

# St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1232

Thursday, October 10, 2024

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**SILLINESS, SINGING AND SPELLING** (PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. MARYS COMMUNITY PLAYERS)  
The St. Marys Community Players' production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* will offer audiences a Gilbert-and-Sullivan style musical with witty dialogue, technical choreography and spectacular music.

## New St. Marys events coordinator a familiar face for locals

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Those seeking guidance from the Town of St. Marys in organizing events may recognize the town's new events coordinator.

Though she's new to this part-time role, Morgan Easton, who lives in Thorndale and grew up in London, is no stranger to the Town of St. Marys, having worked in a number of capacities both for the town and for other local organizations over the past three years.

"I started working for the town three years ago, going into my fourth year (at Fanshawe College)," Easton said. "I started actually working in the snack booth at the hockey arena and then at guest services for a bit and, two summers ago, I was the tourism summer student, so I worked under Alanna (Blowes), who was the last events coordinator for the town.

"So, I got to learn a lot from doing that and I'm just excited to be back."

Having just graduated from the business-marketing co-op program at Fanshawe, Easton now works with St. Marys tourism and economic-development manager Kelly Deeks-Johnson coordinating municipal and other events and she also manages the town's Instagram. Outside of that work, she also manages social media for the St. Marys Lincolns and she's looking to help local businesses manage their social media as well.

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## St. Marys Community Players to stage *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

JULIA PAUL

Independent Reporter

Beginning Oct. 17, St. Marys Community Players is performing the entertaining and hysterical *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* for local audiences to enjoy.

*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* is a musical comedy with music and lyrics by William Finn, a book written by

Rachel Sheinkin and conceived by Rebecca Feldman with additional material by Jay Reiss. The show centres on a fictional spelling bee set in a geographically ambiguous Putnam Valley Middle School.

"It's an incredibly funny musical based around a spelling bee," said Gord Hardcastle, the production's director. "Six spellers, eight adolescence, three adults, all nine

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MLS

# COMMUNITY

## Increase in traffic volumes lead to changes for two Perth County intersections

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Over the next month or two, drivers on Perth County roads will notice two new all-way stops at the intersections of Perth Road 130 and Perth Line 20 north of St. Marys as well as Perth Road 107 and Perth Line 33 between Tavistock and Shakespeare.

At Perth County council's Oct. 3 meeting, councillors approved the installation of the two all-way stops – one permanent and one temporary – after county executive director of public works John McClelland shared updated traffic counts on all county roads conducted last year. In reviewing the updated counts, McClelland said staff identified four locations where either traffic volume or volume splits at intersections had significantly changed and could potentially warrant alternative traffic controls.

"One thing we did notice was there

were three sections of roadway where traffic volumes were substantially increased," McClelland said. "Those roads are Perth Road 130 from Perth Line 20 to Sebringville, Perth Line 33 from Stratford to Perth Road 107 and Perth Road 107 from Shakespeare to Tavistock."

According to the data collected last year by RC Spencer Associates, traffic consultants hired by the county, roughly 4,000 vehicles travel on the north section of Perth Road 130 every day, up from 2,500 vehicles per day the last time traffic counts were updated for county roads, with about half of that traffic volume turning at Perth Line 20.

"Given that the traffic volumes on Perth Line 20 are 2,600 vehicles per day, staff were concerned the stop controls (stop signs) were on the wrong roads and that warranted further investigation," McClelland said.

Perth Line 33, meanwhile, now carries roughly 4,300 vehicles per day, up

from 3,500 at the last traffic count. Perth Road 107 also saw an increase in traffic by 500-600 per day to roughly 5,500 vehicles on that road daily.

McClelland said the traffic consultants conducted intersection reviews at both intersections – as well as at Perth Road 131 and Perth Line 72 north of Milverton and Perth Road 135 and Perth Line 44 between Wartburg and Rostock – and found both the Perth Road 130 and Perth Road 107 intersections met the criteria for intersection improvements. The other two intersections were found not to warrant improvements.

"The intersection of Perth Road 130 and Perth Line 20 does meet the all-way-stop warrant," McClelland said. "This has been recommended to be installed as soon as possible and could likely be completed by the end of October.

"The intersection of Perth Road 107 and Perth Line 33 meets the traffic-signal warrant. This installation would take more time and certainly carries a higher

price tag. In consultation with the consultant and in keeping with guidance from the Ontario Traffic Manual, it is being recommended that an all-way stop be installed at this intersection as an interim measure. (Traffic) signals would be budgeted as part of a planned road reconstruction on Perth Road 107 in the year 2028."

The cost of installing signs for both all-way stops is expected to be roughly \$4,000, however the county will also be required to make some geometrical changes to the layout of the Perth Road 107 and Perth Line 33 intersection before the all-way stop is installed at an as-of-yet unknown additional cost.

Additional delineation lighting is also required at four streetlights across three of the four intersections reviewed at a cost of between \$2,500 and \$10,000 per light depending the existing hydro pole and infrastructure at each location.

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- Step 2. Click play on the online player

# Service Ontario moving to Municipal Operations Centre

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

St. Marys' Service Ontario office is on the move.

As of Monday, Oct. 21, the office will open in a brand-new location, the Municipal Operations Centre at 408 James St. S.

The move will reduce the town's rental costs, improve parking availability and accessibility, and make services more convenient for customers. For example, those requiring a commissioner's signature will no longer have to travel between the Service Ontario office and a municipal facility. Instead, both services will be provided under one roof.



The hours for Service Ontario will remain the same in the new location (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.;

1-4 p.m.) The town's long-term goal is to cross-train municipal staff and the Service Ontario employee to improve

service offerings on either side. This will also help to reduce unplanned closures and could create opportunities to extend Service Ontario's operating hours.

"We look forward to providing the same friendly experience customers have come to expect in our new location," said town finance manager and deputy treasurer Denise Feeney in a press release. "We ask people to be patient as we make this transition and work to enhance our services."

A full list of Service Ontario offerings is available at [www.serviceontario.ca](http://www.serviceontario.ca). Questions about Service Ontario can be directed to Feeney at 519-284-2340 ext. 238 or [dfeeney@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:dfeeney@town.stmarys.on.ca).

# St. Marys Community Players to stage *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

people struggle with their lives, with their situations and, in the middle of all of this riotous comedy, they find a life-changing moment – they all change for the better.

"By the time we get to the end, we've had an epilogue wherein these people are telling (the audience) what they're like

20 years later. It's very heartwarming; (a) comedy from crisis to heartwarming in 90 minutes."

Actors and actresses from London to Stratford and throughout the greater St. Marys area come together to create this balanced ensemble in which everyone shares the spotlight equally. Even a few audience members get the chance to

shine onstage.

"It's a great play and we're doing an incredibly wonderful job on it," said Hardcastle. "It's going to be a lot of fun. One of the unique features of this show is that we invite four people from the audience to come on the stage as spellers. They get the stand in front of the mic, they get a word to spell and they have to

try and win.

"We're looking forward to doing the show."

Parental guidance is suggested for those wanting to bring their kids as some content may not be suitable for children. Preview tickets cost \$25 and regular ticket price is \$30. Visit [stmaryscommunityplayers.ca](http://stmaryscommunityplayers.ca) for more information.

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**ST. MARYS GIVES 2024:  
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**How Do You Sign Up to Participate?**

For the past few weeks we have shared some ideas on how you can participate in Giving Tuesday on December 3, 2024. We hope we have you thinking, we have heard some amazing ideas already. In previous years Giving Tuesday Canada had a web site to sign up on. They simplified their site and they no longer have a sign up area for local movements. We would be grateful if you would take a few moments when you have your plan together with your neighbours, business, service group, church or organization to let us know what you will be doing. We will then share this information so that everyone can show their support and participate as much as possible.

It is easy to register and let us know what your plans are for Giving Tuesday 2024. Just scan the QR code



Or email us at [GivingTuesdayStMarys@gmail.com](mailto:GivingTuesdayStMarys@gmail.com) and we will email a fillable form back to you. If you have any questions or require assistance please let us know. We are happy to help.

We're looking forward to hearing about your Giving Tuesday plans! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram too – let's share all the good that is happening in St. Marys! Won't You Be My Neighbour?

Unexpected kindness is the most powerful, least costly and most underrated agent of human change



For More Information Contact: [jdockerjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:jdockerjohnson@gmail.com)

**Bravo**

**Boo**

We have Bravos this week

- 1) Bravo and a big thank you to the town council for funding (through a capital project) for the refurbishing of WWI Remembrance Archway at the back entrance of the SMPL and also to RDJ Bailey Metal Works Inc for such a great job of restoring it. It now looks beautiful and impressive with its vibrant colours. It really shows our town people's devotion and dedication to those Brave Young Souls.
- 2) Bravo to the St. Marys Legion, and all the other individuals responsible for placing the veteran banners on the lamp posts throughout the town. The images, the descriptions of these displays stir some very deep emotions of the amazing dedication and contribution of these veterans that makes me proud to be Canadian. They are the true heroes that we can never forget!
- 3) St. Marys Community Players would like to send out a big bravo to Robbie from the St. Marys Independent Grocer for his kind generosity for donating supplies for our refreshment booth at our upcoming play at the town hall.

We have Boos this week

- 1) Boo to the guy who thought it was a good idea to take his Kobota SxS up Road 120, while his like three year old was on his lap, NO seat belts. THIS is why we shouldn't have ATV/UTVs allowed on the roads.
- 2) St. Marys has beautiful walking trails all around the town. During my many walks this year I have almost been hit a number of times by bicycles etc that share the trails. I have no complaints about sharing the trails but I have never heard a sound from any of them and have almost been hit a couple of times because they give no warning when coming behind you. To ensure that no accidents happen, and before the police need to get involved, we ask bicycle drivers etc to use some kind of noise device to signal a warning in advance of passing a walker. Thanks in advance for thinking of others. On behalf of all trail walkers.

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

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

**Quote of the Week**

*"This is a ferocious hurricane ... the effects of that, not just from the storm surge but from wind damage and debris, will be really, really significant. This is not a storm you want to take a risk on."*

- Florida Governor Ron DeSantis regarding the incoming Hurricane Milton

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**Publisher**

Stewart Grant • [stew@granthaven.com](mailto:stew@granthaven.com)

**Regional Editor**

Galen Simmons • [galen@granthaven.com](mailto:galen@granthaven.com)

**Graphic Design / Sales Inquiries**

Tyler Carruthers • [info@stmarysindependent.com](mailto:info@stmarysindependent.com)

**Business Development**

Heather Dunbar • [heather@granthaven.com](mailto:heather@granthaven.com)

**Billing Administrator**

Cindy Boakes • [boakescindy1576@gmail.com](mailto:boakescindy1576@gmail.com)

**Administrative Assistant**

Wendy Lamond • [wendylamond74@gmail.com](mailto:wendylamond74@gmail.com)

**Contributors**

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

36 Water St. St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2  
[info@stmarysindependent.com](mailto:info@stmarysindependent.com) | 519.284.0041 | [granthaven.com](http://granthaven.com)



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**The St. Marys Independent THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK**

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We should count our blessings but make our blessings count.

There is always something to be thankful for.

Thankfulness is the quickest path to joy.

What if for today we were just grateful for everything?



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# Town council holding meetings to review the draft 2025 municipal budget

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

St. Marys town council is holding special meetings over the next couple of months to review the draft 2025 municipal budget.

Residents are welcome to attend in person at town hall council chambers. The meetings will also be posted to the Town of St. Marys YouTube channel.

The draft budget – which is currently available on the town’s website – proposes a total operating and capital budget of \$29.8 million, representing a 2.63 per-cent increase on the municipal net tax levy. The proposed increase will add approximately \$95 to a typical residential property.

The first budget meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 9 a.m. The meeting will start with an overview of the town’s capital budget, which includes major projects and one-time expenditures. The second half of the meeting will cover the town’s operational budget, which includes the day-to-day costs of running the municipality.

The second meeting – scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 9 a.m. – will commence with a completion of any oper-



ating or capital budgets, a review of external funding requests, followed by a further discussion of any outstanding budget matters.

The public is encouraged to attend in-person or watch on the town’s YouTube channel. St. Marys council is expected to pass the 2025 budget in December.

A copy of the draft 2025 municipal budget is available online at [www.townofstmarys.com/budget](http://www.townofstmarys.com/budget) and in print (for viewing only) at the Municipal Operations Centre (408 James St. S).

*Note: Any changes to the meeting schedule will be posted on the Town website ([www.townofstmarys.com](http://www.townofstmarys.com)), Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/stmarysontario](http://www.facebook.com/stmarysontario)) and Twitter/X account ([www.twitter.com/townofstmarys](http://www.twitter.com/townofstmarys)).*

## STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



### READING BUDDIES PROGRAM

St. Marys Public Library

Reading buddy literacy sessions are one-on-one opportunities for reluctant readers of all ages to develop and grow their literacy skills and are geared towards the level of the reader.

[townofstmarys.com/library](http://townofstmarys.com/library) or 519-284-3346

### EARLYON PARENT WORKSHOP

Oct. 28, 6 - 8 PM | Pyramid Centre

Join the St. Marys EarlyON Navigating Sibling Relationships workshop for an interactive discussion on encouraging supportive sibling relationships. Child minding is available during the workshop.

[townofstmarys.com/earlyon](http://townofstmarys.com/earlyon) or 226-374-6544



### SELF DEFENSE CLASSES

Oct. 19, 10 AM & 11:30 AM | Library

Run in partnership with Stonetown Karate Centre, join the Library for self defense classes that will build confidence in personal safety. Both adult and kid sessions are available.

[www.townofstmarys.on.ca/library](http://www.townofstmarys.on.ca/library) or 519-284-3346

### EARLYON PLAY NATURE ADVENTURE

Oct. 19, 9:30 - 11:30 AM | Sparling Bush

Come and join EarlyON at the Sparling Bush for a Saturday morning adventure with self-directed activities to enjoy around the trail!

[townofstmarys.com/earlyon](http://townofstmarys.com/earlyon) or 226-374-6544



### SHOWER PROGRAM

Pyramid Centre

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## Senior of the Week



Our Senior of the Week is Noreen Switzer who celebrated her 89th birthday on Oct. 7. Noreen is the daughter of Quinton and Kathleen King and has resided in the St. Marys area all her life. She has two children, four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. She enjoys her weekly visits with friends at the Breakfast Club.

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

# Dementia Education Night 2024: The heart-brain connection

JULIA PAUL

Independent Reporter

When it comes to detecting early signs of dementia, new research indicates there could be a helpful connection between the heart and the brain.

The Alzheimer Society of Huron Perth's 19th annual Fall Dementia Education Night will be held online beginning at 7 p.m. Nov. 7 and will focus on the connection between the heart and the brain. Sponsored by the Municipality of Central Huron, this year's session will be led by Dr. Sandra Black, a senior scientist at Toronto's Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

She is a Canadian physician and neurologist known for her work in contributing to improved diagnosis and treatment of vascular dementia, Alzheimer's disease and stroke.

"Alzheimer Society Huron Perth has been hosting this event for close to 20 years," said Jeanette Sears, public education coordinator with the local Alzheimer society. "When it started, it was in person, it was before online and zoom. When I worked in long-term care, I came in and attended some of the programs here; I always liked it then.

"As a health-care worker, you read about these researchers. They have the most up-to-date information. To have them come to our small town was amazing. You get to hear from them, you get to ask questions. They are so willing to share their expertise. ... They are very knowledgeable and good presenters."

According to Sears, as many as 150 people virtually attend the fall education night, which is free and open to everyone.

Registration is online at [alzheimer.ca/huron-perth](http://alzheimer.ca/huron-perth). Under Dementia Education Night 2024 tab, select "Click Here to Register." Questions for Dr. Black can be sent to Sears prior to the event by emailing [jeanette@alzheimerhuron.on.ca](mailto:jeanette@alzheimerhuron.on.ca).



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Dr. Sandra Black is a senior scientist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and will present on the link between the heart and the brain when it comes to improved diagnosis and treatment of vascular dementia, Alzheimer's disease and stroke during the Alzheimer Society of Huron Perth's annual Fall Dementia Education Night Nov. 7.

## Weekend Quiz

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- 1) What year was the Battle of Warsaw?
- 2) What was Tears for Fears debut album called?
- 3) How old is the Earth?
- 4) What ocean is the Bermuda triangle located in?
- 5) What does p.m. stand for?
- 6) The formal name for marijuana is?
- 7) What is mageirocophobia?
- 8) What color are the sunsets on mars?
- 9) What was the first breakfast cereal brand?
- 10) The act of speaking one's thoughts aloud when by oneself is called?

This week's answers are found on pg. 29

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# Town offers details on major renovations planned for St. Marys Aquatics Centre

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

St. Marys town council has approved major renovations to the Aquatics Centre, located in the Pyramid Recreation Centre.

The work will improve conditions in the centre and extend the life of the facility. The project will include the installation of a new HVAC unit and exhaust systems to enhance air quality. Repairs will also be made to any parts of the facility that have experienced wear and tear.

Although final timelines have yet to be confirmed, the work is expected to start in November 2024 and take approximately six months. The Aquatics Centre, which includes the town's indoor pool, will be closed for the duration of the project.

The Pyramid Recreation Centre will remain open for regular hours and continue to offer a variety of recreation and leisure activities, including:

- Arena and Ice Rentals: Two indoor ice pads offering public skating, skating programs for all ages and ice rentals. For program details, please visit [www.townofstmarys.com/skating](http://www.townofstmarys.com/skating).

- EarlyON Centre: Free drop-in pro-

grams for parents/caregivers and children aged 0 – 6 years. Visit [www.townofstmarys.com/earlyon](http://www.townofstmarys.com/earlyon) for more information.

- Friendship Centre: Activities and recreational programs for adults and people with differing abilities to support social, physical and mental well-being. Program information can be found at [www.townofstmarys.com/friendship-centre](http://www.townofstmarys.com/friendship-centre).

- Youth Centre: A safe and inclusive space designed to encourage socialization, development and reinforce positive play among youth. Visit [www.townofstmarys.com/youthcentre](http://www.townofstmarys.com/youthcentre) for more details.

Updates on the project will be provided through local media, the town website ([www.townofstmarys.com](http://www.townofstmarys.com)), Facebook ([www.facebook.com/stmarysontario](http://www.facebook.com/stmarysontario)) and Twitter/X ([www.twitter.com/townofstmarys](http://www.twitter.com/townofstmarys)).

Questions about swimming lessons, aquatics programs and pool rentals can be directed to Andrea Slade, aquatics manager, at 519-284-2340 ext. 623.

Questions about the renovation can be directed to Doug LaPointe, manager of recreation operations and chief operator, at 519-284-2340 ext. 645.

# Holiday hours for town facilities – Thanksgiving (Oct. 14)

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The following hours will be in effect for Town of St. Marys facilities for the Thanksgiving holiday Monday, Oct. 14.

**Closed**

- Administrative offices (town hall and municipal operations centre)
- Adult learning
- Before and After School Program
- Child Care Centre
- EarlyON Centre
- Fire station
- Friendship Centre
- Landfill
- Library
- Mobility Services offices (Rides must be booked by 3 p.m. on Thursday, Oct.

- 10) - Museum and archives
- Aquatics Centre
- Service Ontario
- Youth Centre

**Home Support Services**

- Home support services such as Meals on Wheels and Telephone Reassurance will continue.

**Garbage and Recycling Collection**

- Will continue as scheduled. Details: <http://www.bra.org/my-services/st-marys-town/>.

**Pyramid Recreation Centre**

- Pyramid Recreation Centre arena (ice programming to proceed as usual).
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# New St. Marys events coordinator a familiar face for locals

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"I just love the small-town feel," she said. "I really liked working at the events here (over the past three years) because there's so many different ones. I've learned a lot from the different events here; we have the Stonetown Heritage Festival, we do Canada Day, we have Spooktacular St. Marys coming up in a few weeks and then we're also planning for Remembrance Day and Winter Lights right now as well."

As events coordinator, Easton's job entails planning events down to the tiniest of details with organizations like the St. Marys BIA and local service clubs, soliciting sponsorships from local businesses, and promoting those events out in the community and on social media.

Easton also helps those in the community looking to plan events navigate the process they need to follow in order to coordinate space rentals, organize for food trucks and get approval from the necessary authorities like council and the Stratford Police Service. Details on

the town's event-approval process can be found at [www.discoverstmarys.ca/en/plan-your-stay/plan-your-event.aspx](http://www.discoverstmarys.ca/en/plan-your-stay/plan-your-event.aspx).

"We were pleasantly surprised, to be honest, over the amount of applicants we got for the (events coordinator) role," Deeks-Johnson said. "We did get a lot, but Morgan has been in the role here somewhat before through the summer internship with Fanshawe. She did work with Alanna for a short time, which was great because Alanna's skills were exemplary when it came to planning events. To be learning from that was a great opportunity."

"Morgan really works well in our culture, with our staff. She's respectful, she's respected by people here, we all enjoy working with her. She's organized, dedicated, really eager and she has exemplary social-media skills, which will really help elevate our events portfolio."

For help planning events in St. Marys, don't hesitate to reach out to Easton at [measton@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:measton@town.stmarys.on.ca).



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

Former Town of St. Marys summer student Morgan Easton is now working as the town's events coordinator.

  
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# Algonquin Media to launch *St. Marys Life & Times* series on YouTube

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

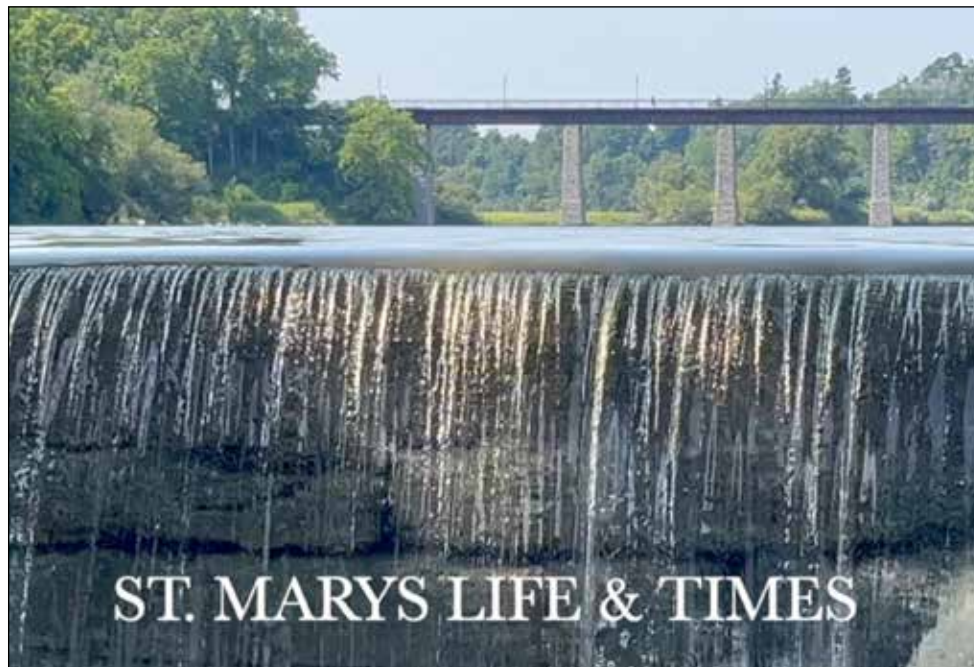
To shine a light on the interesting people, places and history of St. Marys, local producer and filmmaker Evan Phoenix is launching a brand-new television series focused entirely around Stonetown on YouTube.

*St. Marys Life & Times* will see its first episode drop on the Algonquin Media YouTube page ([www.youtube.com/@algonquinmedia](http://www.youtube.com/@algonquinmedia)) at 8 p.m. Oct. 12. The premiere episode, which features an interview with and performance by local musician Frank St. Germain, will be the first of many showing different sides of St. Marys both visitors and locals can appreciate.

"Originally from Toronto, Frank settled in St. Marys," Phoenix told the Independent. "The thing that struck me about Frank in this episode is that he doesn't know how to write music. He just plays from the heart. He also talks about his start in the music world and the cruise-ship circuit. We also see him sing and play a song in the episode.

"When you're watching this episode, you don't really feel like you're watching a TV episode. You feel like Frank invited you on his deck for a beer or three. It was, for me, a magical experience and I hope everyone that watches it feels that magic too."

Phoenix says he moved to St. Marys



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

**St. Marys Life & Times, a new television series about interesting people, place and history in St. Marys, will launch on YouTube Oct. 12.**

seven years ago and instantly fell in love with the town. In 2018, he launched St. Marys Radio but eventually sold the station to Grant Haven Media owner and this newspaper's publisher, Stewart Grant.

"I didn't have enough time on my hands and Stewart, along with Spencer Seymour, turned it into a station I could only dream of creating," Phoenix said.

"They've done a beautiful job. I knew, however, that I still wanted to do something special about and for St. Marys. It was finally in 2023 that I dreamed up the idea of creating a YouTube documentary TV series that would focus on the people, the places and the history of St. Marys, and here we are; the dream came true."

His company, Algonquin Media, start-

ed as Algonquin Records back in 2020 when Phoenix and his fiancée started a band called The Chesterfield Chronicles. Over the years, Phoenix produced promotional videos for businesses as well as instructional and music videos, so he figured he'd create a branch of Algonquin Records called Algonquin Media.

For the new documentary series, Phoenix wants to feature interesting people with surprising stories and put the spotlight on the Indigenous land St. Marys is situated on, how the town was formed and the histories and original purposes behind the heritage buildings that make Stonetown so unique.

"Ideas just come to me suddenly," he said. "If I see or hear something inspiring about St. Marys, I want to talk about it and I think that's how stories are born. I think viewers will discover a part of themselves and they'll see a different side of St. Marys that is interesting and inspiring. *St. Marys Life & Times* is about everyone here.

"If someone wants to sit down with a glass of wine and allow themselves to get lost in heartfelt stories that are also funny and uplifting, they should tune in. Really, they're tuning into themselves."

For more information on Phoenix and Algonquin Media, check them out on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/algonquinmedia/](http://www.facebook.com/algonquinmedia/) and Instagram at [www.instagram.com/evanphoenixofficial/](http://www.instagram.com/evanphoenixofficial/).

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# Square One Skate Shop receives bench made from skate decks

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

Square One Skate Shop now has a unique place to sit in front of the store.

The store at 29 Water St. S received a bench made out of broken skate decks from Kitchener resident Sean Richter. Richter and his wife, Whitney Richter, were visiting St. Marys resident James Lapointe, Whitney Richter's former roommate, for brunch. Lapointe moved to the town in April and found out about a fundraiser for Square One Skate Shop, which was facing financial struggles, from a previous article in this newspaper.

"It was just endearing to me how this town just seems to help everybody out. We moved here; it's one of the friendliest places we've ever lived in," Lapointe said.

He told the Richters about the article and took them to Square One Skate Shop and Sean Richter showed owner Scott LeBlanc the skate deck he made for his son, Morgan, an avid skateboarder, and asked if he would like one.

"It was just something for fun," Sean Richter said. "I thought he could use it at his shop. It's an interesting thing to look at and anyone can go in and sit on it, take a picture and go to his shop and maybe buy some of his merchandise."

LeBlanc told the St. Marys Independent he was surprised Sean Richter offered to make him a bench, as someone else made

the offer years ago and never followed through. The customers love the bench as locals and visitors alike love talking to LeBlanc about it and taking pictures with it.

"Business has been the same," LeBlanc said, "but it's been nice the conversations it's creating and the photo opportunities."

LeBlanc is also grateful for everyone who has supported him and his skate shop in some way or another.

"I'd like to thank all of the local families who've continued to come to our free lessons every Tuesday and Thursday," he said. "My skate team; I really couldn't do this without their support and the countless number of skaters coming from out of town who continue to see the value we hold."

Sean Richter, who has a background in mechanical engineering, taught himself how to weld during the stay-at-home period of the COVID-19 pandemic. His son brought back 25 broken skateboards for Sean Richter to make a bench. He since made his son's friends their own skate benches and also created hammocks and coffee tables.

"I just do it for fun. It's not a business," Richter said. "It's just if somebody wants something made, I make it and I'll usually make a couple and I'll get bored and move on to my next project."

If anyone wants a project made by Sean Richter, they can email [retroboats1@gmail.com](mailto:retroboats1@gmail.com).



(PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT LEBLANC)

Square One Skate Shop's new bench, made out of skate decks, is getting lots of attention and praise. The bench was created by Kitchener resident Sean Richter.

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# Perth South Mayor takes leave of absence for personal reasons

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Perth South Mayor Jim Aitcheson has stepped away from his council and other civic duties after his request for a leave of absence was recently approved by Perth South council.

The request, which was made for unknown personal reasons, was approved by the rest of council at its Oct. 1 meeting. While the report to council indicated Aitcheson did not know how long his leave of absence would last, township CAO Fred Tranquilli told councillors he would “return from leave as soon as he is able.” Aitcheson was not present at that meeting.

“As per our procedure bylaw, the deputy mayor assumes the mayor’s duties during any period of absence,” Tranquilli told the Independent. “Therefore, no specific action was required by the council. Deputy mayor (Sue) Orr automatically steps in as acting mayor during any absence, including a leave of absence.”

Also speaking with the Independent, Orr said she has taken over all of Aitcheson’s mayoral duties until he returns.

“I will be running the (council) meetings, I’ll be signing authority (for agreements with the township) ... bringing the team together and, in the case of emergency management, I’ll be working with the team,”

Orr said.

As both Aitcheson and Orr sit on Perth County council as councillors, Aitcheson’s seat on county council will be filled by Robert Wilhelm, who previously served as a county councillor. The choice to have Wilhelm replace Aitcheson on county council was a unanimous decision by Perth South council.

Meanwhile, Perth South council will continue business as usual with one less councillor at the table. Orr said she has no concerns about council’s ability to meet quorum at council meetings between now and when Aitcheson returns.

Replacements will need to be named for Aitcheson’s seats on the police services board and accessibility advisory committee, but those appointments will be discussed at the next Perth South council meeting.

A councillor taking a leave of absence is not uncommon. In the recent provincial byelection in Lambton-Kent-Middlesex that followed the resignation of MPP Monte McNaughton, Lucan Mayor Cathy Burghardt-Jesson and Steve Pinsonneault, a councillor for Chatham-Kent, both took leaves of absence to run in that election.

Pinsonneault, the Progressive Conservative candidate, won while Burghardt-Jesson, who ran for the Liberals, came in second.



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# The Alzheimer Society Huron Perth host enlightening online hour sessions for dementia education

JULIA PAUL

Independent Reporter

The Alzheimer Society Huron Perth offers one-hour, online webinars, free and open to the public, delving into specific topics associated with dementia.

What started during the pandemic has continued with great success due to its accessibility. Available through [alzheimer.ca/huronperth](http://alzheimer.ca/huronperth), anyone can click and register for a topic of their choosing. The topics include a dementia overview, how dementia is diagnosed, information about mild cognitive impairment (MCI), demystifying memory clinics, brain health and happiness, 10 warning signs of dementia, types of dementia, communication tips, and dementia-related brain changes.

“In terms of diagnosis, the diagnosis experience is so different person to person,” said Jeanette Sears, public education coordinator with Alzheimer Society Huron Perth. “We go over what might happen at a memory clinic or ‘why is somebody else having (a different) experience than me? Why does this diagnosis seem different to me?’ We try to go over all those things.”

Guests can be as involved as they want and are free to have their microphones and cameras switched on or off. Questions and topics that are not available on the website can be suggested to the program education coordinators and sessions will be tailored to the specific questions submitted by Huron-Perth residents.

“Our main goal ... is to answer people's questions,” said Sears. “If someone starts noticing changes, they might have a lot of questions like, ‘Should I be considered?’ The changes that happen with regular aging can sometimes look a little bit like dementia so (people often ask), ‘Is this just regular aging or should I be concerned?’ So, we just like to provide an easy place to access answers to those questions.”

The next education hours will be held on Oct. 8, 10,



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Jeanette Sears and Christy Bannerman, the Alzheimer Society Huron Perth's public education coordinators, welcome everyone to their Education Hour program.

15, 17, 24, Nov. 6, 7, 14, 21 and 28. For future topics or to register for a session, please visit [alzheimer.ca/huronperth](http://alzheimer.ca/huronperth) and click on the education hour's “Register Here” button.

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While our name and branding will be changing, what matters most to us remains the same. As a family-owned and locally operated business, our commitment to delivering top-notch products and services for all your animal care needs is as strong as ever. Our community has always been our foundation, and

we're excited to take this next step together with you.

This transition brings together our years of experience and dedication, allowing us to serve you more efficiently. With our strong milling capabilities in Thorndale and Aylmer, we'll continue offering a wide range of premium feed products, including Shur-Gain's trusted, research-backed formulas. You'll find our Country Mills branded products alongside other leading offerings in the agricultural world—all in one convenient spot!

One thing that won't change: Our fantastic team! Many of the friendly faces you know and trust will still be here, ready to lend a hand. Whether you're a seasoned farmer or a loving pet owner, our

staff is passionate about helping you find the right products to meet your needs.

We're so grateful for your support over the years, and we can't wait to serve our community with even more enthusiasm and efficiency. On behalf of the Saarloos family and all of our team, thank you for your continued trust and loyalty.

As we embark on this exciting journey with **Country Mills**, we look forward to growing together with you for many years to come. Stop by or give us a call soon to discover the enhanced offerings and personalized service that await you at your local feed and farm store!

*Warm regards,  
The Country Mills Team*



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STRATFORD NISSAN 

# Violent crime in Stratford increased over summer

CONNOR LUCZKA

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Even aside from the homicide and attempted homicide that occurred in August, local police saw a surge in violent crime over this last summer.

“We are seeing our violent crimes increase, specifically robberies and sexual assaults and, of course, the homicide and attempted homicide that occurred with the firearm incident that we responded to in early August,” Stratford Police Service (SPS) Chief Gregory Skinner said at the most recent police service board meeting on Sept. 18.

The board did not meet in July and August, so the monthly statistics for June, July and August for each of the SPS’ regions (Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South) were presented.

Though Perth South saw no assaults over the summer and only one sexual offence, Stratford and St. Marys saw much more. In Stratford, there were 14 assaults in June, eight in July and 11 in August.



There were four sexual offences in June, four in July, and two in August.

In St. Marys, there were four assaults in June, three in July and four in August. There were no sexual offences in June or August, but there was one in July.

Skinner also said mental-health calls, overdoses and drug-and-alcohol offences (particularly impaired driving) continued to trend upwards as well, along with violence in regards to youth charges.

Though the statistics presented did not include September, Skinner said incidents involving youth typically rise that month due to the start of the school year.

Shoplifting is also trending upwards. Skinner attributed that to the rise of inflation and the difficulty residents are having with making ends meet.

The good news, Skinner assured, is there have been fewer domestic-violence and property crime incidents.

Over the course of June, July and August, there were 928 charges laid in Stratford, 160 in St. Marys, and 418 in August.

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## Lincs record stays perfect with pair of shutouts

SPENCER SEYMOUR

*Independent Sports Reporter*

It has been 201 minutes and 16 seconds since the St. Marys Lincolns have allowed a goal after the Lincs earned a pair of shutouts over the Pelham Panthers and Fort Erie Meteors.

Heading into their next game on Oct. 10 against the Sarnia Legionnaires – the last team to score on the Lincolns – St. Marys remains the only undefeated team in the GOJHL.

Goaltenders Colby Booth-Housego and Nico Armellin have combined for three consecutive shutouts, including on Oct. 4 when Booth-Housego stopped all 30 Pelham shots as the Lincolns thumped the Panthers 7-0. Booth-Housego's night included a pair of high-light-reel saves, including a cross-crease diving glove stop and a heroic reach-back of the blocker.

While happy with the final score, head coach Jeff Bradley remained focused on the team's process to consistently maintain their high standard of play.

"It was nice to get the two points for sure and nice for Colby to get another shut-out. I thought in the first 10 minutes, we were good, but a bit of a challenge we've had at times early this season has been sticking with it when we're not getting anything to show for it. We're getting a lot of chances but it didn't yield any results and I thought we started moving away from what we were doing."

Although he was happy with the team's continued work ethic, Bradley explained the Lincolns stumbled slightly at times against the Panthers in terms of the execution of their gameplan.

"We started turning pucks over and trying to do extra when extra wasn't needed. We want to bend teams and hopefully break them, but we weren't quite doing that. At times, we were playing not to lose. It was taking two of our defenders to get the puck out of our zone, which wasn't allowing us to pressure down the walls. But that's part of the process of growing as a team and if we're still collecting points in the meantime, that's a big positive."

According to Bradley, however, it's all part of the natural evolution of a team early in the year.

"It's a process to build trust. It's not just the players trying to earn the trust from the coaches; the coaches are trying to earn the trust from the players as well when we're trying to implement and execute a gameplan. It's tough to do that for 60 minutes, especially early in the year, but that's where we're trying to get to."

Despite outshooting the visiting Panthers 22-9 in the opening frame, neither team could find the back of the net until the 4:36 mark of the second period when Owen Voortman completed a beautiful tic-tac-toe passing play set up by linemates Luca Spagnolo and Jaden Lee to put the Lincs up 1-0.

Six minutes and 21 seconds later, Tanner Ducharme collected a rebound in front and backhanded home his



(MCGINNY PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

**Colby Booth-Housego leaves jaws dropped with a cross-crease diving-glove save during the St. Marys Lincolns' 7-0 win over the Pelham Panthers. The Lincs then blanked the Fort Erie Meteors 5-0 one night later.**

first of the season. Ducharme, along with linemates Blake Elzinga and Ryan Cornfield, received high praise from the bench boss, as did their netminder and a third-year blueliner.

"The line of Blake, Ryan and Tanner were great for us," Bradley said. "That line was a really big positive for us. They worked really hard and that was the one line that didn't deviate from the gameplan all night."

"Colby (Booth-Housego) and Owen (Kalp) were our two best players. Colby was obviously outstanding. When we needed him, he was there. Owen has been getting better every single game. He's been playing in Chatham for two years but he came in without us knowing him in-depth. He's a very smart player."

Elzinga and Ethan Coups assisted on Ducharme's goal which was followed up just 22 seconds later by a net-front scramble that last hit off Cornfield before entering the Panthers' net. Coups and Rowan Reid recorded the helpers.

In the third, Noah VandenBrink scored the first of four goals in the period, the second of the year for the Belmont, Ont. native which was assisted by Jacob McLellan and Dylan Searles. Just under 10 minutes later, Ryan Hodgkinson scored the first of two St. Marys powerplay goals, the second of which was scored on a

partial breakaway by Chase MacQueen-Spence.

The goal was the first of the year for MacQueen-Spence, who Bradley noted had a very strong start to the season despite the puck not going in as much as he would have hoped during the first month of the campaign.

"With the skill level that Chase has, you sometimes measure a guy like that by points and sometimes don't look enough at the intangibles. He's been doing so many things right. He's taken the leadership role to heart and he's working incredibly hard on the defensive side of the puck. He's made it very easy to trust him in any situation and he's been getting plenty of chances, so it was great to see him finally break through and get rewarded. He more than deserved it."

In the final minute of the game, Ducharme tucked the puck through the five-hole on Logan Snyder to finish off the 7-0 win with his second of the night. Despite allowing seven goals, Snyder made 59 saves as the Lincolns outshot Pelham 66-30.

**Lincs overwhelm Meteors with stellar 60-minute effort**

For the second straight week, the second half of their back-to-back was the Lincolns' best showing as

CONTINUED TO PAGE 17



# Lincs record stays perfect with pair of shutouts

CONTINUED FROM PG. 16

they walked into Fort Erie and thoroughly outclassed the Meteors en route to a 5-0 win.

Bradley was ceaselessly delighted with his team's performance on the road.

"I thought we were outstanding all around. When you consider how tough a game it was for us, it's remarkable how well we played. It was the second half of a back-to-back with a long bus trip that didn't get there as early as we'd hoped so getting a proper meeting in was tougher, and we're facing a good team that was coming in angry after the way they lost the night before.

"It was a challenge for our guys," Bradley continued. "They knew how good Fort Erie was last year and the aspirations that team had coming into the season. In those circumstances, we want to make sure we're asserting some type of dominance and making them question themselves a little bit and I thought we accomplished that."

According to the head coach, the team executed their gameplan to a tee for virtually the entire night.

"We had three strict instructions to focus on. We wanted our defencemen playing within the dots, having the support we need in the offensive zone and, with it being a bigger rink, making sure we're supporting the puck and not leaving our guys in one-on-one situations with the puck. For the vast majority of the game, we did a great job and I was really happy with our game."

Unlike 24 hours previously, it took the Lincolns less than 10 minutes to open the scoring with an aggressive penalty-killing forecheck by Hodkinson, who stole the puck from Meteors' netminder Finn Moffett when he left his crease to play the puck before Hodkinson tucked it into an open net. Just under four minutes later, Cornfield potted his third of the year to send the Lincs to the dressing room up by two.

Four minutes and 47 seconds into the middle stanza, Lee cranked a one-timer set up by Cornfield from the slot by Moffett to make it 3-0 St. Marys. The goal came as a result of an incredible shift by Elzinga, whose fantastic solo effort kept the puck in the offensive zone and ultimately resulted in Lee's goal.

"When Pat and I were discussing our roster and projecting what we might be, a big part of that conversation hinged on the progression of Ryan and Blake," Bradley recalled. "We wanted to see if they would step into that second-year role where guys usually start to take off a little bit and they're doing exactly that. We don't have the success we're having right now without the play of Ryan and Blake.

"The biggest growth I see with Ryan is how responsible he is. He is incredibly responsible on the ice with or without the puck. And then with Blake, he is an engine for our team. He has the skill to be a top-line guy but he also does the hard, less-flashy work that



(MCGINNY PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

After his incredible glove stop, Booth-Housego made another unbelievable stop when he reached back with his blocker to deny the Panthers a second time on Oct. 4. Booth-Housego has earned shutouts in each of his last two games and the Lincolns haven't allowed a goal in their last 201 minutes and 16 seconds of gameplay.

allows him to be used in every situation. You look at Jaden's goal; that goal doesn't happen without Blake on the ice."

Along with Cornfield and Elzinga, Bradley also mentioned Coups as a Lincoln whose progression has stood out to the head coach.

"We see these guys every time they take the ice, so we're looking for who's progressing. You have the usual suspects who are big on this team, but to see Ethan Coups, who wasn't relied on as much in Navan last year as he is here and coming in after breaking his leg last year, play his best game of the season for us on the big ice and move as well as he has been. Considering he is a bigger player, it was great to see.

"Ethan has progressed very well, especially recently," continued Bradley. "He is a great teammate, which we saw when he sorted things out when the game got a bit rough. Ethan is a protector. He cares about his teammates and doesn't want to see his teammates get taken advantage of."

Later in the second, Zander Kechevo sent a perfect saucer pass onto the stick of MacQueen-Spence who tipped the puck by Moffett for his second in as many days.

With just 16 seconds left in the period, Hodkinson completed his three-point game with his second of the

season on a St. Marys powerplay. Hodkinson's powerplay tally continued the Lincs' powerplay excellence as the team has scored at least one goal with the man advantage in each of their first seven games.

With Armellin turning away all 21 Fort Erie shots in his first GOJHL shutout, the Lincs surpassed 200 consecutive minutes of gameplay in which they have not been scored on, dating back to Sept. 27 against the Legionnaires. The Lincolns also remain the only team in the GOJHL to still have only allowed single-digit goals against this season, with only five goals surrendered in seven games.

St. Marys Lincolns 2024-25 Stats (as of Oct. 7)					
Rank	Player	GP	G	A	PTS
1	Luca Spagnolo	7	6	4	10
2	Jaden Lee	7	5	4	9
3	Owen Voortman	7	2	6	8
T-4	Ryan Hodkinson	7	5	2	7
	Ryan Cornfield	7	3	4	7
	Noah VandenBrink	7	2	5	7
T-7	Blake Elzinga	7	2	4	6
	Chase MacQueen-Spence	7	2	4	6
	Jacob McLellan	7	1	5	6
10	Ryder Livermore	7	0	5	5
11	Tanner Ducharme	5	2	2	4
12	Dylan Searles	5	2	1	3
T-13	Rowan Reid	4	0	2	2
	Ethan Coups	7	0	2	2
T-15	Zander Kechevo	5	0	1	1
	Owen Kalp	6	0	1	1
	Chase McDougall	6	0	1	1
	Jacob Montesi	7	0	1	1
T-19	Julian Stubgen	5	0	0	0
	Hayden Barch	6	0	0	0
#	Goalies	GP	GAA	SV-%	Wins
1	Colby Booth-Housego	4	0.75	0.974	4
29	Nico Armellin	3	0.67	0.971	3

GOJHL Western Conference Standings (as of Oct. 7)					
Rank	Team	Record	PTS	GF	GA
1	St. Marys Lincolns	7-0-0-0	14	32	5
2	Stratford Warriors	7-1-0-0	14	29	16
3	LaSalle Vipers	6-2-0-0	12	30	21
4	Listowel Cyclones	5-2-0-0	10	28	23
5	Elmira Sugar Kings	4-2-2-0	10	33	28
6	K-W Siskins	4-2-0-1	9	25	21
7	Strathroy Rockets	4-2-0-1	9	25	28
8	Chatham Maroons	4-3-0-0	8	38	24
9	London Nationals	2-2-2-1	7	22	22
10	St. Thomas Stars	2-3-0-1	5	20	35
11	Komoka Kings	1-7-0-0	2	21	38
12	Sarnia Legionnaires	0-5-1-0	1	16	23



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# U12 A Boys earn highspeed 2-1 win over Strathroy

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The U12 A Boys St. Marys Rock were fired out of a cannon on Oct. 2 when they picked up a 2-1 win in their first game of the regular season.

Head coach Merlin Malinowski noted there were details to his team's game to clean up, but he was thrilled with the effort put forward by his group.

"It was a scrumbly game at times, but I thought we controlled the play for the most part," Malinowski told the Independent. "There were times when Strathroy came at us hard and had some good chances and, thankfully, Luke (Savile) made the saves for us. It wasn't the prettiest at times, but they played hard every shift, so overall, I'm happy with how they played."

Talan Ward opened the scoring for the Rock in the first period and the game would remain up for grabs until Attley

Ehogetz buried the eventual game-winner in the third.

Despite the low-scoring final result, the game was a high-flying affair with every St. Marys skater working incredibly hard and skating at a breakneck pace. Malinowski said the collective compete level of his group is one of their greatest assets, and even if they have to refine the details of their game, he is happy he isn't tasked with pulling effort out of his squad.

"What I'm hoping is that when one guy is playing like that, everyone after him is motivated to do the same thing and they push each other to keep working hard. There are a lot of competitive kids in our dressing room and they don't want to be outdone, so they're always striving to be better, and that's a really good thing for a coach to have. You don't have to motivate them to go hard because they're pushing each other."



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Talan Ward whips a shot on net during the U12 A Boys St. Marys Rock's 2-1 win over Strathroy on Oct. 2. Ward scored one of the Rock's goals in the game.

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Cameron Stokes releases a shot on goal during this past Monday's U11 A Boys St. Marys Rock game.



Lukas Francis rockets a wrist shot on net during the U13 A Boys St. Marys Rock game this past Monday.



Jack Anderson moves the puck over the opposing blueline during the U10 A Boys St. Marys Rock game last Wednesday.



Eveline Haanstra launches the puck on goal from the point during last Wednesday's U13 C Girls St. Marys Rock game.



Luke Simons gallops out of his own zone with the puck during the U14 A Boys St. Marys Rock game last Wednesday.



Simon Taylor fires the puck through centre ice during last Thursday's U18 A Boys St. Marys Rock game.

(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTOS)

# Thorndale News

A section within the  
St. Marys Independent

## Memorial Rose Garden a lovely tribute to area residents



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

Pictured at the Thorndale Memorial Rose Garden from left to right are Thorndale and Area Horticultural Society president MaryLou Bontje, members who help maintain the garden Shirley Hacon and Carolyn Noble, and Don Evanitski, owner of Done Right Landscaping.

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

Approximately in the centre of Thorndale, on King Street, west of Agnes Street, is the Memorial Rose Garden. This special garden was established in 1997 by the Thorndale & Area Horticultural Society at the request of the West Nissouri Township council to identify the site of the old library property.

The garden was designed by horticultural society member Marilyn Turner with the work done by a team of volunteers from the society and area residents with contributions of features and landscape supplies donated by local businesses.

The large stone in the centre of the garden recognizes the garden's beginning with a slab stone in front marking the site of the former library. The walkway that encircles this stone is inlaid with flag stones purchased from the Thorndale horticultural society by families in memory of their loved ones. The centre garden and on the perimeter are planted with roses in memory of loved ones and roses that represents certain milestones

in Canadian history.

The rose on the middle wall trellis has significant local history. It started from a clipping donated by Grace Fulton, a longtime resident of Thorndale. This clipping was taken from her grandfather, William Stone's original American beauty climbing rose which he planted by the front steps of his home at 230 King St. Stone was a member of the first Thorndale horticultural society in the 1930s. The clipping of this climbing rose was given to Bill Heeman, which he nurtured to maturity before it was planted in this special garden.

Recently, the society hired DoneRight Landscaping based out of Ballymote to install the brickwork around all the rose beds and they cleaned the stones and fixed the walkway to remove walking hazards, as well as mulched all the gardens. The funding for this work has come from local business sponsorships and from the society's annual Green Thumb Garden Tour fundraisers.

Memorial stones are still available for purchase for the Memorial Rose Garden or for personal gardens by contacting thorndalehort@gmail.com.

## Thorndale Women's Institute hosts farewell gathering



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

Members of the Thorndale Women's Institute (WI) attended a farewell gathering at the Thorndale Library Oct. 3 after the group formally disbanded last year. Seated from left to right are Dorothy Elliott, a Thorndale WI member since 1966, Judy Eaton, Trudy Nieuwland and Berniece Harris. Standing from left to right are Annie VanHooydunk, Dorothy Jones, Ruth Gourley, Janice Jones and Corrie Siroen.

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

The Thorndale Women's Institute (WI) officially disbanded from the Federation Women's Institute of Ontario and folded their group at the end of 2023.

Over the past few months, some members got together to finish their Tweedsmuir History Books. With that completed, they wanted to end on a high note.

On the afternoon of Oct 3, present and

past members that were able to come, gathered at the Thorndale Library for a little social time, sharing memories of their activities, their catering functions and community events the Thorndale WI were involved in over the many years. The ladies also chatted how important this group was in their lives and the friendships they had made.

The Thorndale Women's Institute, an organization that started in 1908, will be truly missed in the community.

## Happy October from the Thorndale Library!

THORNDALE LIBRARY

Submission

This month we celebrate autumn with seasonal displays and activities. We've replaced our beautiful flower wall with an owl wall—we want to know: "Who loves books?"

We know one group that loves books, and that's our youngest patrons and their caregivers! If you're part of this group, please drop in for stories, songs, and rhymes at Storytime on Tuesdays from 10:30-11:00am.

Join us for Aye Matey PD Day on Friday, October 11. Can you roll your R'S like a pirate? Willing to walk the plank? Drop in at 11:30am for all things pirate! Every month, Middlesex County Li-

brary offers some reading inspiration. October's inspiration is to embrace the scary by reading a creepy horror novel or ghost story. You could read something a little bit lighter, like Ghost Stories, featuring Nancy Drew and written by Carolyn Keene, or jump into the spooky deep end with horror authors like Tananarive Due, Shirley Jackson, or Stephen King. Please let us know if you would like some help choosing this month's book, and be sure to pick up a bookmark or colouring sheet at the library to keep track of your reading progress.

As always, feel free to drop in, call us at 519-461-1150, or email us at thorndale\_staff@middlesex.ca with any questions or to register for upcoming programs. We hope to see you at the library!

**Thorndale Lions Club Presents**

Fall Community Breakfast 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
**Sunday, October 27th**  
Thorndale Lions Community Centre

Adults – \$15 , Kids 6-10 – \$5, 5 & under – Free



# COLUMNS

## UKRAINIAN CORNER: Ukrainian embroidered towel a rich tapestry of tradition

OLENA OLIANINA

Independent Columnist

The Ukrainian embroidered towel or rushnyk is much more than a simple piece of fabric; it embodies a wealth of cultural significance and artistry that has been passed down through generations. Its intricate designs and rich history reflect the deep connection Ukrainians have with their heritage, making it a cherished symbol of identity and tradition.

The origins of the rushnyk date back to ancient times where it served various practical and ceremonial purposes. Traditionally woven from linen, these towels were often used in everyday life from household tasks to significant rituals. The rushnyk was especially prominent in wedding ceremonies, symbolizing the couple's new life together. During the ceremony, it was used to welcome guests, bless the couple and even as a ceremonial cover for the bread and salt, representing hospitality and prosperity.

Historically, each region of Ukraine has its own unique patterns and colours influenced by local customs and beliefs. These designs often incorporate symbols of fertility, health and protection, showcasing the rich tapestry of Ukrainian folklore. Each stitch tells a story, making the rushnyk a living testament to the culture it represents.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the rushnyk is the variety of stitches and techniques used in its creation. Skilled artisans often employ a range of embroidery styles, such as cross-stitch, satin stitch and stem stitch, each contributing to the overall aesthetic and meaning of the piece. The use of vibrant colours – red, black and white – often carries specific symbolism with red representing love and passion, while black can symbolize mourning or protection.

Additionally, the rushnyk is not limited to the home; it has also found its place in religious contexts. In Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic traditions, embroidered towels are often used during sacraments, adding



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

**The rushnyk is a Ukrainian embroidered towel and a symbol of tradition, art, and a deep connection to cultural heritage.**

a layer of spiritual significance. This intertwining of daily life and spirituality highlights the rushnyk's role as a sacred object, worthy of reverence.

In modern times, the rushnyk continues to play a vital role in preserving Ukrainian culture, especially among the diaspora. Many Ukrainian communities abroad take pride in showcasing these embroidered

towels during cultural festivals, family gatherings, and other celebrations. The rushnyk serves as a bridge connecting generations, allowing younger Ukrainians to appreciate their heritage through art and craftsmanship.

My own experiences with rushnyk have deepened my appreciation for their beauty and significance. I remember attending family celebrations where these towels adorned tables, adding a touch of tradition to modern gatherings. The rushnyk evokes feelings of warmth and nostalgia, reminding me of the stories shared by my grandparents about their origins and the meanings behind each design.

When I see a beautifully embroidered rushnyk, I am struck by the meticulous craftsmanship and the love embedded in each stitch. These towels are not merely decorative items; they are repositories of memory and emotion, connecting the past with the present. I find it inspiring how something so simple can carry such profound meaning.

Moreover, the act of creating a rushnyk is often a communal effort, with families and communities coming together to share skills and stories. This aspect of collaboration fosters a sense of belonging and continuity, reinforcing the idea that culture is a living, breathing entity.

The Ukrainian embroidered towel is a vibrant symbol of national identity and cultural heritage. Its rich history, intricate designs and deep-rooted significance reflect the values and beliefs of the Ukrainian people. As we celebrate and preserve these traditions, the rushnyk serves as a reminder of our connections to our ancestors, our communities and our collective history.

In a world that is increasingly globalized, the rushnyk stands as a testament to the importance of cultural heritage. It encourages us to embrace our roots and share our stories, ensuring that the art and traditions of our ancestors continue to thrive for generations to come.

## Straight from the Shelves

LAURA MCASH

St. Marys Public Library

Inspired by the themes found in the Perth County Reads title "Cold", by Drew Hayden Taylor, the St. Marys Public Library has partnered with Stone-town Karate to teach you Self Defense. Join us upstairs in the Library on October 19 to build confidence with personal safety, learn de-escalation techniques, and increase personal awareness. The kids session starts at 10 a.m. while the adult session begins at 11:30 a.m. This program is free to attend and everyone is welcome. Register here: [tinyurl.com/smplsignup](https://tinyurl.com/smplsignup)

### This Week's Recommendation

In Emily St. John Mandel's 2014 novel "Station Eleven", civilization as we know it has collapsed and the Great Lakes region is now sparsely populated

ed by numerous small communities. Most are stationary, save for a group of performers that move from place to place, sharing their talents and keeping art alive. Things run smoothly until they run into a dangerous prophet who threatens what the troop holds most dear. This book is surprisingly uplifting for a post-apocalyptic story and will be one that restores some of your faith in humanity. "Station Eleven" is available in hard copy and on Libby.

### Up This Week

Fri., Oct. 11: Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sat., Oct. 12: Open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Mon., Oct. 14: CLOSED  
Tues., Oct. 15: Open 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Wed., Oct. 16: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30-10:30 a.m.), Mahjong! (1-4 p.m.), Scrabble (6-8 p.m.)  
Thurs., Oct. 17: Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Ask the Arborist

By Joel Hackett | 519 272 5742 | [jtsquote@gmail.com](mailto:jtsquote@gmail.com)



### Dear Arborist,

What can you tell me about Dawn Redwoods, should they lose their needles?

### Cheers!

### Dear Cheers,

A Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) is an endangered deciduous conifer. Deciduous conifers, unlike evergreens, lose their needles in the winter.

The Dawn Redwood was thought to be extinct, having been only seen in the fossil record. However, the tree was rediscovered in the 1940s during WWII by a Chinese forester. According to the fossil record, at one time the Dawn Redwood was considered the

most common tree in the Northern Hemisphere. If the conditions are right, the Dawn Redwood can grow up to 160 ft tall and 7 ft wide.

This deciduous conifer is not the same kind of Redwood as the giant ones found on the West Coast. Although the trees are often confused, Coastal redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) are quite different.

### 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](mailto:jtsquote@gmail.com)

# FROM THE GARDEN: An apple a day...



NANCY ABRA

Independent Columnist

Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/apples>

Eborall Fruits is one of the many fruit growers in the Niagara area. Clay Eborall, a good friend of ours, is the third generation on this 100-acre family farm. Besides growing strawberries, cherries, peaches, plums, nectarines and grapes, they also grow twelve varieties of apples. When I asked Clay about variety popularity, he stated, "the most popular apple varieties with his farmer's market customers are Honeycrisp, Gala, Ambrosia and McIntosh."

Honeycrisp, which has been around for about fifteen years, is known for its crisp texture and sweet tart flavour, perfect for eating fresh. The Gala has enjoyed popularity for approximately thirty years and is sweet and aromatic, a great apple for snacking and salads. The Ambrosia variety, trending for about ten years, is another juicy sweet apple ideal for eating fresh or used in desserts. And good old McIntosh or 'Mac', which has been commercially available since the 1880s, still ranks popular with consumers. "The Mac is still very popular," remarked Clay. "There seems to be a loyalty with my customers for that variety. It is one of the sweetest fresh off the tree and with the other varieties gets sweeter over time."

The saying, "an apple a day keeps the doctor away" is from a longer proverb, 'Eat an apple on going to bed and you'll keep the doctor from earning his bread' that originated from Wales in the mid 1800s. According to my research, this saying became popular in the United States between 1913 and 1922 and more prevalent during the Prohibition period to encourage people to eat apples instead of drinking them in cider form. It was becoming known that fresh apples had good health benefits, and the texture help to clean teeth. [www.healthline.com/nutrition/an-apple-a-day-keeps-the-doctor-away](http://www.healthline.com/nutrition/an-apple-a-day-keeps-the-doctor-away)

The apple industry in Canada is significant with major production in Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec. Ontario, being the largest apple producing province, accounts for almost 35 per cent of the national production with approximately 16,000 acres, the majority located along the shores of Lake



Clay Eborall of Eborall Fruits.

(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

As any produce farmer and market gardener, they always want to expand their customer base. What new variety that will create interest and attract more customers. But it is also important for these growers to maintain their good level of quality.

A few weeks ago, while visiting our favourite fruit grower, Clay suggested I try their newest apple variety, Rave. He explained they started growing this new variety a couple of years ago for an earlier harvest

in the first part of September, and to transition to the later popular apple varieties.

Rave, a hybrid created by crossing Honeycrisp with MonArk, is a variety from Arkansas developed by the University of Minnesota. Clay explained, "the customers are drawn to the vibrant fuchsia-red colour. When they see it, they ask what is that apple?" Adding, "I am pleased that Rave is generating a lot of excitement. You never know growing a new variety, if it

will be a hit."

Rave is an attractive red apple with customer eye-appeal. It also has a juicy refreshing flavour. To me, it has that old familiar taste of a Spy apple, crisp with a snappy zing but much juicier. The texture is firm and crunchy, a great apple for snacking fresh.

The saying 'an apple a day...' has been around for generations and for good reason, as everyone enjoys this portable, healthy snack.



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# HISTORIC ST. MARYS: The Inspector's Report, Part 2

MARY SMITH

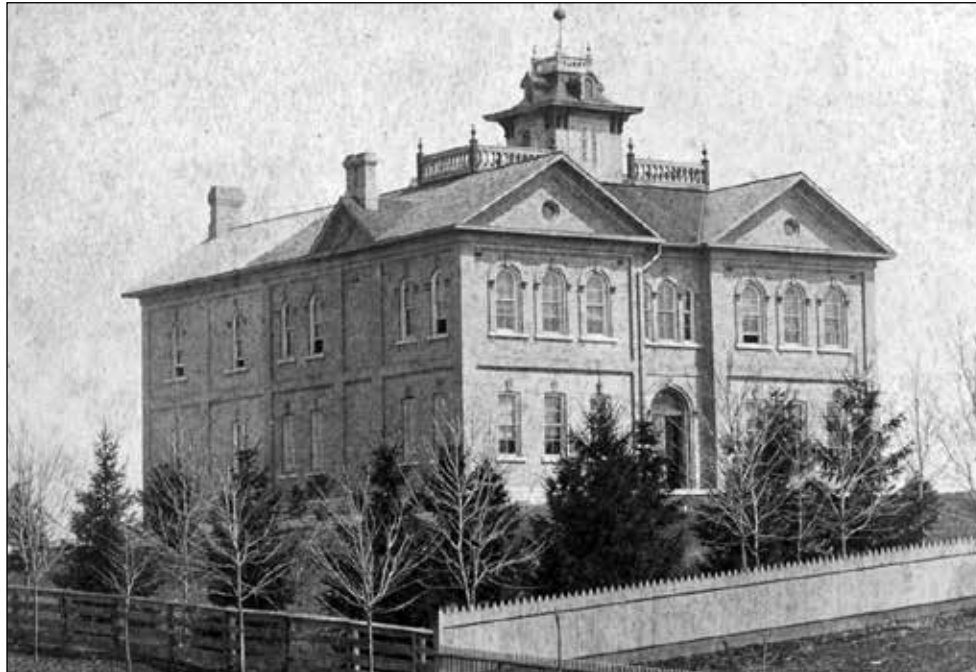
*Independent Columnist*

The photograph of the St. Marys Collegiate Institute with this column was taken in 1886 to show off the first of many additions made to the original four-room building. Compared to modern schools with classrooms made to accommodate 30 or so students, when it was built in the early 1870s, St. Marys Collegiate was designed quite differently. The photograph shows a central, slightly recessed entrance on the south side of the building. It led into a large hallway with one single, spacious classroom on either side. A staircase led to the hall on the upper floor where, as on the ground floor, there were two more large classrooms. For classes in English and Mathematics – obligatory subjects in the curriculum – even a small school like St. Marys could have as many as 90 students in one class. There were large windows along two sides of each classroom. The smaller windows in the belvedere on the roof may have helped illuminate the hallway below. This intriguing architectural feature was removed during later renovations, taking away much of the building's appeal.

A portion of the classrooms may have been partitioned off as cloakrooms, although according to the inspector's report in 1888, the boys hung their caps in the hall. The girls did have their own "cap-room;" the inspector recommended providing them with a washstand, perhaps with a mirror. There were no administrative offices – the principal would have taken the desk in the best classroom. For special school events, such as concerts and commencement exercises, the student body assembled in the town hall auditorium or the St. Marys Opera House. There would, however, have been a custodian and a place in the basement for his equipment. As well as keeping the building tidy, he would have understood the workings of the boiler that provided steam heating to the building.

The High School Inspector, appointed by the Ontario Department of Education, visited every high school/collegiate in the province at least once a year and issued a report, grading components from I (highest) to IV (lowest.) In the early 1880s, the school board had been informed that to retain its status as a collegiate institute, it would need a gymnasium for teaching physical education and a science laboratory complete with apparatus. In 1886, a two-room wing was added at the northwest corner of the building. It can be identified in this photograph by the slightly lighter colour of the brickwork. The science room was on one level and the gymnasium on the other.

This major expenditure of local taxpayers' money, not a dozen years after the high school had opened, had been highly controversial. The persuasive school principal, Isaac M. Levan, backed by letters from the Department of Education, eventually convinced a very reluctant town council to approve the proj-



(PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. MARYS MUSEUM'S HISTORIC IMAGE COLLECTION)

**St. Marys Collegiate Institute, 1886, showing the addition for a science room and a gymnasium.**

ect. One of the school's five teachers was assigned to teach science and given basic apparatus to conduct experiments. But there was considerable uncertainty about how teachers and students should use the gymnasium. Several officers of the local militia agreed to come to the school regularly during the winter months to conduct drills and callisthenics. When the weather was warmer, it appears that both the school board and the teachers believed that the students got enough exercise "through the sports and gambols in which youth indulge with such enthusiasm, and for which our playground of two acres affords such ample scope." The inspector's report following his annual visit in May 1888 shows that this approach to physical education was unacceptable.

At the time of the inspector's visit, the science teacher had finished the course and was reviewing the work in preparation for final examinations. However, the inspector pointed out that although the laboratory was in satisfactory condition with a table for the teacher to do demonstrations, the students had no space or apparatus to conduct chemical experiments on their own. Therefore, the instructor could not do "first class work." The inspector recommended purchasing a table and more apparatus for student use, perhaps partitioning off a section of the classroom to create a separate laboratory area. Students' timetables should include four hours a week of science instruction.

The board committee created to examine and respond to the inspector's report objected to all these suggestions. The room for the laboratory had been built just two years earlier in accordance with the Department's specifications, despite local taxpayers' objections. Now they were asked to spend money to modify this room. The committee pointed out another of the inspector's criticisms: in the lowest classes, "A few read very well; most read poorly." If that was the case, why would the inspector recommend taking time away from teaching basic

reading and mathematics to spend so many hours "on a branch of science that will be of no further use in later life, or the study of which will be further prosecuted by less than one per cent of the pupils?" The committee pressed the point: "It is of little importance that our children can blow hydrogen bubbles if they cannot check over their washer-woman's account, or write an ordinary letter without murdering the Queen's English." They recommended that no more taxpayers' money should be spent on "toys."

The inspector could not assess instruction in physical education because, at the time of his visit, there was "no provision for drill, callisthenics and gymnastics." He pointed out that physical education was obligatory, and instruction should be provided year-round. He had looked inside the gymnasium and found a broken windowpane and a loose batten. He insisted that not only should repairs be made, but more equipment was needed, as well as a stove for the unheated room. The board committee's response to these remarks was even more emphatic than it had been concerning the laboratory. They felt that the inspector, "by peeping through the door," had discovered a couple minor issues which gave him "an excellent excuse for fault-finding and for grading down the school." They complained that it was not enough that the board had erected and equipped a gymnasium after the model suggested by the inspector, they now were called upon to hire a physical education instructor. The committee stated: "However important physical training may

be in urban schools, its importance in rural districts sinks to a minimum, is not a display of good judgement, and calculated to bring our school into disfavour."

The board committee's report ended with the declaration that if the Department of Education planned to follow up this year's list of deficiencies with "continual and increasing demand for further outlay," the board might as well just give up. "Far better to have continued it as a private school, independent of Government aid, and free from Government control." They were proud of the school's history. Assisted by "an exceptionally able staff of teachers," it had been raised to a high standard of excellence among the schools of the province, "a school, the thoroughness of whose teaching has been tried in many an examination hall and has not been found wanting; a school that has filled an important place in an intelligent community and filled it well! But the hand that should foster it is engaged in strangling it!" Government demands were more than a small town could afford.

These statements were mostly bombast. The special committee knew that their response to the inspector's report would be published in the local newspapers. They wanted taxpayers to know that they were fighting hard to avoid unnecessary spending and to keep education at the collegiate relevant to their small town. But, of course, they were short-sighted. The study of all branches of science and physical education became vital elements of secondary education. Successes in these areas would bring additional honour and recognition to the St. Marys Collegiate Institute well into the future.

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# SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO OUTDOORS: The advent of Canadian conservation fundraising



**JEFF HELSDON**

*Independent Columnist*

A significant milestone in conservation fundraising was marked on Sept. 20 in Port Rowan when the Port Rowan Ducks Unlimited Chapter marked its 50th anniversary.

This was not just any anniversary, as it signified 50 years of the start of local chapters and the conservation fundraising dinner concept in Canada.

Ducks Unlimited Canada was formed in 1938, just a year after the organization was started in the U.S. With the majority of the ducks breeding on the Canadian Prairies, early visionaries knew they had to improve habitat where the ducks raise their young. The first project was on the ground in 1938 in Manitoba.

Although the organization had members and donors in the early days, it didn't have local chapters and fundraising dinners as are known today. That started in the mid-1960s in the U.S.

In 1974, Hazard Campbell,

who was a Buffalo, N.Y. resident and a member of the Turkey Point Company on Long Point Bay, convinced fellow members of the storied duck-hunting club Jack Rice and Dr. Duncan Sinclair of Aylmer to attend a DU dinner in his hometown. Rice and Sinclair were so impressed with the Buffalo DU dinner they questioned why they couldn't do the same in Canada.

On Oct. 23, 1974, the first dinner of the Ducks Unlimited Long Point Bay Chapter was held in the Tillsonburg Community Centre. The committee members, who became known as DU Canada's Magnificent Seven, were William Red Anderson, Tillsonburg; Walter Burton, Tillsonburg; Harvey Ferris, Port Rowan; Lloyd Leask, Simcoe; Dr. Elmer Quintyn, Tillsonburg; Rice and Sinclair.

The next dinner, and every one since, has been held in the Port Rowan Community Centre.

The importance of this milestone can't be understated. Prior to this, DU Canada had members but fundraising was not of the scale that quickly took off after the first dinner. Millions upon millions of dollars was

raised for wetland conservation through the conservation dinner program.

Sinclair went on to become the national president of DU Canada. He also lent a hand in starting the organization in Mexico, Australia and New Zealand.

The mark was not only made on wetland conservation but spread to forests as well. In the United States, the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) led the drive to re-establish the wild turkey across the country. When a reintroduction program was started in Canada, southwestern Ontario residents led the way. Dr. Dave Ankney, a zoology professor at the University of Western Ontario, and Joel Hopkins of London pushed bringing wild

turkeys back to Ontario after a hunting trip to Virginia with their spouses. Both had cottages at Long Point.

When the turkey reintroduction started, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters led the way, and worked with the NWTF. The first release in the program to bring back wild turkeys was in Norfolk County and a fundraising dinner to help with costs of the program was held in Port Rowan.

The conservation dinner concept is part of hunters paying for conservation. Hunter dollars have assisted with preserving hundreds of thousands of acres of wetlands, bringing back the wild turkey, the elk and enhancing habitat for waterfowl, turkeys, deer, ruffed grouse and many non-game

species.

Today, conservation dinners are held in many communities across the country. Rural communities with smaller populations often contribute more than cities. One lesser-known fact is Norfolk County chapters of DU, Delta Waterfowl, the National Wild Turkey Federation (which since pulled out of Canada), the Canadian Wild Turkey Federation and the Ruffed Grouse Society of Canada have all at one time been the top fundraisers for their organizations in the entire country.

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

## ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR EXETER CHAPTER #222

### BBQ HALF CHICKEN DINNER

**SAT. OCTOBER 19, 2024**

Prepared by Pineridge Barbeque Co.  
Served by Exeter Eastern Star Members

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

**TAKE OUT ONLY - \$25 PER MEAL | ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY**

**Pick-Up Time: 4-6 pm**

**Exeter Masonic Hall, 248 McConnell St., Exeter, ON**

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## Fill the Trunk FOOD DRIVE

Hosted by: Chain Breaker Ministry

**Join us in making a difference!**

**What:** Food Drive for the local library food bank

**When:** October 19th from 10 AM - 3 PM

**Where:** Foodland Grocery Store, St. Marys

**We will have a list of requested food items available, or you can help by purchasing \$15 food vouchers at Foodland.**



*Let's come together to fill a trunk and bless those in St. Marys who need some extra support. Your generosity can make a significant impact in our community!*

ST. MARYS RC LEGION PRESENTS

# MUDMEN LIVE!

**Friday October 18 2024**

Royal Canadian Legion, St. Marys

**Tickets \$25.00 Advance \$28.00 Door**

**Doors @ 7:00 pm • Show @ 8:00 pm**

Tickets Available at the RC Legion  
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# Riddles

What did the mom  
corn ask baby corn?

“Where is pop  
corn?”

Why did the kid  
put the mail in the  
oven?

Because he wanted  
to have hotmail

What kind of mail  
does a superstar  
vampire get?

Fang mail

What did Dracula’s  
teacher say when  
he failed his math  
test?

“Can’t you count,  
Dracula?”

What did one math  
book say to the  
other?

“Don’t bother me,

I have my own  
problems”

What kind of light  
did Noah use on the  
ark?

Flood lights

What goes up but  
never goes down?

Your age

What happens  
when you throw a  
green rock in the  
Red Sea?

It gets wet

What part of a  
computer does an  
astronaut like best?

The space bar

Q: What did the  
beach say when the  
tide came in?

Long time no sea

# Word Search

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

## Word List

Autumn

Turkey

Gobble

Thankful

Cranberries

Pumpkin pie

Squash

Stuffing

Celebration

Harvest

Family

October

Cornucopia

Feast

Gratitude

Tradition



## The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What has a face but  
no head?



A clock!

Drew Jones (2)

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

## TONS OF FUN FOR KIDS EVERY WEEK!

# PET OF THE WEEK

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



Our Pet of the Week is Molly, a five-month-old Shih tzu/Bichon cross. Molly is very active and is awake in the early morning hours. She is the newest member of the Richardson family.



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

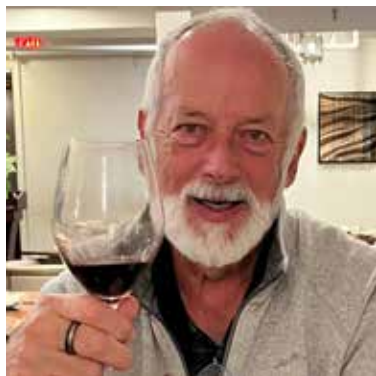
## PET OF THE WEEK

### Autumn Safety Tips to Help Keep Your Pets Happy and Healthy

Watch Out for Tiny Ticks: Ticks remain active even as the weather begins to cool. In fact, fall is when adult blacklegged ticks are most active as they thrive in cooler temperatures. Ticks can carry bacteria, viruses, and most notably, Lyme Disease. Talk to your veterinarian about tick prevention for your pet

500 Water Street South St. Marys  
[www.stmarysvetclinic.com](http://www.stmarysvetclinic.com)

# OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: A part of England that inspired a fascinating book



**PAUL KNOWLES**

*Independent Columnist*

In September, we spent a few days at a cottage with some family members. One of them spotted me holding a book and asked, “Are you actually going to read that entire thing?”

It was a fair question because the hardcover I was reading runs to well over 900 pages.

“Yes, I am going to read it all,” I answered.

Then I made the confession that elevated her casual curiosity to genuine concern about my mental state. I said, “Actually, I have read it before.” She shook her head, sadly.

The book? *Sarum: The Novel of England*, written by Edward Rutherfurd and published in 1987. When I first read it, I enjoyed it and then I got my first opportunity to visit the part of England featured in the historical novel – Stonehenge, Old Sarum and Salisbury. It’s only 16 kilometres from the ancient monument, Stonehenge, to the

soaring majesty of Salisbury Cathedral, but so much of English history is encapsulated in this small region.

I’ve been back to Salisbury several times and each time I have thought, “I would really like to read Sarum again.”

But I didn’t and on cursory explorations of bookstores, I never found the volume until we visited Florenceville, N.B., in August, where the local library had a book-sales table and there was Sarum available by donation.

The book instantly took me back to my visits to Stonehenge, Old Sarum and Salisbury, each a fine historic and cultural site in its own right and, combined, an amazing destination worthy of a multi-day visit.

The first time I saw Stonehenge was on my very first visit to the U.K. in the early 1990s. I was driving west on the A303 and was surprised to discover, there in the distance, a cute little model of Stonehenge. It took a few minutes to realize that it was no model. As we drew closer, the impressive, prehistoric structure became more and more awe-inspiring.

That day, Stonehenge was closed to visitors but you could park on a sideroad and walk to a fence that was just yards from the standing stones, which you can no longer do.

Since then, much work has been done to limit such access to Stonehenge. It’s now more

distant from modern roadways and visitors get a slightly more authentic experience of the ancient site.

About 10 minutes south of Stonehenge is the ruin of Old Sarum. Nearby fields and woodlots hold dozens of the burial barrows and other prehistoric ruins that surround Stonehenge for kilometres – some of them still not explored by archaeologists. Sarum itself shows evidence of its evolution as fortification, castle, aristocratic residence and bishop’s palace. There were people living here as early as 3000 BC, but the first structure bigger than a hut was probably a hill fort built in 400 BC. Visitors can explore the site, climb down the hill to the foundation stones that mark the former cathedral and imagine the lives of the people who lived here for 4,500 years.

Oddly, although Sarum was essentially moved to become what is now Salisbury around 1220, Old Sarum continued to send two members to Parliament until 1832 as one of the “rotten boroughs” that were owned by rich landlords who guarded their “right” to hold places in government, though they represented exactly no one.

In the 13th century, the bishop at the time became frustrated with sharing power with military overlords of Sarum, so he abandoned the Sarum Cathedral and had a new cathedral constructed about four kilometres away in Salisbury. That was the beginning of the end for Sarum.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

**The mysterious and compelling structure we call Stonehenge.**

A thriving market town grew up around the new cathedral and today you can still see many buildings and monuments from that era.

Personally, it is my favourite cathedral, anywhere – and after about 30 years as a travel writer, I have visited more than my share of cathedrals.

I love it because it is both majestic and simple. It is consistent in design, unlike many ancient churches which have bits built across the centuries in a plethora of forms. It sits magnificently in the midst of a still peaceful and protected “close.” Its décor – including the amazing carvings in the Chapter House – are continually maintained in their original state. That Chapter House contains one of the original, handwritten copies of the Magna Carta of 1215.

But there is one more cause for my crush on the cathedral. On my first of many visits to

Salisbury Cathedral, I was accompanied by my wife, Mary, who passed away in 1996. We learned that the ceiling of the church was being repaired. New tin sheets were replacing the original materials that lined the ceiling from above. For a pound or two, we could etch our names on one of these tin sheets, which would then be installed high above the nave, hidden forever except in our memories.

In the book, Sarum, a stone carver named Osmund is portrayed as taking great pride in his work for the cathedral, even those hidden details that would never be seen by human eye.

As I read Sarum, in small part, I understood.

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

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# IN MEMORIAM

## Sterkenburg



**In loving memory of a dear wife, mother & Omie, Debra Ann Sterkenburg.**

**June 2, 1961 - October 10, 2022**

Gone are the days we used to share  
But in our hearts, she's always there.

Never more than a thought away  
Loved and remembered every day.

*Love always,*

*Barry; Darryl, Whitney & Rowyn; Brittany, Brett, Myla & Hudson.*

# IN MEMORIAM

## Sterritt



**In loving memory of a dear son, brother and Uncle Larry Sterritt.**

**Feb 14, 1956- Oct 12, 2004**

You have been gone 20 years but we still love and miss you everyday.

*Love always Mom, Nancy, Mary-Jean, Karen, Kelly, Vel, Len and families*

# CELEBRATION

## Happy 80th Birthday



**Ray Smith on Oct 13**

Love from all your family

# OBITUARY

## Yake



**YAKE (NÉE DOUPE), LEONA HELEN**

*Peacefully, at LHSC, Victoria Hospital on Thursday, October 3, 2024, Leona Helen Yake passed away in her 102nd year.*

*Beloved wife of the late Wilfred Yake (1994). Loving mother of Quentin (Cheryl) Yake. Cherished grandmother of Travis and Amanda. Dear sister of Junior (the late Leona) Doupe. Forever in the hearts of her extended family and friends. Predeceased by her parents Wesley & Myrtle Doupe and her siblings Harry, Melvin, Ivan and Ella. The family would like to extend a special thank you to Wendy Charlton and the staff of the Cardiac Care Unit at LHSC, Victoria Hospital for all their care and support. Leona was a longtime member of Hyatt Avenue United Church and was a devoted member of the U.C.W. for many years.*

*Friends will be received at the EVANS FUNERAL HOME, 648 Hamilton Road, London, Ontario (1 block east of Egerton), on Wednesday, October 9, 2024 from 6-9 p.m. Funeral service will be held in the EVANS CHAPEL on Thursday, October 10, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. Interment in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, London, Ontario. Those who wish may make memorial donations to the Heart & Stroke Foundation in memory of Mrs. Yake. Online condolences can be expressed at [www.evansfh.ca](http://www.evansfh.ca)*



Rebekah Lodge

# OBITUARY

## Hughes



*"David George Hughes, born February 9th, 1949, to parents Ralph and Irene Hughes, passed away at G.R. Baker Memorial Hospital on September 26th, 2024.*

*David was born and raised in St. Mary's, Ontario, alongside his three siblings. He attended St. Mary's Collegiate and Vocational Institute, where he completed his schooling. In his twenties, David ventured to British Columbia to explore new opportunities. It was here that he made his home, working various forestry and bush jobs before securing a position at Weldwood, now known as Quesnel Plywood. He remained there until his retirement, building lasting friendships along the way.*

*David had a deep love of reading, often finishing a good western novel in one sitting. He was an avid sports fan, with a particular passion for baseball, but he could most often be found enjoying a cold beer. In honor of David's memory, we invite you to take a moment to sit back, enjoy a cold beer, and remember him.*

*Predeceased by his parents Ralph and Irene, as well as his older brother William (Ben), David is survived by his sister Sharon, his brother Ken, and his niece and nephews."*

# CELEBRATION

## Look Who's Turning 90!



**Join us to celebrate Ernie Vanderschot's 90th birthday**  
Saturday October 19, 2024,  
Open House from 1 pm to 3 pm  
*Red Mill Farm, 2379 Road 133, St. Marys*

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# CELEBRATION



**Please join us!**

*90th Birthday Open House*

**For Shirley Nichol**

*October 19, 2024 2-4pm*

*Friendship Centre, St Marys*

*Best Wishes Only Please*

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### Wanted to buy

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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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## SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Thorndale Library October events - See Page 21

St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 22

### Friday, October 11

- Royal Canadian Legion "hot dogs and more" lunch at Noon

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

- St. Marys Lincolns vs Elmira Sugar Kings at the PRC - 7:30 p.m.

### Saturday, October 12

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 a.m. to Noon.

- St. Marys Hospital Auxiliary Thanksgiving bake sale at Troyer's Spices - 9 a.m.

- McCully's Harvest Festival - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- St. Marys Fire Department open house - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- North Nissouri Women Thanksgiving Bazaar at North Nissouri Church - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 p.m.

- St. Marys Life & Times series, first episode airs on YouTube - 8 p.m.

### Sunday, October 13

- McCully's Harvest Festival - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Tuesday, October 15

- Alzheimer Society Huron Perth webinar - Visit [alzheimer.ca/huronperth](http://alzheimer.ca/huronperth) to register

### Wednesday, October 16

- St. Marys Lincolns vs Stratford Warriors at William Allman Memorial Arena - 7:30 p.m.

### Thursday, October 17

- St. Marys Community Players preview night of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" at the Town Hall theatre - 7:30 p.m.

- Alzheimer Society Huron Perth webinar - Visit [alzheimer.ca/huronperth](http://alzheimer.ca/huronperth) to register

# LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

## Five duck donation

### 25 years ago (1999)

At a recent open house, the St. Marys Museum had a contest to guess the number of limestone buildings within town limits. The Museum summer staff had identified 112 stone structures. Verna Pratt's guess of 113 stone buildings was the winner!

Seatbelt compliance is excellent in St. Marys. That's the word from Sgt. Bob Jackson after police stopped 266 vehicles on Saturday and issued only three warnings.

At the Town Council meeting on Tuesday, Chief Building Inspector Pargat Sehra told councilors the value of building permits issued in 1999 should hit \$30 million by the end of the year. This is over twice the town's previous record of \$14.1 million in 1997.

### 50 years ago (1974)

A St. Marys householder was quite miffed recently when he discovered the town Sanitary Landfill site was no longer open on Saturday morning.

If the Tuesday evening meeting of Town Council is any indication of interest, the Town should not be without a taxi service for very long. Two delegations waited upon Council with plans for providing a taxi service, as the former local taxi service called it quits several weeks ago.

St. Marys is to receive a donation of five ducks. A recent letter to P.A.R.Q. from Mrs. M. Graves of Windsor offered the ducks to join those presently on the Thames and the Trout. The offer has been accepted and it is expected early delivery of parents and three young ducks will be made.

### 75 years ago (1949)

Hon. Russell T. Kelley, Minister of Health for Ontario, will lay the corner stone of the new St. Marys Memorial Hospital on Wednesday, Oct. 19.

Jack Billings left on Tuesday for Port Arthur where he will take part in the Canadian championship boxing finals for the British Empire Games. Jack is in the bantam class and weighs 118 lbs.

Mrs. John Mooney of the townline north of St. Marys Junction Station was very much surprised about eight o'clock Tuesday morning to see a young deer fawn standing in the yard near her home. The nimble animal made off as soon as it spotted Mrs. Mooney, who hails from London, England and has never viewed a wild deer before.

### 100 years ago (1924)

If you are ailing, can't get relief and don't know what to try next, why not give Dr. C.M. Lawrence a try? His chiropractic parlours are located over Webster's studio. Many people have benefited by chiropractic care.

A benefit concert will be held in the Lyric Theatre on Thursday evening by the St. Marys Kiltie Band, in aid of Mr. Wm. Eyles, who has been confined to his bed for a number of months.

The contractors are busy widening the sidewalk on the east side of Water Street. When completed the walk will be one of the widest to be found anywhere, at over 17 1/2 feet.

## QUIZ ANSWERS

- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1) 1920                 | (after noon)       |
| 2) The Hurting          | 6) Cannabis        |
| 3) 4.5 billion years    | 7) Fear of cooking |
| 4) North Atlantic Ocean | 8) Blue            |
| 5) Post meridiem        | 9) Granula         |
|                         | 10) Soliloquy      |

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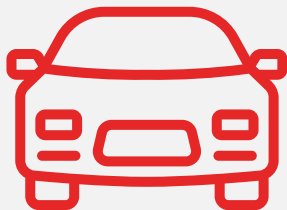


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