

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1235

Thursday, October 31, 2024

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DRESS LIKE TREATS, GET TREATS (NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)
At last Saturdays Pet Parade, Isla Timmons was very proud of her dog, Pearl, who is a golden retriever mix. Pearl was dressed as a gumball machine with a sign saying each gumball was 25 cents each.

St. Marys council officially proclaims Dec. 3, 2024 as Giving Tuesday

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As they have for the past six years, St. Marys council is once again encouraging the overwhelming generosity of town residents by proclaiming Dec. 3, 2024, as Giving Tuesday. The annual proclamation was requested by St. Marys Giving Tuesday committee chair Julie Docker Johnson at council's Oct. 22 regular meeting.

"Giving Tuesday is the largest one day of giving worldwide," Johnson said. "Last year, \$15 million was raised in 24 hours in this world. In (St. Marys), we did very well as well. Our theme last year was 'Won't You Be My Neighbour' and it really resonated with people easily. Whether it was people's neighbours, whether it was their business, whether it was their hockey team, whatever it was, they understood that being somebody's neighbour was about being there, about doing something for somebody whether it was fundraising or collecting things.

"So, we decided (the theme) had legs to go for probably three years – this will be our second year. And our theme got a lot of interest from Giving Tuesday Canada, from other Giving Tuesdays worldwide; we let them use it if people don't know and need an idea. So, we gave Giving Tuesday Canada permission to share Won't You Be My Neighbour and we shared all of our information with them so they can use everything as a template."

Giving Tuesday was founded in 2012 and brought to Canada in 2013. It is a movement

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Stonetown Cheese wins awards at Royal Agricultural Winter Fair cheese competition

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

A selection of local artisanal cheese from St. Marys recently earned some accolades from the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

Stonetown Artisanal Cheese announced on Facebook Oct. 23 that the cheesemaking team won several honours in the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair's Cheese Competition. Stonetown Cheese won first place and

second place in the category, Firm or Hard - Surface Ripened, Natural or Brushed Rind for their Wildwood and Grand Trunk cheeses, respectively. The artisanal cheese producers also earned the second-place prize for their fontina cheese in the Semi-Soft, Interior Ripened category and the fourth-place prize for Surface Ripened with their homecoming cheese.

"We're always excited to win something,"

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

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COMMUNITY

Stonetown Cheese wins awards at Royal Agricultural Winter Fair cheese competition

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

said Ramon Eberle, Stonetown Cheese’s co-owner and cheese-maker. “We don't take it for granted. It's an honour and it just shows that what we're doing here, we're doing a good job, and we have steady quality.”

Eberle said there are several factors including taste and flavour to consider when picking the cheeses worthy to enter in the contest. Appearance and age are also considered. The cheeses usually age best between three to 18 months.

“Every cheese we make here has a different peak when it comes to that flavour and look and everything,” Eberle said.

Stonetown Cheese sent eight different kinds of cheeses to be judged.

“You always kind of try to pick the best batch from production,” Eberle said. “When I tried each cheese, I was just happy. I had a good feeling sending them in. It's not always like that. Sometimes it's like 'I'm not sure if that's going to win something,' but I just felt good trying all the cheese and the quality was good.”

Eberle said earning the accolades from the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair will boost Stonetown Cheese’s reputation.

“When it comes to artisanal cheese, you almost try to build a fanbase of people that recognize your brand and recognize your product,” he said. “and keep buying them over and over again and like what you do.”



(PHOTO COURTESY OF RACHEL DUNDAS)

Pictured from left to right are Nathan Grant and Ramon Eberle of Stonetown Cheese with the four prize-winning cheeses earning accolades at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair cheese competition.

St. Marys council officially proclaims Dec. 3, 2024 as Giving Tuesday

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

where communities come together around a common geography or a common cause to collaborate, innovate and inspire their communities to make a difference. These community campaigns find creative ways to mobilize their networks, host volunteer events, raise funds for their local organizations, spark kindness and much more.

Giving Tuesday was brought to St. Marys for the first time in 2017 with 18 partners choosing to give to whichever cause and in whatever way that was closest to their hearts – whether that was raising money, collecting donated items, building awareness or volunteering their time. Last year with the launch of the Won't You be My Neighbour campaign, the local Giving Tuesday movement grew to more than 100 partners.

“Last year, we were able, as a com-

munity, to help 28 different charities or organizations in that one day,” Johnson said. “There was lots of double-up in what people did, but ... hundreds and hundreds of pounds of food were donated to the food bank, to the library pantry. Cases and cases of hygiene products were delivered to the food bank, to the library pantry, the Emily Murphy Centre, Optimism Place. Again, we don't get all the information as much as I beg, (but) we know we raised more than \$10,000 that went to different organizations and charities.

“And again, this was all in one day that was, of course, quite cold and blustery because that's what happens on Giving Tuesday. So many people are participating, but so many people are benefiting. That's what makes it amazing.”

In support of this year's Giving Tuesday in St. Marys, the town will raise the

Giving Tuesday flag in front of town hall at 10 a.m. Nov. 18 as town residents brainstorm and prepare for this day of giving on Dec. 3.



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Feels Like 24	Feels Like 23	Feels Like 3	Feels Like 9	Feels Like 10	Feels Like 13	Feels Like 21

Broken Rail Brewing supports Save Local Craft Beer campaign

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

Broken Rail Brewing, a craft brewery in St. Marys, is advocating for lower taxes on craft breweries amid the launch of a new Ontario Craft Brewers campaign.

Ontario Craft Brewers launched the Save Local Craft Beer campaign on Oct. 16, advocating for tax relief for craft brewers across the province. The campaign follows the Keep Craft Beer Local campaign and underscores the fact Ontario's craft breweries are struggling because of high taxes. Ontario Craft Brewers said Ontario breweries pay about eight times as much in beer taxes as Alberta.

"It's a major sticking point for all small breweries and even mid-sized, larger breweries as well," said Ryan Leaman, co-founder and head brewer of Broken Rail Brewing. "It consumes a very large portion of your can price in retail to your customer."

The Ontario Government's beer and wine tax webpage lists the tax rate for microbreweries as 35.96 cents per litre for draft beer and 39.75 cents per litre for non-draft beer. There is also a beer-volume tax listed at 17.6 cents per litre and an environmental tax of 8.93 for each



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Broken Rail Brewing in St. Marys.

non-refillable container like a beer can. "It's a very complex system," Leaman said. "It's not simple like, say, HST where you pay 13 per cent."

The Ontario Government's website also indicates the current tax rates are effective until Feb. 28, 2026, with the next scheduled adjustment on March 1, 2026. However, Ontario Craft Brewers is calling for an immediate decrease.

"Quite frankly, a lot of small craft breweries are really, really struggling right now," Leaman said, "because we see a bit of a downturn with people just being mindful of their spending. Some are trying to be a little more health conscious."


"It's been a tough time in this industry. A lot of guys are really struggling. Some tax relief would go a long way."

Leaman said times have been tough for Broken Rail Brewing from the beginning. The brewery, which was also envisioned as a social hub, opened during COVID-19 restrictions when social gatherings were either not happening at all or limited. For Broken Rail Brewing, tax relief could mean saving tens of thousands of dollars annually. The brewery could also bring in more equipment and workers.


Leaman said the Save Local Craft Beer campaign website has an option where concerned craft-beer drinkers and brewers can email their local MPP, including Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae. He also said visiting craft breweries such as Broken Rail, Stratford's Black Swan Brewing Co. and Woodstock's Upper Thames Brewing Co. will greatly help the breweries.

"There's a lot more margins in house, so that definitely goes a very long way rather than some other retailer. Quite frankly, a lot of the small craft breweries can't get into those retail spaces," Leaman said. "It's critical to have people come and shop in house."

More information about the Save Local Craft Beer campaign can be found by visiting www.savelocalcraftbeer.ca.



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GIVING TUESDAY Dec 3

For More Information Contact: jdockerjohnson@gmail.com

Bravo

Boo

We have 2 Bravos this week.

- 1) Bravo to all the houses decorated for Halloween. Great to see so many taking part in the fun.
- 2) Bravo to the person who called in the early morning fire at St. Marys Coin Op Car Wash last weekend, and to the St. Marys fire department for their prompt response.

We have 1 Boo this week.

- 1) Boo to the people that make U turns that danger themselves and others and in spots they are not supposed to.

*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

"She's actually imploding, if you take a look, because look, I'm not supposed to say it, but we are leading by so much."

- Donald Trump said last week, as he lays groundwork for contesting next week's U.S. Election against Kamala Harris.

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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Remember to check your child's Halloween candy before you sneak some.

What does a ghost like most about the St. Marys Independent newspaper? He is just here for the boooo's.

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

GRANT HAVEN MEDIA

Restoring small-town journalism, one community at a time!

St. Marys Independent

Publisher

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Regional Editor

Galen Simmons • galen@granthaven.com

Graphic Design / Sales Inquiries

Tyler Carruthers • info@stmarysindependent.com

Business Development

Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Billing Administrator

Cindy Boakes • boakescindy1576@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant

Wendy Lamond • wendylamond74@gmail.com

Contributors

June Grant, Nancy Bickell, Mary Smith, Nancy Abra, Lauren Eedy, Spencer Seymour, Sarah Cairns, Paul Knowles, Jake Grant

36 Water St. St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2
info@stmarysindependent.com | 519.284.0041 | granthaven.com



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The St. Marys Independent THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK

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- Step 2. Click play on the online player



Stratford General Hospital Foundation requests \$300,000 contribution from St. Marys

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Stratford General Hospital Foundation (SGHF) is hoping the Town of St. Marys will help it meet the \$30-million goal for its In Our Hands capital campaign with a 10-year contribution of \$300,000.

The SGHF made the request at the Oct. 22 regular council meeting for councillors to consider as they make their way through the 2025 budget process, which just saw its first budget meeting on Oct. 15. To convince council of the importance the Stratford General Hospital plays for St. Marys residents, SGHF chair Josef Frank and campaign co-chair Paul Roulston shared statistics illustrating the hospital's use by locals.

"Of the inpatient care performed at the Stratford General Hospital, about 59 per cent was for Stratford residents and about 10 per cent of the care, 486 patients in the 2023-2024 year, (was for St. Marys patients)," Frank said. "For outpatient surgical care, of the surgeries performed, about 14 per cent of the outpatient surgical care was received by the Town of St. Marys residents, or about 784 residents specifically."

Similarly, St. Marys patients accounted for 16 per cent (194) of the patients who received cancer care in Stratford in 2023-2024, 11 per cent (71) of the people who received inpatient-obstetrical care, 13 per cent (32) of the kids who received inpatient-pediatric care and 13 per cent (216) of the total number of people who received MRI exams in Stratford in the last fiscal year.

"All of the equipment – everything that is needed to make the hospital work other than the people and the building – is provided and fundraised for by the Stratford General Hospital Foundation," Frank said.

"Without our donors, we have nothing, really," added Roulston. "Every piece of equipment that's in our building is there because somebody cared. ... We started this project at the end of 2020, a project we have referred to as the In Our Hands campaign, because, really, the future is in our hands because it's up to us to basically raise for everything that's in this project."

Broken down, the campaign goal of \$30 million includes \$15 million for a new cancer and medical-care clinic with a co-located pharmacy, \$8.5 million for new and replacement medical equipment, \$4 million for lab improvements, \$1 million for transformative initiatives like mental-health technology, \$1 million for staff training and education, and \$500,000 for the redevelopment of communications stations in patient-care units.

Between July 22, 2019, and July 22, 2024, a total of 783 St. Marys residents contributed a combined \$151,651.50 to the campaign.

Roulston and Frank told council the SGHF's request is the same amount the town contributed over 10 years to the SGHF's previous Heart and Soul campaign, which launched in 2009.

"The numbers you have provided show 10-16 per cent (of patients) coming from St. Marys," Coun. Jim Craig-mile said after the SGHF presentation. "The goal is \$30 million and the ask is only one per cent of that. So, I strongly think we should be thinking of this in our budget deliberations."

St. Marys Mayor Al Strathdee told the SGHF representatives that the foundation's requested contribution would be discussed with staff and council at an upcoming budget meeting along with other grant and financial requests being considered by the town for next year.

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



READING BUDDIES PROGRAM

St. Marys Public Library

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townofstmarys.com/library or 519-284-3346

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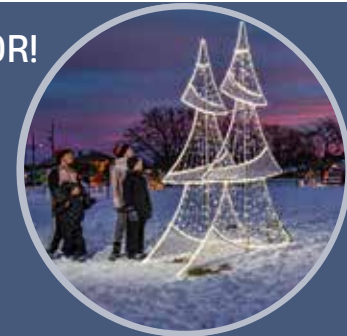
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Seniors of the Week



Our seniors of the week are Bev and Isa Rabbets. The two celebrated their 61st anniversary on Oct. 26. The couple have two children, Tracy and Andrew, a son-in-law, Darrin and daughter-in-law, Melissa. They have four grandchildren with one of them being Councillor/Deputy Mayor Brogan Aylward. Bev was born in Corinth, Ont. and Isa was born in Markinch, Scotland. Bev enjoys doing Sudoku puzzles and Isa loves scrapbooking and making greeting cards.

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

Get a head start on holiday shopping at the 2024 St. Marys Craft Show



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

This year's St. Marys Craft Show on Nov. 16 boasts almost 100 tables of handcrafted goods.

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Friendship Centre's St. Marys Craft Show annually attracts hundreds of local and area shoppers seeking unique, handmade items.

Last year's craft show was an incredible success and the Friendship Centre is eager to welcome shoppers back for another creative showcase! The craft show will take place at the Pyramid Recreation Centre on Saturday, Nov. 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"There's something for everyone at this year's craft

show," St. Marys senior services program coordinator Sarah Jones said in a press release. "We're thrilled to feature over 50 skilled vendors showcasing nearly 100 tables of handcrafted items. This is the perfect opportunity to start your holiday shopping."

Admission to the craft show is by donation. Additionally, there will be an opportunity to donate to the food bank. A light lunch will be available to purchase on site with proceeds benefitting seniors' programs in St. Marys.

Questions about the event can be directed to Jones at 519-284-2340 ext. 621 or sjones@town.stmarys.on.ca.

Weekend Quiz

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16 Water Street South
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- 1) Which Halloween candy was originally referred to as chicken feed?
- 2) Jason wore what type of mask in the Friday the 13th film series?
- 3) Who wrote The Legend of Sleepy Hollow?
- 4) What is a carved pumpkin called?
- 5) Who penned the 1962 song "Monster Mash"?
- 6) Where is Transylvania located?
- 7) True or False. Pumpkins are classified as fruit?
- 8) What do witches traditionally ride on?
- 9) Michael Myers debuted in what movie?
- 10) What day does All Saints' Day fall on?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

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Clocks go back and it's a great time to check those batteries



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Co-op student Kaylea Bains, fire prevention officer Brian Leverton and Hairitage Salon owner Jenn Burchill would like to remind everyone to not only turn their clocks back one hour this weekend but also to change batteries on all smoke alarms and carbon-monoxide detectors.

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

Get ready for an extra hour of sleep this weekend as Daylight Savings Time comes to an end for the year and we turn our clocks back an hour.

The official time of the change is on Sunday Nov. 3 at 2 a.m. We will have more light in the morning, but it will get dark earlier in the evening. Many devices such as phones and computers will automatically change but there may be some non-smart devices that will need to be changed manually.

During this time, the St. Marys Fire Department would also like to remind everyone to make another change that could be life saving and a great habit to get into while adjusting those clocks. The fire department suggest replacing the batteries in smoke alarms and carbon-monoxide detectors. Most fatal fires occur at night when people are sleeping. Changing these batteries, testing them

and reminding others to do the same is the simplest and most effect way to stop these tragedies from happening.

“Working smoke alarms provide an early warning and critical extra seconds to escape,” St. Marys fire prevention officers Brian Leverton says.

Approximately two-thirds of all fire deaths occur in homes where there are no working smoke alarms. It is also just as important to check the batteries in carbon-monoxide detectors. Just like smoke alarms, these detectors will also wear out over time and should be replaced every seven years, while smoke alarms should be replaced at 10 years of age.

This is also a good time to go over home fire-escape plans with family so everyone knows the plan. For more information regarding smoke alarms and carbon-monoxide detectors, contact the St. Marys Fire Department at 172 James St. S. or call 519-284-2340.

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The Flour Mill to open Stratford Location

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

The Flour Mill hopes Stratford will get a taste of what the St. Marys culinary destination has to offer.

The business run by mother-daughter duo Tracey Pritchard and Alex O'Shea will be opening a second location at 2 Ontario St., Stratford. O'Shea told the St. Marys Independent that, at first, there were no plans to open another location.

"The owner of the property is a client of ours and approached us one day about taking over the space," O'Shea said. "We laughed at first, but a seed had been planted ... and here we are."

"My mum and I both love the location. Two Ontario Street is such the charming building and has many similar characteristics to our current location. The more we thought about it, the more we could see a Flour Mill in the space."

The Flour Mill announced the new lo-

cation on Instagram on Oct. 5 to a positive response.

"We are so grateful to our clients and their enthusiasm is our greatest motivator. We look forward to serving our new community," O'Shea said.

The St. Marys Flour Mill location at 6 Water St. S will operate as usual with brunches, special events, dine-in service and catering. The Stratford location, which will be known as the Flour Mill Outpost, will be a quarter of the size and offer coffee, beverages, curated items for entertaining guests, snacks, grab-and-go and gourmet-prepared food.

"Selection and design is intended to leave clients wanting more," O'Shea said, "and hopefully a drive to St Marys."

The Flour Mill Outpost is expected to have a pop-up opening in December just in time for the holiday season before closing in January 2025 for renovations.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX O'SHEA)

Mother and daughter Tracey Pritchard and Alex O'Shea of the Flour Mill will be opening a second location in Stratford. The Flour Mill Outpost will offer Stratford a sample of what can be found in the St. Marys culinary destination.

Overnight winter parking ban coming into effect Nov. 1

Ban ensures safe and effective snow removal during winter season

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Town of St. Marys is reminding residents of its overnight winter parking ban, which will come into effect on Nov. 1 and will remain in place until April 30, 2025.

The ban prohibits on-street parking

on all municipal roads and municipal parking lots between the hours of 2 and 6 a.m.

The parking ban ensures the safe, effective, and efficient removal of snow from local roads, making St. Marys safer and more accessible. Vehicles are also prohibited from parking on sidewalks and boulevards. This allows for

sidewalks to be cleared for pedestrians and those with mobility devices.

Downtown residents who do not have access to overnight parking may apply for a parking permit. Permit holders are assigned a dedicated parking stall in an approved municipal parking lot. Visit townofstmarys.com/parking for more information and to apply for or renew a

parking permit.

Bylaw enforcement will be monitoring the parking and responding to non-compliant vehicles. Residents may call the non-emergency line of the Stratford Police Service at 519-271-4141 to report non-compliant vehicles.

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98.25 Acre farm for sale in Perth South, approximately 2 miles north-east of Kirkton on Line 10. Selling land only (house has been severed) with approximately 84 acres of workable land with the balance in woodlot. Land is level, randomly tiled, both Perth and Huron clay loam soils with good natural drainage. Excellent opportunity to add a productive parcel of land to your existing operation.

TENDER DEADLINE: 6:00 pm November 14th, 2024

CLOSING DATE: January 7th, 2024

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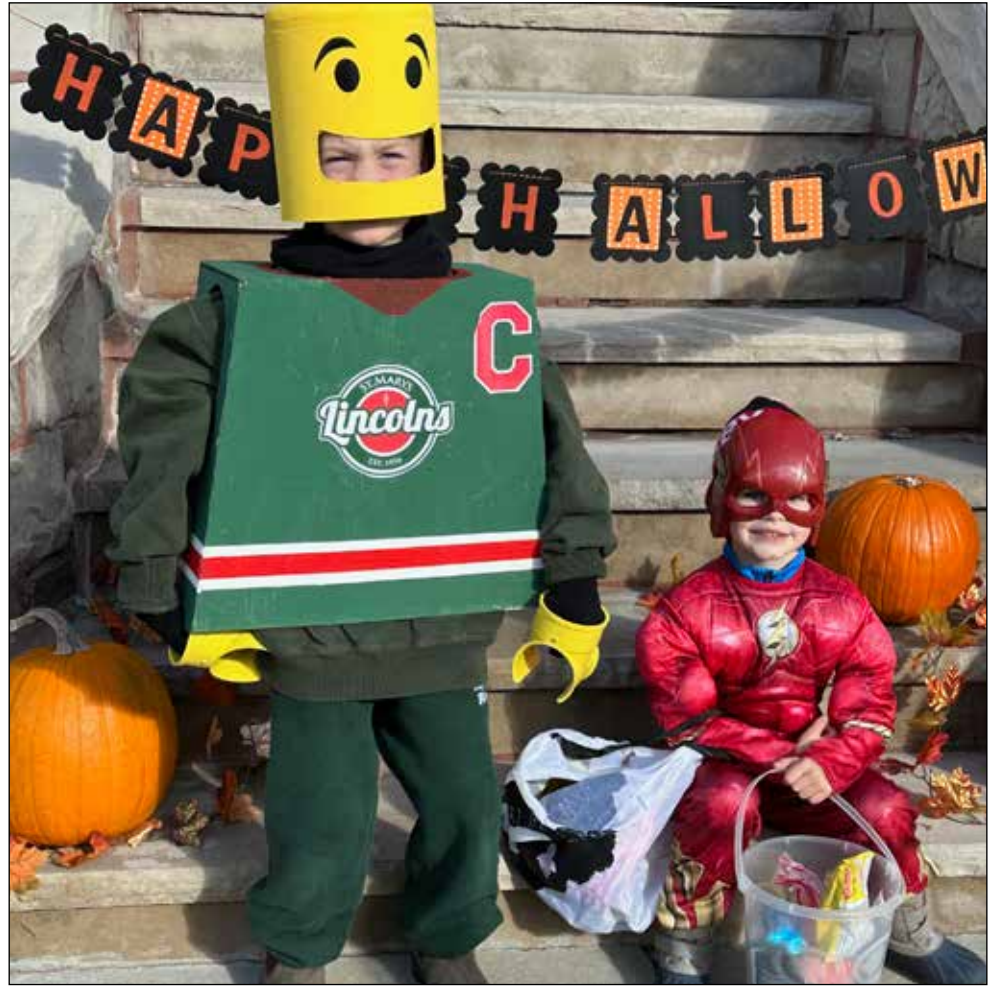
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Costumed pets and their owners parade downtown



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

Many residents and their pets enjoyed the Howl-o-Ween costume contest and parade held Saturday, Oct. 26.



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

Friends Russell Ward, the Lego Lincoln, and Ryerson Somerville, The Flash, participated in the Howl-o-Ween costume contest at the Town Hall.

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Heaven's Gateway Ministries Int'l to open orphanage in Africa

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

Since she was 10 years old, Bishop Janet Jolly-Lockyer has dreamt of helping children in Africa that were less fortunate than herself.

Being raised in England in a middle class, non-religious house, Jolly-Lockyer found it strange how strongly she felt this calling and the feeling that she was here to help other children stayed with her through her first marriage and as she raised her four children. Her drive to serve and determination remained. Fast forward to when she was about 30 years old, she became a Christian and wholeheartedly knew that, at some point, she would be going to Africa to help.

Fast forward again, for many years after losing her husband to cancer, Jolly-Lockyer decided as a widow that she would be more useful in Africa if she was reverend. She attended bible school and became ordained. At that point, she decided to put her savings into three-and-a-half years of school at Cambridge University to receive her ordination. To fill a placement in a church, Jolly-Lockyer decided to come to London, Ont. to help her sick aunt and ended up meeting her current husband, Alec, who has always been her helpmate and right-hand man.

Throughout their 32-year marriage, the pair have spent many years in Africa fulfilling their dream of helping many people through their ministry called Heaven's Gateway Ministries Int'l. The ministry is in six countries in Africa and the dream is to be right across the full country from east coast to west coast.

In two and a half weeks, Jolly-Lockyer is heading back to Africa on Nov. 14 for two months to focus on a new project that has always been on her bucket list – opening an orphanage.

A few months ago, the ministry's deputy was presented with an opportunity in Kenya. Approximately 15 years ago, a Swedish ministry had bought some land and started to build an orphanage in a rural, high-poverty area. However, before the orphanage was finished, the Swedish missionary that was in charge died unexpectedly and it has been sitting dormant since.

The land and orphanage project was ultimately handed over to the Heaven's Gateway Ministries Int'l to finish. Bishop Jolly-Lockyer will be dedicating and opening the orphanage when she is there. The orphanage is for children from two to 15 years of age and was originally planned to home 120. Until everything gets going, the orphanage will start with 50 children and will give kids a home, food, clothes, schooling and training.

There are a couple of extra acres of land that will ideally be used for planting and growing food for the orphanage. All the money being raised is being sent directly to the orphanage to get it ready as soon as possible.

The Lockyer's are having a meet and greet at Snapping Turtle Coffee Roasters in St. Marys on Saturday Nov. 2 from 2-4 p.m. There is also a bowling fundraiser taking place on Nov. 3 from 2-8 p.m. at St. Marys Bowling Lanes.

To learn more about the orphanage and the ministry in Africa, email revjanet.jollylockyer@yahoo.ca or call 519-274-1932.



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Local couple Bishop Janet Jolly-Lockyer and Alec Lockyer are excited about their ministry's new project opening an orphanage in Africa, something Jolly-Lockyer has always wanted to do.



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Spiderella and the *Pantomime Villian Academy* a testament to true English pantomime

JULIA PAUL

Independent Reporter

Perth County Players has decided to produce an English pantomime this year because it has never been done in Stratford.

According to director Chris Leberg, the drive behind the upcoming production of Spiderella and the Pantomime Villian Academy was to do something different, even for the world of pantomime.

“We wanted to do something that was a little different,” said Leberg. “A lot of pantomimes deal with one story, like Cinderella or Sleeping Beauty, Three Little Pigs, Red Riding Hood. But we found this script, Spiderella and the Pantomime Villian Academy, that is a mash-up of a whole lot of fairy tales. This is why you will see Captain Hook and Smee, Wicked Witch of the West, Big Bad Wolf, Aladdin, Tinkerbell, Fairy Godmother. So, there’s this wonderful mashup of characters and storylines on stage. We found the script to be very, very funny. We have an extremely talented cast.”

With two actors from England and Wales, the cast is well-versed in the customary pantomimes from their childhood. Using the United Kingdom actors as advisors, the production is staying true to the pantomime traditions. The

stage may seem minimal, but it is colourful. From authentic costumes to audience participation, there is so much packed into this production.

“(I’m trying) to be as true to an English pantomime as possible,” said Leberg. “We looked up rules of the pantomime and so we’ve tried to stay as true to all of them as we possibly can, incorporating as much humour and the lessons that are learned in a pantomime. This one leans towards kindness to bullies. How do you deal with a bully? That gets resolved at the end.”

The Perth County Players is proud to offer family-friendly tiered pricing. Student tickets are \$15, senior tickets are \$20 and adult tickets are \$25. Tickets can be purchased online at perthcountyplayers.com. Evening shows start Nov. 15 and 22 at 7:30 p.m. Matinee shows are Nov. 16, 17, 23 and 24 at 2 p.m. All performances are at Stratford Intermediate School.

“It will fill you with joy and laughter,” said Leberg. “Sing along whether you like to sing or not, it doesn’t really matter. It’s just good-time entertainment. It’s meant for kids ages six to 96, it doesn’t matter how old you are. If you just want to get away for an hour and a half and have a good time, then come on down to the school.”



(PHOTO COURTESY PERTH COUNTY PLAYERS)

Perth County Players presents Spiderella and the Pantomime Villian Academy beginning Nov. 15. Get tickets at perthcountyplayers.com

The Town of St. Marys

Remembers

Join us in honouring our veterans by taking part in Remembrance Week events

Veterans' Decoration Day

Saturday, November 9, 9 AM - 12 PM

Families and friends of veterans interred at the St. Marys Cemetery are invited to place flags at veterans' graves.

Legion Ceremony & Parade

Sunday, November 10, 12:30 PM

The parade will march from the St. Marys Legion to the Town Hall cenotaph. A ceremony of remembrance will follow.

Remembrance Service

Monday, November 11, 10:45 AM

Mayor Strathdee will lead a ceremony at the cenotaph. The ceremony will be live-streamed on the Town's Facebook page. A Facebook account is not required to view.

St. Marys Museum Exhibit

Opening Monday, November 11

Visit the St. Marys Museum exhibit 'Behind the Battlefield: War on the Home Front' that will be open during regular hours until November 2025.



For more information contact
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More fun to come at Pursuit Climbing at November's Just Show Up event



(JULIA PAUL PHOTO)

Hailey Jackson carves a bat into her pumpkin with the assistance of the Wellspring Stratford's Lisa Stacey at the October's Just Show Up event.



(JULIA PAUL PHOTO)

Gail Fricker (far right), a professional storyteller, gets the crowd excited and waving their hands with an interactive story.

JULIA PAUL

Independent Reporter

Wellspring Stratford has officially launched its Just Show Up program, a monthly gathering for children who have a parent, guardian or grandparent affected by cancer.

On Saturday Oct. 19, the Wellspring team set up their first event, which was pumpkin carving for the children. It was a great success, with refreshments and a storyteller, too.

"We're building a great ambience to host these events," said Todd Goold, registered social worker with Wellspring

Stratford. "I'm really thankful for the Falstaff Centre, that they allow us to come here free of charge to host these amazing events. I would have brought a speaker so I could blare this Halloween music all over the place. That's one thing that's on my checklist for next time."

The next Just Show Up date is Saturday Nov. 16 at Pursuit Climbing. Rock climbers from ages six to 14 can attend from 9-11 a.m.

"I'm happy and I'm excited for next

month at Pursuit Climbing," said Goold. "I hope we get a lot of kids that want to come in. They climb the climbing walls and challenge themselves with that. It's going to be a lot of fun."

For more information or to register, please contact Lisa Stacey at lisa@wellspringstratford.ca or call Wellspring Stratford at 519-271-2232. Just Show Up and all of Wellspring Stratford's programming is open to residents across Perth, Huron and Oxford counties.



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All ready for Halloween



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

So great to see the houses in St. Marys getting into the Halloween Spirit. These houses on Emily Street (above left), Water Street (above right) and Park Street (bottom left) are joining in the fun.



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)



(MURRAY GRANT PHOTO)

Carmen Cubberley recently celebrated her nine-month birthday in a unique way prior to Halloween. She was spotted on the front porch with her parents. The pumpkin provided back support for the little one and made for a wonderful photo to commemorate the occasion.



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Lincs bounce back in Waterloo after losing to Chatham

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

It isn't often that a 4-3 loss can feel like uncharted waters.

However, that was precisely the case when the St. Marys Lincolns suffered their first loss of the season when the Chatham Maroons walked into the Pyramid Recreation Centre (PRC) and left with a 4-3 win, ending the Lincolns' historic win streak at 11 games.

The Lincs' 11 straight victories made up the longest winning streak to start a season in franchise history. Not only was it the first loss of the season for the Lincolns, but it was also the first time they allowed more than three goals in a single game, as well as the first time they have trailed by more than one goal in a game this season.

Head coach Jeff Bradley wasn't overly disappointed in his squad's performance but, in the end, credited the Maroons for executing the little things better than the Lincolns did.

"I certainly don't think we played too poorly," Bradley told the Independent. "I think either team could have won that game, but it came down to minor details and Chatham capitalizing on chances when we didn't. I thought we played hard and we didn't quit. All credit to Chatham; they played a heck of a game."

The Maroons opened the scoring with a powerplay goal by Noah Mathieson, who pounded a one-timer by goaltender Nico Armellin on a set-up pass by Connor Hunt. Along with Hunt, Blain Bacik picked up an assist.

Approximately seven minutes later, Lee had a goal disallowed due to the net going off its moorings before Lee could tap home the rebound. However, just seconds later, Lee tucked a backhand shot by Maroons' netminder Gannon Hunter to tie the game at one apiece. Luca Spagnolo and Julian Stubgen earned the assists.

Just one minute and 17 seconds later, Ryan Cornfield scored a powerplay goal assisted by Jacob McLellan and Zander Kehego, putting the Lincs ahead 2-1. However, before the first period was done, Colton Graham answered for Chatham, beating Armellin for his fifth of the year, tying the game 2-2 going into the second.

Bradley said the team wasn't getting



(MCGINNY PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

Jaden Lee scores a goal during the St. Marys Lincolns game against the Chatham Maroons on Oct. 25. Lee finished the weekend with three goals and one assist in the Lincolns' two games.

enough high-danger scoring chances in the 20 minutes, something the group discussed during the intermission.

"That was something we talked about after the first period. It's nice to get shots, we're encouraging our players to shoot the puck, but shots from the outside, you're more just getting the other goalie into a groove when there isn't any traffic in front. We weren't making life really tough on him, so that was something we talked about and I thought we did a better job of that in the second and third, but it took us a bit too long to find that urgency and establish our presence in front of the net."

After a scoreless middle period, Hunt followed Ian Lachance in scoring two goals in just 26 seconds for the Maroons in the third frame. The two quick goals put the Lincolns behind by two goals for the first time this season, a deficit that held until the 14:54 mark of the third when Jacob Montesi netted his first of the season, with Lee picking up the lone assist.

Bradley felt lapses in judgment were largely responsible for their defeat.

"The powerplay goals cancel each other out, but you look at their other goals, and it's Chatham capitalizing on mistakes. We had a bit of bad luck on one of the goals, but the other two were Chatham taking advantage of us

either turning it over or making mistakes, whereas we had all those chances on the five-on-three and one with a wide-open net that we just weren't able to bury on."

The Lincolns were playing with 11 forwards and seven defencemen, with forwards Ryan Hodgkinson and Noah VandenBrink not dressing, the former due to injury and the latter due to being on vacation. As a result, the left side of the team's forward group was reduced to Chase MacQueen-Spence, Owen Voortman and Blake Elzinga.

"We rolled through three left wingers, Chase, Owen and Blake, and considering the amount of ice time they played, they played some really good minutes for us," Bradley said. "They played really hard, they were reliable offensively and defensively, and I thought they did some really good things that helped us really stay in the game."

Bradley also mentioned his team's need to play with better discipline, as the game against the Maroons marked the fourth game of the Lincolns' last six in which St. Marys has played short-handed at least five times in a game.

"We're only around the middle of the league when it comes to penalty minutes, but I still think we're taking too many penalties. We're fortunate to have a great penalty kill, but we're putting

a lot of extra pressure on those guys. We can't control refereeing, so there is no point in getting frustrated with it, even if it's understandable sometimes. We can only control what we do, so we need to do a better job at playing with more discipline."

Lincs bounce back in 4-2 win over K-W

The Lincolns rebounded on Oct. 27, getting back in the win column by doubling up the Kitchener-Waterloo Siskins by a final score of 4-2.

"I thought we played really well yesterday and, if not for their goaltender having an amazing game, the score could have been quite a bit more lopsided," Bradley said. "Especially earlier in the game, I thought we dominated and gave (the Siskins) very little. So, I was very happy with our performance."

Heading into the game, the head coach said the team was both excited for more available space on the larger rink and focused on having better intensity.

"We talked about some core concepts that we preach and take options away up ice, which I thought we did. Our forechecking was great, which was something else we talked about, but just as important was having good puck support on the big ice. You can get lost at times when you're on a bigger ice surface so supporting the puck the way we did was really important."

"I think any chance to get to play on Olympic-size ice, the players are certainly excited," Bradley continued. "They get to show off their talents and they get to hold onto the puck a little bit longer. Playing in some of the smaller rinks, you have to make plays a bit quicker and there is more pressure to make good decisions quickly. So, when we play on an ice surface that big, it's a treat."

Bradley added their gameplan was executed much better against the Siskins than against the Maroons.

"Kitchener-Waterloo and Chatham play very similar styles in that they are very good offensively and they try to look for a lot of options up the ice. We play a very frustrating style for our opponent and if we play it properly, it puts a lot of pressure on the other team. We did a great job of taking away their options up ice, which forced their

CONTINUED TO PAGE 15

Lincs bounce back in Waterloo after losing to Chatham

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

defencemen to hang to it a bit longer, which then allowed our forechecking forwards to strip pucks and generate chances.”

The Lincs were largely dominant in the first period, outshooting the Siskins 15-5 in the first 20 minutes. Voortman, who entered the game with just one goal in his previous six games, tallied a goal at the 11:23 mark of the opening frame on an abbreviated St. Marys powerplay. Siskins’ netminder Nolan Chartrand turned away the Lincolns’ 14 other shots and was largely responsible for the Siskins staying in the game.

The powerplay goal kept the Lincolns’ man advantage rolling along at a consistently strong clip, with the team currently having at least one powerplay goal in 12 of their 13 games so far this year.

With nine minutes and 22 seconds left in the second and a delayed Siskins’ penalty, Lee found the back of the net to put the Lincs up by two. Just under four minutes later, after several big stops by Colby Booth-Housego, Devon Ferroni whacked home a rebound to get Kitchener-Waterloo on the scoresheet. A mere 49 seconds later, while on a powerplay, Lee scored his second of the game and ninth of the season.

MacQueen-Spence picked up assists on all three Lincolns’ goals, the first two of which gave the 19-year-old 100 career GOJHL points. MacQueen-Spence heads into the Lincs’ game on Nov. 1 against the Caledonia Corvairs with points in eight of his last nine outings, including nine points in his last five.

Spagnolo, Ethan Coups and Ryder Livermore all added an assist through the first two periods.

Bradley felt many of his top players turned in elite-level showings.

“Luca (Spagnolo) and Jaden (Lee) had another big game for us. They got back to how they were playing a few weeks ago which was a really elite level. We paired centres and right wingers up and rotated our left wingers through all the lines again, and I thought our three guys on the left side did well. Chase (MacQueen-Spence) and Owen (Voortman) in particular were great. It’s tougher in that kind of situation to build chemistry but I thought our guys did really well.”

St. Marys maintained a two-goal lead for much of the third until Liam King deflected a point shot from Jackson Cunningham-Louks past Booth-Housego to cut the Lincolns’ lead to one. However, Booth-Housego stood tall the rest of the way before Voortman iced the game with his second of the afternoon fired into an empty net. Owen Kalp earned the only assist.

The team’s response to losing their first of the season was praised by the bench boss.

“Some of these guys haven’t lost a game that meant something since May, and the last time they lost, it was a pretty devastating one,” said Bradley. “A big part of our pregame conversation was reminding ourselves how we turned that loss in May into a big positive that we built off of coming into this year. It was important to take our game against Chatham in the same manner and we did that.”



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

St. Marys Lincolns’ forward Chase MacQueen-Spence poses with his taped puck, commemorating his 100th career GOJHL point. MacQueen-Spence reached the milestone on Oct. 27 in the Lincs’ 4-2 win over the Kitchener-Waterloo Siskins as part of a three-point game for the Lincolns’ assistant captain.

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DCVI Junior Girls preserve unbeaten record

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The St. Marys DCVI Junior Girls basketball team stayed undefeated with a pair of victories on Oct. 23 over South Huron and Stratford District Secondary School (SDSS).

Head coach Tim O'Connor told the Independent he continued to see progression from his young squad.

"There were lots of good things in our games today," said O'Connor. "Our defensive effort was pretty good. They make themselves hard to score on. Even the first-year players are getting back and I can put someone in without them being totally confused. I'm recognizing that we've got to do a bit more boxing out because we're not getting as many rebounds as we would like to. We've got really good patience with the ball, which is good for younger players to have early on. We may actually be a bit too patient, but it shows the girls are thinking while they're on the court."

The Salukis opened the day with a 42-10 victory over South Huron, a victory in which the team got offensive contributions from throughout the roster, led by Charlotte Richardson, who scored nine points, and Alanna Savile, who posted six. Lena Thompson added five while Emma Hodkinson, Lily Hollestelle-Black, Charlotte Johnson and Melody Weaver all chipped in four.

Richardson took charge offensively



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Lily Hollestelle-Black puts up a shot during the St. Marys DCVI Junior Girls basketball game against Stratford District Secondary (SDSS) on Oct. 23.

in the Salukis' second game of the day against SDSS, scoring 20 points to propel DCVI to a 33-15 win. Regan Jones also tallied four points.

According to O'Connor, the team is doing well at not making reckless plays, but the head coach admitted he does want his team to be a bit more aggressive with the ball.

"We've learned to be patient with the ball and not force things, and playing a zone offence has helped with that,"

O'Connor began. "I think we have to be careful not to get too stationary while playing that zone offence. We have to be able to keep moving our feet and pivot with the ball, which is something we're going to be working on in practice.

"We need to make a few more shots and to do that, we need to be a little more aggressive with the ball sometimes. You have to take shots to learn to make them and sometimes, we're trying a bit too hard to make a safe play rath-

er than going into attack mode. There are certainly many times when playing safe is important, but I would like to see us take a few more risks to try and get some baskets. Inevitably, there will be some turnovers doing that, but it's important for them to improve their overall game."

While the team continues to be led by their four Grade 10 students, the Salukis are getting more contributions from their contingent of Grade 9s, with three in particular standing out to O'Connor on Oct. 23.

"Melody (Weaver) has been playing really well lately. She's gotten very aggressive and she is getting to the basket, which is where you have to be to score and to get rebounds. She has had a great first year and her improvement has been really strong, so I think she is going to help us a lot in the playoffs and next year as well.

"Lily (Hollestelle-Black) and Emma (Hodkinson) are both starting to attack and take some shots, which I'm very happy to see," O'Connor continued. "They are both playing with their head up. They are playing aggressively on defence. When they have the ball, they are constantly getting better at looking up and not just taking the first option they see, but looking at what all of their options are and that leads to better decision-making when the ball is in their hands."

Cohesive play guides DCVI Junior Boys to pair of wins

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The St. Marys DCVI Junior Boys volleyball team earned a pair of straight-set victories when they hosted Listowel and Goderich on Oct. 24.

In their first game of the day, the Salukis took on the visiting squad from Goderich and won back-to-back sets by scores of 25-19 and 25-18.

Head coach Ian Moore noted the inexperienced team's improvements to the key basics of their game have been critical to their 5-2 record.

"They're starting to understand the fundamentals of the game," Moore told the Independent. "They are starting to put the pieces together. I have one guy that played club and a lot of them haven't played before except for my Grade 10s, but they've just gotten better in terms of their passing, setting and serving."

DCVI's second match of the day pitted the Salukis against Listowel and, after taking a tight 25-21 first set, St. Marys rediscovered their

form and cruised to a 25-5 victory to sweep the first two sets.

Moore explained the team's intensity and cohesion made the greatest difference from the closely contested first set to their dominant second set.

"The big thing I'm trying to coach them is energy. They have to be excited about the game. When they get excited, they communicate and work well cohesively. They didn't do that in the first set as much, they were out of sync and a bit flat, but they did a much better job in the second set. When they remember that a team isn't a bunch of people working as individuals but a bunch of people working together, that's when they do very well."

According to Moore, that focus and enthusiasm is easy to detect.

"It's when they start to do the little things well. When there are no free balls that the other team gets, when there is a scrambling play, we're making a big defensive play to keep the ball alive, (and) when they're nailing a bump-set-spike and scoring an easy point."



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Zach Larmer leaps into the air to hammer the ball back over the net during one of the St. Marys DCVI Junior Boys volleyball team's victories on Oct. 24.

**FOR SPORTS TIPS CONTACT SPENCER SEYMOUR
CALL OR TEXT 519-859-1049 OR EMAIL SPENCER.SEYMOUR88@GMAIL.COM**

DCVI Senior Girls show grit with playoffs approaching

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

Although not able to complete a miraculous comeback in their second game of the day on Oct. 23, the St. Marys DCVI Senior Girls basketball team showed they had playoff-ready resilience and determination.

The senior girls cruised to a 43-7 win over South Huron to start the day, with Abby Martin, Anna Ropp and Eden Sinnett each leading the team with 10 points. Marin Chateauvert also recorded six points. Head coach Monica Ryan credited the team for a well-rounded, dominant effort.

“It was nice to see lots of different people contribute offensively and defensively,” Ryan told the Independent. “We were working on our help defence and we did a good job at that. Offensively, we were making nice passes and taking the shots we needed to take.”

In their second game on Oct. 23, the Salukis fell to Stratford District Secondary School (SDSS) 39-31. However, the result was put in question as the Salukis made a late-game surge. Trailing by 13 points heading into the fourth quarter, DCVI pulled the game within four points until late in the fourth when SDSS finally stemmed the tide after a few missed three-pointers by

the Salukis.

Despite the squad not pulling off the comeback, Ryan believed the game against SDSS highlighted the team’s intangibles that will likely be vital to having playoff success.

“There are lots of positives to take out of this game. I think the mental fortitude that our players are developing is fundamentally why I coach sports. Seeing young women push themselves to rise to the occasion and manage strong emotions while in tense situations is inspiring.

“I think we know that we can play with anyone,” Ryan continued. “We’re in a competitive league, but I think we know that we can take on any team in our league and we trust our defensive play to keep us in those tight games.”

Ryan added she feels her team has made positive strides through this season at both ends of the court.

“We’ve really gelled well as a team. Our communication on defence has helped, they have been learning to have more patience on offence and their shooting has gotten better. I think the girls have a lot of experience and background in a variety of sports and their athleticism has led to a lot of improvement.”



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Eden Sinnett shoots a free throw during the St. Marys DCVI Senior Girls basketball game against Stratford District Secondary School (SDSS) on Oct. 23. Sinnett scored 10 points in the Salukis’ 43-7 win over South Huron earlier in the day.

Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum teams with Heritage Auctions to host appraisal events

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum (CBHFM) is teaming up with Heritage Auctions to host two appraisal events at the museum Nov. 6-7.

For a \$10-per-person donation, visitors can have up to three sports items reviewed by a Heritage Auctions expert who will provide them with a verbal appraisal of their value. The \$10 donation will also include admission to the museum.

“Ever since Heritage Auctions was here in 2022, we have been asked when they are coming back,” said the hall’s director of operations, Scott Crawford. “We are happy to say this November, so don’t miss out.”

A Heritage Auctions expert will be available at the hall of fame on Wednesday, Nov. 6 from 6-9 p.m. and on Thursday, Nov. 7 from 12-3 p.m.

Heritage Auctions is one of the largest sports collectibles auction houses in the world. They have offices in New York, Dallas, Beverly Hills, San Francisco, Chicago, Palm Beach, London, Paris, Geneva, Amsterdam and Hong Kong.

“We are excited to be coming back to the hall of fame,” said Heritage Auctions consignment director



Tony Giese. “We look forward to seeing what people have in their collection.”

A lifelong collector, Giese grew up in Wisconsin, graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay in 2000 and worked at a number of newspapers before following his passion. Giese began his career in the sports memorabilia industry in 2005 at a prom-

inent auction house. After six years, he moved back to Wisconsin and worked as a consignment director/cataloger at MEARS On-Line Auctions. His experience in the game-used industry made him an ideal fit for Heritage Auctions, where he has been since September 2012. When not travelling to shows and visiting consignors, Giese is an avid fan of Wisconsin sports.

Special Notes to visitors planning to attend the appraisal events:

A Heritage Auctions expert will review almost any sports item (from all major sports, including hockey), but the person on hand will have expertise in:

- Game-worn jerseys
- Game-used equipment
- Vintage sports cards
- Autographed items

A \$10 donation will be required for three or fewer items to be reviewed, but collectors may have four or more items reviewed for an additional \$10 donation.

The Heritage Auctions definition of an item is as follows:

- One binder of sports cards = one item.
- One baseball = one item.
- Two baseballs, however, will count as two items, etc.



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SMPA hosts spooktacular day of action



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Members of the St. Marys Pickleball Association (SMPA) enjoyed some spirited games of pickleball while adorning Halloween costumes at the outdoor courts in St. Marys last weekend. The beautiful fall weather was the perfect setting for this leadup to Halloween.

St. Marys bowlers earn top-five finishes in London tourney



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Nate Sims, Scott Rinn, and Erin Slaney captured the gold medal at the 60th annual Fall Master-Youth tournament on Oct. 27 hosted at Fairmont Lanes in London. The team finished atop the field of 12 teams with a score of 146 points over average, earning a trip to the Provincial Championship at Victoria Bowl in Kitchener on Mar. 23, 2025.



Ivy Kittmer, Derek King, and Leia Slaney finished in fourth place with a score of 84 points over average. Leia Slaney also captured the junior division's award for most pins over average.

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Adalyn Blake fires a shot on goal during the St. Marys Kinsmen U9 C Girls St. Marys Rock game last Saturday.



Alex Hernandez brings the puck up the ice during last Saturday's APC Auto Parts Centre U9 LL Boys Blue St. Marys Rock game.



Charlie McCutcheon pushes the puck up the ice during the St. Marys Ford U9 LL Boys Red St. Marys Rock game last Saturday.



Savy M. releases a wrist shot during last Saturday's Hitching Post U11 C Girls St. Marys Rock game.



Sheamus McCutcheon celebrates a goal during the Nicholson Concrete U11 LL Boys Blue St. Marys Rock game last Saturday.



Brooklyn Haanstra carries the puck over the opposing blueline during last Wednesday's Bickell Built Homes U13 C Girls St. Marys Rock game.

(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTOS)

SPOTLIGHT ON ARTS & CULTURE

Art for Art's Sake



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Robin Ward in his studio

JIM GILES

Independent Columnist
 Edited by Alice Rixson

“Art for art's sake” is the English translation of *l'art pour l'art*, a French expression from the latter half of the 19th century. It expresses the philosophy that true, genuine art is utterly independent of any and all social values. It also affirms that art has value for itself and artistic pursuits are their own justification.

This interpretation resonates loudly and clearly with former Canadian actor, television personality and St. Marys resident, Robin Ward. “I was originally a singer with the Allen-Ward trio, a folk group that worked with the likes of Neil Young, Joni Mitchell and [Gordon] Lightfoot back in the sixties,” says Ward. “I performed on stages across North America as an actor and worked as a broadcaster on various networks for over 20 years,” recalls Ward.

He had an extensive television career and is known for hosting a brief revival of the American game show, *To Tell the Truth*, followed by the Canadian game show called *Guess What* from 1982 to 1988. He was also an actor on the soap opera *Guiding Light*, the fifth longest running soap opera in all of broadcasting history. He also starred in the Canadian-produced science fiction series,

The Starlost.

Locally, in 2021 Ward was a guest on St. Marys’ *The Front Porch Show* (fifth season, second episode), available on Facebook. It’s an insightful and delightful portrait of a man who “just seemed to fall into things,” as he professes during that conversation.

Ward is now engaged in a new endeavour and is jubilant with the discovery of a new and unexpected passion – painting! “At this point in my life,” he says, “[I have] discovered to my joy that I might have stories to tell on canvas and [I have] sold far more paintings than I ever expected. I am happy to continue to follow my imagination and my whim and seeing where it all takes me. Life is full of surprises!” acclaims Ward.

He works flat on a table as opposed mounting his work surface on an easel. Using acrylic paints, he enjoys portraying his characters in quirky situations and scenarios. He says he has learned some techniques and artistic approaches during the five or so years that he has been dabbling with paints and he’s pleased to see his artwork improving. “I often paint from seven to 10 in the morning, then resume after lunch, if my cats can spare me from fulfilling their every need,” chuckles Ward.

Ward’s artwork displays the simplicity and almost child-like exuberance similar to that of Nova Scotia folk-art painter



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Robin’s artwork entitled “Some enchanted evening you may see a stranger across a crowded room”

Maud Lewis, an artist known for her distinctively flat and brightly colored paintings. Despite her life’s adversities, Lewis filled her rural world with enjoyment through painting. Ward’s style and pieces are similar to Lewis’ with their vivid colours and simplistic forms, conveying elation and optimism to viewers. He assigns each painting a tongue-in-cheek or whimsical title, perhaps referencing culture, historical and social events.

His paintings are a little folk-art style, he admits, but not completely. “One friend described my style as ‘sophisticfolk’. Whatever it is, I love doing it,” Ward says with a smile. He finds it very gratifying when people are amused by his work. “If someone happens to see a painting and likes it, that’s wonderful but I’m not going to shlep my canvasses around in the hopes that someone will want to show them,” he claims.

Ward is so pleased to have discovered this new, imaginative endeavour at this

stage of his life. “Creating and painting motivates me, interests me and sometimes when a painting comes together and people like it, the feeling of accomplishment brings me a lot of satisfaction.” Ward paints for sheer pleasure and doesn’t spoil it with concerns of rejection. “I have had far too many years as an actor and a television presenter tap dancing for people who could hire me. I simply have no desire to pitch or audition my artwork,” proclaims Ward.

Buddhism teaches one to stop striving for attention, he claims. “I think I’m learning that lesson.” And, as a result, he says he’s much happier. “I hope to paint till the end of the line,” Ward discloses.

Along with a display of artwork by the legendary Stratford actor Brian Tree from October 28-December 7, the Stratford Public Library will feature a number of Ward’s paintings in the exhibition.

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Who is the St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary?

JANIS FREED

St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary

Meet St. Mary Memorial Hospital Auxiliary members Corrine Rumble and Arlene Callender.

Rumble joined the auxiliary around 2016 after being persuaded to get involved by member Bernice Coulson. She was still working at the time but was looking forward to keeping busy in her future retirement.

Rumble now does the scheduling for the hospital Boutique and volunteers at many of the auxiliary's fundraising events. She remains active in the group because "it's a worthy thing to do; the auxiliary does a lot of good for the hospital."

Callender also joined the auxiliary around 2016 when she was invited to an introductory tea held by the group. Callender manages to juggle her many other volunteer activities in the community to make time to work in the hospital Boutique and to participate in many of the auxiliary's fundrais-

ing events.

She is the membership chairperson and participates in the patient-support group. She enjoys being a member of the auxiliary.

"They're a nice bunch of people to work with," she said.

Coming on Sunday Nov. 17, the auxiliary is holding its popular Sip & Shop. Members will welcome shoppers to the beautiful Riverwalk Commons to spend a leisurely afternoon browsing through the Boutique collection of ladies garments and accessories while enjoying seasonal refreshments. Joining us is Tisket A Tasket with an eclectic collection of baskets and all things vintage. Plan to stop by between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Starting Nov. 1, the hospital Boutique's hours have been extended to 1-4 p.m.

For updates on fundraising events or to become a volunteer, follow the auxiliary on Facebook (The Boutique at St. Marys Memorial Hospital) or email smmhauxiliary@gmail.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. MARYS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Meet St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary members Corrine Rumble and Arlene Callender.

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COLUMNS

FROM THE PUBLISHERS DESK: What I learned from completing “75 Medium”



STEWART GRANT

Publisher

Back in January, I wrote about my New Year’s plan to get in shape. The turn of the calendar combined with my 50th birthday four days later was really going to motivate me to make some positive health changes. Yeah, whatever; that program lasted about two weeks.

Like a bull run on the stock market, my Fitbit’s daily weight chart has ups and downs but has been on a consistently upward trend for the last decade. Whenever I hit a new 52-week high on the weight chart, I suddenly find motivation for a few days

before falling back into the same old habits.

In August, the cycle repeated itself and I declared to my family that I was “going on the program.” This time, my daughter Sydney called BS, saying, “You always say that, but you never actually do anything.”

Sydney suggested I try something called the “75 Soft” program, which has four simple rules to follow over a 75-day period:

1. Work out at least 45 minutes every day.
2. Plan your meals each day. Regarding alcohol, only consume in social situations.
3. Drink three litres of water each day.
4. Read at least 10 pages of a book each day, preferably non-fiction or self-improvement.

There is also a “75 Hard” program which I deemed too extreme, because it required not just one, but two 45-minute workouts per day. Another

aspect of “75 Hard” is to have zero alcohol for the 75-day period.

I decided to upgrade my challenge to “75 Medium” by going with zero alcohol, and by adding in a 10,000 daily step requirement.

Long story short, I took on the challenge. I bought a special scale that not just measured weight but other factors as well (because it’s not all about weight).

The results? In 75 days, my overall weight dropped from 208 to 193 lbs. while my body fat percentage dropped from 26.8 per cent to 22.9 per cent. Plus, I know that I can still make progress from here with some of the habits I have formed.

I thought the no-alcohol part would be the most difficult aspect, but I learned there are some excellent zero per-cent beers and mocktails out there and this made it much easier in social situations. Sometimes you just want to feel like you

have a drink in your hand.

Waking up at 5:30 a.m. and going to the gym when it opened was the best way for me to fit my workout into an already busy schedule. Even when it was hard to drag myself to the gym, it always felt worth it afterwards. When I needed extra motivation during workouts, I’d listen to David Goggins’ audiobook, *Can’t Hurt Me*. My son, Jake, told me once about David Goggins and listening to this guy’s incredible life story is truly inspiring.

Before the 75-day challenge, I hadn’t run any distance in over a year out of fear for my bad left knee. But I eased into it and eventually found my way again,

and as my weight dropped, it also became easier. By the end, I had worked my way up to doing a 10K.

The challenge of reading 10 pages a day was also worthwhile because it helped encourage the concept of continuous learning. Even 15 minutes a day can make a difference in the long run.

The most impactful thing I learned is that you don’t have to be stuck in the same old rut. You can change your life and make new habits. Personally, I’m so thankful I learned about this 75-day challenge and I know there are certain aspects of it I will carry on with to live a better, healthier life.

Reality?

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Straight from the Shelves

LAURA MCASH

St. Marys Public Library

‘Tis the season for another Friends of the Library Book Sale! Our hardworking volunteers have organized thousands of fantastic books, CDs, and DVDs for your perusal, all available by donation. Visit the Town Hall Auditorium next week from Wednesday to Saturday. Doors open at 10 a.m. each morning and close at 8 p.m. every day except Saturday when doors close at 4 p.m. You never know what fabulous finds you’ll discover!

This Week’s Recommendation

What connects Indigenous studies professor Elmore Trent, IHL player Paul North, Detective Ruby Birch, and famous writer Fabiola Halan? For one thing, Ruby is investigating a collection of murders with ties to Trent and North. For another, something or someone seems to be hunting all of them. In “Cold”, Drew Hayden Taylor cleverly

combines comedy, mystery, and horror into a novel you won’t be able to put down. Borrow a copy of “Cold” today or purchase a copy of your own at next week’s Author Visit!

Up This Week

- Fri., Nov. 1: Author Visit – Drew Hayden Taylor^ (7 p.m.)
- Sat., Nov. 2: Dungeons and Dragons (10 a.m.)
- Mon., Nov. 4: Open 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Tues., Nov. 5: Cooking Club* (10:30 a.m.)
- Wed., Nov. 6: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30-10:30 a.m.), FOL Book Sale~ (10 a.m. to 8 p.m.), Mahjong Intro (1-2 p.m.), Mahjong! (2-4 p.m.)
- Thurs., Nov. 7: FOL Book Sale~ (10 a.m. to 8 p.m.)

*Registration Required
 ^Held at the Pyramid Recreation Centre – 2/3rd Hall (317 James St., St. Marys)
 ~Held in the Town Hall Auditorium (175 Queen St, St. Marys)

Ask the Arborist

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



Dear Arborist,

We have a nice big Manitoba Maple. I am from the West and I really like these trees. Some people think they are a weed and my wife is concerned, as a large trunk fell off it last spring.

Westerner

Dear Westerner,

Well, I appreciate large trees, but I am more of the persuasion that Manitoba Maples are a giant weed. That being said, they are not bad in the correct setting and can be pruned to be quite nice.

Unfortunately, Manitoba Maples are

rather weak and grow with weak structure, which results in the tree falling down. If you want to prevent the tree falling, you can prune them rather aggressively. Manitoba Maples are a pretty hardy tree which can handle a heavy pruning. Reducing weight, size, and dead wood greatly increases the life span of the tree.

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

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: The Prohibition Plebiscite, October 1924

MARY SMITH

Independent Columnist

Towards the end of October a century ago, there was a concerted effort to frighten the population of St. Marys. It had nothing whatsoever to do with Halloween goblins and ghosts. Newspaper editors and columnists, speakers in the town hall auditorium, and preachers from their pulpits all warned about the dire consequences of voting the wrong way in an upcoming province-wide plebiscite. On October 23, 1924, eligible residents of Ontario were asked to mark one of two options on a ballot. They were both worded as questions: 1. Are you in favour of the continuation of the Ontario Temperance Act? 2. Are you in favour of sale as a beverage of beer and spirituous liquor in sealed packages under Government control?

This week's picture is an advertisement that ran in the St. Marys Journal Argus two weeks before the plebiscite was to take place. It was sponsored by the Perth County Temperance Union and that organization was clear where it stood on the issue. The ad includes a reproduction of the ballot – with the space beside the first option already marked with an emphatic X. Also, these commands are in large, bold letters: “Electors, Mark Your Ballot This Way! Vote to Protect the Boys! Vote to Protect the Girls!” This strong reaction to liquor sales may seem strangely out of proportion to us today. It is easier to understand within its historic context.

Drunkness was a genuine social problem from the earliest days in Ontario. In the 19th century, municipal councils licenced bars and taverns as a source of revenue and towns like St. Marys had the maximum number allowed according to their population. Whisky and beer were cheap and plentiful and sold along with groceries in general stores. While licensing placed some controls on the sale and distribution of alcohol, there was nothing to stop a man spending his week's wages in one of the many local taverns on his way home on a Saturday night. Unfortunately, the children in the family were the ones who suffered most. More abstemious, more affluent people equated liquor with failure and poverty. They firmly believed that banning the sale of alcoholic beverages would lead to a healthier and more prosperous country. Temperance societies were formed to work towards this goal.

These groups became very effective lobbyists. In 1878, the Canada Temperance Act gave local governments the authority to ban the sale of alcohol although, in the late 1800s and the early 1900s, not many jurisdictions felt that this would be a wise political decision. Drinking was a popular activity for many voters – men only at this point in Canadian history. The temperance lobbyists were persistent. In 1916, halfway through World War I, the provincial government passed the Ontario Temperance Act as a wartime measure. The Act forbade the selling of liquor as a beverage and “the keeping, giving, or having of liquor except in a private dwelling.” The expectation was that this would focus attention on economic measures to strengthen the war effort on the home front. The Ontario Temperance Act would be repealed when the war was over.

But the Act gave prohibitionists a foot in the door.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Supporters of Prohibition in Ontario sponsored this threatening advertisement in the Journal Argus in October 1924. They were warning residents about the dire consequences of permitting the sale of beer and liquor in Ontario communities.

Also, by the next provincial election in 1919, many Ontario women had won the right to vote, including members of the Women's Christian Temperance Union – St. Marys had a very active branch. The 1919 election included a referendum on the future of the Ontario Temperance Act. The results indicated that a large majority of Ontario voters wanted it made a permanent provincial law. The referendum results were binding on the government and soon all bars, taverns and liquor outlets were totally closed. Of course, that did not mean a complete suspension of alcohol sales. Doctors, for example, were allowed to prescribe alcohol for medicinal purposes. It became a standing joke that “epidemics” seemed to occur just before Christmas, leading to long lineups of men at pharmacies waiting for their prescriptions to be filled. The government, led by the United Farmers of Ontario, also wanted to protect the province's grape-growing industry; wine made from Ontario-grown grapes was also exempt. But still, restrictions were tight, and in this environment, bootlegging was another flourishing industry.

Following the 1923 provincial election, a new Conservative government, led by Premier Howard Ferguson, was more inclined to relax the strict provisions of the Ontario Temperance Act. The plebiscite of October 23, 1924, was aimed at assessing public opinion on the issue – plebiscites, unlike referenda, were non-binding. Still, they were indicators of public sentiment and future voting patterns. The temperance forces organized in advance of the vote so that their voices would be heard. The Reverend F. W. Duggan, minister of the First Presbyterian Church in St. Marys, was appointed offi-

cial organizer of the Perth County Temperance Union, the sponsors of the newspaper ad. “Meetings were held, funds were collected, and propaganda dispatched to every town, village and community in the district.”

Duggan was invited to speak in Downie Township at a meeting of supporters of the United Farmers of Ontario where he emphasized the dangers of allowing the sale of liquor. Where government control sale was allowed, “Inmates of jails, prisons, asylums and such were in proportion with the sale of drink.” Mr. Duggan made “a strong plea to help maintain the OTA and so make Ontario a better place for his child and every other child to live.” A few days later, the Reverend Humphrey Graham, a St. Marys “old boy,” spoke at the Methodist Church, describing his trip across Canada, especially to provinces where government-controlled sale of liquor was now permitted. “You can walk down any city in the provinces under Government Control and without exception, you will be greeted by the sight of drunkenness.” He reported the large number of drunken men he had seen on the streets of Winnipeg and called one town in British Columbia: “A sodden place, the stench of stale beer meets you around every hotel.”

Perhaps the most effective advocate was J. W. Eedy, the publisher of the Journal Argus. He was a staunch Methodist and a supporter of the Ontario Temperance Act. He willingly gave front page space to prohibition advertisements and reports of temperance speeches and rallies. He promised his readers that on plebiscite day, bulletins would be posted in the Journal Argus window so that everyone could follow the results for St. Marys, for Perth County and across Ontario. Both the local telephone operator and the telegrapher, with the help of a crew of volunteers, would tally the results of each poll until all voting stations had closed.

A crowd, large enough to block Queen Street, gathered outside the newspaper office on the evening of the plebiscite. As the first results came in, mostly from city polls, the government-control side was well ahead. The disappointed “Drys” drifted away. But later in the evening, as the rural polls were counted, the “Wets” saw their majority slip away. The Journal Argus did not post the final results until early morning, October 24. Those in favour of retaining the Ontario Temperance Act had 51.9% of the vote province wide, while those in favour of government control had 48.51% – a very close vote! Within St. Marys, the results were much more decisive: 63.25% in favour of the Ontario Temperance Act with 36.75% wanting controlled sales of beer and liquor. The Journal Argus proclaimed that since the majority was in favour of prohibition, it was up to the provincial government to improve and enforce the Act, and “strike terror into the hearts of the evil doers.”

But Premier Ferguson knew that his greatest support was in the cities where residents had voted “wet,” and in the 1926 election, he ran on the promise to repeal the Ontario Temperance Act. He won, and the Act was repealed in 1927. However, the temperance forces kept on fighting at the county and municipal levels. It would be another 30 or so years before St. Marys saw government-controlled beer and liquor outlets in this community.

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EAT AT OUR HOUSE: Quick and filling meals



LAUREN EEDY
Independent Columnist

When it comes to supper time, I want something fresh, hearty and easy to assemble. The following are big players in our weekly rotation. They never seem to fade out of favour for our tastebuds. Enjoy!

Classic crêpe recipe

Crêpes are a popular dish in our household, especially for supper. The batter is simple to make and the options for sweet or savoury fillings are virtually endless. Personally, I enjoy a savoury crêpe with a side salad any time of the year.

Prep: 10 minutes; Total Time: 1.5 hours; Serves: 8
2 large eggs, room temperature

1 ¼ cups whole milk, room temperature

1 cup all-purpose flour

4 tsp granulated sugar

½ tsp kosher salt

½ tsp pure vanilla extract
3 tbsp unsalted butter, melted and cooled plus ½ tsp cold unsalted butter
Method:

- In a blender or with a whisk, blend eggs, milk, flour, sugar, salt, vanilla and 3 tbsp melted butter until smooth. Cover and refrigerate at least one hour, up to two days. It is important to let it sit to improve taste and texture. Not allowing the batter to sit will result in a thin and non-uniform structure.

- Preheat a crêpe pan or nine-inch nonstick skillet over medium heat. Melt ½ tsp butter. Reduce heat to medium-low. Briefly whisk batter, then pour ¼ cup into the pan, lifting pan off heat and slightly tilting in a circular motion to help batter spread into an even circle. Cook until top is set and bottom is golden brown, about 45 seconds. Flip and cook on second side until cooked through, about 45 seconds more.

- If using a filling, add ingredients to crepe and with a spatula fold into quarters or roll crepes. Transfer to a plate and tent with tin foil or keep warm in a low oven while repeating with remaining batter, making a total of

eight crêpes. You can, of course, double this recipe.

- Crêpes can be made three days ahead. Let cool, then stack between parchment, store in an airtight container and refrigerate or freeze up to one month.

Filling Suggestions:

• Sweet: whipped cream, berrieZ, fruit, Nutella, raw sugar with lemon, cinnamon, jam, etc.

• Savoury: gruyere, bechamel, hollandaise or cheese of your choice, ham, seafood, asparagus, mushrooms, roasted vegetables. Use your imagination!
Serve with a side salad.

Dijon vinaigrette

Dairy free, egg free, gluten free, nut free and vegan. This is our preferred dressing.

Total Time: 5 minutes;

Serves: 8

Mason Jar

¼ cup white wine vinegar or lemon juice

½ cup olive oil

2 tbsp Dijon mustard

1 garlic clove, minced

2 tsp maple syrup or local honey

½ tsp coarse salt

¼ tsp black pepper

Method:

- Mix ingredients together in a mason jar, close lid

and shake, shake, shake! Adjust salt and pepper to taste.

Sausage, potato and cabbage soup

Inexpensive, filling and healthy, this easy to approach weeknight soup is ready in under 35 minutes.

Prep: 15 minutes; Total Time: 35 minutes; Serves: 4-6

2 tbsp canola oil

1 package kielbasa or other cooked sausage, sliced. Look for turkey kielbasa for lower saturated fats.

½ yellow onion, chopped

1 large carrot, chopped
½ medium green or savoury cabbage, chopped
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

2 cloves garlic, chopped
6 cups reduced sodium chicken broth

2 large russet potatoes, peeled and chopped

2 tbsp red wine vinegar

2 tbsp fresh dill or a generous tsp of dried dill

Crusty bread for serving

Method:

- Heat oil in a large Dutch oven over medium heat. Add kielbasa and cook, stirring occasionally until browned, 8-10 minutes.

Use a slotted spoon to transfer to a plate.

- Add onion, carrot and cabbage to the pot. Season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally until vegetables are softened, 5-6 minutes.

- Add garlic and cook until fragrant, 1-2 minutes.

- Add broth, potatoes and sausage. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer until potatoes are cooked through, 17-20 minutes.

- Remove from heat. Stir in vinegar and dill. Serve with crusty bread.



Sudoku

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								8

Solutions on page 31

Book your pet's Spa Date

The Groomer

255 Wellington St, S, St. Marys

519-284-0036

McCully's Hill Farm

Preserve of the Month
10% off McCully's Chutney

McCully's Ready-Made Foods
Check out our selection of ready-made meals. We offer a wide variety of meat pies and soups, along with baked beans, chili, shephard's pie, pulled pork, marinated pork chops and beef stew.

Hardwood Smoker Pellets
McCully's carries hardwood smoker pellets locally produced by Gildale Farms. The 40 lb bags come in four blends - Apple, Cherry, Hickory and Competition blend.

Fresh Produce at McCully's
McCully's has fresh Ontario apples, including Ambrosia, Gala, Honey Crisp, Ida Red and MacIntosh as well as Bosc Pears. We also have a great variety of Fall Squash and Melons.

Store Hours for November
Open Daily 10 - 5. Saturdays 9 - 5. **Closed Mondays in November**

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Thorndale News

A section within the
St. Marys Independent

Church supper draws a huge crowd

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

For over 40 years, the Thorndale United Church has hosted an annual beef supper and, once again, the Thorndale Lion's Community Centre was filled with hungry people from the community and beyond.

This event is one of two major fundraiser suppers for the church, which supports their general fund and provides funding for outreach and mission projects throughout the year.

On Tuesday, Oct. 22, there were approximately 775 tickets sold with over

half of them for takeout. Co-chair of the supper's organizing committee, Marilyn Flannigan, said the beef was catered and cooked by Janice's Fine Country Catering of St. Marys and delivered to the community centre just before serving time for slicing.

"This saves valuable kitchen space," Flannigan said, "for our volunteers to cook over 350 pounds of potatoes, 60 litres of gravy, 125 pounds of corn and 125 litres of baked beans needed to feed a hungry crowd. As for the dessert, there were over 100 pies donated by members of our congregation.

"Between the donations of all of those

delicious pies and the manual help, it took over 80 people to put on this church supper. And that's not counting the over 20 student volunteers who came out this year to help. Everything ran like a well-oiled machine. The students in this community continue to impress us with their attitudes, work ethic and willingness to help."

Thorndale United Church will be busy making more pies for their We Make, You Bake pie fundraiser. They are taking orders for their cherry or apples pies, only \$12 each. Contact Joyce at 519-461-1196 by Nov. 4 with pick-up on Nov 18.

Also in November, Thorndale United

Church is collecting items for the St. Marys Food Bank's Christmas Hampers for those who are in need this holiday season in St. Marys, Thorndale and surrounding areas. Hygiene articles, such as hair products, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, small nail-care kits, gift cards (especially those for teens), small toys, candy, as well as non-perishable food items are greatly needed. Donated items can be dropped off at Thorndale United Church, 245 King St., on Saturday Nov. 30 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Spooky characters of all sorts at Spooktacular Family Fright Night



(PHOTO COURTESY OF ARDEN MCCLEAN)

The West Nissouri Grade 8 class hosted the annual Spooktacular Family Fright Night at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre Oct. 26.

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

There were witches, clowns, ghosts, princesses and cowboys, just to mention a few of the spooky and interesting characters who attended last Saturday evening's Spooktacular Family Fright Night at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre.

This special Halloween community event was hosted by the West Nissouri Grade 8 graduating class, with backing from their parents, Grade 7 volunteers and the support of I Love Thorndale.

The students and volunteers set up a haunted house with scary characters and items which was the highlight for some spooky entertainment. There were a lot

of fun carnival games to win prizes with a Halloween and pumpkin theme, along with sweet treats and raffle tickets to purchase.

"What an incredible night! Huge congratulations to the West Nissouri Grade 8 graduating class and their families for hosting what might be the best Halloween event yet!" said Arden McClean, I Love Thorndale director. "I Love Thorndale is thrilled to support events like the Family Fright Night, where community spirit truly shines. Thank you to everyone who came out, donated and helped these Grade 8s raise funds for their graduation and their Camp Celtic trip.

"Your support makes all the difference!"

Eating breakfast with the Thorndale Lions Club



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

The Thorndale Lions Club held its Community Breakfast Sunday Oct. 27 with over 300 community residents enjoying a delicious breakfast prepared by the Thorndale Lions. Proceeds from this event will go to upcoming projects the Thorndale Lions are planning for the community.

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St. Marys Independent



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Riddles

Why don't angry witches ride their brooms?

They're afraid of flying off the handle

Who won the skeleton beauty contest?

No body

Where do baby ghosts go during the day?

Daycare centers

Who did Frankenstein take to the prom?

His ghoul friend

What's a monster's favorite play?

Romeo and Ghouliet

What do witches put on their hair?

Scare spray

What do you get when you cross Bambi with a ghost?

Bamboo

What kind of mistakes do spooks make?

Boo boos

What has webbed feet, feathers, fangs and goes quack-quack?

Count Duckula

- Word Search -

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HALLOWEEN

W M L P G D S R X O R E S Y O S D T I K
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E P E R I P M A V D A G G T H A W G T N

Word List

Ghosts

Goblins

Haunted house

Candy

Trick or Treat

Pranks

Witch

Spooky

Tombstone

Vampire

Zombie

Costumes

Jackolantern

Skeleton

Dracula

All Hallows Day



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

Why don't fish like basketball?



They are afraid of the net!

Caleb Tigani (9)

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 10-year-old Roxy Rose. Roxy is a Shih-Poo and was rescued a year ago on Oct. 30. Roxy Rose loves to greet people and cuddle. She lives in St. Marys with her Lounds family.



St. Marys Veterinary Clinic is pleased to be the sponsor of the

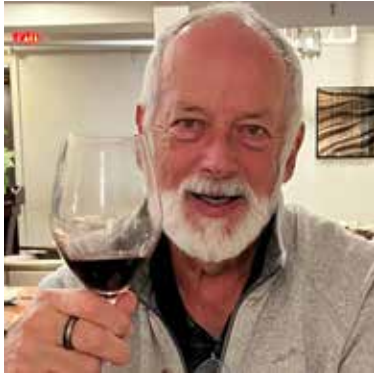
PET OF THE WEEK

HALLOWEEN CANDY A TREAT FOR YOU, A TRICK FOR YOUR PET

Pre-Halloween and during trick-or-treating, keep candy safely stashed away. Many foods, such as chocolate, gum and xylitol (a sweetener) are hazardous to pets.

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

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Alexandria, Virginia, a wonderful surprise!



PAUL KNOWLES

Independent Columnist

Okay, I am going to be honest here. When a travel writer is invited to visit a new destination, it is incumbent upon him or her to do some research, and usually I do – really.

But our stop in Alexandria, Va. was near the end of a multi-destination US road trip that lasted more than a month. So, I had planned to do the advance research while en route, but I didn't,

which meant that Alexandria, the small city just across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C., was a surprise – a really, really great surprise because we quite fell in love with this historic community.

Alexandria is rich with history, but is also a neighbour to the space-age wonders of the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Museum in Chantilly, Va.

Let's go back in time first. Alexandria is eminently walkable and your walking tour of Old Town Alexandria will include a stroll down cobblestone streets lined with houses built in the 1700s.

You'll also see the Spite

House, described as “the skinniest historic house in America” at just seven feet wide with a tiny area of 325 square feet. It wasn't built, first of all, to be a residence – although it is still occupied today – but it was erected in 1830 to block an alley, in which loiterers were, well, loitering and bothering the neighbours.

The streets of Old Town Alexandria lead to the busy waterfront where there are terrific restaurants – we dined at Julia's on the Potomac with the wonderful view the name promises – and a unique art facility, the Torpedo Factory Art Center. The Torpedo Factory was just that, a munitions plant in World War II, and there is a disarmed torpedo just inside one entrance to underline this heritage. But today, the centre is home to 72 juried-artist studios and 10 galleries. The artists are there creating their works and happy to stop and chat with interested potential patrons.

Perhaps our biggest pleasant surprise in Alexandria was the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum. This very small museum, just one of the storefronts on Fairfax Street, didn't seem very promising when we entered but, as is often the case, I was dead wrong. It was a fascinating tour with an added level of delight for any fan of the Harry Potter stories, which I definitely am.

The apothecary, founded in 1792, was operated by the same family for 141 years and then became a museum in 1939. In something of a miracle when it comes to preserving the

past, almost everything in the two-story museum is original to the pharmacy – even some of the ingredients are still in the bottles. One unique item is a handwritten request to pharmacist Edward Stabler from Martha Washington, wife of George.

“Mrs. Washington desires Mr. Stabler will send by the bearers a quart bottle of his best castor oil and the bill for it. Mount Vernon, April 22, 1802.”

It didn't help much at all as Martha passed away exactly one month later.

On the second storey, in the area used for warehousing and preparation of ingredients, there are still storage boxes with their original labels, and here is where Harry Potter enters the picture because there are boxes bearing the names “Dragon's Blood,” “Unicorn Root,” “Mandrake Root” and other terms familiar to fans of the young wizard. For the pharmacists of the 19th century, these were the fanciful names of natural ingredients, which they used in their medicines with varying degrees of success.

But leaving the 18th and 19th centuries behind, let's travel ahead to the 20th and 21st centuries and venture off this planet entirely at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Museum.

This facility is home to about 200 aircraft from some of the earliest attempts at flight to thoroughly modern aircraft. Visitors can get up close to classic craft like a Sopwith



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

The Space Shuttle Discovery.

Camel, a World War I British fighter biplane, or, on a much larger scale, to the Space Shuttle Discovery, which sits in the midst of a gigantic hangar filled with all manner of artifacts from space exploration, including the Canadarm.

I found it especially intriguing that the collection of aircraft here includes “enemy aircraft” such as World War II planes flown in battle against the Allies by Japan and Germany, some of the latter still bearing the swastika emblem. It ain't pretty, but it's authentic.

Visitors will spend several hours as they explore even a portion of the fascinating exhibits at the air and space museum which, by the way, is just one of two such facilities under the umbrella of the Smithso-

nian. The sister museum is in Washington.

Alexandria has been honoured as one of the “best cities in the U.S.” and as a “top-three best small city in the U.S.” by leading travel media. Not having visited every small city in our neighbour to the south, I cannot be an accurate judge.

But I can say Alexandria quickly became one of our favourite destinations anywhere, and having read this article, you are now much more prepared for your visit than I was. You're welcome.

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 fascinating Apothecary Museum – an unexpected delight.



Cobblestone streets and historic homes in Old Town Alexandria.

THANK YOU

Capeland

Many thanks to the Doctors, Nurses & Support Staff at Stratford General and St. Marys Memorial Hospitals for the excellent care Glenn received during his stay at both hospitals.

All the lovely flowers & cards, emails, phone calls with comforting messages as well as visits and delicious food brought in were reminders of the support we had.

The guidance of Andrew Hodges & Rev. Robert Lawson was much appreciated in planning the final steps.

Special thanks to the St. Marys U.C. Choir, Organist Tim Gilbert and all our family who helped to carry out Glenn's last wishes. Last but not least, a big thank you to the U.C. Women for preparing and serving a delicious lunch at the closing.

It was all very much appreciated and will never be forgotten. Glenn would have been very pleased.

Verla, Cynthia, Ellen, Deanna and Families

CELEBRATION



Happy 60th Anniversary

on October 31st to Kevin & Gail McCauley

Love from all of your Family

Jeff & Laurie Bell
are turning
50 **75**

Join us for their
Milestone Birthday Party!
Sat., Nov. 9th - 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Downie Optimist Community Centre,
3185 122 Rd, St. Pauls
Best Wishes Only Please

THANK YOU

Vanderschot

My sincere thanks to family, neighbours, and friends for all the heartwarming birthday wishes, cards and gifts. I feel fortunate to be part of such an incredible community and to have celebrated with so many of you at my 90 years.

Ernie

IN MEMORIAM

O'Hara

In loving memory of our son, Timothy, who passed away October 30, 1996.

There is always a face before us

A voice we would love to hear

A smile we will always remember

Of a son we loved so dear.

Deep in our hearts lies a picture

More precious than silver or gold

It's a picture of our son

Whose memory will never grow old.

We miss you so much, Tim

Love Mom and Dad

THANK YOU

Nichol

I wish to express my sincere thanks to everyone who came to my 90th Birthday Open House at the Friendship Centre. Also my thanks for the flowers and gifts and the many cards I have received before and since the occasion. Special thanks to my wonderful family for all their planning, organizing and work involved for a great day and evening. All is greatly appreciated and shall always be cherished.

Shirley Nichol

CELEBRATION

Marlene & Joe French

Happy 50th Anniversary Mom and Dad

Love Jenine, Ken & Teegan and families

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Oh Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us; St. Jude worker of miracles, pray for us; St. Jude helper of the hopeless, pray for us.

Say this prayer nine times a day, by the eighth day this prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. M.V

St. Marys Independent

SUBMIT YOUR MEMORIAM, THANK YOU, OBITUARY, OR ANNOUNCEMENT

Email us at info@stmarysindependent.com or call 519-284-0041

LEASE IS UP SALE

41 Salina St N St Marys, On

Saturday Nov 2, 2024 10-4pm front door

Glass Table 78L x 48W marble base, Console (Match) all marble 50.25L x 15.5W, 6 chairs upholstered, chairs, armchairs, Sony sound bar, Electric Lawn Mower and 2 batteries, Stereo CD Player, Assortment of lawn tools, Christmas Tree and accessories, power tools, quilt, Commercial HEPA Filter machine. Too much to list.

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Julie Moore, former trustee, appointed as new AMDSB trustee

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The local public-school board has a new representative on its board.

At the Oct. 22 Avon Maitland District School Board (AMDSB) board of trustees meeting, Julie Moore was appointed the new Perth East trustee, filling the vacant seat.

“We are pleased to welcome Julie back to the board and we thank those who took the time to apply for the position,” said chair Robert Hunking in a subsequent statement released by the board.

Moore was voted in by the board, beating out 12 candidates. She has previously served in the role, having been elected in 2010, 2014 and 2018.

Moore is a Perth East resident, living on a sixth-generation farm. She has two boys who attended North Easthope Public School. She is a social worker in an executive leadership role at Ontario Health, with subject-matter expertise in mental health and addictions.

Moore takes over the position from David Briant. Briant was vacated from his seat due to unmet requirements of the Education Act, according to representatives from the school board.

Trustees are required to be physically present at

regular meetings of the board. In most of the meeting minutes of the past school year, Briant is listed as absent or attended virtually through Microsoft Teams.

Moore will be officially sworn in at a later board meeting.

LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

Original Goat of Westover

25 years ago (1999)

The Town's Millennium tree project, which intends to plant 2,000 trees in town to commemorate the year 2000, kicked off recently. The first tree was planted by Gladys Smith, 100 years young, with help from three-year-olds, Joe Edge and Amanda Mills.

A vacant property owned by the Town, currently being used for parking and as a spot for large trucks to turn, has led to concerns for public safety from at least two residents adjacent to the property. Brent and Cathy Cubberley brought their concerns to Council last week, along with a request for the town to clean up the property at the corner of Park and King Street.

Sebringville OPP are investigating a theft last week at the Wildwood Nursing Home in St. Marys. The theft occurred during the day and the thief made off with a MasterCard and three personal cheques.

50 years ago (1974)

Gil Pellizzari of Ashton Tire has sold his vintage 1934 Oldsmobile sedan to a London buyer. Gil has owned this car for seven years, having purchased it from the original owner in Cochrane.

The Journal-Argus classified columns carry an ad for a lost goat. The “Nanny”, a newcomer to the Westover Park property on Thomas Street, strayed from her home on Tuesday and has not yet turned up. Westover residents are very anxious regarding the safety of their new animal.

A St. Pauls resident was driving south on Highway 7 Monday morning when a northbound car approached and someone inside threw a large pumpkin at the front of her car. Damage was estimated at \$200. Sebringville OPP investigated the incident and warned against similar Halloween pranks.

75 years ago (1949)

Just two weeks after the Swimming Quarry was in use for a Thanksgiving weekend heat wave, a brief snow and sleet storm swept over the district on Monday. The temperature dropped early Tuesday morning to about 25 degrees.

Parks Supt. O.V. Whetstone and his helpers have planted a number of Carolina poplars on the rear portion of the new quarry parking lot. These will hopefully serve as a screen for the nearby railroad tracks. The trees were from Ralph Ainslie's farm. The Parks Board have also been transplanting hard maples from Herb Sparling's farm.

The residents of the lower end of Robinson Street, including B.F. Lancaster, Dr. G.L. Smith, C.S. Hall, Harry Holliday, and Lt-Col. G.D.L. Rice, are maintaining the beauties of that part of the town as usual. Robinson Street, which is some thirty to forty feet above the lake formed by the mill dam, gives motorists a fine vista of the North Ward and central portion of the town and a view up the valley of Trout Creek.

100 years ago (1924)

It was officially announced on Wednesday evening that the Bank of Montreal has taken over the Molson's Bank. This will affect St. Marys which will have but three banks now instead of four.

Good progress is being made in the construction of the new Methodist Memorial Hall and gymnasium by the contractors these days.

Perth County secured second place for best bacon type hogs shipped to Toronto last week, with Bruce County coming in first out of 14 counties represented.

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50th Ticket	\$50.00	Michael Kuzia
100th Ticket	\$150.00	Sharon Harloff
150th Ticket	\$50.00	Bev Simpson
200th Ticket	\$150.00	Mike & Colleen Wraith
250th Ticket	\$50.00	Suzanne Sharp
300th Ticket	\$300.00	Charlie Cameron
350th Ticket	\$50.00	John "Buck" Campbell
400th Ticket	\$200.00	Ron Bailey
450th Ticket	\$50.00	Kate Gregg
500th Ticket	\$200.00	Brenda Farr
550th Ticket	\$100.00	Mike Bannerman
598th Ticket	\$250.00	Ken & Chris Brundson
599th Ticket	\$300.00	Shirley Doig
600th Ticket	\$2000.00	Joe Wall

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THE WEEK AHEAD

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

St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 22

Friday, November 1

- Cheryl Brooks retirement celebration at the TD Bank - Noon to 4 p.m.
- Royal Canadian Legion "hot dogs and more" lunch at Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Caledonia Corvairs at the PRC - 7:30 p.m.
- St. Marys Community Players presents "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" at the Town Hall theatre - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 2

- St. Marys Farmers Market at the Pyramid Centre - 8 a.m. to Noon.
- 'Lease is up' sale at 41 Salina St N - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- London Friendship Quilters Guild show at Thorndale Community Centre - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- St. Marys Community Players presents "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" at the Town Hall theatre - 2 p.m.
- Heaven's Gateway Ministries meet & greet at Snapping Turtle Coffee Roasters - 2 to 4 p.m.
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 p.m.
- An evening with Darryl Sittler at Puddicombe House, New Hamburg - Doors open 5 p.m. Tickets \$175 - go to www.tcmhomes.com/donate to purchase

Sunday, November 3

- Daylight Savings Time ends - put your clocks back one hour
- London Friendship Quilters Guild show at Thorndale Community Centre - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- St. Marys Community Players presents "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" at the Town Hall theatre - 2 p.m.
- Heaven's Gateway Ministries bowling fundraiser at St. Marys Bowling Lanes - 2 to 8 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Welland Jr. Canadians at Welland Main Arena - 7 p.m.

Monday, November 4

- Community Dinner at St. Marys United Church - 5 p.m., Sponsored by the Pickleball Association

Wednesday, November 6

- Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame appraisal event - 6-9 p.m., \$10 for up to 3 items

Thursday, November 7

- Covid 19 & flu vaccine clinic at the PRC - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame appraisal event - 12-3 p.m., \$10 for up to 3 items
- Alzheimer Society dementia education night - 7-8:30 p.m., Register at bit.ly/DEMENCIA-NIGHT2024

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1) Candy Corn | 5) Bobby Pickett |
| 2) Hockey goalie mask | 6) Romania |
| 3) Washington Irving | 7) True |
| 4) Jack O'Lantern | 8) Broomsticks |
| | 9) Halloween |
| | 10) Nov. 1 |

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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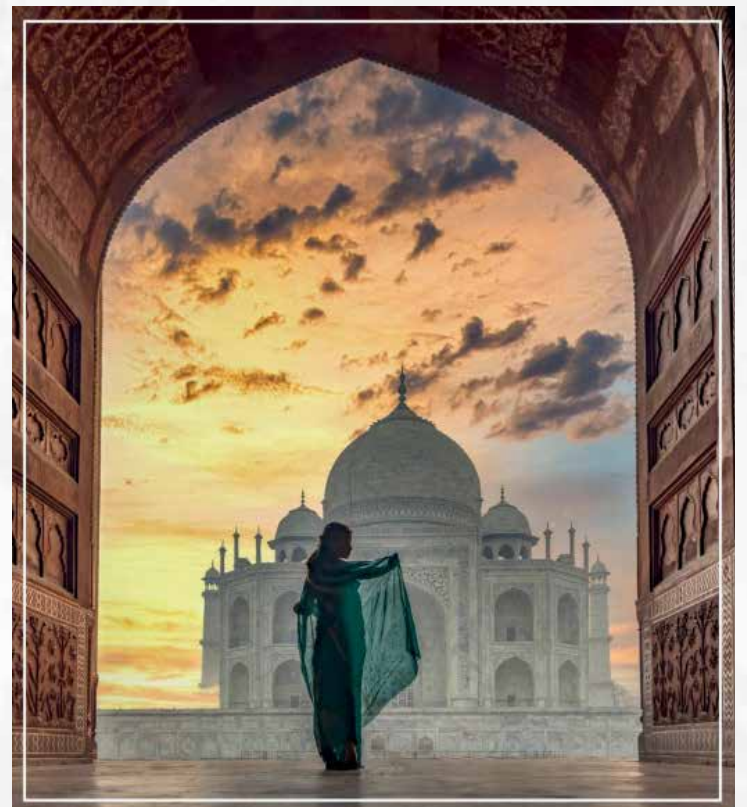
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