

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1216

Thursday, June 20, 2024

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Six inducted, Martinez honoured during CBHFM induction weekend



The Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum inducted six individuals and honoured a legendary broadcaster on June 15 as the feature attraction of the Hall of Fame's induction weekend. Pictured from left to right are Buck Martinez, Rod Heisler, Ashley Stevenson, Russell Martin, Paul Godfrey and Howard Birnie. Photo by Spencer Seymour

By Spencer Seymour

The Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum (CBHFM) inducted six new members to its hallowed halls June 15, the conclusion to their annual induction weekend.

Russell Martin, a native of East York, Ont., played 14 seasons in the MLB during which time he earned a Silver Slugger and Gold Glove in 2007,

back-to-back Wilson Defensive Player of the Year awards in 2013 and 2014, and four All-Star appearances. Martin spent the first five years of his career with the Los Angeles Dodgers splitting the next four years with the New York Yankees and Pittsburgh Pirates. Martin then played four years with the Blue Jays before ending his career with a return to the Dodgers.

Continued on page 14

St. Marys Minor Hockey Association to have priority ice allocation over Huron Perth Lakers

By Galen Simmons

When it comes to deciding which local user groups gets first pick of prime ice time on the Pyramid Recreation Centre's (PRC) two ice pads, St. Marys council has made the tough decision to prioritize local minor sports – ringette and hockey – over the AAA Huron Perth Lakers.

At their June 11 meeting, councillors addressed a letter from St. Marys Minor Hockey Association (SMMHA) president Mark Brintnell explaining the association's need for use of the Rock Rink between 1 and 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sunday – ice time traditionally allocated to the Huron Perth Lakers – to accommodate recent growth in the minor-hockey program and player and goalie development programs.

"Our understanding is that at some point in the past, the Huron Perth Lakers were determined to be a 'local sports team' for the purposes of ice allocation," Brintnell wrote. "The Lakers have very few players from St. Marys and our player zone. For example, only seven St. Marys players (representing only five per cent of total Lakers players) are playing Lakers hockey across all ages. Lakers teams are made up of predominantly players from other communities and some are not even from (the) Lakers zone due to F1 transfers from other towns outside their zone.

"It's becoming more difficult and unacceptable to

Continued on page 20



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MLS

COMMUNITY

Celebrating 50 Years of St. Marys Kinsmen Summerfest

Licensed Refreshment Tent brings the party back with live music

Submitted by St. Marys Kinsmen

St. Marys Kinsmen Summerfest has long been hailed as the pinnacle family-friendly celebration of the year.

Summerfest is a mere two weeks away, which means if you haven't bought your presale midway voucher, you better do it now.

Magical Midways is our new carnival provider and you don't want to miss out.

"Magical Midways is one of the leaders in providing great family entertainment with some of the more popular rides in the industry," the Magical Midways website boasts. "We bring great memories for the young at heart by offering rides that you will not only go on once, but keep going on as many times as you like. Our selection provides for adults as well as children, ensuring that the whole family can enjoy their experience together."

You can get your presale tickets by visiting Hearn's Ice Cream, Dunny's Source For Sports, Square One Skate Shop or Broken Rail Brewing. The tickets are \$25 for the ride-all-day pass. Choose any one of the days, July 4, 5, 6 and 7 (midway only on July 7). Tickets are \$35 at the gate. That's a savings of \$10 per ticket. Cash only, please. You can also visit www.stmaryskinsmen.com and buy your midway vouchers online. Pick-up day is Wednesday, June 26 at Broken Rail Brewing. Details are on our website.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook to get all the latest event information and stay up to date daily.

There's also the licensed Refreshment tent for adults 19 and older. Entry into the tent is \$10 per person each night. The tent runs July 4, 5 and 6 rain or shine.

Returning this year is our popular Corn Hole Tournament hosted by the Kinsmen Club of St. Thomas which promises to be the same as last year, but bigger with a 40 per-cent payout for first place, 20 per cent for second place and third place will get their entry back. Entry is \$40 per team and you can enter at www.stmaryskinsmen.com.

New this year, Kinsmen Happy Hour will feature \$6 tall cans of beer from the time the tent opens until 9 p.m., after which, all bar rail drinks and beers are \$8 per ticket. A special Broken Rail beer has been added to the lineup where 50 cents from each can sold is donated to Cystic Fibrosis Canada. If you're in the tent before 9 p.m., we will give you a free wristband for the entertainment that evening.

Thursday night entertainment features DJ Shawn Holroyd spinning up country tunes from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. The tent opens at 6 p.m. Friday night longtime band Roy's Garage takes the stage from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. with classic rock tunes for all ages. The tent opens at 6 p.m.

Saturday, the gates open at noon with the start of the corn hole tournament

until 5 p.m. Steph Martin hosts open mic from 1-5 p.m. Be there early to ensure your spot on stage.

Square One Skate Shop will be shredding it up in the back parking lot from 2-4 p.m. with a skateboard demonstration and some sweet tricks.

An art show will be taking place in the Kinsmen Pavilion featuring local artists from 1-5 p.m.

At 7p.m., Hartlet struts their stuff until 8:30 p.m. They're a local band that recently opened up for Finger 11 among other top-notch bands. From 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., headliner Corduroy Gordon will be blasting off with their highly anticipated reunion show.

New this year, test your aim out at our Dunk Tank and sink local celebs in the drink from noon to 4 p.m. rain

or shine. Purchase five throws for \$10. There will also be a 50/50 draw in the tent all three nights. An arms-length of tickets costs \$10.

At the Kinsmen Club of St. Marys, our commitment to "serving the community's greatest need" remains steadfast. Over the years, we've proudly contributed to various community initiatives, ensuring that every dollar raised stays within St. Marys and its surrounding areas. From supporting minor sports and health-care initiatives to enhancing local amenities and cultural institutions, our impact is tangible and far-reaching.

We look forward to seeing everyone out for a fun-filled family weekend. Visit www.stmaryskinsmen.com for more information.



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COMMUNITY

Dogs make the best cuddle buddies



Charlee Pickering and mom Julie donated bottles to the cause and got some snuggles.

By Wendy Lamond

There is nothing like snuggling with a cute puppy.

That is what many people got to do on Saturday when they attended the K9 Safe Space Meet the Dogs Day that took place at Pet Valu.

K9 Safe Space is a registered not-for-profit organization that started in 2021 and helps dogs in need who otherwise don't stand a chance. It is

based on a foster-rescue program in the Stratford area and foster homes also in surrounding cities of Southwestern Ontario. It is called a safe space as it offers a no-judgement, no-questions-asked drop-off zone for dogs that can no longer breed, are unwanted and have special needs, providing them second chances to find their forever homes.

The team from K9 Safe Space had



Ashley Matt was all smiles as Jack, a 7-week-old English bulldog-pug-Boston-terrier mix cuddles close. Photos by Wendy Lamond

some of the dogs and puppies that are currently in the foster program of the organization were on hand to give some information on rescue and adoption processes and, of course, let the dogs get lots of snuggles and attention.

Though there were no actual adoptions taking place that day, many showed up to learn all about the or-

ganization and drop off some bottles for the bottle drive that Pet Valu hosted to raise funds for the program.

Pet Valu also hosted a nail-trimming clinic for the Humane Society at the same location so there was lots of love going around for the fur babies.

For more information about K9 Safe Space, check out the organization on Facebook and visit their website at www.k9safespace.ca.

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EDITORIAL

Lessons from across the pond

By Stewart Grant

Last week while at the EPIC Emigration Museum in Dublin, I read a quote from famous Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw who said, "A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing."

If there's one thing that people know about me, it's that I don't like to do nothing - I like to keep busy. Applying the corollary of Shaw's quote, that means that mistakes can be expected from time to time.

So, at noon last Tuesday when I would normally be inspecting the Boos in the draft copy of the Independent, it was dinner time in County Clare and I was busy playing my role as King of Leinster at an authentic medieval dinner at Knappogue Castle. My mistake was not thinking ahead and reviewing the Boos in advance to ensure that they all met our guidelines.

Fast forward to Thursday morning. I awoke to rainfall in Killarney, our only bad weather on the entire trip. As I opened Facebook from bed, I was jolted by the deluge of comments raining down upon the screen. "Cad é an ifreann?" I may have uttered in Gaelic, if only I knew the language (English translation: what the hell?).

It turns out that we had published the following: "Boo to men over 50 who mow their front lawns with

no shirts on." Yeah, that's not a very productive boo.

I've since learned who sent the boo in, and I know she has a good sense of humour. It was probably meant as a joke, and that's certainly how our editing team took it as well.

As our tour bus rolled along the Ring of Kerry that morning, it was still the middle of the night in Canada. I wanted to decide quickly on what to do, because frankly the Topless Mower Controversy (or TMC, if you prefer acronyms) was distracting me from enjoying the scenery. It turned out that I came up with a good idea - about having some fun with the TMC in the following week's paper and inviting our 50+ folks to send us their topless mowing photos. According to the Facebook metrics of likes and comments, what I ended up posting was about as popular as the time that we announced that Gilly's Pub was coming to St. Marys.

Speaking of great pubs, I enjoyed quite a few during our time in the Emerald Isle. In fact, I'm pretty sure I'm showing some significant water weight during my TMC photo shoot on page 22.

Perhaps it was a mistake to get my topless picture taken so quickly upon arrival at home. Oh well - it's all in good fun (or craic, as they say in Ireland).

Bravo

We have 4 Bravos this week

- 1) Bravo to the Town of St. Marys for the new and improved windscreens at the tennis courts. They look sharp and do a fantastic job of cutting down wind gusts!
- 2) Bravo to Dan Ryan who had a hole in one during the Tsunami golf day at Science Hill. On the par 3 12th Dan accomplished this feat with his driver. (Editor's Note: as of press time, the newspaper has not been able to verify the validity of the club chosen for this tee shot!)
- 3) Bravo to Elena North for her hard work and dedication in orchestrating the food service in the VIP TENT at the baseball Hall of Fame induction!
- 4) Bravo to the young lady who cleans the laundromat. She keeps it positively sparkling and we customers really appreciate her efforts.

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

Boo

We have 2 Boos this week

- 1) Boo to people who body shame 50-year-old trying to get some sunshine on their graying chest hairs. Tarps off and mow on, boys!
- 2) Boo to the four kids (7/8 year olds) who on Sunday, June 16 around 9:30 a.m. were on the Grand Trunk Trail vandalizing the dog water fountain spout. They had crammed leaves and grass in it to stop the water flowing. When I told them to stop they said they didn't do it, they continued as we stood and watched. I picked as much out of the spout as I could but there was just a trickle of water. Fortunately another person was able to get the rest out. Adults please tell your kids that is not ok. People work hard to make beautiful outdoor spaces, please teach your kids that this is a privilege that needs to be respected.

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

Quote of the Week

"I felt the support from the Canadian baseball fans. They gave me the strength to face my cancer diagnosis head-on and we kicked its ass."

- **Legendary Toronto Blue Jays broadcaster and 2023 Jack Graney Award winner Buck Martinez this past weekend on the support from his fans following his cancer diagnosis in 2022.**

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During Monday night's Blue Jays game, St. Marys and the CBHOF received great coverage.

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

GRANT HAVEN MEDIA

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

St. Marys Independent

Publisher

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Regional Editor

Galen Simmons • galen@granthaven.com

Graphic Design / Sales Inquiries

Tyler Carruthers • info@stmarys-independent.com

Business Development

Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Billing Administrator

Cindy Boakes • boakescindy1576@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant

Wendy Lamond • wendylamond74@gmail.com

Contributors

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

36 Water St. St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2

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The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK

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These mountains you are carrying, you were only supposed to climb them.

When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around.

Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.

The word listen has the same letters as the word silent.

COMMUNITY

Experience a classic Canada Day celebration at Cadzow Park

By St. Marys Independent staff

There's no better place to party on Monday, July 1 than Cadzow Park in St. Marys. Come celebrate our nation, rain or shine, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Start the day with the ever-growing Canada Day parade. This year's new parade route departs from the Pyramid Recreation Centre at 11 a.m., travels up James Street South, turns left onto Queen Street East to make its way downtown, then left on Wellington Street South and finally left onto Park Street, ending at Cadzow Park. The parade is free to enter; register a float by calling organizers Don and Margaret at 519-284-1548. The deadline to register a float is Friday, June 28.

The official flag raising and singing of the national anthem will take place at 12:30 p.m. Indigenous elder Patsy Anne Day will then lead a land-welcoming ceremony to honour and acknowledge the Indigenous homelands.

Two musical performances will hit the stage at Cadzow Park following the ceremony. Local duo Cherry Hill

Road is set to start at 1 p.m., followed by indie-folk pair York Street Thought Process at 2 p.m.

Activities for all ages will be offered throughout the afternoon, including an inflatable jumper, children's arts and crafts with Paint and Palette, classic lawn games, and activities with the St. Marys Public Library. Pack a swimsuit as the splash pad will be open all day, as will the St. Marys Museum with exhibits and children's crafts. Admission to the museum is free; donations are appreciated.

After working up an appetite, grab a bite at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's fundraising barbecue. The Sunset Shack will also offer a fun selection of street eats for purchase. Attendees are also invited to enjoy a free treat at the event, courtesy of Tremblett's Your Independent Grocer.

With something for everyone, Cadzow Park is the spot to celebrate Canada Day this year.

For more information on the event, visit www.discoverstmarys.ca/canaday or call 519-284-2340 ext. 249.

East Nissouri Union Church Donates \$1,000 to St. Marys Healthcare Foundation



On Saturday, May 25, the East Nissouri Union Church made a generous donation of \$1,000 to the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation (SMHF). The funds were raised from an event at the St. Marys Legion, which featured a performance by the local band, Harmony of Friends. This donation will have a great impact on the ongoing needs and healthcare services at St. Marys Memorial Hospital. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without generous contributions like this. Pictured, from left, Cindy Bilyea, Stew Slater, Connie Douglas. Contributed photo

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



STONETOWN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

This year's Stonetown Heritage Festival takes place on July 12 to 14 and features family-friendly activities, a heritage walking tour, vendor's market, downtown street festival and a fireworks show.

discoverstmarys.ca/festival

EARLY ON MORNING AT THE MUSEUM

June 22, 9 - 11 AM | St. Marys Museum

Join in on a morning of fun and learning with EarlyON and the St. Marys Museum through engaging activities on the front lawn and a tour of the museum!

townofstmarys.com/earlyon or 226-374-6544



EVENT VOLUNTEERS

We're looking for several event volunteers for our Canada Day event (Monday, July 1) and the Stonetown Heritage Festival (Saturday, July 13). This is a great opportunity for high school students to gain volunteer hours.

townofstmarys.com/careers or call 519-284-2340

AQUATICS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

Want to become a lifeguard? Registration is now open for both the Bronze Medallion/Emergency First Aid and Bronze Cross courses.

townofstmarys.com/activenet or 519-284-2160



SHOWER PROGRAM

Thursdays, 9 AM - 1 PM | Pyramid Centre

This program provides free showers to those in need. Showers are private, secure and accessible for individuals of all abilities.

Visit Guest Services or call 519-284-2160

Contact us

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communications@town.stmarys.on.ca





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Senior of the Week



Our Senior of the Week is Emily Macko who turns 84 years young on June 24. She has three children and four grandchildren and has lived in St. Marys since 2009. Emily is known for her knowledge of current events, especially sports! Happy birthday to a fun and funny person.

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

COMMUNITY

Arts and culture in the spotlight at 2024 Stonetown Heritage Festival

By St. Marys Independent staff

This year's Heritage Festival, taking place from July 12-14, will offer numerous chances to explore creativity and connect with local history.

The restored heritage Riverwalk Commons building (84 Water St. S) will host The Artists at Riverwalk Commons from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 13. The art show and sale will highlight Peter Rice, showcasing his techniques and impressive sculptures available for purchase and debuting his latest collection of Quiet Reflections art cards.

Bonn Richardson will share pieces from her The Wonder of Water show, a collection of watercolour paintings created while snorkeling over coral reefs. Henry Bukenya, a young artist from Uganda, will exhibit his incredible paintings inspired by his unique life experiences.

"The artists at Riverwalk Commons will highlight the vibrancy that art brings to our community," said Town of St. Marys events coordinator Alanna Bowes in a press release. "The show's goal is to highlight the artists' passion and talent through interactive demonstrations."

There will also be a display of heritage-themed photos from local photographers along the nearby Riverview Walkway.

Those curious about local heritage can participate in a walking tour or a bus tour. Walking tours depart from town hall at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Bus tours leave on the hour between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. from town hall.

New this year, discover the history of our water-

ways with river walking tours led by a local heritage guide starting from town hall at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Bus and walking tours will take place on Saturday, they will last 45 minutes and are free, but advance registration is strongly recommended by calling the St. Marys Museum at 519-284-3556.

Just east of the downtown fun, the St. Marys Station Gallery, open Wednesday to Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., hosts the selected works of five local and regional artists whose individual works are distinctly different and diverse.

The performing arts take the stage when The St. Marys Community Players entertain during the downtown street festival at the intersection of Queen and Wellington streets. Performance times will be announced.

On Sunday, July 14, culture and the arts take on a green thumb with the return of the St. Marys Horticultural Society's Garden Tour from 1-5 p.m. Tour maps will be sold for \$10 at town hall on July 14 from 12:45-3 p.m. Contact the horticultural society (stmarys.horticulture@gmail.com) for more details.

For a one-of-a-kind shopping experience, check out the St. Marys Vintage Market pop-up at Riverwalk Commons on Sunday, July 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This 14-vendor market will showcase carefully selected vintage, thrift and upcycled vendors.

The full festival schedule is available at www.discoverstmarys.ca/festival.

Weekend Quiz

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1. What are the two Zodiac signs for June?
2. What is Canada's national flower?
3. What is the main body of a boat called?
4. What is the baby's name in The Incredibles?
5. What reptile cannot stick its tongue out?
6. Who went #1 in the 2024 WNBA draft?
7. Which U.S. President had the middle name, Milhous?
8. In which sport are barani, rudolph, and randolph all techniques?
9. What is the singular word for spaghetti?
10. How many eyes does a bee have?

This week's answers are found on pg. 35

SCIENCE HILL Country Club

Taps on the Thames at Science Hill Country Club IS NOW OPEN!

WEEKLY TAPS SPECIALS:
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COMMUNITY

Town seeking input on recreation, culture and leisure services

By St. Marys Independent staff

The Town of St. Marys wants to hear from its residents.

The municipality is currently in the process of drafting a Recreation, Culture and Leisure Services Master Plan update and is looking for feedback on the types of facilities, services and programs that are required to meet local needs.

Residents can share their opinions in a variety of ways. A survey can be accessed online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/StMarysRCLMP; print copies are available at town hall, the St. Marys Public Library, Pyramid Recreation Centre and Municipal Operations Centre. The survey is open until June 30.

Written comments can be submitted

in-person at town facilities or sent by email to sische@town.stmarys.on.ca. The town will also be conducting focus groups with facility users, service clubs and other organizations involved in the delivery of recreation, culture and leisure activities.

Once drafted, the Recreation, Culture and Leisure Services Master Plan update will guide the delivery of recreation, culture and leisure opportunities in St. Marys for the next 10 years. Residents will have an opportunity to view the final plan at a public open house later this year.

For more information, visit www.townofstmarys.com/RLCSMP or contact Stephanie Ische, Director of Community Services at 519-284-2340 ext. 624 or sische@town.stmarys.on.ca.

St. Marys Quarry opens for the season on June 28

By St. Marys Independent staff

The coolest outdoor attraction in Stonetown is gearing up for another season!

The St. Marys Quarry will open on June 28 offering daily swims from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Admission to the quarry costs \$5 for children and youth (ages three to 18) and \$7.50 for adults.

A resident season pass will be available for purchase, offering a discounted rate for loyal local swimmers. The pass is \$74.80 for children and youth, and \$114.19 for adults. It is valid for weekday admission throughout the season; regular admission applies on weekends.

The popular Super Splash inflatable park is also set to open on June 28. Ideal for group or family outings, this water playground offers exciting challenges such as the 14-foot ice tower and 12-foot action tower. Admission to the Super Splash is separate from regular quarry admission; pricing and pass information is available at www.supersplashstmarys.ca.

New this year, the Lind Sportsplex is offering room rentals and bookings for special events like birthday parties and community gatherings. More information on Lind Sportsplex bookings will become available closer to the quarry opening date.

Free parking is available directly across the street from the quarry and in surrounding lots within a short walking distance. Visit www.townofstmarys.com/quarry for a detailed parking map.

Follow the Town of St. Marys (@stmarysontario) and Super Splash St. Marys (@supersplashstmarys) on Facebook for regular updates about the quarry and the inflatable park, including weather-related closures and last-minute openings.

For questions about the quarry, contact 519-284-3090 or aquatics@town.stmarys.on.ca. Questions about the Super Splash inflatable can be directed to 519-808-5121 or supersplash2022@gmail.com.



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COMMUNITY

Brews and Food Fest 2024: Sunshine, booze and good food



People stand outside the Powerhouse Brewing Company to try their craft beers.

By Julia Paul

It was a blast this past Sunday at the Brews and Food Fest 2024.

With sunshine and warm weather, people came from all over to enjoy the craft beverages and food trucks at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame. Vendors from local breweries were present such as Broken Rail Brewing from St. Marys and Heeman's from Thorndale as well as breweries from farther away such as the London Brewing Cooperative, Torched from Grand Bend and Rusty Wrench from Strathroy.

"St. Marys; this is our hometown," said Ryan Leaman from Broken Rail Brewing. "Any way we can help out

the Rotary. It also is a small launching spot. A lot of people come here from out of town and then they go up to our brewery afterwards and get some stuff to go. ... That's what I love about the Rotary. They put on a great event. ... I think it could be made into something bigger. I've gotten to know so many of these breweries doing festivals with them. Even though it's not a great big money-making event for the vendors, it's well run."

During the interview, an eventgoer came to try some local craft beer.

"Mmm, that's good. Wow. Whoa, is that ever good!" said Doug Betteridge.

"Just released today," said Ryan about 'Mow The Lawn', a 4.5 per-cent IPA



Upside of Maybe performing classic hits for eventgoers.

craft beer.

"Wow is it ever good. The citrus. ... That's my new favourite," Betteridge said.

Food trucks were lined up outside the event for hungry attendees needing to satiate their hunger. Campbell's Catering, The Sunset Diner and Big Daddy Bacon were a hit as well as the Field to Truck Mobile Eatery. I tried their bacon cheddar smash burger and it was divine.

The day was carried along by the live music performed by Upside of Maybe. Their sets were entertaining and enjoyable for all ages and created the perfect atmosphere for an enjoyable day with friends and family.

When asked about the turnout for the event, Mark Oliver, Rotary Club of St. Marys president, said, "We are pleased, very pleased and couldn't have asked for a nicer day for weather."

"As far as the event goes, (it has gone) swimmingly. This is our fourth year running the event. I think we got the kinks ironed out of it. ... We are happy with it. We hope to be back next year. Next year is our 100th anniversary as a club. ... We'll be back trying our best next year. ... Thank you to the Baseball Hall of Fame. Thank you to the Town of St. Marys. Thank you to everybody who came out. (We) hope you had a good time and I look forward to seeing you in 2025."



Owner and head brewer Chris Trczuk poses for a photo in front of the Rusty Wrench Brewing Company tent, a brewery based out of Strathroy.



Big Daddy Bacon, one of many food truck vendors at the Brews and Food Fest. Photos by Julia Paul

COMMUNITY

St. Marys Station Gallery launches Invited featuring the work of four distinct, local artists



St. Marys Station Gallery curator Cameron Porteous looks at the work on display by St. Marys artist Julia Armstrong.

By Galen Simmons

The work of each of the four artists now on display as part of St. Marys Station Gallery's latest exhibition, *Invited*, all has an underlying message.

While what that underlying message may be is up to those who see the art to determine for themselves, that's what initially caught the attention of gallery curator Cameron Porteous.

"I wanted to choose a series of artists whose work I find interesting, who have something to say and yet whose work is so uniquely different than the others'," Porteous said. "In most of the exhibitions, we display a series of water colours or a series of acrylic painters etc. This one is different.

"What we've got is somebody who just paints in oil – that's one (of the four artists) – and her vision is sort of evocative of the impressionistic period of American art."

Julia Armstrong, the artists Porteous was speaking of and a member of Stonetown Art, creates juicy, textured

paintings featuring subjects that symbolize the pleasures of life to her; a child gazing into a stream, or a couple dancing with wild abandonment.

"Then we've got Krista Beckett," Porteous continued. "Krist is probably one of our leading local artists and one of the finest artists we have in this area. She's breaking away from her traditional work into something else, which I found really exciting. She said, 'I've discovered clouds.' She normally water colours architecture, famous St. Marys infrastructure, old barns and things like that. She's gone strictly into landscape. At first I thought, ... 'What's your landscapes going to be like? A photograph?' But they aren't. The landscape is designed. She's actually looking at an image and designing the clouds, designing the landscape.

"First impression is realistic, but then when you look at it closely, it's been designed – not unlike what the Group of Seven used to do."

Beckett's paintings are inspired by

the sunlit colours and details of her rural surroundings. By layering transparent washes, Beckett begins the process of painting the contrasting shapes of light and shadow. As forms are built, surface details and textures are added.

Monica Friesen is the youngest artist whose work is on display as part of this exhibition. Her work is fueled by her departure from the strict, Mennonite culture and each painting is a present moment capture in time with a focus on the things that heal.

"She came in with some stuff and, on first impression, I thought it looked a bit weak, a bit soft, and then I started seeing things in her work realizing she has something to say but she doesn't know how to say it," Porteous said. "All her work is very atmospheric, very clouded; it's almost like looking at a mirage where you see something but you're not sure what it is. ... I think she's going through an epiphany. The reason I say that is, when you go to look at her work, there's four pieces ... and then there's a fifth

one, and it's so much stronger. That was why I chose her. I'll be interested to see what she does in the future."

The final artist with work on display as part of *Invited* is Miles Cohen. Cohen is a retired psychiatrist and a committed environmentalist with a lifelong interest in all art forms. Humans create a huge amount of garbage and waste, which Cohen uses to create multimedia works to confront those who see it with the very trash we usually avoid looking at.

"He does recycled bags. He's got a curtain out there hanging made of Wonder Bread bags. He's got a torso out there made of Wonder Bread bags," Porteous said. "He's recycling. He's got one of those plastic six-pack holders he turned into a sculpture, which is quite attractive. And he's got two wall hangings, one of which is done with COVID masks. He's a recycler. This is what he does."

Invited opened with a preview on June 14 and a reception with the artists on June 15. It will run for six weeks.



Solitude by St. Marys artist Monica Friesen is on display as part of the *Invited* exhibition at St Marys Station Gallery.



This sculpture is called *Six Pack Plastic Rings* by St. Marys artist Miles Cohen. Photos by Galen Simmons



These two water-colour paintings, *Expectation* and *Harmony*, by St. Marys artist Krista Beckett are on display as part of the *Invited* exhibition at St. Marys Station Gallery.

COMMUNITY

Stone Willow Inn once again open for overnight guests

By Galen Simmons

After closing at the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Stone Willow Inn in St. Marys is under new management and is ready to accommodate overnight guests.

Speaking with the Independent after "Now Open" signs sprung up on the property across from the St. Marys Golf and Country Club, a representative of East Mount Hospitality – an experienced hotel-management firm that has taken over management of the Stone Willow Inn – said the 10-acre property and the hotel and restaurant on it was purchased by an unnamed company early last year.

"We wanted to get the hotel up and running again, so that's what we've done," said the East Mount Hospitality representative. " ... We renovated the hotel and opened it back up, so we're looking for guests. We'll cater to wed-

ding groups, business travellers and whoever. It's a good location and a nice boutique hotel.

" ... We renovated all the rooms and common areas and put in a small business centre. We're looking for someone to take over the restaurant space and get that up and running as well."

While the restaurant remains closed, the hotel does provide a small breakfast service for guests of the 25-room inn.

"We've just opened back up and it takes time to get everything back up and running and humming along, but we've had some guests already and they've enjoyed it," the representative said.

The Independent was also told that the company that purchased the inn intends to develop the surrounding property, but plans for that development have not been finalized yet.



After being closed for the several years, the Stone Willow Inn in St. Marys is once again open and ready for overnight guests. Photo by Galen Simmons

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COMMUNITY

Stratford police conduct commercial motor vehicle blitz in around St. Marys

STRATFORD POLICE

ST. MARYS COMMERCIAL VEHICLE BLITZ

On June 6th, the Stratford Police Service, in collaboration with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO), conducted a Commercial Vehicle Blitz in the town of St. Marys.

A Total of 39 Commercial Motor Vehicles were Inspected. 11 were removed out of service, and a total of 19 Charges were laid.



STRATFORD POLICE

Blitz Stats

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| CMV Inspections: 39 | Seatbelt: 5 |
| Brakes: 1 | CVOR: 1 |
| Overweight: 2 | Insurance: 2 |
| Registration: 1 | Vehicle Maintenance: 2 |
| Drivers License: 1 | Annual Inspections: 1 |
| No Muffler: 1 | Approved Screening Device: 2 |



By St. Marys Independent staff

On Thursday, June 6, the Stratford Police Service conducted a commercial motor vehicle blitz in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) in and around the Town of St. Marys.

Commercial motor vehicles and their drivers must meet safety standards

and follow all commercial vehicle-related regulations in the Highway Traffic Act. The Stratford Police Service regularly partners with the MTO to ensure that these regulations are met and to ensure that commercial motor vehicles are being operated safely on our roadways.

Throughout the day June 6, the Strat-

ford Police Service and the MTO conducted 39 inspections on commercial motor vehicles. Of those 39 inspections, 11 vehicles were taken out of service and 19 charges were laid.

Charges laid included offences for improper brakes, overweight loads, expired CVOR, improper vehicle maintenance, no annual inspection,

as well as seatbelt violations, no insurance, no driver's licence, no registration and improper muffler.

The Stratford Police Service would like to extend its thanks to the MTO for this continued partnership, which helps keep our roadways safe for all drivers.

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COMMUNITY

Local construction companies sponsor Stonetown Heritage Festival 2024



The McLean Taylor Construction Limited and Stone Town Construction Limited team generously donated \$2,500 to Stonetown Heritage Festival 2024. On Saturday, July 13, attendees can enjoy the fantastic street entertainers downtown, courtesy of McLean Taylor Construction Limited and Stone Town Construction Limited. Photo courtesy of Town of St. Marys

St. Marys residents reminded to stay cool this summer

The Town of St. Marys is reminding residents where they can cool off during periods of extreme heat and humidity this summer.

Town Facilities:

Pyramid Recreation Centre

317 James St. S

Monday - Friday: 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday - Sunday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

St. Marys Public Library

15 Church St. N

Monday - Thursday: 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday: 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

Pool:

Aquatics Centre Pool

317 James St. S

View swim times and programs at www.townofstmarys.com/en/recreation-and-culture/Aquatics-Centre.aspx?_mid_=100405

Splash Pads

Pyramid Recreation Centre Splash Pad

317 James St. S

Daily: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

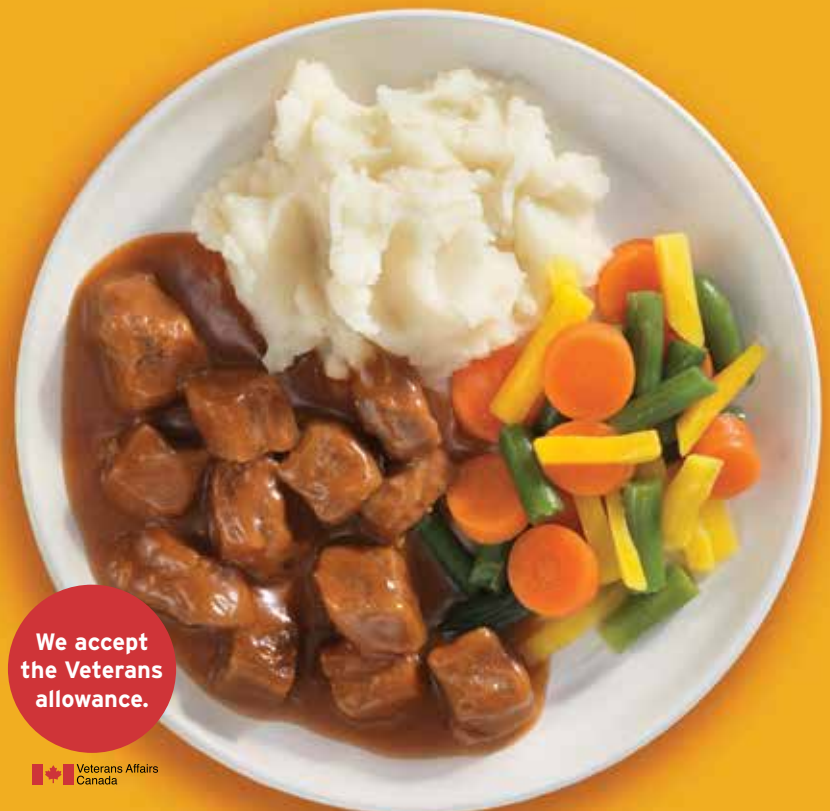
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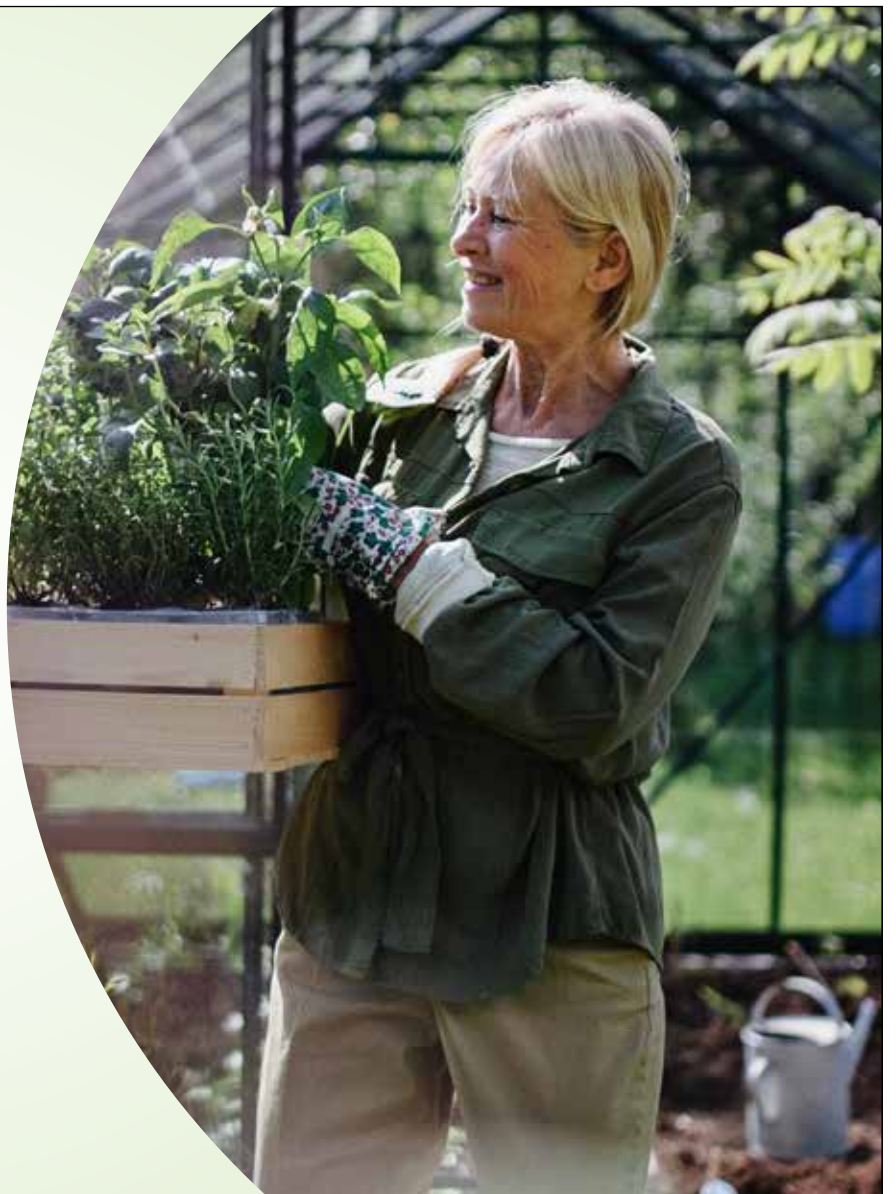
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CBHFM hosts stellar induction weekend

Continued from page 1

Ashley Stephenson was a member of the first Women's National Team in 2004. The Mississauga, Ont. product helped lead the team to seven medals including silvers at the WBSC Women's World Cups in 2008 and 2016 and at the 2015 Pan Am Games. She was also a force on four bronze-medal-winning teams at the World Cup and was named Women's National Team MVP twice.

Jimmy Key served as a starter in the Jays' first division-winning season in 1985 and continued to be a sturdy member of the rotation for Toronto for seven years, including in 1987 when Key's

2.76 ERA led the American League. The Sporting News voted Key as the AL Pitcher of the Year in 1987.

Moose Jaw, Sask. was represented in 14 national competitions by Rod Heisler, who pitched for Canada in

three Amateur World Series'. He was also selected for two Olympics, three Pan-Am Games and three Intercontinental Cups.

If not for the Toronto-born Paul Godfrey, there may be no Major League Baseball presence in Toronto. As Godfrey revealed in his induction speech, he stopped at nothing to bring an MLB team to Toronto and was instrumental in not only creating the Blue Jays, but also the retrofit of Exhibition

Stadium and, later, the creation of Rogers Centre, then called SkyDome.

Howard Birnie has been involved in baseball in his hometown of Toronto in some capacity for seven decades. He's been a multi-championship-winning coach with the Toronto Leaside

All-Stars, president of the Leaside Baseball Association and Ontario Baseball Associations, and is one of the most well-respected umpires in Canada.

Martin's heart on display in emotional speech

Russell Martin began his speech by speaking about the impact of his parents, a heartfelt portion of his speech that made Martin extremely emotional to the point that he had to pause multiple times over the course of seven and a half minutes to regain his composure.

"I'm supposed to be up here at least five minutes so I'm just killing time," joked Martin at one point while choking back tears. "Eleven post-seasons seems pretty easy compared to this. I don't know how all the other inductees got through this without tears."

For several minutes, Martin fought to get the words out as he thanked his parents, stopping several times to control his overwhelming emotions born from his affection for his mother and father. Then, out of nowhere, the little voice of one of Martin's young children said, in a call-to-action-like tone, "Daddy!" The interjection sent a wave of laughter over the crowd and Martin himself, who was able to use the moment to gain his composure.

"My kids are definitely not used to seeing daddy cry."

Earlier in the day, Martin began to feel the weight of his induction when he stood deep in the museum for the induction-weekend press conference, surrounded by the plaques of his now-fellow Hall of Famers. Martin talked to the Independent about seeing the names and pictures of the legends he is now immortalized alongside.

"I don't think I'm ever going to get



Speaking about his parents had Russell Martin overwhelmed by emotion for several minutes during his Hall of Fame induction speech, but an unexpected interjection by one of his young children doubled over the all-time great catcher and the audience in laughter and helped Martin regain his composure. Photo by Spencer Seymour

used to that," Martin said as he looked at some of the plaques closest to him. "Like just right here, seeing names like Andre Dawson, Gary Carter and Steve Rogers. I honestly didn't realize how many impactful people there have been in Canadian baseball and this is a good reminder of the depth of baseball. You walk in here and you see the history of the game and to be a part of that is so cool."

Many people have a single game, moment, or accolade in their career that were brought up more than any other, and for Martin, his was a night that, but for the bat-flipping actions of a fellow Blue Jays icon, could have been the most nightmare-inducing

moment of the catcher's MLB tenure.

Oct. 14, 2015. Game five of the ALDS between Texas and Toronto. Top of the seventh. Two outs, one ball, two strikes. Aaron Sanchez fires a ball into Martin's glove.

That's when things got strange.

Martin threw the ball back to his pitcher as he had done countless times before, only for it to hit off the hand of Shin Soo Choo, inadvertently putting the ball in play and allowing the Rangers to score a go-ahead run.

What could have been one of the worst moments of Martin's career was salvaged in the second half of

the inning when, after a mystifying series of defensive blunders by the Rangers, Jose Bautista hit a three-run homer to give the Jays a 6-3 lead. After Bautista returned to the dugout, cameras caught Martin with his hands together pointed up to the sky, seemingly thanking the baseball gods for arguably the most iconic moment in Jays history.

Martin described his feelings the moment Bautista sent the ball and his bat flying.

"The first feeling is 'Yes, we're winning now!' But it completely wiped the slate clean. I had almost a sickening feeling from when I hit Shin Soo Choo in the hand. I've never felt so small. It wasn't a baseball play. I don't feel like I did anything wrong. It was just bad luck. But it was like a movie when the superhero comes in and saves the day. A building was falling on top of me but then 'Super Jose' comes in and sweeps me away. He tore that horrible page out of the book and put his stamp on it. That's what people remember and I'm forever grateful for that."

At the moment Bautista hit his legendary home run, the Toronto crowd let out a deep, booming roar, which Martin remembered well.

"It felt like the whole stadium was trembling. It felt maybe like a little baby earthquake caused by the roar of the crowd. I've never felt anything quite that special. Pittsburgh was loud but because we're in a dome in Toronto, the vibrations were concentrated. I don't know how to explain it. It was just super cool."

2024 CANADIAN BASEBALL HALL OF FAME COVERAGE

Finally recognized with legend's status, Ashley Stephenson advocates for women's game



Ashley Stephenson captivated the crowd with her speech during the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Photo by Spencer Seymour

Ashley Stephenson was not at a loss for words during the induction weekend press conference when she explained to the Independent what baseball has meant to her life.

"It's meant a lot of things for me. It's been an avenue for me to be competitive and to do things that I love to do. Lots of people talk about the friendships they've made and the experiences they've had and I've had all those same things. I've been really lucky to play with some amazing people and have some amazing coaches and I'm forever grateful for that, but in the end, I'm an athlete and I love to compete and I've been able to do that at the highest level and that's something that I'm really proud of."

Stephenson also described her feelings of joining the list of legends already enshrined in the hall of fame.

"That is a bit crazy for me, to be honest. I took a few pictures of Paul Quantrill, for example, who is on the board and I just flew in from Vancouver. I'm helping coach there with the Vancouver Canadians, and Paul actually is there right now taking over for me and helping out, so I took a picture of his block and sent it to him. To see people like him and other amazing players and ambassadors of baseball in Canada and then to have your name up there with them is really special and really surreal."

Rightfully so, Stephenson was re-

ferred to multiple times over the weekend as a legend of women's baseball in Canada. As true greats do, she used her hall-of-fame status to advocate for the further growth of the game she so dearly loves, telling the Independent what she hopes to see happen in women's baseball.

"My first goal would be a women's junior national team. Our men's junior national team is very successful and that program breeds tons of athletes into our senior program and to Major League Baseball and creates lots of scholarship opportunities. I think the start of a junior national team would be huge for the women's program because it would help us retain a lot of young players when they try to decide, 'Should I go to softball because I'd have the opportunity to play collegiate softball and earn scholarships?' If we have that junior national team, those young women could see a future for themselves at 25 years old.

"I would also love to have more international events for our game," Stephenson continued. "I think that would be really key to help our sport grow not only nationally, but internationally. We want to be really good, we want to get better and we want to create more opportunities, but we also have to help other nations get better in order to create more opportunities as well because we need other teams to play."

Paul Godfrey relentless in pursuit of MLB expansion to Toronto



One of the gems of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame's induction weekend was Paul Godfrey revealing who first suggested the idea of the retractable roof at Rogers Centre (formerly the SkyDome), 2023 Jack Graney Award winner Buck Martinez, who told Godfrey before the stadium was built that the players hated playing indoors and, instead, it would be great if the roof could move open and closed. Photo by Spencer Seymour

Paul Godfrey recounted several stories over the weekend, including that it was Jack Graney Award winner Buck Martinez who first put forward the idea of the retractable roof that was later developed as part of the SkyDome construction, as well as his infamous encounter with then-Commissioner of the MLB Bowie Kuhn. Godfrey told Kuhn that if he gave Toronto a team, Godfrey would guarantee the league boss a stadium would follow. This was met with Kuhn placing a hand on Godfrey's shoulder and explaining that Toronto would first need to build a stadium before the MLB would consider whether they wanted to give the city a franchise team.

However, perhaps the most unforeseen step in Godfrey's endeavour to bring a team to Toronto was his interaction with the owner of one of the MLB's premier organizations.

"It became my mission to get a Major League Baseball team for our city,"

Godfrey declared. "I flew to Florida to attend the winter meetings. It was there that I did anything, and I mean anything, to speak with MLB owners. On one occasion, I even followed Los Angeles Dodgers owner Walter O'Malley into a public washroom.

"As he stood at the urinal, there I was standing beside him saying, 'Mr. O'Malley, my name is Paul Godfrey and I would like to speak to you about bringing a baseball team to Toronto.' And without breaking stream, Walter looked at me and said, 'Do you mind if I finish peeing first?' At that point, I realized that his bat was bigger than mine."

Following Godfrey's speech, the host of the ceremony summarized what few ever expected would be a take-away from a hall-of-fame induction speech.

"As we've just learned," began Black, "never miss a chance to meet someone in a bathroom."

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2024 CANADIAN BASEBALL HALL OF FAME COVERAGE

Everyone loves Buck



Buck Martinez salutes the crowd during a banquet held on June 14 after the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's golf tournament. Martinez also made an appearance at Kingsway Lodge in St. Marys where residents put up signs in front of their home expressing their affection for the longtime Toronto Blue Jays broadcaster. The golf tournament was won by a team from the St. Marys Cement Plant. Photo by Spencer Seymour

The people of Kingsway Lodge clearly spoke for an entire nation when they said they love Buck Martinez.

For those who aren't aware, a sign was put up in front of Kingsway Lodge leading up to the induction weekend with affectionate messages for the 2023 Jack Graney Award winner, which prompted Martinez to visit Kingsway on the evening of June 14.

"My friend, Dan Mathieson, the former mayor of Stratford, sent the picture to me first, so I was aware that it was up in St. Marys," Martinez told the Independent. "I found out where it was and I thought, 'We've got to stop by and say thank you.' And we did that on Friday night when they happened to be watching the Blue Jays game and they had their jerseys on and everybody was sitting in the common room watching the big screen TV. Then I walked in and it was a pretty special moment. It reminds you of how much of an impact you have bringing the games to the fans. All they want to do is watch the game and they associate my voice with the game, and there were so many happy smiles in that room. It was pretty awesome."

During the banquet following the induction-weekend golf tournament, Martinez said without the outpouring of support from Canadian baseball fans he may not have outlasted his cancer diagnosis in 2022, a sentiment he elaborated on during the press conference.

"The Canadian baseball fans are very special," Martinez noted. "When you hear something like that, you may think, firstly, that it's not going to happen to me, and secondly, I guess I'm going to die. Thankfully, that's the last thing that really happens nowadays, especially with the advancements in medicine.

"When I made the announcement that I was walking away from the Blue Jays for a time, I heard from so many different people from all over the world, literally, and they were so supportive and they said, 'We're going to miss you. We'll think about you. We'll say prayers for you. We want to see you back.' That gave me so much encouragement to look it in the eye, take it head on and do the best I could to overcome it. Without the support and hearing from all those fans, I'm not sure that would have happened."

Jimmy Key sends gratitude-filled statement

Unfortunately, Jimmy Key was unable to attend the induction, but he sent a speech that was read by the ceremony's host, Rod Black.

"I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame for this incredible honour and I regret that I cannot be there in person to accept this prestigious award," Black said on Key's behalf. "When I first learned of the recognition, I was overwhelmed with gratitude. To be acknowledged this way by such a distinguished institution is truly humbling."

Key further expressed appreciation for the people who selected him for the hall of fame and those who helped him become an all-time great.

"I want to thank the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame committee for selecting me for this honour. Your recognition means the world to me. I am immensely grateful. I also want to thank my

coaches throughout my career. Their guidance, mentorship and belief in me have been invaluable and played a crucial role in shaping me as both a player and a person. To my family, friends, mentors and colleagues, thank you for your unwavering support and encouragement. I would not be here today without you."

Per Key's speech, the Blue Jays remain near and dear to the Huntsville, Ala. native's heart.

"For 11 years, I had the privilege of representing this incredible organization, spending nine of those years in the big leagues. It was a dream come true wearing the Blue Jays' uniform to compete in the highest level of the sport, and I'm particularly honoured to have been part of the first Canadian team to win a world championship in 1992. That moment will forever hold a special place in my heart."

Heisler honoured for international resume

When looking at this year's hall of fame inductees, words like genuine and humble come to mind, and perhaps no one embodied that more than Rod Heisler, whose induction speech alternated between riotously funny and unyieldingly endearing.

"I've long wanted to win the lottery," Heisler proclaimed. "But as I stand here at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in front of all of you, teammates, friends, and supported by my family, I realize that I already have won the lottery of life."

Heisler also mentioned how he felt honoured to be part of the 2024 class considering who he was standing beside on the stage.

"This weekend has been very special. Thank you for accepting an amateur ball player who just loved playing the game into this wonderful hall of fame. Mr. Godfrey, Mr. Birnie, Ashley, Rus-

sell, Jimmy, I have the most respect for your accomplishments and it's an honour to be inducted along with you all."

Moreso than any of his accolades in baseball, Heisler described how his most prominent memories involve the bonds forged with his teammates.

"Baseball has blessed me with many friends for life. Many I don't always see, but I know are always there. Over time, I don't remember the scores of games - except for when we played the Americans and it's always fun to beat them. But I will always remember the guys, their personalities and how they competed. I remember how they made me feel in both stressful and fun moments. And above all, I remember how we represented Canada. Baseball Canada brought together players from coast to coast to coast. The flag made us a team."

Howard Birnie holds crowd in palm of his hand

It didn't take long for Howard Birnie to naturally gain a hold over the audience. After the crowd gave Birnie a standing ovation upon his introduction, Birnie made a request.

"Could you all stand again for a moment?"

After a moment of Birnie taking in the audience standing and waiting for him to elaborate, Birnie contin-

ued.

"I always wanted to get two standing ovations." Birnie's humorous arc didn't end there.

"I had written a speech, but I got an email from Bob Elliott and he told me, 'Make sure you keep your speech to less than 45 minutes.' So, I had to throw mine out. Little did he know I couldn't stand for 45 minutes."

Birnie made a point to emphasize that his gratitude wasn't just for the induction, but also for the museum and the hall-of-fame grounds those in charge have created.

"Obviously, I want to thank the hall of fame for recognizing me. It was a great surprise. I was not bothered, but bewildered, to receive such recognition. I want to say a thank-you to the hall, Jeremy (Diamond) and

Scott (Crawford), firstly for honouring me, but also for what you've done here in St. Marys. I was on the hall-of-fame board in Toronto and I had a tour of some of the land here that I believe St. Marys Cement gave, and at that time it was brush, rocks and trees, and you see what they've done and turned it into. It's marvelous and St. Marys Cement deserves a lot of thanks."

SPORTS

DCVI presents yearly awards at athletic social



St. Marys DCVI presented their major athletic awards at their yearly athletic social on Jun. 13. Pictured from left to right are Danny Dittmer, Dominic Marziali, Charlotte Johnson, and Ramona Graham. Dittmer and Johnson won the intermediate boys' and girls' Most Valuable Player (MVP) awards, while Marziali and Graham won the intermediate boys' and girls' Most Sportsmanlike Player (MSP) awards



Pictured from left are Charlotte Richardson, Alanna Saville, Charlie Bender, and Donovan McGregor. Richardson was the grade nine girls' MVP, while Saville earned the grade nine girls' MSP. Bender captured the MVP award on the grade nine boys' side, while the MSP went to McGregor. The athletic social also featured a tribute to former DCVI coach Gregg Blackler, who sadly passed away earlier this year.



Pictured from left are Naomi Devries, Marin Chateauvert, Owen Dittmer, and Simon Taylor. Devries took home the MSP award in the junior girls' division. Chateauvert was the junior girls' MVP award winner. On the junior boys' side, Dittmer captured the MSP while Taylor received the junior boys' MVP honours.



Pictured from left are Oliver Black, Trevor Richardson, Ellen Thorup, Kiara McGregor, and Griffin McGregor. Black and Richardson were co-winners of the senior boys' MSP. Thorup took the MSP on the senior girls' side. Kiara McGregor won the senior girls' MVP and Griffin McGregor earned the senior boys' MVP.



Pictured from left are Nathan Good and Anna Ropp, winners of the Colin Hood Award. Not pictured was Owen Littlejohn, who also won the award. The Colin Hood Award honours one male and one female graduating student plus a coach who have been committed to the success of sports in their school.



Capping off the major award winners was Avery Jones, a multi-sport star who was presented with the Graduating Player Award. In addition to the major award winners handed out, MVP and MSP awards were presented to members of every individual DCVI team. All photos by Spencer Seymour

SPORTS

St. Marys athletes compete at OFSAA track and field



St. Marys resident Isabella Mills won the silver medal in novice girls long jump at the provinciewide OFSAA Track and Field Championship held June 6-8 in London. Photo by Mark Dewan (warriorcross.ca)

By Spencer Seymour

St. Marys was well-represented at the OFSAA Track and Field Championship with several local students competing at the provincial meet June 6-8 at Western Alumni Stadium in London.

Isabella Mills, a St. Marys resident and student at St. Michael Catholic Secondary School, captured the silver medal in the novice girls long-jump event. Mark Dewan, St. Michael's track and field coach, credited Mills for her strong performance.

"Isabella is a very mature and experienced athlete," Dewan told the Independent. "She is obviously a great athlete and she was able to adapt to the competition and perform under pressure."

St. Marys DCVI had eight students place in events at OFSAA including Payton Blight and Zach Larmer capturing sixth-place finishes, the top result for DCVI's crop of competitors. Blight took sixth in junior girls discus, while Larmer finished sixth in novice boys pole vault.

Donovan McGregor placed 11th in novice boys shot put. Also in the novice boys division, Vaughn Barr took 13th in the pole vault event and Charlie Bender finished 13th in the 1,500-metre run.

On the girls' side of the novice category, Holly Black took 14th in the pole vault. Kaleb Dingman finished 14th in the junior boys 3,000-metre run. In the senior girls 3,000-metre run, Charlotte Clinton ended up in 17th place.

St. Marys Pickleball members win Medals at the Ontario Senior Games



The St. Marys Pickleball Association (SMPA) hosted the Ontario Senior Games' District 29 3.0 Pickleball tournament on Saturday, June 8 at the Pyramid Recreation Centre. This was the first time SMPA hosted the event which was well-attended with over 33 teams participating in the competition. Pictured on the left are Ian Moore and Rob Wrigley who won the Gold Medal in the Men's 55+ division. On the right are Annette Wrigley and Linda Pickering who won the Women's 55+ Gold Medal. The Gold Medalists will play in the Ontario regional finals in July at the Pinnacle Sports Complex in Stratford. Other St. Marys and SMPA players captured medals, including Esther VanderHyden and Lisa Evans, who won Silver in the Women's 55+ bracket. Barb and Marty Klomp won silver in the Mixed 55+, while Marty Klomp and Bill Pickering won silver in the Men's 55+. In the Men's 65+, Terry Finch and Kelly Sivyer won silver. Linda and Bill Pickering took bronze in the Mixed 55+ and Mike Ferguson and Brian McKinnon captured a bronze Medal in the Men's 55+. Last month, Merlin Leis of the SMPA won gold in the 3.5 Pickleball Senior Games held in Ilderton. Contributed photos

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SPORTS

St. Marys hosting Ontario Summer Games triathlon events

By St. Marys Independent staff

The Ontario Summer Games are coming to St. Marys.

The Stonetown has been selected to host the triathlon events for the 2024 Games. On Aug. 2-3, 60 young athletes will swim in the quarry, cycle our streets and run through the grounds of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

"We are honoured to have been selected to host part of the Ontario Summer Games," said Mayor Al Strathdee in a press release. "This is an incredible opportunity to showcase St. Marys

and we hope all residents will give our visitors a warm welcome."

To accommodate the cycling route, Queen Street East from Charles Street South to Thomas Street and Water Street South from Queen Street East to the entrance of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum will be closed from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Aug. 2 and 3.

Parking will be unavailable in the closure areas, but all side streets and municipal lots will be open. Downtown businesses will be able to operate as usual; sidewalks and patios will be accessible.

A detour route will allow motorists to travel through town. When no athletes are present, vehicles will be able to cross the closure route on north/south roads. Police, town staff and volunteers will be onsite to help direct traffic.

Residents on Queen Street East and Water Street South will have limited driveway access during the road closures. There will be some opportunities for vehicles to exit driveways between triathlon heats, but motorists will not be able to re-enter their driveways until the road has reopened.

Impacted residents are encouraged to park on nearby side streets or in the Elgin Street municipal lot during the event. Residents with mobility issues who require access to their driveway can contact the public works coordinator at 519-284-2340 ext. 213 or tredman@town.stmarys.on.ca to make special arrangements.

For more information about the event including details about volunteering and other ways to get involved, visit www.townofstmarys.com/triathlon. Questions about the event can be directed to 519-284-2340 or communications@town.stmarys.on.ca.

McLellan, Farrish wins lawn bowling tourney



The Parks Lawn Bowling Club hosted a successful tournament on June 11 which was sponsored by Stonetown Travel. Pictured from left to right are Larry McLellan and Sharon Farrish, who finished in first place in the tournament. Jim Smith and Fred Erickson earned second place while third place went to Wayne Christie and Andy Davis. Dave McMaster and Dave Johnson finished in fourth and the consolation finish was taken by Jim Roth and Sue Roth. Contributed photo

Lindsay shoots hole-in-one at River Valley



Murray Lindsay of St. Marys shot his first hole-in-one last weekend! While participating in the St. Marys Cement Plant Union golf tournament at River Valley Golf Course, Lindsay used an eight-iron on hole number 15 to fire his first-ever ace. Contributed photo



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SPORTS

St. Marys Minor Hockey Association to have priority ice allocation over Huron Perth Lakers

Continued from page 1

explain to our local St. Marys families why they need to accept less-than-ideal ice times while outside teams access prime ice. Huron Perth Lakers can still access ice, but priority should be given to our St. Marys players and families in alignment with the ice (allocation) policy.”

Brintnell said St. Marys Minor Hockey Association players, coaches and parents have had to arrive at the PRC as early as 3 p.m. for 4 p.m. ice time and leave the rink as late as 10:30 p.m. during the week as a result of being allocated less-than-ideal ice times in recent hockey seasons. The reason for that, St. Marys recreation operations manager Doug LaPointe explained in a lengthy presentation to council, is because after the town’s original rink was twinned in 2006, forming the PRC, there was no need to give one user group priority over another because there was more than enough prime ice time to go around.

As the Huron Perth Lakers organization has been a longtime supporter of the town for nearly two decades, booking ice time on weekends in the past when the rinks would have otherwise sat empty, the organization was given the same priority as SMHA and the St. Marys Ringette Association despite it not technically qualifying as a local minor sports organization since 80 per cent of Lakers registrants are not from St. Marys or Perth South.

In accordance with the town’s ice allocation policy, the Huron Perth Lakers should be classified as a non-resident group, effectively placing it eighth on the allocation-priority list behind local schools, adult non-profit organizations in town and all other town user groups.

While councillors were given three options – leave things as they are, reclassify the lakers as a non-resident group on the priority list, or place the Lakers fifth on the list, below the Lincolns and above local schools – council ultimately voted to give local mi-

nor sports priority for prime ice time over the Lakers, but gave the Lakers ice-time priority over local schools – which don’t tend to compete with other user groups for prime ice time – and adult non-profit organizations like the town’s non-body-contact (NBC) men’s league.

“I see both sides of this,” Coun. Dave Lucas said. “As a parent that had a child in minor hockey prior to 2006, driving out of town for a local-league ice time was a very frustrating experience. I think it comes back to the residents have supported this facility. Minor hockey continues to grow. When you’re at the AAA level, there is an expectation to travel. So yes, I would hate to see (the Lakers) leave the community, but when a resident comes to me and says, ‘My child is in minor hockey as a five-year old and we need to travel to Embro,’ which was the case I was in, that is very frustrating.”

Mayor Al Strathdee agreed with the decision to place the Lakers fifth on the ice-time priority list with municipal programming taking first priority, special events like hockey tournaments taking second priority, minor sports taking third priority and the Lincolns taking fourth priority. He reminded council that the St. Marys Minor Hockey Association paid \$250,000 toward the construction of the PRC, a contribution necessary for the recreation centre to come to fruition and one that more or less guaranteed the organization priority ice time there going forward.

One councillor, Coun. Jim Craigmile, voted against the motion to place the Lakers fifth on the priority list citing his concern over that organization having priority over the local NBC men’s league, which could result in the league losing their traditional ice times – something LaPointe said staff


would work with both the Lakers and the NBC league on to find an amicable solution.

Deanna Day, vice president of the Huron Perth Lakers, was in attendance at the June 11 council meeting and had submitted a letter about the potential change to St. Marys’ ice allocation policy that was read by town clerk Jenna McCartney at the onset of the meeting.

“I would like to express our concerns regarding the potential impact of such a change on our organization and it’s members,” Day wrote. “We understand St. Marys Minor Hockey Association’s concerns about the impact on the members and the desire for a locally based organization to be given first priority. However, we believe any changes to the ice allocation policy should be consider carefully to ensure the needs of all hockey programs including AAA are met in a fair and equitable manner.”

Day noted in her letter that the Lakers rely on ice-time agreements with communities across Huron and Perth counties, the organization maintains the same ice-time requirements year after year, it does not seek to take additional ice time away from other user groups and the Lakers act as a significant feeder team for Junior B teams like the St. Marys Lincolns. Day also wrote that a policy change like this should be made in a phased-in approach with plenty of advance notice to user groups and a decision by council to change the policy will have a significant impact on the Lakers’ game schedule for the coming season.

During the meeting, Day also spoke briefly, noting the organization requires ice time in St. Marys because referees won’t travel as far as Zurich or Hensall – an issue that has led to cancelled games in the past – but they will travel to St. Marys.



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Nico Thompson blasts a shot on target during the U10 Boys Tier Two St. Marys Storm game this past Sunday.



Lincoln Voth chases down a loose ball during this past Sunday's U10 Boys Tier Three One St. Marys Storm game.



Owen Harris kicks the ball towards the center of the field during the U14 Boys Tier Three St. Marys Storm game last Wednesday.



Leah Hachler wins a race to a loose ball during last Wednesday's U18 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm game.



Briland Cunningham throws the ball to first base during the Downie Optimist Club U13 OBA Boys St. Marys Rockies game last Saturday. Photos by Spencer Seymour

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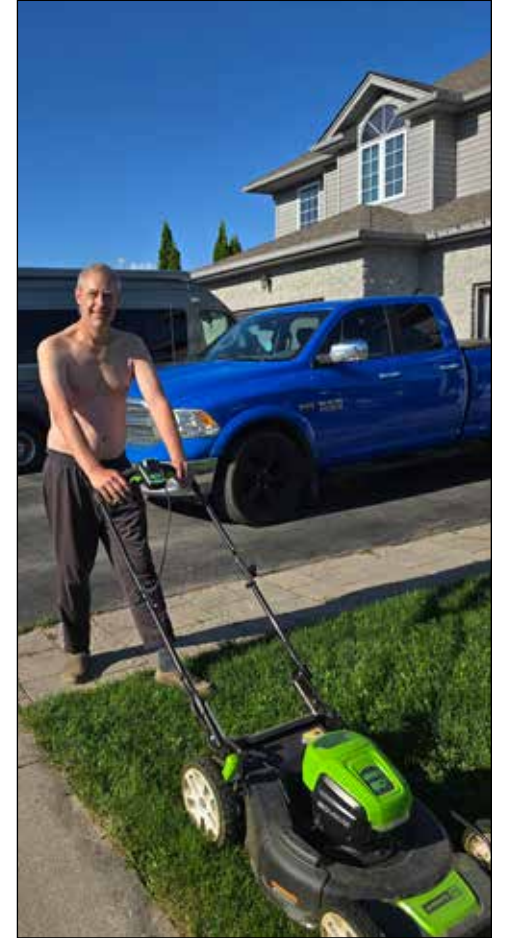
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COMMUNITY

St. Marys DCVI's Golden Oldies host first post-pandemic reunion

By Emily Stewart

The Golden Oldies of St. Marys District Collegiate and Vocational Institute (St. Marys DCVI) alumni will have their first reunion since before the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The St. Marys DCVI Golden Oldies reunion, for students who attended before 1980, will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion at 66 Church St. N between 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. July 13, with lunch provided by Campbell's Catering. The reunion will provide lots of time for classmates to socialize and reconnect as Lloyd Monteith, a pianist and a member of the Golden Oldies committee, will be playing songs during the Golden Oldies' high school days on the piano.

"Lloyd is an accomplished pianist and plays by ear, so after our morning assemblies when we left the gym, Lloyd often would play," said Lynn Brooks, the co-chair of the Golden Oldies and a 1961 graduate of St. Marys DCVI.

T-Shirts will also be available for purchase at \$25 each and there will be a slideshow of photos and memories submitted by members of the St. Marys DCVI Golden Oldies Facebook group.

The reunion is the first one held in five years. Brooks said the committee held monthly meetings since September 2023 to plan it.

"We debated in September whether we could pull it together," she said. "But the committee decided, 'Oh, let's give it a shot,' and we're very pleased. Everyone's really, really pulling their weight with great input. We've had a lot of fun even just planning it."

So far, about 140 tickets have been sold.

George Cifa, chair of the Golden Oldies and 1962 graduate, said the response to the event has been great and between 150 to 200 people are expected to attend.

"We're getting a good, good response for the little advertising that we do. The response has been good. Word has been getting out and about," Cifa said.

Cifa is also looking forward to the reunion and catching up with classmates over lunch and music.

"Because we have five years without having a reunion, we'll get to see people that we haven't seen in a long time because they're coming in from right across Ontario," he said. "I'm looking forward to it, I really am."

Tickets for the reunion can be purchased at \$30 each. RSVPs must be made by June 24 to either lynbro.82@icloud.com or travelmerchant@quadro.net. Tickets can be purchased in person at Barista's, Cascade Cleaners, Hubbard Pharmacy and Dunny's Source For Sports.

The Golden Oldies committee would also like to thank their event sponsors: The St. Marys Independent, Joe Taylor, Delmar Foods, McLean Taylor Construction Ltd., Barista's, Dunny's Source For Sports and Hubbard's Pharmacy.



Ask the Arborist

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



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Sincerely

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Poplars tend to grow very fast and do grow quite large. The issue is they are rather weak so often break off when they grow past a certain point.

In the late 1800s, wealthy Canadians would grow poplar trees on the

borders of their estates or farms. Apparently at the time, a row of poplars was a symbol of wealth. Since poplar trees do not normally have a long life, they tend to die off at the top (as you are experiencing). Naturally, the wealthy estates began looking messy. The dead wood was dangerous as well.

Sometimes the estates chose to remove the poplars, but other times they would just trim out the dead wood. Eventually the trend to express wealth through poplars was discontinued as maintenance became too much and too costly.

Sincerely

The Arborist

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



GOLDEN OLDIES REUNION

Fellow Attendees

St. Marys DCVI Prior to 1980 (60+)

It has been a long time since we departed high school but a Golden Oldies Reunion is being planned for July 13th to get reacquainted.

The event is being held during St. Marys Heritage Festival, at the St. Marys Legion, so lots of activities.

A private Facebook Group "Golden Oldies Reunion" has been created for those that are interested.

Information on accommodations can be found at airbnb.com.

We have also negotiated a special room rate at the newly renovated Stonewillow Inn. Just call 226-582-5892 and ask for Golden Oldies preferred rate

A lunch will be served from 1-2 at the event.

To purchase/reserve tickets (\$30 each) and pay in advance, you can make an electronic transfer to Lloyd Monteith at ldmonteith@quadro.net - No password is required.

In addition tickets can be purchased from Barista's, Cascade Cleaners, Hubbard Pharmacy, Dunny's Sports.

Please forward this information to all your DCVI contacts to make this an event to remember in 2024.

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COMMUNITY

Rae announces funding for local seniors programs

By St. Marys Independent staff

Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae announced a total of \$179,016 in funding for local seniors' programs on June 14.

The Seniors Active Living Centres (SALC) program and Seniors Community Grant (SCG) program are funded by the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility and provides programming to help seniors stay fit, active and connected in our communities. SALCs and SCG's are community connectors. Together, these investments support local, not-for-profit community organizations, municipalities, and Indigenous groups by helping them deliver programs and learning opportunities for Ontarians age 55+ offering a wide variety of activities to promote engagement, reduce isolation and promote healthy living.

Locally, the Town of St. Marys received \$50,075 for seniors programming, the Stratford Kiwanis Community Centre received \$51,023 and Spruce Lodge Home for the Aged received \$51,137. The North Perth Seniors Centre also received \$26,781.

"We are grateful for the continued support of the Provincial government through the Seniors Active Living Centres Grant," said St. Marys Mayor Al Strathdee in a press release. "These funds support the operation of our Friendship Centre, which is a vibrant, welcoming space for adults of all ages and abilities. This facility

provides diverse programming that helps to reduce isolation and create community among our residents."

"Our seniors help build our communities and province," Rae said in the press release. "Our government continues to support these important senior programs, ensuring our seniors can enjoy their golden years, while staying active and healthy. ... June is Seniors Month in the Province of Ontario," said MPP Rae. "It is a time for us to recognize and thank the many seniors in Perth-Wellington for the many contributions they have made and continue to make in our communities."

This year, a total of up to \$15 million in funding will be made available to SALC programs across the province. This is an increase of close to 10 per cent from last year.

Due to the overwhelming success of Ontario's more than 300 Seniors Active Living Centres being delivered by municipalities, new changes to the Seniors Active Living Centres Act, 2017 came into effect as of June 1 that enable more types of organizations to deliver Seniors Active Living Centre programs.

A call for proposals for organizations to deliver SALC programming will open later this summer. In addition to municipalities, other local and community-based organizations such as Legions, Lion's Clubs and other social and recreational clubs are now wel-

come to apply.

Organizations that deliver SALC programming contribute 20 per cent of the cost of delivering the program, with the province providing the remaining 80 per cent.

"Senior Active Living Centres help build healthier, safer communities by providing a community hub for old-

er adults," said Raymond Cho, minister for seniors and accessibility, in the press release. "Our government's expansion and investment in Seniors Active Living Centre programs will help even more older adults, including those in remote areas, get the supports they need to live healthy, independent lives."



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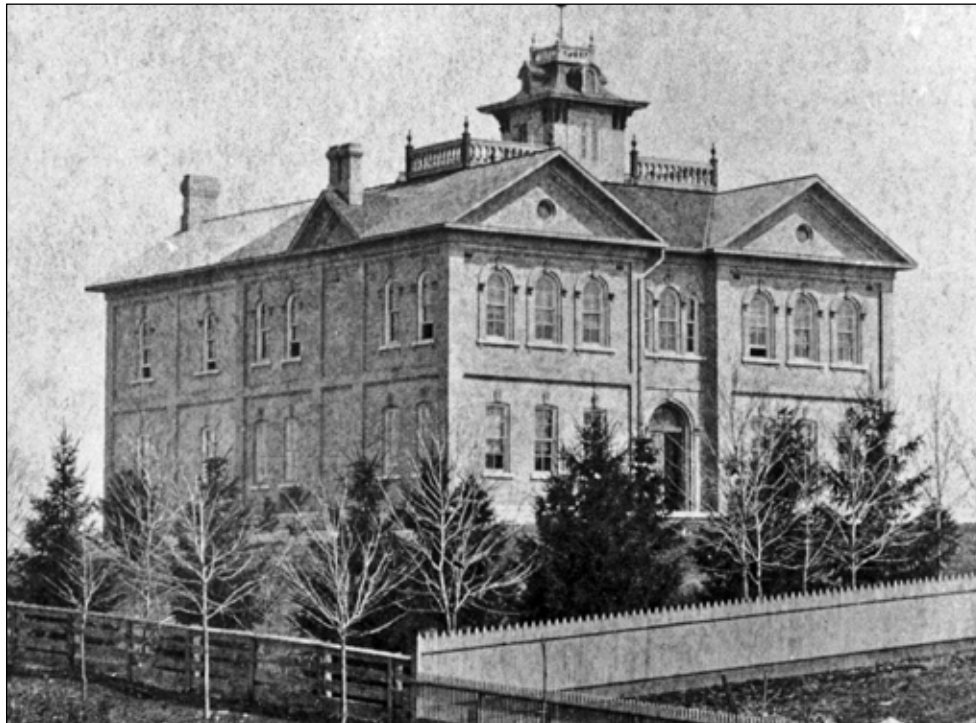
HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Memories of St. Marys Collegiate

By Mary Smith

Most people have memories of high school – perhaps not all of them pleasant. Still, they recall with affection special friends and certain incidents from those formative years. School reunions provide the chance to meet old friends and share these memories. The reunion on July 13 of students who went to St. Marys Collegiate prior to 1980 offers this opportunity. Since the reunion takes place during the Stonetown Heritage Festival, it is also an occasion to reflect on the significance of the collegiate in the history of St. Marys and area. Even residents who did not attend this school benefit from its long presence in the community.

Establishing schools for their children was a priority in early St. Marys as it was in all other towns and villages across the country. In 1845, Canada Company Land Commissioner Thomas Mercer Jones, accompanied by his wife Elizabeth Mary Strachan Jones, visited this community. This event gave rise to the persistent story that from then onward the small settlement on the Thames was to be identified as St. Marys, a name chosen to honour Mrs. Jones. It is a pleasant story and undoubtedly the visit took place although records show the name St. Marys in use as early as 1839. Perhaps more significant, the visit led to securing a £10 grant towards the building of a small stone schoolhouse for the village children. The first Central School, a larger, two-storey building, was opened 12 years later. While a formal school system for this area had begun to take shape, establishing a high school was another challenge.

At first, schools in St. Marys offered only elementary education – roughly the equivalent of grades one to eight. Any students wishing to go further with their studies had to leave St. Marys and go to a larger centre with a grammar school offering courses to prepare them for university entrance. By 1861, however, St. Marys received permission to offer grammar school classes in one of the rooms in Central School. The board hired a teacher qualified to teach the subjects. Ten years later, Ontario's Department of Education changed the name "grammar school" to "high school." By this time in St. Marys, two of the Central School classrooms were being used for high school students. As the high school's popularity grew and increasingly crowded out the elementary school students, the need for a separate building became obvious. Town councillors were persuaded that this step was necessary, a suitable location was found and, in 1874, the two-storey white brick building, shown in



St. Marys Collegiate Institute in 1886. An addition to the original four-room building has just been built to the north. This new wing contained a science room and a gymnasium. From the St. Marys Museum's historic image collection.

this week's photograph, was opened. For the next 80 years, the St. Marys Collegiate Institute on the north ward hill provided secondary education to young people from St. Marys and the surrounding area.

The Collegiate Board hired strong principals and well-qualified teachers and the school soon earned a reputation for academic excellence. The town benefitted from this reputation as the collegiate attracted students from nearby communities, many of whom had to board in local homes during the week in the days before school buses. Also, young people who went from the collegiate to university quite frequently returned to St. Marys after they had earned their professional qualifications. Young teachers, doctors, pharmacists, lawyers knew that the town had a good high school that their own children could attend.

There were challenges to address, of course: over-crowding was an issue almost immediately. The collegiate built its first addition in 1886 – a wing at the northwest corner for a laboratory and a gymnasium. There was opposition from town council at that time to the cost of these facilities, perceived by some as frivolous. One councillor stated: "They would have a toboggan slide next." However, the trustees were backed by the school inspector. He told town council that the Department of Education would withhold its annual grant unless the school could meet regulations for instruction in the sciences and physical education.

Greater challenges included the years of World War I and the loss of a num-

ber of young men who had been collegiate students. The school also lost its principal. William Wright had been a brilliant student at the collegiate in the 1880s, had gone to university, qualified as a teacher, then as a principal, and eventually returned to St. Marys as head of the collegiate. When the war broke out, he enlisted, went overseas and was killed in action in 1917. Following the war, there was a return to normal school functions but the great depression of the 1930s and then World War II lay ahead. Very fortunately for the collegiate, the board appointed a new principal in 1933 who steadfastly guided the school, its staff and students through all these turbulent years.

Erskine Sanford Evans was born in July 1899 in Tiverton, Ontario, the oldest of John and Gertrude Evans' children. Soon after, his father, a veterinary surgeon, moved his family to Clinton where Erskine attended elementary and secondary school. He was bound for university although World War I meant an interruption when he was called up on September 5, 1918, and enrolled in the 1st Tank Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps, in London, Ontario. However, the war was almost over. Erskine was demobilized on January 8, 1919, and free to resume his studies. He made use of his military experience during his university years, enrolling in the Canadian Officers Training Corps. This helped subsidize his four-year science degree at Victoria College, University of Toronto, plus a further year at the Ontario College of Education. His first position was as science

master at Dunnville High School. In September 1928, he began his long career at the St. Marys Collegiate, hired as a science teacher. Five years later, he was appointed principal. Mr. Evans continued to teach – with considerable authority – both physics and chemistry in addition to his administrative duties.

In June 1934, Lorne A. Eedy of the *Journal Argus* published a profile of Principal Evans as part of his series, "People We Meet." He began by stating: "Mr. Evans is recognized not only as a good citizen and a capable teacher but a thoroughly efficient principal." When he assumed this position, over-crowding was again a pressing problem. A second addition built in 1925 was no longer adequate to meet the needs of the school enrolment of more than 400 students. Somehow, even in depression years, Mr. Evans was able to persuade the board to build another four-classroom addition to the north. Following the war, St. Marys Collegiate became a district school. Now, bus schedules had to be factored into the school day and facilities for rural students' lunchrooms had to be created.

Erskine Evans did have a life outside the collegiate. On August 1, 1928, he married Elsie Drehmer of Dunnville. Together, they came to St. Marys, established a home and raised three children: Robert, William and Marjorie. The family attended the United Church where Mr. Evans served as an elder and taught senior Sunday School classes. He was a Rotarian and the club's historian and frequently called upon as a speaker. But in spite of his community involvement, the *Journal Argus* article concluded: "He was never happier anywhere than in the home with his family, or out among his flower beds."

Erskine Evans may have been thinking of the future of families like his own when he supported the board's decision to abandon the much altered, old brick building in the north ward in favour of a modern, new high school across town on a large property south of Elizabeth Street. The new St. Marys District Collegiate Institute officially opened in 1954. The years have passed and very few, if any, former students at the reunion on July 13 will have attended the old collegiate – although some may have been students there when it was renovated to become North Ward Public School. More former students will have clear memories of Erskine Evans, however, because he continued as principal until 1961 when he retired. He was the link between the old and new St. Marys Collegiate, steering the development of both.

Thorndale News

A section within the
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Thorndale Agricultural Society receives municipal grant

By Nancy Abra

A few months ago, the Municipality of Thames Centre announced its Community Grant program for 2024.

This program's purpose aims to strengthen community development, enhance local engagement and confirm the municipality's commitment to support area community groups and organizations. One of the recipients of a 2024 community grant was the Thorndale Agricultural Society.

The Thorndale Agricultural Society has a rich history spanning 160 years promoting agricultural education and entertainment through displays, games and competitions funded and sponsored by local businesses and community support. Since the Thorndale Community Centre fire in February 2020 with the loss of their equipment, the society has been renting sound and lighting equipment for various events.

The Thames Centre Community Grant application submitted by



The Municipality of Thames Centre recently presented the Thorndale Agricultural Society with a cheque for \$3,680 through its Community Grants program so the society can purchase the sound and lighting equipment it has been renting since 2020 for various events. Pictured from left are agricultural society board member Matthew Little, society member Jim Razpotnik, society president Bridget Heeman and Thames Centre Mayor Sharron McMillan. Photo courtesy of Karen Lucas

the Thorndale Agricultural Society will be used to replace some sound equipment needed to support their

various events such as Dinner Theatre, Back 40 Bash, Seasonal Social, Ladies Night and the Thorndale Fall

Fair.

The society stated, "Owning this equipment instead of renting for each event would help the society save some funds, allowing more to be put back in the community at each event. Each of these events hosted or organized by the Thorndale Ag Society is to encourage the community to be actively engaged, therefore building a stronger community."

"As part of our commitment to economic development in our community," the Municipality of Thames Centre stated, "we are excited to continue to offer community grants and to present a cheque to the Thorndale Agricultural Society through our 2024 program. This funding will help them implement a sound system, enhancing the experience of their annual events while reducing operational costs. Thank you to the Thorndale Agricultural Society for your contributions to our community and for hosting incredible events over the years."

West Nissouri Public School graduating class enjoys unforgettable experience

By Abby Russell, Grade 8 student, West Nissouri Public School

Early this month, the graduating class of the local elementary school, West Nissouri Public School, took a trip to Celtic Camp near Lion's Head on the Bruce Peninsula.

Students stayed four days at the camp spending their time playing sports, games, rock climbing, swimming, sitting around campfires and hiking in the Bruce Peninsula National Park while learning about the local nature and wildlife. This opportunity allowed

students to make friends with students from other schools, strengthen old bonds, connect with nature, try new things and explore different interests and passions.

The Grade 8 class would like to thank the community for its support in fundraising for this unforgettable experience. Thanks to Thorndale businesses and clubs for their donations, as well as the general community support during our various fundraising campaigns. All of those who wanted to attend Camp Celtic were able to at a much-reduced cost!



Pictured are Grade 8 students Lilly Harwick and Abby Russell (on the right) at Camp Celtic. Photo courtesy of West Nissouri Public School

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COLUMN

HOSTING UKRAINE: I do!

By VJ Knutson

In May of 2022, Tetiana Bila was just a name among hundreds that crossed my path. She and her daughter had signed up with Lars Whelan at the Warsaw Train Station, hoping to be included in a special program offering free flights. The information was channeled to a woman in Barrie who entered it into spreadsheets which were then directed to me. My job was to contact the applicants and help them find a host.

Heidi Van Galen had volunteered to help me organize the incoming data, and make it more accessible. When she told me that she and Harold were considering hosting a family, preferably a woman with an adolescent child, we scanned the lists and found Tetiana and Anya. I reached out and put the two families in touch.

Tanya (as we call her) and Anya arrived in June and when Heidi first brought them over to meet Ric and I in person, Tanya was shy about her lack of English and the fact that Anya had to translate. Tanya very quickly found work at Cascades, and Anya enrolled in high school and eventually found employment at Vet Purchasing.

Last fall, Tanya came for a visit and right away I noticed how much her English had improved. She gave me a sly smile and told me that she now



Wedding Day

had a Canadian boyfriend, so learning English was obligatory. They would be moving in together in December, she added, beaming.

In the meantime, Tanya joined forces with Tania Romaniuk to form the company which has now evolved into U.Clean Services. Every other week, we have the pleasure of catching up with both them as they render our home spotless. They even steam clean the floors and wash our windows! When Tanya Bila arrived one day, announcing she had news, we were thrilled to learn of the engagement.

As exciting as it was, it was also a very stressful time. There was paperwork to be obtained from Ukraine, and to be translated by an officiate. Tanya wondered if it would ever come together.

Then the invitation arrived: "You are invited to the wedding of Tetiana Bila and Mathew Lambert on Saturday, June 15th, 2024."

Ric and I were honoured to be included in the intimate event. Hosted in the backyard of the Van Galen's, with daughters Lily and Anya as attendants, it couldn't have been a more beautiful day.

From the moment we arrived, I felt the tears well up. Mathew greeted us, while Tanya got ready inside. The groom exuded excitement.

When everyone arrived, and we were all seated, the ceremony began. Escorted by her daughter, Anya, Tanya made her way up the aisle to take her place beside her fiancée. All the stress of the past few months were replaced by a radiance only a bride can display. It was such a happy moment.

After the ceremony, a feast appeared, and the celebration began. It was easy to see that a lot of thought had got into the preparations. The couple will not be honeymooning at this time as their priorities are on building a future for their children.

Tanya shared with me recently that after they had fled the war, she and Anya really didn't know where they would go for refuge. "Then I received a message from you," she said, and I believed it to be a sign.

It's hard not to believe in the magic of that sentiment, but I also know that this former accountant brings with her such optimism and joie de vivre that she deserves all good things that come her way.

Until next time.

(Reach me at english.knutson@gmail.com.)



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COLUMN

FROM THE GARDEN: In all their glory



By Nancy Abra

Peonies, with their stunning blooms and delicate fragrances, have captured the hearts of gardeners and flower enthusiasts for centuries. Their blooming glory is recognizable in gardens of heritage homes. As well, they have grown in popularity in modern landscapes and garden designs to add that punch of vibrant colour in early summer. With their attractiveness, there are many gardeners who have become avid peony collectors.

Last weekend my husband and I attended 'Among the Peonies' Garden Festival, just east of Owen Sound. The homeowners, Emily and Dennis' floral displays of hundreds of peonies were breathtaking. Glorious blooms of vivid pinks, reds, yellows and subtle whites

and pastel shades dominated their gardens. Etched throughout their large property were pathways to draw you in amongst their amazing gardens of peonies, hostas, roses, shrubbery, and perennials with the addition of many sitting areas to relax and take in the panorama.

The name 'peony' is derived from the Greek myth of Paeon, a student who angered his teacher, Asclepius, the god of medicine and healing. Another myth links the name 'peony' back to a nymph named Paeonia whose beauty attracted the attention of Apollo. Out of spite, Aphrodite turned her into a peony. This legend is likely what led to the flower's meaning of poor luck in the Victorian age.

Originating in Asia and Europe, peonies were highly regarded in ancient China where they were considered the 'king of flowers' and associated with wealth, honour, and prosperity. Herbaceous peonies are the most common type. They have herbaceous stems and die back to the ground in the winter, which include Paeo-

nia lactiflora cultivars.

Tree peonies (*Paeonia suffruticosa*) have been cultivated in China for over 1,000 years. They were first brought to Europe in the early 1800s, after being discovered by explorers. These wood-stemmed shrubs produce large, showy flowers. They require well-drained soil and protection from strong winds and do not die back to the ground in the fall. Nowadays, they're incredibly popular as ornamental garden plants and cut flowers.

The majority of peony plants in today's garden are hybrids of original tree varieties. There are around forty species of peonies that originated from Asia and Europe. Some varieties of peony flowers can reach up to 20cm in diameter. The flowers are bowl shaped with varieties available in array of colours except blue. They can perform self-pollination and plants can survive up to 100 years when grown in optimal conditions.

Peonies are edible. In the ancient Eastern world, peonies were used for their me-



dicinal properties. The peony's roots and seeds were frequently used to treat headache and asthma and to relieve pain associated with childbirth. Today, partial cooked and sweetened petals are consumed as desserts in China. Fresh petals can be consumed in salads or used as a garnish for lemonade.

Peonies are cherished worldwide for their elegance, ver-

satility, stunning colours and forms. From romantic pastel shades to vibrant hues, peonies offer a wide range of options to suit any garden or floral arrangement. The Peony's journey throughout the ages has flourished in all its glory, commanding attention with its beauty and grace.

Source: <https://www.appleyardflowers.com/flowerdiaries/history-peony-flower/>




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Solutions on page 35

Riddles

I'm light as a feather, yet the strongest person can't hold me for five minutes. What am I?

Your breath.

What can you break, even if you never pick it up or touch it?

A promise.

Which question can you never answer "yes" to?

"Are you asleep?"
What's something that, the more you take, the more you leave behind?

Footsteps.

What kind of lion never roars?

A dandelion.

What has a thousand needles but cannot sew?

A porcupine.

What's bright orange with green on top and sounds like a parrot?

A carrot.

Why do bees have sticky hair?

Because they use their honeycombs.

What do you call a bear with no teeth?

A gummy bear.

What's black, white and blue?

A sad zebra.

- Word Search -

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I Q U A E Y L F H S B G B V S W P K G W
E B X F I C W G D Z C B I X E C E U C F

Word List

- Yummy
- Ready picked
- You pick
- Sheldon
- Megens
- Walch
- Nutritious
- Delicious
- Vitamin C
- Fibre
- Smoothie
- Pie
- Shortcake



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What kind of clothes do clouds wear?



Thunderwear!

Lacey Terpstra (7)

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Our Pet of the Week is Tally who is a five-year-old Irish Wolf Hound. She is very curious and exceptionally polite. She loves apples and can reach them right off the tree! She lives with her best friend Luchta. Her proud owners are Rich and Kris Skjellerup.



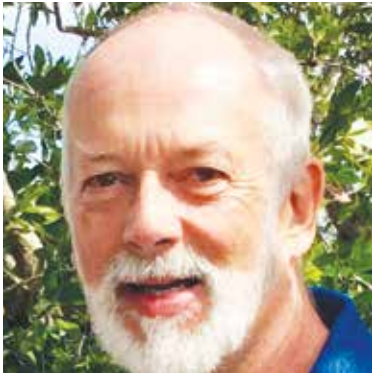
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COLUMN

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: The courage to bounce back from disaster



By Paul Knowles

You probably don't associate the word "courage" with the word "tourism" unless you are about to drop straight down on a zip line in the Jamaican rainforest. But that's another story.

In this case, I am talking about tourism in an established tourist area where there are comfortable places to stay, good restaurants and interesting (not life-threatening) excursions.

That description fit the connected islands named Sanibel and Captiva on the Gulf coast of Florida. At least they were comfortable, established and thriving until Sept. 28, 2022, when Hurricane Ian smashed into the islands.

Ian destroyed a lot of the tourism infrastructure on these islands, as it did on the nearby mainland city of Fort Myers. Restaurants were flattened, resort hotels were damaged to the point of no return, and attractions approached the point of ruin.

On Sanibel and Captiva, "attractions" does not mean theme parks or golf courses.

Here, the victims of Ian included the Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge and the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum and Aquarium. The Ding is an extensive waterfront sanctuary where, especially at low tide, you can spot hundreds, perhaps thousands of shore birds. They report 245 different species of bird in the refuge. But the facility was closed for many months after Ian as both the buildings and the land suffered from the hurricane.

The Shell Museum, a unique facility that is way more interesting than it might sound, was flooded to the ceiling of the first floor and drenched from roof breaches on the second storey.

At the top end of Captiva Island sits South Seas Resort, a destination in its own right, where its hotels were so damaged that authorities ordered their demolition.

I know, so far this doesn't sound like a great recommendation to visit Sanibel and Captiva, right? But wait.

This is where the courage comes in. The folks behind these attractions and destinations did not allow Hurricane Ian to destroy their vision or their commitment to these wonderful islands. So, when we visited earlier this year, only a year and a half after the hurricane, the islands were well on their way to recovery.

We toured the Shell Museum. The upper floor is being completely remodeled as a display space and executive di-

rector Sam Ankeron admitted the hurricane had created an opportunity to upgrade and modernize displays that had become a bit tired.

This was another of those places I thought might take 20 minutes and, instead, deserved at least a couple of hours. The ground floor is completely restored – including a mark high on an interior wall indicating the height of the storm surge. There are touch tanks with living creatures introduced by careful guides, there is an active octopus, there are aquariums and displays and lots of information from helpful docents.

Not far away is the Ding Darling sanctuary, named for a conservationist who, in real life, was a political cartoonist. You can tour the large sanctuary by car, by bike, on foot, or in a trolley; we did the latter.

One codicil: our tour was at high tide. We saw birds – white pelicans, egrets, herons, ibises, ospreys and more – but our guide said the variety of wildlife is much richer at low tide. If you can, go at low tide.

During our time on the islands, we stayed at the South Seas Resort in a fine condo-style unit on the water. Virtually everything here is right on the water – the resort covers the entire end of Captiva.

The resort was slammed by Ian, but it was able to reopen in July, 2023. There has been some adaptation – restau-



A touch pool at the Shell Museum, with docent Chris Whitt. Photos by Paul Knowles

rants are not yet open, so there are food trucks. All the pools are open and the marina, where you can see a herd of manatee almost any time.

There are hundreds of units already available for guests. And if that sounds crowded, it's not – the entire resort covers 330 acres including a lot of natural area, and guests use golf carts to get around the whole area, from reception (and a Starbucks) at the south end to Sunset Beach, the pools and Land's End in the north. Frankly, driving around in that golf cart added a lot to our enjoyment of the place.

Not every restaurant or hotel on Sanibel or Captiva has reopened, but it is amazing how many are available – and how many followed Sam Ankeron's example and treated the hurricane as an opportu-

nity to create something even better. We ate in a brand-new restaurant, the Crow's Nest at the 'Tween Waters Island Resort, and also at a venerable and popular eatery, Doc Ford's on Sanibel Island. Both offered terrific cuisine.

So, should you summon up your own courage and take the risk of visiting a place like Sanibel and Captiva in the aftermath of a natural disaster? My vote: don't be stupid, be sure they are again ready for guests, but if they are – like these two amazing islands – then go. Reward their courage with yours; it's a great match.

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.



Tourists have returned, and are enjoying one of the sea-side pools at South Beach.



The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum and Aquarium on Sanibel Island, now reopened after being severely damaged by Hurricane Ian.

COLUMN

Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

The semi-annual Friends of the Library Book Sale is back and better than ever! Browse thousands of used books, CDs, DVDs and more, all available for sale by donation. This edition of the book sale will be housed at the Lind Sportsplex (The Quarry) and will run from June 26 to 29, open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Money raised at FOL events such as the book sale directly benefit the Library, making providing programs and services such as Movies in the Park and the

Summer Program possible. We look forward to seeing you at the sale!

This Week's Recommendation

While we impatiently wait for the next Hunger Games novel to release next year, dive into another fantastic dystopian tale, and one with a bookish twist at that. "Ink and Bone", book one in The Great Library series by Rachel Caine, features a version of reality in which the Great Library of Alexandria never burned down. In the wake of the non-existent fire, we are shown the year 2025 in a world in which knowledge is available to all,

but private book ownership is illegal. This novel, full of intrigue, automations, and alchemy, follows protagonist Jess Brightwell as he infiltrates the Great Library on behalf of his family. Find out more by borrowing the eBook version of "Ink and Bone" via Libby.

Up This Week

Friday, June 21: Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, June 22: Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, June 24: Open 10:30 a.m. to

8 p.m.

Tuesday, June 25: Tuesday Book Club* (11 a.m.)

Wednesday, June 26: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30-10:30 a.m.), Spring Book Sale^ (11 a.m. to 5 p.m.), Mahjong Intro (1-2 p.m.), Mahjong! (2-4 p.m.)

Thursday, June 27: Spring Book Sale^ (11 a.m. to 5 p.m.), Article Club* (2:30 p.m.)

*Registration Required

^Held at the Lind Sportsplex "The Quarry" (425 Water St., St. Marys)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Community Living St. Marys and Area would like to say a huge thank-you to everyone who supported our 20th Anniversary "Create A Smile" 5 km walk/run on June 2, 2024!

This year we celebrated 20 years of this amazing event and raised \$34,724.00! The walk began with a family who wanted to raise funds for some dental

work for their family member with a developmental disability. They continue to play a lead role in the event two decades later and are passionate about supporting other individuals and families. Statistics show that over half of people with a disability live in poverty! Money raised at the walk is used to enhance the lives of citizens with disabilities and their families in our community. It is used to obtain secure housing, pay for needed devices and equipment and to provide summer support for young people. Funds

also benefit accessibility projects that increase opportunities for everyone in our community to participate. The most recent example being the new accessible dock at the Milt Dunnell Field.

This event would not be possible without the generosity of the amazing community sponsors, families and friends who donated money, items for the silent auction and their time! The vision of Community Living St. Marys and Area is "A community where everyone belongs" and once again, this walk demonstrates how to make that happen, one smile at a time!

With gratitude! Jennifer Leslie, Community Living St. Marys and Area

CELEBRATION



50th Anniversary Open House for

Jewel and Larry Haynes

June 22 from 2 to 4pm

Christ Church Lakeside Hall

256554 Sunova Cres, Lakeside, ON

Gift us only with the honour of your presence

IN MEMORIAM

Mountain

In loving memory of John Mountain

(LL.B., MBA) 1956-2018

With so little to be sure of in this world,

We had a moment,

A marvellous moment!

THANK YOU

St. Marys Horticulture Society would like to extend our gratitude for all those who volunteered at the Garden Fair on June 1, 2024. Thank you to all the vendors and everyone who came out and supported this event. We would like to express a big Thank You to the Lions Club and the Kinsmen Club.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Hammond



The Hammond family would like to invite everyone to Jason Hammond's celebration of life on Saturday June 22nd from 3 to 7 pm at the Westover Inn, 300 Thomas St, St. Marys. We are looking forward to hearing all the great memories and stories from all of you; we know he touched so many people. Thank you to all who donated blood in memory of Jay!

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August 10th and August 11th

Put on by the Kirkton Optimist

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Contact Helen Thomson at grandmahelent@gmail.com

The St. Marys Farmers' Market

Strawberry season continues!

Saturday, June 22 | 8 a.m. to noon

Milt Dunnell Field "The Flats"



COMMUNITY

RTO celebrates 50 years



RTO District 9 President Willi Laurie presents Linda Willis of Change Her World with a cheque for \$1,000. The district has been supporting the education of young girls and women in Malawi for many years, through the Stratford-based organization. Contributed photo

By Grant Haven Media staff

District 9 Retired Teachers recently celebrated 50 years as an organization on Tuesday, May 8 at Mitchell Golf and Country Club.

The organization, which now comprises not only teachers but also education workers and college professionals as well as working educators, has over 1,100 members in the Huron-Perth District.

The audience was regaled with amusing stories and anecdotes by several past executive members of the organization: Mary Moffatt, Clare French, David McClure, Bruce Whitmore and George Wicke, who at 90, was the oldest member in attendance and kept the audience in stitches.

George Wicke was honoured to cut the 50th anniversary cake for the occasion.

All of the members attending received a complimentary 50th anniversary history book compiled for the occasion.

During the event, president Willi Laurie took the members through a time warp and revisited 1974, the founding year of the organization. Laurie took members through memories of Watergate, the OPEC oil crisis, Barbara Streisand, flower children, the Beachcombers and Vietnam.

Laurie also recognized the many members in attendance who were over 80 years of age, those who had at one time been on the executive of the orga-

nization. These 11 members had performed as past presidents and two members – Carol McDonnell and Jane Cousineau – worked on RTO Provincial Committees.

President Laurie also recognized those who had been past award recipients for their exemplary contributions to the district or the provincial organizations.

Also in attendance were Cathy Hugill, Gloria Reibling and Bruce Whitmore who received 25-year membership certificates and Shirley Kaufman, Lillian Logtenberg, Mary Moffatt and Inge Wraith who received 30-year membership certificates.

The final piece of the celebration was a wonderful meal served by the Mitchell Golf and Country Club and music by the Irish Cowboys.

During the spring general meeting, a District 9 donation was made to the Stratford based organization, Change Her World, which has built a school and library in Malawi where young girls are educated and trained.

Some past graduates of this school are now university-educated nurses and teachers.

Also during the meeting, it was announced that Brooke Currie, granddaughter of member Doug Currie, had been awarded the \$3,000 scholarship sponsored by RTOERO.

Brooke Currie is continuing with nursing studies and plans to work towards being a nurse practitioner. She is particularly interested in geriatric work and was recently on a study tour to Scandinavia to investigate the geriatric care system there.

RTOERO District 9 Huron-Perth at 50 is an active and vibrant organization. The umbrella organization has become a national one with over 84,000 members across Canada and provides pensions, health insurance and social outlets for those members.

It is also a major player that works with many organizations dedicated to health, seniors' issues and the environment, and advocates with the government at every level.

In May, RTOERO hosts its first International Summit on Aging in Toronto.

LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

Remembering Nora Clench

25 years ago (1999)

A sign has appeared at the south end of the Trout Creek CN overpass near the train station reminding everyone that it is not the Grand Trunk Trail and pedestrians are not allowed to walk on it. Apparently the success of the Sarnia Bridge has inspired some to try the CN's London Viaduct as well.

A celebration of the life of Nora Clench and her place in the history of the town of St. Marys was held on the bank of the Thames River Saturday afternoon. About 50 people gathered at the north end of Robinson Street in front of the home where the world-famous violinist grew up, as a plaque honouring her was dedicated. The event was coordinated by Heritage St. Marys, which undertook the task of ensuring there was a visible commemoration of this remarkable woman in her hometown.

50 years ago (1974)

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Searles were visitors in Nashville, TN over the past weekend and enjoyed the Grand Ole Opry.

1974, to date, has been the year for traffic accidents around St. Marys. A total of some 25, including only two with injuries, are indicated on the pin board kept up to date at the police station.

A hit-and-run accident was reported at the entrance to Wildwood Park on Sunday. A car owned by Al Wood of London was struck and damaged to the extent of \$100 by a car which left the scene.

75 years ago (1949)

The parking areas and pedestrian safety zones are once again being painted a bright orange by the Board of Works.

The main walls of the St. Marys Memorial Hospital basement are complete, except for the final section which constitutes the boiler room and fuel compartment of the structure. Forms are now being erected for these remaining walls.

At the meeting of the board of the Wellburn Public Library, Mrs. L.M. David was appointed secretary-treasurer in place of Mrs. J.W. Oliver, who has resigned after holding the office for the past twelve years.

100 years ago (1924)

The new principal of the St. Marys Public Schools will be Mr. F.W. Aylesworth of Owen Sound, principal of a fourteen-room school in that city. Mr. Aylesworth's appointment was made after some seventy-five applications had been made for the position. His salary will be \$2,100 per annum.

The Listowel Chamber of Commerce Auto Hikers drove into town in 52 cars on Wednesday afternoon, having come from London via Thorndale. They were met by the mayor and members of town council, Vice-President of the Board of Trade, and many others.

Thieves broke into the garage of the Crozier Brothers on Jones Street West last night and took three good tires as well as the demountable rims and a number of tools. The culprits evidently knew the premises well and had no fears of being disturbed for they jacked the car up and removed the tires at their leisure. The authorities have a clue to the identity of the thieves and their arrest is expected as a result.



St Marys and Area Mobility Service is pleased to welcome community members, staff and

Board Members to our Annual Meeting

Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024. Time: 1:00pm

Location: Town of St. Marys –
Municipal Operations Centre PO Box 998,
St. Marys, ON N4X 1B6

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Wanted

I will pay cash for antiques and collectibles. Coca Cola, Pepsi or any pop company. Brewery items - Kuntz, Huether Labatts, etc. Old radios and gramophones, wristwatches, pocket watches, old fruit jars - Beaver Star, Bee Hive etc. Any old oil cans and signs - Red Indian, Supertest etc. Any small furniture. If you are moving or cleaning out stuff please contact me - 519-570-6920.

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Please refer to the City of Stratford website at www.stratford.ca for details of the duties for this position, minimum qualifications, and application submission process.

Application forms will be available on the Stratford Police Service website under the "Careers" link.

Completed application packages for this Cell Guard (Casual/On Call) position will be accepted until June 28, 2024.

Please mail or deliver completed applications to Stratford Police Service, 17 George Street West, Stratford, ON N5A 1A6.

We thank all applicants for their interest; however only those selected for testing will be contacted.



St. Marys and Area **MOBILITY SERVICE**

POSITION: Mobility Van/Bus Driver, St Marys & Area Mobility Service

Casual/Part Time, Permanent

POSITION SUMMARY:

St. Marys & Area Mobility Service is a not-for-profit, community accessible transportation provider. Mobility van/bus drivers provide transportation to clients, using agency owned accessible vehicles. This position can be physically demanding, requiring the ability to lift, bend and crouch to assist clients to load/unload, and to operate accessibility functions on board the vehicles.

REPORTS TO: Manager

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education:

- o Secondary school diploma or equivalent

Experience:

- o Customer service experience or experience working with older adults, seniors and persons with disabilities
- o Previous driving experience an asset

Abilities:

- o Valid G or F driver's license or equivalent (support may be available for those wishing to attain F Class license)
- o Good driving record and clean drivers abstract
- o Current First Aid and CPR Certification, or ability to complete
- o Comfortable using mobile device technology (mobile application)
- o Ability to work according to designated shifts and split shifts (weekdays and some evenings) with varied hours
- o Capable of performing passenger boarding and de-boarding procedures
- o Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- o Ability to wear appropriate PPE while operating a mobility vehicle (i.e. mask, eye protection when needed, etc)

SALARY: Starting at \$18.72/hr, commensurate with experience. Qualified and interested candidates should apply by submitting their cover letter and resume. Interviews to be held on a rolling basis.

Applications can be submitted by e-mail to mobility@town.stmarys.on.ca. While we appreciate all applications received, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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 Public Library events - See Page 32

Friday, Jun 21

- 4H BBQ at Thorndale Farm Supplies - 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog/sausage lunch at Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 p.m.
- Royal Canadian Legion Ladyless lip-sync & beauty contest - 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 22

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 a.m. to Noon
- A.N.A.F. Game day tournament - 1 p.m.
- Jewel & Larry Haynes 50th anniversary open house at 256554 Sunova Cr, Lakeside - 2-4 p.m.
- Jason Hammond Celebration of Life at Westover Inn - 3-7 p.m.
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 p.m.

Sunday, June 23

- Ed & Jean Frayne 50th Anniversary open house at St. James Lodge - 1 to 4 p.m.

Wednesday, June 26

- Friends of the Library Spring book sale at the Lind Sportsplex - 11 am to 5 pm
- St. Marys & Area Mobility Service annual meeting at Municipal Operations Centre - 1 p.m.

Thursday, June 27

- Friends of the Library Spring book sale at the Lind Sportsplex - 11 am to 5 pm

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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N23249

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