

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1213

Thursday, May 30, 2024

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St. Marys Lions hold annual Toll Bridge fundraiser despite rainy weather



Lion Evelyn Albers braves the rain and thanks those that donated to the fundraiser. Photo courtesy of St. Marys Lions Club

By Gerry Haliburton, St. Marys Lions Club

Once again, the St. Marys Lions held their annual Toll Bridge fundraiser on the Victoria Bridge in scenic St. Marys.

This is one of our biggest fundraisers and it is very well received by the populace. Unlike previous years, the weather was not at all pleasant, with rain showers and some thunderstorm activity. The latter caused a temporary cessation of activity for safety reasons. We hope this will not affect the

total donations to a great degree.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all those who stopped to donate. It is through the generosity of the people in St. Marys and area that we can continue to improve in many ways the lot of those less fortunate than ourselves.

Please be sure to stop at our table at the Town of St. Marys Recreation Fair Friday, June 7 from 4-8 p.m. at the Pyramid Recreation Centre. We will have information about the club and our activities.

AKoolFilm Company working on new projects following 'Cry of Silence' success

By Emily Stewart

Following their achievements from Cry of Silence, with more to celebrate from the hit film, St. Marys based AKoolFilm Company has more projects on docket.

The film Cry of Silence had its run at the internationally renowned Cannes Film festival from May 14-25. The audience at the annual film festival in Cannes, France, responded positively to the film.

"Everything was great," said Allen Kool, executive producer and founder of AKoolFilm Company. "There was a lot of good reaction from the screenings, so we're very hopeful we'll be signing a few more deals in the near future."

Lead actress of Cry of Silence Charlot Daysh won several accolades for her role as Maggie Klassen and was interviewed by E-Talk. The interview aired in a May 27 episode of the hit Canadian entertainment talk show.

The film, created in St. Marys, also won around 80 awards from around the world and got the green light to distribute theatrically in Latin America under the House of Film. Hollywood Suite also has the film available to stream.

"Cry of Silence has done really, really well for a relatively low-budget Canadian film," Kool said.

He credits the team behind the film including screenwriter, executive producer and Kool's wife, Robin E. Crozier Kool, associate producer Yaseen Lachporia, and executive producer Michael A.

Continued on page 2



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COMMUNITY

AKoolFilm Company working on new projects following 'Cry of Silence' success

Continued from page 1

Charbon for the success of Cry of Silence.

"It's because of my team that we're doing so well and that we're here," he said.

Award-winning producer and founding board member of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television Robert Weirtheimer joined AKool-Film Company, in addition to John Holosko, in taking on the new director-of-photography role. Holosko is known for his work in Suicide Squad and the Nancy Drew and The Hardy Boys TV series.

AKoolFilm Company has several projects on the way, including action film Broken Bond starring Tazito Garcia (Trust, Trigger), Dean McDermott (Open Range, Hudson and Rex) and Bernice Liu (The Legend is Born: IP Man, The Hitman Never Dies, and a TV series with Country Girl Productions called Trickle and Flow). Garcia and McDermott are also involved, as well as Sugith Varugheese (Kim's Convenience, Transplant) and Saad Siddiqui (FBI, SEAL Team).

The film production company is currently working on a TV series called Noose: The Hangman's Tale featuring



Cry of Silence, a dramatic thriller by St. Marys' AKoolFilm Company, will soon be played in movie theatres and on home televisions around the world thanks to a new, international distribution agreement with House of Film in Los Angeles. Pictured is a behind-the-scenes look during filming in St. Marys in 2022. Contributed photo

true stories of executions. The first season will focus on executions in Canada between 1867 and 1930, and will be filming in St. Marys, Sarnia, Goderich and London's Fanshawe Pioneer Village.

"It's a really big project for our com-

pany, but everybody is all excited about it," Kool said.

Kool and Crozier Kool moved from Toronto to London before moving to St. Marys to downsize, as Crozier Kool said that films can be made anywhere in the world. The Town of St. Marys has been supportive, with more than 100 residents participating in AKool-

Film Company's last film and the company using local accommodations and food outlets to ensure the cast and crew were fed and had a place to stay.

"They've opened their arms to us," Kool said of St. Marys. "They've been extremely helpful on all the films that we've made here."

Filming in small towns like St. Marys also offers viewers different landscapes from that of Los Angeles and New York City. Filmmakers seek new places to film all over southwestern Ontario.

"Southwestern Ontario has a tremendous number of fantastic locations that people haven't seen and experienced. That's one of the things that we want to bring into our films and TV shows," Kool said. "We've done filming on the rivers here, on the farmers' fields and the lakes and the roads and the gravel pits and all kinds of stuff. Sure, they exist everywhere, but the communities of St. Marys and Stratford and Goderich and Bayfield and those kinds of things, they have a tremendous amount to offer in terms of visual additives."

AKoolFilm Company will have paper sign-up forms available all across southwestern Ontario for those looking to become part of the company's projects. There is also online sign up available by visiting www.akoolfilm.com.

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COMMUNITY

Winners announced in hospital auxiliary's spring raffle

By Janis Fread, St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary

And the winners are!

Carol Passmore won the first-prize framed print in the Auxiliary's spring raffle, and the second-prize quilted-wall hanging was won by Victoria Ross. The third-prize Petals & Foliage gift certificate was won by Arlene Callender. Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket in support of the hospital auxiliary.

Thanks are also extended to donor Margaret Watt and Jackson's Pharmacy for partnering with the Auxiliary to provide dozens of toiletry items to replenish the patient kits for our hospital's patient care.

Who is the Auxiliary? Meet two of our longest serving active members: Sophie Bradley and Irene Wortley.

Sophie started as an employee in 1951, not long after the hospital opened. Her duties were varied and included serving Miss Minerva Dickson, the hospital superintendent, her breakfast at precisely 9 a.m.

Sophie helped feed the patients, assisted the nurses by making absorbent pads for the maternity ward, which involved

folding cotton balls into soft cotton sleeves, and she also made house calls to administer eye drops. She joined the Auxiliary in 1998 after she retired and now, in her 91st year, Sophie remains an asset to the Auxiliary as she is known for her raffle-ticket selling expertise.

When Irene retired and moved to St. Marys, she met Marg Grover/Edgar while picking up meals to deliver for Meals on Wheels. Marg immediately convinced her that volunteering for the Auxiliary was the perfect opportunity to meet new people and support the hospital, so around 2009 she joined.

Irene used her food-services background to source out products to expand the selection of snacks available in the hospital gift shop and later took over as president, a position she held for five years. Irene is still actively involved in the Auxiliary and believes supporting our hospital is vital.

"We like doing what we're doing," she said.

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



Pictured are longtime St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary members Sophie Bradley and Irene Wortley. Contributed photo




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EDITORIAL

The joy of travel, near or far

By Stewart Grant

I think that May is a perfect time to travel.

As an accountant, I'm naturally inclined to feel that way now that the April 30th tax deadline is in the rearview mirror. It's also the month in which Laurie and I celebrate our wedding anniversary, so that holds special meaning for us.

But a more universal reason why May is an ideal month to travel is because the weather is nice (not too hot) and the crowds aren't as high as during the peak summer months.

Reflecting on this month of May, I've recognized that we've had some great experiences not just on the other side of the world but also right here close to home.

Sometimes we may take it for granted, but St. Marys is a quality travel destination. One of my personal favourite things to do here is to walk the Grand Trunk Trail and enjoy the beautiful views, and most days I try and get out there. But, of course, there is so much more (the Quarry, the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame, downtown shops, et cetera). At the newspaper I'm reminded of this as we put together our annual St. Marys Visitors' Guide which is jam-packed full of ideas for how to spend a day here in the Stonetown. The 2024 Guide just came out recently, so have a look for it when visiting downtown and enjoy exploring on your own or by inviting friends and family to see what all our town has to offer.

While the charms of St. Marys are

relatively unknown to many people who drive past on Highway 7 without stopping in, the same can be said of nearby New Hamburg – just one example of a nearby place worth visiting. It's only through my work that I've gotten to know this town so well, and on our wedding anniversary this month we went for dinner at Puddicombe House, which is a beautifully restored 1868 mansion in downtown New Hamburg. Simply put, our meal there was "world-class" and provided me with further evidence that sometimes you can have incredible travel experiences without even driving an hour away.

This week, we are a little further away and I write this editorial having just arrived in breathtaking Santorini, Greece. Laurie and I first visited here 20 years ago when backpacking, so it's quite special to return to this place and see it again from a different point of view (for example, we're not staying at a youth hostel this time).

Whether it's near or far, I think that travel is a state of mind. It's about appreciating where you are. This month we've really enjoyed visiting the Greek Islands of Santorini and Paros, but similarly we really savoured our anniversary meal in New Hamburg, and I loved travelling to cheer on the Lincolns while they played across the county in Listowel and across town at the PRC.

So, where's your next trip? Will it be Puddicombe, or Paris? The Great Ocean Road, or the Grand Trunk Trail?

Bravo

We have 1 Bravo this week.

1) Bravo to the St. Marys Lions Club for braving inclement weather to conduct their annual toll bridge fundraiser. We should be very appreciative for all that local service clubs do for our community.



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

Boo

We have 1 Boo this week.

1) Boo to the people that take up two parking spots at Tim Hortons especially right up front when elderly people are trying to make their way in.



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

Quote of the Week

"I reached out to Grayson's parents to offer our deepest condolences, and during that conversation, they asked that we continue with tournament play. They were adamant that Grayson would want us to do so. As difficult as it will be, we want to respect their wishes."

PGA Commissioner Jay Monahan on the unexpected loss of PGA tour player Grayson Murray at the age of 30.

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St. Marys Independent

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A drought was predicted for May. This is the wettest drought I have ever seen.

Don't forget to check out the deals at the Horticultural Society garden fair this weekend.

Have you heard something humorous around town that you think might be of interest to others?

Either email them to us at info@stmarys-independent.com with the title

"Overheard at The Coffee Shop", call 519-284-0041 or drop by the office to let us know!

The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS
OF THE WEEK

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COMMUNITY

St. Marys Horticultural Society to host 24th annual Garden Fair



The St. Marys Horticultural Society is hosting its 24th annual Garden Fair June 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contributed photo

By Ron Hunter, St. Marys Horticultural Society

The St. Marys Horticultural Society has been busy preparing to host the 24th edition of its annual Garden Fair on Saturday, June 1 at the Milt Durnell Field.

The wildly popular event, which runs from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., will feature 20 booths set up by various garden-related businesses and crafts people. There will be the sale of heritage tomato plants (eight varieties) as a fundraiser for the horticultural society.

The vendors will be selling some unusual perennials, alpine plants, aquatic plants, various types of birdhouses, garden décor, metal sculp-

tures and more. We will be selling beautiful, hanging plants and there will also be annuals and vegetables for sale. Baristas will be at the fair with their great coffee and to-die-for, tasty muffins.

The Lions Club will be providing hot food and cold drinks starting at 10:30 a.m. and ending at 1 p.m. with their famous hot dogs and sausage on a bun with all the fixings.

Some of our ladies will be selling memberships with eight sponsors offering discounts on purchases.

Come out and support your local horticultural society and meet some of your friends you haven't seen in a while.

Come early for good selections.

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



MOVIES IN THE PARK

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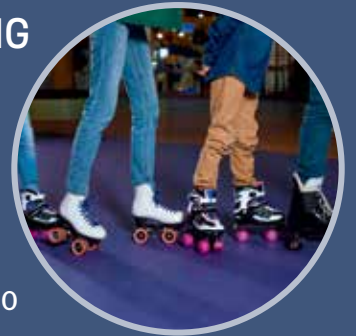
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PUBLIC INDOOR ROLLER SKATING

Pyramid Recreation Centre

Public indoor roller skating is back for the month of June! All participants must wear a helmet and online pre-registration is required. Check out our website for dates and times!

townofstmarys.com/skating or call 519-284-2160



EVENT VOLUNTEERS

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

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CAMP PRC

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Senior of the Week



Our Senior of the Week is Bruce Grant. Bruce celebrated his 75th birthday on May 28. Bruce was raised on a dairy farm in Downie Township and graduated from Waterloo University with a degree in Environmental Studies. He and his wife Janice of 53 years have two children and two grandchildren. His working career started with a summer job at St. Marys Cement. Upon graduation from Waterloo, he worked for Gaffney Construction, City of Stratford, Town of St. Marys and BM Ross Engineering. He keeps busy during retirement with woodworking, travelling, playing bridge and attending the grandchildren's sporting events.
Happy Belated Birthday, Bruce.

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

COMMUNITY

Ladies Auxiliary donates to Legion Branch 236 for kitchen renovation

By Tom Jenkins, St. Marys Legion

They wear similar uniforms, and operate under the same roof, so at first glance it might seem a little odd that the cheque presentation shown here is even happening.

The Ladies Auxiliary (LA) is a non-profit organization operated separately from the Royal Canadian Legion, but in close concert with them. The LA for Branch 236 St Marys was established on Aug. 16, 1932.

The photo shows LA president Marion Golz presenting Perth Regiment Veterans' Branch 236 president Dave "Bim" Graham with a cheque for \$10,000. The funds will be used to purchase a new stove as part of an extensive renovation to the Legion's kitchen. The cheque presentation took place May 27.

"We are extremely grateful for this very generous donation from the LA", said Graham. "We know how hard Marion and her membership have worked to raise this money. We've been without a kitchen for a few years now and are looking forward to having one again. This funding will be a great help in making that happen".

Graham went on to explain that when the new kitchen is up and running it will be jointly used by both the LA and Branch 236, greatly enhancing fundraising capabilities for both organizations.



Ladies Auxiliary president Marion Golz presents Perth Regiment Veterans' Branch 236 president Dave "Bim" Graham with a cheque for \$10,000 May 27 for the purchase of a new stove as part of an extensive renovation to the St. Marys Legion's kitchen. Contributed photo

Weekend Quiz

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1. What is the birthstone for May?
2. How many milliliters are in a liter?
3. Who composed the Brandenburg Concertos?
4. Who is the Prime Minister of the UK?
5. Where was the 2014 Winter Olympics held?
6. An unintentional error regarded as revealing subconscious feelings is known as a ____.
7. Hz is short form for what?
8. When was the electric guitar invented?
9. Who was the first person to win 2 Nobel prizes?
10. What two countries border Uruguay?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

Legion

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
PERTH REGIMENT VETERANS
BRANCH 236 ST MARYS**

HOURS

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COMMUNITY

St. Marys firefighters extinguish early morning house fire

By St. Marys Independent staff

Firefighters with the St. Marys Fire Department extinguished an early morning house fire at 77 Ann St. last week.

The fire department was alerted to the fire early May 22. Upon arrival, crews encountered heavy smoke and fire coming from the basement. All residents were outside and safe. Smoke alarms had alerted the residents of the fire.

The fire was contained to the storage room located in the basement.

After the fire was out, the fire department contacted the building in-

spector to see if the house was safe enough structurally to initiate an investigation. The building department deemed the building was unsafe, so a fire investigation could not be performed as the first floor and its contents could collapse into the basement.

The fire is not considered suspicious but will be deemed undetermined.

The fire department would like to remind all residents of the importance of smoke and CO alarms and if

you have any questions regarding the location or condition of these alarms, to contact the local Fire Prevention division.



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COMMUNITY

The Beaver Scouts celebrate 50 years

By Wendy Lamond

On June 1, the Beaver Scout program will be reaching a big milestone and celebrating 50 years.

The program has provided youth between five and seven a chance to gain confidence, learn social skills and partake in adventurous activities like hikes, campfires, camps, crafts and helping in their communities.

Our own St. Marys club, which has been a longstanding program in our community, currently has 17 members registered in the program with six eligible to move up to Cubs in June.

"We have been steadily growing our group every year, both through improved retention as well as membership," said local Scouter Kate Stewart.

The club, which loves to spend as much time outdoors as possible, meets Monday nights from 6-7 p.m. and, if the weather doesn't cooperate, they use Little Falls Public School for some fun, indoor activities.

Being a leader in these organizations can be very rewarding as leaders help teach young ones useful skills such as communication, listening and adaptability, all while having fun.

Leaders must be a minimum of 18 years of age with no criminal record, love the outdoors and enjoy hanging out with kids. Also, the club is always looking for volunteers that may have a specific leisure interest like bird watching, woodworking or hik-



Scouters Whitney Folkes and Laurie McCutcheon are all smiles on a camping weekend with the club. The two volunteers are stepping down this year and will be missed. Contributed photo

ing. The scouts are always looking for ways to incorporate new activities into the mix.

According to Scouter Lynsy Church, the club works towards completing badges so their projects are often planned around the kids reaching their own personal achievements.

"We go camping, rock climbing, hiking, star gazing, apple picking, tree planting, cray fishing and sell poppies, seeds, popcorn and apples," Church said.

The kids are also taught the benefits of helping in the community and the importance of giving back.

With all of this going on, it is easy to

see how important it is to have great leaders, but unfortunately the club will be losing one of its greatest this year.

A big change will take place in the St. Marys Beaver club as volunteer and Scouter Laurie McCutcheon steps down as leader.

McCutcheon has been involved with Beavers for more than seven years, during which time she's seen all four of her own children succeed in the program. She is leaving the club as her kids have aged out of the organization and she also volunteers in other organizations such as soccer and ringette.

According to Stewart, McCutcheon

has grown and shaped the culture of the club in extraordinary ways over the years. McCutcheon was instrumental in helping the club manoeuvre through the unknown territory of the COVID-19 pandemic and rebuilding the Scouter team from square one.

"Laurie's sunny demeanor truly exemplifies her scouter name, Sunshine, and her continued fortitude, compassion and sense of humour have made her a key figure," Stewart said.

According to both Stewart and Church, McCutcheon's absence will be strongly felt and they will miss her energy and passion for the club, but feel like she should be proud of the contributions and impact she has made on the youth in our community and wish her all the best.

Also stepping down this year is another wonderful volunteer in the club, Whitney Folkes. Folkes has been involved for three years and, according to Church, has been an instrumental part in teaching the kids to tap into their creative talents by enhancing their card-making skills. Folkes would bring her cricket to meetings to help make craft time more expressive and artistic.

The club wishes to thank both ladies for their dedication, support and friendship.

Anyone interested in joining and becoming a Scouter can contact Stewart at stmarysbeavers@gmail.com.



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COMMUNITY

St. Marys Kinettes give back to the community with Fill your Fridge Fundraiser



Donation to the Friends of the Library. Pictured from left are Kinette president Terri Iredale, Friends of the Library chair Reg Quinton and Kinette Julie Shackleton.



Donation to Minor Soccer and Minor Hockey. Pictured from left are Minor soccer rep Michelle McKeen, Kinette Leslie Monroe and Minor hockey rep Mark Brintnell.

By Wendy Lamond

Over the last month, the St. Marys Kinettes have been busy giving back to the community through their Fill Your Fridge fundraiser.

The service club sold tickets and held a draw in March with the first prize being either 52 \$40 gift cards for President's Choice or Sobey's stores, or \$1,500 cash.

First prize went to Isaac Campbell who took the \$1,500. Second prize, a \$250 President's Choice gift card, was won by Tammy Harris and third prize, a \$100 Presidents Choice gift card,

was won by Crystal Terry.

The draw took place March 3 at the Snapping Turtle Coffee Roasters.

It is because of these fundraisers that the club can give back and help organizations in our community.

The St. Marys Kinette Club is well known for projects like the annual Easter Egg Hunt, National Day of KINDness and sponsoring March Break skates and swims. They also held their first St. Patrick's Day event this year at the Legion in March.

Besides the donations in the pictures, the club also donated to St. Marys

Ringette, St. Marys Minor Ball, Cystic Fibrosis Canada and the Hal Rogers Endowment Fund.

Currently, the club has 18 members with the installation of a new member at the June meeting.

On May 26, five members of the club took part in a five-kilometre walk to make Cystic Fibrosis History. Kin Canada is in partnership with CF as a national service project and, since 1964, the national organization has donated over \$50 million to help find a cure.

"We do not have any projects right

now as we have pretty much wrapped up our year as we typically take a break from meetings and projects over the summer other than helping the Kinsmen with Summerfest," club president Terri Iredale told the Independent.

The June meeting will bring the current year to an end for the service club, but meetings will start up again in September. For more information on the Kinette Club of St. Marys, reach out to them at stmaryskinetteclub@gmail.com or on the Kinette Club of St. Marys facebook page.



Donation to the Salvation Army. Pictured from left are family services worker Leeta Currah and family services manager Jennifer Morris.



Donation to the Teddy Bear Picnic. Pictured from left are Kinette Julie Shackleton and picnic organizer Marlene Forman.

COMMUNITY

Square One Skate Shop hosting fundraiser amid financial struggles

By Emily Stewart

Square One Skate Shop is seeking help from skateboarders and enthusiasts to prevent the shop from closing.

The skate shop will be hosting a fundraiser and skate contest at the Rotary All Wheels Park June 15 at 5 p.m. All proceeds from the event will go to support the shop.

The fundraiser comes after owner Scott LeBlanc posted a video called "We Need Your Help" on the Square One Skate Shop's YouTube channel. LeBlanc said in the video that his accountant suggested he close up the shop due to lower-than-ever revenue. LeBlanc said to the St. Marys Independent that customers from out of town are showing their support by coming to the shop on 29 Water St.

"People as far as Toronto and Hamilton area are concerned and driving all the way and buying massive amounts," LeBlanc said. "It's hard explaining to people that see that much value in something that you are struggling. They can't comprehend how that could even happen when they're willing to go all that way."

Most of the Square One customers live outside of St. Marys. Many of the out-of-town customers remark on how much better the selection is than major brands such as West49 or Zumiez and how there aren't any other skate



Square One Skate Shop is looking for more support from customers as the shop is in danger of closing. Photo courtesy of Scott LeBlanc

shops like Square One.

"It's been great having so much support from so many neighbouring cities, but at the same time, without any day to day walk ins, it has been less than ideal," LeBlanc said.

The owner of Square One also said most people who run a skateboarding shop do so because they are passionate about the sport, rather than for profit, and want the younger generations to experience the same joy they had growing up skateboarding.

"We do it because we love something that we've seen touch and change so many lives," he said. "Giving back to the very thing that taught us to never give up. Skateboard shops usually support the youth of the community by offering not only the culture and equipment but valuable lessons. The things I've learned skateboarding I still use every day in my day-to-day life. It offers kids an outlet for their energy and a possibility to make new friends."

LeBlanc said that if he were to close the St. Marys shop, he would either work in the skateboarding industry or open a shop elsewhere. However, he has spent most of his life in St. Marys from the time he was 11 years old and would rather keep Square One Skate Shop running.

"I would very much rather be able to stay here and offer this community something it has always lacked," he said. "Options for the youth; growing up here felt like you had not many options if you didn't play team sports or (didn't) want to wear athletic clothing. Giving kids opportunities to possibly excel at other things in their lives is my main goal."

More information can be found on the Square One Skate Shop's Facebook or Instagram pages.


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ARTS & CULTURE

The Glass Ceiling in the Arts

By James Giles and Sylvie Verwaayen, edited by Alice Rixson

“Glass Ceiling”, a metaphor coined by Marilyn Loden in 1978, is most commonly applied to represent an invisible barrier that prevents oppressed groups of people from rising beyond a certain level in a hierarchy. It can also signify the lack of racial equality. The term was first used by feminists in reference to barriers in the careers of high-achieving women.

The North American Women’s Liberation Movement was born in the late 1960s. Feminists were not interested in reforming existing social structures but rather wanted to liberate victims of discrimination from oppression. Their goal was to change the perceptions of women’s place in society.

When some are asked to name well known artists, names that crop up are most likely to be European masters such as Michelangelo, da Vinci and Picasso, for instance. Canadian Group of Seven artists such as Tom Thomson and A.Y. Jackson may even come to mind. Curiously, the common thread here is gender; they are all men. Names of female artists usually are not mentioned. For example, Canadian artist and writer Emily Carr (1871-1945) was a woman inspired by the Indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest who exhibited with the Group of Seven in the early 1930s. But her talents escaped widespread recognition until late in her life.

Historically art by women has often been overlooked. Among challenges for women in the Arts has been the lack of access to training, as formal academies excluded women and prevented them from studying certain subjects, such as live figure drawing. The job of child rearing and other domestic obligations meant women had fewer opportunities to succeed in the art world.

Gender inequality in the arts is international, with mounting evidence suggesting that there are gender differences in the number of artists, their access to exhibition space in museums and galleries, and the volume and price of their sales on the secondary auction market.

The Ontario Arts Council (OAC) released a report in 2018 entitled The Status of Women in Canadian Arts and Cultural Industries in which it found that a pervasive gender-based income gap across all six Art sectors - visual arts, dance, theatre, literature, music and media arts. Overall, women’s average incomes were lower than their male peers and women’s artistic and creative work received significantly less public visibility and recognition (awards) than those of men.

St. Marys area resident and artist Sylvie Verwaayen is a child of the mid-1960s and can identify with all of those social issues. She says that her parents were very creative and supported her in traditional female rolls such as knitting, embroidering and



Sylvie Verwaayen. Contributed photo

sewing. But it was her father who introduced her to lathes, milling machines, etc. and taught her to embrace technology.

After completing high school, Verwaayen attended BealArt in London ON and then enrolled in Fanshawe’s Industrial Design program from 1988 to 1991. She was one of only four women in a class of over 20 students. Despite being evaluated and scrutinized more rigorously by male teachers than male students, Verwaayen went on to win an international student design competition in her final year. She was the first Canadian, female, non-engineering student to be a winner in this competition.

The Design Council’s 2022 Design Economy report revealed that the design industry is disproportionately male, with only 23% of designers identifying

as female. Verwaayen broke through this glass ceiling after graduation by securing a job with a software company. She was given the challenge to learn all the desktop design software available. She became part of Ladies That UX (User Experience), a group of women who aim to build a positive space in the design and software community to share, collaborate, develop and hone their skills.

Facing the varied challenges and demands of family and career, she opted to make home life her priority in 2002 but slowly continued with her art, becoming part of many art groups. Her works have been exhibited in many galleries. As an illustrator, she also paints landscapes, florals, portraits and even abstracts and murals.

Verwaayen believes that to lessen the barriers in the Arts requires support, taking risks and mentoring. As soon as her children were more independent, she returned to teaching and became involved with the Larry Myny Mentorship Program at Fanshawe College, which connects industry professionals with aspiring students.

Verwaayen has been the assistant curator at the St. Marys Station Gallery since November 2018. Her accomplishments there include creating and curating digital content on various platforms. She also established a sponsorship program to generate much needed funds for the Gallery.

The St. Marys Station Gallery will host Verwaayen’s first solo show of portraits, illustrations, painting and sculptures November 9. To learn more about this versatile artist, visit her Facebook page SylverDesign Fine Art. This is a private Facebook group, everyone is welcome to join.

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

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COMMUNITY

Charges laid by Stratford police up in April



By Galen Simmons

Stratford police responded to 231 calls for service in St. Marys last month and laid a total of 41 charges, up from 195 calls for service and 31 charges laid in March.

Stratford deputy police chief Gerry Foster presented the monthly crime statistics report for St. Marys at the community policing advisory committee meeting May 15.

Foster reported that police responded

ed to eight false alarms in April, up slightly from seven in March; nine mental-health-related calls, the same number police responded to the month prior; and three domestic-dispute calls – up from two in March – one of which resulted in charges.

Police did not respond to any violent-crime calls, whereas officers responded to four assaults and one sexual offence in March. Similarly, police didn't respond to any drug- or alcohol-related offences.

Local officers were kept busy with property crime, however, responding to one auto theft, five frauds – up from two in March – one theft under \$5,000, and three calls each for mischief, theft from motor vehicle and shoplifting. In March, police responded to three calls for mischief, no calls for shoplifting and one call for theft from motor vehicle.

Police were also called to a break and enter, which Foster said will likely be deemed unfounded with no subse-

quent investigation.

When it came to motor-vehicle collisions last month, police responded to five collisions, one of which resulted in property damage only and four were classified as hit and runs. Police laid a total of 28 traffic tickets last month, one of which was for speeding, two were issued to drivers without a valid permit and one was issued to a driver who failed to surrender their license.



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SPORTS

Three SKC students earn spot on WKC national team

By Spencer Seymour

The Stonetown Karate Centre (SKC) had three students qualify for Team Canada and will travel to Albufeira, Portugal from Oct. 26 to Nov. 1 for the World Karate Championship (WKC).

Sensei Jalyne Lorentz, Lisa Sheldon and Shannon Campbell all earned their spot on the Canadian national team at the WKC National Team tryout in Nepean, Ont. May 17-19. Fox Houston also attended the tryout in the 13-14 boys division and secured an alternate spot in classical forms and creative weapons.

Competing in the 15-17 Girls bracket group, Lorentz took part in seven events and medalled in each one, including a trio of gold medals in traditional weapons, freestyle forms and team synchronized form. Lorentz also took the silver in creative weapons and kenpo forms, as well as the bronze in hardstyle forms and classical forms.

According to Lorentz, the amount of time put in by the trio makes the accomplishment all the more special.

"I am most proud of all of us for the hours and hours of training and preparation we did to be our best on the mat," Lorentz told the Independent. "I am proud of the love and dedication we have for the sport. I am proud of the support we have for each other and the support from our Sensei (Jeremy Lorentz), who makes us that one per cent better every day."

Jalyne Lorentz also described her excitement for stepping back on the world stage.

"It's always exciting to get the chance to show my skills and compete against the best in the world. This year felt extra special to me because I competed in two more divisions than I normally do, making it a total of seven divisions. Not only did I compete in seven, I medalled and qualified in all seven, making it one of my most successful Canadian team tryouts to date."



Pictured from left to right are Lisa Sheldon, Shannon Campbell and Jalyne Lorentz, who qualified for the Canadian national team that will compete at the World Karate Championships from Oct. 26 to Nov. 1 being held in Albufeira, Portugal. Contributed photo

Lisa Sheldon nabbed the gold medal in 42+ women's continuous sparring (65+kg). Sheldon also took fourth place in both 35+ women's and 42+ women's point sparring. Sheldon described the "rewarding" feeling making the national team brings.

"It's a great sense of accomplishment to have made Team Canada once again," said Sheldon. "At Dojo, we're applying ourselves and operating with the mentality of, 'If you do the hard work, you will get rewarded,' and it's a great feeling to know that it has."

According to Sheldon, little moments along the way, both positive and challenging, make the experience truly special.

"What makes me most proud about this journey are those moments when you feel like giving up, especially this year when the competition was tough, but you push through and use that

determination to get you to the finish line. Being able to qualify in divi-

sions for something I enjoy doing is one thing, but being a part of Team Canada with an opportunity to attend the WKC in Portugal is an added bonus. When I get encouraging words or compliments from other competitors, judges and coaches, and having people back home cheering me on, makes all the efforts worth it. To be a part of this experience and the friends made along the way is something I will always appreciate and be grateful for."

Campbell completed the St. Marys collection of golds with a first-place finish in 42+ women's continuous sparring (under 65 kg). Campbell also claimed a bronze in 42+ women's point sparring. Campbell described why the group she is a part of is particularly special.

"I am grateful for the opportunity and extremely proud of the hard work and training I've done to get me to this point. It's also amazing to be part of an all-female team from Stonetown Karate for the second year in a row. I wouldn't be here today without the

push from Sensei Jeremy who spends a lot of extra time training me and helping me become the best version of myself," Campbell said.

"Sensei Jalyne has been very inspiring to watch. Her dedication to the sport is unbelievable and watching her train shows me how hard I need to train. I've cheered Lisa on for years, so now being able to train with and learn from her is amazing."

Campbell added she is proud to have ascended to the heights in karate that she has with a family to enjoy the journey with her.

"I am most proud that I did this in my forties. I started karate in 2019 at the age of 43. I had watched my husband and three sons train in karate for years and, in 2019, my husband competed on Team Canada. It was then that I decided it was time for me to try it. I had been on a health journey for over a year and had lost over 100 pounds so when I first started, I was just doing it for exercise and then fell in love with it. Being able to set lofty goals for myself at this age and achieve them fills me with pride and I hope I can inspire others to chase their dreams no matter how outrageous they may be."

Sensei Jeremy Lorentz explained the students' work ethic led them to once again represent the local dojo on Team Canada.

"It takes an extreme amount of hard training to earn a spot on the Canadian team," Jeremy Lorentz told the Independent. "It requires hours at the dojo, many pre-tournaments to attend and test your skills, and sizing up competition to be the best. Our students impress us the most with their great attitudes, respect for the other competitors and willingness to continue learning and adjusting their skills to be the top in their divisions. We are so proud of them all and look forward to being part of their growth and advancement in competitive sport karate."



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SPORTS

DCVI senior boys WOSSAA-bound after H-P finals

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys DCVI senior boys soccer team punched their ticket to WOSSAA by making it to the Huron-Perth Championship after finishing their regular season with a blowout win over Mitchell.

DCVI's senior boys travelled to Stratford for the Huron-Perth Playoffs May 23 where they began the day with a semi-final clash against Stratford District Secondary (SDSS). Head coach Richard Farmer told the Independent his team was particularly revved up for their match against SDSS.

"The boys were very fired up," said Farmer. "We tied them earlier in the season in a game that saw us lose Sebastian Linares for the season. We didn't play particularly well in our previous match, so we were determined to put in a better showing and that we did."

Carson Brock opened the scoring for St. Marys, sending home a goal under five minutes into the game. The Salukis rode the momentum of the game's first goal for much of the first half, dominating up until a hard press by SDSS in the final 10 minutes. Stratford found several quality scoring chances but couldn't bury any of them. Goalkeeper Charles Black came up with a miraculous save right on the goal line.

The Salukis got back in control of the match in the second half and didn't let up. A strong solo effort by Owen Littlejohn and an incredible goal by Andres Gomez from 30 yards out pushed DCVI to a 3-0 victory.

"We were much stronger in the second half and controlled it from start to finish. Much credit must be given to the SDSS goalkeeper because he had to make a lot of saves. Our defense was solid throughout and our wingbacks made some great runs that really spread Stratford's defense. I switched to three defenders, five midfielders and two strikers for the (last game of the regular season) against Mitchell and continued to do so in this game. It gives us more attacking presence and greater width in attack."

Later that day, DCVI returned to the pitch to battle St. Michael Catholic Secondary in the playoff final. St. Michael earned their way to the final earlier in the day with a 2-0 win over South Huron. This time, a somewhat slow start for St. Marys led to the Salukis being on the wrong end of a goal in the first few minutes of the game. Even though the rest of the first half evened out, St. Michael took a 2-0 lead.

Arthur Douglas beat the opposing keeper to the ball and potted one for DCVI, cutting the lead back to one, but before the first half was over, St.

Michael retook a two-goal advantage.

Coach Farmer said it simply wasn't the Salukis' day when it came to the final.

"In the second half, we switched to a back-four, but this weakened our attack. We did manage to earn a penalty, but the St. Mike's keeper guessed right and made a good save. We had some good shots on net and we kept St. Mike's from having any good attempts, but we were unable to overcome their two-goal lead. It is a fair result. We are closely matched to St. Mike's, but on this day, they were the better team."

Despite the loss, the Salukis will compete at WOSSAA as they finished as one of the top two single A schools in the Huron-Perth playoffs. DCVI also finished the regular season as the top single A school in the conference, narrowly beating out South Huron by a single point.

The Salukis ended their regular season May 21 with a 5-0 thrashing of Mitchell. At that point, DCVI was trying to bounce back after an off-day in their previous pair of matches. Farmer said following the win over Mitchell his group successfully refocused and got back to the level they played at for most of the season.

"The boys had a much better attitude and played with much more freedom,

which resulted in the dominant win over Mitchell," Farmer said. "Charles (Black) only had to make one save the whole game and I'm pretty sure if he left it, it was going wide. The Mitchell keeper was excellent and made some top-class saves as we applied pressure right from the start."

On the game's first goal, Brock drew the Mitchell keeper out of the net only to cross the ball to a wide-open Wil Boreham for the easy tap-in. Later in the game, Littlejohn finally solved the Mitchell netminder with a rocket into the far corner. A long-range shot by Sebben deflected off a Mitchell defender for the Salukis' third goal. Brock added a fourth off an indirect free kick in their 18-yard box followed by Douglas adding a fifth in the game's dying moments when the keeper slipped, allowing for an easy tap-in.

In addition to the offensive outburst, Farmer was also pleased with his defensive crew.

"The defence was impressive with Dan Zulu leading the line. Dan has played every minute of the regular season. Peyton Lobb, Ian Partridge, Blake Elzinga and Nic Brintnell were also solid on the back end for us. Nic Brintnell is a call-up from the junior squad and was very impressive."

DCVI ultimate frisbee wins WOSSAA title

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys DCVI ultimate frisbee team won the WOSSAA Championship May 22, defeating Sir Frederick Banting Secondary of London to capture the title.

In their first game of the day, DCVI took on A.B. Lucas Secondary School from London and came away with a 12-4 win. The Salukis were on fire right from the start of the game, jumping out to an 8-2 lead by the end of the first half.

After narrowly falling in a one-point nail-biter to the defending champion, Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute, St. Marys took on the top-seeded Saunders Secondary School out of London in the semi-final. A back-and-forth first half culminated with a big St. Marys point that followed a stretch of fantastic defensive play by the Salukis. DCVI hung on in the second half for a 5-4 victory, a win that put them in the finals against Banting.

The weather conditions had been

difficult for most of the day, but in the final, gale-force winds made things even more challenging. Both sides battled valiantly and exchanged points, resulting in a 2-2 tie at halftime and three points apiece at the end of regulation time. DCVI finally secured the 4-3 win with a universe point in extra time.

Head coach Chris Marcou said his team's ability to literally weather the storm of strong winds played a massive role in their victory.

"Our ability to throw the disc in difficult conditions was definitely a key factor in our success," Marcou told the Independent. "We did a good job of throwing short, low passes with lots of spin which helped us overcome the strong wind. In the second half, we used the clock and the wind to our advantage and, because of that, we got rewarded with a WOSSAA championship."

Thanks to their WOSSAA victory, the Salukis will compete at OFSAA, which is being held May 30-31.



The St. Marys DCVI ultimate frisbee team won the WOSSAA Championship May 22. Pictured in front is head coach Chris Marcou. In the middle row, from left to right, are Trevor Richardson, Harvest Elliot, Olive Aarts, Griffin McGregor, Jimmy Schiedel and Adam Turner. In the back row, from left, are Arthur Douglas, Hayden Brintnell, Grayson Boreham, Colton Henderson, Charlee Pickering, Marin Chateauvert, Ellen Thorup, Will Boreham, Trevor Aarts and Marieke van Lierop. Contributed photo

SPORTS

DCVI Track & Field team earns strong results at WOSSAA

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys DCVI track-and-field team will send 15 individuals and one relay team to Windsor this week for the OFSAA West meet after a successful meet at WOSSAA May 23-24.

DCVI earned the best results of any Huron-Perth school in attendance and placed sixth overall.

Coach Nathan Good said the entire squad is pumped for their chance to compete against such a high level of competition.

"Everyone is very excited," Good told the Independent. "For some, it will be their first OFSAA experience. Others have been there before, but it's still very exciting. We're hoping to qualify some athletes for the OFSAA championships. That will require placing in the top four in an event which will be particularly challenging as OFSAA West is widely regarded as, by far, the toughest region to advance from. With OFSAA so close to home, anyone who qualifies will be looking forward to a big St. Marys contingent in

the stands."

The OFSAA Championships will be held from June 6-8 in London. The list of DCVI's athletes travelling to Windsor is as follows:

- Charlotte Clinton – 1st place in open girls 2,000-metre steeplechase, 1st place in 3,000-metre run
- Ezra Bender – 5th place in open boys 2,000-metre steeplechase
- Vaughn Barr – 4th place in novice boys 100-metre hurdles, 1st place in novice boys pole vault
- Abe Bender – 2nd place in novice boys 400-metre run, 1st place in novice boys 800-metre run
- Donovan McGregor – 2nd place in novice boys shotput
- Payton Blight – 1st place in junior girls discus, 2nd place in junior girls shotput, 2nd place in junior girls javelin
- Eden Sinnett – 3rd place in senior girls javelin
- Charlie Bender – 1st place in nov-

ice boys 1,500-metre run, 1st place in novice boys 3,000-metre run

- Nic Brintnell – 4th place in novice boys 1,500-metre run, 2nd place in novice boys 3,000-metre run
 - Kaleb Dingman – 3rd place in junior boys 1,500-metre run, 2nd place in junior boys 3,000-metre run
 - Zach Larmer – 4th place in novice boys pole vault
 - Ethan Henderson – 5th place in novice boys pole vault
 - Charlotte Richardson – 3rd place in novice girls 300-metre hurdles, 5th place in novice girls 800-metre run
 - Danny Switzer – 4th place in junior boys 200-metre run
 - Holly Black – 4th place in novice girls pole vault
 - Anna Ropp, Avery Jennings, Kiara McGregor and Lila Corby – 2nd place in senior girls 4x100-metre relay
- Making the Salukis' track-and-field success even more impressive is DCVI's status as a relatively smaller

school. Coach Good said the St. Marys crew enjoys battling the odds against bigger schools.

"It feels great to send such a large group to OFSAA West. We relish the role of the underdog single A school competing against much larger double A and triple A schools. I'm really proud of the program we've developed over the past several years. Along with myself, we've got Ian Morton and Megan Bryan as coaches, as well as Steve Chateauvert, who stepped up to run morning high-jump practices, and Emily Drake who helped with the distance group until her long-term, occasional assignment ended.

"I'm also very proud of this team in particular. Sometimes, track-and-field teams feel more like a collection of individuals. This feels like a team. Everyone takes an interest in each other's events. They cheer each other on, celebrate successes and offer support when things don't go as well as hoped. I think the success we've had has a lot to do with that."

U17 HP Rockies battle back for first win of season

By Spencer Seymour

The McLean-Taylor Construction U17 HP Girls St. Marys Rockies picked up their first win of the year May 21 in a come-from-behind 11-10 victory over the Wilmot Thunder.

Head coach Carly McEwan admitted the team's start to the game wasn't what they had hoped for, but she was very pleased with how the girls fought back in the later stages of the contest.

"The girls had a rough start to the game," McEwan said. "There were multiple outfield errors and they had trouble hitting, but when we started executing on the little details, we

saw things turn in our favour. Bailey (Wiffen, an assistant coach) and I are really trying to emphasize to the girls how important the little things are. Ensuring an accurate throw is made and taking your time at the plate are all things that will lead to our success."

After falling behind early by four runs, the Rockies clawed back to even out the game, which became a much more back-and-forth affair heading into the final inning. After securing three quick outs, Priya Pickel hit a single that brought Cammie Lobb, on third base at the time, back home for the winning run.

McEwan discussed a conversation between the coaching staff and the players after the rocky beginning to the game, which the girls used as the catalyst to change the game's course.

"Bailey and I talked to them after the tough start and told them how we thought the two teams were very evenly matched and how we knew the girls were able to keep up with them and hit off their pitcher. I think that conversation helped them turn things around. We instilled some confidence in them. They were making smarter decisions with the ball in the outfield. They were taking their time with their throws and doing a good job of

getting it back to the pitcher instead of throwing it away and making overthrows that advance the runners."

Gracy Schlotzhauer had a fantastic night on the mound with Billie Sedley behind the plate as her catcher. Coach McEwan credited the duo for their strong partnership.

"Gracy and Billie are a great duo who we thoroughly enjoy watching together," said McEwan. "Both girls are able to know what the other is going to do without even talking. They have a good connection off the field which I think shows on the field as well."



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Liam Leis drives to the net with the ball during the U10 Boys Tier Two St. Marys Storm game this past Sunday.



Addison Hudson winds back for a shot during this past Sunday's U10 Girls Tier Two St. Marys Storm game.



Jacob Hahn fires the ball from the outfield during the Royal Canadian Legion U11 WOBA Blue St. Marys Rockies last Thursday.



McKenna Ross tosses the ball to first base during last Wednesday's Wildwood Care Centre U13 HP St. Marys Rockies game.



Will Richardson launches a pitch during the Forman Electric U13 WOBA Blue St. Marys Rockies game last Wednesday. All photos by Spencer Seymour



Hank McArthur catches a throw to secure an out during last Wednesday's Cubberley Plumbing and Heating U13 WOBA Red St. Marys Rockies game.

SPORTS

Chargers take first win on the road

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys Division 3 Chargers scored their first victory of the season May 22 with a 4-2 win over the German Canadian FC Eagles in London.

Player-coach Laura Van De Walle told the Independent she was pleased with the dynamic offensive ability displayed by the Chargers.

"It was a strong start and we showed how much skill this team has," said Van De Walle. "We communicated well, created numerous scoring opportunities and had a ton of fun for our first game. We hope to continue

to build on these skills going forward and are looking forward to a great season."

Kirsten de Jong led the offensive charge for St. Marys, netting two goals in the win. Lydia Taylor and Joanna Van De Walle each found the back of the net for the Chargers. Olivia Beckett turned in a strong effort in goal, an early positive sign for the squad as this season marks the first in which Beckett has played the goalkeeper position.

The win was just the second game of the team's season and, according to Van De Walle, offers the team a chance to build positive momentum

right out of the gate.

"I think having a strong start to the season helps the team build confidence in one another and within ourselves. This is something we haven't had since coming back from the pandemic. I hope to see our team continue to build more control and possession. This requires strong communication and continued confidence in each other. Ultimately, the more control we have, the more we start to see the style of the game evolve.

"It's nice to have a team filled with competitive women who are driven to work hard and continuously improve their skills," continued Van De

Walle. "We are definitely more calm and collected at the beginning of this season in comparison to last. We see it manifest when make smart choices with the ball and avoid panicking and losing possession. This group already has more confidence in their ability to take on defenders and take shooting opportunities when they arise."

Women's soccer expanded in St. Marys this season with a new recreational team along with the competitive team. Over 40 women registered this year and the Chargers program hopes that number continues to grow.

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SPORTS

Sign up now for Lincolns golf tournament June 22

By Pat Payton (Special to the Independent)

The annual St. Marys Lincolns golf tournament is now just over three weeks away.

Organizers say a maximum of 30 four-person teams (120 golfers) can sign up for the GOJHL team's fundraising event, and the field is already "half full."

The four-person Texas Scramble format will be held Saturday, June 22 at River Valley Golf and Country Club with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Entry fee is \$150 per golfer, which includes a power cart and steak dinner.

The golf tourney chairmen are Dan Murrell and Brian Hughes. Contact them to sign up a foursome by emailing lincolnsgolf@gmail.com. For more information, contact Murrell (danwmurrell@gmail.com), Hughes (hughesbr52@gmail.com) or Scott Graham (scottgraham06@gmail.com).

Several impressive items will be auctioned following the dinner including a President's Cup package. The prestigious 2024 President's Cup will be held at the Royal Montreal Golf Club, Sept. 26-29. The package is for two people and covers four days, including tickets and hotel accommodations.

The popular golf ball toss will also be held, where patrons purchase balls and toss them off the River Valley patio onto the nearby No. 9 green. The closest ball to the hole wins the 50-50 cash prize.

Tourney notebook:

-The tournament is being co-hosted by the Lincolns' executive and the Lincs' Alumni Group.

-The fee for just attending the meal following the tourney is \$50.

-The tournament winners will again receive green jackets.

-Core Fuels & Red Cap Propane is the title sponsor of the 2024 Lincolns' tournament.

-Hole sponsorships can also be purchased. Contact Rob Mossey at rwbear1221@hotmail.com for more information.



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Men's pairs tournament opens lawn bowling season



The Parks Lawn Bowling Club hosted its first tournament of the year on May 22 with 16 teams battling for the Men's Pairs title. The tournament was sponsored by Peak Select Realty. Pictured from left to right are Dave Johnston, Larry McLellan, and Rick Wood. McLellan presented the winners' plaque to Johnston and Wood, who won the tournament for the second consecutive year. Juergen Fessler and Fred Clarke finished in second place while Terry Little and Dave Austen rounded out the top three. Wayne Wright and Jim Roth took fourth and the consolation prize went to Wayne Martin and Andy Flanagan. Contributed photo



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COMMUNITY

St. Marys Nails Salon is open at 23 Water Street South



Edison and Jessica Le are ready to welcome you into their lovely salon.



Diane Elston is all smiles being pampered with some me time. Photos by Wendy Lamond

By Wendy Lamond

While most will remember April 8, 2024 as the day of the solar eclipse, Edison and Jessica Le will remember it for a different reason – the opening of their new nail salon on Water Street.

The pair, who are both originally from Vietnam, lived in Toronto and moved to Stratford after their kids were born. They had a small shop in Stratford called Angel Nail Salon but had heard so many great things about St. Marys and made the decision to open a shop here. The couple have two children and still reside in Stratford for now, but love St. Marys so much they may consider relocating.

“We love the people here,” Edison Le said. “Everyone is very friendly and helpful. The town has made our transactions with opening a new business in St. Marys a lot easier and everyone has made us feel so welcomed. We will try our best to give our

services back to the lovely people in the town. It makes me want to move my family here and reside here soon.”

Both acquired their talents from the Looks Aesthetics Academy in Mississauga and have been in the industry for 15 years. Jessica Le started out in the beauty industry when she came to Canada while Edison Le was helping his uncle at a shop in Brampton.

“I just love the beauty industry and I love to help women feel beautiful about themselves and we offer a selfcare service that everyone should do for themselves,” Edison Le said.

The salon is open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

They offer a range of services from all kinds of nail extensions to manicures and pedicures for natural

nails, as well as waxing for eyebrows, faces, arms, upper lips, legs and sideburns.

To contact the Les for an appointment, call 226-880-1555.

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HISTORY

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Elsie Willard and Douglas Turnbull

By Mary Smith

Many St. Marys buildings in the downtown core were built in the 19th century for a specific purpose. While their outward appearance may retain many original features, frequently their interiors have been put to vastly different uses through the years. A good example is this week's photograph of the limestone building at 26 Wellington Street South. In the mid-19th century, it was the Ontario House, a hotel owned by William Constable. In 1960, when Constable's great-great-granddaughter, Elsie (Willard) Turnbull, took this photograph, it was an auto supply shop and wrecker. Today, perhaps its most popular occupant is Tito's Pizza. Elsie and her husband, Douglas Turnbull, grew up in St. Marys but, from 1928 onward, lived in British Columbia. The photographs that Elsie took on their various trips back to St. Marys are among their contributions to our knowledge about our community's history.

Elsie, born December 27, 1903, was the daughter of Frank Willard and Florence Heriot, the eldest of their four daughters. Her father, Frank, was a painter, interior decorator, and a commercial sign painter of considerable talent. Although he had left school early to work with his father who was also a highly skilled decorator, he was a well-read man, very knowledgeable about world events. A close friend was A. C. Wood, a writer and the St. Marys customs collector. According to Elsie: "The two often took off for an evening of fishing, or, if the weather was inclement, an argument over the genius of Napoleon Bonaparte or the wisdom of Marcus Aurelius." Gerald Wright, who, as a teenager, worked as Frank's assistant in 1942, recalled that Frank, by that time an elderly man and nominally a Presbyterian, claimed to have no use for organized religion with the possible exception of the Salvation Army. However, Gerry also remembered Frank's deep affection for his wife and daughters – an affection that was returned.

It was an interesting household to grow up in. Elsie and her sisters acquired a respect for learning and also for reasoning, discussing and questioning. Elsie's formal schooling started when she was five or six years old, during a time of change in the local public school system. As the town's population grew, the first Central School, a drafty, out-dated building from the 1850s, had become extremely over-crowded. Various spaces around town were rented and modified as temporary overflow school rooms while the public school board



During a visit to St. Marys ca 1960, Elsie Turnbull took this photograph of the limestone building at 26 Wellington Street South. Built in the 1850s, it was originally a hotel owned by William Constable, her great-great-grandfather. The building has had many different occupants throughout its history.

worked to persuade town council to build a new school building. There was even a "Willard School" – a classroom in an empty room behind her grandfather's paint shop on Wellington Street North. Finally, in March 1915, the new Central School opened on Elizabeth Street, in time for Elsie's final elementary year before she started high school.

The Willards lived on the river side of Emily Street, in a frame house, just north of the Grand Trunk underpass. It was an easy walk for Elsie and her sisters to the old St. Marys Collegiate Institute on the north ward hill, between Water and Wellington Streets. Elsie enjoyed high school, participating in sports and other activities, and was very successful in her studies. She may have shared some of her classes with her future husband, Douglas Turnbull, a fellow St. Marys Collegiate student. They both went on to the University of Toronto where Elsie studied English and History at Victoria College and Douglas earned an applied science degree in metallurgical engineering.

Although he was also born in St. Marys, Douglas grew up under circumstances somewhat different from Elsie's. His maternal grandfather, J. D. Moore was an early entrepreneur in St. Marys. He was a produce dealer, miller, property owner, and one of the town's major employers. Douglas's maternal grandmother, Elizabeth (Shand) Moore, was J. D. Moore's second wife; his first wife had died in 1866, leaving a year-old baby girl, named Agnes. The second Mrs. Moore was a businesswoman, very involved in the J. D. Moore enterprises. She was a strong, independent-minded woman, probably not the easiest person

to have as a wife, mother or grandmother. Douglas's mother, born in 1873, was her only child. She was also called Elizabeth – her father always called her "Little Lizzie."

In August 1899, Lizzie Moore married John Watson Turnbull, a Galt businessman. Their wedding, described in great detail in both the *Argus* and the *Journal*, took place at the J. D. Moore residence, the large brick house at 252 Jones Street East, currently the Taylor Apartments. John and Elizabeth first lived in Galt but came back to St. Marys when her father developed cancer. J. D. Moore died in 1902, dividing his estate between his two daughters. Although Agnes and her husband, R. C. Hunter, remained involved in the J. D. Moore Company, Lizzie sold her shares and withdrew from the business.

Following J. D. Moore's death, Elizabeth Moore, suffering from ill health, moved to California in 1908. The Turnbulls joined her and invested in an orange orchard. By this time, they had two children: a daughter, Alice, born in June 1901 and Douglas, born in 1903. Mrs. J. D. Moore died in 1911. The Turnbulls returned to St. Marys and to the family home at the corner of Jones and King Streets. Sadly, their daughter, Alice, died in 1913, at the age of 12. With the exception of a period of time between 1917 and 1920 when the Turnbulls returned to California to deal with their orchard, John and Lizzie lived in the spacious Jones Street house for the rest of their lives. It was a comfortable home, but perhaps young Douglas, now an only child, found it rather quiet compared to the lively Willard household on the other side of town.

After earning her degree, Elsie Willard went to the Ontario College of Education and then taught at the St. Marys Collegiate for two years. Meanwhile, Douglas accepted a position with the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada in Trail, British Columbia. He remained with that company in several supervisory positions until his retirement in 1965. Elsie resigned at the end of her second year of teaching. In the summer of 1928, she travelled west to marry Douglas and joined him in Trail to begin their married life. They had two children: Margaret and John, who grew up in the beautiful West Kootenay Region. Elsie and Douglas were very involved in all levels of life in their community, serving as volunteers and leaders for many organizations. In 1949, Douglas was elected Liberal Member of the Legislative Assembly and the Turnbulls moved to Victoria. During part of his term in office, he served as Minister of Health and Welfare and helped to consolidate universal hospital insurance for British Columbia residents. He was defeated in the 1952 provincial election and the Turnbulls resumed their lives in Trail.

Elsie was intrigued by the history of the province and was a founding member of the West Kootenay Historical Society. She made research notes from the turn-of-the-century regional newspapers and collected material from many other sources. These served as the basis for several local history books, numerous newspaper articles, speeches and radio spots. She became well-known as the "Chronicler of the Kootenays." She brought this fascination with history back to Ontario during the Turnbulls' frequent visits to relatives and friends in St. Marys.

Elsie was also a genealogist. Throughout the 1980s, she corresponded regularly with staff and volunteers at the St. Marys Museum, confirming dates and details as she traced the history of both her own and also Douglas's St. Marys families. Douglas and Elsie had been married 65 years when Douglas died in 1993. Elsie died in 1996 at the age of 92. Her family donated the copious Kootenay research material to the Selkirk College Library in Castlegar, British Columbia. They also prepared a large collection of St. Marys-related slides, photographs, typescripts, notes and other textual materials that they placed in the R. Lorne Eedy Archives at the St. Marys Museum. Several of the stories contained in Elsie's research findings will be explored in future Historic St. Marys columns.

Thorndale News

A section within the St. Marys Independent



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Local businesses and clubs support Grade 8 class trip fundraising efforts at Nissouri Public School

By Nancy Abra

Besides graduating, another highlight for the Grade 8 students at West Nissouri Public School is their trip to Camp Celtic in Lion's Head on the Bruce Peninsula, which took place this year June 4-7.

This camp is a special four-day retreat for the students that focuses on leadership, outdoor adventures and education.

Camp Celtic has become a tradition of more than a decade for the graduating class at West Nissouri Public

School. With the cost per student to attend approximately \$650, the students fundraise starting in the fall with their Haunted House event in October and bake sale at the Christmas craft show at the Thorndale Lion's Community Centre in November.

Throughout the winter, the fundraising continues with Junk Day, during which students sell sweet treats to students at the school, chocolate-bar sales, selling Valentine bouquets made by Wandering Bee, a bottle drive and a bake sale at the spring craft show in Thorndale at the end of

April.

"Each student pays a deposit to attend," said Lori Russell, a school parent and the lead organizer of the fundraising campaign. "Even though the students work hard raising the funds throughout the school year to make it affordable for all the Grade 8 students to attend Camp Celtic outing, they needed some assistance from the community. We reached out to the businesses and clubs for donations and got an awesome response."

Russell, the committee and the Grade 8 students would like to thank M.

Jones, Goris Electric, Little Creek Tree Farm, Garan Steven Realtor, Rising Lotus Yoga Studio, Grey Lane Kennels, McCutcheon Drainage, Monarch Meadow Tree Farm, Shake the Sugar Tree, Thorndale Dental Centre, Thorndale Animal Hospital, and the Thorndale Optimist and Thorndale Lions clubs.

"Many thanks to all of our sponsors and we are so delighted with the assistance in this fundraising campaign," Russell said. "It truly takes a village to raise a child and Thorndale is an awesome community."

Food: the ingredient that supports

By Nancy Abra

Food is used to celebrate special events and commemorate rituals or traditions. Whatever the event, good food attracts people.

Whether it's church suppers or community breakfasts throughout the year, Thorndale area residents, neighbours and the surrounding community come out in droves to attend and support.

Recently, the Thorndale United Church hosted its annual Ham and Strawberry supper. This event has been a long-standing tradition of more than 40 years that attracts area residents and community members to enjoy a delicious summer-picnic-style meal including strawberries and homemade cakes and ice cream with the camaraderie of friends and neighbours.

Marilyn Flanigan of the organizing committee stated there were 690 dinners sold, which included the take-out option for busy families.

"It takes many hands to prepare and

serve this supper. We had a dedicated group of volunteers besides our church family that helped. But it also takes the support of the community of Thorndale and beyond as without them, our fundraising suppers would not be this successful to help with our church-building expenses and community-outreach events," Flanigan said.

Besides church suppers, community breakfasts also draw a large, hungry crowd. Every January and April, the Thorndale Lions host their community breakfasts to help fund their community projects. And it seems the community enjoys a good, hearty breakfast as, last Sunday morning, hundreds of people from the community and beyond attended the firefighters breakfast at the Thorndale Fire Station for their annual event. The proceeds of this fundraiser will be going to Muscular Dystrophy Canada, which is the charity that firefighters in this county and across Canada support.



Thorndale Fire Station firefighters held their annual community breakfast recently with proceeds of this fundraiser going to Muscular Dystrophy of Canada. Pictured from left are firefighter Kurt Denkers, Capt. Kyle Rodgers, Derek Johnson, lead organizer of this community breakfast, and Deputy District Chief Robert Kuenzlen. Contributed photo

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Thorndale News

A section within the
St. Marys Independent

Police seize drugs, stolen vehicles worth \$340K in Thorndale



In partnership with London Police and OPP, Stratford police recently concluded a month-long drug investigation resulting in three arrests, the seizure of drugs and cash and the recovery of three stolen vehicles.

By St. Marys Independent staff

On May 21, the Stratford Police concluded a month-long drug investigation which resulted in the arrests of three people and the execution of search warrants at a residence on King Street in Thorndale and on Sanders Street in the City of London.

The search warrants and arrests were executed by the London Police Emergency Response Unit, London Police Mobile Surveillance Unit,

Ontario Provincial Police Physical Surveillance Unit and the Ontario Provincial Police Tactics and Rescue Unit.

As a result of the search warrants, police seized 191 grams of fentanyl, 290 grams of methamphetamine, 29 grams of cocaine, 116 10-milligram Oxycodone pills, 30 30-milligram codeine/500-milligram acetaminophen pills, 100 0.5-milligram clonazepam pills, 2,059 eight-milligram benzimidazole pills, 38 20-milligram Ad-



This Range Rover, along with a Dodge Challenger and Lexus, was recovered by police as part of a drug investigation in Thorndale. Photos courtesy of Stratford Police Service

derall pills, one gram of crack, 237 60-milligram Hydromorphone pills as well as \$22,178.50 in Canadian currency. Police also recovered three stolen, high-end vehicles (Range Rover, Lexus and Challenger) and one vehicle was seized as proceeds of crime.

The total dollar amount in property seized is over \$250,000. Total street value of drugs seized is \$89,795. Sahr Alqassis, a 29-year-old man from Thorndale, a 30-year-old female also

of Thorndale, as well as a 54-year-old male of London have been charged with numerous charges including possession for the purpose of trafficking in methamphetamine and fentanyl.

Two of the accused were released from police custody while one was held for a bail hearing. Special thanks to the London Police Service and the Ontario Provincial Police for their assistance in this project.

Happy June from the Thorndale Library!

Submitted by the Thorndale Library

Our Summer at the Library programming will begin on July 2 and will include reading challenges and special Summer programs. Watch this space for more details!

Until then, check out our other great programming. Crochet There will meet on June 12 from 6-7:30 p.m. This monthly program is for all ages and skill levels. Limited supplies will be

available for beginners.

B-I-N-G-O! Our Seniors BINGO program will be on June 20 at 3 p.m. Registration required.

Gather and Quilt will meet on June 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Bring your supplies and work on your own quilting projects or contribute to a group project we plan to submit to the Thorndale Fair!

To register, please visit us online at

www.library.middlesex.ca/events or contact library staff at 519-461-1150.

Please join us at our weekly drop-in programs, too. Storytime is the place to be for little ones and their caregivers on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. School-aged children are invited to After-school Hangout on Thursdays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., our Art Attack drop-in program will feature an easy craft to try.

Need some reading inspiration? Middlesex County Library has provided suggestions for each month. What's shorter than a novel and longer than a short story? This month's reading inspiration: novellas!

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

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CALL 519-284-0041 OR EMAIL ADS@STMARYSINDEPENDENT.COM

COLUMN

HOSTING UKRAINE: Therapy Dogs

By VJ Knutson

A few weeks before COVID broke out, Ric and I adopted two adult dogs. Pippi, a Maltese/Yorkie mix, and Toby, a Poodle/Havanese cross. The pair, who were 7 and 5 at the time of rehoming, had grown up together so came as a package.

Pippi was scared at first, seeking comfort from our granddaughter, unwilling to explore the house. Toby, much more laid back, was happy to cuddle in. They spent the majority of their day at the front window barking at everyone who walked by and unfortunately, showed aggression in those early months.

Then we moved house, and while Pippi had to be encouraged to explore the new house again, the two enjoyed the view – all nature – and especially the backyard, where they could run freely thanks to an invisibility fence. They settled into our quiet COVID lives contentedly.

Then Russia attacked Ukraine, and while the dogs had no idea change was on the horizon, we were planning to turn our household upside down. I wondered how Pippi and Toby would respond to our new guests. I also hoped that our new guests would be okay with the dogs.

Ukrainians, it turns out, love their pets as much as we do, and while some brought their beloved cats or dogs with them, many were left be-



Our therapy dogs

hind with relatives or friends. So, the appearance of not one, but two 12-pound dogs, lit up the faces of young and old alike. Language is not a barrier between person and animal. Love and affection translate through touch, and Pippi loves to be touched. Our dogs were about to be spoiled rotten.

For the six weeks that Ruslan, Nataly, and kids lived with us, then 9-year-old Vasyliisa carried Pippi everywhere. I know it is said that you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but I'm

here to tell you, it's not true. Our Pippi learned to be a princess in that short time, and when the family moved out, she looked for us to carry her everywhere. Um, no.

What surprised me most about the dogs was how quickly they adapted to each family. Pippi, who commands attention from adults – she will literally leap into anyone's lap, invited or not – would lay down and roll over for small children, assertiveness set aside. Toby, whose habit is to follow Pippi everywhere, remained calm and

accepting of whatever was going on. It was almost as if they were trained therapy dogs.

Now, two years later, Pippi shakes with excitement if any of our extended family drop by. Their loyalty is not limited to just Ric and I. They have many new loves.

It's quieter here now, of course, with only Ric, Lesia, and I. While the dogs tolerate us and our doddering ways, they adore Lesia. She calls them "her children" and chatters away in Ukrainian, and they follow like, well, little pups. They wait for her to return home from work in the late afternoons, watching the garage door with anticipation, then rushing for first dibs at her attention. They sit at the top of the stairs and whine when she stays in her room too long. They vie for a place beside her in the evenings on the couch, where she lavishes them with dog massages and endless loving.

The decision to adopt not one, but two dogs, was really an emotional impulse on our part. After our last dog died, ten years prior, we swore that we wouldn't have another. Now we can't imagine a life without them and are ever grateful that they were here and ready to embrace whoever came through our door.

Until next time.

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

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ST. MARYS, ONTARIO

Ask the Arborist

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

Dear Arborist,

I had a Spruce tree fall over and up-root due to the high winds earlier this spring. Wondering if I can stand it back up, or just remove it. Its about 40 ft tall. Recover or Remove?

Sincerely
Recover or Remove

Dear Recover or Remove

It is possible to stand a 40ft tree back up, but it is rarely feasible. First is the cost, you need an excavator as well as other equipment. Additionally, often available equipment is not large enough to raise the tree. The final consideration is how to keep it from tipping over once again. Installing

an anchoring system would have to be fairly secure to hold a 40ft Spruce.

Typically, the easiest and most economic option is to remove. When removing a leaning, up-rooted tree its important to remember not to cut it from the top. This will often cause the tree to catapult upwards. This can crush anyone in the root zone, or badly injure anyone hit by the branches or trunk. As always we are happy to help if needed.

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

COLUMN

WHAT'S FOR DINNER: Company is coming



By Lauren Eedy

With temperatures rising, having an arsenal of refreshing seasonal drink recipes is key for staying cool and hydrated.

Nothing is better than sitting outside with a glass of lemonade and, this week, we are exploring two takes on lemonade using things we often can find in our own backyard (or a neighbour's, just make sure to ask first). Both are non-alcoholic but you are welcome to use your own discretion to make them otherwise, depending on your company.

As well, I have included a very savoury, satisfying and simple-to-prepare vegetarian, upside-down tart, which will offset the sweetness of these springtime beverages.

Feel free to play with ingredients for the upside-down tarts; they are always a hit when I serve them.

Rhubarb Lemonade

- 4 cups chopped rhubarb
- 1 cups granulated sugar
- 4 cups water
- 1 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice (4-6 lemons)
- Lemon slices (garnish)

Method:

- To prepare rhubarb syrup: in a medium saucepan, combine the chopped rhubarb, sugar and water. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat, or until rhubarb is soft and the liquid is bright pink.

- To strain the syrup, remove saucepan from heat source and let cool slightly. Strain mixture through a fine-mesh sieve into a bowl or measuring cup, pressing the solids to extract as much liquid as possible. Discard solids and allow syrup to cool completely.

- To mix the lemonade, in a large pitcher, combine the cooled rhubarb syrup and freshly squeezed lemon juice. Stir well to combine and pour

over ice. Garnish with lemon slices.

Lilac Lemonade

- 2 litre glass pitcher (8 cups)
- 2 cups lilac blossoms
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- ¾ cup lemon juice (3-4 lemons)
- 3 cups ice
- 4 cups of water, divided
- Lemon slices (garnish)

Method:

- Pluck lilac flowers off the stems into a bowl. Add water to cover and let sit for 10 minutes. Rinse well to remove any dirt and bugs. Drain the water off. Measure two cups of lilac blossoms packed into a measuring cup. You can add slightly more or less, depending on how much you have.

- Place the washed lilacs into a medium saucepan. Add sugar and 1 cup of water. Bring to a boil and simmer for 1 minute.

- Turn off heat and let cool to room temperature in the saucepan.

- Strain the syrup into a jar or container and squeeze out any syrup left over in petals. Discard flowers.

- Squeeze lemons and pour into a non-metal pitcher.

- Add 3 cups of ice and 3 cups of water. Pour lilac syrup into lemonade and stir. Optionally, add some sliced lemons and washed lilac blossoms. Enjoy!

- *The lilac syrup can be stored in an airtight container in the fridge for one to two weeks. The lemonade will keep in the fridge for one to two days but is best enjoyed the day prepared.

Upside-Down Onion and Gruyere Tarts

- 1 sheet puff pastry, thawed (I recommend Perfect Pastry sold at the Flour Mill)
- 1 yellow onion, thinly sliced
- 3 tbsp local honey or homemade hot honey

Fresh thyme leaves, salt and pepper to taste

- 18 pieces gruyere cheese, thinly sliced
- 1 egg, beaten

Method:

- Preheat oven to 400°F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

- Drizzle small amounts of hot honey onto parchment-lined baking sheet, creating 9 separate honey drizzles. Cut thawed puff pastry into 9 equal rectangles.

- Sprinkle fresh thyme leaves, salt and pepper over each honey drizzle. Press a slice of onion followed by 1-2 slices gruyere on top. Place a puff pastry rectangle on each honey, onion and cheese stack.

- Brush the top of each puff pastry with beaten egg wash. Transfer to the oven and bake approximately 20 minutes or until the tarts are nicely browned and puffed up.

- Once baked, remove tarts from oven, gently flip with spatula. Drizzle additional hot honey, sprinkle with thyme leaves. Allow to cool slightly before serving; best enjoyed warm.

- *Feel free to experiment with toppings. I have used prosciutto and pear, asparagus and brie – the options to customize are endless.

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

Solutions on page 31

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Riddles

What do you get if you throw butter?

A butterfly

Why did the boy throw the clock out of the window?

He wanted to see time fly

How many animals of each species did Moses take aboard the ark with him?

None, it was Noah's ark

Why did the goose cross the road?

He didn't want to be called a chicken

What was the name of Noah's wife?

Yesa

What do miners put on their face at night?

Coal cream

Why don't football players get hot?

Because of all their fans

What kind of flower lives between your mouth and your chin?

Two-lips

Where can you always find happiness?

In a dictionary

What has two heads, one tail and six legs?

A man on a horse

- Word Search -

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WELCOME SUMMER

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

Word List

Swimming

Picnic

Ice cream

Beach

Sunburn

Barbecue

Sunglasses

Vacation

Camping

Theme park

Parades

Fireworks

Postcard

Relaxation



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

Why do pears do well on tests?



They always come pre-"pear"-ed!

Beau Doucette (3)

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

TONS OF FUN FOR KIDS EVERY WEEK!

PET OF THE WEEK

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



Our Pet of the Week is Bailey, a 7 year old Mastiff-Shepherd Mix. Bailey enjoys going for walks and relaxing in the sun on the deck. She is quite the hunter and keeps our backyard clear of any unwanted wildlife! She was adopted 5 years ago and we couldn't imagine life without her! Bailey is owned by Emma, Jase and Beau Doucette.



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

Spring Pet Safety Checklist

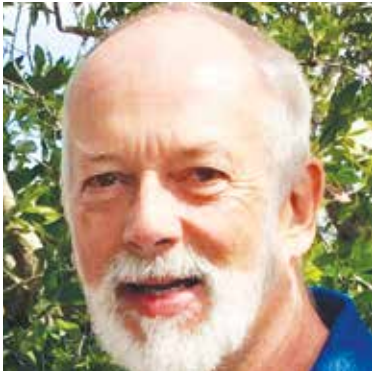
Your pet is likely as eager as you are to spend time outside but before you venture out, there are some things you should do to make sure your pet is safe and healthy this season

- Initiate heartworm prevention - Banish fleas and ticks
- Double check your pets identification tags
- Make sure vaccines are current
- Prepare for allergy season - Clean up your yard
- Ease into exercise

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

COLUMN

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Robbie's – an unusual, eclectic destination. And mind your fingers



By Paul Knowles

If I were to try to describe Robbie's of Islamorada in one or two words, I would give up. Because Robbie's is one of the most unusual, eclectic destinations anywhere, it's impossible to sum up with a single adjective.

At this popular spot in the Florida Keys, you can dine on pub food right by the docks or inside the Hungry Tarpon surrounded by hundreds of fluttering American one-dollar bills that adorn the ceiling, walls and occasional posts.

You can feed tarpon by hand, an activity more fraught with peril than you might expect given the number of people who eagerly hold out bait fish for these giant game fish to grab. From time to time, they also grab a hand – or forearm (they have very large mouths). No one has lost body parts that I know of, but I also know firsthand how poor tarpon are at discerning between bait fish and the skin on one's arm. It is, shall we say, an adventure.

And adventure is what Robbie's is all about – that and

perhaps beer and tacky tourist items. At this destination, right on the Overseas Highway, you can rent jet skis, kayaks and paddleboards. Robbie's is on Florida Bay on the Gulf of Mexico side of the Keys, but just on the other side of the Lignumvitae Channel Bridge – one of many that link the islands of the Keys – is the Atlantic Ocean.

That's where the newest Robbie's adventure will take you – the Transparensa glass-bottom boat.

The 46-foot Transparensa sails during the day, and also at night, to offer a unique view of the ocean floor lit by under-boat LED lights. The crew told us the creatures you see after dark are very different than those during the day. Apparently, they spoke the truth – we spotted sea turtles, nurse sharks, lobster, as well as yellow snapper and other fish.

The trip takes you to part of the coral reef that runs the length of the keys off the Atlantic Coast, so day trips are likely to treat those on the boat to the brightly coloured fish that populate the reefs but hide from predators at night.

Either option will be an intriguing experience, but one piece of advice: pray for a calm day or evening. Wind and waves can significantly lessen one's enjoyment of a glass-bottom boat, which rolls with the waves as it hovers over the sea bottom. This,

even though the Transparensa is fitted with state-of-the-art stability equipment.

If you want to get even more up close and personal with the denizens of the coral reefs, Robbie's offers snorkeling and "SNUBA" diving. The latter is a combination of snorkeling and SCUBA. Divers don't wear breathing equipment. Instead, they are connected to an air supply that remains in the boat. SNUBA divers can descend to about 20 feet below the surface.

Robbie's also has sunset cruises on a catamaran – a popular feature everywhere in the Keys – and eco-tours through the islands of Florida Bay, which borders on the southern end of the Everglades.

But come back to Robbie's on land for a moment. As well as the restaurant, there's a gift shop and other kiosks, a beach bar and about two dozen potential selfie spots where visitors pose with statues of pirates, giant replicas of tarpon, fluttering dollar bills or the ever-present pelicans, egrets and herons.

The pelicans, by the way, are eager to compete with the tarpon for the fish being offered by the would-be tarpon feeders. This inevitably leads to ambushes by the birds on the folks focused on the fish. All of this is genuine entertainment in its own right. I could watch this drama for hours.



Some of the guests on the glass-bottom boat tour. Photos by Paul Knowles

That's the thing about Robbie's. It's clearly a place that does not take itself very seriously, embraces its inner tackiness and welcomes all and sundry to do whatever they might enjoy doing on a given day.

By the way, there is a lot more to do in Islamorada in addition to the eclectic mix of activities at Robbie's. The Morada Way Arts and Culture District is worth an article of its own – so I will provide one to you a few weeks from now.

And as is true all the way down the Keys, from Key Largo to Key West, there are lots of places to stay. This time around, we booked into the

Hadley Resort and Marina and found it to be delightful. Our apartment had a balcony overlooking the resort's docks and beyond them, the Atlantic Ocean. There was a welcoming pool, free ice cream on offer all the time and a significant number of shy lizards roaming the property. It was a great place to stay, and I'd recommend it as your headquarters as you explore this fascinating part of the Florida Keys.

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



The Hungry Tarpon restaurant at Robbie's of Islamorada.



Read for the attach of the tarpon!

OBITUARY

Ward



Elizabeth Anne Ward (Ashton)
July 28, 1939 ~ May 19, 2024

It is with profound sadness that the family of Elizabeth Anne Ward (Ashton) announces her passing on May 19th, 2024 in St. Marys, Ontario at the age of 84 years.

Anne is predeceased by her sister, Elsie Marie Girouard

(Ashton) and is sorrowfully missed by her loving husband of 64 years (Charles), son Brent (Suzanne), daughter Leanne (Curtis), and son Brian (Stephanie). She treasured her five wonderful grandchildren - Hannah (Justin), Grant, Declan, Nyah and Annika, who affectionately called her Pippi (named after the strong, fun and capable red-headed Pippi Longstocking).

Anne was born in Chatham Head, New Brunswick to Perley and Elsie Marie (Donovan) Ashton. She moved with her family to Stoney Creek, Ontario as a teenager and raised her three children with Charles in the small town of Thamesford, which she loved. As her children grew older, she retrained to return to the workforce and spent 19 years in the Purchasing and Accounting Departments at Goodwill Industries in London. Later in life, Charles and Anne made their home in nearby Lakeside. She enjoyed volunteering at the Friendship Centre in St. Marys for over a decade, contributing to many of the Centre's activities. She spent the final chapter of her life at Fairhill Residence in St. Marys, where she immersed herself wholeheartedly in the wonderful Fairhill community.

Anne's legacy is the compassion and sensitivity that she demonstrated toward others as she dedicated herself to family, friends, church and community service throughout her life. She will forever be remembered for her kindness, sharp mind, generosity, laughter, and desire to connect deeply with those around her. Anne dedicated her life to caring for her family and the needs of others as she moved in the world with love, humility and unwavering faith.

Special thanks to Dr. Carina Starok (London), Dr. Joshua Burley (Happy Valley Family Health Team, St. Marys), the staff at Fairhill Residence and the Personal Support Workers who assisted Anne and Charles in their time of need.

A Celebration of Life will take place on Saturday, August 10th, 2024 at 2 pm at the Pyramid Recreation Centre, Community Centre Hall, 317 James Street South, St. Marys, Ontario. All are invited for a reception following the service. The service will be livestreamed at www.brockandvisser.com

In lieu of flowers, please celebrate Anne's giving spirit by considering a donation to World Vision or the charity of your choice.

Share a memory or condolence at www.brockandvisser.com

CELEBRATION

Come Celebrate Ed & Jean Frayne 50th Anniversary Open House

June 23rd, 2024 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

St. James Lodge, St. Marys Ontario

Best Wishes Only Please

OBITUARY

Logan



In loving memory of a beautiful lady Rita (Ruby) Josephine (Cayley) Logan

Born: October 23, 1924 in St. Marys, Ontario

Died: May 26, 2024 in Thornedale, Ontario

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the

passing of a wonderful Mother, NaNa, G.G., aunt, and dear friend to many. Rita passed away at home in her 100th year, with family by her side. She is predeceased by her mother Cecilia Cayley, Father Peter Cayley, her husband Cecil H. Logan (1995) and her son-in-law Patrick Egan (2002). Rita is the last of her siblings; Marie, Alice, Leona, Cecilia, Bill, Roy and baby Herbie. Rita is survived by her daughter Louise, two grandchildren Rob (Christine) and April (Jason) and also five great-grandchildren Kendall (Grayden), Danica, Bryce (Aby), Paige, and Madison. The sunshine of her life, not to be forgotten is her sidekick and furry friend Precious.

Despite the heartbreaking losses of so many family and friends in her life, Rita's ability to pick herself up and embrace her life was inspiring. Her family and friends were her greatest joy. Time spent with them represented the highest value to her in this world.

Rita enjoyed the simple things in life like a good hot cup of tea, a great conversation on the phone, her daily games of solitaire, and her old soap opera Days of Our Lives, and Saturdays and Sundays watching wrestling. She never refused a good game of 31.

Rita had the wisdom of anyone and the memory of an elephant. She moved to the farm in 1946 where she lived until 2022. At this time she moved into her daughter's home.

I would like to thank all the great girls who helped mom stay at home over the last few years; she enjoyed each and every one of you. A great big thank you to all her dear friends who gave her a smile in the last days here on earth.

As per Rita's wishes, cremation has taken place. There will be a private family service at a later date with interment in St. Marys Cemetery. Donations to the London Humane Society or the Canadian Cancer Society can be made through Andrew Hodges Funeral Home, St. Marys, Ontario. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca

"Never to be forgotten"

CELEBRATION

Stan Brookshaw's 80th Birthday

Friends are cordially invited to an open house celebration for Stan Brookshaw's 80th Birthday.

At the Farm: 1860 Rd 138, St Marys

On June 15 1-4 pm

Best Wishes Only

Have you been affected by someone else's drinking?

Al-Anon Family Groups could help YOU! Call for time and place.

1-800-706-9833 or App Available

OBITUARY

Kittmer



Donna Margaret Anne Kittmer (nee Nimock), passed away with peace and dignity at Rotary Hospice in Stratford on May 22, 2024, a week away from her 85th birthday.

Predeceased by her husband Jim (1994). Survived by her children Cindy Harrigan, Nancy and John Harrigan, Jamie

and Rose Marie Kittmer, and Lori and Chris Johnson, as well as her grandchildren Ashly and Sean Harrigan, Sarah Judd (Thomas), Justin, Lisa (Alex), Amy Dormans (Cole), and John Harrigan, Meggan (Matt), Emily, Abigail, and Ben Kittmer and nine great-grandchildren, special cousin Shirley Nichol, David Holcombe, many nieces and nephews, and missed by Old Blackie. Predeceased by her son David (2022), son-in-law Andy Harrigan (2023), special friend Ross Hargreaves (2015) and by Miss Chicie (2022).

Donna was a life member of the Women's Institute Lakeside, past president of Oxford North District, member of the former Lakeside United Church and the St. Marys United Church, volunteering with the UCW and Sunday school. Donna was active in her rural community, she enjoyed farming her entire life with her family on the Townline and 13th concession in Oxford County, where she raised her family on Rosy Ridge Farm. The Funeral Service was held at the St. Marys United Church. Interment in Lakeside on Hill Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Rotary Hospice Stratford-Perth, St. Marys Healthcare Foundation, or the Heart & Stroke Foundation. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Campbell

Celebration of Life for Doug Campbell

Saturday, June 8th

Interment at 1:00 p.m.

Avonbank Cemetery

Coffee to follow downtown Avonbank

YARD SALE

at St. Marys Lawn Bowling Greens

Saturday June 1, 2024

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

LARGE GARAGE SALE

Saturday, June 1st

8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 2nd

9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#9 and #11 Glass Street West
Housewares, Electronics, Pictures etc.



24th Annual Garden Fair
Saturday June 1, 2024
 8:30 am ~ 1:00 pm

Milt Dunnell Field [The Flats]
 Water St. N., St. Marys

- Lush Hanging Baskets
- Perennials
- Annuals and Vegetables
- Water Plants
- Unique Bird Houses
- Handmade Fused Glass Décor
- Decorative Garden Accessories
- Metal Art Work
- Heirloom Tomatoes
- Refreshments Available

~Rain or Shine~
FREE ADMISSION
 Contact: Donna Stephen Ph: 519-284-2528



Community Liaison Committee

The next Community Liaison Committee Meeting will be held on June 14th at 10am at the St Marys Municipal Operations Center. Members of the public who wish to observe are welcome to attend.

Residents who wish to speak in front of the Committee may submit a detailed request in writing at least 3 days prior to the meeting in writing to the Committee. The request will be considered by the Committee and approved prior to the meeting. Please submit all requests, questions, and concerns for the meeting to kara.terpstra@vcimentos.com by June 12, 2024.



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The Coulthard twins are turning 85!



Please join us in celebrating Norma Howe & Gordon Coulthard's birthday
Sunday, June 16th
 from 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 at the Downie Optimist Hall in St. Pauls

LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

Grenade discovery

25 years ago (1999)
 An area of land in the northwesternmost corner of St. Marys Cemetery has been plowed up, roto-tilled and staked off into 20' x 20' community gardens. The land will be ready for eager green thumbs by this weekend, reports volunteer coordinator Bruce Symons. Clerk Administrator Ken Storey told the Journal Argus last week that he and Symons had been discussing the community garden idea for some time.

Three treasuring hunting neighbours (Jesse Armstrong, Stosh Cubberley, and David Bage) found a WWII grenade near the CNR tracks at the end of Trafalgar Street while playing with a metal detector. Although it's been 55 years since the nearby Maxwell's made grenades, it is still relatively common for castoffs to be found in this area.

50 years ago (1974)
 Many secondary streets in town have assumed a new appearance this past week or two as gravel has been put on.

Meterman Frank Reid, commenting on the recent removal of a double-head meter unit from the Water North lot, post concrete block and all, noted that local ratepayers should realize that these units cost them \$250 each and said ratepayers should thus be concerned about reporting any tampering with publicly owned equipment.

Two local bird observers, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Hoe, noticed an indigo bunting while walking along Church Street South near the Cement Plant on Sunday morning. This bird is about the size of a sparrow, coloured in a beautiful velvet blue. They had never seen one before and wondered if any others had been spotted in the St. Marys area.

75 years ago (1949)
 Heavy frosts on Friday and Saturday nights effectively wiped out early tomato, potato and bean plantings in the district and took a heavy toll on clover fields and other spring crops.

Sixteen dog owners who failed to secure the necessary licenses paid fines out of court into Town coffers this past week. Others are slated to appear on similar charges.

A box car switched into the Great Star siding on Monday had a little too much speed on it and as a result dumped into the steel stops at the end of the line at Victoria Bridge. Truck wheels were thrown off the rails, but no other damage was done.

100 years ago (1924)
 A committee meeting of the whole Council was held in the Town Clerk's office on Tuesday evening to delve into the matter of providing suitable parking spaces for automobiles near the centre of the town. The members discussed the matter for over an hour and finally arrived at a tentative arrangement whereby the yards adjoining Skinner's Chopping Mill on Church Street and Sam Conley's blacksmith shop will be equipped with suitable lights and used for this purpose.

The Baseball Club has received their new uniforms which are grey with a green stripe and green trimmings. The boys had their first workout on Friday night when some twenty enthusiasts were chasing the elusive sphere over the surface of Athletic Park.

The opening of the St. Marys Golf Course is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, June 3. The public is cordially invited to be present.

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| 3. Johann Sebastian Bach | 8. 1932 |
| 4. Rishi Sunak | 9. Marie Curie |
| 5. Sochi, Russia | 10. Brazil and Argentina |

HELP WANTED



HAPPY VALLEY FAMILY HEALTH TEAM

The Happy Valley Family Health Team is a dynamic team of professionals including 11 Family Physicians, Dietitian, Pharmacist, Mental Health Workers, Addictions Counsellor, Nurses, Nurse Practitioners and administrative support.

We currently have an opening for:

FULL-TIME PATIENT FLOW COORDINATOR

The Patient Flow Coordinator will be responsible for calling patients from the waiting room to the exam room, collecting and documenting height, weight, temperature and blood pressure in the Electronic Medical Record as required. Will also include administrative duties as assigned. The Patient Flow Coordinator must be able to communicate and work effectively on a multidisciplinary team. The Happy Valley Family Health Team has a mandatory vaccine policy.

Please forward resume by May 27th 2024 to:

Happy Valley Family Health Team
Attention: Kimberly Lang, Executive Director
268 Maiden Lane
P.O. Box 1120
St. Marys, ON
N4X 1B7
stmhc@stmhc.ca

Thank you to all applicants who apply.

Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Happy Valley Family Health Team welcomes and encourages applications from people with disabilities. Accommodations are available on request for candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process.

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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



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

Thorndale Library June events - See Page 23

Friday, May 31

- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog/sausage lunch at Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 p.m.

Saturday, June 1

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 a.m. to Noon
- St. Marys Horticultural Society garden fair at Milt Dunnell Field 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Yard sale at St. Marys lawn bowling greens - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Garage sale at #9 & #11 Glass Street - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- St. Marys Museum summer open house - 12 to 4 p.m.
- Canadian Tire Jumpstart community BBQ
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 p.m.

Sunday, June 2

- Festival Sounds Chorus "Crazy Dreams" concert at the PRC - 2 p.m.

Monday, June 3

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

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