

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1234

Thursday, October 24, 2024

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SPORTS WALL OF FAME UNVEILED (SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
On Saturday, Oct. 19, the Town of St. Marys officially unveiled its new Sports Wall of Fame at the Pyramid Recreation Centre. The wall is located in the lobby of the PRC and along with the unveiling of the wall itself, the ceremony also included an induction ceremony for six inductees, including three players, two builders, and one team. Turn to page 21 for more wall of fame photos.

St. Marys staff introduce “boring” draft 2025 budget with 5.83 per-cent levy increase

GALEN SIMMONS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As municipalities across the province continue to struggle with rising costs and provincial downloading leading to double-digit tax-levy increases, St. Marys council has officially started deliberations over what town staff call a “boring budget” that comes with just a 5.83 per-cent overall levy increase.

On Oct. 15, earlier in the year than most municipalities in the area begin their budget deliberations, St. Marys council hosted its first 2025 budget meeting, during which town CAO Brent Kittmer and treasurer André Morin presented a budget with a nearly \$15.8-million proposed tax levy, up by nearly \$869,000 over last year’s tax burden. Adjusted for growth, which amounted to an addition of \$228,000 to the tax base in 2024, the proposed 2025 tax levy is just over \$640,700 or 4.24 per cent more than last year’s adjusted tax levy.

“At the staff level, we pride ourselves in trying to be as predictable and regular as we can and that doesn’t manifest itself more than it does in our budget process,” Kittmer said. “This year again, I believe we’ve put forward a budget for you that ... (is) a boring, fairly predictable budget that delivers the service levels that council has asked us to deliver.”

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

St. Marys gets slightly less provincial infrastructure funding this year, fluctuation not a surprise

CONNOR LUCZKA
Independent Correspondent

Annual provincial funding for infrastructure has been announced and local municipalities are by and large getting similar amounts this year compared to last year.

Through the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF), the Town of St. Marys is receiving \$539,940 compared to last year's \$597,536.

“The OCIF is really important to us be-

cause it allows a stable funding source for things like roads, bridges, all sorts of infrastructure,” Mayor Al Strathdee told the Independent. “So, it’s a really important program and we are very appreciative of this kind of funding because it allows us to plan long term.”

“The reality is we’re trying to catch up, just like every other municipality in the country. We were aware that the amount that we were going to receive was less, I just don’t think

CONTINUED TO PAGE 3

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St. Marys staff introduce “boring” draft 2025 budget

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

“... It’s amazing to have the community and organization we have that we can be, in my view, as steady as we are while still taking on what I think are fairly significant projects that, in any other community, would be brought forward with some friction, some conflict and you may only have one or two at a time. We’re really lucky to deliver a high level of service very cost effectively, but still move our community forward with a lot of very amazing projects on the side as well.”

Speaking to the budget, Morin highlighted several factors pushing this year’s proposed levy increase. They include increases to wages and benefits by a little more than \$410,000 or 2.76 per cent of the overall budget and increases to the town’s external transfers to partner organizations like the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, Huron Perth Public Health, Perth County Paramedic Service, Stratford Social Services and Spruce Lodge by an estimated total of nearly \$227,000 or roughly 1.5 per cent of the total budget.

The draft budget also includes proposed staffing enhancements to the tune of \$76,500 or roughly 0.5 per cent of the overall budget and a scheduled increase to the annual transfer to the town’s capital reserves by nearly \$178,000 or 1.19 per cent of the budget to fund the town’s \$79-million, 10-year capital plan.

Kittmer and Morin told councillors staff is implementing a major change in how town administrative costs are budgeted each year. This year, he said nearly \$851,000 in the CAO and clerk’s departmental budget, roughly \$762,500 from the finance budget, almost \$698,000 from the IT budget and roughly \$379,000 from the human-resources budget has been appropriately allocated across other departmental budgets, specifically those with outside funding partners.

“This year, we’re taking a step that many municipalities do and we’re internally charging ourselves for administration costs,” Kittmer said. “It’s a very good way to then show what the actual costs of providing services are so that costs like myself and the finance team and the clerks department who don’t really practically implement anything out in the real world but we support everything that happens in the municipality are then accounted for. It’s a great way to

show true cost of service and it’s a great way to try and recoup revenue from external revenue sources.

“But, in your first year when you implement it, it does have an impact on your budget and what it is, is it is artificially showing our tax levy as being low.”

At the beginning of the budget meeting, the draft 2025 budget was presented with an overall 4.2 per-cent levy increase or just a 2.63 per-cent increase after accounting for growth, reflecting that artificially low levy increase described by Kittmer. While Kittmer urged council to ignore those low numbers and focus instead on the adjusted levy increase of 4.24 per cent, some councillors said they didn’t feel good about putting an artificially low levy increase out to the public.

Morin said the downside to allocating administrative costs across the other departments is any large increases in administrative costs each year will be born by those other departments, potentially forcing staff in those departments to make some difficult decisions with their own budgets. Having those administrative costs listed under each departmental budget, however, provides opportunities for some of those costs – the town’s cost for child-care administration, for example – to be reimbursed through outside funding sources like government grants.

As part of this shift in administrative costs, Morin told councillors approximately \$243,000 normally taken from the tax levy would instead be taken from water, wastewater and landfill revenues. Though those revenues are based on user fees, which are being increased by 1.7 per cent, 4.5 per cent and four per cent respectively in 2025 as part of the town’s financial plan, that extra cost has not been built into those fees and Morin said staff are hopeful a combination of growth in the user base and additional revenue for those departments from government grants will offset that extra cost.

Coun. Jim Craigmile, however, noted his concern with shifting tax revenue to user-fee revenue and instead suggested council add that roughly \$243,000 back into the tax levy with the intent of earmarking it for the town’s general capital reserve.

“If you look at what dollars we need to put on the tax base, that is that 5.83 per cent, but because we’re getting rid of that transfer of funds ... that is just

\$243,000 coming off the tax levy that really should be there,” Craigmile said. “And we are going to these general-capital-reserve funds recently and in the near future, and we are really pounding away at really taking the money out, whether it be ... \$1.8 million for the pool, ... so I think we’re really giving a negative-true picture to the residents saying, ‘Oh, your (tax-bill) increase is going to be 2.6 per cent.’ It’s really not; with the growth, it’s 4.2 per cent. Now we can look at the budget and ... I think it will be a truer picture.”

“To be fair, it’s \$240,000 to be shifted to user-based products, so tax me here, tax me there,” Mayor Al Strathdee added. “I didn’t expect this motion this morning, to be honest, but I do think it’s very prudent because ... we’ve had two significant events that have affected our long-term capital plan, one being the pool to the tune of \$2 million and one being Huron Street, which is \$3 million. If you take whatever number you want – \$200,000 to \$300,000 in growth (over) 10 years – that’s got to have a significant effect on our long-term capital plan.

“To Coun. Craigmile’s point, I think it is a valid one because while I support the changes staff have made because I think they’re very prudent and realistic for a number of reasons ... on the other hand, I think that saying to the public we have a 2.6 per-cent tax increase is a bit disingenuous because ... it’s going to cost more for water in our water plan and ... it’s a good opportunity to put the money

in our general reserve because we have some hits that we can talk about when we talk about reserves.”

After some discussion, the rest of council ultimately agreed with Craigmile’s concerns and voted not to shift that \$243,000 in needed tax revenue to user-generated fees, and instead earmarked it for general capital reserves to help fund future capital projects or other costs that may arise during 2025 budget deliberations, as council sees fit.

Following that discussion, council began going through the town’s draft operating and capital budgets line by line. The draft 2025 capital budget, which is entirely funded through reserves and does not have an impact on the tax levy, includes 65 capital projects totalling nearly \$7 million as well as 20 projects carried over from the 2024 capital budget.

Council will continue its budget deliberations on Nov. 19 with discussions around any remaining capital and operational budget items, external transfer requests from outside partner organizations like the Stratford Police Service and the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, and any other final details.

A finalized budget will be presented to council for consideration on Dec. 10 and council will consider its property tax policy – the policy that determines how the tax burden is distributed amongst the different property classes – on Feb. 11, 2025.



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| | | | | | | |
| 19°C | 11°C | 12°C | 11°C | 11°C | 14°C | 18°C |
| Feels Like 19 | Feels Like 10 | Feels Like 11 | Feels Like 8 | Feels Like 10 | Feels Like 13 | Feels Like 17 |

St. Marys getting slightly less infrastructure funding

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

we knew how much. So, it's not a big surprise. ... We do appreciate this style of funding and we encourage the government to continue with it and to increase it, actually, as we keep up with our infrastructure challenges.”

Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae announced the local numbers on Oct. 17 in Stratford. In total, municipalities in his riding are receiving \$14.2 million for local infrastructure projects. The funding amounts are based on a formula that takes into account current infrastructure within the municipality as well as “economic conditions,” according to the province’s website.

“The one thing about the OCIF, as it is commonly referred to as, is that it is able to provide those municipalities with that funding every year, but it gives them the flexibility,” Rae said. “It provides that flexibility for our municipalities to decide what’s the priority in their local community because Stratford is different than Drayton, for example, or St. Marys. ... And so, it really provides them that flexibility to make local decisions.”

Strathdee indicated the fund has not been earmarked for any specific project, as did Stratford Mayor Martin Ritsma.

“We’re exactly the same as St. Marys with that regard,” Ritsma said. “It’ll be a discussion as to what project is best suited, or what projects are best suited for the use of these dollars.”

Stratford is receiving just over \$3.5 million, up from last year’s \$3.1 million and by far the largest amount received in the riding.

Like Strathdee, Ritsma highlighted just how expansive the infrastructure deficit is and how important it is for municipalities to address the deficit year after year.

“One of our greatest challenges is infrastructure, whether it’s building new or whether it is repairing ageing infrastructure. ... It certainly is helpful,” Ritsma said about the funding. “We know in our city that we

have infrastructure that (is) between 80 and 100 years old, still in the ground. ... So, is it enough? You know, I would say it’s never enough because of the amount of work that we have to do.

“It’s wonderful to partner with the provincial government, but certainly they are well aware.”

The OCIF funding is part of the province’s \$190-billion capital plan to build and expand more homes, highways, hospitals, transit and high-speed internet across the province. Overall, Ontario will allocate \$400 million in OCIF next year to help 423 small, rural and northern communities build roads, bridges, water and wastewater infrastructure.

Communities may accumulate funding for up to five years to address larger infrastructure projects, if leadership so desires.

“I know it’s something I hear often from our municipal partners on the need for more infrastructure funding,” Rae said. “I think our provincial government has demonstrated that we are listening to that. ... There obviously is more work to be done and I know we continue to work with our municipal colleagues to address the infrastructure needs, both at the provincial and municipal levels.”


The OCIF funding allocated for the Perth-Wellington riding, as provided by the Ministry of Infrastructure, is:

- Wellington County, \$2,350,140.
- Mapleton, \$1,311,355.
- Minto, \$ 1,512,130.
- North Perth, \$1,025,666.
- Perth County, \$597,558.
- Perth East, \$353,579.
- Perth South, \$447,790.
- St. Marys, \$539,940.
- Stratford, \$3,582,916.
- Wellington North, \$1,429,951.
- West Perth, \$1,133,590.




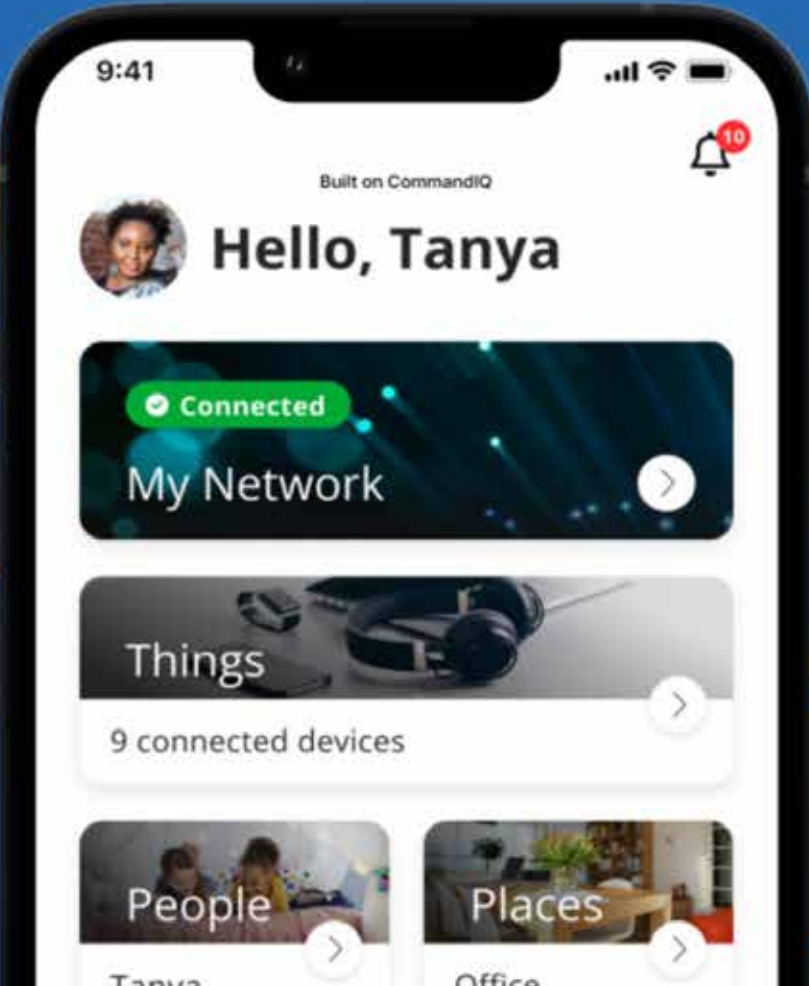
(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae was in Stratford on Oct. 17 to announce \$14.2 million in infrastructure funding for municipalities in his riding. Stratford received the largest share, with just over \$3.5 million. St. Marys is receiving \$539,940.



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**ST. MARYS GIVES 2024:
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Here Are A Few Things That Are In The Works for Giving Tuesday in St. Marys....

*The residents at 50 Stoneridge Blvd. will be having a food drive in their building from November 15 to 30. They will deliver everything to the Salvation Army on Giving Tuesday.

*The 1st St. Marys Sparks/Embers Group will be making Christmas Cards and delivering them to Kingsway while singing Christmas carols.

*Zenfire Pottery & Merchantile are making beautiful pottery hearts in all different colours. On Giving Tuesday they will be selling them for \$5 and a portion of the sales will be donated to CMHA Huron Perth.

*Holy Name of Mary Social Committee will be making soup bowls, turkey pot pie, lasagna souperole and apple crisp, they will be sold for \$5 each. Proceeds will be donated to the St. Marys Foodbank.

*The St. Marys Giving Tuesday Committee and friends will be at the Salvation Army Kettle at the Scotia Bank corner all day on Giving Tuesday!

*St. Marys United Church is hosting a Community Dinner on Monday, Dec. 2 (one day early) in honour of Giving Tuesday! Everyone is welcome!

Share your plans with us. It is easy to register, just scan the QR code

Or email us at GivingTuesdayStMarys@gmail.com and we will email a fillable form back to you. If you have any questions or require assistance please let us know, we are happy to help.



"No one has ever become poor by giving." - Anne Frank

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3

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Bravo

We have 2 Bravos this week.

1) Bravo to the people of St. Marys and their generosity. My wife put out a request for some winter clothing for someone and the response has been overwhelming. It is great to live in a place where everyone is so giving and helpful.

2) Bravo to the walkers and passers-by who give the St. Marys Horticultural Society garden volunteers a cheerful thank you as we work away in one of the six gardens around town (Hospital, Museum, Legion, Centennial Park, Peace Garden, Mini-pollinator garden along Riverview Walkway). We appreciate it! It keeps us going.

Boo

We have 2 Boos this week.

1) It is unfortunate that Loblaws has seen fit to introduce another customer discount application system, this one using a web app. This is in addition to the previous PC Optimum model. This latest one requires the customer to preselect deals. BUT it's only after checking out at a register that one sees evidence of a dollar discount or points awarded on the receipt. To resolve any perceived discrepancy the customer then has to visit customer services.

2) Is there a squirrel serial killer in St. Marys? Boo to whoever has been running down squirrels in the west end by the hospital. Slow down!

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

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

Quote of the Week

"During the first and only debate, President Trump talked about migrants taking cats and eating them. If you're keeping track at home, this is the second time grabbing a kitty has been part of a campaign issue."

- Comedian Jim Gaffigan last week at the Al Smith dinner

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How I carve my pumpkin depends on my mood. Will it be scary or happy?

Looking forward to seeing all of the scary pets on Saturday.

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



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

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Positive thoughts create positive feelings

Choose to be optimistic. It feels better.

If you are thinking positive during negative times, you have already won.

Keep your face towards the sun and you won't see the shadow.

Congratulation to the St. Marys Lions Club



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

St. Marys Lions Club director Evelyn Albers and club president Gwendolen Boyle show the badge the club won for raising the most funds for CNIB in their district for the 2023-2024 year.

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

The St. Marys Lions Club was recently awarded the 2023-2024 CNIB Club of the Year for its District.

The members of the club raised the most funds to support CNIB in the 2023/2024 year. CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind) was founded in 1918 and is a non-profit organization committed to helping the blind or partially sighted and providing the tools, skills and opportunities required to help live their best lives.

How did the Lions get involved in this important initiative?

In 1925, Helen Keller, an American blind and deaf educator, spoke at a Lions convention making an appeal to the International Lions Club to become known as the "Knights of the Blind." The challenge stuck and Lions Clubs throughout the years embraced the program as a great organization to support, helping to give a brighter future to those impacted.

Our local club was rewarded with a CNIB Club of the Year banner, a patch and a lapel pin. At the Santa Claus Parade, the local Lions Club will be once again be collecting eyeglasses that will be donated to CNIB.

Congratulations for your hard work and dedication.

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



READING BUDDIES PROGRAM

St. Marys Public Library

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

townofstmarys.com/library or 519-284-3346

CAR SEAT SAFETY CLINIC

Nov. 4, 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM | Fire Hall

Drop-in to the Fire Hall (172 James St. S) for guidance on choosing the correct car seat for your child. Experts from the CPSAC will be available to check that your child's seat is fitted correctly and safely.

townofstmarys.com/earlyon or 226-374-6544



MUNICIPAL HAZARDOUS & SPECIAL WASTE DISPOSAL DAY

October 26, 8 AM - 12 PM

Our next Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste Disposal Day is happening on Saturday, October 26 at the Municipal Operations Centre (408 James St. S).

www.townstmarys.on.ca/mhsw or 519-284-2340

SPOOKTACULAR ST. MARYS

October 26, 8 AM - 12 PM

Join in on the Halloween fun with trick-or-treating at participating downtown businesses, photo opportunities, a pet parade and costume contest, cemetery tours and more!

discoverstmarys.ca/halloween



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Seniors of the Week



Our seniors of the week are Harold and Betty Levy who are celebrating 70 years of marriage! Betty was raised in the village of Woodham. Harold was born on a farm in Blanshard Township. His family lived on a few different farms, one of which was once home to Arthur Meighen (Canada's ninth Prime Minister). They eventually moved closer to Woodham which led to him meeting Betty Mills. Harold and Betty were married on Oct. 23, 1954 in Woodham. Betty trained and worked as a hairdresser in the 1950s and later worked as Harold's bookkeeper. Harold learned many trades as a young man eventually operating his own businesses as a carpenter, cabinet maker and general contractor. Harold and Betty have lived all of their married life in St. Marys where they raised a family and supported their community in many ways. They have four children, eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Happy 70th anniversary!

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

HPCDSB unveils three-year roadmap for mental health and addictions

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

In honour of World Mental Health Day, the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board (HPCDSB) announced the launch of its new, three-year Mental Health and Addictions Road Map for 2024-2027.

This comprehensive plan reinforces the board's commitment to boosting student engagement, reducing absenteeism and fostering academic success.

The three-year road map will focus on the following key priorities:

1. Establishing organizational conditions for effective school mental health.
2. Building capacity in mental-health literacy and social emotional learning.
3. Providing equitable access to evidence-informed, culturally relevant and identity affirming mental-health supports.
4. Increasing student attendance, safety and family engagement.

Key highlights of the strategy include:

- Enhanced attendance support: Formalizing procedures and responsibilities for school staff and social workers to significantly enhance academic outcomes.
- Comprehensive mental health and social services: Providing students with access to essential support throughout their school day to promote overall well-being.
- Collaborative community relationships: Continuing partnerships with community services to ensure timely and appropriate access to needed services.
- Capacity building: Empowering the board's mental-health team and school-based staff to meet student social and emotional needs in innovative and effective ways.

"In our commitment to nurturing the whole person, this three-year Mental Health and Addictions Road Map is a testament to our belief that every student deserves a safe and supportive environment to flourish,"



said HPCDSB mental-health lead Kaitie Westbrook in a press release.

According to the press release, the road map and action plan priorities reflect the Catholic beliefs, teachings and values the school board is founded on. This plan was developed with extensive input from staff, school leaders, students, caregivers and community partners. Their feedback and insights have helped shape a strategy that addresses our community's strengths and needs in mental-health-and-addiction services.

"Our three-year roadmap aligns beautifully with our board's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan: On Fire With The Spirit – Awaken, Illuminate, Rejoice," HPCDSB superintendent of education Tara Boreham said in the release. "We are dedicated to implementing and monitoring a multi-tiered system of support to improve student attendance. By prioritizing positive student engagement, building strong relationships and clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders in promoting good attendance, we can boost student attendance rates, support wellbeing and improve academic achievement."

The three-year road map and this year's action plan are available on the board's website at www.huron-perthcatholic.ca/mentalhealth.

Weekend Quiz

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- 1) In what country did the game "Baccarat" originate?
- 2) How many valves does a trumpet have?
- 3) Snails, clams and octopi fall under what category of animal?
- 4) What year was the United Nations established?
- 5) What instrument measures air pressure?
- 6) In "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" what is Charlie's last name?
- 7) Who was the famous nurse during the Crimean War?
- 8) The National Gallery is on which London Square?
- 9) When did Toto release "Africa"?
- 10) What shape is in the middle of the Somalian flag?

This week's answers are found on pg. 35



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St. Marys DCVI to host Post-Secondary Fair

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

On Oct. 29, representatives from more than 25 different post-secondary schools will be at St. Marys DCVI to provide students with information on their academic programs.

The fair, which will run from 6:30-8 p.m. will be in a trade-fair format so students can visit whichever station they choose. There will also be short presentations for the students throughout the night showing how to apply for university and colleges. Students will also learn about admission requirements, student life and much more.

The fair is geared towards any high-school student looking for information on the next step and what is available. Besides university and college stations, there will also be information on apprenticeships and the Centre for Employment and Learning.

Students from Stratford District Secondary School, Mitchell District Secondary School, South Huron District Secondary School and St. Michael Catholic Secondary School have all been invited to attend along with stu-

dents from DCVI.

Parking is available in the James Street parking lot.

The current list of institutions attending are:

- Brock University
- Carleton University
- Conestoga University
- Fanshawe College
- Fleming College
- Georgian College
- Humber College
- Huron University/College at Western
- Kings University/ College at Western
- Lakehead University
- Lambton College
- Laurentian University
- McMaster University
- Niagara College
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- Apprenticeship, OYAP
- Centre for Employment and Learning



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St. Marys Aquatics receives Cook-Rees grant

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Cook-Rees Memorial Fund for Water Search and Safety is granting over \$10,000 to aquatic programs in St. Marys in support of four key initiatives.

The wish list was identified by the town's aquatics manager in collaboration with the fund founder and all share the themes of water safety and education.

The first initiative will offer swimming lessons for newcomers to Canada – those who've been here three years or less – as well as help subsidize lessons for people facing financial barriers. The second initiative will loan lifejackets to residents and to families with limited resources, helping to ensure safe participation in all kinds of water activities.

The third initiative is intended to address safety issues related to language barriers at the popular St. Marys Quarry, which last year welcomed 28,000 visitors from all over the world. Using new touch-screen technology, important safety messages (depth of water, equipment, swimming boundaries etc.) will be conveyed at an entrance kiosk in multiple languages. Lifeguards will also be able to communicate with non-English-speaking visitors using iPads and translation technology.

Lifeguard training will be enhanced through the fourth initiative, which includes new and updated equipment and



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Cook-Rees Memorial Fund For Water Search And Safety founder Loreena McKennitt and St. Marys aquatics manager Andrea Slade outside the Pyramid Recreation Centre in St. Marys.

courses as the town works toward a sustainable supply of new lifeguards.

"In Canada, water is all around us and it plays a big part in our recreation, so being able to swim becomes a necessary life skill," said Cook-Rees Memorial Fund founder and Stratford resident Loreena McKennitt in a press release.

"About 500 people drown in Canada every year, so these kinds of programs are extremely important.

"Additionally, we recognize that various kinds of lifeguard training and equipment is also required to create a safe water environment. We're pleased to offer this range of support and are

grateful to the many local citizens who have donated to the fund, including the Cook and Rees families. Their generosity has made this kind of donation possible."

Subsidized lessons will begin in the spring after a renovation to the Aquatics Centre at the Pyramid Recreation Centre, and other initiatives are in development for launching next summer. Exact timelines will be posted on the St. Marys Aquatics webpage.

"We are so grateful to Loreena and the Cook-Rees Memorial Fund for this generous contribution which allows us to put these programs into place," said St. Marys manager of aquatics Andrea Slade. "Clearly, we share the same end goal – to make everyone as safe as possible."

Founded in 1998 in Stratford, The Cook-Rees Memorial Fund For Water Search And Safety was established by McKennitt in memory of her fiancé, Ronald Rees, his brother, Richard Rees, and their friend, Gregory Cook, who all perished in a boating incident on Georgian Bay in July 1998. With support from their families and friends, and using \$3 million in proceeds from the sale of her recording, Live in Paris and Toronto, the fund has since awarded grants to more than 20 Canadian organizations at the local, provincial and national levels for education, research, training and equipment purchases.



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OCTOBER 30, 2024

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Legion banners pay tribute to local veterans

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

Locals and visitors to town may have noticed the banners proudly displayed on the lampposts downtown, up and down Queen Street and now at Little Falls Elementary School and the Pyramid Recreation Centre (PRC) parking lots.

This ongoing legacy project is taking place in many towns across the country and pays tribute to local veterans who have died in service, those who are still active in service and retirees.

The banners in town were put up a bit earlier this year and will come down after Remembrance Day. This is the fifth year St. Marys has been participating in the banner program and the town now has 190 banners hanging up and six that are being sponsored at local businesses.

New this year are banners on 26 poles on Queen Street West, in the PRC parking lot and in the Little Falls school parking lot.

The process to hang the banners takes a bit of time and is led by three teams. In each team is a Forman Electric employee and two Legion volunteers.



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

In its fifth year in St. Marys, the Royal Canadian Legion's banner program now boasts 190 banners across town honouring local veterans who fought and continue to fight for our freedom.

The banner program is a great way to honour our veterans and seems to be more popular in smaller towns as, in many places, there is more than one generation being displayed.

Tom Jenkins shared that his grandfather, father and himself are all on a banner and St. Marys Legion president Bim Graham told the Independent he has seven uncles, his dad and himself, all of

whom are featured on banners around town.

The banners are produced locally at Gerber's Graphics and even with wear and tear, none have needed to be replaced in the five-year span.

There is a one-time sponsorship fee of \$200 for the banners that goes toward the cost of production, installation and takedown.

The St. Marys Legion covers the remainder of the cost, which could be between \$5,000 and \$6,000 for poles and brackets. Anyone interested in supporting this initiative can donate to the banner program at the local Legion branch.

A list of locations for each of the banners can be found on the St. Marys Legion Branch 236 Facebook page, at the Legion and at the St. Marys Independent office.

The Legion is grateful to Forman Electric for the great job they do in helping with the project, to all the volunteers, the Town of St. Marys and to everyone that sponsors a banner. It is a big project but also goes to show the pride that the town has for all the locals who fought and are still fighting for peace, our freedom and our country.

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County council approves new Perth County Official Plan

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

After roughly six years of planning, drafting and consultations with the public and key community stakeholders, Perth County council gave its official seal of approval to the county's new official plan.

First created in the late 1990s, the county's official plan is the document that guides the long-term vision for growth and development in a community. The newly updated official plan provides Perth County with a vision and a comprehensive strategy for cultivating new opportunities, building community, ensuring environmental health and making intelligent and informed land-use decisions within the county until 2046. The 2024 update to the official plan provides a new visionary policy document that is meant to be both reflective of provincial policy updates and reflective of current community concerns, priorities and values.

"I just want to say thank you to staff and congratulations on getting the official plan to this point," county Warden Rhonda Ehgoetz said after county council voted to approve the official plan at the end of a marathon, four-hour council meeting Oct. 17, which includ-

ed a statutory public meeting that gave county residents their final opportunity to comment on the official plan before it was sent to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for final review and approval.

"I know some of you came in the middle of the session. You took the bull by the horns, you looked at it and you've got it where we are today. I can't thank all of you enough; all the staff that are behind the scenes that have helped, everyone, council is very appreciative. As we've said many times here today, we've been at this for six years and it's great to finally see it come to an end. ... I'm sorry we can't accommodate everybody; we've tried our best. I think we have a great document."

This multi-year project to update the official plan first began in 2017 and has involved seven phases including several rounds of public outreach, public engagement, open houses, background reports and draft versions of the document. The public meeting and council's approval of the plan on Oct. 17 signalled the completion of the plan's sixth and penultimate phase, the final step before the official plan is approved by the province, which could take anywhere between 120 days and two years, according to Moira Davidson, the senior

policy planner leading the official-plan project.

"The key elements of the official plan include directing growth and intensification to settlement areas in order to protect our agricultural lands, protecting agricultural resources so agricultural lands and diversification of those resources can continue on into the future, promoting economic growth and development (and) encouraging well-designed built form that is accessible, high quality and considered safe spaces," Davidson said at the onset of the official-plan public meeting.

"There are the aspects of the official plan that speak to preserving the cultural-heritage values of the county as well as accommodating appropriate services and infrastructure for the longevity of the community and residents. And finally, increasing the variety of housing types and sizes to meet the diverse range and needs of residents and workers that we're seeing."


According to county growth projections made using data collected in 2021, the population of Perth County is expected to grow to 62,900 residents and reach 29,700 jobs by 2051. The official plan includes long-range planning policies and has added 407 hectares of land to the county's serviced settlement ar-

reas like Milverton, Shakespeare, Mitchell and Listowel to plan for additional homes and jobs.

While many county residents delegated at the official-plan public meeting, sharing concerns around what areas of the county have been slated for residential and economic growth and what areas haven't, how the new natural-heritage designations on agricultural land will impact farm operations and whether the county did its due diligence in consulting farmers on the policies in the new official plan, council ultimately decided to deal with those concerns on a case-by-case basis as they come up in the future instead of amending the plan now before it goes to the ministry.

Prior to approval, councillors also had a chance to comb through the official plan and point out any amendments or corrections to wording that staff will make before the plan is submitted to the province.

"This is a significant milestone for the planning division and for the county as a whole," said county CAO Lori Wolfe in a press release. "The updated policies of the new official plan will guide and support important growth and development across the county for years to come."



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Veterans to be recognized at three events for 2024 Remembrance Week

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

St. Marys will mark Remembrance Week 2024 with three events.

On Saturday, Nov. 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., the St. Marys Legion and Army and Navy will host Veterans' Decoration Day at the St. Marys Cemetery (150 Cain St.). Formerly known as the Veterans' Flag Planting Ceremony, loved ones of veterans interred at St. Marys Cemetery are invited to receive complimentary flags to place at veterans' graves. Flags can be picked up at the cemetery chapel on Nov. 9.

On Sunday, Nov. 10, the Royal Canadian Legion will hold a ceremony and parade. The parade will march from the St. Marys Legion to the town hall cenotaph at 12:30 p.m. A service of remembrance will follow. Church Street will be closed between Station Street and Queen Street from 12-2 p.m. Queen Street will also be closed between Peel Street and Church Street at this time.

Mayor Al Strathdee will lead a Remembrance Day ceremony at the town hall cenotaph on Monday, Nov. 11 at 10:45 a.m. Queen Street will be closed between Peel Street and Church Street from 10:30-11:30 a.m. for the event.

The Nov. 11 ceremony will be streamed



live on the Town of St. Marys Facebook page for those unable to attend in person. The stream will start shortly before 10:45 a.m. and can be viewed at www.facebook.com/stmarysontario. A Facebook account is not required to view the live stream.

Following the ceremony, residents are encouraged to visit the St. Marys Museum exhibit titled "Behind the Battlefield: War on the Home Front," beginning on Monday, Nov. 11. The exhibit focuses on the war effort in St. Marys, highlighting the contributions that St. Marys and area residents made from the home front and will be available for viewing during the museum's regular hours until November 2025.

To St. Marys With Love 2024 set for Dec. 8 at the PRC



(JAYNE FULLER PHOTO)

Local United Way Perth Huron team members Leslie Edney and Pam Zabel at last year's To St. Marys With Love dinner at the Pyramid Recreation Centre.



(JAYNE FULLER PHOTO)

Diners at last year's To St. Marys With Love free community dinner.

GWEN AMENT

Contributed

Mark Sunday, Dec. 8 on the calendar as Rev. Gwen Ament and David Steward gear up for this year's free community dinner known as To St. Marys With Love.

This will be the third such gathering

which invites 350 people to come and celebrate the Christmas season by gathering together in the Pyramid Recreation Centre (PRC) for a lovely roast-beef supper with all the trimmings.

Maybe you're new to town and looking for community; maybe you need an easy way to gather your extended family together when finances are tight; may-

be you want to meet your new neighbour so you invite them along and affirm yet again what a great community we live in. That's what this event is all about and all are welcome!

The team of volunteers has been assembled including but not limited to local service groups such as Rotary, Inner Wheel, our local United Way team and

Kinettes alongside our volunteer fire-fighters, mayor and councillors and area politicians including Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae.

Tickets are free but required and can be picked up at the Library, the Friendship Centre and The Sunset Diner.



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Fire extinguishers for Cindy's Law

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

On Oct. 2, 2020, Cindy Divine, a St. Thomas resident and mom of four, was on her way home from work in London when she was involved in a head-on collision with an impaired driver. The car caught fire and sadly, there was not a fire extinguisher anywhere close by to help the pinned Divine.

Bob Reid, first responder and singer for the band Bobnoxious, was first on the scene and was a family friend of Cindy's. Since this horrific accident, a Canada-wide campaign was started to have all vehicles equipped with a fire extinguisher with Reid being one of the biggest advocates. Cindy's Law is a push for legislation to make this mandatory for drivers.

Lorne Culbert of St. Marys was a good family friend and was with Divine's stepson having supper the night of the accident. He was instrumental in bringing Cindy's Law to St. Marys along with the following businesses, people and organizations: Taz and Jim from FM96, All Roads, Ashton Tire, Tom Donati, Canadian Tire, Cascades, Dowler Karn, Foodland, Harris-Greig Auto, Kinsmen Club of St. Marys, Sam's Home Hardware, the Town of St. Marys, the St.

Marys Fire Department, Your Independent Grocer, Radar Auto Parts, Bobnoxious, Brad Gibb, The St. Marys Lions Club and Dowler-Karn.

Culbert, along with many in St. Marys, got on board with this initiative in 2021, a year after Cindy's accident, and because of donations, the number of fire extinguishers has increased greatly in vehicles.

Culbert told the Independent the number of extinguishers that have been distributed have reached 400 in St. Marys at a total cost of \$14,000 and 2,500 in St. Thomas and London totalling \$90,000.

During Fire Prevention Week, fire extinguishers were given away as door prizes for both the Rib n Tail Dinner and the Firemen Open House.

They were also given as extra prizes at both the Army & Navy Meat Draw and the Legion meat draw.

In 2022, Elgin-Middlesex-London MPP Rob Flack made a statement at Queen's Park to bring attention to the campaign that would hopefully save lives. Also attending the reading was Cindy's husband, Richard Divine.

"I definitely don't want to have anybody else go through what my family's gone through," he said. "(The) new friends I've made, what they've gone through and it's just ... not worth it."

Reid was also present at Queen's Park and was hoping to get the point across on fire-extinguisher accessibility.

"As a human being, we want to be given the opportunity to try," he said. "With no fire extinguisher, there's no try."

Fire Prevention Month is a good time to revisit safety awareness and share education but also to get the numbers out there for missions like Cindy's Law that show how much has been done and how

much still needs to be accomplished.

Both the St. Marys and St. Thomas fire departments have been instrumental in collecting donations towards purchasing more extinguishers. Richard Devine has taken over managing the campaign from Cindy's sister, Christine. Culbert will continue helping Divine collect donations, promote the campaign and offer support to those that who been affected.

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St. Marys Volunteer Firefighters Association hosts Donation Night



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The St. Marys Firefighters Association hosted its annual Donation Night, contributing more than \$15,000 to numerous local community sports and charitable organizations.

JIM BURLINGHAM

St. Marys Firefighters Association

The St. Marys Volunteer Firefighters Association, consisting of 17 active firefighters, seven officers and our retired life members, presented over \$15,000 in donations Wednesday, Oct. 2 to local charities and minor-sports organizations.

In attendance were representatives from Muscular Dystrophy Canada, Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC), the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation, Rotary Hospice Stratford-Perth, Teddy Bear Picnic, St. Marys Rock Hockey, St. Marys Snipers Ringette, Little Falls Public School and Holy Name of Mary Catholic School.

The St. Marys Volunteer Firefighters Association is a non-profit organization focused on fire education, community support and fundraising. We host an annual Fireman's Breakfast and Pigtail and Rib Supper, along with our biennial Scrap Clean-Up.

We would be remiss if we didn't mention our recent defeat over the Stratford Police Services in last month's Cereal Box Challenge, collecting a total of 455 boxes of cereal for the Salvation Army Food Bank between the two organizations.

We would like to thank the community and our local sponsors for the ongoing support.



Please join us to Celebrate **Cheryl Brooks** For her Retirement Celebration & Open House

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STONETOWN TRAVEL

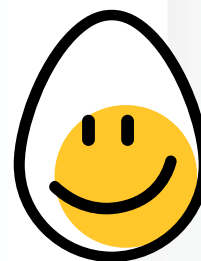
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Stratford police calls for service down significantly in St. Marys last month

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Last month, officers with the Stratford Police Service stationed in St. Marys received less than half of the calls for service they received in August, responding to 13 in September compared to 28 the month before, and laid a little more than half the number of charges laid in August – 26 in September compared to 44 in August.

At the Oct. 16 St. Marys community policing advisory committee meeting, deputy police chief Gerry Foster took committee members through the police service’s monthly crime-statistics report for September. The report showed police in St. Marys responded to five false alarms compared to eight the month before, nine mental-health related calls, down from 10 in August, and five domestic-violence calls – the same number police responded to in August – one of which resulted in charges being laid.

Under violent crime, police responded to three assaults in September, down from four in August, zero robberies and zero sexual offences.

With the exception of mischief calls, property crime statistics remained steady in September when compared to August statistics with one break and enter, two frauds and one theft under \$5,000. Mischief calls, however, increased to nine in September from six in August. Police responded to no drug-and-alcohol offences in St. Marys



STRATFORD POLICE SERVICES

last month.

The number of motor-vehicle collisions increased to six in September from five in August, one of which resulted in personal injury, four resulted in property damage only and one was classified as a hit and run. The number of e-tickets issued last month was also down from August as police issued just eight of the top-five traffic tickets – two for speeding, one for driving while suspended, two for not having a valid permit, one for careless driving and two for drivers who failed to surrender their licenses.

Foster also told committee members eight Stratford police officers received commendations on their personnel files for their involvement with the Bradshaw Drive shooting response and investigation in Stratford Aug. 1.

“I very much appreciate when someone like (Sgt.) Mike Weyers takes the

time to author a commendation because not only is it well-deserving, but it reflects on the work we’re doing and what our members are doing,” Foster said. “So the committee’s aware, we place these documents in their personnel files so that’s something we can refer to in the future.”

St. Marys community resource and youth officer Const. Aaron Mounfield was busy in September conducting school safety patrols at local elementary schools, conducting a parking study at Holy Name of Mary Roman Catholic School, attending the St. Marys DCVI Terry Fox Run and meeting with staff at that school on three separate occasions, conducting advanced drone testing, meeting with victims and victim services, and visiting local homeless encampments with St. Marys community outreach worker Brittany Petrie.

Mounfield told the committee he

joins Petrie on her visits to local encampments, of which there are currently fewer than six in St. Marys, as both a safety precaution and to build that relationship between police and those experiencing homelessness.

“Aaron, would you mind speaking to some of the challenges when people phone you and say there’s someone with a tent on public property?” Mayor Al Strathdee asked. “It’s a big discussion in the public and for us at the municipality, it’s a big challenge.”

In response, Mounfield said calls about encampments on private versus public property are two very different scenarios. If someone has set up a tent on private property and the owner of that property wishes the person to leave, police have the authority to order that person to vacate under the Trespass to Property Act.

“The biggest issue now is there’s so much case law about homeless encampments on public property,” he continued. “Municipalities have been sued for moving people along because that becomes their residence; it’s just a big can of worms to get into. So, that’s what makes it hard when someone sets up an encampment on publicly owned property is that case law says we don’t have the authority to move them along.

“... That’s obviously a big headache. It’s not just St. Marys; we’re dealing with it in Stratford and other municipalities.”

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Local heart-failure program recognized by provincial awards

CONNOR LUCZKA

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Local residents can rest assured their cardiac concerns are in good hands.

The Huron Perth and Area Ontario Health Team (HPA-OHT)'s heart failure program has been named one of three finalists in the Improved Population Health category of the 2024 Ontario Health System Quality and Innovation Awards.

Although the program did not win the award when the ceremony was held in Toronto in September, to be recognized above other, bigger programs is a feather in the team's cap, according to Dr. Shanil Narayan.

"Whenever you hear you're one of the best in the province, I think that's reassuring," Narayan, a Stratford-based physician, said.

Narayan is the physician lead for the heart-failure program. He has been a physician in the Huron-Perth area for about 20 years now, helping people with cardiac-function issues for that time. His leadership role has developed over the last three to four years.

The Ontario Health System Quality and Innovation Awards celebrate the

work being done across the province to address evolving health-care challenges. The Improved Population Health category, which the local heart-failure program was recognized by, honours initiatives that demonstrate measurable success in improving health outcomes for specific communities.

"We've been increasingly hearing good things about what our region has been doing over the last little while," Narayan said. "We, as of a few years ago, were one of the first few people to be recognized as an outstanding group in heart-function care, so there were pilot projects launched in our area to try and figure out how to better work on cardiac rehabilitation. We were one of a few regions that received extra funding from the ministry to develop networks to look after heart-function care in the last few years."

Narayan called this award "the cherry on top" of what the team has been hearing from the community and from the wider health-care network. He said the award is something people can look to, but it is representative of the consistent hard work and outstanding care the team puts out.

"I'm super proud of our region to be

high," Narayan said. "I always tell people that Huron-Perth and area punches above its weight class consistently. And I think one of the things that small communities do better than most is establish and leverage relationships.

"You hear stories about family medicine burnout, and it's true, but there are still people fighting hard every day to do good things. We talk about primary care alternatives and we know that there are some excellent nurse practitioners who work with us. We talk about people who are again struggling because of workload, but consistently when we get to these groups, we have young, enthusiastic people working in our emergency EMS pathways who put their hands up time and time again and say, 'Hey, can we help?' We have nurses working in long-term care facilities who consistently say, 'Hey, what can we do to help this be better?' ... Those day-to-day relationships are consistent stories."

Narayan said the silent heroes who work and do great things every day are key to the team's success, as is the population they serve. Having an appreciative patient population that "works wonders" to give feedback that fuels their caregivers is something Narayan highlighted.

He specifically praised the team's respiratory therapists and nurse practitioners with cardiac training who have been particularly helpful in sharing their skills and knowledge with patients, building the team's capacity.

Since 2019, regions of care have been divided into Ontario health teams: regional coalitions of organizations that come together to deliver care and coordinate resources for the population. Within the team, there are physicians, nurses, community support specialists and people from across the breadth of health care.

The team has not formally celebrated yet, having members across the region's area and members that work in various capacities, but Narayan said there will be a celebration soon.

"We are proud to be recognized for our collaborative and integrated approach," said Joelle Lamport Lewis, director of HPA-OHT, in a media release. "This acknowledgment reflects the hard work and commitment of our health-care professionals and partner organizations who come together to provide the best possible care for our communities."

Quilt Guild to present Dear Jane Quilt at upcoming show

JULIE WHITLOCK

London Friendship Quilters Guild

In 1863, during the middle of the Civil War, a bedridden woman by the name of Jane Stickle decided she needed to do something to pass the long hours, so she decided to make a quilt.

The Vermont native used scraps of fabric from in and around her home to create a masterpiece with a total of 169 unique blocks, each five inches square. Within these blocks are surrounded with a scalloped border are a total of 5,602 hand-cut and sewn fabric shapes. Jane died a poor woman in 1896 but the quilt she created has since inspired quilters around the world and has come to be known as the "Dear Jane" quilt.

It is now owned by the Bennington Museum in Bennington, Vt. and due to its fragility, it is now only available for a short period of public viewing once yearly, during which time quilters from around the world make plans to come and see it. For anyone who can't or don't want to visit Bennington, the chance to see a Dear Jane quilt is just around the corner.

The London Friendship Quilters Guild (LFQG) will host their first quilt showing since 2018, before COVID changed the world. For the first time, the guild will be hosting this event in the Thorndale Community Centre and for the first time, a Dear Jane Quilt will be hanging in the show.

Guild member Yvonne Yardy of St.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

This Dear Jane quilt, made by London Friendship Quilters Guild quilter Yvonne Yardy, will be featured in the guild's upcoming show at the Thorndale Community Centre Nov. 2 and 3.

Thomas obtained the project from Pam Mears of Delaware who had collected the fabrics and made quite a few of the blocks for the quilt but was unable to

finish this massive undertaking. Yardy tackled it head on, completing all the blocks, assembling the top, adding a border and quilting it. To say this quilt

is impressive is an understatement and the thoughts of a bedridden woman creating the original during the conditions existent during the Civil War is almost unthinkable. It is truly a work of art and Yardy has done Jane Stickle proud.

The LFQG show will be held in Thorndale at the community centre on Queen Street on Saturday Nov. 2 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and again Sunday Nov. 3 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Admission is \$12 (cash preferred) which includes a visit to our tearoom. The guild has lots of quilts of all sizes, wall hangings and other fabric creations as well as the Dear Jane quilt. In addition, there will be a merchants' mall, a guild boutique with lots of great Christmas ideas and an opportunity to bid on some great silent-auction items.

The London Friendship Quilters Guild is a non-profit group with an appreciation for the art and craftsmanship of patchwork and quilting. We offer educational opportunities and thrive on a lively exchange of ideas and information.

We give back to the community with our various outreach activities. The guild meets in east London monthly from September until June with our January and February meetings now zoomed, so no one has to navigate ugly winter weather! Visit our website at www.lfqq.ca or just come to the show and visit Dear Jane!

Get creative every Wednesday at Riverwalk Commons

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

Drop-In Wednesdays at Riverwalk Commons flourished into the new Create @Riverwalk Commons program.

Create @Riverwalk Commons will run every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for community members to engage in creative activities such as woodworking, painting, writing, music and textiles. There will be three sessions in collaboration with Stonetown Arts where three local artists will guide participants through the following creative works:

- Oct. 30 – Slow Stitching
- Nov. 13 – Still Life Drawing
- Dec. 11 – Mixed Media Collage with tea bags

Melissa Barton, owner of Riverwalk Commons, said Wednesdays at Riverwalk Commons were always used as a coworking space. Barton was expecting more participants to write away on their laptops and work on their consulting projects, but found many were working on their art.

“People would come and they would bring in their little woodworking thing they’re working on, their paintings or their stitching that they’re working on,” she said. “The Stonetown Arts group put it out to their membership, so they started popping in.”

Barton spoke with members of the Stonetown Arts group and other creatives in developing the Create @Riverwalk Commons program. Several artists

work alone but enjoy working alongside other artists and learning new skills from them.

“It was filling needs of both people coming together and combatting loneliness, but also people coming together and learning and trying new things and exploring craft and art,” Barton said. “More and more, we talked about October being National Mental Health Awareness Month and were thinking about what are some things we could do to support that.”

Barton added there is a lot of research showing creativity can leave positive mental-health impacts. When she used to work for large organizations, she led team-building exercises surrounding art and creativity. She added being creative

can improve problem-solving skills.

“Sometimes, when you’re setting your mind aside and doing something like this, you can solve problems by just setting those aside in your brain and letting everything just relax by learning how to be more creative with these other mediums,” she said. “Sometimes, that inspires creativity in other aspects of your life.”

Each Create @Riverwalk Commons event costs \$20 and includes refreshments and art supplies. Participants will be required to bring their own lunch or purchase from a nearby eatery. To register online, visit rwcommons.com.

County stewardship program gears up for second year

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Perth County Stewardship Program is back for a second year to support tree-planting projects and forest-management plans across the region.

Starting Nov. 1, eligible applicants including private landowners and community groups, can apply for funding online through the County’s website.

The Stewardship Program includes three streams: a landowner stream,

community stream and woodlot stream. Each stream is geared towards different tree-planting projects such as forest rehabilitation, windbreaks, stream buffers and forest-health check-ups. These projects contribute to the resiliency of natural and agricultural lands across Perth County.

“The first year of the stewardship program was overwhelmingly successful. The program supported 35 landowners and community groups in planting 14,955 trees and completing one for-

est-management plan,” said Perth County resiliency and stewardship coordinator Hannah Cann in a press release. “We look forward to continuing to support stewards of natural and agricultural lands in Perth County in 2025”.

Following the success of the inaugural year, the county has pledged \$100,000 to the 2025 program intake. The 2025 program guide launched earlier this month and applicants are encouraged to review the guide for tips on preparing an application. Landowners who are unsure if

their project is eligible are encouraged to contact staff to discuss opportunities for their land or community group.

Applications to the 2025 stewardship program will open on Nov. 1. Applications must be received by Jan. 3, 2025. Successful applicants will be notified by mid-February 2025.

For more information about the program, and to access application forms, visit www.perthcounty.ca/Stewardship.

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Shoulder season returns to UTRCA conservation areas, offering plenty of fall recreation opportunities

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) has scheduled another six-week extension to its day-use access at Fanshawe and Wildwood conservation areas this fall.

Effective Sunday, Oct. 20, the shoulder season will run until Saturday, Nov. 30.

“Last year was our pilot shoulder season project and the extended access was so well received we’re doing it again this year,” UTRCA conservation areas coordinator Damian Schofield said in a press

release. “Guests expressed that they appreciate having amenities available to them longer into the fall and we’re really happy to be able to provide this.

“This includes recreational opportunities, customer service staff being available, and washroom facilities at these beautiful conservation areas.”

Amenities offered to visitors during this extended season will include:

- customer service staff on site;
- access to hiking and biking trails;
- access to Fanshawe reservoir for canoeing and kayaking (pending reservoir conditions and water levels);

• access to day-use areas including a playground, barbecues, picnic areas and green space; and

• washroom facilities.

A reduced-vehicle day pass fee of \$10 (up to four people), or a reduced pedestrian/cyclist day pass fee of \$5 for those walking or biking will be charged during this extended season.

Hours of Operation will be as follows:

- Fanshawe CA
- Open daily from Oct. 21 to Nov. 20: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Open daily from Nov. 21-30: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Dam gate will be closed at 4 p.m. daily

• Wildwood CA

- Monday through Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Friday through Sunday: 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- Gate to day-use will be closed at 4 p.m. daily

Visitors can also purchase a 2025 seasons pass mirror hanger now at the current 2024 rates, which includes free day-use entry for the rest of 2024! Available at the conservation area gatehouse or in the UTRCA’s online store.

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Lincs' win streak hits 11 in home-and-home sweep against Stratford Warriors



(MCGINNY PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

St. Marys Lincolns' forward Chase McDougall crashes his older brother Carter's net during the Lincs' 4-3 win over the Stratford Warriors on Oct. 16.



(DOUG COOPER PHOTO)

Nico Armellin stretches across to make sure the puck doesn't go in the net during the Lincolns' 4-1 win on Oct. 18 against the Warriors. Armellin took a starring role in the Lincs' victory, stopping 45 of 46 Stratford shots.

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The longest winning streak to start a season in St. Marys Lincolns' history grew longer last week when the Lincs won their first two games of the year against their budding archrivals, the Stratford Warriors.

In the first installment of the long-awaited Battle of Highway 7 on Oct. 16, it was a feeling-out process for much of the game as both teams traded goals at the William Allman Memorial Arena.

Head coach Jeff Bradley was pleased with his team's showing, especially with regard to their defensive structure.

"We limited Stratford, a really good team, to only 18 shots and only a handful of those came from the middle of the ice," Bradley told the Independent. "We achieved our goal of taking away the middle of the ice, we only gave up one or two odd-man rushes, so I thought it was a good performance by us."

So far this season, the Lincolns haven't allowed more than three goals in any single game and, up until the 14:21 mark of the first period in Stratford, St. Marys still was sitting on single-digit goals against.

Cole Lewis tallied the icebreaker for

the Warriors on a powerplay, taking a 1-0 lead with just over six-and-a-half minutes left in the opening frame on the Stratford captain's ninth goal of the season. However, just 53 seconds later, the Lincs answered with the first in the GOJHL career of defenceman Hayden Barch, assisted by Noah VandenBrink and Blake Elzinga.

The second period had a dose of déjà vu when it took just one minute and three seconds after Zach Bell gave Stratford a one-goal lead for the Lincs to counter with the sixth of the season by Ryan Hodkinson, a goal that gave the hometown centreman points in five straight games. Along with Barch, Chase MacQueen-Spence had an assist on Hodkinson's goal.

Coach Bradley mentioned Hodkinson, MacQueen-Spence and VandenBrink performing like true leaders for the Lincolns.

"The whole team was really good, to be honest, but guys like Noah (VandenBrink), Chase (MacQueen-Spence) and Ryan (Hodkinson) really stepped up when we needed them to. We've all seen the growth in Ryan's game going back to last season and he's just continued being incredibly reliable at both ends.

"Chase and Noah are both known predominantly for their offensive skill, but

they are evolving into genuine, two-way players," Bradley continued. "They understand the puck won't be on their stick for most of the game, so they have to be hard defensively and make life tough on the opponent."

Bradley also praised the team's veteran core for being able to respond to both of Stratford's go-ahead goals in quick order.

"To me, it sums up what kind of team we are and the kind of players that our team is comprised of. There are games that you really don't want to lose and that was one of those games, and because of that, they just refused to quit. Our guys don't think one goal is the end of the game. It's a matter of sticking with it and turning the page after a negative and responding with a positive."

With just under three minutes left in the second, Hodkinson sent the puck into the slot where Jacob McLellan was driving to tip the puck by Warriors' netminder Carter McDougall to put St. Marys ahead 3-2, a lead they took into the second intermission. MacQueen-Spence also picked up a helper on McLellan's goal.

However, the Warriors showed why they entered the game tied with the Lincs for the top spot in the Western Conference, getting a goal from Dracen Camp-

bell a mere 33 seconds into the third to tie things at three apiece.

Almost three minutes later, first-year forward Dylan Searles, taking a cue from his older teammates, answered for the Lincolns when he helped create chaos in front of the Warriors' net. A point shot by Barch hit off Searles before floating over McDougall's head and dropping in the back of the net. Searles' third of the season held up as the game-winning goal with St. Marys hanging on for a 4-3 victory.

Bradley believes the overall learning curve of the team's systems has been accelerated thanks to their deep reservoir of experience.

"It's been really a huge advantage for us to have so many returning players. We've got half-a-dozen guys who have been here for three years, plus a guy like Ethan (Coups) who was here years ago, plus some of our younger guys who were affiliates with us last year, so there is a lot of familiarity with our style of play. We have a number of players who are almost assistant coaches with how they are able to set an example and relay expectations."

The head coach also felt the contest provided the team with very valuable insight into one of their newest conference

Lincs' win streak hits 11 in home-and-home sweep against Stratford Warriors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

opponents.

"We're answering questions that we didn't have first-hand answers to yet. We've played in the west for so long, and now we're competing against teams like Elmira, Stratford, Listowel and Kitchener-Waterloo. You're wondering how you stack up against those teams since we haven't seen them very often in recent years. We answered that question against Elmira (on Oct. 11) and we got our answer against Stratford, and it was nice to answer that question by getting the two points."

Lincs weather Warriors' storm in 4-1 win

The Lincolns' 4-1 win over Stratford two days later proved true the adage of, "When you're hot, you're hot," with St. Marys escaping with a three-goal win despite being outplayed for 40 minutes.

Bradley described the game as a pendulum that swung wildly, with a first period that couldn't have been more different from the second and third.

"In the first period, we were great. We came out really well. I thought the second period was one of our worst periods of the season, and I didn't feel like we got too much better in the third. We were fortunate to have a couple of our veteran players turn it on for a shift here and a shift there, but if not for a handful of players and some great goaltending, we probably don't get that win."

Nico Armellin got the start for the Lincolns and was spectacular, stopping 45 of 46 Stratford shots. The Warriors outshot St. Marys 34-17 in the final two periods.

Almost exactly halfway through the first, VandenBrink extended his point streak to seven games with his fourth goal of the season, a powerplay marker assisted by McLellan and Elzinga. The goal was a measure of payback for the Lincolns after the Warriors held the St. Marys powerplay off the scoresheet on Oct. 16, the first and only time this year when the Lincolns haven't had at least one powerplay goal in a game.

Close to five minutes later, MacQueen-Spence also reached seven straight games with a point when he potted his fourth of the campaign. Ryder Livermore and Owen Voortman picked up the assists. After having no goals in his first five outings, MacQueen-Spence has scored in four of his last six games.

The first period wasn't all good news for the Lincs, as Hodgkinson left the game due to an upper-body injury. Hodgkinson didn't return to the game, causing Bradley and company to juggle the lines. Despite the large six-foot-three hole in the middle of the ice, Bradley credited a makeshift line for doing an admirable job of trying to turn lemons into lemonade.

"When Ryan went out with the injury, we had to mix some things up and the chemistry took a bit of a hit. Ryan is obviously a big part of our team. We put out Cornfield, MacQueen-Spence and Voortman, and

thankfully, at a time when we were on our heels, they didn't deviate from the plan. They stuck with our plan and it ended up opening a hole for Owen (Kalp) to get his goal."

Kalp's goal came at the 7:34 mark of the third period, his first as a Lincoln, but it followed a middle frame from which the Lincs barely emerged with a lead. It appeared the Warriors had missed their shot to get back in the game when they failed to score on a five-on-three powerplay, but the Warriors kept the pressure on the Lincolns and got rewarded when Nolan Galda finally solved Armellin to cut the lead in half.

With six seconds left, the jam-packed and boisterous crowd at the Pyramid Recreation Center (PRC) drowned out the sound of the official's whistle, blown when St. Marys briefly got a hold of the puck in front of their own net with a delayed penalty call. The Warriors put the puck in the net shortly after the whistle was blown, briefly making Stratford think they had tied the game but instead, they went to a man advantage that carried over into the third and, eventually, was killed off.

Kalp's goal was followed by McLellan's fourth of the campaign. Coming into the season, McLellan was touted as a defensively stout forward whose offence may not blow the doors off. However, while the hard-working Kingston, Ont. native has more than lived up to the two-way billing, McLellan has consistently put up points, averaging over a point per game through the team's 11-game season-opening winning streak.

"He's definitely made an impact on both sides of the puck," said Bradley. "As soon as we saw him play, we knew he could be a great part of this team. He has endeared himself to his teammates and I think the fans as well. He has become incredibly important to our team and in our locker room. He's incredibly polite and coachable. He's been raised incredibly well. He's one of the more experienced players we have and knows what makes a good program."

McLellan is one of seven Lincolns' forwards to average a point per game so far this season, while the team

also has two sitting at 10 points in 11 games. Bradley acknowledged how important the consistent production of the team's top-nine forward group has been to the team's unbeaten start to the year.

"It's been incredibly important, but it's also important that everyone buys into our commitment to our depth. If we want to have the type of depth production that we have, you can't play any one line 25 minutes every night. Our guys see the big picture and they know that if you're fortunate enough to make the playoffs and then get late into the playoffs, we can't rely on one or two lines to get it done. We need everybody on board and having the opportunity to contribute."

Although the second half of their home-and-home series against Stratford wasn't the 60-minute performance the group wanted, Bradley believes the team simply needs to "turn the page" on what was a disappointing blip on a largely stellar beginning to the season.

"We've established ourselves as a top team in this league, which is a pretty good place to start. We can't become complacent and comfortable with where we're at. We have to keep pushing the pace and finding ways to get better. Our veterans have been outstanding, our younger guys are following their lead and we're progressing well. We've touched on many parts of our game and, while we're not perfect in all aspects of our game, we're comfortable in all aspects of our game."

GOJHL Western Conference Standings (as of Oct. 22)

| Rank | Team | Record | PTS | GF | GA |
|------|---------------------|----------|-----|----|----|
| 1 | St. Marys Lincolns | 11-0-0-0 | 22 | 50 | 13 |
| 2 | Stratford Warriors | 9-3-0-0 | 18 | 43 | 27 |
| 3 | LaSalle Vipers | 8-3-0-0 | 16 | 45 | 34 |
| 4 | London Nationals | 6-2-2-1 | 15 | 44 | 33 |
| 5 | Strathroy Rockets | 7-4-0-1 | 15 | 36 | 40 |
| 6 | K-W Siskins | 6-4-0-2 | 14 | 42 | 36 |
| 7 | Elmira Sugar Kings | 6-4-2-0 | 14 | 44 | 42 |
| 8 | Listowel Cyclones | 6-3-1-0 | 13 | 44 | 35 |
| 9 | Chatham Maroons | 6-5-0-0 | 12 | 54 | 40 |
| 10 | St. Thomas Stars | 2-6-1-1 | 6 | 26 | 52 |
| 11 | Sarnia Legionnaires | 2-7-1-0 | 5 | 26 | 36 |
| 12 | Komoka Kings | 1-10-1-0 | 3 | 27 | 58 |

St. Marys Lincolns 2024-25 Stats (as of Oct. 22)

| Rank | Player | GP | G | A | PTS |
|------|-----------------------|----|---|----|-----|
| T-1 | Jaden Lee | 11 | 6 | 7 | 13 |
| | Chase MacQueen-Spence | 11 | 4 | 9 | 13 |
| | Jacob McLellan | 11 | 4 | 9 | 13 |
| | Owen Voortman | 11 | 3 | 10 | 13 |
| T-5 | Luca Spagnolo | 11 | 8 | 4 | 12 |
| | Ryan Hodgkinson | 11 | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| 7 | Noah VandenBrink | 11 | 4 | 7 | 11 |
| T-8 | Ryan Cornfield | 11 | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| | Blake Elzinga | 11 | 3 | 7 | 10 |
| 10 | Ryder Livermore | 11 | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| T-11 | Dylan Searles | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| | Tanner Ducharme | 7 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| | Hayden Barch | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| T-14 | Owen Kalp | 10 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | Rowan Reid | 7 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| | Ethan Coups | 11 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| T-17 | Julian Stubgen | 8 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| | Zander Kechevo | 8 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Chase McDougall | 10 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Jacob Montesi | 11 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

| # | Goalies | GP | GAA | SV-% | Wins |
|----|---------------------|----|------|-------|------|
| 1 | Colby Booth-Housego | 6 | 1.51 | 0.949 | 6 |
| 29 | Nico Armellin | 5 | 0.80 | 0.971 | 5 |



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Shackleton competing at karate worlds in Portugal

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

Kenzie Shackleton will represent St. Marys and Thompson's Martial Arts as a member of Team Canada at the upcoming World Karate Championships in Portugal.

Shackleton told the Independent she is eager to make the trip and take on the best competitors from around the globe.

"I am really excited to explore a part of the world I've never been to, but I am also really excited that I have reached this level in karate," said Shackleton. "Competing at the world championships is an achievement in my life that I never thought I would accomplish, so it's amazing for me that I've done it."

Shackleton's journey to the world championship goes back a year when she declared her intentions to her mother, Amie Shackleton.

"Last year, when Sensei (Eric) Thompson got back from the worlds in Orlando, he told Kenzie that the 2024 competition was in Portugal," Amie Shackleton explained. "Kenzie came home and told me, 'Mom, I am going to try to get to worlds next year because it is in Portugal and I know how much you have always wanted to go there.' She set her mind to

it and she accomplished her goal, and both Derek and I are very proud of how hard she has worked to do so."

The 10-year-old St. Marys native is a green belt at Thompson's Martial Arts and is trained by Thompson, who Shackleton credited for the positive environment cultivated at the downtown dojo for her and her fellow students.

"I like going to Thompson's dojo because Sensei Thompson treats us how we are supposed to be treated. He truly cares for all of us a lot and makes us all feel respected and valued. No one is allowed to disrespect anyone else," Kenzie Shackleton

Kenzie Shackleton is competing in the U10 girls' under 45-kilogram sparring division at the worlds along with a pairs event. Kenzie Shackleton described how her passion for the sport has evolved during her four years of training.

"Karate is really special to me because I think it's important that everyone can stand up for themselves. That is why I started doing karate and, soon, I was doing it for fun. I still have a lot of fun doing karate, but now I'm serious about being competitive in karate," she said.

The World Karate Championships run from Oct. 26 to Nov. 1 in Albufeira, Portugal.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Kenzie Shackleton of St. Marys will represent Thompson's Martial Arts, located in downtown St. Marys, at the World Karate Championships Oct. 26 to Nov. 1 in Albufeira, Portugal.

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Town of St. Marys unveils Sports Wall of Fame, honours 2024 class



Six inductees were celebrated on Oct. 19 when the Town of St. Marys honoured its first Sports Wall of Fame class. Pictured from left to right are Mark Bell, Nelson Goad (representing the late Riley Hern), Dale Levy, Pat Payton, Ron Marriott (representing the Creamery Juniors), and members of the Stewart family (representing Ferris Stewart).



The inaugural Sports Wall of Fame class inducted at the PRC featured the 1988 Creamery Juniors fastball squad, who were inducted in the Team category. It was fitting for the Creamery Juniors to be the first team recognized on the Wall of Fame as they remain the only team from St. Marys to win a national championship.



Four-time Stanley Cup Champion and Hockey Hall of Fame goaltender Riley Hern's induction was accepted by Nelson Goad, Hern's grandson, who represented Hern beautifully with a speech rich in gratitude and joy for the Wall of Fame's creation.



All-time great coach Ferris Stewart was enshrined in the Wall of Fame, with his son Allan Stewart recounting stories of his father to celebrate the induction. The other inductee in the Builders' category was Pat Payton, who called the induction a "defining moment" in his life.



Dale Levy was short and sweet as he accepted his induction as a member of the Player category. Levy used much of his speech to graciously thank his wife Donna, who Levy said "held everything together" during his playing career.



Mark Bell was overwhelmed with emotion as he spoke about many of the people who made an impact in his journey to the NHL, where he played 450 games with Chicago, San Jose, Toronto, and Anaheim.

(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTOS)

U16 A Boys speed to 3-2 victory over New Hamburg

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

A high-octane start and a clutch third-period goal guided the St. Marys Legion U16 A Boys St. Marys Rock past the New Hamburg Huskies for a 3-2 win on Oct. 17.

Head coach Bob Davis told the Independent he was very happy with his team's first period, believing it represented much of the way the team should play all the time.

"I think we came out really well in the first period," said Davis. "We were quite strong early and we played well in the offensive zone for the whole game. We were aggressive, played good positional hockey and got some good chances. We were less aggressive in our end and I think if we can consistently bring the same aggression we had in the offensive zone to our defensive zone, we will be incredibly frustrating for other teams."

The Rock jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first period, starting with a goal by Kolton McAllister just over four minutes into the game. Later in the frame, Donovan McGregor extended the St. Marys lead to two goals.

In addition to their tenacity in the New Hamburg end, Davis also noted the team's man advantage as being a major factor in generating momentum in the offensive zone.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Hayden Wright breaks through the New Hamburg Huskies' defence during the St. Marys Legion U16 A Boys St. Marys Rock on Oct. 17. The Rock beat the Huskies 3-2 with Wright scoring the game-winning goal.

"Our powerplay worked well. They kept their feet moving, they were very good positionally and they spread the defenders, which opened up a lot of lanes to pass through. They were very patient with the puck and they took ad-

vantage of the chances they had, and it was great to see the work we've put into the powerplay get implemented as well as they did."

In the second, the Huskies fought back and put St. Marys on their heels,

culminating with a pair of goals mid-way through the period just one minute and 40 seconds apart.

Despite the slight inconsistency in adhering to their aggressiveness in their end, the Rock managed to weather the New Hamburg attack in the third and, with under four minutes left in regulation, a wrist shot by Hayden Wright snuck through the five-hole and found the back of the Huskies' net, eventually going down as the game-winner.

According to Davis, the team is showing early signs of being capable of a good season if they play to their high-flying strengths.

"I think this team has the potential to be quite successful. Our strengths will be our speed and aggressiveness and those have to be major parts of what we do. We have to be aggressive all over the ice right from the start, and we can't let up. We have to be in control of the puck."

"We have a very good defensive core, so our back end should keep us in a lot of games," Davis continued. "But in order to do that, we have to go and get the puck. I think if we can be more aggressive more consistently, we're going to get a good number of wins."

In addition to their win on home ice, the team also travelled to Tillsonburg and Ingersoll for the October Storm Classic tournament hosted from Oct. 18-20, and the Rock came away with a silver medal.

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Brynn Feeney backhands the puck on goal during the Harris-Greig Automotive U9 HL Girls St. Marys Rock game last Saturday.



Cohen Hammond defends his zone by playing the puck through centre ice during this past Sunday's U11 LL Boys Red St. Marys Rock game.



Harper Schmidt lets a wrist shot fly during the Hitching Post U11 C Girls St. Marys Rock game last Saturday.



Luc Richardson loads up a shot from the point during this past Sunday's Easy Lift Doors U13 LL Boys Blue St. Marys Rock game.



Ella Carter passes the puck in the offensive zone during the Hubbard Pharmacy U18 C Girls St. Marys Rock game last Saturday.



Lilly Garniss rushes through the offensive zone with the ring during this past Sunday's U12 St. Marys Snipers game.

(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTOS)



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SKC students collect medals at London tourney



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Seven Stonetown Karate Centre (SKC) students won medals at a tournament hosted at the Carling Heights Community Centre on Sept. 28. The haul of 15 medals included eight first-place prizes. Pictured from left to right are Sensei Jalyne Lorentz, Morgan Houston, Shannon Campbell, Geoff Holdsworth, Lisa Sheldon and Marieke Van Lierop. Not pictured was Santiago Tierra.

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

Seven Stonetown Karate Centre (SKC) students earned medals at the Carling Heights Community Centre tournament hosted in London on Sept. 28.

The total haul for SKC students included 15 medals, over half of which were golds.

Sensei Jalyne Lorentz, competing in the 15-17 girls' black belt division, captured two of those gold medals in the traditional kata and creative weapons competition along with a pair of silvers in traditional weapons and open forms. Lorentz was also the overall grand champion among all 15-17-year-olds.

In the 15-17 girls' advanced category, Marieke Van Lierop earned two golds in traditional kata and traditional weapons.

Morgan Houston also won a pair of gold medals in the women's 35+ novice division, taking the top spot in traditional kata and traditional weapons.

Shannon Campbell added a gold in point sparring as a competitor in the 35+ women's advanced bracket, as well as a bronze medal in traditional kata. Rounding out the collection of gold medals came in the 11-12 Boys' intermediate group with Santiago Tierra coming in first in traditional kata.

Lisa Sheldon claimed the silver in point sparring in the 42+ women's black belt division. Sheldon also took the 35+ women's black-belt point-sparring bronze medal. In the 35+ mens' novice bracket, Geoff Holdsworth brought home a silver in traditional weapons plus a bronze in traditional kata.

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"Small but mighty" U13 B Girls capture silver at Hocktoberfest

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The Cascades U13 B Girls St. Marys Rock showed "incredible spirit and determination" en route to a silver medal at the Hocktoberfest tournament held in Windsor Oct. 18-20.

After splitting their four round-robin games, the Rock gutted out a 2-1 win over Oakville in the semi-finals to earn a spot in the gold-medal game against the Kincardine Kinucks.

The U13 B Girls not only represented St. Marys with pride but also garnered support from nearby communities, including teams from St. Thomas and Oakville, thanks to the sportsmanship and dedication they displayed throughout the weekend.

Head coach Jamie Matheson expressed pride in his players for "playing their hearts out" all weekend.

"I am proud of their work ethic and determination," Matheson told the Independent. "They supported each other really well throughout the tournament and that was instrumental in getting to the finals. They faced a lot of tough competition and battled really hard. We'll keep working on our play in the offensive zone, but this was a really good result for us to build off of."

The team, comprising just 11 skaters and one goaltender, not only became a fan favourite at the tournament en route to its silver medal, but also enjoyed several highlights off the ice as well, including celebrating Violet Holiday's birthday with a memorable dinner at the Mandarin. The Rock also received a rousing speech from Carin and Kevin Smith.

"Always have fun no matter where you are and who you are with, show all of your sparkle and always be proud of what you accomplished," Matheson said.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

The Cascades U13 B Girls St. Marys Rock earned the Silver medal at the Hocktoberfest tournament in Windsor on Oct. 18-20. Pictured in the front is goaltender Charlotte Jeffreys. In the back row, from left to right, are Brinley St. Clair, Lauren Masselis, Ellen Robson, Camille Crummer, Violet Holliday, Olivia Davis, Jaelynn Seok, Nora Frayne, Lucy McFarlane, Eleanor Froud, and Charlotte Matheson.

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COLUMNS

UKRAINIAN CORNER: Walking the streets of Kharkiv

TETIANA DIDKOVSKA

Independent Columnist

Ukraine is one of the most educated nations in the world, ranking fourth globally for its highly educated population. One of its most academically advanced cities is Kharkiv, a large, vibrant metropolis with a rich history and cultural heritage. Walking through the streets of Kharkiv, home to nearly 80 universities, is a delightful experience. I completed my graduate studies and defended my dissertation at the Kharkiv National University of Internal Affairs in Ukraine.

Kharkiv, which was founded in 1654 as a fortress to protect against raids by Crimean Tatars, has a long and impressive history. By the early 20th century, it had grown into a significant industrial, cultural and educational hub. Between December 1919 and January 1934, Kharkiv even served as the first capital of Ukraine. Located on the 50th parallel, an imaginary line that runs through cities like Krakow and Prague, Kharkiv is the largest city in the world situated along this geographic line.

Kharkiv is known for its avant-garde architecture, a style that sought to build a new future through design. The



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Annunciation Cathedral in Kharkiv, Ukraine is the largest cathedral in Eastern Europe.

Kharkiv Art Museum is one of the largest in Ukraine, housing a collection of 20,000 works of art and regularly hosting classical-music concerts. The city is also famous for its street art, particularly the works of Hamlet Zinkivskyi, whose

thought-provoking murals have adorned Kharkiv's walls since 2007.

Many distinguished scientists and inventors were born or worked in Kharkiv, including Vladyslav Golovnin, who invented the first rigid-wing aircraft, and Oleksandr Porokhovshchikov, a physicist who contributed to quantum electrodynamics and won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1964. Ilya Mechnikov, a biologist who made significant advances in understanding the immune system, was also from Kharkiv and received the Nobel Prize in 1908. Notably, the first atomic nucleus was split at the Ukrainian Physical and Technical Institute in Kharkiv on Oct. 10, 1932. Also, Kharkiv gave us heroes of the Ukrainian-Russian war such as Andrii Pushkar, who

is a volunteer of the Kharkiv territorial defense, and Ihor Hubsnyi, who is the commander of the National Guard of Ukraine unit.

Kharkiv is home to numerous architectural gems. The State Scientific Library named after V. G. Korolenko, founded in 1919, is one of the largest in Ukraine and its building, completed in 1935, is a standout example of Kharkiv's architectural heritage. Another highlight is the City Officers' House, a Neo-Renaissance structure built in 1902 for military gatherings, now housing a museum dedicated to Kharkiv's history. The Kyiv railway station, built in the late 19th century, boasts a grand facade and serves as a major transport hub.

Among the city's unique attractions is the Lovers' Bridge, also known as "Lopan Arrow," the first suspension pedestrian bridge over the Lopan River. Opened in 2010, this bridge is a popular spot for newlyweds, who often leave locks on it for good luck. The bridge is beautifully illuminated at night and live music in the square adds to its charm.

Another must-see is the Annunciation Cathedral, the largest in Eastern Europe. Built with alternating red brick and white plaster, this monumental five-bay church can hold up to 4,000 worshippers at once. Its striking striped exterior and immense size make it one of Kharkiv's most iconic landmarks.

In recognition of its resilience and courage, Kharkiv was awarded the title of Hero City of Ukraine by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on March 6, 2022. The people of Kharkiv are proud of their city, its history, and its achievements, and they warmly welcome visitors to explore its many treasures.

Kharkiv is a city full of life, culture and stories waiting to be discovered.

To be continued ...

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This Week's Recommendation

Are we alone in the universe? It's a question that has been asked by many but we've yet to find a definitive answer. In "The Possibility of Life: Science,

Imagination, and Our Quest for Kinship in the Cosmos", author Jaime Green explores both fact and fiction, examining humanity's interaction with the mysterious 'final frontier' throughout history. Listen to this intriguing read via Libby today.

Up This Week

- Fri., Oct. 25: Library Open House (12-5 p.m.)
- Sat., Oct. 26: Open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Mon., Oct. 28: Open 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Tues., Oct. 29: Tuesday Book Club* (11 a.m.)
- Wed., Oct. 30: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30-10:30 a.m.), Mahjong Intro Session (1-2 p.m.), Mahjong! (2-4 p.m.)
- Thurs., Oct. 31: Article Club* (2:30 p.m.)

*Registration Required

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: St. Marys in the 1920s: Did the Town Roar!

MARY SMITH

Independent Columnist

Recently a visitor to the St. Marys Museum had an interesting request. For a research project, she wanted to get an understanding of what St. Marys was like in the mid-1920s. Did life in this small town in southwestern Ontario in any way fit the “Roaring 20s” stereotype? Certainly, the residents of this community, like people all across Canada, were glad that the terrible years of World War I were behind them. They were eager to enjoy themselves with family and friends once more. But jazz, flappers and nightclubs belonged to city life and would have been a foreign, if perhaps intriguing, concept to people who lived in rural neighbourhoods. So, what did they do for fun?

There are resources at the Museum to help answer this question. Some of the photographs and postcards in the historic image collection were taken in the 1920s, including the picture with this week’s column. It shows people in downtown St. Marys in 1921 watching the tail end of a parade to the fairgrounds in the west ward. Children from local and area schools were given an afternoon off to attend the annual fall agricultural fair. But to get free admission, classes had to march, supervised by their teachers, to the fairgrounds. In this photograph, the last class in the parade is just passing, followed by many automobiles, also part of the parade. Some of the streetscape has changed significantly in the last century but it is gratifying that many of the historic buildings have survived.

Issues of the St. Marys Journal Argus covering that decade can be read on microfilm at the Museum. Just as today we can consult the Independent to find out about upcoming events, so did readers a century ago look for information in their weekly newspaper. In fact, in 1924 the Journal Argus always ran a full column of short notices for “Coming Events” on an inside page. But whereas the current issues of the Independent contain suggestions for Halloween activities, during the last weeks of October 1924, that celebration did not seem to be important. There was one notice for a Halloween dance, but it was in Toronto in a hall on the corner of College and Spadina, sponsored by the Perth County Old Boys and Girls Association. Even while working or studying in the city, it was good to keep in touch with old friends from home.

People in the 1920s enjoyed getting to-



(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE STOREY COLLECTION, ST. MARYS MUSEUM)

Spectators line Queen Street to watch the parade to the fairgrounds, early 1920s.

gether to eat – as we still do today. Hot suppers were fundraisers for churches, lodges and clubs, and there were always notices advertising them in the Coming Events column. In the issue of October 23, 1924, the First Presbyterian Ladies’ Aid announced that they were having a Hot Fowl Supper on October 30. Wellburn Methodist Church purchased a small display ad to promote a “Monster” Hot Fowl Supper on November 4 while the Orange Lodge in Woodham advertised an Oyster Supper on November 5. In every case, the meal would be followed by local entertainment – musical numbers and perhaps some comic skits.

St. Marys had two movie theatres in 1924: the Pleasant Hour was on the south side of Queen Street near the Church Street intersection while the Lyric was on the north side just across the street. Both offered feature films, changing them regularly, saving the best ones for the end of the week. Westerns and comedies were very popular. On Friday, October 24, and Saturday, and October 25, 1924, the Pleasant Hour was showing “Blinky” starring Hoot Gibson, “the smiling, fighting King of the Outdoors in the most pretentious picture he has ever made!” Or local movie-goers could choose the Lyric where Buster Keaton, the “Frozen Faced Comedian,” starred in “Our Hospitality, the greatest seven-reel comedy ever created!” These were silent films, of course. The theatres hired local pianists to play music appropriate to the action on the screen.

Saturday evenings were particular-

ly lively in most small Ontario towns. That was the time when people from the country came to town to do their weekly shopping, also hoping for a chance to see old friends as they walked up and down the main street. Both the local bakery and the candy store had soda fountains. Young people met there, perhaps hoping to see that “special someone” and share a bowl of ice cream. The stores stayed open late, and many took the opportunity to promote their wares. The Journal Argus of October 23, 2024, featured a full-page advertisement from A. H. Lofft & Co., a popular dry goods store. It informed customers about the Annual Fall Harvest Sale – The Great Yearly Festival of High-Grade Merchandise at Bargain Prices. Flannelette blankets were selling for \$1 each (limit of four to a customer) while Pure Linen Towelling was 13¢ a yard. A fur-collared velour coat, lined with satinette, cost \$18.95. But families with children had to leave these pleasures with enough time to get home for bath night. It was important to get everyone clean and tidy for church on Sunday morning.

Sports were popular in 1924 St. Marys for both participants and spectators although the town’s great days of dominance in lacrosse were almost over. The Journal Argus reported that on Friday, October 24, the town hall auditorium was “comfortably filled, the occasion being the annual presentation of trophies and prizes won by the Inter-Church Sports League teams.” The women’s softball teams were not only from church groups but also from the McConnell Club and

the So-Cosy Shoe Company, a local factory with women employees. Their prizes were large boxes of chocolates. Men’s teams were awarded trophies for ball, soccer, and football. As with every 1920s gathering, the program included not just the presentation of awards but also various musical interludes.

Facilities for recreation were sparse a century ago, but in October 1924 an event took place that would help solve this problem. On October 9, dignitaries gathered to lay the cornerstone of the new Methodist Church gymnasium. Located between the parsonage and Central School, it was to be named Memorial Hall in honour of the young men of the congregation who had lost their lives in World War I. All available members of the St. Marys Ministerial attended because the gymnasium would be used for Inter-Church Sports League games throughout the winter. There would also be informal games and activities for youth groups, fun in a gymnasium but too rowdy and disruptive for a Sunday School hall.

Two cornerstones were laid in the ceremony. Mr. Jeremiah White, the founder of the White & May department store, represented the older people of the Methodist congregation and laid the first stone in the northwest corner. Percy Hepburn laid the second stone in the southwest corner, representing “the boys who went to the front and the present young people of the congregation.” Percy had enlisted as a 20-year-old student and served with the Canadian Expeditionary Forces in France.

All speakers at this event agreed about the value of physical activity for both boys and girls. But there was considerable concern about the boys, in particular. They were attracted to the sporting activities held on the athletic field on the Flats. Those events also exposed them to temptations such as illegal drinking and gambling! The new gymnasium would provide young people with a more wholesome environment for their games, protecting them from that great threat – alcohol! At that time in Ontario, prohibition was still in effect, but the legislation was threatened. On October 23, Ontario residents were asked to vote in a referendum to determine the future of the Ontario Temperance Act. The results would indicate just how much St. Marys would “roar” in the remaining years of the 1920s. To be continued.

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FROM THE GARDEN: Invasions to avoid



NANCY ABRA
Independent Columnist

For years we have been invaded with several species of plants, diseases and insects. According to the Ontario government, 'invasive' refers to a species that has moved outside of its native habitat and threatens the new environment, economy or society by disrupting local ecosystems. (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/emerald-ash-borer>)

We are all aware of the damage these invasive species have had on our properties, our gardens and the environment. The Emerald Ash Borer, for example, has caused significant damage and has wiped out stands of ash trees since it arrived in Ontario in 2002. The Asian long-horned beetle is another invader and attacks and kills maple trees.

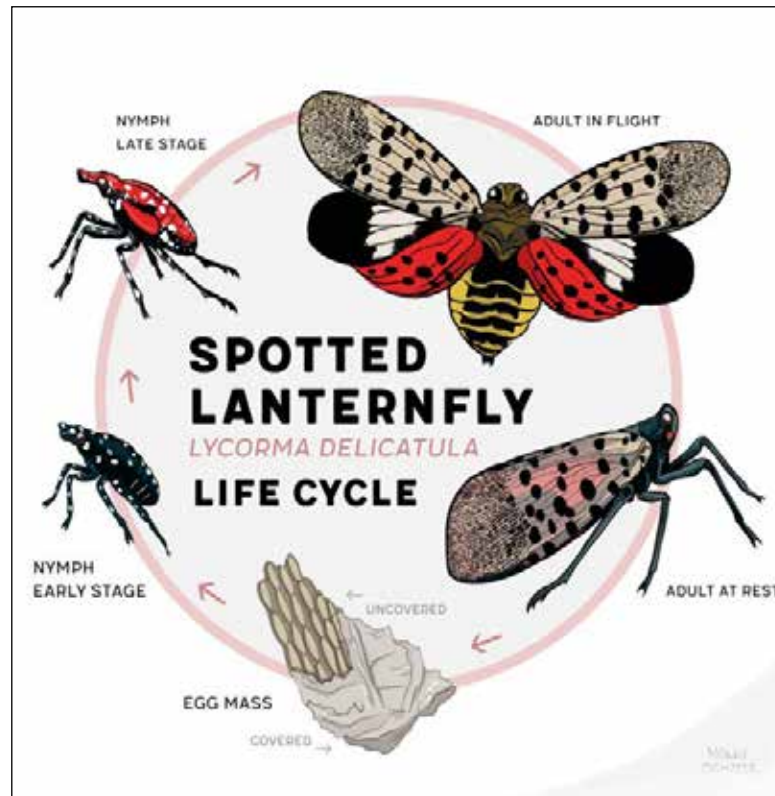
It was detected in the Toronto area in 2003, which led to eradication of this pest. There has been no detection since 2020 in this region but there is still concern it will show up again. The spongy moth, native to Europe, was a major concern in this region last year. The larvae feeds on crown foliage of a wide range of hardwoods and some softwood trees.

The latest threat to our region is the spotted lanternfly. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency warned Ontario Fruit & Vegetable growers last February at their convention that it is only a matter of time when the spotted lanternfly will invade Ontario orchards and vineyards. Well, the time has come.

According to a CBC Windsor news article, a homeowner saw a spotted lanternfly in late September. She said even though it looked beautiful, she stepped on it and reported it. She had heard reports that it was an extremely invasive species and could do a lot of damage. (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/spotting-lanternfly-windsor-essex-invasive-species>)

The spotted lanternfly (SLF) is a planthopper native to Southeast Asia. The adult feeds primarily on the invasive 'tree-of-heaven' (Ailanthus altissima) although nymphs are known to feed on a wide range of native hardwood and fruit trees. Grapevines are a preferred host of SLF, which feed in large swarms. Currently, intense management efforts are underway in parts of the U.S. The State of Michigan has been concerned about it since 2018 and it has been detected in the southeast area of the state. And now it has arrived in Ontario.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency suggests learning to recognize all the stages of the spotted lanternfly, its eggs, nymphs and adult stages and report all sightings to them. Be on the lookout in the spring and summer for the SLF nymphs and adults and in the fall, look for egg masses. These egg masses can over winter on lawn furniture, camping equipment and trailers and even on the underside of your vehicle if you have visited an area where they have been sighted. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency sug-



gests, if you find egg masses, scrape them off into a plastic bag filled with hand sanitizer or rubbing alcohol and seal it or the bag can be stored in the freezer. If you find an SLF nymph or adult, try to put it into a sealed container for specimen confirmation. SLF does not bite or sting. Report your findings with a location

and photos to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at Contact CFIA online – Canadian Food Inspection Agency ([canada.ca](https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/invasive-species/meet-the-species/invasive-insects/spotting-lanternfly/)).

Source- <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/invasive-species/meet-the-species/invasive-insects/spotting-lanternfly/>

Sudoku

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| | | 3 | 8 | 9 | | | |
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Solutions on page 35

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Thorndale News

A section within the
St. Marys Independent

Thorndale's Master Groomer wins big in Europe

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

It takes passion and dedication to have a vision to achieve goals and be the best among the best. After graduation from Pets Beautiful School of Styling in London in 2015, Jessica Daltrey took extra courses and tests to be a certified Master Groomer.

When Daltrey decided to open a pet-grooming business, it only made sense to her to choose Thorndale, it being her hometown, but choosing a name for her new business was harder.

Growing up, she had a pony, every young girl's dream, and this pony, named Franklyn, consumed her life for 13 years until he died suddenly in 2016. She cared for him, got jobs to pay for his board and riding lessons, attended horse shows and even taught him a few tricks. Daltrey explained Franklyn was more than a hobby or a job but a major part of her life.

"Horses teach you to be kind, quiet, patient, to listen, they teach respect and passion. They teach you something you



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

Jessica Daltrey, master groomer and owner of Franklyn's Paw Spa in Thorndale with her dog, Mali, a five-year-old Nova Scotia duck tolling retriever.

can't really learn in school," she said.

Daltrey remarked that starting a grooming business was exciting, but she

wanted the perfect name that was also personal and reflected her passion, and choosing Franklyn to be part of her busi-

ness name only made sense.

"Grooming your dog isn't just a job for me, it is my whole life. I care about your pet and that is why my work is so important and personal to me," she said.

Daltrey has won many pet-grooming competitions and the last couple of years, she has been working to achieve points to be selected to be on Groom Team Canada, a non-profit organization that encourages Canadian groomers to strengthen their skills through competition. Daltrey, along with groomers from British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Toronto considered the highest-ranking groomers, went as a team to represent Canada at the World Grooming Championships, Groomania, held last month in Waregem, Belgium.

At Groomania with her dog, Braz, a Kerry blue terrier, Daltrey won first in her class of 27 competitors and first in Best in Show out of 400 groomers from 55 different countries. As part of Team Canada, they won silver in the 23-country team competition.

A harvest that helps feed beyond

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

Earlier this year, the Good Neighbour Project committee planted 35 acres of soybeans on the Stubgen's property, southeast of Thorndale. Taking advantage of the recent dry sunny days, it has recently been harvested.

The Good Neighbour Project, in operation since 1994, is a collective group of farmers, residents and members of six area churches, five of which are in Thames Centre. It is a community project that reaches beyond this area, province and country to help feed the hungry of the world and is part of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

"Despite a couple of heavy rains in July, the crop yield was good," Good Neighbour Project chair John Elliott

said. "We greatly appreciate Plover Mills Commodities, who donated the drying and the trucking expenses. Money from the sale of this crop along with the generous donations taken in at our August barbecue will be sent to Canadian Foodgrains Bank in Winnipeg. Many thanks for everyone who contributed and supported our project this year."

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank facilitates the collection and distribution of money, grain and other agriculture commodities to the world's hungry through its member agencies. The Government of Canada has been an important partner of the Foodgrains Bank since it began in 1983, matching funds collected four to one for food assistance in the developing world – up to \$25 million each year. Visit <https://foodgrainsbank.ca/about-us> for more information.



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

Farmers recently harvested a 35-acre field of soybeans southeast of Thorndale for the Good Neighbour Project of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

THORNDALE WEEKLY NEWS

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Riddles

- How do you put a giraffe into a refrigerator?
- Open the refrigerator put in the giraffe and close the door
- How do you put an elephant into a refrigerator?
- Open the refrigerator, take out the giraffe, put in the elephant and close the door
- The Lion King is hosting an animal conference. All the animals attend except one. Which animal does not attend?
- The Elephant. The elephant is in the refrigerator
- There is a river you must cross. But it is inhabited by crocodiles. How do you manage it?
- You swim across. All the crocodiles are attending the Animal Meeting
- Why is the Mississippi such an unusual river?
- Because it has four eyes and can't see
- What did the computer do at lunchtime
- Had a byte
- What's big and yellow and comes in the morning to brighten a mother's day?
- The school bus
- Why was George Washington buried at Mount Vernon?
- Because he was dead
- What do you get if you cross a crocodile with a flower?
- I don't know, but I'm not going to smell it

- Word Search -



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Word List

- Saturday
- Sunday
- October
- Barn tours
- Wagon rides
- Corn maze
- Pumpkin catapult
- Sand mountain
- Pick your own pumpkin
- Farm fresh market
- Local food
- Straw fort
- Family fun



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What is a frog's favorite game?



Leapfrog!

Blake Parsons (5)

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 Aico, a puppy currently being fostered and trained for National Service Dogs. Aico is black lab / golden retriever, who is 14 weeks old and will be living with Trixie Middleton-Mohr for about one year. He will then move to an adult raiser before he gets placed as a service dog for autistic children or people with PTSD. Aico will be wearing his purple work vest when visiting places and stores around town. You are welcome to ask if you can pet him and if he has 'four on the floor' pets are welcome.

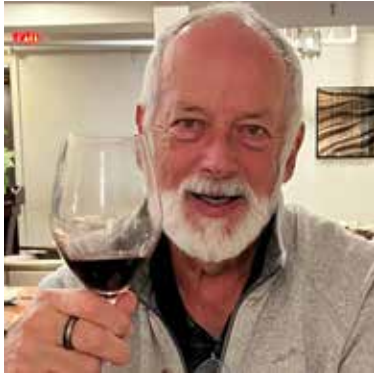


St. Marys Veterinary Clinic is pleased to be the sponsor of the **PET OF THE WEEK** **PET FOOD TIP!**

We love to see our pets well fed but be sure to only give your pet the correct food serving recommended for their weight and age. Feel free to book an appointment with one of our pet nutrition experts if you are unsure of what's best for your furry friend

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OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: A place where the animals really are job one



PAUL KNOWLES

Independent Columnist

Once upon a time, we all visited zoos and attractions featuring marine animals without asking any questions about animal welfare, health, or exploitation. Those days, thank goodness, are mostly behind us. Today, attractions like Ontario's own Marineland are being investigated and criticized, zoos are being held to much higher standards than before and visitors to these kinds of attractions are asking much harder questions than we once did.

All of which will explain why, when I as a travel journalist am invited to visit an attraction that features animals in captivity, it's my challenging responsibility to determine if this is a legitimate enterprise or if it's another example of exploitation or even cruelty.

So, I am delighted to report that, in my opinion, the Dolphin Research Center passes any ethics test with high, high marks. This is a place that is doing really good stuff, treating its marine charges with respect and utmost care, and educating thousands of people about our relationship with some of the

amazing creatures that share this planet with us.

The Dolphin Research Center is located on Grassy Key in the Florida Keys, about halfway down that stunning Overseas Highway drive from Key Largo to Key West. We were guided around the facility by Allie Proskovec, the centre's dedicated and enthusiastic director of media and marketing.

She's especially enthusiastic because the not-for-profit centre is in the midst of a significant expansion. Now, in many cases that might mean that the visitor centre is being enlarged, or a restaurant is being added. Not at the Dolphin Research Center where the focus is on the animals. This expansion means the area available to the dolphins is being enlarged by three times and the sea lion habitat is also being enlarged.

Here, it's all about the dolphins and the other creatures that are in the care of these very caring people. All of the animals – 27 dolphins, three sea lions, five birds and two African spurred tortoises – are rescue animals or born at the centre. They cannot be safely released into the wild. However, the centre also rescues, rehabilitates and releases animals. The centre is the only licensed marine-mammal rescue operation in the Keys, and the team includes a veterinarian. In addition to rescuing and rehabilitating dolphins, the staff also includes a manatee rescue team that rescues injured manatees, and then hands them off to medical facilities that treat these amazing mammals and return them to their natural habitat. There is no permanent

manatee habitat at the Dolphin Research Center.

The centre offers many programs that allow human visitors to interact with the dolphins, including swimming with the animals. But Proskovec stresses the fact that the dolphins are always the decisionmakers about what they choose to do or not to do. Fundamental to the mandate of the centre is the goal of demonstrating the remarkable intelligence of the marine creatures while imposing no demands or causing any anxiety for the dolphins.

Dolphins live a long time – in the wild, typically until their late teens to mid 20s, but at the Research Center, it can be much longer. Proskovec introduced us to one of their residents who was 44 years old and a second who had now reached 50 years of age. Any dolphin born at the centre or rescued and brought there is guaranteed a lifelong home.

"We will never sell or trade an animal," Proskovec said.

Marine-mammal rescue organizations often bring animals they save to the centre, especially young dolphins that have lost their mothers. We met a dolphin named Ranger who was rescued in the Gulf of Mexico off Texas whose mother had died. Ranger was about a year old at that time; now he is about four years old.

The marine-mammal trainers, education team and other staff members clearly have a warm, personal relationship with the dolphins. They understand each animal's personality and love to tell their stories. We met a dolphin named Jax who had suffered an attack by



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Dolphins seem to have a whale of a time, entertaining their guests at the Dolphin Research Center.

a shark. Jax survived but lost part of his dorsal fin.

The work at the centre goes beyond care for their charges and education of the public. There is much research carried out as well and the centre has working relationships with a number of educational and research organizations.

The entire team at the Dolphin Research Center is clearly over the moon about the expansion that is currently underway, and who can blame them? The last few years have not held that kind of promise for the centre. First, in 2017, Hurricane Irma devastated the Middle Keys area; staff at the centre were working at reduced pay just so there were enough funds to feed and care for the animals. Then came COVID; visitors stopped

coming and, again, there was a financial crunch.

But the team never lost hope, never gave up and never lost sight of their first priority – to provide a home and optimal care for their aquatic charges. That perseverance has paid off as the centre now grows its facilities, its programs and its visitor numbers.

And those visitors can enjoy watching, meeting and even swimming with the dolphins, knowing this is a place where ethics and integrity are built into every decision.

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.



Marine mammal trainers working with their aquatic friends.



One Research Center program includes swimming with the dolphins.

OBITUARY

Marshall



Passed peacefully, at his home in Hamilton, surrounded by his family, on September 14th, 2024, Robert Brent Marshall at the age of 64.

Lovingly remembered by his life partner, Lynn Jarvis, his children; Leah and Robert Marshall, Krista and Zachary Moloci, his grandchildren; Eli-

jah and Emmett Marshall and Mackenzie and Gavin Munro. Brent is the dear son of Vesta Marshall and the late Bob Marshall (2024). Brent was the loving brother of Lana Seyler and her husband John Seyler. His In-laws Christine and Jack Wright, Jennine Moloci and Matthew Moloci. Brent is survived by many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins and will be missed as someone who touched all their lives.

Brent practiced law for almost 40 years having graduated from the University of Ottawa Law School. It was here that he developed many lifelong friends.

Brent was an avid golfer, curler, and pickle ball enthusiast. He loved to keep active at his home in Hamilton, Ontario or his vacation home in Naples, Florida. He was always ready to play with his many friends in his Florida community or simply enjoyed sitting by the pool. Brent was an accomplished baker and at Christmas was not only welcomed for his good nature and spirit but for his amazing coconut and banana cream pies.

Brent was a member and Past Master of Granton Masonic Lodge #483 A.F. & A.M., Scottish Rite and Mocha Temple A.A.O.N.M.S.

Friends and family are invited to a Celebration of Life in Brent's honour on Saturday, October 26th 2024 at 1:00 PM at the Kirkton Woodham Community Centre. A Masonic memorial service will be conducted under the auspices of Granton Lodge #483, A.F. & A.M. at 1:45 pm. This will be followed by words of remembrance and the eulogy. Donations in support of the Juravinski Cancer Centre Foundation can be made at www.hamiltonhealth.ca/donate



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Thank you to all the entries and participants for our chili cook off.
Congrats to our winner: Marie Mills

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CELEBRATION

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Phyllis Rodd



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Kirkton-Woodham Community Centre
 Best Wishes Only Please

THANK YOU

Mallalieu

We would like to thank everyone for your support and donations on the passing of Andy Mallalieu. Thank you to Andrew Hodges Funeral Home for their kindness and patience.

The Mallalieu Families

THANK YOU

Spence

Thank You to all who helped us celebrate our 65th anniversary Sunday Oct 20th, we had a great crowd of family and friends.

Thank you for the many anniversary cards and gifts, we appreciated everything we received.

We hope we can continue with good health and spend one day at a time together.

Bill and Doris Spence

THANK YOU

Hotson

We would like to express our thanks for cards and condolences we received for our brother Donald Hotson who passed away Wed, Sept. 18 at Seaforth Hospital. A family graveside service was held at Avonbank Cemetery.

Lillian Marzaili and Bessie Thompson

HELP WANTED



THE TOWNSHIP OF PERTH SOUTH

Do you want to make a difference in our community? The Township of Perth South is recruiting to fill a vacancy on the **St. Marys Mobility Bus Service** and on the **Perth County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee**. These appointments would be valid until the end of the current council term in 2026.

To be eligible, members must be 18 years or older, be Canadian Citizens and a resident of the Township of Perth South. The application form is available on the Township of Perth South website at <https://www.perthsouth.ca/committees/> or by contacting the Clerk.

Please submit applications to the attention of the Clerk by Wednesday, October 30, 2024.

Lizet Scott

Clerk

Township of Perth South

519-271-0619 x224

lscott@perthsouth.ca

Want to make a difference in our community? Become a volunteer member of one of our Boards or Committees. A new four (4) year term of Council and Committee will occur after the 2022 Municipal Election on October 24, 2022.

IN MEMORIAM

Wright

In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather **Dave** who passed away 15 years ago on **October 23rd, 2009**

It broke our hearts to lose you

But you didn't go alone

Part of us went with you

The day God took you home.

Sadly missed by Cheryl, Paul & Maura, Mark & Jean and families

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161 years



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ADVERTORIAL

Exciting News for Our Valued Customers!

We've got some big news on the horizon that we're thrilled to share with you! Starting October 1, 2024, we're merging our five independent stores into one unified brand: **Country Mills Feed & Farm Store**. This means Elgin Feeds in Aylmer, Thorndale Farm Supplies, Oxford Feed Supply in Ingersoll, and Norwich Feeds in both Norwich and Burford will all come together under one roof.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Warm regards,
The Country Mills Team*

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QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) Italy
- 2) Three
- 3) Mollusk
- 4) 1945
- 5) Barometer
- 6) Bucket
- 7) Florence Nightingale
- 8) Trafalgar Square
- 9) 1982
- 10) Star

THE WEEK AHEAD

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PRC & Friendship Centre events - See the Stonetown Crier on Page 5
St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 26

Friday, October 25

- Service Canada pop-up at the library - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Royal Canadian Legion "hot dogs and more" lunch at Noon
- Friends of the Library open house at the library - Noon to 5 p.m.
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 p.m.
- St. Marys Community Players presents "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" at the Town Hall theatre - 7:30 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Chatham Maroons at the PRC - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 26

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 a.m. to Noon. Photo ops for pets and their owners - 8:30-10:30 a.m., by donation to the Food Bank
- Hazardous, special product disposal day at the MOC - 8 a.m. to Noon
- Trick or treat downtown - 10 a.m. to Noon
- McCully's Harvest Festival - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Howl-o-Ween costume contest & parade for pets - 10:30 a.m. start at the Town Hall
- St. Marys Community Players presents "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" at the Town Hall theatre - 2 p.m.
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 p.m.
- Royal Canadian Legion Halloween Party - Doors open 7 p.m.

Sunday, October 27

- Browns United Church 161 Anniversary service - 10 a.m.
- McCully's Harvest Festival - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns vs KW Siskins at Waterloo Memorial R.C. - 1:30 p.m.
- Phyllis Rodd 95th birthday open house at Kirkton-Woodham C.C. - 2-4 p.m.
- St. Marys Community Players presents "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" at the Town Hall theatre - 2 p.m.

Tuesday, October 29

- St. Marys DCVI post-secondary fair at the high school - 6:30-8 p.m.

Wednesday, October 30

- Create @Riverwalk Commons - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Slow stitching

LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

Creamery robbed

25 years ago (1999)

Frustrated athletes Alex Haywood and Justin Doherty are two local skateboarders/rollerbladers who are missing the Kinsmen "half pipe" that was set up for several weeks this summer. It should be in operation again by spring. For now, they make do with their own home-crafted equipment.

Dan Schiedel of St. Marys ran in the Canadian International Toronto marathon on Sunday with a time of three hours, eight minutes and 27 seconds.

The DCVI tennis team saw action as the winners from Huron-Perth went on to compete at WOSSAA here last Wednesday. Kevin Thompson and Matt Holiday, as well as Jacqueline Fulham and Tanya Patterson, represented DCVI as the No. 1 seed from Huron Perth in the men's and ladies' doubles categories.

50 years ago (1974)

It is rather surprising to find, despite present and past home building in St. Marys, that our official count on population has shown a decrease to 4,634 in 1974 from 4,743 in 1973.

McLean-Foster Construction, along with some help from the Board of Works, began excavating for the new tennis court extension south of the present Water St. South courts on Monday.

Complaints are plentiful concerning the condition of the roadway along Elizabeth Street where a big dig was carried out for sewer repairs several months ago. As we understand it, the Town hesitates to spend \$300 on repairs which are considered to be the responsibility of the contractor. The outcome of the argument could be interesting, but in the meantime local motorists are rattling through the ruts.

75 years ago (1949)

The C.N.R. freight train on the Sarnia Line has been carrying plenty of sugar beet carloads from Granton these days.

Judging from their actions, some residents of St. Marys are none too considerate of the tidiness of the town and the convenience of others. A dead cat was tossed into the river waters near Victoria Bridge this week and old cans and stove pipes have been recovered from the mill race in the same vicinity.

A gang of the most daring type of thieves apparently made a descent on the town on Thursday night and early Friday morning. After breaking into the C.P.R. toolshed and taking an axe, sledgehammer and spike puller, they set off to rob the Parkview Creamery.

100 years ago (1924)

Mr. Wm. Henry Jr. is recovering satisfactorily from injuries received when he was knocked off the abutment of the highway bridge over Trout Creek two weeks ago. He received a severe shaking up.

On Saturday evening, Mrs. Fred Dickie of East Nissouri brought to the Journal office a blackberry bush loaded with ripe and semi-ripe fruit which she had that day picked from her garden. Mrs. Dickie says she had many bushes loaded with the fruit - an unusual occurrence at this time of year.

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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



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