

# St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1208

Thursday, April 25, 2024

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## Nearly 90 volunteers participate in 25th annual Thames River Clean Up



Drey Price, Connor Topp and Ryan Sleeper cleaned up from Line 12 into the Flats. They found lots of plastic and a large chair and tire. Photo by Todd Sleeper

By Wendy Lamond

Despite the colder weather on Saturday, 88 volunteers showed up to help at the 25th annual Thames River Clean Up.

The volunteers were there at 9 a.m. for registration and were offered gloves, garbage bags, Tim Hortons coffee, hot chocolate and Timbits. According to Todd Sleeper from Friends of the Thames and founder of the Thames River Clean Up, it was wonderful to see all the families get involved with cleaning up the parks, walkways and river banks. The areas covered for the cleanup included St. Marys, Wildwood

and River Valley Golf Course all the way to Motherwell.

"We filled the donated Diamond Disposal dumpster. All the volunteers were treated to a BBQ for their efforts in helping our environment," Sleeper told the Independent.

All of the kids who helped were given a coupon to Hearn's Ice Cream. Sleeper expressed his thanks to all of the volunteers, Diamond Disposal, Hearn's Ice Cream, Tim Horton's and the Town of St. Marys for a very successful 25th anniversary Thames River Clean Up.

## Stonetown Arts co-chairs stepping down after more than a decade

By Galen Simmons

After more than a decade leading a group of St. Marys and area artists, Cathy Atwell and Chantel Marshall will step down as co-chairs of Stonetown Arts at its annual general meeting in June.

After Darlean Morris established the Art Salon Group of St. Marys, a loosely organized group of artists that would show their work together, in 2009, Atwell and Marshall were brought on to help run the group in various capacities – Marshall because she is a local artist and Atwell, who also served as Stonetown Arts treasurer, because she is a friend of Morris' and had organizational and financial experience.

The group hosted its first annual show in November of 2011, for which Atwell volunteered to manage the show's finances, and by June 2013, Atwell and Marshall had gradually taken over leadership from Morris, officially becoming chair and co-chair of the group that would ultimately call itself Stonetown Arts. At that point, the two worked to install a board of directors for Stonetown Arts and began establishing structure, policies and procedures for the group's longevity and to make the annual art show in November that features the work of local artists an event locals could look forward to year after year.

"We now have members meetings every month, which are really good," Marshall said, speaking about how the artists' group has changed since she and Atwell stepped in as co-chairs. "We offer something every month that people are interested in. As ridiculous as that sounds, that was a really challenging thing to organize. And, of course, we offer

Continued on page 3

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**MLS**



## COMMUNITY

# Perth County to install speed-radar signs in 22 reduced-speed zones countywide

By Galen Simmons

To combat speeding in communities across the county, Perth County council voted recently to pay \$308,000 for the purchase and installation of speed-radar signs in 22 reduced-speed zones countywide.

At the April 18 county council meeting, councillors voted to draw the required funds from the county's \$3-million capital roads reserve to purchase and install the signs this year, despite the project not being included in the 2024 capital budget.

"Since 2020, public-works staff have utilized four solar-powered, speed-radar signs to promote speed awareness and track speeds in our reduced-speed zones," county public-works director John McClelland said. "The department has received positive feedback from the residents of the towns and villages where the signs have been deployed, with the only negative being the minimum frequency they are up at any one location."

In his report to council, McClelland detailed criteria recommended for the permanent installation of speed-radar signs in the county. Those criteria include:

- the sign must be within a reduced-speed zone along a county owned roadway located in a town, village or built-up area;
- the reduced-speed zone is on a through road where there are no stop controls within or at the end of the reduced-speed zone;
- the speed limit on either end of the reduced-speed zone is 80km/hr;
- the location for speed-radar signs will be within the reduced-speed zone approximately 80-100 meters from the beginning of the reduced zone;
- other installations, location or removal of the permanent speed-radar signs will be at the discretion of the director of public works; and
- the permanent speed radar sign program will be reviewed every 10 years and/or if there are issues with maintenance or the effectiveness of the program.

Based on that criteria, staff identified 22 locations where permanent speed-radar signs will be installed. Giving councillors the option of having all the signs purchased and installed at once or purchasing and installing them through a phased-in approach, staff ranked the 22 locations based on traffic volumes and 85th percentile speeds.

Topping the list of ranked speed-radar-sign locations was Perth Line 72 in Donegal followed by Perth Road 119 in Brunner, Perth Road 121 in Poole and Perth Line 26 in Harmony.

"I looked at the 22 locations and I can definitely see them all being on here, then I was looking at the ranking and I was somewhat dismayed that Harmony was up fairly high ... and then St. Pauls was like four from the (bottom)," Coun. Jim Aitcheson said. "Of all the traffic that speeds through Harmony, probably 90 per cent of that speeds through St. Pauls because that's your cottage traffic, your truck traffic, everything. I was kind of surprised St. Pauls would be that far down and Harmony up where it should have been."

Aitcheson also noted that Wartburg, which was ranked at 12th on the list, and Rostock, ranked at 20th, are located on the same road and he questioned why the rankings differ so drastically.

"We had to choose some criteria in order to rank these, and we thought that was best facilitated through how busy is the road traffic volume and the 85th percentile speed we observe within the reduced-speed zone," McClelland said. "As it pertains to Harmony and St. Pauls, our traffic volumes are taken on an average annual daily traffic basis. So you're correct, the traffic in the summertime heading to cottage country is going to be higher. We look at traffic volumes on an average over the course of the year. Harmony also is a 50 km/hr reduced-speed zone whereas St. Pauls is a 60 km/hr reduced-speed zone."

"You saw a report earlier in the year regarding Kurtzville, and we compared both Harmony and St. Pauls in that report, and you saw basically similar 85th percentile speed even higher

in Harmony than St. Pauls. That could be just from the characteristics of the roadway, it could be from enforcement."

With the speed-radar signs expected to cost roughly \$7,000 each, council was unanimous in its decision to not only purchase and install all 22 signs at the same time, but to do that this year as opposed to setting them aside for the 2025 capital budget.

"I want to speak in favour of being all in here," Coun. Todd Kasenberg said. "I think this is a fine opportunity for us to show immediate leadership on this issue. We know that these signs are well-appreciated by local environments. People who are living in these areas have expressed appreciation for the temporary signs when we used them, and I think we show clear leadership in suggesting that we are concerned about the safety of these areas on our county roads."

In addition to the 22 permanent signs to be installed across the county, McClelland said staff will still be able to use the four temporary signs as needed to track and control speeding in high-traffic, reduced-speed zones that don't meet the criteria for a permanent sign including Milverton (Perth Road 131), Dublin (Perth Road 180), Shakespeare (Perth Road 107), Millbank (Perth Line 72), Fullarton (Perth Road 163) and Gowanstown (Perth Line 88).

Data collected by the signs will also be shared with local police to help guide traffic enforcement.

The full list of locations that council approved for speed-radar signs are as follows:

1. Donegal (Perth Line 72)
2. Brunner (Perth Road 119)
3. Poole (Perth Road 121)
4. Harmony (Perth Line 26)
5. Gadshill (Perth Road 119)
6. Carthage (Perth Road 131)
7. Molesworth (Perth Line 86)
8. Avonton (Perth Road 130)
9. Rannoch (Perth Road 139)
10. Hesson (Perth Road 121)
11. Fullarton (Perth Line 20)
12. Wartburg (Perth Road 135)
13. Millbank (Perth Road 121)
14. Staffa (Perth Road 180)
15. Newton (Perth Line 72)
16. Britton (Perth Road 147)
17. Kurtzville (Perth Line 88)
18. Cromarty (Perth Road 180)
19. St. Pauls (Perth Line 20)
20. Rostock (Perth Road 135)
21. Brodhagen (Perth Line 44)
22. Prospect Hill (Perth Road 139)



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16°C

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Saturday  
Apr-27th

Rain



18°C

Feels Like  
20

Sunday  
Apr-28th

Sun/cloud



24°C

Feels Like  
28

Monday  
Apr-29th

Light rain



21°C

Feels Like  
23

Tuesday  
Apr-30th

Sun/cloud



14°C

Feels Like  
12



## COMMUNITY

# Stonetown Arts co-chairs stepping down after more than a decade

Continued from page 1

workshops and we do this Create and Play program (for our members) at the library, which runs for two months in the winter, but the annual November show is our biggest (event)."

"That has always been our signature event," added Atwell. "Over the years, from 2013 to now, membership has grown considerably from, I would say, 22 to 45, 50 members. So the membership has grown and, as far as the annual show is concerned, we tweaked it from year to year to year, and then got to a point where we had a pretty good overall action plan that we could follow. It operates now almost like a well-oiled machine."

With guidelines for submitting art and how each piece is to be professionally framed and hung, the annual Stonetown Arts show now displays art by as many as half the group's membership, with some artists submitting new pieces each year and others submitting only when they have art to show, offering St. Marys a chance to appreciate new work by different lo-



After more than a decade, Stonetown Arts co-chairs Cathy Atwell and Chantel Marshall are stepping down as leaders of the St. Marys artsits' group at the annual meeting June 3. Photo by Galen Simmons

cal artists each year.

With Marshall set to remain a member of the Stonetown Arts board and Atwell stepping away from the group except to provide advice or guidance to the board when necessary, both say their decision to step down is meant

to give someone else a chance to lead and bring forward new ideas for Stonetown Arts.

"I just decided it was time," Atwell said. "Not only am I co-chair, but I'm also treasurer and the secretary. For me it was just time to do something

different and hand it over to fresh eyes, fresh ideas."

"It would be nice to have new ideas and more enthusiasm, someone who would bring a lot of passion to the job," added Marshall. "It's been a lot of years. I think we've kind of done everything we set out to do."

Atwell and Marshall say they feel Stonetown Arts is a good place, not just organizationally but with respect to the friendships and collaborative relationships that have been established between the member artists.

Member Bonnie Innes has already agreed to take over as treasurer after Atwell steps down, and the members who serve dual roles in the group like tech-design guru Rob Anderson, meeting coordinator Sandy Craig and Kathy Blake, who manages the rotating Stonetown Arts display at Barista's on Water Street will continue serving in those roles.

A new chair or co-chairs of Stonetown Arts will be elected at the annual meeting June 3.



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## EDITORIAL

# From the editor's desk: the multitasking joys of working from home

By Galen Simmons

In 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic forced most of us to stop working from the office, I'd already been working mostly from home for the better part of a year or two.

Sure, I'd drop in at the office to keep my boss at the time happy and to upload photos to the central server, but I did the majority of my work from the tiny little desk in the bedroom of my attic apartment, allowing me to roll out of bed and begin my work day without the hassle of a morning commute or even the need to brush my teeth or put on pants before I began answering emails and making phone calls.

While my work-from-home routine has evolved significantly since then – I promise I'm wearing pants as I write this – I have become a diehard supporter of remote work over the past five years, and the notion of returning to any kind of office makes about as much sense to me as ignoring all the public-health and other lessons we collectively learned from the pandemic.

Personally, I am way more productive without other people around. When I worked at an office, I'd often find myself distracted by conversations with coworkers, unnecessary trips to get coffee and literally anything else I could find to keep myself from doing actual work.

While there may be plenty of distractions at home and my penchant for procrastination hasn't improved much, I find instead of wasting time doing nothing productive at the office, I use those little breaks from work to do the household tasks that need to be done anyway like starting a load of laundry, emptying the dishwasher, or – as I'm planning on doing this week – filing

my taxes.

I also find my eating habits are both healthier and less expensive. Instead of walking over to McDonald's or Tim Hortons for a coffee or some lunch, I make myself much better coffee at home and my lunches would make the authors of Canada's Food Guide proud. And, since I'm responsible for setting my own schedule, I can use the power of procrastination to actually get some exercise during the day – something that gives me that much-needed boost after lunch and helps refresh my brain for the remainder of the day.

After working remotely for years, my girlfriend recently started a new job that required her to work from an office for the first two weeks and every Monday and Tuesday after that. While she appreciates the opportunity to socialize and collaborate in person with her co-workers, it's clear the all-important work-life balance is harder to achieve when she's at the office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

I realize we're both lucky to have jobs that allow us the flexibility to work from home and there are many professions that don't offer that luxury. For those employers that can however, giving employees who have proven they can work independently the option to work remotely demonstrates a level of trust and gives them the freedom to balance their work and personal lives, something that can really strengthen relationships between workers and their bosses.

I'm the kind of guy who will always be happier and more comfortable at home, so maybe I'm biased, but I really don't see the downside to letting employees work from wherever suits them best.

## Bravo

We have 3 Bravos this week.

1) Bravo to Todd Sleeper for the 25 years of dedication to Thames River clean up. Thank you so much for caring about this community and your interest in keeping it beautiful - preserving the Grand Trunk Trail, the Thames River and the surroundings areas.

2) Bravo to all the volunteers who took time on Saturday morning to clean up the Grand Trunk trail, Thames river and surrounding areas.

3) Bravo to the representatives of the OFA for continuing the conversation with solutions not slogans on the carbon pricing controversy. Thank you farmers for feeding us all! And bravo to the St. Marys Independent for providing a platform for this type of reasoned, forward thinking discussion.

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

## Boo

We have 3 Boos this week.

1) Boo to all those people who pollute our town's beautiful Grand Trunk Trail, Thames River, and surrounding areas! You have no consideration for these beautiful natural spaces we have available in this town.

2) Boo to the Pyramid Recreation Centre for not having a separate bin for empty beer cans. These empties are all put into the garbage and not taken to cash in. This would be a significant amount of money over the season. Let's make some effort!

3) Boo to the people that stop in Milt Dunnell Park to smoke and throw their butts & plastic cigar tips out on the ground. When it rains they end up in the river and into our drinking water. Shame on you.

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

## Quote of the Week

*"This is a really good team, and we have a ton of respect for them. They demand a lot of us. I thought our guys were right there with them again tonight. We are going to have to stand in there and keep pushing on home ice."*

- Toronto Maple Leaf Coach Sheldon Keefe showing his respect for the Boston Bruins after the Leafs took game 2 in the series.

## Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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

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## The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS  
OF THE WEEK

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Being happy doesn't mean everything is perfect. It means you looked beyond the imperfections.

When someone is rude, keep a smile on your face. It takes away their power.



# COMMUNITY

## St. Marys Firefighter's Breakfast returns May 5



By St. Marys Independent staff

St. Marys firefighters are preparing the grill for their annual fundraising breakfast.

This year's breakfast is happening on Sunday, May 5 at the Fire Hall (172 James St. S) from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Parking is available in the DCVI lot. The cost is \$10 per adult or \$5 per child aged five to 12. Children under five eat for free.

Breakfast will include sausage, bacon, scrambled eggs, fried eggs, potatoes, milk, toast, juice, coffee and tea. This breakfast has always been held the Sunday before Mother's Day and is one of the Fire Department's major fundraisers. Proceeds from the event will be put towards the fight against Muscular Dystrophy.

"This breakfast has become a beloved local tradition," said St. Marys Deputy Fire Chief Phil West in a press release. "The firefighters start planning for this several months in advance to make this event a success."

"Last year the weather didn't cooperate with us. However, it didn't dampen the spirits of the firefighters or members of the community who attended," added Fire Chief Richard "Andy" Anderson. "In addition to being a fundraiser, the breakfast is an opportunity to talk about fire prevention, promote fire safety and discuss Emergency Preparedness Week, which runs May 7 to 13."

This year's theme for Emergency Preparedness Week is "Be Prepared. Know Your Risks." All St. Marys residents are encouraged to make emergency preparedness part of their regular routines.

Those attending the breakfast can also meet their local firefighters, explore the fire hall and view a display of fire trucks and rescue equipment. Sparky the Fire dog will also be on hand.

Questions about the event can be directed to Chief Anderson at 519-284-2340 ext. 201 or [randerson@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:randerson@town.stmarys.on.ca).

## STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



### LIVING LIBRARY EVENT

May 1, 7 PM | Pyramid Centre

The St. Marys Public Library is proud to present an evening with author Iona Whishaw! Tickets are on sale for \$25.00 at Betty's Bookshelf.

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# ACTION

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## Senior of the Week



Bill Kaufman celebrated his 84th birthday on March 29, 2024. Bill was born in the House Hospital in St. Marys and spent his younger years on the family farm in Downie township. He has four children (one deceased 2023) and six grandchildren. He lives in New Hamburg with his wife Gail. Bill enjoyed his 28 years as a firefighter with the New Hamburg Fire department. In his spare time, if he has any, he enjoys helping family members, his neighbours and anyone who needs a helping hand. Bill was nominated by his sister Nelda Mossip-Oliver.

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

## COMMUNITY

# Town asking residents to take part in website navigation study

By St. Marys Independent staff

The Town of St. Marys is asking residents to participate in a navigation study for its new website.

The online exercise tests the structure of the site to ensure information is easy to find. The study takes about eight to 10 minutes to complete and is available at [www.townofstmarys.com/navigation](http://www.townofstmarys.com/navigation).

Participants will be asked to find a series of items from a list of links. For example, a user may be asked to find a copy of the town's seasonal swim schedule or zoning bylaw.

Participants will then navigate through the list of links and choose the menu option under which they would look for the item. Each click a user makes provides insight that will be used to test the new site's structure.

"There are no right or wrong answers in this study," said corporate communications manager Brett O'Reilly in a press release. "Even if you're unable to



find an item, every guess provides us with valuable information to ensure our new site is user-friendly."

The study is open until May 5. Questions about the study can be directed to O'Reilly at 519-284-2340 ext. 432 or [boreilly@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:boreilly@town.stmarys.on.ca).

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## Weekend Quiz

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1. When was the last time the Toronto Blue Jays won the World Series?
2. What is the most abundant wild bird worldwide?
3. Where was chess invented?
4. Eminem's 8 Mile is named after a road in which city?
5. How old was King Tut when he became king?
6. What does A.I stand for?
7. What was Superman's home planet called?
8. Which age do you have to reach to be eligible to become President of the United States?
9. The term port side is referring to what side of a boat?
10. What blood group is a universal donor?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

# Legion

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION  
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## HOURS

TUE – THU 3PM - ???  
FRI NOON TILL ???  
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**COMMUNITY**

# Dementia-related assaults up in St. Marys last month



## STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES

By Galen Simmons

Stratford police responded to a total of four assaults in St. Marys last month, up from zero in February, most of which police say can be attributed to locals living with dementia.

At the April 16 St. Marys community policing advisory committee meeting, Stratford police deputy chief Gerry Foster gave members a rundown of last month's police and crime statistics.

"We did have a jump in assaults and, looking at those for this meeting, it's kind of interesting," Foster said. "We had a trend of dementia-related assaults that are being reported to us. Of course, most of the time we do not lay charges in those situations, obviously."

Later in the meeting, Foster also noted that all four assaults were committed by different people last month.

In total, police responded to 195 calls for service last month, up from 153 in February but down from 225 in March 2023. From those calls for service, police laid 29 charges – the same number of charges officers laid in February, but down significantly from 51

charges laid in March last year.

Police responded to seven false-alarm calls – up from six in February – nine mental-health-related calls – up from six in February – and two overdoses after police saw a month without any in February. Police also responded to two domestic-violence calls in March, down significantly from seven in February and nine in March 2023. Neither of the domestic calls last month resulted in charges being laid.

Police saw a decrease in frauds reported last month from six in February to two in March, an increase in mischief calls from zero in February to three in March, a slight decrease in thefts from motor vehicles from two in February to one in March, and an increase in thefts under \$5,000 from two in February to four in March. Police also responded to one sexual offence in March.

In March, police responded to four motor-vehicle collisions in St. Marys, three of which resulted in property damage only and one was classified as a hit and run. Of the 12 traffic tickets issued in March, six were for speeding and four were for driving with a suspended license.

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# COMMUNITY

## Raise Your Vibe Movement Meditation Studio opens on Queen Street



Andrew Neufeld opens Raise Your Vibe Movement and Meditation Studio.

By Wendy Lamond

What is a movement-meditation studio?

According to owner Andrew Neufeld, owner of the new Vibe Movement Meditation Studio at 83 Queen St., it is a calming place of reflection where patrons can join classes that focus on movement, breathing and connecting, which also happens to be their motto.

Neufeld, who grew up in St. Marys, has spent most of his career in the restaurant industry. Throughout his profession, he has called places like Guelph, Cambridge, St. Catherines and Stratford home. He has worked in many restaurants, which involved dealing with the public and working his way up to gain managerial experience.

However, due to the late hours and crazy schedules, he was looking for a change and to leave that profession.

During the time when the mortgages rose, he and his wife moved back to St. Marys, which was when he had the idea to establish Raise Your Vibe.

Neufeld has been interested in health and fitness his whole life and has had personal-training experience. During the pandemic, he got involved with Qigong (pronounced Chi Gong) which involves the regulation of mind, breath and body movements. He told the Independent it changed his life.

"Because of my personal-training background and industry background, this is the birthchild of both of those things," Neufeld said.

Neufeld's wife, Candace, designed the



Raise Your Vibe Studio at 83 Queen St. Photos by Wendy Lamond

studio which has such a warm, comforting atmosphere providing a great space to recharge.

Each class will consist of three equal parts. The first will involve having some tea and sharing thoughts on your day. The second will involve movement of Qigong practices, and the third will include intuitive, guided mediation. Each class will likely be a little different depending on the group and individual requirements that day.

The hours for the studio will be Tuesday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. with a break between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. daily, and they will also be open 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

They are very happy to be back in town and are looking forward to re-integrating back into the communi-

ty as their focus so far has been on getting the studio ready. Candace will be helping with the social media part of the business. They also have tea available to purchase as well as crystal dream catchers.

The opening is set for May 1, however they are hosting an open house May 4 from 2-4 p.m. Neufeld will be doing some exercises periodically throughout the open house to show people the mindfulness of the classes themselves and what is involved. The event will offer locals a great opportunity to pop in, see the lovely space and learn a bit about Qigong.

Raise Your Vibe can be found on Facebook and Instagram, but you can also reach Neufeld with any questions directly at [andrew@raiseyourvibewithus.com](mailto:andrew@raiseyourvibewithus.com).

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**COMMUNITY**

# St. Marys Public Library stocking up on seeds for springtime

By Emily Stewart

St. Marys Public Library is making sure its seed-lending library is filled with lots of options for patrons to plant in their gardens.

The library said in an April 18 Facebook post that anyone with extra seeds and/or harvested seeds from their garden can bring them to the seed-lending library.

“It is our hope that this collection will support gardeners, promote healthy diet, encourage community involvement and reclaim seeds as a public resource,” said Kate Long, acquisitions and cataloguing clerk at the St. Marys Public Library.

The library will collect any seeds from heirloom and hybrid plants all year round. However, Long said seeds from invasive species such as multiflora rose and black locust are not preferred. A complete list of invasive species in Ontario can be found by visiting [ontarioinvasive-plants.ca/invasive-plants/species](http://ontarioinvasive-plants.ca/invasive-plants/species).

Any seed donations will require

some information before they’re added to the seed-lending-library collection.

“We simply ask that you provide us with the year the seeds were harvested and what type of seed they are,” Long said. “The more specific you can be the better.”

Long said the St. Marys Public Library prepares a Three Sisters seed packet every year and supply runs out quickly. The seeds originate from Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) customs and planting the Three Sisters Garden seeds embraces community.

“This method of planting teaches the need to stick together and to support one another in order to thrive,” she said.

In addition to seed packets, the St. Marys Public Library also has a collection of gardening books for patrons to learn about seed harvesting and other gardening techniques. The books can be found via [tinyurl.com/stmarys-library-grow-together](http://tinyurl.com/stmarys-library-grow-together).



The St. Marys Public Library is ensuring there are enough seeds for patrons with green thumbs this spring. The library will collect seed packets and harvested seeds throughout the year. Photo by Kate Long

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# COMMUNITY

## Hometown resident Bo Jackson changes gears

By Jake Grant

In a quiet town like St. Marys, a familiar face has embarked on a new career path. Bo Jackson, well-known for his years in the restaurant industry, recently made the switch to become a barber at MacPherson's Barber Shop.

Jackson's first day at MacPherson's Barber Shop was on Thursday, April 18, marking the start of a promising new chapter in his life. Reflecting on his decision to switch careers, Jackson said, "I've been in the restaurant industry for quite some time, and I decided that I wanted to make a change in life for the better – to try and create my own business and sort of get out of the scheduling that I had and work some daytime hours, and for the benefit of my relationship as well."

Encouragement from his longtime barber, Jay MacPherson, played a significant role in his decision. "Jay has cut my hair since he started," Bo mentioned. "He always told me, 'Hey you've got the personality for this. If you ever change careers this could be a great fit for you.'" Inspired by MacPherson's words, Bo took the leap into barbering, undertaking for-



Bo Jackson stands in his new work environment at MacPherson's Barber Shop. Photo by Jake Grant.

mal training and practice to master his new craft.

Transitioning from bartending to barbering presented its own challenges. "It was a lot different grabbing scissors and hair compared to making a cocktail or serving guests, Bo admitted. "The change required schooling, practice, and plenty of

hands-on learning."

After graduating from the London Beauty Academy, Bo honed his skills with family and friends. "Practicing at the start came from friends, family, those willing to let me practice on them," he shared.

Recognizing Bo's strong customer

service background, Jay saw great potential in his transition to barbering. "He's a perfect fit for the role, Jay remarked. "He's got the personality and values down. Learning to cut hair was the easy part."

Bo's transition was also fueled by the joy of creating positive customer interactions. "The satisfaction of finishing and completing a good haircut and at the end of it, someone saying 'sweet I really like that', is like in the restaurant industry when they say, 'thanks that was a great time'. That's something I knew I couldn't give up when I was doing a job."

Now settled as a junior barber at MacPherson's Barber Shop, Bo is eager to serve his community. "As a junior barber, my service times are a bit longer and prices are lower," Bo explained.

For those in St. Marys seeking a fresh haircut and friendly conversation, Bo Jackson is ready to welcome you at MacPherson's Barber Shop, located at 108 Queen St. E..

To book an appointment with Bo Jackson or learn more about MacPherson's Barber Shop, visit [macphersonsbarbershop.ca](http://macphersonsbarbershop.ca) or call 226-661-0222.



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# COMMUNITY

## Community Closet celebrates National Volunteer Week

By Wendy Lamond

The Community Closet, which has been in business at St. James Anglican Church for over six months, held an appreciation night to honour its 25 volunteers who have willingly given their time to keep the closet going.

The Community Closet opened its doors to serve those in the St. Marys community and surrounding area with free clothing. The service is intended for those in need, however the board of directors also want people to know it is open for anyone who wants to come in and check it out. There is also a food cupboard that can be accessed while shopping.

The evening started with some social time and dinner. Board member Jenny Calder gave a warm welcome and shared with the group some statistics on the impact the closet has had in the community. In the six-month span, the Closet has held nine donation days, five sorting days, 30 shopping days and welcomed 265 shoppers. She also shared a disturbing fact that 55 per cent of charities have fewer volunteers than they did before the pandemic. Calder said this is causing some concerns that some programs will not be able to continue running. The theme for National Volunteer Week is "Every Moment Matters," which highlights the importance of every volunteer and the contribution they make.



Volunteers from the St. Marys Community Closet are all smiles as they enjoy an appreciation night. Photo by Wendy Lamond

Board member and St. Marys outreach worker Brittany Petrie shared some feedback on what she is hearing regarding the importance of programs like the Closet.

"It is not just people living in shelters that are accessing the closet," Petrie said. "Part of our role was to really fight the stigma that this isn't just for low-income families, it is for everyone."

She also talked about the town program called Play and Browse. It is an EarlyON program for kids aged six and under who come in for a play

group while the parents shop at the Closet.

The Closet has also partnered with other organizations within Perth County such as Shelterlink, Optimism Place and the Emily Murphy Centre by sharing items of clothing that are needed the most.

According to both Calder and Petrie, the biggest question they are asked relates to the hours of the Closet. The hours are set to coincide with other events happening close by such as the Nourish Market and the community dinners held at the Unit-

ed Church. Lack of transportation options is an issue locally, so it makes sense to have these programs coincide for easier access.

Right now, the Closet is paused for donations due to excess inventory. It is a great problem to have, but due to space they can no longer accept donations at the present time. They also feel if there is an immediate need, donations should go somewhere where it can go to those in need sooner than later.

At the end of the evening, volunteers had a chance to offer suggestions or thoughts on the Closet and ways to help the shoppers make the most of their experience.

Volunteers are so important and Calder shared her gratitude towards those in attendance.

"Volunteers don't necessarily have the time, they just have the heart," she said.

The Community Closet can be found at 65 Church St. S. at St. James Anglican Church. The Closet is open on the second and fourth Monday and the first and third Thursday of the month from 2-6 p.m.

The Community Closet can be reached at [stmaryscommunitycloset@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryscommunitycloset@gmail.com) or at 226-261-0098. Visit [www.facebook.com/stmaryscommunitycloset](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryscommunitycloset) for more information.



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## COMMUNITY

# Multicultural Association of Perth Huron officially launches Mobile Food Bank program

By Galen Simmons

Responding to a need for after-hours and weekend support of locals experiencing food insecurity, the Multicultural Association of Perth Huron has officially launched its Mobile Food Bank program.

Though the association has been providing free food, personal-hygiene products and other household supplies to newcomers and other locals in need for more than a year, it recently launched the program as a way to support those who are unable to access support from area food banks during regular business hours Monday to Friday and promote the association's ongoing need for donated grocery store gift cards to support the program's goal.

"For us here, we have some difficulties. There are some people moving here from different worlds," said Charles Gak, who immigrated to Canada from Sudan and now volunteers with the multicultural association to help deliver food, supplies and gift cards to those who need them as part of the Mobile Food Bank program. "They came direct to (association executive director) Geza (Wordofa) here. Even they have children. They don't have access to a bus and they don't even have a place to go. In the meantime, they are waiting for the government to do something for them, but if they don't get nothing, they can't wait.

"I remember last year one day, a Ukrainian came to this country. I went with Geza and we went everywhere helping them. Canadians support the Ukrainians. ... Now there is a problem in Gaza and even in Lebanon – they have economic problems – and in other countries in Africa like The Congo, and also in Haiti. And they are coming here. We need to do something."

According to Gak and the other volunteers who help deliver food, supplies and gift cards to those who need them across Perth, Huron, Oxford, Wellington and Middlesex counties, some newcomers either don't understand or are unable to navigate the process they need to follow to access support through local food banks.

Others, meanwhile, including area residents native to Canada, are unable to make it to their local food bank for support during normal business hours for any number of reasons, chief of which is a lack of available public transportation in rural areas of the region.

"Our main goal is to fill the gap," Wordofa said. "The main thing is weekends. From Friday to Sunday, that's three days. It can be critical. Food is a human right. You have the right to eat. Rent is expensive, gas is expensive. I never expected people coming to us with a shortage of something. We are not a super-rich organization, but we do what we can.

"In a big city, you can see the people suffering. Here, you don't always see it."

Wordofa is asking locals to donate gift certificates from their area grocery stores in any amount to the multicultural association either by calling the association's emergency hotline at 1-888-308-6274 or emailing [info@maph.ca](mailto:info@maph.ca). Those in need of after-hours or weekend support can also reach out to the multicultural association to request assistance at that phone number or email address.

Donated gift cards will either be given to residents in need directly so they can shop for groceries themselves or, for those who can't get to a grocery store, the association's volunteers will purchase specific items and deliver them personally.



The Multicultural Association of Perth Huron has officially launched its Mobile Food Bank program serving locals in need after hours and on weekends across Perth, Huron, Oxford, Wellington and Middlesex counties who can't access food-bank services during regular business hours. Pictured from left are association volunteer Charle Gak, association executive director Geza Wordofa, and volunteers Hira Dhariwal and Asrat Negawo. Photo by Galen Simmons



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COMMUNITY

# With most of Ontario's heritage properties losing protection by year-end, ACO urges province to extend deadline

By Dan Schneider, president Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Stratford/Perth County

The clock is fast running down for protection of thousands of heritage properties listed by municipalities under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Changes to the act by the Ford government in 2022 required each municipality to remove every listed property from its heritage register within two years – by Jan. 1, 2025 – unless that municipality has begun the process to designate a listed property prior to the deadline.

According to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, this change affects some 36,000 list-

ed heritage properties in scores of municipalities across the province. Unlike a designated property, a listed property has only modest, short-term, 60-day protection. The enforced removal from registers will take away this protection and put these heritage properties at increased risk of demolition. Properties that lose their listing status cannot be re-listed for another five years.

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) chair Diane Chin warns that forcing municipalities to designate all listed properties by next Jan. 1 or drop them from their registers is draconian and totally unrealistic.

“With the expiry date now months away, municipalities have been scrambling to review their registers and prioritize properties for designation or other protection,” Chin said in a press release. “But this is nearly impossible on such a tight timeline.”

ACO’s research shows that no more than a small fraction of Ontario’s listed properties are in line for designation by year-end. In St. Marys, for example, only two of 112 listed properties are expected to be designated.

Chin has written to Premier Doug Ford urging the province to extend the deadline for five years, until Jan. 1, 2030.

“This would give municipalities time to better plan, resource and implement a complex undertaking,” she said.

An extended deadline would help

municipalities ensure that properties are not thrown off the register prematurely and without input from property owners, many of whom are not aware of what’s happening.

“ACO believes property owners should not be forced to choose between designation and nothing at all to recognize the heritage significance of their property,” Chin added. “But, if this is what the government wants, they could easily provide a few more years to help municipalities work with their communities to get it right.”

St. Marys Mayor Al Strathdee has also written to the premier and Citizenship and Multiculturalism Minister Michael Ford on the issue.

Architectural Conservancy Ontario is the largest voice for heritage in Ontario, founded in 1933 with branches in 16 communities across the province.



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## SPORTS

# Lincs win thriller over Listowel; fall in Fort Erie

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys Lincolns have one win and one loss in the Sutherland Cup round-robin after back-to-back games that included a heart-breaking overtime loss against the Fort Erie Meteors followed by a heart-stopping, instant-classic win over the Listowel Cyclones.

Going into Wednesday's clash between the Meteors and Cyclones in Fort Erie, each team sat tied with a 1-1 record. Overtime losses do not give an extra point in the round-robin standings.

St. Marys played their first of four round-robin games on the road in Fort Erie and despite a strong team-wide effort, they dropped their round-robin opener to the Meteors by a score of 2-1 in overtime. The back-and-forth contest seldom saw either team take their foot off the gas and both goaltenders – Charlie Burns for Fort Erie and Brandon Abbott for the Lincolns – were phenomenal. Abbott stopped 27 or 29 Fort Erie shots, while Burns denied all but one St. Marys chance.

Head coach Jeff Bradley told the Independent he was happy with the way his team played despite the undesired outcome of the extra period.

"It was a really good game by two really good teams," said Bradley. "Both teams controlled the play at different times and, unfortunately, we came up on the short end of it. We had a couple of missed assignments, but I think that's to be expected when you have a week off of games. But I thought, all things considered, we came to play. We played hard. Brandon (Abbott) was outstanding. It's tough losing at this stage. You know you're so close but you still lose which obviously doesn't feel great. But we can't get mad at the players. They worked their guts out.

"They did what we asked."

After a scoreless first period, the Lincolns finally found the icebreaker after an incredible shift that hemmed the Meteors in their own end and had them scrambling to keep up with the dizzying puck movement by the Lincs. Quarterbacking the shift were rearguards Jacob Montesi and Luke Bogart who picked up well-deserved assists when Chase MacQueen-Spen-



**Brandon Abbott stares down an incoming rush during this past Sunday's St. Marys Lincolns game against the Listowel Cyclones. Abbott made 42 saves and earned player-of-the-game honours for his stellar performance as he backstopped the Lincs to a 2-1 victory over the high-flying Cyclones. Photo by McGinny Photography**

ce finally capped off the shift with the game's first goal.

"You want to take advantage of your time in the offensive zone because the line change in the second period is further away on the bigger ice surface," said Bradley. "Something we talked about after the first period was, if we get the opportunity in the offensive zone, to be patient with it and not just shoot the puck away immediately. Be patient, tire them out and wait to capitalize on one mistake.

"Fortunately for us, we had Jacob and Luke who have really good chemistry and really good control in the offensive zone and then on top of that, we had our top scorer, our best offensive threat out there in Chase. It was great recognition by both Jacob and Luke to keep the puck moving in the offensive zone and great recognition by Chase to find the soft spot in the high slot."

Bradley commented further about the evolution of Montesi and Bogart, who play well beyond what their ages and physical statures might suggest they are capable of.

"They are both good hockey players. They're smart. They have good chemistry. They are both great kids who love the game, love to learn and have done a great job becoming such reli-

able defencemen. For Jacob, it's been over his two years and Luke at just over a year and change going back to when he was an AP with us last year."

An errant turnover near the Fort Erie blueline later in the period sent Hunter Coley flying back the other way and caught the Lincs as they were making a line change before rocketing a shot past Abbott to tie the game at one apiece. A controversial moment occurred later in the second when Abbott initially stopped a Fort Erie shot but it then trickled through. However, before the puck went in, the net became dislodged and, as a result, the goal was disallowed.

The third period went by without a goal, resulting in overtime. In the extra frame, a costly tripping penalty taken by Cohen Bidgood gave the Meteors a powerplay, which they capitalized on. After zipping the puck around, they finally found Blake Hall in the slot who buried the game-winner to give the Meteors a 2-1 win.

The overtime penalty was one of just two powerplays doled out in the game, both of which went to Fort Erie, while a total of just four penalties were called overall. While Bradley recognized the powerplay in overtime played a factor in the result, he had nothing negative to say about the

officiating, which reflected the very skillful nature of the game that was free from too much chippy or dirty moments.

"They got two powerplays. We didn't get one. That changed the game, but I thought the referees called a really good game. The penalties that we got called for were definitely penalties. We maybe could have gotten a powerplay here or there, but they let our guys play and both teams saw how the referees were going to call that game and both teams stayed within those limits for the most part."

Bradley felt the biggest deciding factor in the game came down to St. Marys not pouncing on their opportunities as much as the Meteors did.

"When goals are at a premium, mistakes are that much more glaring and that's what happened to us. When we're not scoring, you have to make sure you're pretty tidy everywhere else. Even though I thought we were, hockey is a game of mistakes and who capitalizes on the most of them. Unfortunately for us, Fort Erie did that."

## Abbott, Lincs hold off Cyclones

One night later, the Lincolns were back at the Pyramid Recreation Centre (PRC) hosting the Listowel Cyclones. A dominant night on the special teams coupled with an other-worldly performance by goaltender Abbott helped St. Marys improve their record to 1-1 in round-robin play with a 2-1 victory.

The cerebral tactician that he is, coach Bradley explained how much he enjoyed facing a team that played with as much structure as Listowel brought.

"It was fun playing Listowel because they are very well coached and they changed things on the fly which forced us to think on our toes. It was a challenge for us as coaches and for our players and there are a couple of new things we got to do last night and try that we haven't been able to try all year. We all enjoy the challenge of it all and the atmosphere was great, so that was a fun game to be a part of."

Despite being outshot 15-11 in each of the first two periods, the Lincolns entered the second intermission with

*Continued on page 15*

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## SPORTS

# Lincs win thriller over Listowel; fall in Fort Erie

Continued from page 14

a 2-0 lead. Both of the Lincolns' goals came on the powerplay, first with a net-front battle finished off by Cohen Bidgood at the 9:23 mark of the opening frame, later followed by a one-timer by Ethan Weir just over seven and a half minutes into the second.

"It was outstanding to see those guys break through," said Bradley. "We're really happy for Ethan. I know he's wanted that one for a while and to do it in a game that big, it feels like five goals for him. Same thing with Cohen; we're thrilled for him. We asked him to be the guy to go to the net and he's always the first one to do it. He knows that if you go there, you'll get rewarded."

The Lincolns finished the game with two goals on four powerplays, while their penalty kill successfully neutralized four Listowel man advantages. Going into the game, Listowel's powerplay had been operating at 28.8 per cent this post-season. Bradley credited the players who comprised

his special teams for their heart and compete level.

"These guys are gamers. We tell them what we think can work against what Listowel does, and they go and execute it. It was a combination of execution of our systems, caring and working hard. Our guys showed that they really have a will to win."

An argument could be made that it was the best hockey game the PRC has seen unfold in years as both teams turned in fantastic performances. Bradley believed as much, noting he felt his entire group executed the way they needed to.

"Everything was going. Every line was going. It was a good game for our whole team. Brandon (Abbott) was awesome, obviously. We matched the Spagnolo line against their big line and they didn't really get much. And then Maddox (Callens), Billy (VanSumeren) and Ryan (Hodkinson) were the other guys we were putting out late in the game."

Bradley elaborated on the Callens, VanSumeren and Hodkinson trio, a late-game makeshift line who were entrusted to close out the contest and protect the one-goal lead, which they did along with Adam Barkley and Ryder Livermore by a collective and unyielding commitment to diving in front of shots.

"Obviously, that's what we've come to expect from Adam and Ryder. Those three forwards are three guys we can lean on in moments like that. Outside of the Spagnolo line, they are guys who you know are going to be hard on pucks and defend hard. Ryan had a great night in the faceoff dot and he's really responsible defensively. Being able to trust him to play with two 20-year-old guys the calibre of Maddox and Billy in that moment speaks to how much we respect and appreciate Ryan."

"In the last two and a half minutes, I don't think Listowel had a shot on net. They had probably 15 shot attempts but didn't get a single one on

net. I think it really showed our will to win and willingness to put their bodies on the line to get it done. It's really inspiring to watch."

With the win, Bradley pointed out that the position his team is in heading into their next game this Friday is far less perilous than it would have been.

"It keeps us in the fight, that's for sure. Us getting that win resets everything to a degree and it makes that next game between those two really important because then the next time one of them faces us, they're faced with potential elimination. To us, it puts pressure on them. We've got two games to go. We control our fate. When we have been put in positions to eliminate teams, we've done it this season."

The Lincolns host the Meteors on Friday before closing the round-robin on the road in Listowel. The top two teams will then begin a best-of-seven series for the Sutherland Cup.



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**SPORTS**

# OHL's IceDogs draft McDougall in seventh round of draft

By Spencer Seymour

St. Marys native Chase McDougall was drafted by the Niagara IceDogs in the seventh round of the OHL Priority Selection earlier this month.

McDougall recounted the moment he saw his name come up as the 123rd overall pick in the draft.

"It's surreal," McDougall told the Independent. "Honestly, I don't remember much of the exact moment I got drafted. I kind of blanked out, but obviously, there was a lot of excitement and a lot of joy. There are a lot of emotions all at once, to be honest."

The six-foot-two, 190-pound forward added that it took a couple of days to soak in the realization that he'd been drafted into the OHL.

"It's slowly starting to sink. I'd say (on April 17), it really started to kick in. After I settled down a little bit, it began to sink in. It's obviously a huge honour and something I'm really proud of. I'm really excited to get down to Niagara and get started with it all."

In 29 games with the U16 Huron-Perth Lakers, McDougall scored eight goals and 23 points.

"I think I improved a lot as a player, but I think I'm more happy about how much I grew as a person," said McDougall. "I give a lot of credit to my coach Shawn (Dietrich) and his coaching staff and my teammates as well. They all helped me grow a lot. With how we practice and push each other, that really helped me.

"Shawn and the staff really put in a lot of effort and time that went unnoticed from the outside. I really respect them for that and how much they care about their players."

Dietrich told the Independent that McDougall, who turned 16 years old in March, brought a mature presence to the U16 Lakers.

"He carries himself as a leader," Dietrich said. "He wore a letter for me, he was the assistant captain. He's just a real team-first guy. He's one of those guys who is first on the ice for

practice and last off the ice. He hangs around with the guys and he's just a real team-first guy so it was good to see him get individual success that way."

Dietrich also explained the journey McDougall embraced during the year to become an all-around player for the Lakers.

"At the start of the year, he really had to grind offensively. He wanted to be that guy that scored all the time. We put him in a role where he played every team's biggest line or their best players. He became a heavily relied-upon person for us. He played on our power play and penalty kill. He was a main face-off guy and instead of focusing solely on offence, he rounded out his game," Dietrich said.

"He's been really valuable for us. He was probably one of the hardest players to play against. Guys just hate playing against him. Between his work ethic and how heavy he plays, I think that's what a lot of the OHL teams liked about him."

Dietrich said McDougall's desire and competitive spirit stand out above all else about the St. Marys resident.

"Just the passion and the love of the game (stand out to me). He's a true competitor. In the last two months of the season, he was dealing with lace bite in both feet and he hurt two fingers. He never missed a beat and he never complained about it. That's the type of player he is and that passion and love of the game and his competitiveness are the things that stand out most."

As he sets his sights on next season and attending training camp with the IceDogs, McDougall is excited for the next step in his career.

"I made the decision a couple of years ago that this is my goal and I made a lot of choices with how I do things and how I train and how much time I put into this. This is just one accomplishment that really shows it paying off and hopefully, there's more accomplishments to come."



Chase McDougall dons the Niagara IceDogs jersey after being drafted by the team in the OHL Priority Selection earlier this month. Contributed photo



## TOWN OF ST. MARYS Water Flushing Program

The Town of St. Marys will be flushing all water mains and hydrants between April 29 and May 24, 2024.

Date(s)	Times	Locations
April 29 - May 3	7 AM - 5 PM	Area west of the Thames River
May 5	6 PM - 12 AM	Queen St. E (downtown core)
May 6 - 10	7 AM - 5 PM	Area south of Trout Creek from the Thames River to James St., including James St. S
May 13 - 17	7 AM - 5 PM	Area south of Trout Creek and east of James St.
May 21 - 24	7 AM - 5 PM	Area north of Trout Creek and east of the Thames River

### POTENTIAL SERVICE DISRUPTIONS

Your water may be discoloured as naturally-occurring minerals are disturbed during flushing. If you experience discolouration, run cold water until it becomes clear. Avoid doing laundry until the discolouration has cleared. If your water does not run clear after five minutes, turn off the tap and wait 30 minutes before trying again.

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## SPORTS

# Stonetown karate students have strong showing at World Karate Championship tryouts

By Spencer Seymour

Five Stonetown Karate Centre (SKC) students had excellent performances at the World Karate Championship (WKC) provincial tryout held at the Carling Heights Community Centre in London earlier this month.

Sensei Jeremy Lorentz took immense satisfaction in seeing the success of his students.

"I have been extremely proud of the extra time and effort our students have put into preparing for this year's tryouts," said Lorentz. "With the national tryouts about a month away, they are all training hard to bring tougher competition from our Stonetown Karate team. We all work very hard at training and attending tournaments throughout the year to prepare for this and the world event."

Lorentz added the common theme that runs through his students who are vying for a chance to compete on the international stage is their determination.

"They all have pure determination to be the best. They understand you can always improve even if it's just one percent better each time and that winning a gold medal at a local tour-



Five Stonetown Karate Centre (SKC) students have earned their way to a tryout for Team Canada's World Karate Championship squad. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Jalyne Lorentz, Marieke Van Lierop and Fox Houston. In the back row, from left, are Lisa Sheldon and Shannon Campbell. Contributed photo

namment is just a stepping stone to being the best in the world. Consistent learning and practice are just part of it. It's their mindset that sets them apart."

Sensei Jalyne Lorentz earned first place in a whopping four events, including hardstyle kata, traditional weapons, freestyle kata, and kenpo kata. Jalyne Lorentz also took second

in classical kata and creative weapons. Lorentz competed in the 15-17 girls forms division.

In the 13-14 boys forms bracket, Fox Houston qualified for the next round of WKC tryouts in hardstyle kata, traditional weapons and creative weapons. Houston also nabbed bronze medals in classical kata and freestyle kata.

Shannon Campbell qualified for Team Canada's national team tryout in the women's 42+ light contact continuous fighting, as well as nabbing a second-place finish in point sparring.

In her first year trying out for the national team, Marieke Van Lierop earned a spot at Team Canada's tryout in the 15-17 girls forms division after qualifying in traditional weapons.

Lisa Sheldon qualified for the national team tryout in point sparring and light contact continuous fighting in both the 35+ women's and 42+ women's groups.

All of the members will attend the WKC Team Canada national tryouts being held in Nepean May 17-19.

## St. Marys Bowling Lanes hosts 369 tournament



On Saturday, April 13, the St. Marys Bowling Lanes held a 369 Tournament that featured 26 competitors. The format was a five-game tournament in which bowlers automatically collected strikes in frames 3, 6, and 9. The bowlers could purchase one extra strike per game. They could also buy an extra strike in the fifth game. Pictured from left to right are Jesse Brockman who finished third with 1,537 points, Stephen Mitchell who earned 1,563 to take second, and Chris Collins who claimed the top spot with 1,569 points. Contributed photo

## PPA hosts 49th annual draft



The Playoff Payoff Association (PPA) held their 49th annual NHL playoff draft in Port Stanley this past weekend. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Warren Wilson, 2023 Champion Bob Davis, Scott Furtney, and Kevin Ellis. In the back row, from left, are Rob Staffen, Doug Newton, Lou Pagotto, Paul Marcaccio, Jeff Craigmile, Wally Carter, Tom Robson, and Steve Graham. Absent were Richard Kennedy and Glenn Coghlin. The 50th Annual draft will be held in Montreal next April. Contributed photo



# ROTARY CLUB OF ST. MARYS PROUDLY PRESENTS RURAL URBAN 98<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NIGHT

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### BRONZE



The Rotary Club of St. Marys held its 98th annual Rural Urban Night on Friday evening, April 19th. Over 300 people attended this community event held at the Pyramid Recreation Centre. Rural Urban Night celebrates the bond between our rural and urban communities. This bond is not one of dependency but of interdependence.

Attendees enjoyed fellowship and an exceptional meal provided by Huron Shores Catering Services. Silent and online auctions featured an array of exciting items and experiences for attendees to bid on. Special thanks to Shackleton's Auctions for hosting the online auction.

The guest speaker for the evening was the Honourable Rob Black who represents Ontario in the Senate in Ottawa. Rob Black was appointed to the Senate in 2018 after a career that focused on supporting agricultural and rural communities in both the provincial public service and the non-profit sector. An "Advocate", Rob credits 4-H, Junior Farmers and the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program for setting him on a path that eventually led to the Senate.

#### Highlights from Senator Black's speech:

The agri-food industry generates roughly \$134.9 billion in GDP and provides 1 in 9 Canadian jobs. Ontario's agricultural sector contributes \$47 billion to the provincial economy annually and employs 10% of Ontario's workforce.

With over 49,600 farms spanning 12 million acres, Ontario is a leading producer of dairy, poultry, grains and fruits.

Ontario farmers produce over 200 commodities, many of which are exported out of the country in some amount.

Rural communities also host thriving forestry and mining industries, contributing essential resources not only for Ontario's economy, but for Canada's GDP.

Global uncertainties, climate change, urban land sprawl and disruptions to international supply chains are a few of the many ongoing issues facing the sector.

Ontario loses an average of 319 acres of farmland per day to development according to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. Senator Black recently launched an Inquiry in the Senate Chamber on land use planning and management in the context of food security. Canada's future is intrinsically linked to the health of its ecosystems, which absolutely hinges on soil health.

Access to healthcare and death care for rural communities is an ongoing issue. Rural residents are less likely to receive hospice or palliative care and are more likely to receive some form of potentially aggressive end of life care.

More than 1 million Canadians living in rural, northern and remote communities are without reliable internet connection.

People living in rural communities often face multiple barriers to consuming healthier diets, including higher costs and more limited access to healthy foods.

Rural communities are not just suppliers; they are partners in progress contributing research and innovation in agriculture, renewable energy and environmental sustainability.

As leaders in agriculture on a global scale, we must all prioritize maintaining our crucial food systems in Canada and around the world.

Senator Rob Black and his wife Julie (nee Poel, originally from Kirkton) live north of Fergus and have four grown children and three grandsons.

Rotary would like to thank everyone who attended as well as our community-minded sponsors for their generous support. All funds raised at Rural Urban Night are used to support Rotary projects in this community.



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## COMMUNITY

# St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary to host Books, Bags & Bling!

By Janis Fread

Books, Bags & Bling!

Coming Saturday May 4 at the Thames Valley Community Centre, the Auxiliary will be selling a wide selection of gently used books, spring handbags from the Boutique and sparkling, glittering bling. Watch for the ad in next week's paper for all the details.

If you are interested in purchasing a ticket for the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation's 50/50 draw but are unsure how to proceed with the online tickets, stop by the hospital Boutique with your credit card, Monday to Friday between 2 and 4 p.m. and we can help.

Be sure to support the Smile Cookie

Campaign at St. Marys Tim Hortons which is partnering with the hospital foundation from April 29 to May 5. Members of the Auxiliary will also be there, helping to decorate lots of smiling cookies!

Don't forget to get your raffle ticket for the Auxiliary's Mother's Day draw on May 10. The hospital Boutique has the first prize framed print and second prize quilted wall hanging on display and tickets are available there as well, or from any Auxiliary member.

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



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# COMMUNITY

## St. Marys Station Gallery opens with Textile Art



After being closed for restoration of the Historic Grand Trunk Station, St. Marys Station Gallery re-opens with a fresh coat of paint and an exhibition by six Textile and Fibre Artists.

Although Fibre Art has only risen in popularity since the 1950's, the creative use of fabrics goes back for thousands of years. Creating with textile was mainly for practical purposes

like clothing, bedding, such as quilting and decorative wall hangings for insulation. It was the Industrial Revolution that had the greatest effect on the use of textiles. Most of what was created by women in the home now moved to the factories. Creating with fibre and fabric now became the materials of crafts people who now create to express their feelings about the

natural world or exploring decorative design. Many artists working with fabrics and fibres use colour and texture to create abstract and three-dimensional works.

St. Marys Station Gallery is pleased to present the work of six local and regional artists who are masters creating with textile and fibre. They are Chris Allaway, Rose Creamer, Tracy

Fulton, Judy Gascho-Jutzi, Carolyn Parks, and Kim Wilkie. Textile Art previews on April 26, 2024. Reception and meet the artists will be on April 27 from 1-4 p.m. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday.

For more information, go to [www.st-marysstationgallery.ca](http://www.st-marysstationgallery.ca) or visit us on Facebook.

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# COMMUNITY

## St. Marys Legion donates \$3,000 to local minor sports



Kylie Montieth accepting a cheque from Legion President Bim Graham for \$1,500 for St. Marys minor ball.



Michelle McKeen and her daughter Natalie accepting a cheque for \$1,500 for St. Marys minor soccer.

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Town of St. Marys  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PASSING OF A DEVELOPMENT CHARGES AMENDMENT BY-LAW BY THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF ST. MARYS**

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of St. Marys passed By-law 40-2024, an amendment to Development Charge By-law 106-2022, on the 9th day of April 2024, under Section 2 of the Development Charges Act, 1997, S.O., 1997, c. 27, as amended.

AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or organization may appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal under Section 14 of the Act, in respect to the Development Charges By-law, by filing with the Clerk of the Town of St. Marys no later than Tuesday, May 21, 2024, a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons supporting the objection.

**SCHEDULE OF DEVELOPMENT CHARGES**

The schedule of development charges imposed by the by-law, which came into effect on the 1st day of January 2024, is as follows:

Service/ Class of Service	RESIDENTIAL				Special Care Special Dwelling Unit	NON-RESIDENTIAL (per square foot of Gross Floor Area)
	Single & Semi- Detached Dwelling	Other Multiples	Apartments 2 Bedrooms +	Apartments Bachelor & 1 Bedroom		
Services related to a highway	1,717	1,379	1,099	802	732	1.05
Public Works	168	135	108	78	71	0.10
Fire Protection	447	360	287	209	191	0.27
Police	125	100	81	59	53	0.08
Parks & Recreation	2,269	1,823	1,454	1,061	968	0.16
Library	1,346	1,081	862	629	574	0.09
Growth Studies	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
Child Care	76	61	48	36	33	0.00
Waste Diversion	23	17	15	10	10	0.00
Water Treatment	586	471	376	273	250	0.36
Water Distribution	521	417	333	243	221	0.32
Wastewater - Sewers	20	15	13	9	8	0.01
Wastewater - Treatment	4,952	3,978	3,172	2,316	2,113	3.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,250</b>	<b>9,837</b>	<b>7,848</b>	<b>5,725</b>	<b>5,224</b>	<b>5.46</b>
<b>Year Two Phase-In (15%)</b>	<b>10,413</b>	<b>8,361</b>	<b>6,671</b>	<b>4,866</b>	<b>4,440</b>	<b>4.64</b>

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

A copy of the complete by-law is available for examination at the Municipal Operations Centre, 408 James Street South, St. Marys, Ontario, during regular business hours.  
The by-law is also available on the Town website at [www.townofstmarys.com/developmentcharges](http://www.townofstmarys.com/developmentcharges).

For further information, please contact the Clerk's Office at:

P.O. Box 998, St. Marys, ON

N4X 1B6

519-284-2340, ext. 212

clerksoffice@town.stmarys.on.ca

**DATED AT THE TOWN OF ST. MARYS THIS 25TH DAY OF APRIL 2024.**

Jenna McCartney, Clerk, Town of St. Marys





# Thorndale News

A section within the St. Marys Independent

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## New recruits join the Thorndale Fire Station

By Nancy Abra

At the Thames Centre council meeting held in Thorndale April 15, Thames Centre Fire Chief introduced to council the five new recruits for the Thorndale Station.

In his presentation, Chief Nick Dorken stated the Thames Centre Fire Department hosted an open house last November at the Thorndale station with approximately 50 men and women in attendance. After that information open house, he received applications from which it was narrowed down to 12 candidates. These candidates were asked to attend a couple of Thorndale station fire practices to get a better idea of duties, which also gave the other firefighters the opportunity to get to know them as well.

From there, five new recruits were chosen – Corey Stewart, Kurt Denkers, Rik VerVoort, Shaun Beirnes and Colin Pegg, which gives the Thorndale station a full roster of 25 members.

The rest of this Thames Centre council meeting agenda consisted of another presentation and various committee reports and motions. In Mayor Sharron McMillan’s report of her activities and county council, she added there will be a Mini Town Hall meeting for Ward 1 with herself and Coun. Tom Heeman on Tuesday, April 30 from 6:30-8 p.m. McMillan said this will be a good opportunity to meet more Ward 1 residents, have an informal chat and for them to voice their concerns or ask questions.

For more information on Thames Centre council meetings and other activities, visit [www.thamescentre.on.ca](http://www.thamescentre.on.ca).



Five new recruits recently joined the Thorndale Fire Station. Pictured from left are Corey Stewart, Kurt Denkers, Rik VerVoort, Thame Centre Fire Chief Nick Dorken, Shaun Beirnes, Colin Pegg, District Deputy Chief Robert Kuenzlen and acting Capt. Mike Fox. Photo courtesy of Municipality of Thames Centre

## Thames Centre presented \$10,000 community grant to West Nissouri Manor

By Nancy Abra

Last week, Mayor Sharron McMillan and Coun. Tom Heeman attended West Nissouri Seniors Manor to present a cheque for \$10,000 from the Community Grant Program to the dedicated board of directors at the manor.

This support will directly benefit the non-profit Nis-

souri Seniors Complex, contributing to affordable living for more senior residents of Thames Centre.

Ron Johnson, who has been on the manor’s board since the building was officially opened in 1986, and Ken Armstrong, who has served on the board since 1997, both recently retired from the board and were honoured with a special luncheon at the manor. With John-

son retiring, Mary McCutcheon will be board’s chair and Mary Chowen will assume the vice-chair position.



Pictured from left are West Nissouri Manor board members Jane Elliott, Ken Armstrong, Kim Siroen, Matt Langford, Mary McCutcheon, Thames Centre Mayor Sharron McMillan, Coun. Tom Heeman, Mary Chowen and Ron Johnson. Absent when this photo was taken was board member Shaun Elliott. Photo courtesy of Municipality of Thames Centre

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**Tuesday, May 21, 2024**  
**THORNDALE UNITED CHURCH**  
**Annual Strawberry & Ham Supper**

Thorndale Lions Community Centre  
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**CHILDREN AGES 6-14 - \$10.00**  
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## COLUMN

## HOSTING UKRAINE: Ladies Night Out

By VJ Knutson

How often our newcomers feel as if they are swimming against the stream; the struggle for survival all consuming. Men work as many hours as they can, ignore back pain, suppress the anger that comes with loss, the humiliation of working below their capabilities. Women, too.

The rhythm of life they left behind – were forced to leave behind – doesn't resemble this Canadian existence. Balancing work and home life seems incongruous, out of reach. Economics demand they work to help their mates, yet childcare is difficult to access, and who can understand the process of registering for summer camps, or even getting a same day Doctor's appointment?

Nothing comes easy. I remember when Tania and Mykola first arrived, and Mykola would help me do the shopping, eager to understand the cost of living. He would examine the meat and shake his head. Ric and I were happy to supply food, but once they moved on their own, we could no longer protect them from the reality of high costs.

When Rick Zimak first contacted me to see if the Ukrainians wanted to attend the Ladies Night Out event put on by



Ladies Night Out.

the Downie Optimists in St Pauls, my first thought was: "I doubt they have time." Other than the events we put on in the community, I couldn't recall a time the women had a night out on their own. I asked anyway.

The answer was immediate: a resound-

ing "Yes!"

The ladies sent me photos as the night progressed. A lineup of the eight of them dressed up and ready for fun. A photo of the centrepiece and their meals. Many thank you's for the tickets (Rick!)

The next day, a couple of the women wrote to me to share their experience:

Alona wrote: "Our table was in the center of the space and (the) MC started her program with our presentation...

We enjoyed the vibe of women's power."

Tania wrote: "We felt like women in a circle of diverse Canadian women." She then went on to list all the different vendors and activities, and added how welcome they felt.

Thank you so much to Rick Zimak, the Downie Optimist Club, and the organizers of the Ladies Night Out. I know they all went out of their way to make the Ukrainian women feel welcome. I can imagine how good it felt to put aside the worries of war and uncertainty about their futures and just have fun for one night.

In other news, as I write this, Tania and Lesia are preparing to present at the St Marys Rotary Club meeting tomorrow night. I am editor and coach. Reading their stories, I have such admiration for these brave women. The journey has in no way been easy. I am also awed by how much has happened since I first met Tania and Lesia via video chat and uttered three simple words: "I can help". I had no idea what would follow.

We are all so grateful for the kindness and support from all in the community. Tomorrow night will give us the opportunity to express that gratitude and demonstrate how the Rotary's help has made a difference.

I'll have more on that next week...

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

## Local community gardens receive Thames Centre council approval

By Nancy Abra

As part of the strategic plan for 2024, the Municipality of Thames Centre allocated \$15,000 for a community garden pilot project.

At the March 11 council meeting, approval was received to proceed with this project at the existing community garden located at the Thorndale Library and to develop a community garden outside the FlightExec Centre in Dorchester.

Last week, Steve MacDonald, Thames Centre director of community services and facilities, held an information meeting for representatives of community groups and individuals in Thorndale who showed some interest in this project. MacDonald specified that for this community project to be successful, certain goals need to be met. Besides finding an optimal location for this project in both centres, there needs to be sufficient community interest in helping with the planting and maintaining of these gardens, as well as ample community demand for the produce grown with the excess being donated to local food banks.

After the completion of the 2024 grow-

ing season, the gardens will be reviewed to establish a reasonable budget for 2025 and beyond.

The Thorndale area already has a community garden established by the Thorndale Library staff approximately ten years ago. For the past two years, Cassandra Stewart, an area volunteer, has been doing much of the hands-on work of planting, weeding and watering these four raised garden beds at the Thorndale Library. Her dedication and passion for growing good things to eat has been proven with the plentiful bounty this garden has produced.

For 2024, a few additional elements are being considered with the funds available for Thorndale. Under Stewart's continuing leadership at the Thorndale Community Garden, community members are needed to help with the watering, weeding, harvesting and cleaning out the gardens at the end of the season.

As many hands make light work, this project is ideal for the community members to gather, grow and share in the bounty of its success. For more information and how to get involved, contact Steve MacDonald at [SMacDonald@thamescentre.on.ca](mailto:SMacDonald@thamescentre.on.ca) or 519-268-7334 ext. 702.



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ST. MARYS, ONTARIO



## HISTORY

## HISTORIC ST. MARYS: The Rogers Family

By Mary Smith

When Hope Harris provided the St. Marys Museum with information about her St. Marys ancestors, she apologized for her lack of knowledge about her grandmother's family, the Rogers. Her mother, Charlotte Reid, born in 1881, was the daughter of Lottie Rogers and John Reid, both of St. Marys. But Lottie died a few days after Charlotte was born and the little girl was raised by her paternal grandparents. The Reid family then moved away from St. Marys when Charlotte was 15 years old. Charlotte was married in Toronto where she spent most of her adult life. Contact was limited to occasional visits between St. Marys and Toronto, probably for events such as weddings or funerals, and to the exchange of cards and letters with brief updates of family news.

Hope Harris and her daughter, Mary, visited the St. Marys Museum in 2000 and did some research into the Rogers family. But Mrs. Harris admitted in a letter sent a few months later: "It makes me sad that I didn't ask my mother more questions about her past. I wish I knew more about the Rogers side of the family." However, she was able to give the Museum scans of some photographs that had been saved by her mother, including the one with this week's column. It is a studio portrait taken ca 1890, showing Ann and Nicholas Rogers, Lottie's parents, in their later years. It is tempting to try to determine a person's character by looking at old photographs. Of course this is always guesswork. But Nicholas Rogers looks like a kind man, positioned in this photograph as supporting his wife. She was six years older than her husband and looks much frailer. Research shows that their life together did have its challenges.

Nicholas Rogers was born in Plymouth, Devon, England, in 1819. When he finished his schooling, he served an apprenticeship as a confectioner. About 1840, he married Ann Seager (records show various spellings of this surname) also from Devon, born in 1813. Their first son, Nicholas William Rogers, was born in early 1842. With their baby son, Nicholas and Ann immigrated to Canada later that same year. They arrived in St. Catharines where Nicholas had hoped to continue his trade. But there were limited opportunities in that area and so the family travelled west to the Huron Tract where the Canada Company was offering land in Blanshard Township. Nicholas Rogers took up a 100-acre farm lot, just east of James Street South, within the southern boundary of the newly surveyed village of St. Marys. The Rogers' second child, Ann



Ann and Nicholas Rogers, ca 1890, from the St. Marys Museum's image collection

Elizabeth, was born in 1844 in a log cabin, the family's first home in the village.

Soon after he arrived, Nicholas Rogers began contributing to life in St. Marys. Dr. J. R. Stanley wrote in his history, *Our St. Marys Schools* (ca 1913): "In the fall of 1842, an Englishman named Nicholas Rogers, father of Mr. Thomas Rogers, came to the settlement and built a log house on what is now the Rogers farm, almost across the road from Mr. Doolittle's factory; and being a man of some education, he was induced by the villagers to open a private school in his own house. This he did, and in the winters of 1843-44, he taught the children of the settlement. For his services, Mr. Rogers was paid in part by work done on his farm by parents of the children."

Nicholas Rogers had no teacher training and must have relied on memories of his own schooling to present his lessons. As William Johnston wrote in *Pioneers of Blanshard* (1899): "Of the appliances used in the present day to train the young mind, Mr. Rogers had none. History is not silent, however, regarding his school management, as it avers that while he was a good-hearted man, he was inexorable in the enforcement of his scholastic regulations, even to the most liberal and rigorous application of the taws (a leather whip) for any infringement."

Rogers' career as a school teacher was short-lived. In 1845, the village

was able to start its first public school in a one-room, stone building on the southwest corner of Queen and James Streets. The first teacher was Gordon Meighen who had taken up property in Blanshard Township, taught during the week and spent any free time clearing his land. He later had a grandson, Arthur, born on the Meighen homestead, who became Canada's ninth prime minister. Meanwhile, Nicholas Rogers had apparently earned the respect of officials. He was given the task of dividing the township into school sections – one section comprised the village of St. Marys. He worked for a time as an agent for a wealthy landowner in Brantford and then settled down to the life of a farmer in St. Marys.

Nicholas continued to describe himself as a farmer in the census but, as he grew older, he sold off or rented out most of his farmland until he and his family were living on a three-acre parcel on James Street South. He and Ann had four more children for a total of six: two more sons, Thomas and John, and two more daughters, Lucinda and Charlotte. John died as a baby in the early 1850s but the other five all lived to be adults. However, in 1879, Nicholas William Rogers, their eldest child, became ill and died in his parents' home at the age of 36. In the 1881 census, an eight-year-old girl named Carrie Rogers is a member of the Rogers' household. The census does not give her relationship to the head of the household, but she may

be a granddaughter, the orphaned daughter of Nicholas William.

Ann, the eldest daughter and the first of the Rogers children to be born in Canada, was 18 years old in the 1861 census and still living at home. But that is the last record that can be found of her. There is no record of her death. If she married, her surname would have changed and become harder to trace. There are records for her sister, Lucinda Amelia Rogers, born 1848. She married John Whyte Junior of Mitchell in 1879. They had three healthy children but Lucinda died giving birth to a fourth child in 1886. Her husband, John, later moved his father's meat packing business to Stratford and established the Whyte Packing Company, a large plant located in the southwest part of that city between Erie Street and the Grand Trunk Railway tracks. Lucinda's first child, also named John, became the third generation of Whytes to carry on that prosperous business. Lucinda Rogers Whyte is named on the Whyte family monument in Stratford's Avondale Cemetery.

As we know, the Rogers' third daughter and youngest child, Charlotte (Lottie) Cecilia, died in 1881. However, Nicholas and Ann Rogers' second son, Thomas, born January 4, 1847, did survive to a ripe old age. In February 1873, he married Jessie Yule, the daughter of one of the early settlers of Downie Township. They had five children. Thomas worked for the J. D. Moore Company for almost 40 years. His home on the west side of James Street was close to J. D. Moore's cold storage building. When he died on December 11, 1934, the lengthy obituary in the *Journal Argus* acknowledged him as the oldest St. Marys resident who had actually been born in the town. He was well-known for his stories of growing up when the village was only a scattering of log buildings. He also remembered bears in the surrounding bush and wolves prowling at night near the current site of Cadzow Park, terrorizing people with their howling.

Thomas's mother, Ann Rogers, died in 1895 and Nicholas Rogers a few years later in 1899. By that time, Nicholas's farm had been broken up, the eastern portion purchased in 1884 to form part of the municipal cemetery. The Rogers family would surely be amazed to see the development today in the area east of James Street South, beginning in the 1920s and 1930s with new homes along Elizabeth Street. After the war, further development included the grounds for the St. Marys DCVI and more houses on the street named Rogers Avenue in the family's memory.



COLUMN

FROM THE GARDEN: Woodland spring beauties



By Nancy Abra

Spring is such an exciting season for gardeners. We get so enthralled by our gardens showing growth and colour, it takes restraint not to disturb or start cleaning out our gardens as our native bees are not quite ready to be exposed. It is, however, the perfect time to start checking what survived the winter and to embrace the beauty of our colourful spring bulb blooms. For me, I get so much pleasure from my small woodland garden. As my wild spring beauties grow and come into flower, they bring back wonderful memories of spring walks in our woodlot with my Mum many decades ago. Before the family farm was sold, I was fortunate to transplant some of these precious native

beauties in my garden to create a woodland haven.

When one thinks of spring woodland flowers, usually first that comes to mind is the Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*). Contrary to popular belief, it is not illegal to pick White Trilliums in Ontario. However, if the leaves and the flowers are picked, the plant could die as it no longer has any means to produce the energy it needs to grow or take it through the season or the winter into another spring. Therefore, it can be a little tricky to transplant so be very careful not to disturb the roots or remove any of its leaves and flowers.

Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), is another early spring bloomer that produces a multi-petaled white flower emerging from the furled leaf. It prefers a rich, moist, dapped shaded habitat. It does not like to grow where it is disturbed so it may be a little tricky to transplant and doesn't like to be weeded around the plants.

Another gem in my woodland garden is Hepatica (*Anemone*

*americana*). It is a member of the buttercup family. It produces small delicate lavender-coloured flowers amongst its three-lobed leaves in early spring.

I am very proud of the Twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*) growing in my woodland garden. It is becoming endangered in some deciduous forests because of both habitat destruction and invasive species. Both leaves and white flowers are produced at the same time from the rhizome on long smooth purplish stems. Each leaf is divided into symmetrical lobes, like a butterfly with its wings spread open, hence its common name, Twinleaf.

There are many wild violets that are coming into bloom. Some you may notice in the lawns and then there are some that prefer the rich humus soil and shady areas of a woodland habitat. All are so lovely, no matter where they pop up, grow, bloom and they are also edible.

I think one of my favourites is wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*). It is a low grow-



ing, colony-forming perennial for dappled or shaded areas. Each plant bears a pair of large velvety, heart-shaped leaves. In the early spring if you lift up its leaves, at ground level there is its single darkish red-brown flower. It is so interesting that it hides its flower which makes me wonder how it is pollinated until I learnt that it is

self-pollinating. I have also discovered that wild ginger is the larval host for the Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly.

For more information on Ontario native flowers, check out <https://ontariowildflowers.com> and maybe this may encourage you to start a little woodland haven for some native spring beauties.

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Solutions on page 31



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## Word List

- Income
- Deductions
- Exemption
- Deadline
- Tax credits
- Remuneration
- Canada pension
- Employment income
- Investments
- Capital gain
- Child care benefit
- Donations
- Tuition
- RRSP
- Refund

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**SPONSORED BY:** **McDonald's St. Marys**  
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PRC & Friendship Centre events - See the Stonetown Crier on Page 5  
 St. Marys Library events - See Page 29

### Friday, April 26

- St. Marys Station Gallery preview of "textile art" exhibit - 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog/sausage lunch at Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Fort Erie Meteors at the PRC - 7:30 p.m.

### Saturday, April 27

- Scrap metal and e-waste pickup - Have items at the curb by 7 a.m.
- STSTT Spring Boutique Market at Thorndale Community Centre - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- St. Marys Station Gallery "textile art" reception and meet the artists - 1 to 4 p.m.
- Florence Craig 80th birthday open house at Browns United Church - 1 to 5 p.m.
- George Quinn 90th birthday open house at St. James Lodge hall - 1:30 to 4 p.m.
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 p.m.
- Royal Canadian Legion Steak BBQ - 6:45 p.m.
- St. Marys Poetry Circle presents "Weatherludes" at Riverwalk Commons - 7 to 9 p.m.

### Sunday, April 28

- Thorndale Lions Club Community Breakfast at the Thorndale Community Centre - 9 a.m. to Noon
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Listowel Cyclones at Steve Kerr Memorial Centre - 7:30 p.m.

### Monday, April 29

- Leaf & yard waste collection (southeast & southwest areas) - Have items at the curb by 7 a.m.



## The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What do you call a snail on a ship?



A snailor!

**Kol Hemstock (2)**

*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 Sage, who is a three month old Shih Tzu. She weighs a total of two pounds and loves everyone she meets. The proud owners of Sage are Joyce and Terry Mulholland.

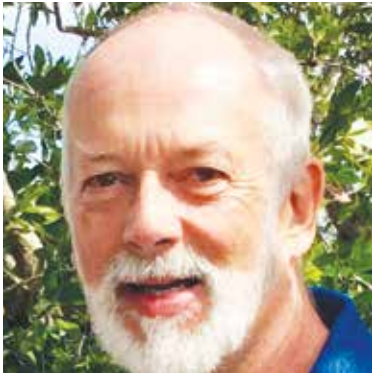


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## COLUMN

## OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Road Trip - some flexibility required



By Paul Knowles

Road Trip! That clarion call used to stir the blood of us all in a younger and more adventurous era.

Now, I have rediscovered a love for loading the car and hitting the road. We've enjoyed three extended trips in the past 13 months or so into the U.S. and eastern Canada.

So, I have become an advocate for this travel option. Advantages abound. No airports comes to mind, closely followed by not spending hours sandwiched into a seat on an airplane, which brings to mind trying to pack everything you need for two weeks in a carry-on.

Our most recent trip saw us headed south, touching nine states and the District of Columbia. It took 33 days and covered 7,500 kilometers. We stayed in 14 different accommodations, from friends' guest rooms to five-star resorts to heritage inns. We ate gourmet meals, fast food and muffins and mandarins in the car. We braved 70 m/hr legalized insanity through the hills of West Virginia, and 30 m/hr restrictions protecting endangered Keys Deer. We rode

on golf carts and a variety of watercrafts from the Cabbage Key cruise boat to the Pirates of the Caribbean ship.

We visited Myrtle Beach, seven different parts of Florida, Virginia and Cooperstown, N.Y. It was great, all of it. I will be writing about these destinations and more over the next months.

But an extended automobile journey does come with its own issues.

First, you have to hope that nothing goes wrong with the vehicle. We were fortunate.

Second, you have to enjoy driving. I encountered very few problems. Most drivers were careful and surprisingly polite, but in one case, I did have a very aggressive tail-gater who eventually passed me in a dangerous situation. As I quietly cursed this "ugly American," I noticed the plate was from Ontario.

The third issue is the biggest – you have to be flexible and patient. I am working on that.

Things happen. Traffic happens. Lost bookings happen.

Let's talk GPS. I have become very dependent on GPS to keep me on the right road. But my GPS and I do not always agree on the specific road. There were only three or four times GPS let me down, but they were doozies. Three times, it tried to take me through locked gates. And once, as we drove from Richmond to Alexandria, Va., we started and ended the trip on the I95 but, en route, GPS took us on increasingly smaller roads until we were navi-

gating the curves of the 35-m/hr Turkey Hill Road. I asked a local if I95 would take one directly from Richmond to Virginia. Of course it did, but my GPS didn't seem to know that.

The greatest need for flexibility concerns accommodations, no matter how well planned in advance.

We had two quick, overnight stops in small towns. In one case, we drove from Florida's Gulf Coast to Virginia, stopping in South Carolina. It was well into the evening when I walked into the reception area of the hotel I had booked well in advance.

The receptionist explained they did indeed have a smoking room as I had requested. I am as likely to request a smoking room as I am a room stocked with raccoons.

"Sorry. That's the only room left. And you've already paid for it."

We walked into the room, breathed once and exited within seven seconds. I went back to explain that we would not be staying.

"Every room in town is booked," she said.

Right across the street was a Best Western. I called. They had rooms. I am still negotiating a refund from hotel number one.

The oddest accommodation moment came at the Marriott Village in Orlando. I went to the front desk at the Courtyard and, after waiting for a few minutes, I was checked in, got the room key and the instructions to our floor.



The first exhibit you encounter at Cooperstown's Baseball Hall of Fame is this sculpture, "Character and Courage" by Stanley Bleifeld, featuring, from left, baseball heroes Lou Gehrig, Jackie Robinson and Roberto Clemente. Photos by Paul Knowles

Arriving on the floor, we could not find a room bearing the number on our key folder. I returned to the front desk.

"Oh, the room number is actually the final numbers. ... Ignore the first one."

I went back to the floor. Nope. No room with that number either. A passing staff member who spoke little English tried to help. Using the translator on her phone, she produced a message: "There is no room with that number on this floor."

Back down to the desk. We must be on the wrong floor, they said. I took the elevator back up. Tried another floor. Nope. Back down.

The manager got involved. Much confusion and debate. And finally, the light went on.

"You're in the wrong hotel.

Your reservation is at the Springhill Suites, just over there. Take your luggage trolley and head over. ... You're already checked in."

So, we trundled the trolley around the traffic circle, entered the Springhill Suites, and discovered we were, indeed, checked in. Our room actually existed. It was lovely. And the good news? Here, unlike next door, breakfast was included.

Like I said, road trips are great if you approach them with some patience and flexibility. I'm trying. Really, I am.

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



Exhibits are on display high, low and everywhere at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum in Chantilly, Va.



The famous – or infamous? – Sloppy Joe's bar, much loved by Ernest Hemingway, in Key West.



## OBITUARY

### Sewell



Marjorie May Sewell, Dancing Queen

Marj Passed away on Friday, April 12, 2024 in her 96th year, having barely slowed down until her very last days. Born August 21, 1928, in Waterford, ON., she often reflected on her younger years tying tobacco leaves and picking

strawberries for 10 cents a quart before meeting her husband George in business college.

From her career as a legal secretary at a bustling law firm in Kitchener to her country house in the Wildwood Conservation Area, she ultimately retired in Stratford where she continued to thrive.

In recent years, you could still spot her on the Razz-amajazz river boat dancing and waving to Stratford Festival tourists, or on the dance floor at Lakeside Every Saturday night with friends Randy, Liz and Mac. Year-round she stayed ferociously committed to daily YMCA swims with an infamous swim crew and mingling with fellow neighbours at the Church St. apartments.

If you knew Marj, you would have seen the ever-growing maze of antique treasures she collected over a lifetime of hunting and (seemingly less) selling. You may have grabbed a rosebud chocolate on your way out her backdoor, tasted her butterscotch sauce or been gifted a container of homemade fudge.

But above all, to know Marj was to know her vast community made up of all ages and walks of life. Her spirit never wavered, forever socializing with warmth, a sparkle in her eye, and a spicy sense of humour. Marj in her purest form exemplified what it means to stay young at heart. If ever a choice, she always chose happiness.

We'll remember her as she was in her element, on a sunny summer day sitting on her porch in a cheerful plaid button-up, sharing chocolate covered caramels with friends and family.

Join us for a celebration of life on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 from 2-4 pm., at the Flour Mill, 6 Water Street, South. St. Marys. ON

Predeceased by her husband George Gilbert Sewell (1998), brother Keith and sister Ola Van Wagner (Melvin 1989) and her nephew Wayne Van Wagner (2020) (Leslie). Survived by her daughter Carol Ann Miller (Tom predeceased 2017), son John David Sewell, brother Jim Maddeford (Judy), granddaughters Brooke Barber (Blake), Amy Brennan (Pat), Alex and Anne Sewell (Isaac), and great-grandchildren Emma, Reid, Niamh, Enya and Quinn, nieces and nephews Nicole Auld (Brian), Mike Maddeford, Glenn Madddeford, Anita (Van Wagner) Miller (Matt), Randy Van Wagner (Ann), and niece-in-law Leslie Van Wagner.

As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to The Razzamajazz (Cheques payable to The Razzamajazz or by email money transfer, made direct to this charity be email: Razzamajazz1992@gmail.com), or donations to YMCA of Three Rivers (Stratford) or Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth thorough the W. G. Young Funeral Home, 430 Huron Street, Stratford. www.wgyoungfuneralhome.com

## OBITUARY

### Oakes



Larry Herbert Oakes

Jun 4, 1939 - Apr 15, 2024

Larry Herbert Oakes of St. Marys passed peacefully at University Hospital in London on April 15, 2024, surrounded by family. He was 84.

Son of the late Herbert and Lexena Oakes of Lakeside and brother of the late Ray

Dennis Oakes. Beloved husband of 65 years to Reta Mae (Clark) Oakes. Proud father to Janey, Jeff, Sandra and Michael (Donna). Grandfather to Joshua Fitzpatrick, Tina Fitzpatrick (Justin), Gabe Luffman, Ashley McCrorie (Sean), Brett Petrie (Brittany), Chad Petrie (Shania), Aaron Oakes and Cody Oakes; and great-grandfather to eight.

Larry was a skilled beef cattle and cash crop farmer (Lakeside) while also working at Lafarge Woodstock. He was later a millwright at Shur-Gain (St. Marys) and groundskeeper for the Town of St. Marys. He enjoyed the outdoors while boating, fishing, ATVing, chopping wood, vegetable gardening and clearing snow for neighbours. Larry will be remembered as a hardworking, humble and caring family man with a quick wit, great sense of humour and heart of gold.

A private interment will be held for family. Donations in Larry's memory can be made to the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

## OBITUARY

### Holden



Robert George "Bob" Holden 1943 - 2024

It is with great sadness that the family announces the peaceful and dignified passing of Robert "Bob" George Holden with his wife and daughters by his side on April 16, 2024 at the age of 81.

Bob is survived by his wife, partner, and best friend of 61 years, Helen (Weir) Holden, his daughters Marie (Bob) Mills, Sandra Holden (Paul Vondervoort), Brenda (Lorne) Larsen, and Peggy (Tim) Segeren. He will be missed by his grandchildren Katie, TJ, Ryan, Derek, Robert and Justin, and great-granddaughter, Hannah. Bob was a proud and respected dairy and cash crop farmer who owned and operated, along with Helen, Holdmar Farms for 55 years.

Bob was a lifelong resident of Zorra Township. Bob enjoyed and took great pride in his Massey Ferguson tractor collection, was a member of the Embro-Zorra tug-of-war team and talented competitive minor hockey player during his younger years.

The family would like to thank Dr. Hepburn for his compassion, respect, and exceptional care during Bob's last two years. At Bob's request, there will be no visitation or funeral. In his memory, donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or a charity of choice. Arrangements with the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, St. Marys (519-284-2820). Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

## THANK YOU

### Herbert

I would like to thank my family for the wonderful birthday party they gave me. I would also like to thank everyone who came to it and gave me cards, phone calls etc. It was greatly appreciated.

Carol Herbert

## THANK YOU

### Mills

The Family of the Late Keith Mills would like to send a thank you for the cards, e-messages, phone calls and kindnesses we have received since Keith's passing. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated. We are also grateful to those who were a positive presence in Keith's life as friends, neighbours, community and Villa caregivers, Cancer Centre and Baines Clinic professionals and Dr. Jadd who for many years provided understanding support and care for Keith.

Donna & Doris

## THANK YOU

### Chambers

The family of Kelvin Chambers would like to thank everyone for their cards, condolences, messages, flowers, attending the visitation and memorial donations.

Thank you to Andrew Hodges for his guidance and compassion, Pastor Dave Horne of Grace Community Church for officiating the funeral and Linda Arthur of Village Catering for providing the lunch.

Special thanks to Veterinary Purchasing for holding a moment of silence and allowing the employees time off from work to attend the visitation and the St. Marys Bowling Alley for Kelvin's tribute in the newspaper and providing bowling pins at the funeral home and the Sunday Funday Crew for donating to Youth Bowling in his honour.

We are grateful for everyone's kindness during this difficult time.

Brenda, Michelle, Matt, Nathan, Natalie and Kevin.

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**COLUMN**

# Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

When it comes to our Cooking Club, there's no such thing as too many cooks in the kitchen. That's because when it comes to discussing recipes, gushing over exciting flavours, and trying new things, the more the merrier! Join us on Zoom on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. to bond with fellow cooks of all skill levels over the current theme. May's theme is asparagus! Contact Rebecca at rcousins@town.stmarys.on.ca to receive the Zoom link. The next meeting of the Cooking Club is May 7. Happy cooking!

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**Up This Week**

- Friday, April 26: Open 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
  - Saturday, April 27: Open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
  - Monday, April 29: Open 10:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.
  - Tuesday, April 30: Tuesday Book Club\* (11 a.m.)
  - Wednesday, May 1: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.), Mahjong Intro (1 p.m. - 2 p.m., 6 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.), Mahjong! (2 p.m. - 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.), Author Talk with Iona Whishaw\*^ (7 p.m.), Make and Take: Clay Pot Toadstool\* (8 p.m.)
  - Thursday, May 2: Scrabble (6 p.m. - 8 p.m.)
- \*Registration Required  
 ^Held in the Pyramid Recreation Centre 2/3rd Hall (317 James St., St. Marys)

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# LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

## Barnyard Blues

25 years ago (1999)

St. Marys native James Westman, son of Doris and Eldon Westman, is one of several of Canada's world-renowned opera stars who will share the stage during the Millennium Opera Gala at Roy Thompson Hall on December 31.

The grave site in the town of former Canadian prime minister and St. Marys resident Arthur Meighen will receive special attention this year as a result of a program initiated by the federal government. The feds will fund a plaque, flag, and trees at the prime minister's burial site.

St. Marys OPP are hoping the vandals who stole several items from a St. Marys police cruiser will be smart enough to take advantage of a few days' amnesty and return what was stolen. The cruiser was parked at a function at the community centre when the culprits ripped out a handset, roadside breathalyzer, and part of an officer's uniform.

50 years ago (1974)

St. Marys recently made a decision that could have some long-reaching possibilities for St. Marys. For the first time, diving lessons will be provided at the local swim quarry this summer. Dr. Fil Cappa, a London dentist who grew up in St. Marys and is now prominent in Canadian diving circles, has agreed to organize diving lessons in St. Marys.

A St. Marys Kinsmen spokesman has pointed out that while the local club has adopted a Plexi-glass project around the arena ice surface, the job will be confined to supplying such protection to just the sides of the ice surface at present. The chicken wire will remain at the east end.

75 years ago (1949)

Jack Payton and friends from the Lakeside-Harrington district caught more than two hundred pounds of smelt near Port Albert one night this week.

Despite recent wet weather, the excavations for the new St. Marys Memorial Hospital have been going along smoothly this past week. About three quarters of the work is now done and the earth from this deep pit has been distributed on the ground to the south and to the north of the site. When the excavation work is complete, work will be started by the general contractor, Pounder Bros., on the walls and foundation.

Kite building and flying should take on new impetus in St. Marys. The Beaver Lumber Company is giving away free kite sticks to boys who get there first on Saturday.

100 years ago (1924)

Don't miss "Kitchen's Week" at the White & May Co and the A.H. Lofft & Co's stores, where a big special sale of Kitchen's Signal overalls and Kitchen's work skirts will be held.

A Barnardo homeboy, Fred Barnyard, who has for some months been employed upon the farm of Thomas Douglas Jr. of Downie, was charged in the Stratford police court on Tuesday with assaulting his employer. It is alleged he attacked Douglas with sticks and later with an axe and afterwards threatened to burn his farm down. He was remanded to jail for the present.



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Our Board of Directors is composed of leaders from our community who are dedicated, passionate and exceptional at championing our mission of a "Healthy, Active Community." These dedicated individuals raise and manage funds, enhancing your experience at the St. Marys Memorial Hospital and the Tradition Mutual Centre for Wellness to improve health related services in St. Marys and area. Ideal candidates will have an understanding of our community, possess a passion for healthcare excellence, be available for board activities and have a strong ethical character.

All applicants must abide by the HPHA COVID vaccination policy.

If interested, please email a current resume and cover letter highlighting your experience to the Foundation at [info@stmaryshealthcare.foundation](mailto:info@stmaryshealthcare.foundation).

We're accepting applications until May 10, 2024.

St. Marys Healthcare Foundation, 267 Queen St. W, P.O. Box 940  
St. Marys, ON N4X 1B6, 519-284-1332 x3450

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