were not going to lease it to a private provider," Mayor Al Strathdee added. "Either the municipality took it up or it was going to disappear. It was closed for a long time and there was a lot of concern in the community and there was a lot of positive feedback when it did open. ... I'm surprised at how busy the office is. Yes, there is some sort of cost. Let's be quite frank, there's always a cost. It brings people to St. Marys from outlying areas. As well, it is a service that the public has made certainly very clear to me they want to try and maintain.

"That's why we worked long and hard to get it here."

Morin said the current Service Ontario office at 194 Queen St. W will close for one day Oct. 18 to facilitate the move, and it will reopen at the MOC Oct. 21.



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COMMUNITY

Town of St. Marys to commemorate National Day for Truth and Reconciliation 2024

By St. Marys Independent staff

The Town of St. Marys will commemorate National Day for Truth and Reconciliation with a week of activities focused on healing and education.

Beginning on Monday, Sept. 30, the St. Marys Museum will host an exhibit titled "A National Crime: The Residential School Experience in Canada" through the Legacy of Hope Foundation. The exhibit explores the creation of the Residential School System, the experiences of the students and the system's impacts and traumas. It will also highlight Indigenous-led political action, healing and efforts towards reconciliation. The exhibit will be available for viewing during the museum's regular hours until January 2025.

From Monday, Sept. 23 to Friday, Sept. 27, the St. Marys Public Library will be showing virtual Lunch and Learns hosted by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (www.nctr.ca). The showings will cover five different topics and will take place upstairs in the library

starting at 1 p.m. each day. The St. Marys Public Library will also be livestreaming the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation broadcast from Parliament Hill at 3 p.m. Sept. 30.

The National Truth and Reconciliation flag will be flown at town facilities from Thursday, Sept. 26 to Tuesday, Oct. 1.

Individuals are encouraged to wear an orange shirt on Sept. 30 to honour survivors of residential schools in support of the "Every Child Matters" message. Those looking to purchase a shirt are encouraged to buy from Indigenous-owned businesses.

The Town of St. Marys is grateful for the input of many individuals who have helped us begin to understand and commit to a better future. We are especially grateful for the guidance and teachings of Patsy Ann Day who is helping us on this journey.

For a full schedule of National Day of Truth and Reconciliation events, please visit www.discoverstmarys.ca/truthandreconciliation.

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ST. MARYS, ONTARIO

COMMUNITY

United Way prepares for campaign kick-off with new co-chairs

By St. Marys Independent staff

United Way Perth-Huron is set to launch its annual capital campaign in September – this time with new campaign co-chairs.

Kristin Sainsbury and John Wolfe are the 2024-2025 co-chairs, taking over from longtime chairs Rob and Leslie Edney.

“Kristin and John have been longtime supporters of United Way and are well-respected for their ongoing support of the community,” said Ryan Erb, executive director, in a media release. “Pressing local issues like poverty, housing and mental health aren’t going away. We are looking forward to getting the campaign underway and, with Kristin and John’s help, building on the strength of our organization.”

Sainsbury has over 20 years experience working in municipal, private-sector, and not-for-profit land use policy planning, operations, marketing, tourism, real estate and economic development. She is passionate about community development and has served on boards and committees including Stratford Tourism, Huron Perth Foundation for Education, United Way Perth-Huron, Stratford Chef’s School and the Economic Developer’s Council of Ontario.

Wolfe is the owner of RE/MAX a-b Realty in Stratford and has served on

United Way’s United Centre Advisory Committee, and on boards including the Huron-Perth Healthcare Alliance, where he also served as chair, the Huron Perth Real Estate Association, the Stratford City Centre Committee, as well as being a member of the transition committee establishing the Stratford Tourism Alliance, now Destination Stratford.

“We are seeing communities in flux with issues becoming bigger and more challenging,” said Sainsbury in that same release. “United Way is central to helping ensure that core agencies working on housing, homelessness, food security, diversity, equity and inclusion, mental health and youth have a foundation for their programs. I hope we can help move the needle to fund programs that will continue to be central supports for the most vulnerable in our community.”

Wolfe added it has been inspiring to watch Erb and the United Way team help the community.

“Having been involved in the early days of The Local Community Food Centre, I saw how an organization can use United Way support to get their feet under them, then soar,” Wolfe said. “Now with United Housing, we have another opportunity to watch a critical new organization emerge. We’re looking forward to being part

of the campaign.”

This year, the organization will announce its campaign goal and officially start the fundraising process on Friday, Sept. 13 in Listowel’s Character Square and Ward and Uptigrove parking lot.

It will also host numerous launch events across the region following the announcement.

In St. Marys, a campaign-kickoff event is scheduled from 5-7 p.m. at Tutt Co. on Oct. 1.

In Stratford, Unite-For-A-Bite is

scheduled from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Market Square, with tickets costing \$20 in advance and \$25 at the event.

In Seaforth, a free concert is scheduled at the Seaforth Presbyterian Church from 7-9 p.m. on Sept. 22.

In Wingham, a campaign event will take place at the Northern Huron Connection Centre from 11-11:30 a.m. on Sept. 26.

More events are planned for Exeter and Goderich, though as of publication have not been announced.



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A grand day on the farm



Farm and Food Care’s Breakfast on the Farm Sept. 14 was hosted by Hill Manor Farm near Dublin and attracted well over 2,000 people from Perth County to Guelph to Windsor. Visitors enjoyed an egg-and-sausage breakfast, outdoor farm equipment displays, corn silage harvest in action, straw bale maze, live music and free ice cream. The highlight of the morning was the walking tour through the modern, new dairy barn. Everyone loved seeing the cows, including these two couples from St. Marys, from left to right, Marg Cumming, June Grant, Murray Grant and Gary Cumming. Photo by Amy Vingerhoeds



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COMMUNITY

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Nancy Riddell from the YMCA of Three Rivers leads the warmup.



The countdown to the start of the run with a happy group all set to go! Photos by Gord Barnett



St. Marys Minor Hockey team U11A took part on Sunday and raised \$1,705 towards cancer research.



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COMMUNITY

Tractor Parade makes stops at Kingsway Lodge and Wildwood Care Centre



The parade of tractors making the trek from Kingsway Lodge to Wildwood Care Centre. Photo by Wendy Lamond



Tractors are lined up for viewing by the residents of Kingsway Lodge. Photo by June Grant

By Wendy Lamond

On Sept. 12, a group of 20 tractor owners met at Action Medical and made their way to visit the residents

at Kingsway Lodge before proceeding to Wildwood Care Centre.

The residents enjoyed seeing the variety of ages and makes of vehicles.

The connection to their past, colours and textures of the tractors are also very beneficial for those dealing with dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

The group of drivers did this two years ago and organizer John McInosh thought it would be great to do it again knowing the positive effect it has.



Wildwood Care Centre resident Jack Elliott's favourite tractors are John Deere. Photo by Wendy Lamond



Marg Garrett poses with her nieces, Faye Eybergen and Jane Foley, in front of an orange Allis-Chalmers tractor, which is similar to what she used to have. This one is owned by Ken Irwin. Photo by Wendy Lamond

South Perth Centennial reports higher enrollment

By Wendy Lamond

Further to our recent updates on our student enrollment in the area, the Independent recently heard from Prin-

icipal Robert Parkinson regarding the increase in numbers at South Perth Centennial School.

There were 191 students registered

for the 2023-2024 school year.

"We have grown a little bit and now have 202 students in nine homeroom classes," Parkinson said. "We welcomed

Mrs. Heather Hobson, who is new to our school, as we say goodbye to Mrs. Tammy Gettler who retired last June."

COMMUNITY

Repairs to biosolids pump at wastewater treatment plant to cost more than \$95,000

By Galen Simmons

A broken biosolids pump at the St. Marys water pollution control plant will cost the town more than \$95,000 to repair.

At the Sept. 10 St. Marys council meeting, environmental services manager Dave Blake asked council to cover the unbudgeted cost of the emergency repairs, with Netzsch Canada Inc. – the original supplier of the pump – set to complete those repairs.

“This pump was installed around 2017, so it’s not that old of a pump. We expected to get a longer service life out of it that we did,” Blake said. “It failed unexpectedly on us earlier this year when we were coordinating, basically, a biosolids removal from our facility when our storage tanks were full. Because we weren’t expecting it to fail,

because of its age and the condition we believed it was in, we actually took it to the pump manufacturer selected when we were looking at installing a biosolids pump a number of years ago to kind of better understand what occurred with the pump and why did it fail when it did.”

According to the manufacturer, the pump – which is so large the roof needed to be taken off the biosolids facility so a crane could remove the pump for it to be sent to the manufacturer – failed as a result of dry running. Dry running, Blake explained, happens when the pump is not running at full capacity.

“Whether there was a partially clogged suction intake or a whole blockage of the pump, it ran for a period of time where it wasn’t pushing the volume of

material through that it would normally do, and that caused excess wear and tear on the pump itself and then ultimately caused the failure,” Blake said.

Both in order to pump out, clean and remove the broken pump from the biosolids tank and then to ensure operations at the water pollution control plant continued, Blake said the staff had to rent a series of smaller, portable biosolids pumps while the town’s pump is out for repair – the cost of which is being covered through the water pollution control plant’s operations budget. The unbudgeted cost of repairs, Blake said, would come from the town’s wastewater reserves.

“There’s no way for us to know when it was dry-running?” Coun. Rob Edney asked. “There’s no alarm system or anything?”

“Coincidentally, no,” Blake said. “It’s something that’s been discussed with the manufacturer since it has been identified. They don’t offer out-of-the-box monitors for that, but there are pressure gauges we can install kind of after the fact to kind of better monitor that and make sure we catch it sooner and we don’t run into that situation again. ... We’re going to look into the feasibility of that what is actually involved so we get it so it will be beneficial.”

Before approving the unbudgeted repair, councillors also asked Blake whether it was cost effective to repair the broken pump instead of continuing to rent a pump, to which Blake said repairing the pump is more economically viable for long-term operations at the water pollution control plant.

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Lincs unveil West Champions banner, win home opener

By Spencer Seymour

The vibes started high and stayed that way through the entire night Sept. 13 when the St. Marys Lincolns began their regular season schedule with a 4-1 win over the St. Thomas Stars.

Head coach Jeff Bradley acknowledged his squad may not have been perfect at every moment, but viewing the season as a 50-game process to build good habits, the home opener was a positive step.

"There are definitely quite a few positives to take out of it," Bradley told the Independent. "When you're just starting the season, you have to manage your expectations a little bit considering, just a few months back, we were one of the top two teams in the entire league playing the best hockey we played all year. And now, you're going into the first game of the season so not everything will be executed exactly right. During the game, you're a little emotional, but as you calm down and go through it, you realize there are a lot of positives to take out of it."

Bradley elaborated on his view of the team's performance, noting that the first 20 minutes weren't as structured as the coaching staff had wanted, but that the execution of their gameplan improved dramatically as the game progressed.

"In our pregame meeting with the players and in our coaches' meeting, we felt pretty proud of what we all accomplished in terms of getting everyone into the rhythm of our systems considering that we only had three full team practices. We asked everyone to trust the gameplan and our systems which means, when you have the puck and you don't have any good options, just chip it out of our zone or chip it deep into their zone because we trust our fore-check.

"We weren't doing that in the first period and we were giving St. Thomas opportunities to attack us," continued Bradley. "But, I thought after the first, we were much more focused and did a much better job. At times in the first, it looked like they were all over us but that went away in the second and we started to get back to what we needed to do."

After a pregame ceremony that included each player being introduced individually and the unveiling of the team's 2024 Western Conference Championship banner, the Lincs' top line of Owen Voortman, Luca Spagnolo and Jaden Lee wasted little time in getting to work with a Spagnolo shot creating a rebound that Lee put in the back of the Stars' net just 17 seconds into the first period. Voortman also earned an assist along with Spagnolo.

The bench boss noted the line centred by the newly minted captain, Spagnolo, as being three of several returning players to have big performances.

"It was nice to see Spagnolo's line pick up where they left off last season," said Bradley. "We planned



Dylan Searles skates by the bench as part of his goal celebration during the St. Marys Lincolns' home opener on Sept. 13, which the Lincs won 4-1. Searles deflected a shot by Tanner Ducharme for the Lincolns' fourth goal of the game and the first goal of his junior hockey career. Photo by McGinny Photography

that they would be a top line in this league and they showed us early on that they will be. I thought Colby (Booth-Housego) had a really good game in net and gave us the saves we needed. Ryder (Livermore) and Jacob (Montesi) were really good on defence. They were our rocks back there and kept everything calm, cool and collected."

On the trio of Spagnolo, Lee and Voortman, Bradley further stated the home opener was a chance for the line to re-establish themselves as being among the league's elite.

"It wasn't uncommon for them to strike early in the game and set the tone for our team. So, for them to be able to follow that up in a different season and say, 'We're still here and we're still going to be doing the same things and have that impact on the game,' it's important for them individually, but it's also important for our team to know we've got a great set of leaders, whether they're wearing letters or not. They want to lead this team to have another successful season."

Assistant captain Noah VandenBrink finished off a nifty passing play to score his first of the year on

a powerplay and give the Lincs a 2-0 lead heading into the first intermission.

Three minutes and 23 seconds into the second frame, aggressive penalty killing work by Spagnolo led him to feed Lee for his second goal of the game, this one shorthanded, to make it 3-0 for St. Marys. Just under eight minutes later, a pair of first-year forwards connected when a long-range shot by Tanner Ducharme was deflected by Dylan Searles and sailed by Stars' netminder Zack Irvin, who finished the game with 42 saves.

"The line of Chase (McDougall), Tanner and Dylan really found their stride in the second and third periods. In the last 40 minutes, I thought they were a catalyst in terms of showing that if we execute our gameplan, it'll work. They were good in the defensive zone. They kept it simple. They trusted the plan and they executed the plan.

"When you watch it back and there may be parts you're not happy with as a coach, especially early in the game, it's important to remember that this is their first game where they are relied on to play

Continued on page 15

SPORTS

Lincs unveil West Champions banner, win home opener

Continued from page 14

a regular shift," added Bradley. "With that in mind, when you look at how quickly they picked things up and how they got better as the game went along, it was a really good sign."

Goaltender Booth-Housego finished the game having stopped 24 of 25 St. Thomas shots, one of which was a highlight reel save in the first which saw Booth-Housego spin around to pull the puck off the goal line. The only blemish on Booth-Housego's strong night was a net-front scramble finished off by Stars' forward Cooper Ilczyszyn with four minutes and 17 seconds left in the game.

Looking ahead to the team's schedule following the home opener, coach Bradley explained how the team will be preparing ahead of a pair of games on Sept. 20 and 22 against LaSalle

and Chatham.

"We've got four practices between the home opener and our next game and then we've got two tough games so our next step is to expand on what we've been working on. We touched on everything system-wise before the home opener, but all of it was done briefly. Now, in these next four practices, we're going to reinforce some things and spend a bit more time on the aspects of our systems. They've got the broad strokes and now we can start refining and fine-tuning some details."

The Lincolns host the LaSalle Vipers on Sept. 20, who defeated the London Nationals 3-2 in overtime in their first game of the season. The Lincs then go on the road for the first time on Sept. 22 when they visit the Chatham Maroons.



Before the St. Marys Lincolns' home opener against the St. Thomas Stars got underway on Sept. 13, the team unveiled the banner commemorating the team's 2024 Western Conference Championship. Several former Lincolns who were part of the conference-title-winning roster were in attendance for the game, including last year's captain Adam Barkley, who, along with this year's captain Luca Spagnolo, revealed the banner on the ice in front of the timekeeper's box. Photo by McGinny Photography



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SPORTS

Shack Attack wins SMGCC Ladies Scramble

By Spencer Seymour

The team called Shack Attack came away as the overall winners and the winners of the C Flight in the Ladies Scramble at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club (SMGCC) Sept. 12.

Shack Attack posted a score of 62 to win the tournament's overall championship.

Team member Amie Shackleton said the team's complete contrast of skills led them to victory.

"We had a well-rounded team," Shackleton told the Independent. "We had a long-ball hitter in the group, which put us in a position to get on the green easily in regulation. Aimee (King) had some monster drives that left us in great position for some good approaches, and everyone in our group came up with one or two great approach shots."

In addition to King's stellar long-range shooting, the rest of the team came up with significant contributions throughout the day, including

Maggie Dame sinking back-to-back 20-foot putts and Shackleton completing a 30-foot putt on Hole 12. Additionally, Theresa Simpson put forward a stellar, consistent short game that created plethora birdie opportunities.

Shackleton also praised her team for the collective groove they were able to get into early and stay in throughout the day.

"We have played in this tournament for many years and have always done well, but this year, we played consistent golf from start to finish. It was nice to pull out a win. When one of us missed, the rest of the team came through with a great shot. We were never in any danger of not making our par," she said.

The tournament featured 124 participants competing in four flights. The Bos Sisters finished first in the A Flight with a score of 64. The B Flight was won by Swing-Swear-Repeat, who scored 66. Team Leah finished atop the D Flight, scoring 74.



With a score of 62, Shack Attack was the overall winning team and C Flight winners in the Ladies Scramble hosted at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club on Sept. 12. Pictured from left to right are Shack Attack team members Theresa Simpson, Maggie Dame, Aimee King and Amie Shackleton. Contributed photo

Exciting Season Ahead for St. Marys Curling

By St. Marys Independent staff

St. Marys Curling is thrilled to announce that registration for the 2024-2025 season is now open! With exciting new programs, capital improvements, and beloved bonspiels returning, there's never been a better time to get involved in the sport. Whether you're a seasoned player or new to curling, this season promises something for everyone.

Registration is Now Open!

We're now accepting registrations for the upcoming season. Whether you're a returning member or joining us for the first time, we can't wait to see you on the ice! For full details on membership options, league sign-ups, and more, visit www.stmaryscurling.ca/leagues

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Thanks to a generous Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, St. Marys Curling is making significant upgrades to its refrigeration plant. The upgrades include a new chiller and state-of-the-art refrigeration controls, which are expected to significantly enhance ice conditions while reducing energy consumption. These upgrades reflect our commitment to providing the best possible environment for both our members and the community.

New to Curling? Join Our Learn to

Curl League!

If you're new to curling, the Learn to Curl League is the ideal way to start. This league provides a fun and relaxed introduction to the sport, with expert instruction and real gameplay. You'll learn everything from how to throw a rock to sweeping techniques and understanding the game's rules.

- Fall Session: Oct. 29 – Dec. 17

- Winter Session: Jan. 14 – Mar. 4, 2-25

Each 8-week session costs just \$100 + HST. Sign up for one or both sessions, and if you join a regular league afterward, your Learn to Curl fee will be credited toward your first-year membership. All you need are clean indoor shoes, warm clothing, and a sense of fun!

Meat & Greet: Season Kickoff Event – September 21

Don't miss our Meat & Greet on Saturday, Sept. 21, at 4425 Water St. S. Enjoy delicious pulled pork, sides, and hot dogs for the kids, as well as craft beer from Cowbell and Broken Rail, or wine from Pelee Island Winery. Enter the Corn Hole Tournament for just \$20, with great prizes up for grabs.

This is also the perfect time to register for the season and check out curling gear from our equipment supplier. Bring your family and friends for a fun-filled day of community activities!



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☀️ Why Stick Curling? ☀️

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- ◆ **Inclusive Fun:** Whether you're young or young at heart, stick curling is adaptable for various skill levels and physical abilities. Everyone can join in the excitement!
- ◆ **Social & Engaging:** Enjoy the camaraderie of team play and make new friends. It's a great way to socialize while engaging in a friendly competition.
- ◆ **Low Impact:** Ideal for those looking for a low-impact sport that still provides a good workout. Perfect for maintaining agility and coordination without heavy physical strain.
- ◆ **Strategic Challenge:** Hone your strategic thinking and precision as you plan your shots and outwit your opponents. It's as much about brainpower as it is about technique!

🏆 Join the Stick Curling Revolution! 🏆

St Marys Curling Club daytime leagues are Mondays 1:00 pm, Tuesdays 1:30 pm and Thursday 9:00 am. Grab some friends and give it a go. Stick curling offers a unique blend of fun, fitness, and friendly competition that you won't want to miss.

📅 Get Started Today! 📅

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SPORTS



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MINOR SPORTS SCRAPBOOK



Scarlett Maddock dashes to first base during a Canadian Tire U9 HP St. Marys Rockies game earlier this season.



Katie Holliday makes contact with the ball during a Dave Hensel U11 HP St. Marys Rockies game earlier this year.



Laine Leis rockets the ball towards home base during a Wildwood Care Centre U13 HP Red St. Marys Rockies game earlier this season.



Billie Sedley catches an incoming pitch during a McLean-Taylor Construction U17 HP St. Marys Rockies game earlier this year.



Griffin McGregor runs from second to third base during a St. Marys Cement U18 WOBA Blue St. Marys Rockies game earlier this season. Photos by Spencer Seymour



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SPORTS

SMPA's year-end tournament raises over \$1,100 for Marathon of Hope



The St. Marys Pickleball Association (SMPA) held their fourth annual year-end tournament on Sept. 15 to celebrate the 2024 season and raise money for the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope Cure for Cancer. It was a beautiful day for this well-attended event which included a fun pickleball tournament that 32 players participated in, as well as other games and a barbecue.



Barry and Jody Stone wore inflatable chicken and duck costumes to ham it up while they played in the tournament. The fun tournament featured interesting variations, such as playing with your non-dominant hand and players switching teams halfway through the games. More than \$1,100 was raised, all of which will go to the Terry Fox Cure for Cancer. Photos by Spencer Seymour

Lincs Alumni Group donates to dressing room project



Several members of the St. Marys Lincolns Alumni Group presented a cheque for \$1,500 to Lincolns' President Brandon Boyd on Sept. 12. The donation was made in support of the team's dressing room renovation project and will purchase one stall. Pictured from left to right are Brian Hughes, Mike Brogden, Mike Mattiusi, Rob Mossey, Jacques Cousineau, Jamie Hahn, and Brandon Boyd. Anyone interested in purchasing a stall or making a donation to the project is encouraged to contact Lincs' President Boyd at bboyd@lincs.ca or at 519-520-0799. Photo by Spencer Seymour

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SPORTS

Lawn Bowling Club hosts tournament in memory of Donna Collins



The Parks Lawn Bowling Club hosted a mixed pairs tournament on Sept. 15. The tournament was sponsored by the Collins family in memory of a wonderful lady Donna Collins. The weather was great and all 10 teams had a great time. Pictured from left to right are Chris Collins, who presented all the winners' prizes, along with first-place winners Kay Johns and Rick Wood. The team of Everett Zwiers and Marilyn Lancaster finished in second place while third went to Jim Smith and Shari Karelson. Murray Bennewies and Alexis Fares took fourth and the consolation prize was captured by Larry McLellan, Sharon Farris, and Rose Constable. Constable stepped in to join McLellan after Farris left due to injury. Contributed photo

River Valley mixed league holds 'Pot of Gold' wrap-up



River Valley held its "Pot of Gold" wrap-up event for its mixed league on Sept. 15. Pictured from left to right are the members of the winning team - Tom Osgerby, Dorothy Dunseith, Erin Onclin and Bernie Schaefer, who won with a score of eight-under-par. Photo by Wendy Lamond

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SPOTLIGHT ON ARTS & CULTURE

The art of editing

By James Giles

Every life has a story, every story has an author and every author needs an editor. And I have mine.

Editing is itself a unique art. It is the process of selecting and preparing written, visual, audible, written or cinematic material used by a person or an entity to convey a message or information. The editing process can involve correction, condensation, organization, rewriting and many other modifications performed with an intention of producing a correct, consistent, accurate and complete piece of work. So declares technical co-authors Alexander Mamishev and Sean Williams.

With the goal of awakening the interest and educational values of the many forms of art that influence individuals and society, last September Alice Rixson and I joined forces to provide *St. Marys Independent* with bi-weekly articles spot-lighting the varied talents of current and former St. Marys and area residents. The plan was that I would do the majority of the writing and she would edit the articles. She and I had corroborated on a number of projects in the past, so I well knew her style and what she could do. With fingers crossed, I asked her to be my editor in a new venture. I was delighted when she agreed.

Rixson's journey towards the field of editing began at an early age. Born in Copenhagen during the Nazi occupation of Denmark during World War II, her family emigrated to Canada in the summer in the early 1950s. Her father, a talented tradesman, felt that Canada would provide a better life with more opportunities for the family away from the ravages of war-torn northern Europe. There were no relatives or friends in Canada to greet them or provide any type of support, neither moral nor financial. With Danish and Swedish as their current languages, there was now a new one



Alice Rixson, editor of "Spotlight on Arts & Culture" column

to be learned!

The family settled in a small town in Bruce County. During that first summer of playing with other children, Rixson spoke English by the time school started in September. A teacher worked with her during recesses and after school to bring her up to speed with her peers with reading and writing. Expectations were exceeded and she completed two grades in the same year. During her elementary school years, she helped her parents – particularly her dad – with their English, both spoken and written.

Within a few years, Rixson's father bought his employers' service business and although not yet a teenager, Rixson began helping in the business but not necessarily with enthusiasm. In the early 1960s this led to a business college education.

Still seeking more opportunity, her dad sold his business and the family was once again on the move. This time the destination was California, The Land of Golden Opportunity.

"California Here We Come, the song

from a 1920s Broadway play, became the family's mantra," Rixson recalls fondly. "Parents, with three children and a dog in a car, towing a small U-Haul trailer with personal items hit the road! Southern California! Sunshine and swaying palm trees! Sun drenched, white sandy beaches! The majestic Pacific Ocean! Hollywood! And if you really missed winter, snow-capped mountains were only couple of hours away."

By now in her late teens, Rixson was very excited to get out of a stale and boring small town that seemingly offered no future. The town could no longer support a movie theatre because a local television station made TV programming much more interesting.

Not long after settling in the San Fernando Valley just north of Los Angeles, Rixson decided to attend a nearby college. It was already August so a number of mandatory courses had already reached maximum enrollment, including English. The college's catalog stated that Journalism 101 would substitute for a required English credit, so she signed up.

"I took to the course like a duck to water," says Rixson. "I tackled assignments of reporting and writing with enthusiasm that first semester. My journalism professor and college newspaper advisor apparently saw an innate talent in me."

There were many festering issues in the United States at that time during the JFK administration including the turmoil around civil rights of Negroes, the assassination of JFK, the very unpopular Viet Nam war that claimed thousands of young lives, including a number of my fellow students. "All of these cultural and societal problems spilled over to campus life," says Rixson "and generated many interesting topics for journalism.

"Advancements within the positions of the college's weekly newspaper was by appointment of the professor. Apparently, he saw value in my organizational skills when it concerned thought, print and staff and the ability to meet deadlines, so I was named Editor-in-Chief the following semester." All copies of the paper were submitted to a journalistic entity with entries from similar colleges in California to be judged. "That semester, our publication placed second in the State," Rixson proudly claims.

One noteworthy event involves a student who joined the staff as a photographer to enhance his artistic abilities. "I saw great potential in this young man's talent in photography," recalls Rixson "and as a result, he decided to focus solely on photography. His name was Ron Raffaelli (1943-2016) and at the age of 22, Jimi Hendrix chose him as his personal photographer.

Unfortunately - and in spite of a potential scholarship to a major university - financial challenges made it impossible for to continue to graduation. "So," she says, "to get back into the saddle after a long hiatus is very welcome."



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Be at the course by 10:30 a.m.

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ARTS & CULTURE

St. Marys Station Gallery: An exhibition of inspired colour

By St. Marys Station Gallery staff

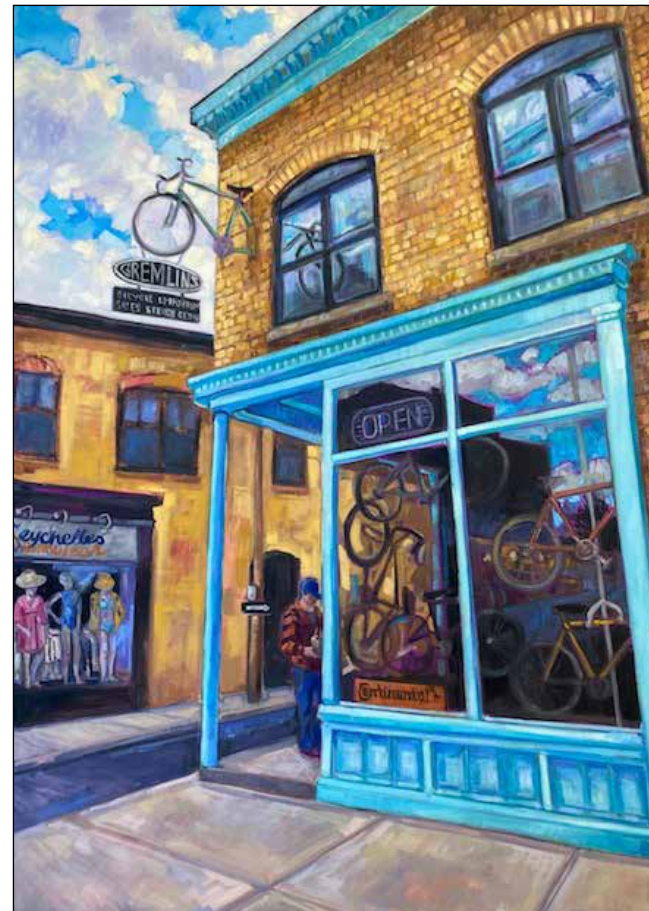
St. Marys Station Gallery presents for the first time, a husband and wife collaboration from London, Ont. Corinne Garlick and Peter Karas depict a fantasized, almost fairytale-like world with bold colours and stylized compositions – a unique exhibition not to be missed.

Corinne’s outdoor adventures in local parks and natural settings provide inspiration for her large landscape paintings that feature the beauty of southern Ontario. Done primarily in oil on canvas, her paintings exude character and life. With Corinne Garlick’s art you’re likely to see street scenes and landscapes of southern Ontario. Executed in brilliant colour, her paintings are imaginative, expressive and full of the vitality that she sees around her. She is a graduate of Beal Art and Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, and has been making a living from her artwork for the last 20 years.

Peter Karas has been a full-time professional artist for the past 20 years, after attaining a degree in Visual Arts from the University of Victoria. He paints street scenes and landscapes in a bold, refreshing style, with a focus on brilliant harmonious colour and strong graphic compositions. His inspirations comes from many sources – from the old neighbourhoods and heritage houses, to children’s books and animated films. Working primarily in oil and watercolour, he typically paints on canvas, but he also has an interest in woodworking, carving and joinery. Some of his paintings incorporate low relief carving or hand-built gilded wood frames that he makes onsite in his workshop.



For the past 15 years, Peter and Corinne have devoted time to teaching. They currently offer a variety of classes at Westland Gallery and Fanshawe College.



The exhibition opens on Sept. 21, 2024 to Nov. 2, 2024. A reception will be held on Saturday Sept. 21 from 1 - 4 p.m. at the Station Gallery. Gallery hours will change after Thanksgiving and will be closed on Sundays.

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HISTORY

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: When St. Marys was a Mecca for Canadiana Antique Hunters

By Mary Smith

In 1951, the Toronto philanthropist, Sigmund Samuel, provided the Royal Ontario Museum with a building dedicated to Canadiana. For the next several decades, the Sigmund Samuel Canadiana Gallery was one of the most popular attractions for visitors to the ROM. Its collection of Canadian artifacts, works of art, maps and documents increased. In 1958, it was necessary to build an addition to the south. Sigmund Samuel was extremely wealthy and collected treasures from around the world, many of them eventually donated to the ROM. In the mid-20th century, his special interest in early Canadian artifacts and all kinds of Canadian archival material was timely. As the 100th anniversary of Confederation approached, Canadians everywhere were beginning to look at their country with a fresh sense of pride. Anything relating to its history took on a new significance. There was a surge in people wanting to acquire genuine Canadian antiques and the ROM, with Sigmund Samuel's help, was a leader.

For residents of St. Marys at that time, it was not necessary to travel to Toronto to see examples of high-quality early Canadian artifacts. This community had its own leaders who recognized their value. According to local historian, Larry Pfaff, "Today old Canadian furniture is little regarded, and it is hard to believe the excitement in the 1960s that its rediscovery generated. At the centre of the antique business in the 1960s and 1970s was Cardiff (Cy) Cline who purchased from truckloads of pine furniture brought in by pickers from Quebec. He, Ron O'Hara, and Ed Kinsman made St. Marys a mecca for antique collectors and dealers alike who sought out pine, figured maple, cherry, and walnut pieces."

Lorne Eedy also remembers those days. His own interest in collecting began when he was still a teenager; he started to attend Saturday auctions. His mother let him take the family car if he took along a friend of hers who collected antique cruet sets. Barry Nairn was the auctioneer with "Goldie Keane holding up each lot, while a few local dealers headed by Ron O'Hara would hold court, slightly behind a tree, or wagon, or a large lady, to camouflage their bids. The older collectors of St. Marys took me in as their newest recruit ... it was a band of brothers." Lorne remembers that they met for coffee and a smoke every morning at 10. They were encouraging but also ready to take the



The interior of Cy Cline's store, Stonetown Antiques, late 1970s, 140 Queen Street East. From the St. Marys Museum's Collection

young collector down a notch if he bragged about acquisitions that were not as significant as he had believed.

Ron O'Hara's antique business had a wonderful setting – the 1858 limestone house at 615 Queen Street East. Ron and Rose O'Hara bought the property in the years before old stone houses and old furniture became popular. By the time interest in Canadiana took hold, Ron already had beautiful pieces, many purchased from Eastern Ontario and Quebec. A trip to see his collection was an adventure. Serious collectors in this area, including executives from London Life and Labatt's, discovered Ron O'Hara early and visited him regularly. For Lorne, "Ron, I felt for many years, was over my budget." But Ron's advice was given without charge: "Best to have one great piece in the house, the rest is just stuff you like and decorate with ..."

Ed Kinsman had another extraordinary collection. He began collecting early, acquiring artifacts at auctions and from the descendants of old local families who were clearing out and selling their former homes. Ed worked as a banker but later became a full-time antique dealer, selling from his home, originally a stone house on Thomas Street, and later from the grand house at 163 Church Street South. He also attended auctions in London, expanding his collection beyond Canadiana to fine imported pieces. For three years in the early 1970s, Ed Kinsman was hired to take charge of the St. Marys Public Library. At that time, this position did not require training as a profession-

al librarian. Ed had considerable expertise in old books and was a competent administrator but perhaps his main focus remained on antiques. Lorne Eedy believed that "Ed's best quality was his antique knowledge with local stories that dove-tailed with his collecting experience. This quality was only surpassed by his availability to talk antiques all day long if the listener had the interest." Lorne had the interest and used to go to the library a couple times a week "to get caught up on the antique market."

In the late 1970s to the mid-1980s, Cardiff (Cy) Cline was a dominant presence among local antique dealers. Larry Pfaff called him "a real ambassador" and Lorne Eedy pointed out that he was "the first to buy big." His picker from Quebec would arrive with his "truck rack piled to the sky, along with a massive cage trailer, chock full of Quebec antiques of varying value, and all sorts of odd qualities." Cy Cline had been born in Collingwood, but his family moved to Galt when he was still a little boy. In Galt, he met Mabel Doerfling, and they were married in April 1940. Soon after, Cy and his father, Percy Cline, purchased a men's clothing business in St. Marys, selling everything "For Dad and the Lad!" By the mid-1940s, Cline's was a well-established business, operating from the limestone commercial building at 115 Queen Street East. Cy had always been a collector. Stamps were an interest from boyhood and, as an adult, he enjoyed the challenge of searching out rare stamps. A new

interest in carnival glass took him to area dealers and nearby auctions. This led to the discovery of pine furniture that could be purchased cheaply, repaired and refinished. By the early 1970s, the back room of the clothing store was filled with tables, chairs, chests, cradles – old Canadian furniture of all varieties.

In July 1975, a devastating fire destroyed the building next door at 117 Queen Street South. Although the fire fighters managed to save the adjacent buildings, they suffered considerable smoke and water damage. Cy Cline decided not to continue his clothing business but to concentrate on selling antiques. He relocated to 140 Queen Street East, in space he rented from Gerald Bull, previously the home of the popular St. Marys Grill. The photograph with this week's column shows the interior of that store. Some time later, a vacant property at 14 Church Street North became available. It had once been a two-storey department store, facing onto Queen Street. From 1919 to 1961, it had been the auditorium of the Lyric Theatre, filled with theatre seats, the stage and large movie screen at the north end. The Clines saw an opportunity there and purchased the building. They removed the seats and sloping theatre floor, opened up the windows and entrance on the north side and created a beautiful retail space with a balcony, showcasing antiques for sale.

Throughout the early 1980s, Cline's Stonetown Antiques was very popular. With a lifetime of practice, Cy was a charming salesman who had many return customers. Lorne Eedy remembers: "Cy was always entertaining, a real circus master of his antiques ring." Lorne also recalled that Cy was hard of hearing and did not wear a hearing aid. When Lorne dropped in to chat, "Some of Cy's comments on the high-end, incoming customers that he thought could not be heard were hilarious. Cy would say something under his breath which came out too loud and the customer would do a double-take with a 'did-I-really-hear-that' look."

In the mid-1980s, Cy Cline sold Stonetown Antiques to Jim Howgego and the Cline family moved to British Columbia. Ed Kinsman had died in 1976, but Ron O'Hara's business was still flourishing. There was still a great deal of activity in St. Marys with many serious collectors and talented refurbishers of Canadian antiques. The story will continue next week.

Thorndale News

A section within the
St. Marys Independent

Thorndale Men's Slo-Pitch finishes another season

By Nancy Abra

Recently, the Thorndale Men's Slo-Pitch league of 12 teams finished their 2024 season with their annual playoff weekend.

The Wiserood team went undefeated during the playoffs, topping their 2024 season in the A-Division finals for their fifth A championship of the league, including four of the last five seasons. The Wiserood team is mainly made up of men from London, managed by Jordon Fuller and coached by Hugh Fuller, a Thorndale native who played for over 20 years for the now dissolved Tribe team.

The B Division champs were the Kekambas, beating Ballz Deep in that division final.

The Thorndale Men's Slo-pitch league was developed in the summer of 1980 in Thorndale with competition initiated between the Thorndale Fire Department and their counterparts from Arva, Ilder-

ton and Granton. The popularity of the game rapidly grew as players were recruited from Thorndale's Monteith subdivision, and members of local clubs and organizations formed teams with varying age groups and ability levels.

A few of the original named teams, such as Brewers, Slammers and Gators, have players today which are the second generation, continuing the long history of the league.

The Thorndale Men's Slo-Pitch league plays from the first week of May with games mainly played on Sundays (excluding long weekends) and some Monday and Wednesday evenings, with the playoffs on the second weekend of September.

"The league will be looking for a few new teams for next season," said Fuller. "For more information, people can check out the league at www.thorndaleball.ca or on the I Love Thorndale page at www.ilovethorndale.ca/recreation/baseball.



The Wiseroods team recently became Thorndale Men's Slo-Pitch A-Division champs after going undefeated in the playoffs. Photo courtesy of Jordon Fuller

Past Nissouri Manor board chair honoured

By Nancy Abra

The Nissouri Manor, a senior's complex in Thorndale and a concept initiated by Bill Elliott, opened its doors in 1986. Ron Johnson sat as a director on this board and then later took over as the chair when Elliott's health was failing.

"For many years, Ron has led this board as chair efficiently and capably, always managing to have us come to a unanimous decision when critical issues needed to be solved – not always an easy task," said Mary McCutcheon, the current acting board chair.

"Not only has he been instrumental in directing and keeping our facility in amazing physical condition, Ron has farmed full time for many years, is a small business owner and a very active member of the Thorndale Lions Club serving in various roles and on committees over the years."

McCutcheon presented Johnson with certificates from the City of London and from the County of Middlesex honouring his many years of dedication and service on the Board of the Nissouri Manor.



Former Nissouri Manor board chair Ron Johnson was recently honoured by Middlesex County and the City of London for his years of service. Photo courtesy of Mary McCutcheon

St. George's BBQ dinner continued success



Pictured at the barbecue chicken fundraiser dinner at St. George's Anglican Church Sept. 11 are, in the background, Mack Smith and Cooper Jordon. Behind the table from left to right are Mike Gerrits, Scott Ivins, Conner Gerrits, Heather Ivins, Dayna Gerrits and, in the foreground, Emily Gerrits. Photo by Nancy Abra

By Nancy Abra

St. George's Anglican Church in Thorndale hosts various fundraiser dinners for the community throughout the year and their barbecue-chicken dinner held in September has been a hit for many years.

On Sept 11, approximately 350 dinners were served with the chicken cooked on site by Jim's BBQ Chicken from Arthur and assembled in the church's annex building as people drove in to pick them up. The proceeds of this dinner will go towards the operating and maintenance

expenses of the church.

"We greatly appreciate the continued support of this wonderful community for all of our fundraisers and special dinners," said Rev. Quenton Little, St. George's rector. "And I would like to invite everyone to the church service we are jointly presenting with Thorndale United Church on Sunday Sept. 22 at 10 a.m. at the Thorndale Fair in the Thorndale Community Centre.

"Again, thank you very much to everyone for your support."

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COLUMN

UKRAINIAN CORNER: Ukrainian varenyky – a taste of tradition in every bite

By Olianina Olena

Ukrainian cuisine is a culinary tapestry rich with history, tradition and heartfelt flavours. Among its most beloved dishes is varenyky – a staple that not only satisfies hunger but also carries deep cultural significance. As Ukrainian immigrants continue to enrich Canada’s diverse food landscape, varenyky have become a symbol of cultural heritage and an ambassador of authentic Ukrainian taste.

Varenyky are more than just dumplings; they are a cherished part of Ukrainian culture. Traditionally, these delicious parcels are made with a tender dough filled with a variety of savoury or sweet ingredients, and then boiled to perfection. They are often served with a dollop of sour cream, melted butter, or crispy onions, enhancing their rich flavor.

In Ukraine, varenyky hold a special place at the table, especially during festive occasions. They are often prepared as a family, with everyone gathering in the kitchen to fill, shape and cook the varenyky together. This communal activity is as much about bonding as it is about making food.



De Varenyk: Traditional Ukrainian varenyky made with love and quality. Photo by Shyshkivska Nataly

It's a time-honoured tradition that has been passed down through generations, preserving the essence of

Ukrainian hospitality.

A world of fillings: from savoury to sweet

One of the most fascinating aspects of varenyky is their versatility. The fillings can vary widely, reflecting the regional diversity of Ukraine as well as personal and family preferences. Here are a few of the classics:

- **Potato and Onion:** Perhaps the most classic filling, potato and onion varenyky are hearty and comforting, often enhanced with a bit of cheese for an extra layer of flavour.
- **Sauerkraut and Mushroom:** A tangy and earthy combination that speaks to Ukraine’s rural roots, perfect for those who enjoy robust, savoury flavours.
- **Cottage Cheese:** Known as "syrnyky," these are a mild and creamy option, sometimes served with sugar and vanilla for a sweet twist.
- **Cherry or Berry:** On the sweeter side, varenyky filled with cherries or berries are a summertime favourite, often enjoyed as a dessert or a treat during the harvest season.

Each variety of varenyky tells a story, reflecting the local ingredients and seasonal influences that shape Ukrainian cuisine.

De Varenyk: crafting tradition by hand

In an era where mass production is the norm, it’s refreshing to find a company like De Varenyk, which honours the tradition of handcrafting varenyky with the same care and attention that our ancestors did.

Each varenyky from De Varenyk is made by hand, ensuring that every piece is unique and filled with the love and dedication that only a handmade product can offer. De Varenyk uses only the finest ingredients, staying true to the authenticity of Ukrainian recipes while also adding a modern twist for today’s palate. Whether it’s the classic potato and onion or a more adventurous filling like spinach and feta, the quality and taste are unparalleled.

A cultural connection


As an emigrant from Ukraine, varenyky are more than just food to me – they are a connection to my heritage, a reminder of the times spent with family and a symbol of the warmth and generosity that defines Ukrainian culture.

In a country as diverse as Canada, food is one of the most powerful ways to share and celebrate our cultures. Varenyky offer Canadians a taste of Ukraine, inviting them to experience the warmth, tradition and flavours that define Ukrainian hospitality. The experience of making and eating varenyky brings back memories of family gatherings, where the kitchen was filled with the aroma of freshly cooked dumplings and the sounds of laughter and conversation.

In today’s fast-paced world, where convenience often trumps tradition, it’s comforting to know that there are still places where the art of making varenyky by hand is cherished. Companies like De Varenyk play a crucial role in keeping this tradition alive, offering everyone a chance to experience the authentic taste of Ukrainian varenyky.

Whether you’re exploring Ukrainian cuisine for the first time or looking to reconnect with your roots, I highly recommend trying varenyky from De Varenyk. These handmade dumplings are not just a meal; they are a taste of tradition, culture and the love that goes into every bite.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #2
Thorndale Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion
Schedule C Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study




THE STUDY
 The Municipality of Thames Centre (Municipality) has retained Stantec Consulting Ltd. to complete a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify options for expansion of the Thorndale Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), located at 1135 Ideal Drive, as shown on the map below.

The Thorndale WWTP provides municipal wastewater treatment to Thorndale. WWTP expansion alternatives are being developed to address current needs and consider anticipated community growth.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?
 An in-person Public Information Centre (PIC #2) is being held using a drop-in format to provide the evaluation of expansion alternatives for comment. Members of the project team will be available to discuss the project and respond to any questions you may have.

Date: Thursday, September 26, 2024
Location: Thorndale Lions Community Centre – Meeting Room #1
 265 Upper Queen Street,
 Thorndale, ON
Time: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm



Presentation materials will also be available on the Municipality’s website following the PIC at: www.thamescentre.on.ca/ThorndaleWWTPExpansion. Comments are requested by **October 4, 2024**.

This study is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Schedule C projects, as outlined in the Municipal Class EA document (2000, as amended in 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2023) which is approved under the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*. Near the end of the project, an Environmental Study Report (ESR) will be prepared to document the EA process, consultation activities, and the evaluation. The ESR will be presented for a 30 day public review at that time.

If you wish to provide comments, have your name added to the study mailing list, or if you have questions about this project, please contact one of the Project Team members listed below.

Jarrold Craven Director of Public Works Municipality of Thames Centre 4305 Hamilton Road Dorchester, ON N0L 1G3 Phone: 519-268-7334 ext. 245 Email: Jcraven@thamescentre.on.ca	Jeff Paul P.Eng. Project Manager Stantec Consulting Ltd. 400-1305 Riverbend Road London, ON N6K 0J5 Phone: 519-675-6604 Email: Jeff.Paul@stantec.com
--	---

If you have any accessibility requirements in order to participate in this project, please contact one of the Project Team members listed above. Comments and information are being collected to assist with meeting the requirements of the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*. Information collected will be used in accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and *Access to Information Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

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COLUMN

EAT AT OUR HOUSE: Game day snacks



By Lauren Eedy

Football season has commenced and although parties are focused on viewing the game itself, sharable snacks are always a hit for gatherings.

These easily thrown-together snacks are favourite party foods to feed your guests and are ready in under 45 minutes. Not a football fan? No problem! These comfort recipes work for a gathering of any kind and are sure to be a hit.

Caramelized onion spinach dip

Prep: 10 minutes; Cook: 40 minutes; Makes: 2 ½ cups

2 tbsp olive oil

1 sweet onion, chopped

3 garlic cloves, minced

¼ cup reduced-sodium chicken broth

¼ cup white wine or additional chicken broth

2 cups fat-free sour cream

1 pkg frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry

¾ tsp salt

Serve with tortilla chips and assorted fresh vegetables

Method:

- In a large skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Add the onion; cook and stir until tender, 6-8 minutes. Add garlic, cook 1 minute longer.

- Stir in broth and wine. Reduce heat to medium-low; cook for 25-30 minutes or until onion is golden brown and liquid is evaporated, stirring occasionally.

- Transfer to a bowl. Stir in sour cream, spinach and salt. Refrigerate leftovers.

Mini chicken empanadas

Prep: 30 minutes; Bake: 15 minutes/ batch; Makes: 2 ½ dozen

1 cup finely chopped cooked chicken

2/3 cup shredded Colby-Monterey Jack cheese

3 tbsp cream cheese

4 tsp chopped sweet red pepper

2 tsp chopped and de-seeded jalapeño pepper

1 tsp cumin

½ tsp salt

½ tsp pepper

2 sheets refrigerated pie crust

Egg wash and salsa verde

Method:

- Preheat oven to 400° F. In a small bowl, combine first eight ingredients. On a lightly floured surface, roll each dough into a 15-inch circle. Cut with a floured 3-inch round biscuit cutter.

- Place about 1 tsp filling on one half of each circle. Moisten edges with water. Fold crust over filling and press edges with a fork to seal.

- Transfer to greased or parchment covered baking sheets. If desired, brush with egg wash. Bake until golden brown: 12-15 minutes. Remove to wire racks. Serve warm with salsa if desired.

Warning: be careful with jalapeño peppers around your eyes. Wash hands thoroughly.

Crab au gratin spread

Takes: 30 minutes; Makes: 2 cups

2 tbsp plus 1 tsp butter, divided

3 tbsp all-purpose flour

1 tsp salt

1 tsp paprika

½ cup half-and-half cream

½ cup 2% milk

¼ cup white wine or chicken broth

1 can crabmeat, drained, flaked and cartilage removed or 2/3 cup chopped imitation crabmeat.

1 can mushroom stems and pieces, drained and chopped

1 ½ tsp minced chives

½ cup shredded cedar cheese

1 tbsp dry breadcrumbs

Assorted crackers and fresh vegetables

Method:

- In a large saucepan, melt 2 tbsp butter. Stir in flour, salt and paprika until smooth. Gradually add in half-and-half, milk and wine. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until sauce has thickened. Stir in crab, mushrooms and chives; heat through. Stir in cheese until just melted.

- Transfer to a greased, shallow, one-quart baking dish. Melt the remaining butter; toss breadcrumbs. Sprinkle over crab mixture. Bake uncovered at 400°F for 10-15 minutes or until bubbly. Let stand 5 minutes. Serve with crackers and vegetables and, if desired, additional minced chives.

To Make Ahead: Prepare the

melted cheese mixture and transfer to a one-quart baking dish. Cover and refrigerate up to two days. Remove mixture from refrigerator; let come to room temperature and then proceed with the recipe as directed.

Effortless eggrolls

Takes: 30 minutes; Makes: 10 egg rolls

½ lb bulk pork sausage

2 ½ cups frozen stir-fry vegetable blend - thawed and chopped.

1 tbsp teriyaki sauce

10 eggroll wrappers

Oil for frying

Method:

- In a large skillet, cook the sausages and vegetables over medium heat until meat is no longer pink; drain.

- Place 3 tbsp sausage mix in the centre of each egg-roll wrapper. Keep remaining wrappers covered with a damp towel. Fold the bottom corner over the filling, fold the sides toward the centre of the filling. Moisten remaining corner with water; roll up tightly to seal. Repeat.

- In a skillet, heat one inch of oil to 375°F. Fry each eggroll in batches for 3-4 minutes. Drain on paper towels.

LARGE FABRIC SALE IN LOVELY LAKESIDE

Saturday, September 28th
Church Hall, 256554 Sunova Crescent
10 am - 4 pm

All proceeds of this quilter's estate sale go to charity

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SWEETS - \$3 SANDWICHES - \$5
(Outdoor seating and tables)

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Ask the Arborist

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



Dear Arborist,

Is the Devil's Tower Monument in the United States really a giant tree stump? My teacher says I should stop reading things on the internet

Sincerely

Liam

Dear Liam,

It certainly looks like a giant tree stump. There was a man who claimed to dig underneath it and was said to have discovered roots. However, most people think he was insane.

The Devil's Tower National Monument is located in Wyoming and is 867 ft tall. It

is considered a natural rock formation by experts. While it looks like a tree stump, in the official narrative it is not, though it is fun to speculate.

A tree that size would be around 12 km high and at least 6 km wide. Considering the tallest tree in the world is The Hyperion standing at 377 ft, it is rather unlikely.

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

Riddles

- What do you get if you throw butter?
A butterfly
- Why did the boy throw the clock out of the window?
He wanted to see time fly
- How many animals of each species did Moses take aboard the ark with him?
None, it was Noah's ark
- Why did the goose cross the road?
He didn't want to be called a chicken
- What was the name of Noah's wife?
Yesa
- What do miners put on their face at night?
Coal cream
- Why don't football players get hot?
Because of all their fans
- What kind of flower lives between your mouth and your chin?
Two-lips
- Where can you always find happiness?
In a dictionary
- What has two heads, one tail and six legs?
A man on a horse

- Word Search -

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

- Community Centre
- Midway
- Fair ambassador
- Pie auction
- Parade
- Exhibits
- Railroad display
- Pony rides
- Escape room
- Dog show
- Foot race
- Social tent
- Outdoor stage
- Livestock shows
- Baby show



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

How did the hamburger introduce his new girlfriend?



Meat Patty!

Dax Petrie (2.5)

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

TONS OF FUN FOR KIDS EVERY WEEK!

PET OF THE WEEK

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



Our Pet of the Week is Tabatha. This 14-week-old playful kitten was a rescue feline from Heavenly Hills Animal Sanctuary and is looking for a forever home. If you are interested in adopting Tabatha and would like to meet her, she is currently housed at Pet Valu, St. Marys.



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

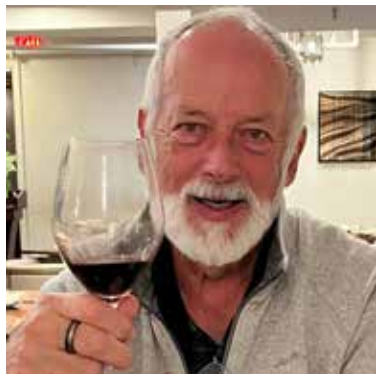
'Fall' Awareness

Many of our furry friends love to chew on sticks, pinecones or even pine needles. However, if ingested, these fun objects could damage or puncture your pets intestines. Acorns should be avoided aswell; they are toxic to dogs and could cause an obstruction.

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

COLUMN

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Highlights of a highlight city – Budapest



By Paul Knowles

As a dedicated and certified old curmudgeon, I have to admit I abhor the idea of “selfie spots” – popular places where tourists ignore amazing surroundings to take photos of themselves. But bowing to the need for truth in journalism, I also have to admit I could not resist taking some selfies as we stood high on the Fisherman’s Bastion with a background of the Danube River, the ornate Hungarian Parliament and the iconic Chain Bridge – just a few of the features that make the city of Budapest a treat for photographers, artists and visitors in general.

Budapest was the final port of call on our “romantic” Danube River cruise aboard the Viking Var. We were supposed to sail from Vienna to Budapest, but unusually high water in the Danube meant this last leg of our wonderful journey was done by coach.

Some travellers might complain about such a change in plans, but I found it intriguing – when else will I get the opportunity to travel through the agriculturally rich coun-

tryside of Hungary?

And our time in Budapest was not limited by the change. We were part of an excursion dubbed “Panoramic Budapest,” part by coach and part walking tour through the landmarks of Buda.

Historically, Buda and Pest were two individual cities, or actually, more than that. Buda, Pest and a third community named Obuda were amalgamated into one in 1873. Other smaller towns have been merged since. Obuda has the longest known history, dating back to occupation by Celtic tribes and eventually conquered by the forces of the Roman Empire in the first century.

Personally, I find the much more recent history to be equally intriguing.

Hungary was an ally of Hitler’s Nazi regime in World War II. At the end of that conflict, it was occupied by Russia and only became a democratic state in 1989 following the collapse of the U.S.S.R after decades of communist rule.

So, while visitors can marvel at the architecture and art of this beautiful city, there are also stark reminders of these dark times in the history of Hungary. Most moving is the memorial, Shoes on the Danube Bank, on the Pest shore near the parliament buildings. This art installation, created in 2005 by Can Togay, is a monument to the Hungarian Jews who, in the winter of 1944-1945, were shot on the banks of the Danube River

by the members of the Arrow Cross Party, a far-right ultra-nationalist party that briefly followed in the footsteps of the Nazis until Hungary was occupied by the Soviets.

Today, in sharp contrast, Hungary is a welcoming and open country, and a member of the European Union. That being said, it has not adopted the euro as currency unlike all of the other countries that you will visit on the Danube River cruises, although the euro and the American dollar tend to be welcomed everywhere. You might get your change in Hungarian forints, however.

There are a great many highlights on your visit to Budapest. I mentioned the parliament, a huge, neo-Gothic building on the Pest shore of the Danube. The sprawling building boasts 24 towers, 691 rooms, 29 staircases and, according to our acerbic guide, entirely too many members of the National Assembly. There are now 199 representing a country of 9.6 million. Until 2014, there were 386! The current ratio in Hungary is one member for every 48,000 people. In Canada, by comparison, the ratio is one to 115,000.

The Fisherman’s Bastion on the Buda side is part of the Castle District, which includes the beautiful Church of Our Lady of Buda Castle, also known as the Church of the Assumption of the Buda Castle and the Matthias Church, and the Coronation Church of Buda. By any name, it is yet another elegant feature in this unique city.



Fishermen’s Bastion. Photos by Paul Knowles

There are plenty of other ways to spend your time in Budapest. It is world famous for its thermal baths. The heart of Pest, especially, boasts a thriving culinary scene and plenty of night spots, and there is a lengthy menu of museums and art galleries.

But perhaps my favourite thing to do here is simply stroll along the banks of the Danube River. You will see all the sights – and it’s worth visiting both sides of the river to capture the views of Pest from Buda and vice versa, not to mention the most striking link between the two – the Chain Bridge, best seen at night when it is beautifully il-

luminated. We spent our last night on the trip at the Intercontinental Hotel on the Pest bank where our room offered a spectacular, sunset view of the Chain Bridge, the Danube and the far shore of Buda.

As you may have guessed, I am a fan of river cruises and I must say that a cruise that ends in the intriguing city of Budapest is a cruise that introduces travellers to unique and unusual sights, tastes and experiences not to be missed.

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.



The view of Pest and the Hungarian Parliament from the Fishermen’s Bastion in Buda.

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BEST WISHES ONLY

THANK YOU

The St. Marys Kinsmen, 2 of Stratford's Rotary Clubs, and the Optimist Club of Downie would like to thank all the businesses who sponsored and donated to our second car, truck, motorcycle and tractor show in St. Pauls on September 14, 2024. It turned out to be another fantastic day. We had over 75 cars, 16 trucks, 21 tractors, 4 motorcycles, and 2 snowmobiles. We raised over \$800.00 for the Aqua Box program, over \$200.00 for the food banks along with 70 kg of food (154 lb.), and over \$200.00 for the St. Marys Youth Center.

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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2023
10:00 A.M TIL 2:00 P.M

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Browns School is south of St. Marys, west of Medina on Road 92 at Line 13 - about 1km east of Cobble Hills Road.

For more information or to register your vehicle call **Max Muir at 519-860-1753**



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WANTED FOR MIXED CRIBBAGE NIGHT

Folks that want to play Cribbage on a casual basis can come to the Royal Canadian Legion every Tuesday night starting **October 8th** and ending in April with a break for Christmas.

Game time is 7:00pm-9:00pm (?)

Skill level is not important as it is just for fun. Let us know by the end of September if you wish to play, or show up the first night.

You are NOT OBLIGATED to play every night.
Cost is \$2 from each player per game night.
You DO NOT have to be a Legion member to play.

Contact **Vic Mansfield 519-284-1542** or **Don Feeney at donfeeney@quadro.net**

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR EXETER CHAPTER #222

BBQ HALF CHICKEN DINNER

SAT. OCTOBER 19, 2024
Prepared by Pineridge Barbeque Co.
Served by Exeter Eastern Star Members

Includes: homemade potato salad, creamy coleslaw, Pineridge baked beans, roll & butter, Jumbo Soft Cookies

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C. McRoberts - 519-236-4134



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COMMUNITY

Rotary Club makes annual donation to St. Marys library



What a beautiful day to gather in the Rotary Reading Gardens at the St. Marys Carnegie Public Library. On Friday, Sept. 13, members of the Rotary Club of St. Marys presented their annual donation which covers the cost of books donated to the library in honour of their guest speakers. Pictured in the back row from left are Ron Aitken, Pierre Chateauvert, Peter McAsh, Ed Parkinson and club president Mark Oliver. In the front row from left are library literacy chair Linda Schuyler, library collections officer Kate Long and library CEO Sarah Andrews. Contributed photo

LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

Cow crossing

25 years ago (1999)

In the past three years, approximately \$145,000 has been spent on upgrades, both inside and outside, to the St. Marys and Area Arena and Community Centre. Most recently, the parking lot was paved at a cost of about \$25,000.

Jamie Hahn has been busy with many media interviews after recently proposing that the Timothy Eaton statue should be moved from Toronto to St. Marys. LACAC member Larry Pfaff said the idea of bringing the statue to St. Marys was a good one.

Police investigated a collision on Highway 7 in Blanshard on Monday evening. Donald McDonald of Mount Elgin was driving a 1998 Ford van when he struck a cow that was crossing Highway 7. The vehicle received severe damage and the cow was killed.

50 years ago (1974)

Building for the first half of September set no records with permits limited to a total of \$50,300 on two new homes: one on Church Street South and one on James Street North, plus one renovation permit.

Eleven courses have been proposed for the 1974-75 night school program at St. Marys D.C.V.I. Courses proposed include upholstery, auto mechanics for ladies, physical fitness for ladies, basic radio and television, chair caning, and painting.

Sheila Armstrong of St. Pauls retained her title as Perth County Dairy Princess on Monday night at the Stratford Fall Fair.

75 years ago (1949)

Beaver Lumber Co. has the contract to supply the building materials for seven new homes being built in London.

Jim Dutch, son of Ernest Dutch, is to have the medical expenses for his broken hand paid for by the Hespeler Town Council. Jim had the misfortune to break a bone while helping Hespeler police battle "zoot-suiters" in that town a few weeks ago.

Mr. William H. Mossip observed his 87th birthday today. Billy is as hearty as ever and has been very active these past few months looking after the affairs of the Perth South Agricultural Society of which he has been a member for 76 years.

100 years ago (1924)

Clifton Brown of the Chevrolet garage, Water Street, has stocked a complete line of radio parts and receiving equipment. He will be pleased to meet all the fans and listen to their needs when fitting up for the long winter night concerts. If you haven't got your set yet, he will be pleased to quote you prices on the best equipment.

There are a few places around town where noxious weeds have been permitted to grow unmolested. A scythe or sickle for an hour would do good execution.

Automobiles, buggies and trains are each all right in their place, but when they begin to dispute the right-of-way, someone is sure to get hurt and probably killed.

Sudoku

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Solutions on page 31

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

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 25

Friday, September 20

- Thorndale Fall Fair - Gates open at 5 p.m.
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns vs LaSalle Vipers at the PRC - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 21

- Thorndale Fall Fair - Gates open at 8 a.m.
- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 a.m. to Noon.
- Station Gallery reception for Garlick/Karas exhibit - 1-4 p.m.
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 p.m.
- First Baptist Church music night featuring Chet Greason & Aimee Jesso - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 22

- Thorndale Fall Fair - Gates open at 8 a.m.
- June Blaine's 80th birthday celebration at Sebringville Community Centre - 4-6 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Chatham Maroons at Chatham Memorial Arena - 7 p.m.

Monday, September 23

- Stonetown Travel info session on Scenic & Emerald cruises at the PRC - 2 p.m.
- Community Dinner at the St. Marys United Church - 5 p.m., Sponsored by McLean Taylor

Thursday, September 26

- Thames Centre public information session on Thorndale wastewater treatment plant expansion at Thorndale Lions Community Centre - 5-7 p.m.

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