

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1233

Thursday, October 17, 2024

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MORE THAN ENOUGH PARKING DOWNTOWN (GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)
A recent downtown parking study shows even at peak times, only 72 per cent of the town's 661 downtown parking stalls are full.

Feedback from online survey to help determine the future of PC Connect rural bus service

GALEN SIMMONS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Users of Perth County's PC Connect rural-route bus service have until the end of this month to share their feedback on the local transit service to help county council determine its future.

As the transit service's provincial funding is scheduled to end at the end of next March, Perth County council is set to determine how, if at all, PC Connect will be funded going forward during the county's upcoming 2025 budget deliberations. To help councillors understand the human impact and importance of this transit service locally, the county has launched an online survey at www.perthcounty.ca/RuralRouteSurvey.

"The main objective of the survey is to really find out about the impact of the rural-route service," said Justin Dias, economic development officer with the county. "We want to inform county council in their decision making."

"So, through that we're asking a variety of questions of folks about why they use the service or what they use the service for – whether it's themselves or employees, their clients or members depending on who's answering – whether it's for access to employment, medical appointments, education and training, social

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

FREE SELF DEFENSE Seminar

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Study shows St. Marys' downtown parking sufficient to meet current demand

GALEN SIMMONS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

While drivers in downtown St. Marys may need to drive around for a few minutes to find parking around midday during the week, a recently completed downtown parking study shows parking availability in the town's downtown core is sufficient to meet current demand.

At the Oct. 8 town council meeting, deputy clerk Morgan Dykstra presented the results of parking surveys conducted between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. from Monday, May 27 to Saturday, June 1 earlier this year. Parking demand-duration surveys included all 208 on-street parking stalls in the downtown area and 153 parking stalls in the Elgin Street, Water Street, Jones Street

CONTINUED TO PAGE 3



Heidi James

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Feedback from online survey to help determine the future of PC Connect rural bus service



(PHOTO COURTESY OF PERTH COUNTY)

Users of PC Connect's rural-route service have until Oct. 30 to provide their feedback on the transit service and help Perth County council determine its future.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

and community connection, grocery shopping, etc. Really, the analysis in the report from the consultant is designed to help council understand the impact of the service on the community as a whole."

PC Connect's rural route is the public-transit service for Perth County, offering safe, affordable and accessible transportation to rural residents. PC Connect's rural-route buses serve the communities of Stratford, Gadshill, Brunner, Milverton, Newton, Millbank, Listowel, Atwood, Monkton and Mitchell through a regular loop providing connections to employment, health care, education, social connections and services across the region.

PC Connect also operates as three intercommunity routes which offer urban connections and include service between Listowel and Kitchener-Waterloo (Route 1), St. Marys, Stratford and Kitchener-Waterloo (Route 2), and Stratford and St. Marys (Route 3). These intercommunity routes are not being considered for the purposes of this survey.

PC Connect users have until Oct. 30 to respond to the survey, which is also available in hard copy at any of Perth County's municipal offices. Anyone who needs alternate forms of the survey

can fill out an online form available on the PC Connect website at www.perthcounty.ca/PCConnect-Feedback.

After the survey closes, the feedback provided will be presented to council as part of an overall report on the future of PC Connect during budget deliberations.

"The community transportation steering committee and county council have been looking at a variety of options once the (Community Transportation Grant Program) funding is exhausted," Dias said. "... There are some sources of funding that will support the service over the long term. Obviously, fare revenue is one, provincial gas tax is also a source of long-term funding we're hoping to access, as well as the Ontario Transit Investment Fund, which is a newer fund the province has announced to help support rural transit.

"Those are all parts of the equation that we're looking at and including in our options, but in all cases, we're not expecting the service to be fully funded, so council will be looking at the impact on the (tax) levy."

The options council is considering are extending the program by nine months to Dec. 31, 2025, at which time a decision on PC Connect's future beyond that point will be made; discontinuing the transit service when the funding runs

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Take our short survey about rural transportation and how the PC Connect Rural Route service impacts our community.

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 or scan this QR code




out in March; or committing to a longer-term, three-year agreement to extend the service to 2028, which also includes the cost of purchasing a new bus fleet for the rural-route service.

Should the service continue past March 2025, Dias said it will likely cost the county almost \$300,000 for the remainder of 2025 and then a little more than \$500,000 annually until the end of 2028.

"In addition to understanding the impact of the service on the community, (council) also will be balancing a number of other factors in determining the future of PC Connect in the overall budgeting process," Dias said. "So, hearing from as many stakeholders as possible will be important in their decision making because they obviously have many other projects and things they're considering at budget time."

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Study shows St. Marys' downtown parking sufficient to meet current demand

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

and Opera House parking lots, along with an informal parking area around Well #2.

The study was meant to update the town's data on downtown parking demand and capacity last collected through a similar study in 2021 that extended for 10 days from a Tuesday to Sunday in September from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"The current parking supply is sufficient to meet both average parking demand and the maximum parking demand," Dykstra said. "The greatest demand on the parking system in the study was on the Wednesday at 12 p.m. when 72 per cent of all parking stalls were in use. So, 72 per cent is 259 of the 361 parking stalls.

"That means at our highest demand, there were still 101 parking stalls available for public use. What we could see trending throughout the week is parking generally starts to peak around noon and then declines throughout the afternoon. In some cases, there are street segments that have a higher rate of utilization that sometimes reach practical capacity (85 per cent or higher), those being Water Street South and Jones Street."

According to the study results, the

town's eight downtown accessible parking stalls were never totally full during the survey period.

The surveys also showed that some drivers are parking downtown for longer than the town's three-hour on-street parking limit. Throughout the study period, it was determined drivers of 145 different vehicles had violated the parking limit and there were 29 vehicles that had reoccurring parking infractions.

None of these infractions occurred on Queen Street, reflecting recent efforts by the St. Marys Downtown Business Improvement Area (BIA) since the previous parking study to encourage employees of businesses along that street to park elsewhere, leaving the Queen Street parking stalls open for shorter-term parking.

"There are 20 recommendations listed within the report," Dykstra said. "They kind of fall within three categories. The first is small operational changes that we can do as the town to help mitigate any of the parking issues identified by the public, and most of that can be completed via the operational budgets. So that's signage, adding parking stalls where we can and education.

"The second is there is one capital re-


quest which has been included in the 2025 (draft) capital budget which is to pave the gravel section of the Jones Street parking lot. Then, there's the third type of recommendation which is ideas brought forward by staff that we believe further consideration and analysis is needed. That can be completed over the next couple years."

Those longer-term recommendations include analyzing whether parking-permit holders should have designated parking stalls, coordinating with businesses that have onsite parking to ensure their employees are parking on private property, creating a formal municipal parking lot at Well #2, investigating longer parking limits on Jones Street South and conducting ongoing parking-study samples to ensure the accuracy of the town parking data so staff and council can be responsive to changing parking needs downtown.


"Thank you for doing this study," Coun. Jim Craigmile said. "I can see where you've expanded on what we've done in the previous (study) from learning and gathering more information. I think that's extremely important. One of the first things I heard you say is to let everybody know noon is a bad time (to park downtown). Try and avoid noon if you can. The next thing I think

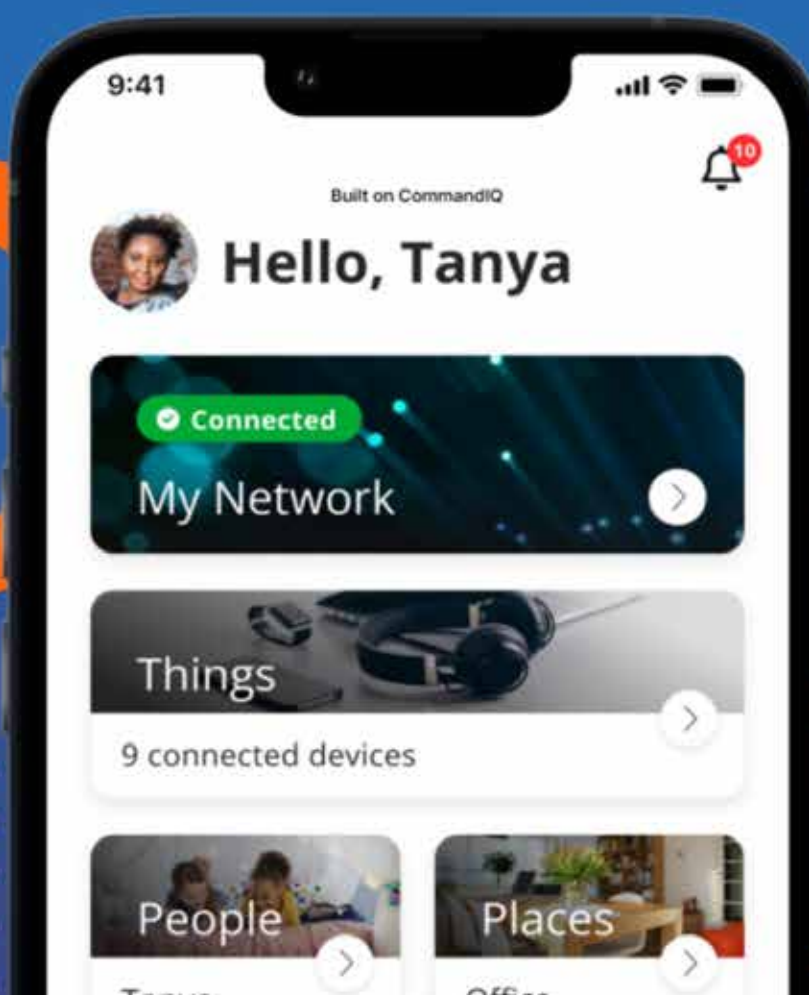
I heard you say is you're not getting the infractions on Queen Street that you were getting, so I think (we should) let the BIA know they're doing a great job with their employees down there. ... I think everything you've got in here is positive. ... I guess my big question is, for now, for the next four, eight, 10 years, council should be looking at ... adding on parking for the future? Is that something we should have as one of our strategic priorities?"

"It is on our radar," town clerk Jenna McCartney said. "... By doing a summary each year, whether it's a full study or just the five-day check-in, we'll be able to know if the utilization has increased to a point that we now need to investigate alternative measures for parking within the downtown. We're hoping that possibly looking to increase Jones Street South to 10 hours or eight hours - whatever we find out is needed - will take more people further out of the downtown and accommodated. As we see more people move into the downtown above businesses, if we are learning those individuals are coming with multiple cars and they are needing parking, we are going to be coming back to (council) before there is an escalated problem."



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 - *On the last day of school DCVI's parking lot is full of tractors.
 - *When you do a call out for old chairs for a fundraiser and you get more than you could have wished for AND are able to raise \$5,000.00 for Community meals.
 - *When there is a tractor parade down Queen Street on the way to the nursing homes.
 - *When someone reaches out for help and the entire community comes together to make it happen.
- St. Marys - "Won't You Be My Neighbour"

For More Information Contact: jdockerjohnson@gmail.com

Bravo

We have no Bravos this week.

Boo

We have 1 Boo this week.

1) Boo to the people that work downtown and take up parking spots. I am frustrated that people visiting from out of town or people that slip downtown for errands are not finding places to park.

*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

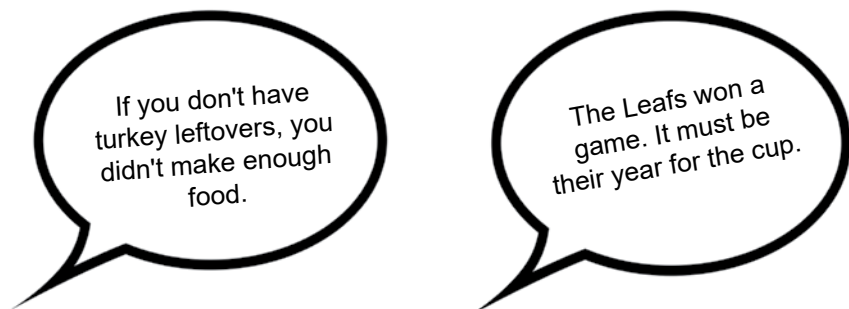
"The community transportation steering committee and county council have been looking at a variety of options once the (Community Transportation Grant Program) funding is exhausted."

- Justin Dias, Economic Development Office, Perth County

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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

St. Marys Independent

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The St. Marys Independent THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK

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Trust yourself. You have survived 100% of your days.

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- Step 2. Click play on the online player



Town hosting municipal hazardous and special product event Oct. 26

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Town of St. Marys is hosting its next municipal hazardous and special product disposal day on Saturday, Oct. 26.

The event will run from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Municipal Operations Centre (MOC) located at 408 James St. S (enter off South Service Road). It is open to residents of St. Marys and Perth South.

Items that will be accepted at the disposal event include:

- Acids, aerosol cans, antifreeze
- Bases, batteries, bleach
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), fluorescent tubes
- Fertilizers, fuels, garden and pool chemicals
- Household cleaners, motor oil, paints, pesticides
- Propane tanks/cylinders, solvents, stains, Varsol

All materials must be sealed and in their original containers with labels. Materials should be transported in the rear of vehicles (trunk, truck bed, etc.),



and contained in rigid containers for safe transport and unloading. Vehicles with materials in the back or front seat will be redirected to a separate area of the parking lot where they can be moved to the trunk or tailgate. Residents are asked to remain in their vehicles at all times as materials will be unloaded by trained staff.

Please note that the MHSW depot that was located at the St. Marys Landfill has now been closed, and MHSW material will no longer be received at the landfill.

For more information about waste disposal services in St. Marys, visit townofstmarys.com/MHSW.

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 or 519-284-3346

SPORTS WALL OF FAME UNVEILING

Oct. 19, 2 PM | Pyramid Centre

Come and join us as we unveil the new Sports Wall of Fame! We will also celebrate the six remarkable 2024 inductees and their exceptional sports achievements within the community.

townofstmarys.com/sportswall or 519-284-2160



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.townstmarys.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 or 226-374-6544



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Pyramid Centre

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Senior of the Week



Our Senior of the Week is Shirley Nichol who celebrated her 90th birthday on Oct. 11.

She grew up in Harrington and then has been in St. Marys all her life. Shirley enjoyed 61 years of marriage and has four children, 10 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren. Happy Birthday, Shirley.

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

TriCounty Foodgrains Group Music Night a big success



(PHOTO COURTESY OF TRICOUNTY FOODGRAINS GROUP)

Musicians Chet Greason and Amy Jesso of The Bone Raddlers perform during The TriCounty Foodgrains Group's annual Music Night on Sept. 21 at First Baptist Church.

NIKKI TAYLOR

TriCounty Foodgrains Group

The TriCounty Foodgrains Group hosted its annual Music Night at First Baptist Church on Sept. 21.

Featured performers were Chet Greason and Amy Jesso of The Bone Radlers, who received a standing ovation for their excellent performance. Both performers donated their time and talents in honour of Sheila Greason, who was a big supporter of the Foodgrains Project as well as many other local charitable causes.

The TriCounty Foodgrains Group is a Christian organization that seeks to end hunger in our world. Volunteers grow and sell vegetables and raise funds in

creative ways, such as our Music Night, that go toward feeding and educating people in Canada and abroad.

Notably, every dollar raised by this group is matched four to one by the Canadian government, so your support goes a long way!

Members of the group will be at the Farmers Market selling our vegetables until the end of the season. Unfortunately, our crop was not as bountiful this year as in years past, but we are so thankful that several local farmers as well as Petals and Foliage have contributed their own produce to the cause.

Drop by and see us at the market. We would love to tell you more about the Foodgrains Bank and how you can become involved.

Weekend Quiz

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- 1) What was the cause of Marilyn Monroe's death?
- 2) The thyroid gland is in which body part?
- 3) Muchacho is Spanish for what?
- 4) Who is the creator of the show Hot Ones?
- 5) What is the capital of Bulgaria?
- 6) What temperature does water boil at?
- 7) *Dionaea muscipula* is usually referred to as what?
- 8) Which birds can learn to mimic human speech?
- 9) What was the name of John F. Kennedy's wife?
- 10) What does Mario jump on after completing a level?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

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Large trucks and heavy vehicles will no longer be permitted to park at Pyramid Recreation Centre

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As of the middle of November, the Town of St. Marys will no longer permit large trucks and other heavy vehicles to park in the Pyramid Recreation Centre (PRC) parking lot or on any other municipal property, at least not on a regular basis.

During a discussion around the results of a downtown parking study at St. Marys council's Oct. 8 meeting, Mayor Al Strathdee raised the question as to whether it is the town's responsibility to provide permitted parking for heavy vehicles like transport trucks. Currently, the town offers up to two heavy vehicle parking permits to drivers who require overnight or infrequent parking that allows them to park their vehicles in the Pyramid Recreation Centre parking lot.

"We are currently providing heavy vehicle parking at the PRC, and I just wondered whether that's necessary that we do that or why we allow for that service," Strathdee said. "I just always thought it's something that council agreed to a few years back, but I know there hasn't been a high demand and it's always been concerning to me that it's a service I don't even know if we need to provide and why we're doing it."

"It's an annual permit fee of \$80. ... There are trucks parking up at the PRC and if they're commercial vehicles, I don't know why they shouldn't be looking for spots somewhere else."

According to town staff, the heavy vehicle parking permit program was initiated in response to a request from a resident who required a place to park their transport truck overnight regularly – often between one and three times per week but sometimes less than that. The permit program currently allows up to two heavy vehicles to park at the PRC

depending on parking-lot capacity on an as-needed basis.

While Strathdee and other members of council expressed safety concerns over large trucks being parked in closed vicinity to outdoor play equipment at the PRC and children playing, councillors Fern Pridham and Marg Luna felt it is the town's responsibility to provide parking for heavy vehicles and suggested an alternative location.

"If some business in town with a larger parking lot had available spaces they don't mind having outside vehicles park in, I guess it could be an option, but without that, I feel that would limit people who make a living with their heavy trucks," Pridham said. "They have to park somewhere within our town. That's their business. That's what they do for a living. So, I feel we need to accommodate them unless there's an alternative."

According to town staff, the only other viable municipal property that could accommodate up to two heavy vehicles at one time is at the back of the municipal operations centre at 408 James St. S alongside the stormwater management pond. Director of public works Jed Kelly told councillors there is enough room to park two transport trucks with trailers in that area.

Besides Pridham and Luna, however, the majority of council seemed to side with Strathdee in that it isn't the town's responsibility to provide parking for heavy vehicles. As the current heavy vehicle parking permit program expires on Oct. 31, council ultimately voted to end the program as of Nov. 14. To give the only permit holder time to find new parking, council will allow him to park his truck behind the MOC from Nov. 1-15.

The town may also continue to offer temporary or infrequent parking to heavy vehicles behind the MOC.

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Elvis is in the building

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

On Nov. 2, St. Marys United Church will be rocking as Roy LeBlanc and the Royal Tribute Band will take the stage with their "I'll Remember You" Elvis Gospel Memories & Other Great Hits concert.

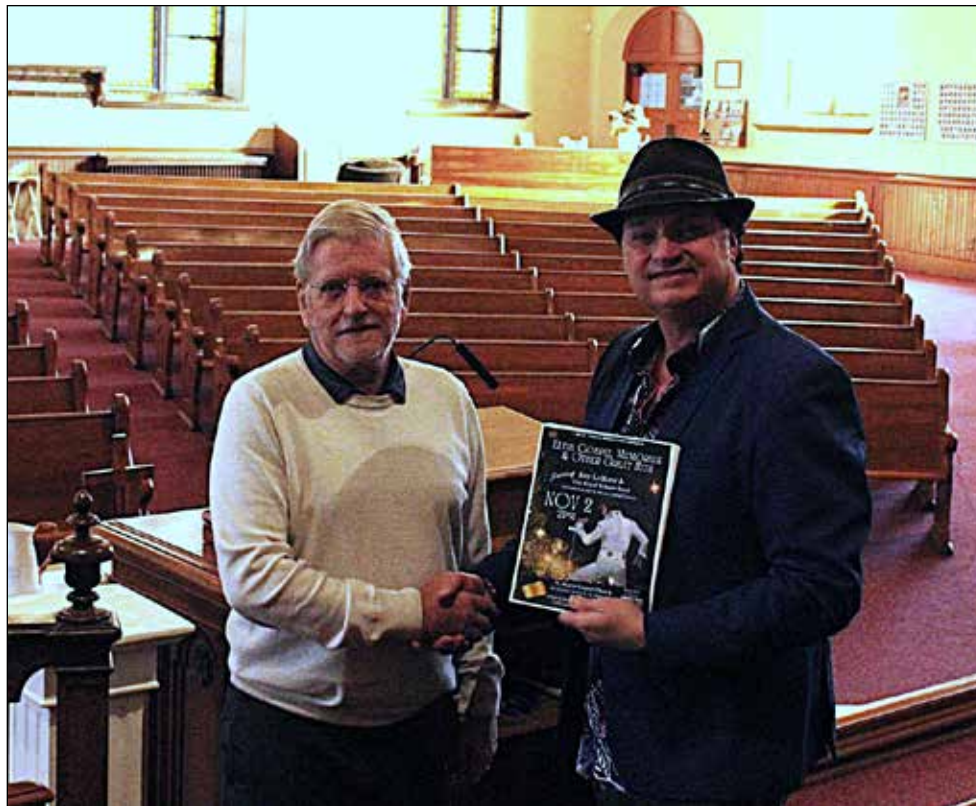
The show will run for two hours, starting at 2 p.m., and will include a 20-minute intermission with bottled water and ice-cream bars for sale.

The money raised from this musical event will go towards programs like the Nourish Market and community dinners.

LeBlanc, who is originally from London, has been paying tribute to Elvis Presley since 1999. He attended the Collingwood Elvis competition, which is the largest event of its kind outside of Memphis. After winning that competition, he went on to compete in Las Vegas and became the first Canadian to win "World's Finest Elvis" at the Elvis Extravaganza.

With this win, his career just snowballed, allowing him to play in bigger venues and shows as well as taking him as far away as Australia.

For 17 years he hosted the Collingwood Elvis Festival which allowed him



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Organizer Bruce Andrews and musician Roy LeBlanc share the poster for the upcoming "I'll Remember You" Elvis Gospel Memories & Other Great Hits concert at the St. Marys United Church on Nov. 2.

to meet many of Elvis's co-stars, as well as his wife, Priscilla Presley, and

stepbrother Billy Stanley.

LeBlanc has been playing with the

same band for approximately 20 years in a variety of locations and venues. He has also proven his musical talent by honouring the late Roy Orbison, Johnny Cash and Conway Twitty in various productions.

As a child, he always loved all kinds of music, including Elvis hits like "Hound Dog." When asked how he got into being Elvis, LeBlanc shared that he kind of fell into it. He was singing karaoke and was asked to sing at a wedding, which was his first gig. After that, there was no looking back.

The last time he played in St. Marys was before the pandemic, but he is looking forward to playing here again.

"Crowds have always been great in St. Marys and very supportive," LeBlanc said.

The concert will consist of some of the King's gospel music as well as some of his rock n' roll hits.

Project chair Bruce Andrews, who started planning the show in January, is hoping the church sells 400 tickets, and tickets are indeed going fast. Along with the performance, there will also be a silent auction of Elvis memorabilia.

To purchase tickets, call the St. Marys United Church at 519-284-3016. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.ticketscene.ca/events/49351.

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Saturday, Oct. 19

Harvest Soup Saturday
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Saturday, Oct. 26

Costume photos by donation
to the Food Bank
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Final market at Milt Dunnell Field

Saturday, Nov. 2

First indoor market at
Pyramid Recreation Centre

Milt Dunnell Field
8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Saturdays



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On October 21, 2024, St. Marys' Service Ontario office
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT GRANTHAVEN.COM

Another season of Spooktacular St. Marys

JULIA PAUL

Independent Reporter

Trick-or-treating, a Howl-o-Ween Pet Costume Parade, cemetery ghost walks and more!

On Saturday Oct. 26, the Town of St. Marys is hosting the second-annual Spooktacular St. Marys.

With a jam-packed schedule, the day starts off with the last Farmers Market of the season, which will be open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Photo opportunities are available at the Farmers Market for pets and their owners from 8:30-10:30 a.m. with a donation of a non-perishable food item to the St. Marys Food Bank.

Anyone wearing a costume can trick-or-treat downtown between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. If there is a decal in the store window, there is candy inside.

The Howl-o-Ween costume contest and parade will be at 10:30 a.m. The

first 50 pets to join will receive a treat bag for participating. There are even pet awards for amazing costumes! This event is sponsored by Pet Valu and Christine Peak Realty.

Cemetery tours are available with pre-registration. If interested in a cemetery tour, register before the date with the St. Marys Museum.

The day will finish with a wonderful preview by the St. Marys Community Players of their upcoming play, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

"It's going to be lots of fun," said Morgan Easton, events coordinator with the Town of St. Marys. "You can expect a whole variety of things as we want to celebrate Halloween and St Marys and all sorts of different things all ages and even pets too!"

More details are available on discoverstmarys.ca. Get ready for a fang-tastic time!



(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF ST. MARYS)

One of the winners of last year's Howl-o-Ween Pet Costume Contest.

Sunset Diner pays it forward, one gift card at a time

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

The Sunset Diner is making sure everyone, including those struggling financially, can come in and have a bite to eat.

The Town of St. Marys gave the diner a "Stonetown Shoutout" on Facebook on Oct. 11 for their pay-it-forward Gift Cards from the Heart program.

Hilary Hughes, general manager of the Sunset Diner, said the Gift Cards from the Heart program began after

seeing other restaurants establish pay-it-forward programs for meals. Instead of purchasing meals for someone else in need, however, customers can buy gift cards at the Sunset Diner who then gives them to Brittany Petrie, community outreach worker for the Town of St. Marys. Petrie then distributes the gift cards to residents in St. Marys who are in financial need.

"We tried to do it a little bit more discreet so they can come in and use a gift card and feel like a human being," Hughes said.

As of Oct. 11, Sunset Diner has given at least \$1,000 in gift cards to Petrie as part of the Gift Cards from the Heart program. Hughes said the last time she dropped of gift cards, it was around \$600 worth.

"I honestly don't even know who would be coming in with these gift cards because I don't know who was given them, and everybody buys gift cards, right?" she said. "That was the whole point of it. We wanted it to be like that. We didn't want it to be like everyone knows you're getting this free meal

kind of thing."

The customers can purchase gift cards any time of the year through the Gift Cards from the Heart program. The Sunset Diner began the program around Christmas 2023 so everyone could feel included and enjoy a comforting Christmas dinner.

"We had such a good response and it was good for the community, so we kept doing it," Hughes said. "It feels really, really good that we're giving back, especially when we know that people need it."

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Fine dining and elegance at this year's Hunter's and Gatherer's Gala



(PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE)

Art and nature combine into one in this ethically and sustainably sourced dish.

JULIA PAUL

Independent Reporter

The Local Community Food Centre in Stratford will host its annual Hunter's Banquet this year on Nov. 16, but this year is a little different. What was once called the Hunter's Banquet is now called the Hunter's and Gatherer's Gala.

This change in title comes from the desire to be inclusive of both carnivorous and vegan diets.

"This year we re-branded it as a Hunter's and Gatherer's Gala because I think for some people, an all-meat or meat-heavy (meal) isn't what they necessarily want," said Miriam Mann, chair of the Hunters and Gatherer's Gala committee.

"We have so many locally sourced vegetables and farmland and farm produce around here, plus the local has its own garden now that grows its own produce and things as well."

Starting at 5:30 p.m., up to 140 guests will enjoy an upscale, fine-dining experience with beautiful cutlery, custom centrepieces and a bottle of red and white wine on each table.

"In the early days of The Local, the director, Steve Stacey, conceived the idea of the Hunter's Banquet," said Mann. "He thought about it for two reasons. The first was that we cannot serve wild-caught game in restaurants in Ontario, but you can for fundraisers. So, its an opportunity to use wild-caught game

An amuse bouche to delight the senses.

and this is an area where there's a lot of hunters, a lot of hunters who hunt very sustainability and ethically. (Secondly,) it also harkens to the traditional roots of the people who lived here."

Chef Nick Benninger from The Bruce Hotel has curated the four-course meal, a broad menu of locally sourced and foraged ingredients. From root vegetables to a mushroom course, guests can expect to have their taste buds delighted.

"The other things that are new are we have some new auction items, which are silent and live auction," said Mann. "We have a Chilina Kennedy concert, an evening concert on Dec 28, to be auctioned off to 20 people who are interested in attending. ... The Bruce is sponsoring a

chef's dinner and night stay at The Cottage at The Bruce with a Bruce breakfast for six people.

"There is a holiday wine-and-cheese tasting, packages that include theatre tickets, dinner experiences in Stratford, a St. Marys experience which will include dinner at TuttCo as well as St. Marys golfing."

Get your tickets before they run out. Tickets will be available until Nov. 14 or until they are sold out.

Tickets are \$150 each. A table of six is \$135 per ticket and a table of eight is \$130 per ticket.

Tickets can be purchased online through Destination Stratford or directly on the Eventbrite website.

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Perth County courthouse connecting-link addition nearing completion

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

After more than a year of demolition, excavation and construction, the Perth County courthouse connecting-link addition is nearing completion with county staff expected to move into the new county headquarters in November.

Perth County executive director of public works John McClelland presented an update on the project to county councillors at their Oct. 3 regular meeting. Demolition and construction at 5 Huron St., located on the Perth County Courthouse campus, began in July 2023 and is expected to wrap up in October 2024. The project, which was awarded to Dakon Construction Ltd. at a cost of just over \$5 million, included a \$200,000 contingency allowance to cover any unexpected costs.

Since then, county council has approved two increases to that contingency allowance – \$150,000 in April to address a number of unforeseen costs and another \$75,000 in August after the contractor found an old oil tank at the back of the building county staff believe was part of the original heating system. The total budget for the project is now over \$5.5 million.

“Let it be noted that I’m not requesting any other contingency increases this week,” McClelland smiled. “The report is positive; we are making significant progress. To date, construction costs incurred total approximately \$3.6 million.

“At the last project update, I noted the discovery of an old oil tank. At that point in time, just the work to be done there, there was certainly concern for delays to the project completion because of that. I’m happy to report that we’ve remediated the area. Everything’s been taken care of and we are just awaiting TSSA (Technical Standards and Safety Authority) final approval on that, which I hope to be forthcoming.”

McClelland said he expects the costs



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

The connecting-link addition between the Perth County courthouse and the former county land-registry office at 5 Huron St. is nearing completion with an expected staff move-in date in November.

associated with remediating the area where the oil tank was discovered to be approximately \$100,000. After the oil tank work was completed, the contractor was able to complete some key work to help keep the project on track.

The building’s hydro upgrade was completed by Festival Hydro in the first week of September which then allowed the elevator subcontractor to begin installation work. The majority of the elevator installation is now complete and the county is now waiting for masons to finish block work before installing the elevator cab and doors.

As of Sept. 9, the parking lot has been graded and paved, and the sidewalks and curbs are poured. The majority of the concrete walkway and retaining wall around the side and back of the building has now been poured and backfilling and grading in that area will commence shortly.

Inside the connecting-link addition, which connects the Perth County

courthouse and the building that once housed the Perth County land-registry and Stratford’s Service Ontario offices, McClelland said the lower level is painted and most of the light fixtures have been installed. Flooring was expected to begin at the end of September.

On the main level, drywalling, paint-

ing and ceiling structural work has been completed. Lighting and some mechanical work are ongoing in the finished ceiling, and glass walls and doors are expected to be installed in the next two weeks.

“We are getting down to the finishing stages of this project and it’s very pleasing to see almost every day you’re seeing change to the project as far as coming to completion,” McClelland said. “You can now get a sense of the space that we’re going to be working in and I was able to tour our management team through that last week. ... The contractor was on schedule to complete in the month of November. We anticipate occupancy in the month of November, however when that is will be determined by a few things including the commissioning of the elevator by TSSA and also commissioning of the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system within the building.”

“John, you’ve done a great job,” Perth County Warden Rhonda Ehgoetz said. “We really appreciate all the effort you’ve put into this and it’s really great to see the stages as we’re going through here and the photos and where it’s going. It is exciting as we get to the end and I’m sure you’ll be glad when we’re at the end.”

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First St. Marys Sparks and Embers kick off new season

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The end of September marked the beginning of a new season for the St. Marys First (and only) Sparks and Embers group.

Group leader Stephanie “Sparkle” Metcalfe started the St. Marys Sparks and Embers chapter of Girl Guides Canada six years ago with the help of her mother and mother-in-law. What began as a handful of members has now grown to nearly 30 girls between the ages of six and eight.

“In 2018, we launched the First St. Marys Sparks and Embers unit when my oldest daughter was five,” Metcalfe said. “She’s now a third-year Guide and a junior leader for our unit. My middle daughter is a first-year Guide and also a junior leader and my youngest is a first-year Ember.”

“During our first year, we had three leaders and 12 Sparks and Embers in the unit. Seven years later, we’ve grown to six leaders, two junior leaders, and 29 Sparks and Embers.”

Since the First St. Marys Sparks and Embers is a multi-branch unit, the girls can be members for a total of four years. As they progress through the program, the girls become more involved in meeting planning and, over the years, the girls have helped evolve the program to involve all their interests and passions.

“Over the years, we have made many



(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FIRST ST. MARYS SPARKS AND EMBERS)

The First St. Marys Sparks and Embers unit jumped into its sixth year at the end of September.

connections in our community,” Metcalfe said. “We have visited the St. Marys Fire Hall, the library, local food bank, St. Marys Museum, St. Marys Bowling Alley, Pyramid Recreation Centre and Camp Bimini.”

This year, the group welcomed three new leaders to the unit. The group’s leaders have organized a variety of fun and empowering activities for the girls including the traditional enrollment ceremony, a visit from a female military veteran in the lead-up to Remem-

brance Day, Christmas card delivery and carolling for residents of Kingsway Lodge as part of Giving Tuesday, and a collective food drive in support of the local food bank.

The St. Marys Sparks and Embers are also excited to be collaborating with local organizations such as the St. Marys Lincolns and the St. Marys Scouts this season.

“Through the Sparks/Embers program, the girls engage in a wide variety of activities that help them grow

and learn,” Metcalfe said. “Our weekly meetings are filled with crafting, singing, games and stories. Beyond these fun activities, the girls also develop important life skills. They learn money management by selling Girl Guide Cookies and explore how to care for their community, country and the world. We also encourage them to discover their personal beliefs and passions.

“A key focus throughout the Guiding season is teaching camping and outdoor skills, preparing them for our annual camping trip to Camp Bimini in May. In addition, we emphasize kindness, responsibility, teamwork, leadership, baking and artistic skills.”

While the Guiding season has already begun and the St. Marys Sparks and Embers group is full, Metcalfe said parents and families of interested girls are welcome to reach out to her at stephaniemetcalfe@gmail.com to see if they can be accommodated this season.

“Our unit is a place where girls can express their individuality. We acknowledge each girl’s needs to create an inclusive and fun atmosphere,” Metcalfe said. “They meet new friends within local communities and create lifelong friendships. Everyone is awarded with badges and crests throughout the year for their hard work.

“We would love to thank our community for all their continued support over the years!”



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Huron Perth Public Health and partners offer advice on staying healthy during respiratory illness season

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It's official. Cold and flu season is here and viruses like COVID, influenza, RSV, pertussis and many other respiratory illnesses are going around.

In a letter distributed to local media outlets recently, Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) along with local family health teams and local hospital emergency rooms offered some advice and guidance on staying safe and healthy this time of year.

"Always be vigilant with respiratory etiquette," said HPPH director of health protection Christina Taylor when asked what lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic can be applied to cold and flu season. "Practice hand hygiene and cough and sneeze into your elbow; stay home when you're sick; and stay up to date on vaccines that you are eligible for like RSV (respiratory syncytial virus), influenza and COVID-19.

"These practices are well known to be effective at preventing the spread of illness."

Both influenza and COVID-19 vaccines for people aged six months and older are currently available for high-risk priority groups through pharmacies and health-care providers. They will become available to the general public starting Oct. 28.

Currently, RSV vaccines are publicly funded for people aged 60 and over in the specified high-risk priority populations such as in long-term care and retirement homes. An RSV vaccine



Huron Perth
Public Health

called Beyfortus will soon be available to newborns prior to discharge from the hospital. For those who did not receive the vaccine in the hospital, babies born in 2024 can receive this immunization from a health-care provider. RSV vaccines are also available for certain pregnant people prior to delivery.

To prevent pneumococcal infection and other common illnesses, Taylor recommends staying on top of routine immunizations which help to protect against pneumococcal bacteria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and meningococcal.

When it comes to preventing the spread of illness, other practices made common during the COVID-19 pandemic can also be helpful.

"Consider wearing a mask in crowded indoor settings," Taylor said. "Certain settings may have masking policies, such as hospitals or long-term care homes. HPPH recommends wearing a mask when in public for 10 days after onset of symptoms of respiratory illness. Physical distancing is another layer of protection against the spread of illness."

She added employers should encour-

age their employees to stay home when sick and not return until symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours, or 48 hours if illness symptoms included nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea.

Following Canada's Food Guide en-

sure a variety of foods are eaten each day to meet nutritional needs and contribute to overall health. Visit www.canada.ca/foodguide for more information. Supplements can also play a role in meeting nutritional needs, but a health-care provider should be consulted about which supplements may assist in meeting each person's specific needs.

"Being physically active and getting an adequate amount of sleep are also key elements to staying healthy," Taylor added.

For more information on how to stay healthy and safe during cold and flu season, visit www.hpph.ca/illness.



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St. Marys Fire Department holds open house



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

St. Marys Fire Department held an open house on Saturday, Oct. 12 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Above left, Dale Robinson, a retired St. Marys firefighter of 32 years, enjoyed showing his little granddaughter Ada around the fire hall. Above right, Vera Minten was learning how to run a fire extinguisher from Neil Lipert at the Firemen Open House during Fire Prevention week. It was well attended with many displays in the hall and lots of information given out on fire safety and police services.



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If you have made it this far you should think about joining our Finance Team. You will be front and center when it comes to Property tax billing, collection, financial reporting and analysis, and counter customer service. If your creativity takes you beyond numbers, you will have a free hand delivering communications and social media. Further details are available on the website www.perthsouth.ca/employment or by emailing ftranquilli@perthsouth.ca

Interested candidates are invited to submit a detailed resume expressing their interest to the undersigned clearly marked as "Finance/Tax Clerk" by Friday, November 8, 2024.

We thank all candidates for their interest, however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

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Leaders hit milestones as Lincs stay unbeaten

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

Although the team is still working on consistently executing their gameplan at a high level, the St. Marys Lincolns have gotten nothing but good results to start this season, most recently with wins in back-to-back games against Sarnia and Elmira.

The Lincolns began their third consecutive slate of two games in as many days on Oct. 10 with a visit to the Legionnaires in Sarnia, a game the Lincs won by a final score of 4-1. After starting the game shorthanded due to a warm-up-violation penalty and killing off the Sarnia man advantage, St. Marys opened the scoring just 29 seconds into five-on-five play when Julian Stubgen fired a long-range shot that snuck by Legionnaires netminder Logan Phillips for Stubgen's first of the season. Jacob McLellan and Ryder Livermore assisted on Stubgen's goal.

The Lincs' incredible shutout streak ended at the 2:22 mark of the second period when Carter Fogarty netted his fourth of the season. The goal snapped a stretch of 223 minutes and 38 seconds of consecutive gameplay during which the Lincolns didn't allow a goal. According to the GOJHL record book, the almost four full games worth of time set an all-time Lincs' record for the longest stretch of time without being scored on.

Just 70 seconds later, however, Blake Elzinga responded with his third of the year to restore the Lincolns' one-goal lead.

A parade to the penalty box by the Legionnaires then allowed St. Marys to score a pair of powerplay goals, the first of which came off the stick of Noah VandenBrink, extending the Lincs' lead to two and giving VandenBrink his 50th career GOJHL goal.

One minute and 52 seconds later, McLellan capped off a three-point night by finishing off a dizzying passing play by the Lincolns' powerplay to make it 4-1 for St. Marys. Nico Armellin secured the win and made 21 saves in net.

Head coach Jeff Bradley acknowledged the game didn't meet the team's high standards for how they want to execute their gameplan, but they still found a way to get what they went to the Pat Stapleton Arena for.

"To be honest, I didn't think it was



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Linemates and longtime best friends Jaden Lee and Luca Spagnolo both hit a major milestone in their careers in the St. Marys Lincolns' 6-3 win over the Elmira Sugar Kings on Oct. 11, with both forwards recording their 100th GOJHL point. The milestone point for both was a goal and came just two minutes and 36 seconds apart. Spagnolo, who entered the game on Oct. 11 with 99 career points, scored to put the Lincs up 2-1 early in the first period against Elmira and hit 100 career points. Meanwhile, Lee, who came into the game at 97 points, earned an assist on Spagnolo's goal and an Owen Voortman goal just 68 seconds later, before scoring a goal of his own to hit the century mark.

our best performance, but we still found a way to get the two points and, in the end, that's what matters," Bradley told the Independent. "Defensively, we played fine. Our special teams were good. I just think there were times we weren't as sharp as we could have been, but thankfully, we were sharp enough to get the win."

Bradley did take in one major positive from the game; the highly driven and competitive trio of Chase McDougall, Dylan Searles and Tanner Ducharme.

"I thought the line of Chase, Dylan and Tanner was really good. Those guys just worked incredibly hard all game. Sometimes, it can be tough for guys to get up for a game like that. It's a Thursday night bus trip with exams and schoolwork going on at the same time, but that line treated it like any other game. They played with urgency and their work ethic was fantastic."

Ducharme in particular was a standout for the Lincolns as, when Stubgen and Ty Moffatt were ejected for fighting, Ducharme reverted back to playing on the blueline.

"Tanner was really good back there.

He did a really good job filling a hole when we needed him to. He had only been a forward for a relatively short amount of time before coming to us, so we knew Tanner had that in the bag and we knew he was a good defenceman for much of his triple-A career. It's great having that type of versatility and support for our team."

Wild start leads Lincs to ninth straight win

The Lincolns' clash against the Elmira Sugar Kings on Oct. 11 was one that everyone needed to see from the very first moment, with the first goal coming just 100 seconds into the first period, and it only got nuttier from there.

Ryan Cornfield's icebreaker at the 1:40 mark of the first, a one-time tap-in set up by VandenBrink, extended the Kitchener, Ont. native's point streak to five games. Cornfield also has goals in three of his last four games.

In his first game since being returned to the Sugar Kings from the OHL's London Knights, Brendan Gerber wasted little time in picking up right where he left off in his 27-goal rookie season last year, tying the game just under two

minutes after the Lincs went up 1-0.

Then, the "Perfect Complement" line got on the ice for the Lincolns. In a span of two minutes and 36 seconds, Luca Spagnolo, Jaden Lee and Owen Voortman completely upended the whole game and tilted the contest firmly in the Lincs' favour.

After Gerber went to the box for interference, Spagnolo found a loose puck in front of the net and buried his seventh goal of the season and 100th career GOJHL point. A mere 68 seconds later, it was Voortman's turn to find the back of the net, and he scored on a breakaway facilitated through a strong defensive play by Lee.

With a pair of assists already, Lee buried a backdoor one-timer on another St. Marys powerplay, chasing goaltender Ethan Hartwick from the net and capping off a crazy stretch of just over two-and-a-half minutes in which the Lincolns scored three times. However, it also propelled Lee to join his lifelong best friend, Spagnolo, in hitting 100 points in his GOJHL career, having entered the game sitting at 97.

The Lincolns didn't get out of the first period with their three-goal lead intact, with Luke Della Croce banging home a rebound on an Elmira powerplay with 36 seconds left in the opening frame. Della Croce's tally ended an impressive shorthanded streak for the Lincolns, who had killed off 25 consecutive penalties successfully before the goal.

It took just 21 ticks off the clock in the second period for that three-goal deficit to be restored, however, with Chase MacQueen-Spence potting yet another powerplay goal for the Lincolns. While Spagnolo, Lee and Voortman were obvious stars of the game, coach Bradley made mention of MacQueen-Spence and VandenBrink for their strong attention to detail all over the ice.

"Chase and Noah were outstanding," said Bradley. "They had amazing games, not just offensively but just in their all-around play and the details in their games. They were the ultimate team-first guys, doing anything and everything to push the team forward. Those are two guys that looked at that game and badly wanted to win. They were incredible on-ice leaders and when you're a young player, seeing what they did, it's easy to follow."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 17

Leaders hit milestones as Lincs stay unbeaten

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

The Lincolns went three-for-seven with the powerplay and, heading into their game in Stratford on Oct. 16, had at least one powerplay goal in every game so far this season. Bradley credited assistant coach Brandon Greenside for his ability to connect with the team's powerplay units and get them consistently firing on all cylinders.

"Brandon has done an amazing job with the powerplay and it's good to see those numbers continue to grow. Brandon takes a very similar approach to the way our Mike Herman did the penalty kill last year. He has a lot of meetings, sends out a lot of video and makes sure the guys are prepared. Brandon was a pro hockey player, so when he's looking at the video and going over the X's and O's, he's able to teach guys different reads of different plays more than I can and that has been a big part of why our powerplay has been doing so well to start the year."

Almost exactly three minutes after MacQueen-Spen- ce's goal, Spagnolo potted his second of the night. Luke Schofield got the lone goal of the third period to bring the Sugar Kings within three, but Colby Booth- Housego held the fort with 38 saves on the night to earn the win in goal.

According to Bradley, the game was important to the team given the quality of their opponent and Elmira being one of their newest Western Conference foes.

"This was a big test for us. We've got several big tests over the span of two weeks and the first of those was Elmira. We've got two games against Stratford next on our schedule and then we've got Kitchen- er-Waterloo the following week. Those are all games we are especially looking forward to because we get to see where we stack up against some of the high-end teams who moved into our conference and who we

didn't see much of last year."

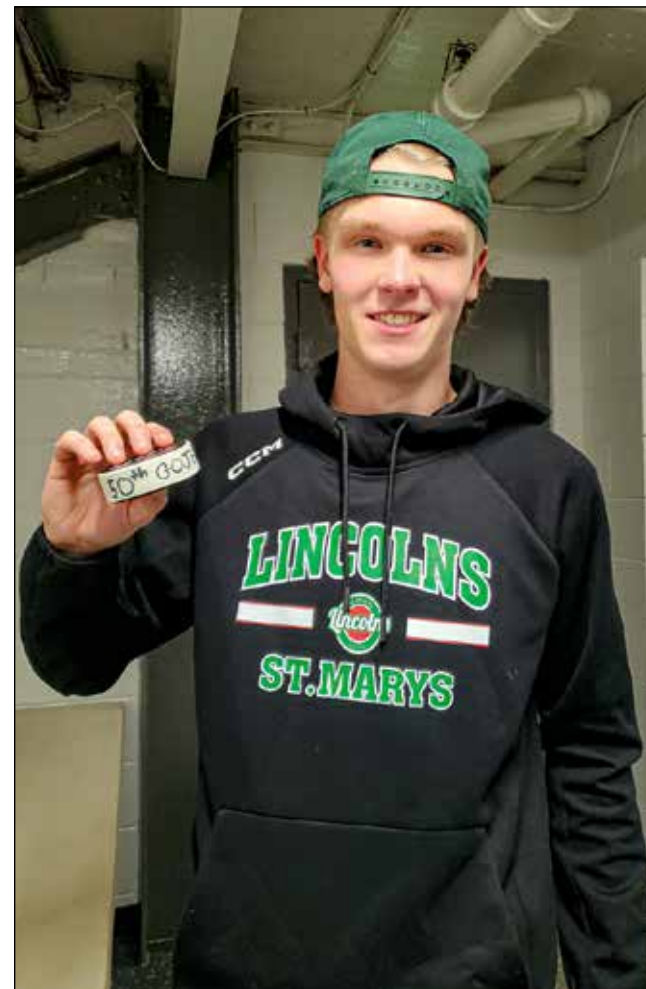
For the third straight week, regardless of the final score, the Lincolns played a more complete game against the stronger of their two opponents in their back-to-back, continuing a trend the bench boss feels illustrates the competitive character of his group.

"I think it just reaffirmed that we have a bunch of gamers on our team. We have guys who have played in some big moments and some big games for us, and when it's their time to make an impact and when they need to step up, they certainly can do it. Elmira is a very good team and offensive team. Obviously, they wanted to win this game and they did everything they could to do that. Seeing our guys be able to handle what Elmira threw at us and get the win while playing a really good game is very enjoyable to watch.

"Our guys take great pride in playing the right way," Bradley continued. "They understand that, right now, we have a target on our backs being undefeated. Because of that, we're going to get everybody's best every single night. When we've played these really good teams, we've been prepared for their best and we've handled it well, which is really good to see."

The Lincolns' blemish-free nine-win start to the season also makes history for the franchise as the team's previous documented record for the longest winning streak to start a season was four games. Not only are the Lincolns the only remaining undefeated team in the GOJHL, but they also are the only team to have still allowed single-digit goals against, with just nine goals allowed in as many games. Meanwhile, St. Marys has scored the second-most goals in the league as of the Independent's press time.

The Lincs next defend their unbeaten record in a home-and-home series against their much-anticipated new conference rival, the Stratford Warriors, on Oct. 16 and Oct. 18.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)


Forward Noah VandenBrink also hit a major career milestone of his own, this one during the Lincolns' 4-1 win over the Sarnia Legionnaires on Oct. 10. VandenBrink scored a powerplay marker to hit 50 career goals in the GOJHL.



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U19 Snipers earn near-flawless shutout against Oshawa

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The U19A St. Marys Snipers were excellent on Oct. 12 and recorded a 3-0 shutout win over Oshawa as a result.

Head coach Samantha Henderson told the Independent her team's mental consistency was the major theme of the game.

"We had a really good game," said Henderson. "We played as a team today and they fought until the end. Compared to last weekend, this was a much better game for us. We played well last weekend, but our composure was a bit stop-and-start. We would start strong and then move away from the focus we needed to have, but today, they kept their focus the entire way through and we really thought about everything we needed to do to win."

Henderson added the way her team handled moments of heightened pressure highlighted their ability to think through the game as sharply as they did.

"We talked about knowing when you feel like you're getting overwhelmed or you feel there is a lot going on and just



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Torie Czajkowski looks for a shot during the U19A St. Marys Snipers game on Oct. 12. Czajkowski scored a pair of goals, including the game-winner, in the Snipers' 3-0 win over Oshawa.

figuring out a way to get that second to compose yourself and get back into the

zone. We discussed that as a team at our practice and they put that into our game

(against Oshawa)."

The game's first goal and eventual game-winner came with four minutes and 42 seconds left in the first period when Torie Czajkowski put the Snipers ahead 1-0. Payton Blight picked up an assist on the goal. Before the period was done, Avery Jennings also found the back of the net.

Czajkowski extended St. Marys' lead to three goals when she scored less than 90 seconds into the second frame.

The team's defensive play was especially impressive, with seemingly every segment of offensive-zone time for Oshawa ending with very little in the way of high-danger scoring chances.

"Our defence is really strong," Henderson noted. "Everyone keeps their stick strong and the way they move with the ring is really impressive. They could have three attacking players on them and they are getting out with the ring every time. These girls have worked really hard on their defensive positions and pushing out to make sure they're not giving up too much, and they did a great job of that in this game."

U16 Snipers take high-scoring win over St. Thomas

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The U16B St. Marys Snipers earned a high-octane 7-0 win over the St. Thomas Thunder on Oct. 12.

Though the team wasn't structurally perfect at every moment, head coach Kelly Frayne was very happy with her squad's effort.

"Overall, it was a good game for us," Frayne told the Independent. "We were a little scrambling at times, but it's only the second game of the season and we're still learning a new system. So, considering that, winning the way they did was a great result for us."

Aryn Sheldon got the scoring started less than 90 seconds into the game with her first of four goals in the contest. Later in the first period, Sheldon's second goal came just 26 seconds after Marci Linton found the back of the net. Emerson Borg assisted on both goals

and Carlie Muir also picked up a helper on Linton's goal.

Linton added another goal while Brooke Hahn also scored in the second frame, along with two more tallies by Sheldon en route to a 7-0 final. Sheldon also earned two assists while single assists were recorded by Evelyn Borg and Sydney McLeod.

Frayne noted the team's high-flying movement and ring-stealing tenacity as keys to their victory.

"They are a great skating team. They move really well on the ice and I think that skating ability is going to help them, especially once we get fully accustomed to our new system. They cycle well and they move the ring well.

"Their defensive play is really strong because they are a very aggressive team," continued Frayne. "They are not afraid to jump up the play and take the ring away. They never back down when they are defending, which I love."



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Aryn Sheldon launches the ring on net during the U16B St. Marys Snipers' 7-0 win over St. Thomas on Oct. 11. Sheldon scored four of the Snipers' goals in the win.

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Ryker Harrison executes a wrap-around during the Finnbilt Construction U9 MD Boys St. Marys Rock game last Saturday.



Angus Palmer sends a wrist shot on target during last Saturday's U9 LL Boys Blue St. Marys Rock game.



Nicholas Ehgoetz fires a shot on net during the Stonetown Electric U9 LL Boys Red St. Marys Rock game last Saturday.



Nate Campbell launches the puck up the ice during last Saturday's U9 LL Boys White St. Marys Rock game.



Violet Holliday defends an incoming rush during the U13 B Girls St. Marys Rock game last Saturday.



Mary McCutcheon brings the ring into the slot during last Saturday's U14 Habermehl St. Marys Snipers game.

(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTOS)

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DCVI Jr. Girls basketball team goes unbeaten in Kitchener tournament

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The St. Marys DCVI Junior Girls basketball team won all three of their games at a tournament hosted Sept. 27-28 at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate in Kitchener.

The Salukis began their tournament on Sept. 27 with a nail-biting 25-21 St. Marys win against Woodland Christian School, which was a rematch of last year's championship game. Charlotte Richardson, Regan Jones and Alanna Savile led the charge offensively, while Lily Hollestelle-Black chipped in some key points and turned in some strong defensive work.

Head coach Tim O'Connor said he was especially happy with the way the team played defensively throughout the tournament.

"Their defensive play really stood out to me," O'Connor told the Independent. "I loved the way the girls got after loose basketballs. They were willing to get a little more physical in the paint. It was a great effort all around."

The Salukis then picked up a 32-18 victory over Sacred Heart from Walkerton in their first of two games on Sept. 28. O'Connor highlighted the improved defensive play out of Maeve Wheeler, Silver Bretton and Lena Thompson in both games. Additionally, Melody Weber, Charlotte Johnson and Reagan Stacey contributed with strong rebounding with Stacey also coming



up with two big free throws in the fourth quarter.

That was followed by a 37-20 win against Owen Sound's St. Mary's Catholic High School. Holly Black was the star of the game with an impressive coast-to-coast layup and her taking a courageous defensive charge to seal the deal in the final minute.

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Solutions on page 31

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Thorndale News

A section within the
St. Marys Independent

Thorndale Community Park accessibility enhancement project

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

Last fall, the Municipality of Thames Centre received a grant of \$85,300 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the Thorndale Community Accessibility Enhancement Project.

This grant was used to level, widen and pave the 1.5-kilometre walkway system, making the park more accessible for everyone.

This project was initiated by Thorndale area resident, Allan Woods, a couple of years ago, first with a letter to Thames Centre council, and then with additional communication to set it in motion.

Rob Flack, MPP for Elgin-Middle-

sex-London, said the Ontario Trillium Foundation is an amazing tool to help communities and this was a good investment for the Thorndale Community Park.

“This project not only improves access to vital amenities like the playground, splash pad and sports fields,” Flack said, “but it also fosters a more connected and active community. By supporting local events such as the Thorndale Fall Fair and various fundraisers, we are contributing to the overall economic wellbeing of organizations like the Thorndale Agriculture Society, Lions Club and Optimist Club.

“Together, we are building a more inclusive environment that benefits everyone.”



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

The official ribbon cutting of the Thorndale Community Park Accessibility Enhancement Project Oct. 7. Pictured from left to right are Thames Centre director of community services and facilities Steve McDonald, Thames Centre CAO David Barrick, Mayor Sharron McMillan, Elgin-Middlesex-London MPP Rob Flack, deputy mayor Michelle Smibert and Thames Centre Coun. Tom Heeman.

Thames Centre enhancing services in Thorndale

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

At the Oct. 7 Municipality of Thames Centre council meeting held at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre, Mayor Sharron McMillan announced, starting on Oct. 8, a full-time customer service staff member will be available weekly on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to assist area residents with a wide range of municipal services.

The motion to expand the municipality's customer service to Thorndale was proposed by Coun. Tom Heeman in 2021 and then again in 2022, which were both passed by Thames Centre council.

“Comprehensive services for Thorndale,” said Heeman, “have been for over three years with two successive councils

supporting the motion to bring this to fruition. Thank you to staff for making this a reality with no added cost to residents.”

Jenny Wood, Thames Centre staff member, is the customer-service assistant at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre. In this position, she will assist residents in accessing services more conveniently, including municipal payments, recreational-program bookings, document commissioning, marriage licenses, civil-ceremony bookings, lottery licensing, pickup of well-water test kits, blue box distribution, building and planning application submissions, burn permits and more.

This initiative reflects Thames Centre's continued commitment to improve accessibility and service delivery for the community of Thorndale.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Jenny Wood, Municipality of Thames Centre customer-service staff member is now at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays each week.

Celebrate our small businesses

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

Small Business Week, which is Oct. 20-26 in Ontario and across Canada, is dedicated to celebrating and recognizing the significant contributions small businesses make to the economy and to their local communities.

According to Stats Canada, in Ontario alone, there are approximately 450,000 small businesses. In Thorndale and the local area, there are more than 100 small businesses. They contribute to the growth and vitality of our community as well as create jobs, spark innovation and add diversity to the area's marketplace by offering unique and specialized

goods and services.

Small businesses also help build the community's identity. Many of the businesses in Thorndale have been here for decades and have become icons of our community.

By celebrating Small Business Week, we not only recognize our local businesses' achievements but supporting

them has a domino effect in our community's economic progress and our social wellbeing and vitality.

For the listing of small businesses in the community of Thorndale, check out www.ilovethorndale.ca/businesses/.

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COLUMNS

UKRAINIAN CORNER: Walking the streets of Chernivtsi

TETIANA DIDKOVSKA

Independent Columnist

Traveling through the picturesque regions of Ukraine, we will make our next stop in the capital of Bukovyna, the city of Chernivtsi. Chernivtsi, the pearl of Bukovyna, has always enchanted visitors and drawn them in. Its majestic architectural monuments, luxurious temples, ancient squares, cozy streets and friendly locals will remain etched in your memory long after you immerse yourself in the atmosphere of this incredible city.

Known as "Little Paris" by travellers, Chernivtsi is a city beloved by the people of Bukovyna – a place worth living in.

By the way, the famous Hollywood actress Mila Kunis was born and lived in Chernivtsi until the age of seven. Additionally, Mykhailo Bulgakov, the renowned writer and playwright, author of *The Master and Margarita*, lived and worked in Chernivtsi in 1916. He was a doctor by profession and treated patients at the Bukovyna Hospital.

The first written mention of Chernivtsi in historical documents dates to 1408, making the city 616 years old this year.

There are many fascinating places to explore here. The central square is the heart of Chernivtsi, from which the main arteries of the city radiate. The city hall is the most prominent building in the square. This three-storey structure, topped with a two-tier tower



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Square in Chernivtsi, Ukraine.

reaching a height of 50 meters, was built between 1843 and 1847, and designed by the German architect, Adolf Marin.

The building features a beautiful courtyard that contains a mysterious well. According to legend, the well hides a tunnel leading to Mount Cecino. Today, the city hall continues to serve its original function and houses the mayor's office and the Chernivtsi city council. Every day at noon, a trumpeter dressed in colourful Bukovyna attire ascends the tower to play the melody of the immortal song, *Marichka*, to all four corners of the world. The grand city hall

fits harmoniously into the architectural ensemble of the main square, making the central part of Chernivtsi an exceptionally beautiful place.

Also located on the Central Square is the impressive Art Museum, built in the 19th and 20th centuries in the Viennese Art Nouveau style. The museum showcases works by Bukovyna artists with some pieces dating back 200 years.

Walking through the Central Square, you will find yourself on the main pedestrian street of Bukovyna – Olga Kobylanska Street. This colourful thoroughfare is the vibrant heart of

Chernivtsi, filled with shops, cozy cafes, restaurants and souvenir stores. Various eras converge here, with each building offering a unique and incredible history.

Locals are eager to share stories of this street, often mixed with legends. Once known as Panska Street, it was prestigious to live there and only noble families resided on it. It's said that Panska (now Kobylanska) Street was swept with bouquets of roses and walking in dirty shoes was forbidden. While the city slept, janitors would scrub the cobblestones with soap.

Among Chernivtsi's many attractions, the architectural ensemble of the former Residence of the Orthodox Metropolitans of Bukovina and Dalmatia holds a special place. This complex, now included in UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage list, was built between 1864 and 1882 on the site of the old bishop's house. Today, it serves as the central buildings of Chernivtsi National University, named after Yuriy Fedkovych.

Finally, Chernivtsi is also known as "Little Vienna" – a city of people and books. Once you visit, you will fall in love with this city. With so many sights, parks, squares, historical buildings and museums, it's up to you to decide what you want to explore. Chernivtsi is an extraordinarily beautiful and fascinating city, one that is definitely worth a visit.

To be continued.

Straight from the Shelves

LAURA MCASH

St. Marys Public Library

October 20 to 26 is Ontario Public Library Week! In addition to the ongoing reading challenges over on Beanstack, we've got multiple special events going on all week long:

- Check-out at the front desk to play PLINKO: prizes include buttons, entry into a draw for \$50 in St. Marys Money, and Makerspace items (drinkware, tote bags, etc.) – play once a day
- Admire the giant colouring page
- Sign-up for a Library card and be entered into a draw for \$50 in St. Marys Money
- Come to our open house, 12-5 p.m. on Friday the 25
- Enjoy cake and light refreshments
- Celebrate with the Friends of the Library, here with information about their organization and how you can help

- Interact with tech toys at the Tech Petting Zoo
 - Explore the Makerspace
 - Learn about the Library+ collection
- We can't wait to celebrate with you! See you next week!

Up This Week

- Fri., Oct. 18: Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Sat., Oct. 19: Self Defense – Kids* (10 a.m.), Self Defense – Adults* (11:30 a.m.), Dungeons and Dragons (10 a.m.)
 - Mon., Oct. 21: Trivia Night at Gilly's Pubhouse~ (7 p.m.)
 - Tues., Oct. 22: Open 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 - Wed., Oct. 23: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30-10:30 a.m.), Mahjong Intro (1-2 p.m.), Mahjong! (2-4 p.m.)
 - Thurs., Oct. 24: Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- *Registration Required
~Gilly's Pubhouse (17 Water St. S, St. Marys)

Ask the Arborist

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



Dear Arborist,

I have a hollow tree, not sure the species; it is deciduous. It's near my house, there is some bark missing, and the hollow is somewhat rotten. There are also branches overhanging the roof. How do I know if it's safe?

Safety Concerns

Dear Safety Concerns,

Safe is a relative term. Normally I would not declare a tree safe, I would go with "acceptable risk". How much risk is acceptable with having the tree in said location? If the tree fails, does it land on a house? Does it fall where someone is sleeping at night? Does it fall where children play? These are questions to ask.

If the tree is under 60% hollow, and has solid

holding wood on the outer side of the trunk, I would normally say that it is an acceptable risk. However, if the outer holding wood is punky and soft, then the tree should be removed.

Removal is not always necessary, other precautions can be taken. You can reduce the weight of leaders over the house, remove dead or dying limbs, and prune branches back from the house, as well.

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

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EAT AT OUR HOUSE: Recipes to tuck into



LAUREN EEDY

Independent Columnist

Nothing matches the cool, fall weather like comfort food.

Here are a few great ideas for repurposing Thanksgiving leftovers into some of my favourite comforting foods.

Parmesan, mushroom and spinach gnocchi soup

Comforting and hearty soup that can be made vegetarian friendly.

Prep: 2 minutes; Cook: 20 minutes; Total: 30 minutes; Serves: 6; Level: Beginner

1 tbsp olive oil
1 tbsp butter
½ medium onion, chopped
2 sticks celery, chopped finely
2 carrots chopped finely
1 tbsp flour
3 cloves garlic, minced
16 oz cremini mushrooms, sliced or chopped
4 cups chicken or vegetable broth

¼ tsp Italian seasoning
½ tsp paprika
1 pound uncooked potato gnocchi (shelf stable found in dry pasta aisle)

2 cups (packed) baby spinach
1 cup heavy/whipping cream
1 cup freshly grated parmesan cheese

Salt and pepper to taste

Method:

- Add oil and butter to a soup pot or Dutch oven over med-high heat. Once melted, add onion, celery and carrots and sauté for 5 minutes (it's okay if onions brown a bit). Cut the mushrooms while this is cooking.

- Stir in flour and cook for about 30 seconds.

- Add in garlic and mushrooms and cook 5 minutes more. Once mushrooms start to release water, give a good stir to scrape up any browned bits from the bottom of the pot.

- Add in chicken or vegetable broth, Italian seasoning, paprika and gnocchi to the pot. Increase the heat to a boil. Once boiling, reduce heat so it's gently simmering for 5 minutes.

- Stir in the cream, spinach, parmesan cheese until the spinach is wilted and broth has thickened a bit.

- Season with salt and pepper as needed. If you wish, grate more parmesan on top of bowls.

- Serve with rustic bread or baguette.

Turkey and mashed potato croquettes

Total: 1 hour 30 minutes; Serves: 18; Level: Intermediate
A perfect way to use up Thanksgiving leftovers if the family didn't take it all home! Serve with cranberry sauce as a great second round for you and guests to enjoy.

3 tbsp unsalted butter
1 small leek, white and green party thinly sliced
1 tbsp chopped fresh sage (plus 6 whole leaves for serving)
½ cup plus 3 tbsp all-purpose flour

¾ cup whole milk
¾ cup finely diced turkey
½ cup mashed potatoes
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper

2 eggs, lightly beaten
¾ cup panko breadcrumbs
Canola oil for frying
Cranberry sauce and turkey gravy, for serving

Method:

- Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the leek and cook until tender and translucent, 2-4 minutes. Stir in chopped sage and 3 tbsp of the flour, then continue to cook until flour is completely absorbed into the butter mixture and highly toasted, 1-2

minutes. While continually stirring, add milk and continue to cook until a bechamel forms, about 1 minute more. Remove from heat then stir in the turkey, mashed potatoes, a pinch of salt and several grinds of pepper. Taste and adjust seasoning with more salt and pepper. Transfer to a bowl and refrigerate for about 30 minutes.

- Meanwhile, set up a three-stage breading station by placing the remaining ½ cup of flour in a shallow bowl or baking dish, the eggs in a separate shallow bowl or baking dish and finally the panko in a third bowl or shallow baking dish. Season each with a pinch of salt and pepper.

- Using a ¾-ounce cookie scoop, divide the chilled filling into about 18 pieces. Roll into uniform balls about 2 ½-inch-long batons. Coat each piece in flour, shaking the excess off, coat in egg and finally dip and press into panko, turning until evenly coated.

- Fill a large, heavy bottomed pot with enough oil to go two inches up the sides and insert a deep-frying thermometer. Set the oil over medium-high heat and bring to 350°F. Working in two batches, deep fry the croquettes until deep golden and heated through, about 2 minutes. Fry the whole sage leaves

until crisp, about 1 minute (my favourite). Drain on paper towed lined plate and season with salt. Serve with cranberry sauce and turkey gravy.

Mulled apple cider

Prep: 10 minutes; Total: 40 minutes; Serves: 12; Level: Beginner

The perfect beverage for a cool night, whether after trick or treating, hockey or a special treat on holidays.

4 whole cinnamon sticks
1/8 tsp ground cloves
8 whole allspice berries
Orange peel from 1 orange
Lemon peel from 1 lemon
½ cup maple syrup
6 cups apple cider or freshly squeezed apple juice
Apple slices and orange twists to serve

½ cup dark rum (optional!)

Method:

- In a medium saucepan, place the cinnamon sticks, ground cloves, allspice berries, orange peel and lemon peel.

- Pour the maple syrup and apple cider and bring to almost a boil.

- Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes.

- Remove from heat and serve in mugs with apple slices and orange twists.

- Add a splash of rum for adults-only version!



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HISTORIC ST. MARYS: William Webster Carter and Alberta Isaac Carter, Photographers

MARY SMITH

Independent Columnist

Readers of the Independent who have the Rotary Club's 2024 Historic St. Marys calendar will recognize this week's photograph. The month of October shows an elderly couple and a younger man, presumably their son, posed in front of their home. It is a modest dwelling. The original squared logs are exposed on one side of the front window and along the side wall. Other parts of the exterior walls are covered with board and batten. The roof has been patched and appears to need more work. But the family members are neatly dressed, flowers and shrubs grow around the house, and their dog looks well-fed and content. Unfortunately, we don't know the names of these people or the location of their house. But the photographer is identified as William Webster Carter. He and his wife, Alberta Isaac Carter, had a business in St. Marys from 1903 to 1908.

This picture was selected for the 2024 Rotary calendar for several reasons. First, it is a good photograph, clear and well-composed with great depth of field. It also contains information. By looking at the people in the picture, their clothing and their surroundings, we get a sense of life in rural Ontario 120 years ago. Equally important, it shows the work of a photographer who was very active in this area at the beginning of the 20th century. The Carter & Isaac photographs are among the most significant in the St. Marys Museum's historic image collection.

The Museum has more than 100 Carter & Isaac photographs. Of these, 93 arrived in one wonderful donation. About 25 years ago, a former summer student, Chantelle Robinson Marshall, brought a bundle of large glass plate negatives to the Museum. For many years, they had been in the attic of the Downie Township farmhouse belonging to her grandparents, Robert and Margaret Mountain. The Mountains didn't know how they came to be there but suspected that some family member had bought them, perhaps at an auction, and then stored them away and forgotten them. The Museum had other old glass negatives in the collection, but they had been studio portraits, showing individuals or family groups. But when the Mountain glass plates were examined, they revealed something quite different. There were indeed people in each photograph, but they were not in a studio. They were standing outside in front of various buildings.

The Mountains agreed to donate the negatives to the Museum and staff set to work to clean away decades of dust. Each plate was carefully cleaned with cotton swabs and distilled water, with special care taken on the emulsion side. Then a local photographer who was also intrigued by this discovery agreed to make contact prints of all 93 negatives at cost. The result was a remarkable collection of outdoor views of houses and barns and farmyards. In each photograph, family members – frequently representing three



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

A Carter & Isaac photograph, showing an unidentified family in front of their house somewhere in the St. Marys area in the early years of the 20th century.

generations – were posed, often with some of their prized possessions. A favourite horse, a bicycle, a new buggy, or the family dog might be included in the picture.

The next step was to try to determine the date and location of the photographs. That would, perhaps, lead to the identification of the families being photographed. This was unexpectedly challenging. Houses change through the years; they are re-sided or are completely renovated. Frequently old farmhouses are demolished to make room for smaller, cozier and more convenient homes. Bank barns disappear from barnyards. There were many futile journeys up and down country roads looking for recognizable properties, and for some proof that the photographs had even been taken in the St. Marys area. The prints were placed in a binder, and for several months, everyone who visited the Museum was asked to look at them in the hope that someone would recognise some place or some person.

At last, there was a break-through. A genealogical researcher, Joan Boonstra, recognized one of the prints that showed a little boy sitting on the back veranda of a farmhouse. He was her grandfather! Her grandparents' farm had been southeast of St. Marys in East Nissouri Township – not far from St. Marys. Joan brought the original print to show Museum staff. It had been mounted on stiff card and on the reverse of the mounting, a small label identified the photograph as the work of Carter & Isaac, St. Marys, Ont. But it wasn't possible to go to the actual site where the picture had been taken. That farm was now under Wildwood Lake!

In the late 1990s, there were few on-line resources available and so research had to start close to home with the material at hand. The Museum had census records for St. Marys up to 1901. But the Carters had arrived in 1903 and so the local census was no help. However, assessment records showed the family living on ten acres of rented property on Carroll

Elora area where they lived and worked for several years after the family left St. Marys.

William Webster Carter was born in Norfolk County on August 21, 1869. According to his birth registration, his father, William H. P. Carter, was a schoolteacher. His mother, Mary, was the daughter of a Methodist Episcopalian minister, the Reverend Thomas Webster, whose family was well-established in Middlesex County. In 1902, William married Alberta Isaac, the daughter of a carriage-maker, James Isaac, and his wife, Rachel Isaac. Alberta was 21 years old. For the 1901 census, she had given her occupation as photographer. The newly married couple first lived in Glencoe where William had had been working. Presumably their partnership began immediately because when they arrived in St. Marys in 1903, their photography business was Carter & Isaac.

After the Museum's interest in Carter & Isaac photographs became known, a number of people brought family pictures to show to Museum staff – all with the Carter & Isaac sticker on the back. With permission, the Museum added copies of these photographs to the Carter & Isaac collection. There have also been donations – Carter & Isaac mounted prints that showed up at an auction or in an antique store. The township histories, especially Nissouri, Zorra and Downie, all include some Carter & Isaac photographs in their family history sections.

The binder of prints is still available in the reference room at the Museum and visitors are welcome to look through it. There is always the chance that more people and locations will be identified. In any case, the photographs are fascinating to look at. Each one seems to pose questions. For instance, in this week's picture, why hasn't the young man, apparently strong and healthy, finished siding the log house so that it will be warmer and more comfortable for his parents? Of course, that question will never be answered. But it is fun to speculate! For more information, contact the Museum at 519-284-3556.

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SPOTLIGHT ON ARTS & CULTURE

Spice Up Your Life



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Dan Troyer of Troyer's Spices

JIM GILES

Independent Columnist

Edited by Alice Rixson

The Silk Road, which also traded for spices, was a network of Eurasian trade routes active from the second century BCE until the mid-1400s. It stretched from the Mediterranean Sea at eastern Africa, north to Constantinople (now Istanbul) and west across the expanse of Asia to the shores of the Pacific Ocean. From the Silk Road sprang the Spice Route.

The Arabs were likely the first sea-faring merchants who, in the 1500s, sailed west to the Maluku Islands in eastern Indonesia, which were known as the Spice Islands; nutmeg, mace and cloves were exclusive to this archipelago. This became known as the Spice Route.

In 2017, the Spice Route took a side trip to downtown St. Marys with the opening of Troyer's Spices. Troyer's specializes in high-quality herbs, spices, blends and other seasonings, catering to both professional chefs and home cooks requiring ingredients for both savory and sweet dishes. "I always wanted to open a business so after doing some market research, spices looked promising. I love the smells and colour of spices," says owner Dan Troyer.

More than 30 countries, many of them still developing economically, are suppliers for imported spices with 75% of Troyer spices originating in India. "Our products are carefully selected from the best sources...and are processed in-house to preserve their freshness, flavour and aroma," Troyer proudly proclaims. Troyer's also custom-blends its products to meet customers' needs. Interestingly, 50% of Troyer's customers are restaurants and food producers, 40% are walk-ins, while the remaining 10% place their orders online.

"Our products are...available in various size quantities." Troyer believes that the right seasoning can make all the difference in a meal's outcome. "We're here to help find the perfect match for your needs," he adds.

The Spice Route made yet another side trip to St. Marys last year with the opening of Naina's Indian Kitchen Bar & Grill at the south end of the town's main street. Naina's adds another culinary experience and dimension to the town's eateries.

Owner Prahlad Meena is an experienced and the innovative head chef who studied culinary arts at the Institute of Hotel Management in Jaipu, India. He has lived in Canada for 18 years, plying his profession in Indian restaurants in Edmonton, Alberta and Niagara Falls,



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Chef Prahlad Meena of Naina's Indian Kitchen Bar & Grill

Ontario before choosing St. Marys for his own Indian restaurant.

Considered one of the best and healthiest cuisine in the world, Indian cooking is typically made with fresh ingredients, rich in nutrients. The food is renowned worldwide for its vibrant flavors, aromatic spices, and diverse range of dishes. India is said to be the land of spices because they are derived from the country's diverse areas such as tropical forests, highlands, marshy woods, lush green lands and fertile valleys. Every community makes use of spices according to availability in its own region.

India is renowned as the "Spice Bowl of the World" with its spice history dating back thousands of years. The country has a long history of spice trade beginning notably with the Silk Road commerce. Spices were highly prized commodities in ancient trade networks.

Indian cooking relies heavily on a handful of key spices such as cumin, coriander, turmeric, garam masala and dried chilis. The technique of "tadka", or tempering spices in hot oil, is a foundational cooking method. It releases the spices' essential oils, intensifying their flavours and infusing the recipe with a complex aroma.

The art of blending spices is a crucial skill for any cook. It requires knowl-

edge, experience and proficiency to create the perfect blend. There are many ways to incorporate spice blends in Indian cooking. They can be used as a marinade for meats, added to soups and stews or used to season vegetables and grains. "Masala" is a term for a spice mix. Some common spice blends include "tandoori masala", a combination of spicy and aromatic spices such as cumin, coriander and paprika.

Meena has more than two decades of experience and has acquired a deep comprehension of cooking techniques, ingredients and flavours. He doesn't shy from experimenting in the kitchen. "My diverse skill in blending traditional and contemporary techniques creates a wide range of tastes and preferences," he claims.

His day can be long. "I start early in the morning and it usually takes me an hour or more to prepare each food item. For great food, you have to know how to spice."

When asked what the local favourites are, Meena replies with a smile, "Butter chicken and samosas."

Naina's is open daily from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Please send comments and proposed topics for Arts articles to - smindependentarts@gmail.com

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Riddles

- | | |
|--|--|
| What do you call a snail with no shell? | Why did Peter Pan always fly and never stop? |
| Homeless. | Because he could never never land. |
| Why did the rope go to the doctor? | What word of only three syllables contains 26 letters? |
| It had a knot in its stomach. | Alphabet. |
| What kind of witch lives at the beach? | What did the bee say when he returned to the hive? |
| A sandwich. | "Honey, I'm home" |
| How did Burger King propose to his girlfriend? | How do you keep someone in suspense? |
| With an onion ring. | I'll tell you tomorrow. |
| What do you call a rabbit with the sniffles? | |
| A runny bunny. | |

- Word Search -



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Word List

- Ziggy zagge
- Keg tapping
- Cold beer
- Prost
- Accordion music
- Ein prosit
- Bavarian
- Polka
- Wunderwagon
- Entertainers
- Parade
- Onkel Hans food drive
- Silent auction
- Damenfest
- Gemutlichkeit



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What type of tree fits in your hand?



A palm tree!

James Barber (14 mo)

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



Kevin, pictured here in last year's costume as "Kevin Bacon", is super excited to see all his friends that participate in the Pet Costume Parade! There are prizes, pet photos and just the most fun on four legs! Oct. 26 at town hall starting at 10:30 a.m. The parade will go down Queen Street to Water Street and back to town hall. There will also be a voluntary donation box for the Library Pantry on site. Kevin cannot wait to show you his costume for this year and see all his old friends and new ones dressed to impress!



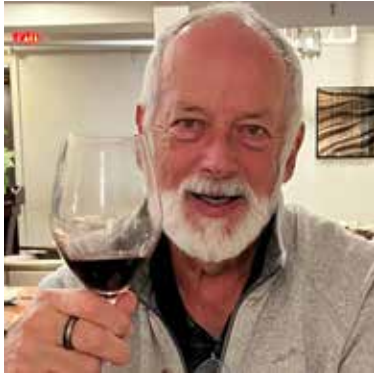
St. Marys Veterinary Clinic is pleased to be the sponsor of the PET OF THE WEEK

Autumn Safety Tips to Help Keep Your Pets Happy and Healthy

Be Cautious with Seasonal Decorations: Autumn often invites decorative gourds, corn stalks, and Halloween decorations. While they add charm to your home, they can pose dangers to your pets. Pets may chew on or ingest these items, potentially leading to gastrointestinal issues.

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OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Meeting Anne at Green Gables



PAUL KNOWLES

Independent Columnist

On Prince Edward Island, Anne is inescapable, which I find interesting because Anne, as we know, never existed. She is a figment of the imagination of Lucy Maud Montgomery, author of all of the Anne of Green Gables books.

Or is she fictional? As we wandered through the Anne of Green Gables Museum – not to be confused with Green Gables Heritage Place, part of L.M. Montgomery's Cavendish National Historic Site – we spotted a small wooden frame containing a quote from Montgomery.

“When I am asked if Anne herself is a ‘real person,’ I always answer ‘no’ with an odd reluctance and an uncomfortable feeling of not telling the truth. For she is and always has been, from the moment I first thought of her, so real to me that I feel I am doing violence to something when I deny her an existence anywhere save in Dreamland. Does she not stand at my elbow even now – if I turned my head quickly, should I not see her – with her eager, starry eyes and her long braids of red hair?”

And as you visit the Anne sites, it is quickly apparent that the author's sense of Anne's actual existence is shared by millions of Anne fans all around the world. Hundreds of thousands of them have visited these iconic Prince Edward Island attractions.

We visited two – the museum and the heritage place, both homes often visited by Montgomery, both inspirations for her settings in the books. The home that now houses the museum was known as Silver Bush, although it will shock no one to know that it has green gables. This farm was owned by the Campbell family, cousins of Montgomery, and the parlour was the setting for Montgomery's marriage to Rev. Ewan Macdonald. The farm is the location for several Montgomery novels and today it houses a large number of Anne related artifacts in its relatively tiny rooms.

More extensive exhibition spaces are found 20 minutes away at the Parks Canada operated Green Gables Heritage Place.

At Green Gables Heritage Place, there is also a relatively small farmhouse – yes, with green gables – but Parks Canada has also converted the barn into a visitor facility and has added a large visitor centre with an extensive information exhibit.

We enjoyed the relatively quick tour through the house and we spent a fair amount of time in the information exhibit, but the highlight was an unexpected concert as a four-piece band presented an hour-long musical history of Prince Ed-

ward Island. The music celebrated the diverse heritage of the province.

The musicians were versatile and talented. After the concert, I asked if they were a band that played together professionally. No, I was told, they were all guides at Green Gables who happened to also be musicians.

Perhaps the oddest thing about the performance was the person seated beside the wall, next to us, appeared to be Anne in person! I asked why she was there and she explained that she was a friend of the folks in the band, and when she had a break, she liked to drop in on their concerts.

Coincidentally, Green Gables Heritage Place has exactly the same connections to Montgomery as the other museum; this farm was also owned by cousins of Montgomery, in this case, David and Margaret Macneil. Montgomery visited here often because she was raised by her grandparents in a home only two minutes away. Only the foundations exist there, a site now dubbed L.M. Montgomery's Cavendish Home.

Montgomery's personal story, well told at heritage place, is far darker than the sunny outcomes of the Anne novels. Montgomery's mother died when she was 21 months old and her father moved to Western Canada, leaving her with her PEI grandparents.

She sent her first novel, Anne of Green Gables, to a string of publishers only to have it rejected several times before it was finally published to instant acclaim and immediate fame.

But while Montgomery's literary career blossomed, her



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

The Anne of Green Gables Museum, one of several Anne destinations in Prince Edward Island.

personal life continued to include tragedy – the birth of a stillborn child and her minister husband's struggles with mental illness. The couple had moved to Norval, Ont. near Toronto where she worked tirelessly to hide his maladies only to cause enormous stress for herself. The information panels at the heritage place say her one solace was to return to Prince Edward Island, coming home to Green Gables and the peace of the Cavendish district.

Montgomery and her husband moved to Toronto later in life; she died at home at age 67 in 1942. A writer to the end, her final manuscript was delivered to her publisher on the day she died.

Not surprisingly, her body was returned to PEI and is bur-

ied in Cavendish Cemetery, but her internationally famed creation, Anne Shirley, lives on in her 20 novels and many short stories – over 50 million copies of the original Green Gables story alone have been printed – and in musicals, TV shows, movies and animated features. And most importantly, it seems, Anne lives on in the hearts and the imaginations of the millions of Anne fans, many of whom make the pilgrimage to these PEI homes with green gables.

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.



A tiny bedroom in the Green Gables Heritage Place farmhouse.



In concert telling the musical story of PEI at Green Gables Heritage Place.

OBITUARY

Richardson



Margaret "Irene" Richardson (Henderson) passed away at St. Marys Memorial Hospital with her family by her side on Oct. 9, 2024 in her 92nd year. Predeceased by her husband of 44 years Wm. John "Jack" Richardson in 2004.

Loving mother of Brad and Tracy Richardson, Thorndale,

Nancy and Hugh Riddell, St. Marys, Sandra and Lee Johnston, Port Lambton, Paul and Elaine Richardson, Miramichi NB, Don and Karen Richardson, Zorra Twp., and Julie and Jeff McClocklin, Thorndale. Proud grandmother of Kerri, Krista (Peter), Will, Steve (Jennifer), Holly, William (Megan), Jenna (Curtis), Chris (Hannah), Tyler, Riley (Dan), Sheldon, Devyn (Brooke), Emily (Victor), and GG to Carter, Leah, Brycen, Makinley, Emma, Avery, Haven, Valley, and Laine. Dear sister of Dorothy and George Pickel, Welburn. Also missed by many nieces, nephews and extended family members. Predeceased by her parents Norman Henderson and former Agnes Thompson, sisters Mabel Hill, Norma Elizabeth (Beth) Cave, and son Jeffrey Michael (1966).

Irene will be remembered for her dedication to her family and her devotion to her ministerial family through her work with community churches. The Funeral Service was conducted at the St. Marys United Church on Monday, October 14, 2024 with interment in North Nissouri Cemetery. Irene's family wish to thank the staff at Kingsway Lodge and St. Marys Hospital for their compassionate care, to the community for their support, Gary Mallalieu for his kind words officiating the service and to organist Timothy Gilbert. Memorial donations may be made to Villages United Church Mission and Services or the TriCounty Foodgrain Project. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

OBITUARY

Copeland



Glenn A. Copeland, of St. Marys and formerly of Woodham, passed away peacefully on Saturday, October 12, 2024 at St. Marys Memorial Hospital with family at his side, in his 95th year. Husband and best friend, married 67 years, of Verla Copeland (nee Wheeler).

Beloved father of Cynthia Mallalieu (Gary) of St. Marys,

Ellen Shute (Tim) of Woodham, and Deanna Taziar (Mark) of Kerwood. Grandpa of Aralynn Mallalieu, Raianna Mallalieu, Brendan Shute (Jillian), Brock Shute (Stephanie), Brett Shute (Ann), Bevon Shute (Rachel), Elizabeth Taziar, and Peter Taziar. Great-grandpa of Theo, Tessa, Logan, Levi, Nora, Willard, Elodie, Oliver, and Sullivan. Brother-in-law of Phyllis Rodd (John, deceased), David Wheeler (Sylvia) and remembered by nieces, nephews and friends. Predeceased by his parents Mervin and Myrtle Copeland and sister Jean Copeland.

Glenn loved his family and enjoyed his time with them. He was a lifelong farmer, the last survived member of the Barber Shop Quartet "Chords of Woodham," former secretary and caretaker of Kirkton Union Cemetery, and active member Woodham United Church and also attended St. Marys United Church. Glenn's hobbies included riding snowmobiles, motorcycles and in retirement drove a school bus in the Lucan area and took up an interest in woodworking.

Visitation at the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, 47 Wellington St. S. St. Marys, on Thursday, Oct 17th, from 2 - 4 & 7 - 9 pm. The Funeral Service will be conducted at the ST. MARYS UNITED CHURCH, 85 Church St. S. St. Marys, on Friday, Oct. 18th, 2024 at 11 am with visiting at the church one hour prior. Reception in the church hall followed by interment in Kirkton Union Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the St. Marys United Church Memorial Fund, Heart & Stroke Foundation or to a charity of choice. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

OBITUARY

Carruthers



February 12, 1935 – October 11, 2024

Emma Lillian Carruthers – beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend passed away peacefully at Greenwood Court on October 11, 2024 in her 89th year.

Family was at the core of Emma's life and she will be deeply

missed by her son Jeff, his wife Heather, grandchildren Cameron, Ryan, Stephanie, Nicholas and son-in-law Ian (Deana) Donen. She was predeceased by her loving husband John in 2018 and her cherished daughter Susan in 2002, along with brothers Ray Stacey (Doreen), Oliver Stacey (Ann), Carmen Stacey and sisters Verna Blacker (Burns) and Laura Shaw. She is survived by sister Audrey Sanchez (Louis), sister-in-law Ann Stacey, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Emma will be remembered for the kindness, generosity and warmth she showed to everyone she encountered. She was dedicated to serving others as was evident through her tireless work with Meals on Wheels, Kinettes, United Church Women and many other charities. She also provided unwavering support to her husband John in his business endeavours and his own charity work. This same dedication extended to her children Jeff and Susan. Throughout their lives she supported and encouraged them in their hobbies, sports and education.

Emma was the consummate home maker maintaining a spotlessly clean home, in readiness to entertain friends and family with a home cooked meal. She was passionate about bridge, golfing and gardening and she treasured her many dear friends.

Cremation has taken place and a funeral in celebration of Emma's life will take place on Thursday October 17, 2024, 2:00pm at W.G. Young Funeral Home, 430 Huron St, Stratford. Visitation will be held Wednesday, October 16, 2024 from 6-8pm at the W.G. Young Funeral Home. As an expression of sympathy donations can be made to the Stratford General Hospital Foundation or Meals on Wheels, One Care, Huron-Perth.

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Thur. Oct. 10 - Jen Groeneveld, Arthur	\$50.00
Fri. Oct. 11 - John DeWys, Stratford	\$50.00
Sat. Oct. 12 - Dan & Taryn Burdock, Mitchell	\$200.00

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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!

OBITUARY

Marcaccio



After a short illness, Osvaldo (Bobo) Marcaccio passed away on October 12, 2024, at Kingsway Lodge in St. Marys, Ontario at the age of 93.

Predeceased by his parents Vincenzo (1965) and Maria (1983) Marcaccio and sisters Olia Rocchetti (2015) and Elda Sgariglia (2019). Will be

sadly, missed by his nieces Loriana Giordan (Loris), Denise Richardson (Charlie) and grandnieces Samantha Giordan, Emily Richardson and Isabel Richardson. Bobo was a fixture around the town of St. Marys, living life to the fullest.

Born in St. Marys, he never married but lived with his mother until her passing in 1983. In the summer of 1939, his family returned to Italy for a brief vacation but were forced to live out the war as refugees in enemy territory when war was declared in September 1939. He often told the story of having to hide in the hay loft when the German army was out doing patrols. In 1948 the family returned to St. Marys where he lived on Water Street until 2019. As a young man, Bobo landed a job at St. Marys Cement Company in the production equipment maintenance department and worked there until he retired after 36 years of service.

Bobo also kept himself busy excelling at curling and bowling, winning a few trophies during the long, cold days of winter. In the summer, you would find him invariably on the golf course at St. Marys Golf and Country Club where he was a fixture for many years. Many a golfer would exclaim at his perfect form and long drives. He spent many of his winters at his condo in Florida so that he could continue to play and watch the pros play the game he loved year-round. His keen interest in golf never faded, even after his golf clubs were retired for good.

He could be seen watching PGA golf tournaments on TV frequently and comparing the latest up-and-coming pro golfers to his favourite golfer, Ben Hogan. Every Sunday he would walk up the steep hill to the Holy Name of Mary Church for Sunday Mass until he was physically unable to make the journey. There was always a fellow parishioner that would gladly offer him a ride back to Kingsway when it was clear the walk would be tough for him without some help. Many of the Kingsway staff will remember his sense of humour and enjoyed spending time chatting with him each day as he sat by the nurses' station, always wanting to be in on the action around the retirement home. A special thank you to the Kingsway team for their dedicated care and support over the last 5 years.

Visitation will take place at the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, 47 Wellington St. S. St. Marys, on Thursday, October 17 from 9:30- 10:30. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 on Thursday, October 17 th at HOLY NAME OF MARY PARISH, Northwest corner of Peel St. N and Widder St. E. St. Marys. Internment in the St. Marys Cemetery. Reception to follow at Holy Name of Mary Parish Hall. Memorial donations may be made to Holy Name of Mary Parish or Heart and Stroke Foundation. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

CELEBRATION

Happy 95th Birthday!

Phyllis Rodd



Please join us to celebrate an open house
Sun, Oct. 27th from 2-4pm
Kirkton-Woodham Community Centre

CELEBRATION



Please join us!

90th Birthday Open House

For Shirley Nichol

October 19, 2024 2-4pm

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June 19, 1936- October 20, 2023

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CELEBRATION

Happy 65th Anniversary!



Bill and Doris Spence
Sunday, October 20, 2024
Kirkton Community Centre
2 - 4 pm

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CELEBRATION



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THE WEEK AHEAD

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PRC & Friendship Centre events - See the Stonetown Crier on Page 5
St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 22

Friday, October 18

- Royal Canadian Legion "hot dogs and more" lunch at Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 p.m.
- Mudmen Live at the Royal Canadian Legion - Doors open 7 p.m., Show at 8 p.m.
- St. Marys Community Players opening night of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" at the Town Hall theatre - 7:30 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Stratford Warriors at the PRC - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 19

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field (Harvest Soup Saturday) - 8 a.m. to Noon.
- Food drive for the local library food bank at Foodland - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- McCully's Harvest Festival - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Ernie Vanderschot 90th birthday open house at 2379 Road 133 - 1-3 p.m.
- Town of St. Marys unveiling of Sports Wall of Fame - 2 p.m.
- Shirley Nichol 90th birthday open house at the Friendship Centre - 2-4 p.m.
- A.N.A.F. Chili Cook Off - 3 p.m.
- Order of the Eastern Star BBQ chicken dinner at Exeter Masonic Hall. Advance tickets only, Call 519-235-1588 or 519-236-4134 - Pickup 4-6 p.m.
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 p.m.
- St. Marys Community Players presents "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" at the Town Hall theatre - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 20

- Stratford Coin Show at Arden Park Hotel, Stratford - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- South Nissouri Presbyterian Church celebrates 169 years - 10 a.m.
- McCully's Harvest Festival - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Bill and Doris Spence 65th anniversary open house at Kirkton Community Centre - 2-4 p.m.
- St. Marys Community Players presents "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" at the Town Hall theatre - 2 p.m.

Monday, October 21

- Community Dinner at St. Marys United Church - 5 p.m., Sponsored by St. Marys Kinetite Club

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

Prohibition talk

25 years ago (1999)

St. Marys water colourist Donal O'Connor hopes to stage a St. Marys art show soon. O'Connor began painting about 10 years ago after being inspired during an interview with St. Marys artist Mark Fletcher. O'Connor is a former editor of the St. Marys Journal Argus.

The Lincolns are holding a "Grandparents Night" promotion this Friday. If a grandparent brings a grandchild to the Petrolia game, both get admitted for half price.

The Lincolns began installing a whirlpool in the dressing room on Monday. "You get nagging injuries, like shoulders and knee problems. It's another way of healing aches and pains a little faster," explained GM Angie Nigro.

50 years ago (1974)

A fire alarm from West Ward School, which according to the firefighters "could have been expensive", was handled by the local brigade at 3:15 p.m. last Friday. The speculation is that youngsters set alight an accumulation of leaves in the vent pipes, resulting in considerable smoke but no damage.

To the surprise of nobody on the local scene, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority has been notified that St. Marys will look after repairs to the dam on the Thames rather than turning the dam on the Thames over to the Authority. Cost of repairs will be minimal in any case, according to a report from Board of Works Supt. Eric Taylor.

A number of buildings at the St. Marys Cement Co. are receiving a coat of light green paint.

75 years ago (1949)

Phone lines in downtown St. Marys were dead on Wednesday morning as a result of Tuesday's soaking rain. Bell Telephone maintenance crews from Stratford worked all day to restore the service.

The Quarry Swimming Pool was again in use over the weekend when the district experienced the hottest October Thanksgiving weather in years. The temperature on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday was up around the 80 degree mark.

Many United Church homes in St. Marys are going to have guests in them this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday when nearly 450 young people of the London Conference Young People's Union of the United Church Canada come to town for their Silver Jubilee Convention.

100 years ago (1924)

The Andrews clock underwent its annual cleaning and overhauling on Tuesday and Wednesday. During the operation the old familiar timepiece was stopped, and like they old saying, 'you never miss water until the well runs dry', it caused everybody some little inconvenience. Everybody in St. Marys has got so used to looking up at the Andrews clock for the correct time that when it stops, something seems amiss.

Rev. Peter Taylor of Toronto, one of the best speakers in Toronto, will speak in the Widder Street Presbyterian Church on Sunday evening on the Prohibition Issue.

Loss to the farmers of Western Ontario this year through the ravages of the corn borer are estimated at \$1,230,000 by Government officials who have made a study of the situation.

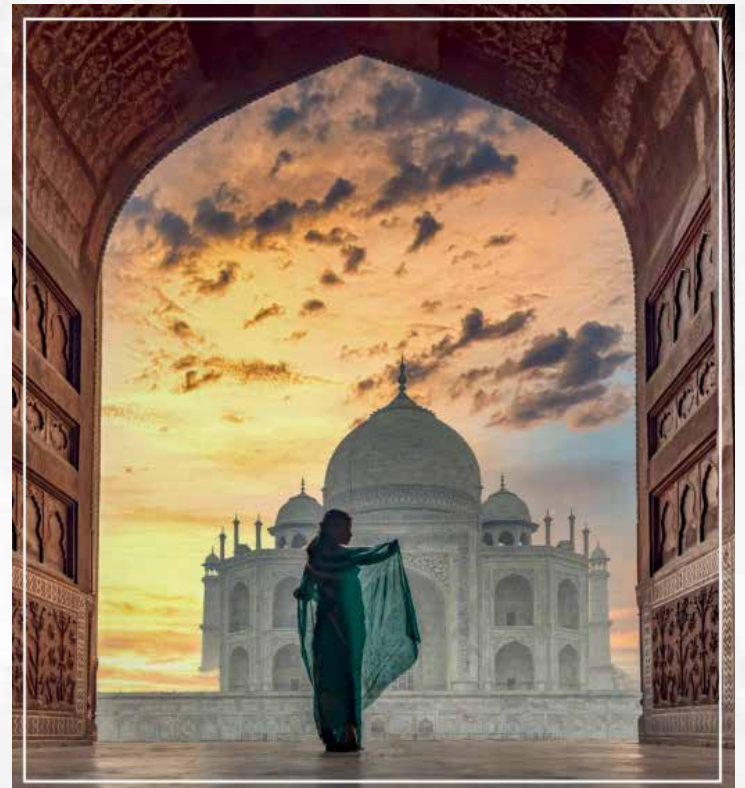
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