

St. Marys Independent

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ST. MARYS' GENEROSITY ON FULL DISPLAY (WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)
The Giving Tuesday committee took turns manning the Salvation Army kettle on Tuesday, Dec. 3 for Giving Tuesday. Pictured, from left, Jackie Cousins, Marilyn Haywood and Julie Docker-Johnson. For more photos from Giving Tuesday, turn to page 6.

Founding curator to step down from St. Marys Station Gallery

GALEN SIMMONS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

After eight years serving as the founding curator of St. Marys Station Gallery, Cameron Porteous is preparing to step down to allow new creative leadership a chance to continue shaping the gallery's impact on the St. Marys art community.

Over the weekend, the gallery hosted a special reception to thank Porteous for his years of work at the gallery and welcome new St. Marys Station Gallery curator Duncan MacDonald, a Canadian artist with an extensive background as both an art educator and curator, as he prepares to officially step into the role on Jan. 1.

"What Duncan brings to this is what I cannot give," Porteous said. "I can curate and I know the history of art and all that, but Duncan is an educator and the step forward for this gallery is to become more of a resource in the arts for the community, not just show pretty pictures nailed on the wall. That means outreach to people who take drawing lessons and classes, maybe lectures on the history of art."

"... We have to start making some investments that normally I wouldn't do and that's why Duncan's the person for the job. Our mandate is to promote local and regional artists, but there's more to that. ... An art gallery is a mirror of a culture, a mirror of society, and it's our responsibility to bring in art and stimulate (creativity)."

Porteous said his eyesight is no longer what it used to be. Combined with the recognition that

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

New five-year library services agreement announced for Perth South

GALEN SIMMONS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Following a funding dispute that resulted in the withdrawal of library services for Perth South township residents at both the St. Marys and Stratford libraries earlier this year, all three parties now seem to be in agreement over a new, five-year library services agreement.

Though exact details around how the cost of library services in St. Marys and Strat-

ford will be borne by Perth South taxpayers had not been released before this newspaper's publication date, the agreement – while technically effective as of Jan. 1, 2025 – restored services at the St. Marys Public Library to Perth South residents as of Dec. 9.

"The St. Marys Public Library board is delighted to welcome patrons from Perth South back to our wonderful library," said board chair Dr. Cole Atlin in a press release. "This new agreement is a testament to the

CONTINUED TO PAGE 12

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Founding curator to step down from St. Marys Station Gallery

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

new leadership could help take the station gallery to new and exciting places, Porteous said now is the right time for him to take step back.

MacDonald, who originally comes from the East Coast, is a contemporary artist, art professor and curator. His artwork has been exhibited in numerous venues and festivals throughout the world such as Paris Nuit Blanche, PM Gallery, the Tahrir Cultural Center, Cambridge Galleries, Mercer Union, Gale Gates, Paved Art, Museu Joinville, Oakville Galleries, Museu de Arte Contemporanea do Ceara, Anna Leonowens, Grimsby Art Gallery and many others.

MacDonald studied at York University and Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University (NSCAD) focusing on interdisciplinary studio practice and sound. Among the many national and international projects he's worked on, between 2018 and 2021, he worked on a large-scale research project entitled MASR: Research in Modern and Contemporary Egyptian Art. The project's focus was to map Egyptian modern and contemporary art through the production of an exhibition series at the Sharjah Art Gallery, the publication of a series of exhibition catalogs and a set of artist talks and workshops.

"For the past couple of years, I've been back in Canada and the timing is right," MacDonald said about taking on the station gallery curator role. "For me, I see a lot of potential here and my experience lends well with this. I've done a lot of administrative work curating, teaching and artmaking. I'm excited to have the opportunity to work in a smaller community where I can have a strong impact and work with a broad range of people –

some might be absolute beginners, and some are kind of more seasoned, professional artists.

"It's exciting for me because it's also, kind of, in a way grassroots. A lot of the teaching and work I've done has been in academia and it has been very rewarding, but at the same time, it's really nice to work with people who are not just between 19 and 22. Art education is something I didn't have much of when I was young. I see parallels between St. Marys and where I grew up in Hartland, N.B., where there was a thirst for (art education). That's one of the reasons I ended up leaving because there wasn't enough investment in the arts there."

Through his new role at the station gallery, MacDonald hopes to provide members of the local arts community access to educational opportunities that don't just focus on teaching and improving techniques and skills, but also on how local artists can take their work to that next level so it can be seen, appreciated and even purchased by art lovers in places well beyond St. Marys.

Through the hosting of inspiring exhibitions local artists might not otherwise see and by providing that training and guidance that can help artists in the community support their continued creativity, MacDonald sees the station gallery as a resource for supporting and lifting up the already vibrant arts scene in St. Marys.

As for Porteous, he has already planned the first several station gallery exhibitions in 2025 and will remain on as an advisor to help with the transition at least until those exhibitions are over. After that, he said he will continue supporting the gallery in whatever way he can.



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

Current St. Marys Station Gallery curator Cameron Porteous (left) is stepping down from his position to allow new curator Duncan MacDonald (right) to take over the position at the beginning of the new year.

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7 Day Forecast - Weather Sponsored by

The **HITCHING POST**

Wednesday Dec-10th	Thursday Dec-11th	Friday Dec-12th	Saturday Dec-13th	Sunday Dec-14th	Monday Dec-15th	Tuesday Dec-16th
Few flurries	Sun/cloud	Mainly sunny	Light snow	Cloudy showers	Mainly cloudy	Mainly cloudy
 -1 °C	 -7 °C	 -8 °C	 -1 °C	 2 °C	 2 °C	 4 °C
Feels Like -5	Feels Like -16	Feels Like -10	Feels Like -6	Feels Like -1	Feels Like -1	Feels Like 0

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

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Office Manager

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jeffswan@stonetownfinancial.com

Ultimate Foot Care to showcase new space with open house Dec. 14

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

There is a new tenant moving into 194 Queen St. W, the old Service Ontario location.

Ultimate Foot Care by Eileen Stacey will be opening its doors on Monday, Dec. 16. Stacey, who graduated as a registered practical nurse (RPN) from the Conestoga College nursing program, was working in a nursing home and as a visiting nurse during the pandemic when burnout hit. She was looking for a new avenue in the nursing industry and saw the high demand for foot care.

"I didn't realize it at the time, but the need for footcare is huge. There really isn't a lot of foot-care nurses out there and your feet really are the foundation to your body," said Stacey.

It was then she decided to go for her certification with a five-year plan in place to have her own space to practice her new profession. When the stars align, it is magic, and now, only halfway through her five-year plan, she is able to welcome clients into her own location.

The renovated area, previously one larger room, is now divided into four rooms. One is a waiting room for clients and the other three are patient-care rooms. On Thursdays, pedorthist Courtney Aubin will be working out of the same location offering services in-

cluding customer foot orthotics, compression stockings, footwear modifications and, when needed, she can order lower extremity bracing as well as customer footwear.

The other two rooms have been rented out by two separate businesses. One is massage therapist Marisa Masse and the other is by medical aesthetician, reflexologist and reiki practitioner Amanda Ulch.

Stacey is currently running mobile services for clients in St. Marys, Stratford and Mitchell, and she also works at a clinic in Stratford.

Ultimate Foot Care services provided include assessments, corns, calluses, ingrown toenails, diabetes, geriatric, health teaching, wound care, skin tags and age-spot removal with a current clientele of over 500 people. As her hours increase and things get busier at her new location, she will be decreasing her time on the road and focusing on building her business hours at her new office.

"I am so excited for people to see the renovated space. It is classy, homey, inviting, but still very professional" Stacey said.

On Saturday, Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Stacey will host an open house to show the new renovations. The event will include some giveaways and demonstrations.

Ultimate Foot Care can be reached by calling or texting 226-921-0692. It can also be found on Facebook and Instagram.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Ultimate Foot Care owner Eileen Stacey is excited to welcome locals to her open house on Dec. 14th.

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**ST. MARYS GIVES 2024:
WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOUR?**



We Did IT!

On Tuesday, Dec. 3 we were part of something so fabulous - The World's Largest Generosity Movement! You have all done so much but we have one more request. Would you please share any photos, totals, stories and any other information about your experience on Giving Tuesday! This information helps us plan for next year and it gets St. Marys included in the incredible numbers that will be published about the Giving that happened in Canada. What we know for sure is that thousands of dollars were raised, hundreds of pounds of non-perishable food items were donated along with socks and mittens and so much more! As totals are tallied and stories are shared we will let you know the results of this incredible day.

You can send an email to givingtuesdaystmarys@gmail.com. We appreciate your time and effort so much! Thank you for being amazing neighbours St. Marys!

Better Together Always,

Marilyn, Julie S, Ellen, Maureen, Jean, Heather, Jackie and Julie DJ

The St. Marys Giving Tuesday Committee

SAVE THE DATE! 2025
GIVING TUESDAY Dec 2

For More Information Contact: jdockerjohnson@gmail.com

Bravo

Boo

We have 2 Bravos this week.

- 1) Bravo to the snow angels on Hooper Street who cleared snow out of many driveways especially for those that are elderly and those with disabilities.
- 2) Bravo to the kind lady that brought a warm soup and biscuit from Tim Hortons while I was collecting money at Scotiabank for the Salvation Army. It was very much appreciated as it was a very cold day.

We have 2 Boos this week.

- 1) Is there no manpower who could care for the bridges with shovels and sand for those of us who are old and have no car and must walk.
- 2) At this time of the year, it makes me sad when people are rude to service staff. Saturday morning, numerous people were rude and disrespectful to wait staff at the Sunset Diner. A thank you and smile to these hardworking staff would be greatly appreciated.

*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

**CONGRATULATIONS BITCOINERS!!!
\$100,000!!! YOU'RE WELCOME!!!"**

- U.S. President elect Donald Trump's post on Truth Social on Dec. 5 after Bitcoin reached the \$100,000 milestone for the first time

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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Last week we were complaining about the snow. This week, it's the rain.

Hopefully this will be the week the Canada Post strike ends!

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



How to LISTEN TO ST. MARYS RADIO
Step 1. Go to www.stmarysradio.com
2. Click play on the online player



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

St. Marys Independent

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The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK

Sponsored by:



Sometimes asking for help is the bravest move you can make.

There is a crack in everything, but that is where the light gets in.

The smells of Christmas are the smells of childhood.

Sometimes the best present is remembering what you already have.

Remember those extra layers of protection from respiratory illness this holiday season

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The wintry weather has now arrived and so, too, has influenza (the flu).

Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) has received notice of the first lab-confirmed influenza case for the 2024-2025 season in Huron and Perth.

Additionally, COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses such as respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and Mycoplasma pneumoniae continue to circulate in Huron and Perth counties. HPPH urges residents to protect themselves and others from illness, especially during the holidays when more group gatherings are held.

“Everyone has a role to play to reduce the spread of respiratory illness,” said Huron-Perth medical officer of health Dr. Miriam Klassen in a press release. “Using multiple layers of protection will reduce your risk of spreading or developing respiratory illnesses, including those caused by M. pneumoniae and other pathogens such as influenza, SARS-CoV-2 and RSV.”

Respiratory illness is spread from respiratory droplets that come out of the nose and mouth when someone coughs, sneezes, breathes or talks. Close contact with someone who is sick, or touching a surface or object with a virus or bacteria on it, then touching one’s mouth, nose or eyes, increases a person’s risk of illness.

The following measures can help protect us and others from respiratory illness this season:

- Wash or sanitize hands often
- Cover coughs and sneezes with your arm (not your hands) or with a tissue
- Wear a mask in indoor public set-

tings or in crowded spaces

- Practice physical distancing
- Spend time outdoors or in well-ventilated indoor spaces when possible
- Stay home when sick, and do not go out in public until symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours (48 hours for nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea). Wear a mask for 10 days following the onset of illness to prevent further spread. In addition, for 10 days following the onset of illness, avoid visiting people at higher risk of severe illness such as those in long-term care or hospital.

• Get vaccines recommended for age and health status, including seasonal influenza and COVID-19 vaccines

• Create a plan with a health-care provider to access antiviral medications for those with chronic health conditions that present a higher risk for complications and hospitalization.

• Seek medical care if worrisome, new symptoms develop such as wheezing or difficulty breathing, or if symptoms are severe, persistent, or worsening despite treatment.

Common seasonal respiratory viruses may not require medical assessment or specific treatments like antibiotics. However, those with pre-existing chronic health conditions may be at higher risk of more severe disease. Seek medical care if an adult or child has severe, persistent, or worsening symptoms, especially if they might be at higher risk of developing severe disease.

For more information, call Huron Perth Public Health at 1-888-221-2133, visit www.hpph.ca, or follow HPPH on Facebook and X.

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



FREE FESTIVE SKATES

Pyramid Recreation Centre

The Optimist Club of Downie, Friends of the Library, Quadro Communications and the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation have generously sponsored public skating this festive season.

townofstmarys.com/skating or 519-284-2160

ALTERNATE PAYMENT OPTIONS DURING CANADA POST STRIKE

Property tax payment options:

- Telephone/Internet banking
- In-person at Town Hall or the Municipal Operations Centre
- Sign up for pre-authorized payments

townofstmarys.com/propertytaxes or 519-284-2340



HOLIDAY BREAK DAY CAMP

Pyramid Recreation Centre

We are hosting a Holiday Break Day Camp on December 23, 27, 30, 2024, and January 2 & 3, 2025, featuring crafts, games, and skating!

townofstmarys.com/campprc or 519-284-2160

CELEBRATE THE SEASON

November 15, 2024 to January 1, 2025

Celebrate the season in St. Marys! Join us for a merry lineup of festive fun and activities all through November and December. Let the celebrations begin!

discoverstmarys.ca/happyholidays



SHOWER PROGRAM

Pyramid Centre

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

Visit Guest Services or call 519-284-2160

Contact us

519-284-2340
communications@town.stmarys.on.ca



GRANT HAVEN MEDIA **St. Marys Independent**

NOTE: there will not be a newspaper on December 26 so that our team, including our deliverers, may enjoy Christmas and Boxing Day with their families. The following issue, dated January 2, will be our 2024 Year in Review issue. The next regular edition will be dated January 9.

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Senior of the Week



Our Senior of the Week is Rosemary Schaefer who recently celebrated her 85th birthday. Rosemary and husband Bill have been married for 66 years and have two children and two grandchildren. Most of their married life was spent in Kirkton where they were very involved in community centre events and the church. They moved to St. Marys 17 years ago. Rosemary is still an avid gardener, loves to play bridge and sings in the choir at St. James Anglican Church. Happy belated birthday, Rosemary.

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

Giving Tuesday in St. Marys



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Chris Palmer from Troyer Spices shows some of the teddy bears that were being donated to St. Marys Memorial Hospital for Giving Tuesday.



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

For Giving Tuesday, Sam's Home Hardware was donating all sales from windshield wiper fluid to the United Way. Pictured is employee Dante Audet.



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Weekend Quiz

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- 1) What is gifted on the twelfth day in the song "12 Days of Christmas"?
- 2) St. Nicholas is the patron saint of ____.
- 3) What is Boxing Day known as in Ireland?
- 4) What country has won the most medals in the Winter Olympics?
- 5) What year was Mitch Marner born?
- 6) What is the term for the condition where plants enter a state of suspended growth during winter?
- 7) What bear has the strongest bite force?
- 8) How many National Parks are in Alaska?
- 9) What do you call a house made from blocks of snow?
- 10) What Chinese plant blooms in winter?

This week's answers are found on pg. 35

St. Marys Independent

SCAN TO READ THE ONLINE PAPER



www.granthaven.com



Town of St. Marys offers unique, local gift-giving ideas this holiday season

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

Discover every merry moment in St. Marys this holiday season and check everyone off your list with these fun and unique ideas that can all be purchased right here in town!

Anyone struggling with what to give this year or looking to check that last person off their list can consider gifting one of these local experience gifts.

Give St. Marys Money!

St. Marys Money can be used at over 40 local businesses and it's a fun way to shop and support local merchants. St. Marys Money is available in denominations of \$5, \$10 and \$20. St. Marys Money can be ordered online and picked up at the municipal operations centre (408 James St. S) and town hall (175 Queen St. E).

Find more information at townofstmarys.com/StMarysMoney.

Make a tree donation in someone's honour!

Honour a loved one by making a monetary donation for trees to be planted in Meadowridge Park this spring. Donors will receive an acknowledgement certificate and may purchase a plaque to be installed along the walking trail in the memorial forest.

Find more information at townofstmarys.com.

marys.com/TreeDonations.

Book some exclusive ice time!

Give the gift of time together and book an ice pad just for friends and family! For information on availability and rental rates, call the Pyramid Recreation Centre (PRC) at 519-284-2160.

Gift a fun class, program or membership!

Have someone on your list that loves to be active and social? Check out the variety of programs available from the PRC, Youth Centre and Friendship Centre. Some programs available include Knit and Chat, Scrapbooking, Shuffleboard, Ballroom Dancing, Carpet Bowling, Yoga, Zumba and more!

Visit St. Marys Activenet at townofstmarys.com/PRC for more information.

Give a timeless gift!

Visit the St. Marys Museum Gift Shop, offering a variety of books and St. Marys items. Consider gifting a unique piece of slate, originally from the 1891 town hall roof. Please note the museum accepts cash and St. Marys Money only.

For more information, visit townofstmarys.com/Museum.

Don't miss out on the holiday fun this season! Visit discoverstmarys.ca/HappyHolidays.

Town evaluates preparedness with annual emergency exercise

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

When it comes to emergency management, practice makes perfect.

That's the idea behind the Town of St. Marys' annual emergency exercise. The exercise brings town employees and their peers together for a simulated emergency. This year, the simulation was based on an unprecedented rainstorm that caused localized flooding and damage to local infrastructure.

Those involved in the annual exercise include members of the town's emergency control group who have key roles to play during a crisis.

The exercise aims to test preparedness and coordination, ensuring everyone knows their responsibilities and can respond effectively under pressure. During the simulation, participants are faced with realistic scenarios that challenge their decision-making

and problem-solving skills.

Through the exercise, the town can determine resource requirements, capability gaps, strengths, areas for improvement and potential best practices. The exercise also allows the emergency control group to learn and strategize alongside individuals from other emergency services, municipalities and government agencies.

"This year's exercise was a success," said Fire Chief Richard "Andy" Anderson in a press release from the town. "It was an excellent opportunity to review what works, what needs improvement and the things we can add to our Emergency Management Plan to ensure we are prepared for any situation."

Questions about emergency management and preparedness can be directed to Anderson at 519-284-2340 ext. 201 or randerson@town.stmarys.on.ca.

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Another successful To St. Marys With Love hosted



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Members of The Innerwheel along with student volunteers Sabahat and Daniel at To St. Marys With Love Dec. 8.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Kinettes, who cut and plated 60 pies in record time.

DAVID STEWARD AND REV. GWEN AMENT

Contributed

The Dec. 8 To St. Marys With Love supper event affirmed yet again why St. Marys is such a wonderful place to call home – the great sense of community through special events that many volunteers, organizations and individuals bring to life.

More than 350 people enjoyed a meal prepared by many hands and served up by almost 80 volunteers including Mayor Al Strathdee, Perth-Wellington MP

John Nater, Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae, deputy mayor Brogan Aylward and Coun. Dave Lucas alongside St. Marys volunteer firefighters and members of the St. Marys community.

Financial support from local businesses such as Quadro, Meridian Credit Union and Vet Purchasing ensured that for at least one night, a gathering of area folk could put aside the cares and stresses of the world and simply enjoy this great community we are so fortunate to call home. Members of the Rotary, Kinsmen, Kinettes and Innerwheel, as well as community out-

reach worker Brittany Petrie and even our St. Marys United Way group, provided service and hospitality.

Emcee Rob Edney kept us on track and pastor Carlo of Bethel St. Marys shared the music of Christmas. Lyric Flowers ensured festive poinsettias at every table.

Thank you! Many thanks to the numerous behind-the-scenes groups and people that make this event a true collaboration of hearts and hands. Blessings abound and we look forward to next year's To St. Marys With Love.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

A few of the St. Marys firefighters who waited tables at To St. Marys With Love.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

To St. Marys With Love co-organizer David Steward with elected officials who volunteered at the dinner including Coun. Dave Lucas, Mayor Al Strathdee, Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae, deputy mayor Brogan Aylward and Perth-Wellington MP John Nater.

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Lion Raymond Taylor reflects on 20 years with St. Marys Lions Club

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

A longtime St. Marys Lions Club member received an award for 20 years of service with the local club recently.

Lion Raymond Taylor received the Lions Club International Milestone Chevron Award to honour his 20 years of volunteering with the St. Marys Lions Club. Lions Club zone chair Evelyn Albers presented the award to Taylor.

Speaking to the St. Marys Independent, Taylor said he was pleasantly surprised to receive the award.

"I can't believe it's been 20 years since I joined the St. Marys Lions," Taylor said. "However, we have several members in our club who have surpassed 30 and 40 years."

Taylor became involved with the St. Marys Lions Club after retirement. He talked to the late Lion, Bob McGregor, about the Lions Club and he wanted to become involved, so McGregor sponsored him.

Taylor's favourite memories from the past 20 years include meeting other members at the annual District A-15 convention and volunteering with other St. Marys Lions Club members out and about in the community. From 2008-



(PHOTO COURTESY OF RAYMOND TAYLOR)

From left to right, Lions Club zone chair Evelyn Albers presents the Lions International Milestone Chevron Award to Raymond Taylor for his 20 years of service with the St. Marys Lions Club.

2018, Taylor was an advisor for the LEO Club (Leadership Experience Opportunity), through which he mentored many

youth he still keeps in touch with today. "It's rewarding to see them mature to become outstanding adults," he said.

Taylor said the St. Marys Lions Club offers a welcoming volunteer experience.

"It gives us the opportunity to work with the many other great service clubs in St. Marys for the benefit of our community," Taylor said. "You can make a positive impact on people's lives. You get to know the many proprietors who operate businesses in our community and who also give so much of their time and expertise. You get to make new friends and have fun volunteering with them."

The St. Marys Lions Club is part of the largest membership-based service club in the world, with more than 1.4 million members in more than 49,000 Lions Clubs serving in more than 200 countries. The Lions Club supports causes related to the environment, youth, hunger, disaster relief, childhood cancer, humanitarianism and diabetes.

The St. Marys Lions Club meets every first and third Thursday of the month in the Quarry Room at 13 Water St. S beginning at 7 p.m.

For more information on the St. Marys Lions Club, email stmlions1940@gmail.com or call 519-284-4479 to speak with the membership chair.

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North Perth deputy mayor acclaimed as Perth County warden for 2025

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

North Perth deputy mayor Todd Kellum has been acclaimed as Perth County warden, taking over from outgoing warden and current Perth East Mayor Rhonda Ehgoetz after two one-year terms in the position.

Kellum, who has served on county council for a decade, including most recently as deputy warden, took his oath of office and accepted the warden's chain and gavel from Ehgoetz during the annual Perth County warden's election Dec. 5 at the Arden Park Hotel in Stratford.

"I am delighted and honoured to serve as the 154th warden for Perth County this year," Kellum said. "I appreciate the trust you've placed in me as I step into this important role. ... It's an exciting time to step into this role in Perth County. This past year, we've achieved some significant milestones. The new official plan is complete and it has been submitted to the province for review.

"This is a big step forward for the county. Once approved by the ministry, it will mean great things for the future growth and development of our region."

Kellum also spoke about the near-complete connecting-link addition at the country courthouse campus in Stratford, which will connect the recently renovated Perth County courthouse with the renovated former land-registry office at 5 Huron St. into one unified Perth County headquarters building.

"This renovated space will provide a new and expanded home for county staff," Kellum continued. "This year will be an exciting time as administrative staff settle into this new space. I'd like to thank county staff for their continued hard work, dedication and patience, particularly during the construction."

Kellum thanked each of the four delegates who wished him well in his new position before he took his oath of office. Those delegates included Perth-Wellington MP John Nater, Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae, Stratford Mayor Martin Ritsma and St. Marys Mayor Al Strathdee.

"I'm proud of the relationship we have with Perth



(PHOTO COURTESY OF PERTH COUNTY)

North Perth Mayor Doug Kellum was acclaimed as Perth County warden and West Perth deputy mayor Dean Trentowsky was acclaimed as deputy warden at the annual Perth County Warden Election Dec. 5.

County," Ritsma said, congratulating Kellum ahead of his official appointment as warden. "I think about the shared agreements that we have that are a benefit to our residents – both a benefit with regards to the services they provide and the cost efficiencies. ... We do have challenges and I think collectively we need to continue to work with our federal and provincial counterparts to meet the needs of our residents in Stratford

and Perth County ... whether it's housing, homelessness, infrastructure costs, or policing."

"I want to congratulate Rhonda Ehgoetz as the former warden for her tremendous leadership and certainly her strong leadership throughout the county," Strathdee said during his remarks. "... Congratulations to the new warden and ... we look forward to continuing to work together to make the region better."

All four delegates expressed their condolences over the recent passing of Perth South mayor and former Perth County Warden Jim Aitcheson, who died after a brief battle with cancer on Nov. 21. Kellum also spoke about the impact Aitcheson had on him while working together on county council.

"Jim was a wonderful colleague to have on council and he will be deeply missed by all," Kellum said. "He served in this role as warden of Perth County for three years during the pandemic, which were some of the most challenging times we've seen in our region. I learned a lot from watching him and I hope I can live up to the hard work of Jim and all the past wardens who have served in this role before me."

West Perth deputy mayor Dean Trentowsky also took his oath of office as the 2025 deputy warden during the warden's election after being acclaimed to the position. Trentowsky was appointed by West Perth council to serve on Perth County council in 2022.

During the election ceremony, president of Perth County's Past Wardens Association and Perth County Coun. Bob Wilhelm presented Ehgoetz with her second past-warden pin marking the end of her second term as warden.

The election of Perth County's warden and deputy warden is held annually. County councillors were given an opportunity to put their names forward for the positions at their Nov. 7 meeting. As only Kellum put his name forward for warden and Trentowsky put his name forward for deputy warden, both were acclaimed to the positions and an actual election was not held.

In previous years when two or more candidates from county council have put their names forward, a vote of county council is held during the warden's election ceremony to appoint both positions.



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Craft Show recently held at the St. Marys Legion



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTOS)

Royal Canadian Legion St. Marys Branch 236 held a craft show on Dec. 1. Admission was free or by donation and there were lots of wonderful handmade items from baking, wood working, jewellery, knitted items, pizza and much much more. Pictured, above left, Ang March and daughter Marlee were one of the many vendors taking part. Their business, Bramwell's BOHO was named after Ang's dad and specializes in amazing re-thrifted Bohemian Decor. Above right, Tracey Graham and grandson Jake show their Christmas woodworking crafts along with artificial floral arrangements by Candice Blacklock. The beautiful decorations can be displayed year to year.



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New five-year library services agreement announced for Perth South

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

importance of library services in our communities and the hard work of all those involved from Perth South and St. Marys.”

A temporary agreement between Perth South and the Stratford Public Library reached in the summer provided township residents with limited access to services and programs at that library until the end of this year.

“We’re glad an agreement has been reached and appreciate the township’s commitment to supporting library services for their residents,” said Stratford Public Library CEO Krista Robinson about the new, five-year agreement with Perth South in a press release. “We look forward to welcoming Perth South residents back to using our library and the full services of the Perth County Information Network.”

Under the new agreement, Perth South residents will have access to the full range of services offered by the St. Marys and Stratford libraries, including book lending, digital resources, programs, summer reading initiatives, community events and, at the Stratford library, use of the library MakerSpace.

The initial funding dispute originated from a March 20 letter sent to the St. Marys library board by Perth South CAO Fred Tranquilli informing the board the township council had reduced its bud-



(WENDY LAMONDPHOTO)

The St. Marys Public Library is once again open to Perth South residents.

getary allocation for library services from both Stratford and St. Marys to just \$53,734 combined and asked the St. Marys library board to reduce its funding request for 2024. The library board voted down that request at its April 4 meeting, citing the fact St. Marys residents already subsidize library services for their neighbours in Perth South.

As part of a 20-year service agreement

between Perth South, the Huron County Library in Kirkton, the St. Marys Public Library and the Stratford Public Library, Perth South was asked by the St. Marys library board to contribute \$74,363 – an increase by five per cent over what the township paid last year – to allow Perth South residents to access free library services from St. Marys in 2024. The Stratford Public Library also

requested \$45,480 from Perth South to allow its residents to access library services there.

In his letter, Tranquilli said Perth South council already approved a request from the Huron County Library for \$11,266 in funding this year. While Tranquilli said the budget for Stratford library services could be accommodated in this reduced budget allocation for library services, he asked the St. Marys library board to consider submitting a revised budget request that fit within Perth South’s 2024 allocation. As a result, the Stratford library board also opted not to renew its service agreement with Perth South.

“Perth South has library services with three different providers,” Perth South Mayor Sue Orr said. “So, we had agreed to the Kirkton (library services contract) because we were aware of the cost and the agreement. So, we didn’t lose any kind of service whatsoever with that one. But then, we went to negotiate with Stratford and St. Marys and it really became about the terms of the agreement. I think we were negotiating all along, it’s just when you’re negotiating, you’re negotiating, so sometimes I was reading stuff in the paper and I was like, ‘I don’t know about that.’”

“Perth South was always at the negotiating table and now we have an agreement that we all understand and it’s moving forward for the next five years.”

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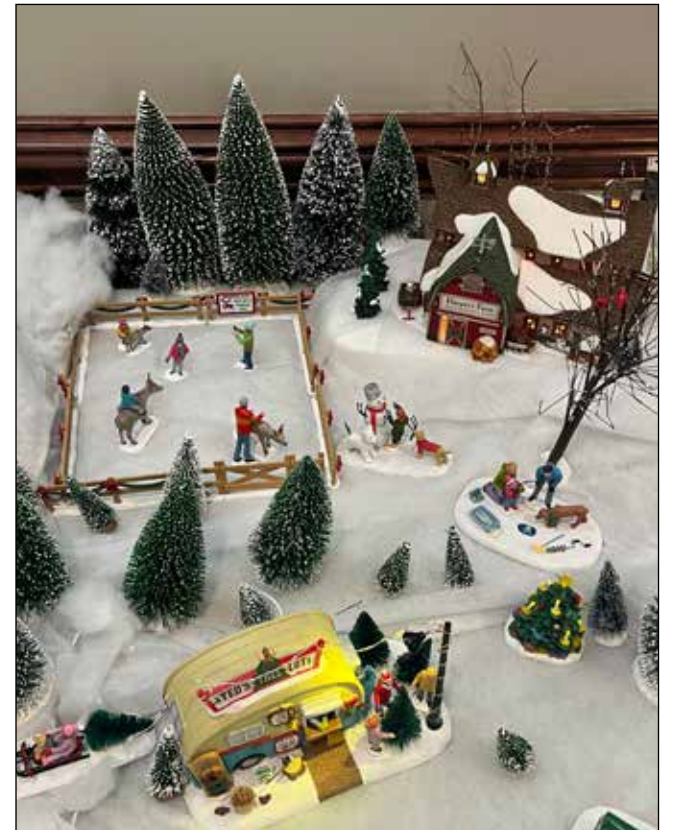
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Missy's Christmas village on display at Fairhill Lounge



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Pictured here is Missy Little with her Christmas village display at the Fairhill Lounge. Missy was one of the first occupants at Fairhill 24 years ago. For her first Christmas in her new home, her Dad, Ernie Little, purchased two houses for Missy. That collection has now grown to 33 houses. Residents and visitors to Fairhill are now welcome to enjoy the elaborate display. One of Missy's favorites is the skating rink.

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Perth County council votes to discontinue PC Connect rural service after March 2025

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As a result of the high cost per rider and the end of a funding agreement with the province, as well as to keep the 2025 proposed budget impact on county landowners down, Perth County council has voted to discontinue the PC Connect rural-route service as of March 31, 2025.

As part of 2025 budget deliberations at the end of the Dec. 5 Perth County council meeting, county economic development officer Justin Dias presented a report to council on the future of the PC Connect rural-route service after the county's \$2.47-million Community Transportation grant funding agreement with the province, which has been in place since PC Connect was launched in 2020, ends at the end of March.

In his report, Dias recommended extending the program by nine months to the end of 2025, which would cost taxpayers an additional \$225,103 on top of what is already a double-digit proposed levy increase for next year at nearly 13.2 per cent.

"I initially had supported the extension for nine months, but considering the headwinds we have with our budget, there's going to be no money coming to help fund this and the amount of people that are being pushed closer to the line (by the cost of living) and stuff



like that, when it comes time to vote on this, I will be voting to terminate the program," Coun. Hugh McDermid said.

"Over \$60 per person, per ride is outrageous and we shouldn't expect all the residents to subsidize that," added Coun. Bob Wilhelm.

The funding required to continue the PC Connect rural-route transit service until the end of 2025 would represent a little more than a one per-cent increase to the proposed 2025 tax levy for the county.

While ridership is increasing, the county's cost for each ride is decreasing and most regular users of the rural-route bus service indicated the importance of the service in connecting them to medical appointments, groceries and social and community engagements while reducing personal trans-

portation costs and increasing their independence, the fact the province has not committed to any further funding for PC Connect after March 2025 was a concern for the majority of county council.

"We had hoped the (Ontario Transit Investment Fund) would support ongoing operations of PC Connect and support the service as it transitions to the gas tax (funding)," Dias said. "Un-

fortunately, as details were released (about the funding stream), it really is targeted towards new services or major changes to existing services to serve underserved areas. So, we don't see this as being that lifeline to support PC Connect in the short term."

While there is no provincial funding currently available to support PC Connect in the way council and staff had hoped, Coun. Walter McKenzie and deputy warden Dean Trentwosky argued for extending the rural-route service until the end of the year to use that time to lobby the provincial government for stable transit funding.

Coun. Todd Kasenberg also expressed concern with what he perceived as short-sightedness in discontinuing a transit service as the county continues to grow.

"We've essentially built a framework and a platform for us to deliver transportation services in our community; we do that every day in investing

CONTINUED TO PAGE 15

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Perth County council votes to discontinue PC Connect rural service after March 2025

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

in roads and bridges and the matters of capital. And here we are; we're definitely enured in the transportation and transit business," he said. "For us and at this point in time, especially ... for the rapidly growing community if North Perth which will be a city in 10-12 years, for us to remove transit and cause harms to people and to our local economy is a really bad idea."

Kasenberg suggested the budget impact of extending the bus service doesn't outweigh the benefits of the rural-transit routes, whether it's supporting vulnerable people in rural communities by connecting them with family, friends and outside services, reducing Perth County's carbon footprint by offering public-transit alternatives to the use of personal vehicles, or promoting economic development by connecting local businesses to the labour and other outside resources they need to thrive in the county's rural areas.

Ultimately however, council voted to discontinue the PC Connect rural-route service after March 31, 2025. Deputy warden Trentowsky and councillors McKenzie, Kasenberg and Matt Duncan – all of whom

represent either North Perth or West Perth – voted against the motion. The remainder of council, comprising representatives from Perth East and Perth South as well as Warden Doug Kellum, who serves as deputy mayor in North Perth, voted in favour.

Please note PC Connect Routes 1, 2 and 3 offering service between Stratford, St. Marys, London, Kitchener-Waterloo and North Perth are not impacted by this decision.

Draft 2025 Perth County budget remains steady with proposed 13.18 per-cent levy increase

Perth County's draft 2025 budget was released to the public in early November and county council has met three times – on Nov. 7, 21 and Dec. 5 – for budget deliberations.

The draft budget carries an overall proposed levy of \$25,123,337, up by nearly \$3 million or 13.18 per cent above the 2024 levy. The draft budget includes an overall operating levy of just over \$21 million – up by more than \$2.65 million over last year – and a capital levy of just over \$4 million, which increased slightly by \$280,000 over the previous year's capital levy.

The budget also includes the

proposed transfer of \$412,300 from reserves to keep the levy increase at 13.18 per cent.

Though county treasurer and director of corporate services Corey Bridges said it could be higher, early estimates show the county saw roughly 1.5 per cent growth, adding \$333,250 to the tax base last year and effectively reducing the proposed levy increase to nearly 11.7 per cent.

The county's operating budget includes the hiring of a number of new staff positions including a full-time prosecutor at a cost of nearly \$122,000, part-time backfill paramedics at a cost of nearly \$334,400, a full-time economic-development officer at a cost of nearly \$77,800, an administrative assistant to the CAO at just over \$52,000, a contract planner at just over \$46,000 and a summer student to work in the CAO's office at a cost of nearly \$15,600.


Meanwhile, the proposed 2025 capital budget includes 39 projects at a total cost of roughly \$11 million. If the budget is approved as is, just over \$9 million of that cost would be covered through county reserves, while nearly \$2 million would be funded through the Canada Community Building Fund, the Ontario Community

Infrastructure Fund and from agreements with municipal partners.

The more-than \$4 million to be collected through next year's proposed capital levy would be transferred to reserves for future capital proj-

ects.

Perth County council will next discuss the proposed 2025 budget at its Dec. 19 meeting, after which staff are hopeful the budget will be adopted and passed early in the new year.



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Fire blankets for sale at the firehall starting Dec. 10

BRIAN LEVERTON

St. Marys Fire Prevention Officer

Having a fire blanket is an essential part of fire-safety preparedness, especially in high-risk areas of the home like kitchens.

A fire blanket is a simple but highly effective safety tool for extinguishing small fires. Here's why it is considered good to have one on hand:

1. Quick and easy to use

- A fire blanket can be deployed quickly without the need for extensive training.

- It works immediately by smothering the fire, cutting off the oxygen supply and stopping combustion.

2. Non-toxic and safe

- Unlike fire extinguishers, fire blankets don't release chemicals or gases, making them safe for indoor use and use around food.

- They are especially useful in environments like kitchens.

3. No maintenance required

- Fire blankets don't require regular servicing unlike fire extinguishers, making them a low-maintenance

safety tool.

4. Versatile

- They can extinguish fires involving clothes, cooking oil (small grease fires) and electrical equipment.

- They are especially effective on Class F fires (cooking oil or fat fires), where using water is dangerous.

5. Personal protection

- In emergencies, a fire blanket can protect a person from flames when wrapped around them.

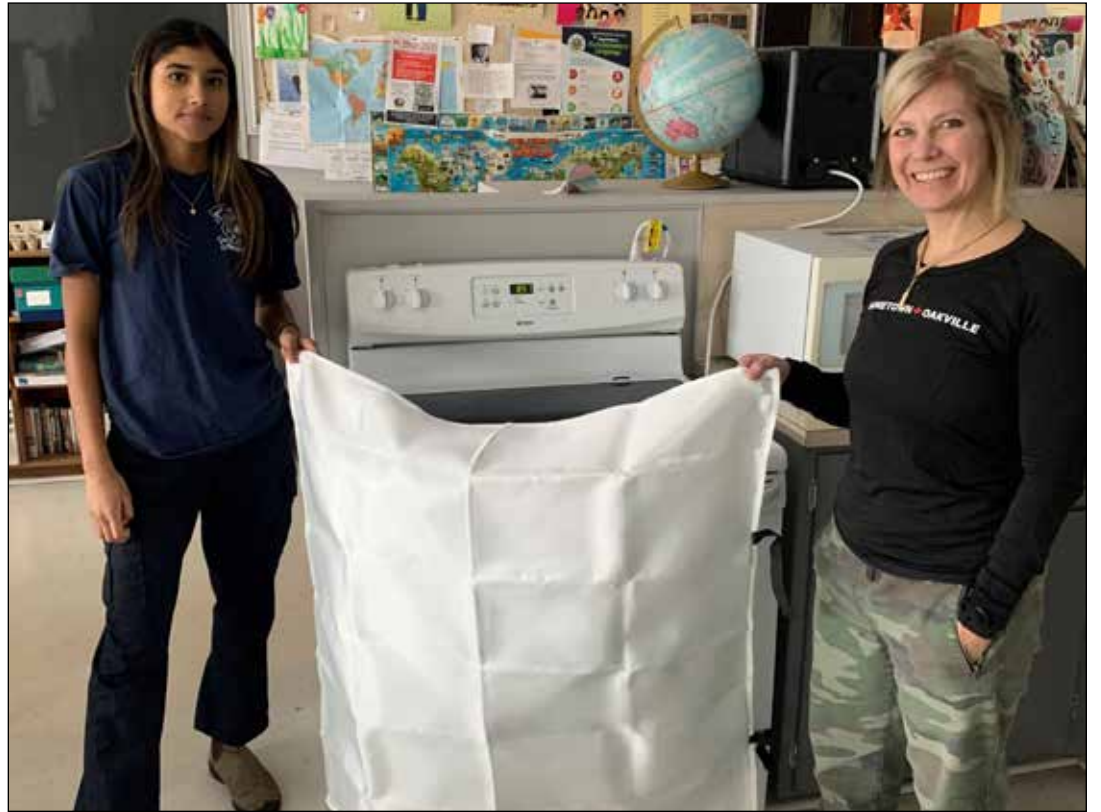
- This can help during evacuation if someone's clothes catch fire.

6. Compact and durable

- Fire blankets are lightweight and compact, making them easy to store in homes, workplaces, or vehicles.

- They are made of fire-resistant materials, ensuring durability and reliability when needed.

At a cost of \$25 cash, reusable fire blankets similar to those seen on television and Facebook advertisements are available to locals by contacting the fire department to order and arrange a pickup time between Dec. 10 and 20. Orders must be in by Dec. 14.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. MARYS FIRE DEPARTMENT)

Fire prevention co-op student Kayla Bains and St. Marys DCVI principal Petra Goetz show how to use a fire blanket.

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Lessons & Carols at St. Marys United Church

TIM GILBERT

St. Marys United Church

The Choir of St. Marys United Church presents A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 7 p.m.

This service tells the Christmas story in readings from the stately King James Bible and in music as we sing hymns and carols, both ancient and modern.

The Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols was created in 1918 for the Choir of King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England. The service begins simply, with a single voice singing "Once in Royal David's City" in the same manner that great stories often commence with the famous opening of "Once upon a time."

The Christmas story is traced from Adam and Eve and the original sin, through the Old Testament prophecies of the coming of the Messiah, and finally reaches its climax with the New Testament revelations of the birth of Christ.

Woven around the lessons are carols and hymns to be sung by the choir and congregation. This service of lessons and carols attracted much attention from the start because it offered an opportunity for the congregation to join in the singing of the great Christmas hymns, and it allowed the choir to sing carols and anthems.

Admission is free with donations accepted at the door. A reception will follow the service.



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Depth scoring arrives as Lincs sweep showcase doubleheader

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

With all the eyes in the league fixed on them and a pair of marquee matchups on the docket, the St. Marys Lincolns left the GOJHL Showcase tournament in Caledonia with four points after defeating the London Nationals and Ayr Centennials.

The back-to-back wins marked just the third time since losing their first game of the season on Oct. 25 the Lincolns have picked up consecutive wins. Additionally, with the Lincs' second game of the weekend marking the halfway point in their season, they continue to be on pace to allow fewer goals than last year's Sutherland Cup Champion Listowel Cyclones. Last year's Cyclones finished the season averaging 2.06 goals against per game, while this year's Lincolns are on pace to give up 1.68 goals per game.

St. Marys has yet to allow more than four goals in a single game this season. They have only trailed by two goals on three occasions so far this year, and two of those multi-goal deficits came in the Lincolns' 4-2 loss to the Elmira Sugar Kings on Nov. 24.

Arguably the biggest bright spot of the weekend from a team-wide standpoint was an influx of goals from throughout the lineup. In their eight most recent games before the showcase, five players scored 18 of the Lincolns' 21 goals.

Head coach Jeff Bradley was relieved to see other members of the roster find the back of the net.

"It was great to see and that's a big part of what we've been trying to correct," Bradley told the Independent. "When we talked about our production as of late, we weren't getting enough offence throughout the lineup. Even though we've kept our goals against relatively low, we obviously want our goals to be a bit higher, and we needed a bit more production from different parts of our lineup, and thankfully, we started to get that."

The Lincolns opened their showcase schedule with a rematch of their 3-2 overtime loss on Nov. 29 at the hands of the London Nationals. This time, it was the Lincolns coming out on the winning side of a 3-2 final score.

Ryan Cornfield got the scoring start-



(MCGINNY PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

Nico Armellin makes an outstanding save on Joshua Lepain's breakaway during the St. Marys Lincolns' 3-2 win over the London Nationals on Dec. 6. Armellin made 29 saves, 15 of which came in the third period, to backstop the Lincs to their first of two wins at the GOJHL Showcase tournament hosted Dec. 6-8 in Caledonia.

ed for the Lincolns six minutes and three seconds into the contest, his seventh of the season that snapped a seven-game goal slump for the Kitchener, Ont. native. Just one minute and 36 seconds later, however, Connor Clark ended his own eight-game offensive dry spell, tying the game at one apiece.

Bradley praised Cornfield, along with his netminder and one of the team's newest members, for their strong performances against London.

"Nico was great for us in net. He didn't get down after the unfortunate second goal. He stayed locked in and made some really important saves for us, especially in the third period. I thought Ryan (Cornfield) had one of his best games of the season. His game has matured from last year and he played exactly how we need him to."

"Quinn (Gavin-White) is getting more and more comfortable with our team and our style of play," added Bradley. "It was tough for him coming in and playing two games before getting to practice with us, but you can see he's a really smart hockey player and throughout the weekend, I thought he looked more and more like a Lincoln."

The weekend wasn't all good news

for St. Marys as Noah VandenBrink suffered an injury during the first period against London. The product of Belmont, Ont. didn't return to the game against the Nationals and didn't suit up for the Lincolns one night later against Ayr.

Clark found the back of the net in the second with a shorthanded goal that came off a rare misplay of the puck by goaltender Nico Armellin, who turned in an otherwise superb 29-save performance in the St. Marys net.

The Lincolns quickly got the game tied at 2-2, with Ryan Hodkinson in front of the Nationals' net tipping a feed from the boards over London's Casimir Weckström for his eighth of the season less than three minutes later. Coming in, Hodkinson had just one assist in his six previous games.

As it appeared like the two teams would head into the third period deadlocked, the "Milton Magicians" lived up to their moniker with a beautiful Luca Spagnolo shot set up by a perfect Jaden Lee pass, a goal that was preceded by a sequence anything but beautiful and perfect.

After causing the Nationals to turn the puck over near the Lincolns' blue-line, Spagnolo got the puck into the

neutral zone before losing hold of his stick. As he scrambled to get his stick back in his grasp, the Captain somehow managed to shovel the puck to Lee, who skated into the London zone while Spagnolo got firm control of his twig once again and eventually set up Spagnolo to rocket home the game-winner.

In the third, Armellin turned in a world-class performance in net, making 15 saves in the third period, punctuated by several 10-bell stops and withstanding an offensive zone onslaught by the Nationals in the final two minutes of the game to preserve the Lincolns' 3-2 victory.

Bradley admitted he didn't think his team's performance was perfect against the Nationals, but was pleased that, despite a few errors along the way, they still found a way to come away with the victory.

"There definitely were parts of our game that I was really happy with. Our shots against were low against a good team, so we still defended pretty well. We had a practice Friday morning and we put a big emphasis on getting to the dirty areas to score goals and we did a good job of that. Our penalty kill was perfect all weekend. So, even though it wasn't quite as tidy as we hoped, in the end, we got the result we came for."

Lincs blank Centennials in near-perfect shutout

While their game against London wasn't quite as well-rounded a performance as the team would have liked, the same couldn't be said for the Lincs' 3-0 work-of-art-level victory over the Ayr Centennials.

"We were absolutely outstanding," said Bradley. "Ayr is a difficult team to play against because they come at you hard. They fly all over the ice. They don't make any short passes; it's all across the ice and up the ice, and we ask our defenders to get up on their wingers and squeeze them down in their zone, so the support from our forwards in the neutral zone was really important to put pressure on them and create turnovers."

Bradley said even though the Centennials managed to get some scoring opportunities, his squad kept the quality of Ayr's shots quite low.

"Against a team like that, there will

CONTINUED TO PAGE 19

Rae announces \$150,000 for St. Marys Curling Association

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae recently announced the Government of Ontario is providing the St. Marys Curling Association with \$150,000 in funding through the Ontario Trillium Foundation's (OTF) capital-grant stream.

This funding will help to ensure the community has safe and ready access to critical programming, activities and spaces, a press release about the funding announcement reads.

"Community hubs such as the St. Marys Curling Club are essential to our local culture and community well-being," said Rae in the press release. "Our provincial government, through the Ontario Trillium Foundation, is investing \$150,000 to support crucial infrastructure upgrades and support the curling community for years to come."

This funding allowed the association to complete critical upgrades to the curling rink's refrigeration infrastructure, ensuring the facility remains sustainable and continues to support curl-



(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ST. MARYS CURLING ASSOCIATION)

Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae was at the St. Marys Curling Club recently to announce \$150,000 in Ontario Trillium Foundation funding for the St. Marys Curling Association

ing in the community for years to come.

The OTF's capital-grant stream helps to improve the infrastructure in Ontario communities. From purchasing equipment and building a new space to completing renovations, retrofits or repairs, these grants support projects in rural communities.

"Whether it's helping people learn

new things, connect with their community, or simply have fun, organizations like the St. Marys Curling Association deliver experiences that make a difference," said Stan Cho, minister of tourism, culture and gaming in the press release. "That's why capital-grant support through the Ontario Trillium Foundation is so important. This fund-

ing will help ensure the association remains at the heart of the community of St. Marys for decades to come."

"We are incredibly thankful for the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation and our local community," said Jason Clarke, general manager and head ice technician of the St. Marys Curling Association, in the press release. "These upgrades have had an immediate and lasting impact, helping us to maintain top-tier ice conditions while securing the future of curling in St. Marys. We're looking forward to continuing our work to enhance this space for everyone."

Capital grants improve access to programs and technology in community spaces, making it easier for Ontarians to participate in community programs. Funded projects:

- Improve access to facilities, programs, activities and services
- Improve existing spaces and support new build projects
- Make programs and services better and more efficient
- Make better use of technology.

Depth scoring arrives as Lincs sweep showcase doubleheader

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

be some chances against. It's impossible to prevent them from getting some opportunities. They are a skilled team who play a really high-flying style, but overall, I thought we did a great job limiting the number of good chances they had and did a fantastic job executing what we need to execute."

The game's first goal came at the 11:14 mark of the opening frame when Hayden Barch ended an eight-game point drought to score his fourth goal of the season. Seven minutes and 25 seconds later, Hodkinson potted his ninth of the year after a brilliant drive to the net by Cohen Bidgood, whose one-foot touch pass got hammered by Hodkinson past Centennials' goaltender Zach Jovanovski.

The Lincolns' penalty kill withstood nine Ayr powerplays during the game, which came after they successfully killed all four Nationals' powerplays one day earlier. Going into the second showcase game against the Centennials, Ayr had recorded at least one powerplay goal in six of their previous seven games.

The 3-0 win also marked the fourth time out of five interconference games the Lincolns have earned a shutout against an Eastern Conference foe.

Bradley had a tough time singling anyone out in their 3-0 win over Ayr as, in the eyes of the bench boss, every member of the lineup played a strong game.

"Everybody was fantastic. This is one game where it's hard to pick out specific guys who stand out because everybody played so well. They all really wanted that game. We knew we



(MCGINNY PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

Ryan Hodkinson fires the puck by goaltender Zach Jovanovski after a marvelous set-up by Cohen Bidgood during the St. Marys Lincolns' 3-0 shutout over the Ayr Centennials.

got a tough draw in the showcase, and there wouldn't be an easy game for us this year. Coming in, we hadn't lost at the showcase in the last two years.

"Our guys aren't phased by the unfamiliarity of the other conference because we've had a lot of success against teams in the east. We've had five games against teams in the other conference, and we've only allowed one goal. We look at it as a big challenge, and our guys have been great about rising to the occasion."

According to Bradley, the hot start to

December has the Lincolns feeling a

GOJHL Western Conference (as of Dec. 10)				
TEAM	RECORD	PTS	GF	GA
St. Marys Lincolns	19-5-1-0	39	93	42
Stratford Warriors	19-7-0-0	38	96	74
LaSalle Vipers	17-7-2-0	36	92	58
Chatham Maroons	17-7-1-0	35	99	73
Listowel Cyclones	16-8-2-0	34	126	82
London Nationals	15-7-2-1	33	105	84
Elmira Sugar Kings	15-10-3-0	33	107	95
Strathroy Rockets	15-8-1-1	32	78	73
K-W Siskins	12-8-3-2	29	80	72
Sarnia Legionnaires	9-14-2-1	21	92	117
St. Thomas Stars	7-15-2-1	17	77	126
Komoka Kings	4-21-1-0	9	53	123

renewed vigour after a rocky 10-game November schedule that saw St. Marys end up with a 5-4-1 record.

"This weekend was a big-time momentum boost for us, considering the opponents that we beat. London is a very good team who beat us a week earlier, and Ayr is regarded as one of the best teams in their conference, so winning against them and winning the way we did was big for our confidence. We didn't just get by. We controlled that game. We played it the way we wanted to play it."

The Lincolns play a rare Thursday home game on Dec. 12 when they host the Listowel Cyclones before going to Stratford to face the Warriors on Dec. 13.

St. Marys Lincolns 2024-25 Stats (as of Dec. 10)				
PLAYER	GP	G	A	PTS
Jaden Lee	25	12	18	30
Owen Voortman	25	12	17	29
Chase MacQueen-Spence	25	9	19	28
Luca Spagnolo	24	16	9	25
Ryan Hodkinson	23	9	11	20
Jacob McLellan	25	4	14	18
Noah VandenBrink	20	5	11	16
Ryan Cornfield	24	7	7	14
Ryder Livermore	25	0	13	13
Quinn Gavin-White	25	6	5	11
Blake Elzinga	25	3	8	11
Hayden Barch	21	4	3	7
Owen Kalp	24	2	5	7
Ethan Coups	25	0	7	7
Rowan Reid	16	0	5	5
Cohen Bidgood	6	2	2	4
Julian Stubgen	18	1	3	4
Chase McDougall	23	1	2	3
Jacob Montesi	24	1	2	3
Tyler Oletic	5	0	0	0
Goalies				
	GP	GAA	SV%	Wins
Colby Booth-Housego	14	1.72	0.940	11
Nico Armellin	11	1.65	0.940	8

U13 A Boys earn long-awaited first win over Dorchester

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The Dunny's Source For Sports U13 A Boys St. Marys Rock badly needed a win, and finally, on Dec. 9, they got it.

"All of our guys came to play," said head coach Ryan Francis after the Rock's 3-0 win over the fifth-seeded Dorchester Dragons. "It's been a tough start to our season, but here in this game, they all came together really well and did what we needed them to do. They seem to be starting to buy into the system that we're telling them to use, and they're starting to believe in it."

After a scoreless first period, St. Marys broke the deadlock midway through the second when Mason Soumalias backhanded the puck past the Dorchester netminder with what held up as the game-winning goal. Styn de Wit and Bryce Blight earned the assists.

Lukas Francis gave the Rock a 2-0 lead at the 7:40 mark of the third, assisted by Seamus McCotter. Three minutes and eight seconds later, Mc-



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Mason Soumalias scores the game's first goal and the eventual game-winner during the Dunny's Source For Sports U13 A Boys St. Marys Rock's 3-0 victory over the Dorchester Dragons.

Cotter scored a goal of his own, while Gavin Russell earned the shutout in be-

tween the pipes.

Francis explained what the team did

that allowed them to finally get into the win column.

"We were getting the puck out of our end immediately. We weren't getting hemmed in our zone. We did a really good job moving pucks across the blue and then working from there instead of just trying to battle for pucks at our hash marks and never getting out there. They started getting through the neutral zone, and then, when they got into the offensive end, they started going to the net and banging pucks home."

Francis further commented on what momentum he hopes the victory could generate for the team.

"We've talked a lot about working hard, getting the puck out of our end and going to the net in the offensive zone to try to score," Francis said. "They started believing that those things can work and we're not making this stuff up. We're a little short on wins right now but hopefully this builds their confidence and gets them to start believing in themselves and, if so, this could be the beginning of our season turning around."

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Owen Simons releases a shot from the blueline during the St. Marys Buick GMC U10 A Boys St. Marys Rock game last Wednesday.



Clark Monteith leans into a shot on net during this past Sunday's Nicholson Concrete U11 LL Boys Blue St. Marys Rock game.



Bryson Stacey pounces on a loose puck during the Tremblett's Independent Grocer U11 LL Boys Red St. Marys Rock game this past Sunday.



Lynkin Mykicz wires a slap-shot from the point during this past Sunday's Easy Lift Doors U13 LL Boys Blue St. Marys Rock game.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTOS)

Thijs Paulin wristis a long-range shot during this past Sunday's Frayne Custom Cabinets U18 B Boys St. Marys Rock game.



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Complete effort leads U11 A Boys to 3-1 win

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The Social Thirty-One U11 A Boys St. Marys Rock not only turned in a strong start to their game on Dec. 9 against the Dorchester Dragons, but they largely kept their momentum going all game long en route to a 3-1 victory.

According to head coach Brent Kittmer, beginning games on the right foot was one of the team's biggest focuses.

"We've been challenging them to start really strong and we were really impressed with our start," Kittmer told the Independent. "We kind of let up in the last five minutes of the first period, but aside from that, we played one of our more complete games of the year."

In particular, Kittmer said he wanted to see the group put pressure on the opposition early and often.

"We really stress winning puck battles, especially at the start of the game. Get it in the other team's zone as deep as you can and then send two guys in after it. We want them playing a bit more of a simple game and wear the other team (out) in the first few shifts by forechecking hard and cycling the puck down low, and they did a great job at executing that."

The Rock got rewarded for their intense start to the game with two goals just two minutes and 47 seconds apart, the first of which was scored by Ed-



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Kane Douglas scores one of his two goals in the Social Thirty-One U11 A Boys St. Marys Rock's 3-1 win over the Dorchester Dragons on Dec. 9.

win Froud, followed by Kane Douglas netting his first of two on the night. Jacob Hahn assisted on both goals, while Benjamin Kissler picked up an assist

on Douglas' goal.

After neither team scored in the second period, Douglas put the Rock ahead 3-1 at the 8:20 mark of the third,

with the assists going to Jaxon Wittig and Cameryn Stokes.

Kittmer remarked that one of the highlights of the win came in the form of the enthusiasm that bubbled throughout the roster as the game progressed.

"This win was great on a lot of levels, but especially to watch the boys and how they were feeling on the bench because you could tell they were enjoying the game a lot more. As a coaching staff, we never felt stressed out about this game. We really felt we were going to pull through and find a way to get the win no matter what."

The bench boss also explained the potential value of the win to the group as they prepare for a weekend tournament in Belle River.

"I think it's really good for them to understand what we want and what our game is all about. It's not going to just be one or two shifts that win you a hockey game. We're breaking it down into five minutes at a time. If you play hard and win every five-minute segment, you're going to have good results.

"We're heading into a tournament this weekend, so we felt that this was a good example for the boys to show what they have to do in the tournament," Kittmer continued. "We have to win our battles, win our races and win the puck possession the puck. We have to make it difficult on the other team."

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SMMHA teams help with Salvation Army Kettle Campaign



Many St. Marys Minor Hockey teams have helped bring the spirit of giving to St. Marys by working the Salvation Army kettle bells around town recently. Pictured on the left are the Social Thirty-One U11 A Boys, and on the right are the Tremblett's Independent Grocer U11 LL Boys Red. Both teams worked the kettle at Tremblett's Independent Grocer on Dec. 7



Pictured on the left are the St. Marys Landscaping U11 B Girls, and on the right are the Sam's Home Hardware U15 B Girls. Both teams took turns at the Salvation Army kettle bell outside of Scotiabank on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1.



Pictured on the left are the Cascades U13 B Girls, and on the right are the Finnbilt Construction U9 MD Boys, who both worked the Salvation Army kettle bell at Scotiabank on Dec. 7 and Dec. 8.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

SPOTLIGHT ON ARTS & CULTURE

Art is Skin Deep - Part 1

ALICE RIXSON

Independent Columnist

Tattooing straddles cultures and civilizations. It's difficult to find any that didn't tattoo. The artistic and cultural custom of humans permanently marking their skin dates back hundreds of thousands of years. Around the world and across cultures, tattoos have held both similar and diverse meanings, denoting both praise and condemnation. The history of tattoos and its process illustrates that they have always carried deep social, spiritual and personal significance.

"Tattoo", derived from the Tahitian "tatau", was coined by Captain James Cook when he witnessed this practice in Tahiti in 1769.

Some of the oldest evidence of tattooing was found on Otzi The Iceman discovered on the European Alps in 1991. He's considered to be the oldest natural human mummy, exceeding 5300 years. He bears 61 tattoos from his hands to his feet. These indecipherable markings, possibly including two animals, may have been created by cutting or puncturing the skin with an unknown tool and applying ash or soot to the wounds. It's also thought that some markings may have been to relieve pain; several are located where needles are inserted during present-day acupuncture therapy.

Several tattooed mummies dated between 2650 and 4200 years ago were found in China with Western Asian/Indo-European physical traits and cultural materials. Explorer Marco Polo saw tattooed bodies in northern India and southern China. Literature depicts those with tattoos as bandits and folk heroes.

In Chile and Peru, the Chinchorro civilization practiced mummification about 4500 years ago, long before the Egyptians. A preserved mummy shows a line of dots on its upper lip, providing the oldest direct confirmation of tattooing in the Americas.

Tattooing tools appeared unchanged for millennia. Any sturdy, sharp objects, such as bones and shells, would suffice. Early travellers to ancient Egypt describe



(PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK ARCHAEOLOGINK NOVEMBER 2023)

Tattooing Tools.

one device as having an uneven number of metal needles inserted into a wooden handle, resembling a comb. The Bronze Age gave the Egyptians new ideas. They developed more sophisticated tattooing methods with bronze instruments for piercings. Blue, black and green dye pigments became highly prized.

Women with inked skin may have been considered as having "dubious character" and described in some cases as dancing girls, a derogatory profession. Nevertheless, in Luxor Egyptian tattoos were associated with royal and elite burials. It implied that tattooing was exclusively a female practice and most of the artists at that time were likely elderly women. This held true in numerous societies.

Taiwanese tribes had strong tattoo tra-

ditions, which were symbols of tribal identity and kinship, as well as bravery, beauty and social or wealth status. Tattooing practices here were lost with the conversion to Christianity.

Tattooing migrated from Eastern Polynesia to the Pacific regions and New Zealand where, about the year 0, the Māori, using instruments resembling chisels, tattooed to identify ancestry.

By 297 the Japanese were inking bodies masterfully in beautiful colours. Applied to men of all ages, their tattooing served both spiritual and decorative purposes, expressing social differences. Traditions changed and criminals were visibly marked as a form of punishment.

Tattooing of North American Indigenous people was noted in the late 1500s.

In the 1720s a Jesuit missionary recorded that the Hurons targeted certain nerves for tattooing on the jawline to treat toothaches.

The Inuit have a deep history with tattooing, which was often sewing designs into the skin with a needle and thread dipped in soot or seal oil. Mystical significance suggests that the subjects were women who couldn't enter the spiritual world without tattoos.

Spanish Conquistadors saw that the Mayas' tattoos were a way to display courage and worship their gods. Tattoos were acquired gradually over time as patterns took months to complete and heal.

During World War II the Nazis tattooed identification numbers on the forearms of Auschwitz concentration camp detainees. While Israel does not forbid tattooing, Jewish law does.

Superstitions involving disapproval of spirits thrived. The Kurds and the Bedouin Arabs believed that a tattoo between the eyes would protect from the "evil eye". North African communities tattooed for multiple purposes, including coming of age and fertility. Beginning in the 1970s, the stricter influence of Islam - which prohibits tattooing - greatly decreased it.

A renaissance with tattooing began with the invention of the electric tattoo machine patented in 1891. In the 1950s many were finally recognized as artists.

The stigma that the heavily tattooed are criminals or members of outlawed motorcycle clubs isn't as prominent as it once was. Body markings have a decidedly different meaning now and have become the mainstream of global and Western fashion with both sexes. It has been dubbed, "a seminal moment in its popular acceptance as art."

Controversy will continue to swirl around the practice of tattooing. However, many men and women, moms and dads who proudly wear tattoos are responsible citizens with prominent positions.

In Part 2 the spotlight will shine on local tattoo artists.



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Thur. Dec. 12 - Todd Morris, Stratford	\$50.00
Fri, Dec. 13 - Sebastian D'Amico, Oshawa	\$50.00
Sat. Dec. 14 - Tim Rau, Stratford	\$200.00

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MEAT DRAWS EVERY FRIDAY 6PM

Moffat celebrates retirement at The Hitching Post



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

On Thursday, Nov. 14 The Hitching Post hosted a retirement party for Bill Moffat. Bill was with The Hitching Post for over 13 years but has spent his entire career in the agricultural industry. Over 200 people came that day to wish him well. The amount of people through the door reflected the tremendous impact Bill has made over the years. Shannon and Mark Ross, owners of The Hitching Post commented: "The best part was hearing all the wonderful stories that so many customers shared in Bill's memory book. He touched the lives of a lot of people in his role." Pictured are Mark Ross, Bill Moffat and Shannon Ross.



Baby Faces of 2024

Baby's Name _____

Male or Female _____ Date of Birth _____

Place of Birth _____

Weight (birth) _____ Weight (now) _____

Parent(s) Name _____

Siblings (Name[s] & Age) _____

Grandparents _____

What I Liked best about 2024: (a reply your baby might make)

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at Thorndale Country Mills
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COLUMNS

UKRAINIAN CORNER: Petrykivka painting an example of Ukraine's cultural heritage in Canada

OLENA OLIANINA

Independent Columnist

Ukrainian art comes in many forms, each capturing the unique spirit and beauty of our culture. One such gem is Petrykivka painting – a national form of decorative art that originated in Ukraine and has been recognized as part of UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage.

Today, Petrykivka painting is gradually gaining new admirers far beyond Ukraine, especially in Canada, where the large Ukrainian diaspora works to preserve and promote its traditions.

Petrykivka painting emerged in the early 19th century in the village of Petrykivka, located in the Dnipropetrovsk region of Ukraine. Originally, this art adorned household items: the walls of houses, stoves and chests. It has distinct elements including vibrant floral ornaments, fantastical birds and plant motifs. These works are often created by using fingertips or with a special brush made from cat hair. Each flower, bird, or pattern carries its own symbolic meaning, making this style unique.

The art of creating these intricate designs was passed down through generations, with each artist adding their own touch while preserving tradition. During the Soviet era, Petrykivka painting experienced a revival as artists began creating not only decorative items for the home but also professional canvases for exhibition.

Today, the art of Petrykivka painting is actively spreading beyond Ukraine. Canada's large Ukrainian community nurtures this tradition by organizing workshops for children and adults, art exhibitions and presentations. For me, Petrykivka painting is more than just an image; it is a way to touch the depths of the Ukrainian soul, to feel a living connection to our native culture, even while far from home. It is a reminder that we are a part of our own history, which we pass on to our children by teaching them to love their Ukrainian roots.

Discovering Ukrainian painting offers not only a



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Petrykivka painting is a vibrant art of Ukraine that conveys the beauty and strength of the national culture.

chance to develop artistic skills but also a chance to gain a deeper understanding of our nation's culture and history, helping each person feel they are part of the larger Ukrainian family, regardless of distance.

Petrykivka painting is more than just an art form, it is a means of preserving national identity. Promoting this style among the youth is especially important as

it breathes new life into cultural traditions and offers them a path to flourish and grow.

Petrykivka painting holds its own symbolism, an important aspect of Ukrainian culture. For example, flowers in Petrykivka designs symbolize life, youth and strength, while birds represent harmony and wellbeing. The vibrant colours used in this art signify joyfulness, resilience and a connection to nature. This art is filled with symbolism that makes it both deeply meaningful and spiritually rich.

Canadians are interested in Ukrainian artistic traditions not only out of respect for multiculturalism but also due to the unique appeal of this art itself. For many Canadians, Petrykivka painting becomes a revelation, as it is not just art but a philosophy that expresses life-affirming values, optimism and a love for beauty.

Events like exhibitions and workshops attended by both Ukrainians and Canadians foster cultural exchange that enriches both sides. Petrykivka painting serves as a bridge between nations, promoting interest in Ukrainian culture in Canada while uniting the Ukrainian community around shared values and traditions.

Petrykivka painting is more than just a cultural phenomenon; it is art that connects hearts. Today, as Ukrainian culture faces challenges and holds special meaning for Ukrainians abroad, Petrykivka painting helps preserve a connection to our homeland, even from afar. Canada has become home for many Ukrainians and such artistic initiatives help us remain united, strong and deeply rooted in our heritage.

Petrykivka painting embodies the beauty, strength and richness of Ukrainian culture preserved through the centuries. Its vibrant flowers, fantastical birds, and delicate patterns tell the story of our people through the language of colour and symbols. This art teaches us to honor the past, feel a connection to our native land and share the beauty of the Ukrainian spirit with the world.

No matter where we are, this painting is like a thread that unites us, bringing a sense of home even from afar.

Straight from the Shelves

LAURA MCASH

St. Marys Public Library

How do known astrological phenomena line up with the story of the Star of Bethlehem? Join us on Dec. 19 to hear the answer from special guest Tony Martinez! "The Astronomy of Christmas" is free to attend and no registration is required. This presentation will be held upstairs at the Library at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 19. We hope to see you there!

This Week's Recommendation

Learn how to find constellations in the night sky with "Star Finder: The Complete Beginner's Guide to Exploring the Night Sky" by Carole Stott and Giles Sparrow. This comprehensive visual guide shows you where constellations can be viewed, how to track them throughout the year, and even what significant cosmic elements they are composed of. You can find this book in our adult non-fiction section. It's call sticker reads 520 Sto.

Up This Week

Fri., Dec. 13: CLOSED (Staff Training Day)

Sat., Dec. 14: Dungeons and Dragons (10 a.m.)

Mon., Dec. 16: Trivia Night at Gilly's Pub^ (7 p.m.)

Tues., Dec. 17: Book Club* (11 a.m.), Te-NoWriMo* (6:30-7:30 p.m.)

Wed., Dec. 18: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30-10:30 a.m.), Mahjong! (1-4 p.m.), Scrabble (6-8 p.m.), Books and Brews*~ (7 p.m.)

Thurs., Dec. 19: Guest Speaker: Tony Martinez – The Astronomy of Christmas (7 p.m.)

*Registration Required

^Held at Gilly's Pubhouse (17 Water St. S, St. Marys)

~Held at Broken Rail Brewery (480 Glass St., St. Marys)

Ask the Arborist

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



Dear Arborist,

My tree is showing cracks in the bark. It just started happening.

Wondering Why?

Dear Wondering Why,

There are a number of possible reasons why bark would be cracking: it could be insect infestation, fungal infection, or general rot. However, this time of year, it is most likely frost damage, especially if it is on the south side of the tree. The sun warms the bark, the moisture collects beneath the bark, and

then it freezes. As the moisture freezes, it expands, cracking the bark. If it's really bad you can trim and clean the wound, otherwise nothing needs to be done.

Sincerely

The Arborist

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

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Stratford Normal School

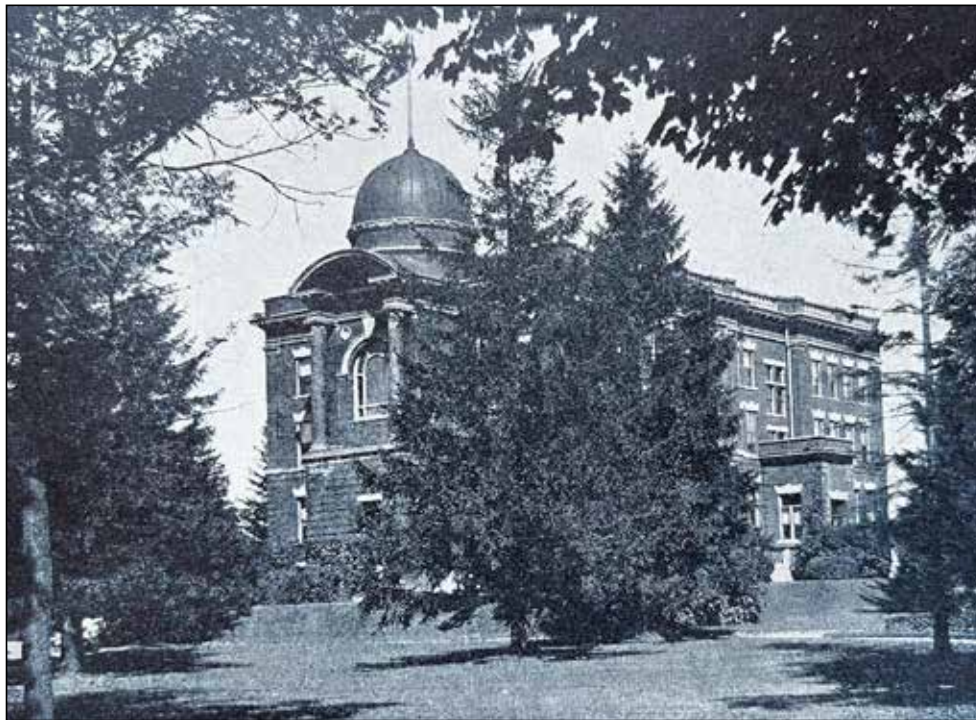
MARY SMITH

Independent Columnist

Recently, the St. Marys Museum received a donation of a Stratford Normal School yearbook from 1942. The photograph of the school shown with this week's column was taken in the 1940s, but the building looked the same when it received its first students in September 1908. Today, although it no longer serves as a school, its exterior appearance has hardly changed. Visitors to the Festival Theatre will easily recognize the building. In fact, many will have been inside. The Stratford Shakespeare Festival has rented part of the ground floor as a gift shop – a popular place to browse for Festival-related gifts and souvenirs. Visitors may wonder about the name “normal.” It means “according to rule or principle.” This was a school where pedagogy was taught according to rule to achieve the acceptable standard or “norm” among its graduating teachers.

Stratford Normal School was established almost half a century before the arrival of the Festival that made the city famous. The school building is listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places and has been designated as having historic and cultural significance to both the City of Stratford and the Province of Ontario. It was built out of concern for teachers in rural schools who were struggling to follow the prescribed curriculum. Some teachers were as young as 17 or 18 years of age and had very little formal training. If they finished their basic secondary education, they could begin teaching after completing 15 weeks at one of the many model schools in the province. There they could observe experienced teachers and do some practice teaching under the guidance of the school principal and his staff. Almost inevitably, they were first hired for low-paying jobs in small rural schools. A school inspector visited occasionally but otherwise they were on their own, teaching students who might range from five to 16 years of age.

In the early years of the 20th century, the provincial government was aware that rural students were not being adequately prepared to adapt as Ontario became increasingly industrialized. In 1907-1908 to address this problem, the government closed many of the model schools and replaced them with four new normal schools in addition to three already established in Toronto, Ottawa and London. Student teachers would be expected to spend a full school year at one of these Normal Schools where they would have time to study pedagogy – the science of teaching – and would receive better preparation for the range of subjects an elementary teacher was expected to teach.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Stratford Normal School, located in Queen's Park near the Stratford Festival, was opened in 1908 to provide high quality training of elementary teachers from the surrounding area. The photograph is from a 1940s yearbook.

Based on railway connections, population density, and distance from existing schools, the sites chosen were Stratford, Hamilton, Peterborough, and North Bay. Although Stratford was fairly close to London, its “unusually good railway centre” meant access for students throughout southern Ontario. The city offered a free site in Queen's Park, a large piece of property set aside for the community's main public park. In exchange, the Normal School would not be fenced, and its grounds would be open to all. Although today it is hard to believe, at that time there were just a few houses and farms in that part of Stratford. The new school had a beautiful setting with a view of the Avon River. The Minister of Education wanted these new buildings to be attractive but functional. The interior layout of hallways and classrooms would also be of a standard that all Ontario schools could emulate.

Francis H. Heakes, Chief Architect of the Public Works Department of the Province of Ontario, designed all four buildings to the government's specifications, reflecting the Italian Renaissance style of architecture. Of the four Normal Schools built in 1907-1908, the Stratford school is the only one that has survived without substantial alterations. The three-storey, red brick building has a rectangular floor plan with a central bay projection at the main facade. The portico entrance and the copper-clad dome on the flat roof are special features as is the continuous brick parapet with metal detailing on all sides. In the early 1920s, a beautiful stained-glass memorial was installed in the Palladian window on the second floor, honouring a Stratford

Normal School instructor and 14 alumni who had died in World War I.

Stratford Normal School was renamed Stratford Teachers' College in 1953 and continued as a teacher training institution for 20 more years. It closed in 1973 when training for both elementary and secondary teachers became the responsibility of universities that offered degree programs in education. The 1942 yearbook gives a glimpse of what life was like at Normal School about half-way through its lifespan although, because of World War II, 1942 was not an ordinary year. Of the 111 students graduating, only 16 were men. Many young men of that age had joined a branch of the Canadian armed forces or were working in essential industries. One section of the yearbook was titled Stratford Normal School Honour Roll and listed the school's graduates who had “given up their chosen profession to join his Majesty's forces.” One name was 1933 graduate Norman Finnie, R.R. 6, St. Marys, at that time serving with the Royal Canadian Air Force. The Remembrance Day ceremony was held with staff and students gathering in the upper corridor facing the memorial window.

Stratford Normal School had a principal and nine instructors who taught English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Reading, Writing, Health, Art, Vocal Music, and Physical Education – all subjects that elementary teachers had to master. Library Science, Agriculture and Manual Training were additional courses as well as the Science of Education and School Management. Students had practice teaching placements in Stratford schools and in one-

room country schools to get both urban and rural experience. One rural teacher who hosted practice teachers was Downie Township's Gordon McEwan, a 1933 Stratford Normal School graduate. During their time at Normal School, students were encouraged to be part of the community at large. Those who were not Stratford residents boarded in local homes throughout the week. If they stayed in the city during weekends, they were expected to attend the church of their choice and perhaps join a church group. Some students volunteered at the YWCA or other local organizations.

There were also social clubs and organizations within the Normal to encourage friendships that could become supportive contacts in future years. Annual events included a Halloween Party, a Christmas Concert and the “At Home” – a reunion of past graduates. The final event – the traditional crowning of the May Queen – was followed by the presentation of the graduating class and a valedictory address. The yearbook contains messages of congratulations and encouragement from the Ontario Minister of Education, the principal and various members of the Stratford Ministerial who had been religious instructors throughout the school year. All messages referred to the ongoing war and the challenges ahead. For example, the Reverend Lightbourn from St. James Anglican Church wrote: “The responsibility and opportunity which confront teachers today, and will confront them tomorrow, are perhaps greater than they have ever been. Your task will be to train young minds to think constructively in a world of chaos.”

The graduating students are listed by name and home address near the end of the yearbook. Most are from Perth, Huron, Grey, Waterloo and Wellington Counties and include Joy Sparling from St. Marys, Viola Kennedy, R. R. 2, St. Marys, Dorothy Henderson, R. R. 3, Thorndale, and Helen Good of R. R. 2, St. Pauls. Throughout the yearbook, Shirley Holmes, a student from Stratford, stood out. She was photographed as a member of the yearbook executive, the athletic executive, and the glee club. She was chosen to lay a wreath at the cenotaph on Remembrance Day and was one of the May Queen's five attendants. She began her teaching career in a school near Kirkton. In the Stratford Normal School yearbook six years later, her photograph appeared again – this time as one of the rural teachers who hosted that year's cohort of practice teachers. But by this time, Shirley Holmes was married. She was now Mrs. Shirley Paul, who for many years was a favourite elementary teacher of students in St. Marys and area.

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EAT AT OUR HOUSE: Holiday baking



LAUREN EEDY

Independent Columnist

Baking at Christmas is a tradition for many families. Of course, we know the usual suspects; shortbread and gingerbread recipes are passed down through generations to enjoy annually. Here, I have added three nontraditional recipes to try in your repertoire, the final being a nod to my Grandmother Eedy's favourite treat, Swedish cardamom buns (cinnamon roll look-alikes.)

Happy holiday baking!

Brittle

Prep: 10 minutes; Total Time: 1 hour and 10 minutes; Serves: 10-12

2 tbsp unsalted butter, room temperature plus more for the pan
1 cup granulated sugar
½ cup light corn syrup
½ cup water
½ cup roasted, lightly salted cashew halves
½ cup pecan halves, roughly chopped

1/3 cup roasted, unsalted peanuts
1/3 cup slivered almonds
¾ tsp kosher salt
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp vanilla extract
Flaky sea salt to taste

Method:

- Grease a large baking sheet with butter and set aside.
- Combine the sugar, corn syrup and water in a large saucepan. Cook, swirling the pan occasionally until a candy thermometer reaches 285° F, 16-18 minutes. Using a wooden spoon, stir in the cashews, pecans, peanuts, almonds and kosher salt. Continue cooking, stirring constantly until mixture registers 300° F, 2-5 minutes. Remove from heat and remove candy thermometer from pan.

- Add butter, baking soda and vanilla, and stir until mixture is evenly foamy (it should bubble up). Immediately pour onto prepared baking sheet. Quickly and carefully spread into a thin sheet. Sprinkle lightly with flaky salt to taste.

- Let cool completely, about 30 minutes. Break into pieces. Store in an airtight container and keep at room temperature for up to one week.

- Tip: the sugary syrup may tighten up when nuts are added. Keep cooking and it will remelt.

Hot chocolate cookies

Prep: 40 minutes; Total Time: 1 hour and 20 minutes; Serves:

four-dozen
6 oz bittersweet chocolate, chopped
2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
3 envelopes hot cocoa mix without marshmallows
1 tsp instant espresso powder
1 tsp baking powder
½ tsp baking soda
¼ tsp kosher salt
1 cup salted butter, room temperature
1 ¾ cups sugar
2 large eggs
2 tsp vanilla extract
1 ½ cups white chocolate chips
24 marshmallows, halved crosswise with kitchen shears

Method:

- Add a few inches of water to a saucepan and heat over low heat until simmering. Add the chopped chocolate to a heatproof bowl and set over saucepan. Let melt, 3-4 minutes, then stir until smooth. Remove bowl from pan and let cool slightly.

- In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, hot cocoa mix, espresso powder, baking powder, baking soda and salt to combine, getting rid of lumps.

- In a large bowl, beat the butter and sugar with an electric mixer on medium-high until light and smooth, 2-3 minutes. Add the eggs one at a time, add vanilla and beat until combined. With mixer on low, gradually add the melted chocolate. Increase speed to medium-high and beat until smooth and light, 1 minute. With

mixer back on low, add flour mixture and beat until combined. Stir in white chocolate chips. Cover dough and refrigerate until firm, 30 minutes.

- Preheat oven to 350° F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Scoop dough into balls (about 1 tbsp each) and place on sheets, two inches apart. Bake until edges set, 9-10 minutes.
- Remove from oven and place a marshmallow half on the centre of each cookie, cut side down. Return to oven and continue baking 2-3 minutes. Let cool 5 minutes on pans and remove to racks to cool completely.

Cardamom bun cookies

Prep: 35 minutes; Total Time: 2 hours and 10 minutes; Serves: 24 cookies

2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
½ tsp baking powder
¼ tsp kosher salt
½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
¾ cup granulated sugar
1 large egg, room temperature
2 ½ tsp vanilla extract, divided
¼ cup red or green sanding sugar
1 ½ tsp ground cardamom
1 ¼ cups confectioners sugar
3 tbsp whole milk
2 tbsp cream cheese, softened

Method:

- Whisk flour, baking powder and salt in a medium bowl. Beat butter and sugar in a large bowl with an electric mixer on medium until light and fluffy 3-4

minutes. Add egg and 2 tps vanilla; continue beating until incorporated, 1 minute. Reduce speed to low and add flour mixture, beat 1 minute more.

- Shape dough into a rough ball. Roll out between two sheets of parchment paper into a 14-by-10-inch rectangle (1/8 inch thick). Stir together sanding sugar and cardamom in a small bowl. Remove top sheet of parchment paper and sprinkle dough with mixture. Working the longer side of the rectangle, slowly and tightly roll the dough into a log. Use parchment paper to lift and roll as you go. Wrap in parchment and freeze until firm, 30 minutes.

- Preheat oven to 350° F. Adjust rack to upper and lower thirds. Line two rimmed baking sheets with parchment. Remove log from freezer and slice crosswise into half-inch-thick rounds. Transfer to baking sheets, leaving about two inches between cookies.

- Bake until slightly browned around the edges, about 12 minutes. Let cookies cool on baking sheets for 5 minutes then transfer to racks to cool completely.

- Beat confectioners sugar, milk, cream cheese and remaining ½ tsp vanilla in a small bowl until smooth. Drizzle glaze and let completely dry before storing in a room temperature airtight container for up to five days.

How our cat started watching *How I Met Your Mother*

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

Kevin, our cat, turned six this year. I just looked it up on the internet and learned that this age means he's roughly the equivalent of a 40-year-old human. Ah, it all makes sense now!

I know what I was like when I turned 40. I thought, using probable mortality tables, it's half over. I thought about my life and all the things that I wanted to do. My version of such a mid-life crisis involved buying a fitness studio and a newspaper.

It seems that Kevin, too, has been thinking about his life. He's been figuring things out this year.

Though he hasn't gotten a job or started driving a car, he's becoming more aware of things. He's figuring out new cause-and-effect relationships.

In October, Laurie and I, as we often do, began packing our suitcases for a vacation. This involves spreading the red-coloured cases out on the bed and meticulously rolling clothes and placing them into the enclosure. Once done, the suitcases are hauled downstairs and eventually loaded into the car.

The night before we left on this journey, Kevin did something new. He laid down on our bed instead of his usual spot on the couch in the living room. He wanted to sleep with us, perhaps in the hopes that we wouldn't leave on our trip. He peacefully slept at my feet the whole night, something that never happens.

While we were away, our daughter, Sydney, was holding down the fort and she called us shortly after we arrived in South America. Kevin had thrown



(STEWART GRANT PHOTO)

Kevin the television-watching cat.

up several times, and he wasn't eating his food. He missed us so much that he had made himself sick. She took him to the vet just to be sure it wasn't something else, but yes, poor Kevin was missing us. It was bothering him more than he'd ever indicated before.

After a few days, Kevin felt better, but I'm sure he was pleased when we returned. He still doesn't like to cuddle, but he likes to sit close by.

One day last month, I was sitting in the living room wondering what to watch. Kevin was at his resting

place on the top of the sofa. For some reason unbeknownst to me, I typed "cat tv" into the YouTube search, and what I found was a game-changer for Kevin. We watched a few minutes of the first video that came up. A camera had been set up beside a tree stump with seeds laid on top, and across the screen were the sights and sounds of active nature as birds and squirrels frolicked.

Kevin, who had ignored our living room television for most of his life, was suddenly transfixed! He sat on the edge of the ottoman, his head moving left to right, up and down, following the action. He moved around the room, climbing different furniture and even looked behind the TV as he wondered, "How can I get those birds?"

We don't have our TV on that much at home, but we often call up an episode of *How I Met Your Mother* while we eat dinner. For those who haven't seen it, it's kind of like *Friends* but edgier, and in my opinion, much funnier.

Kevin missed the first couple seasons, but lately he's been sitting there, at the edge of ottoman, intently following Ted Mosby's search for love and wondering when we finally get to meet the mother... and shouldn't it be Robin Scherbatsky?

Well, that's probably not it. Kevin has figured out that if he is patient, there's a chance we might put on some Cat TV afterwards.

It seems that whether you are a 40-year-old human or a six-year-old cat, it's important to find new and stimulating interests.

Thorndale News

A section within the
St. Marys Independent

Recent snow the topic of many conversations

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

We Canadians like to talk about the weather. We use this topic as a conversation starter and in most cases, it leads to enthralled exchanges of comparing past seasons or to interesting discussions of weather phenomena and events.

There have been many occasions this past year where different weather episodes have dominated conversations among family and friends or Facebook posts. Whether it was a rare thunderstorm last February, heavy spring storms that delayed some farmers planting or two major rain events in July flooding out a couple of area roads, followed by extreme heat in August, weather was on our minds all year. The fall was warmer than normal and dry with many farmers grateful for getting their harvest done, and it was well into November when we experienced a killer frost.

It has been an interesting year for weather. With last week's unusually large amount of snow for the beginning of December, we haven't witnessed that sort from Mother Nature in decades. The London Airport reported 60 centimetres of snowfall for Dec. 2, but many residents in our area saw amounts that exceed that, with more that fell the following day – upwards of 100 centimetres total according to some anecdotal accounts.

With Lake Huron open and warmer than normal, it enhanced the lake-effect snow we received. Warmer Great Lakes will not guarantee us a warmer winter, but they



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

Warmer Great Lakes led to some pretty intense snowfall in the Thorndale area and throughout parts of southwestern Ontario last week.

do stack the odds for more hefty lake-effect snow events like the one we experienced last week.

According to the Canadian Farmer's Almanac, we can expect a winter colder than normal. As for the timing, it says the coldest periods will be in early December,



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

A shot of the total snowfall Dec. 2 in the Thorndale area.

early and late January and late February. Also, snowfall will be above average in the western part of southern Ontario and below average in the east, with the snowiest periods expected in early and late December, much of January and February, and in early March.

The importance of protecting those teeth

DR. NICHOLAS MASSE

Thorndale Dental Centre

Summer has come and gone. Children are back in routine with school and those summer sports have transitioned to winter sports. With two of my children in hockey this year, I already feel like I practically live at the rink!

As you prepare for the new season, it is crucial you perform an equipment check. One piece of equipment we sometimes forget about updating yearly is the mouth guard. Perhaps our child has grown some new teeth over the summer, or their jaw has grown since they last wore it, or, let's face it, last year's guard may look a little gnarly because they've used it as a chew toy. It could have been missed being cleaned between games and has sat in the hockey bag all summer. Whatever the case, Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) requires a proper-fitting mouth guard for all practices and games.

The Ontario Dental Association recommends a mouth guard for any sport or recreational activity where the child may encounter another player or hard surface such as basketball, football, lacrosse, martial arts and skateboarding.

There are three basic types of mouth guards. One type is custom-made by a dental professional, where a mould of the upper jaw is made and the guard material is vacuum-formed over the model. This type provides a uniform thick-

ness with a custom fit that is the most durable, comfortable and least-impeding on speech and breathing.

Another type is a boil-and-bite style that can be purchased at most sports stores. This requires heating it in warm water, then biting into the softened plastic. The fit isn't precise and heating of the plastic can decrease the longevity. The third style of guard is a readymade rubber or plastic. These are a generic fit with limited comfort, protection and durability. They often are loose fitting and can interfere with talking and breathing.

The most common question I'm asked is whether mouth guards help prevent concussions. The short answer is maybe. At the very least, it helps dissipate forces to protect the teeth of fractures and displacements, and the gums from trauma. Even if a cage is worn, a guard can help prevent tooth damage from the teeth on the lower jaw hitting the top teeth during unexpected impacts. Some hockey players choose not to wear a mask or cage. At least the mouth guard can protect the teeth.

I've done my fair share of rebuilding teeth due to abhorrent puck or stick impacts. Unfortunately, some have been beyond repair. If you or your child have any trauma to the mouth, it's best to have a dentist take a look, at least to get a baseline to make sure there isn't any hidden trauma in the teeth, roots or bone.

See you at the rink!!

Decorating for the holiday season



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

Members of the Thorndale and Area Horticultural Society were out on Saturday Nov. 30 decorating the cement planters in Thorndale for the winter season. Elaine Wein and Marilyn Anger were adding a variety of cut evergreens to the planter in front of the post office. In total, there are 11 large planters throughout the village and two boxes at the entrance gates of the Thorndale Lions Community Centre that the Thorndale Horticultural Society plants in the summer and decorates for the winter along with the many gardens they maintain. MaryLou Bontje, president of the Thorndale and Area Horticultural Society, remarked, "Many thanks for a great team of workers who came to help beautify our village on such a chilly day."

Riddles

Why did the girl bring a ruler to bed with her?

She wanted to see how long she slept.

If you have a referee in football and an umpire in baseball, what do you have in bowls?

Goldfish.

Why was the calculator sad?

Because it had too many problems to solve

What can you serve but never eat?

A tennis ball

How did the telephone propose to his girlfriend?

It gave her a ring

Why do mathematicians like airlines?

They use Pi-lots.

Which letter of the alphabet keeps us waiting?

Q. (queue)

What's black and white and red all over?

A sunburned zebra

If there was a spelling test, which animal would win?

The bee

What do you call a bunny with fleas?

Bugs Bunny.

What do you call a lazy baby kangaroo?

A pouch potato.

- Word Search -

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Word List

Scotties

Brier

Rock

Hog line

House

Skip

Lead

Sweepers

Broom

Second

Vice

Draw

Take out

Ends

Measure

Hack



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What's the most musical part of the chicken?



The drumsticks!

Adriana Marcaccio (6)

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 a magnificent looking dog appropriately named Apollo. Apollo is an eight-year-old Great Pyrenees and according to his owner, Tyler Wilds, he is very vocal and barks at nothing. Perhaps he likes the sound of his own voice.



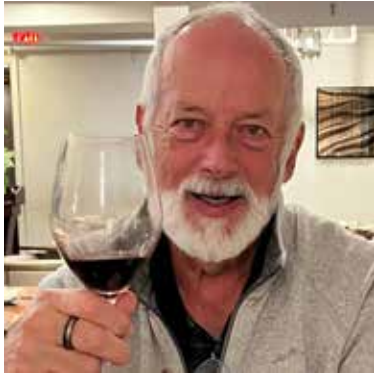
St. Marys Veterinary Clinic is pleased to be the sponsor of the PET OF THE WEEK

The holiday season is upon us, which means special events and gatherings

1. Secure holiday decorations and keep them out of your pet's reach (don't forget electrical cords).
2. Ensure seasonal or holiday plants aren't poisonous for your pet to ingest (watch out for mistletoe and holly).
3. Provide your pet with a quiet place where they can go if they get stressed during holiday festivities (or off-key singing).
4. Many human foods are toxic to pets such as grapes and chocolate. Turkey bones are brittle in nature so there is a risk of splintering making them dangerous to your pets' digestive system

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OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Unique stories and art at Belleville's Victorian mansion



PAUL KNOWLES

Independent Columnist

It was not my finest hour. When I first met Anna Fraiberg of the Bay of Quinte Regional Marketing Board, I waxed eloquent about how much I like Prince Edward County (PEC) and how much I would like to visit the area as a first stop on our road trip to eastern Canada.

Fraiberg listened patiently for several minutes and then said, "I think I should explain that we don't represent Prince Edward County."

Rats. I swallowed hard, thought for a moment and said, "I'm sorry. Tell me what you do represent."

Fraiberg was more than gracious. She acknowledged their neighbouring area, PEC, is a terrific destination, but then suggested her region is also pretty special, though less known. In fact, I have since learned that the Bay of Quinte website starts with the low-key admission, "You might know us as a midway stop on road trips between Toronto and Montreal."

Fraiberg wondered if I was still interested in spending a

few days in Bay of Quinte, given the misunderstanding. I told her I would be thrilled to explore a region that was still under the radar, and our conversation led to three terrific days in Belleville, Quinte West, Trenton, Brighton and Napanee.

I wrote a number of weeks ago about the really fine National Air Force Museum of Canada in Trenton. It is a must-see destination, but there is much more in Bay of Quinte. It's a perfect, multi-day destination, easily reached from southwestern Ontario.

One of our favourite stops was at the Glanmore National Historic Site, an 1883 Victorian mansion that has been a museum since the 1970s. It was designated a National Historic Site in 1971.

I know what you're thinking; there are a lot of Victorian era homes in Ontario that have been converted into museums. But Glanmore is unique, quirky and very interesting. It's also inexpensive – adult admission is \$8, students and seniors are \$6.50 – and open year-round except Mondays (afternoons only from September to May). This time of year, it is lavishly decorated for the season, an added perk for cold-weather visitors.

What I especially enjoyed during our tour, led by longtime staff member Melissa Wakeling, were the unique exhibitions and features of the museum, quite different from anything I have seen in other sites.

First, much of the furniture and furnishings are original to the home, which was built for \$7,000 in 1883 by wealthy

banker John Philpott Curran Phillips and Harriet Dougall Phillips. Harriet Phillips was an artist of some repute, and romantic portraits she created still hang in the house.

The home remained in the family, more or less, until it became a museum 90 years later. I say, "more or less in the family" because the house passed to Jessie Patterson-Phillips, a young woman who was informally adopted by the Phillips. She was the daughter of a local labourer, but came to be part of the Phillips family, and became their heir, though no legal adoption ever took place.

The home remained in the family for four generations.

But Glanmore is home not only to authentic furnishings and art from the four families, but also to the extensive Couldery Collection. Bertram and Cecilia Couldery, who lived in England, visited Belleville in the 1880s and liked the community so much they bought a second home here. Eventually, their eclectic collection of arts and crafts was donated to Belleville, brought there from England and eventually given a home at Glanmore.

The rather unusual highlights of the collection are 42 animal paintings by Horatio H. Couldery. Horatio Couldery, who was Bertram Couldery's brother, was a well-known British artist who specialized in painting animals. His works add a unique ambience to the elaborately furnished rooms at Glanmore.

Though Glanmore is a National Historic Site, the museum is



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

Glanmore Museum in Belleville.

also committed to local history and has an extensive collection of Bay of Quinte region artifacts, ranging from clothing to tools to toys. Wakeling – who has lost none of her passion for Glanmore in her 24 years there – led us through temporary exhibits of local history and showed us the well-stocked kids' activity area in the basement of the house.

Children are welcome and families will be given scavenger-hunt cards that encourage kids to spot specific items on display. Kids and adults will also enjoy the appearances of a small paper doll called "Flattie Hattie," a permanent resident in the house.

If you happen to be a fan of Murdoch Mysteries, you have already paid brief visits to

Glanmore. The home was featured in the third and 17th seasons.

But trust me, seeing glimpses on TV will not give you the unique and highly enjoyable experience you will get as you explore Glanmore, marvelling at the Victoria opulence and discussing the plethora of animal paintings with your pet-loving friends.

For more information, visit the really excellent website at www.glanmore.ca.

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



The opulently furnished living room at Glanmore.



The dining room – many of the furnishings are original to the home, which remained in the same family for almost a century.

OBITUARY

Wallace

With extreme sorrow and immeasurable love, we announce the peaceful passing of William "Bill" Burton Wallace .

Beloved husband of Pat (nee Douglas). Dear father of Richard Wallace and Anne Marie (Mark) Wallace Phillips. Treasured grandfather of Calvin (Amber) McKay, Madison (Tanner) Lovelady and Kennedy (Jon) McKay Buckley. Adored great grandfather of Noelle, Maverick, Logan and Nora. Preceded by his parents John Jack "JJ" Wallace and Laura (nee Smith), stepmother Helen (nee Kay), siblings Jack, Ken and Donna, granddaughter Shauna and great granddaughter Charlotte.

Bill and Pat shared 63 wonderful years of marriage, enjoying many trips to Kincardine and visiting Pat's relatives in Roblin Manitoba, as well as cheering on the London Knights. Together, they created a life of treasured memories with their children , grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The family would like to extend their sincere appreciation to the Special Care Unit staff, Alexandra Hospital in Ingersoll and PCU at Victoria Hospital, especially Anish RN for all the care and compassion Bill received in his final days. Sincere gratitude is also extended to Bill and Pat's PSW Wendy for her ongoing and continued compassionate care she provides.

Visitation will take place at Brock & Visser Funeral Home 177 Dundas Street, Thamesford on Saturday, December 7 at noon, followed by a service at 1pm. Interment at Oxford Memorial Park. Reception to follow at Thamesford Library Beaty Room, 165 Dundas St. Thamesford 3pm.

In keeping with Bill's wishes, donations to either Jump Start, a national charity that helps children in need participate in local sports programs, or the Ingersoll Legion Branch 119 would be appreciated.

OBITUARY

Webster



Margaret Frances Webster passed away at St. Marys Memorial Hospital on Dec. 8, 2024 in her 100th year.

Predeceased by her husband Thomas Webster (2014). Beloved mother of Bev Ready (Roy) of St. Marys, Ontario and Victoria Anderson (Rae) of Arnprior, Ontario.

Predeceased by her daughters Carol Webster-Holman and Lynn Sullivan (Jack). Margaret will be sadly missed by her six grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. Cremation has taken place. A private family service will be held. Margaret's family wish to sincerely thank the staff at Kingsway Lodge and St. Marys Memorial Hospital. Memorial donations may be made to Covenant House Toronto. Online tributes at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

IN MEMORIAM

Barton



In loving memory of Suzanne Barton, gone 20 years on December 11th.

We think of you every day and know how deeply you loved us and would have loved your beautiful grandkids.

Love Grant, Jeffrey, Melissa, Andrew, Victoria, Emily, Ben, Mackenzie and Maggie.

THANK YOU

Holden

We would like to shout out a huge "Thank You" to everyone who dropped off food, came for a visit and your words of encouragement while Kathy undergoes chemotherapy.

We are truly moved beyond words.

We love this town.

Peter and Kathy Holden

A Candlelight Christmas



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Solutions on page 35



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LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

Highway cows

25 years ago (1999)

The Avon Maitland District School Board will de-semester Grades 9 and 10 starting in September and could de-semester all high schools in Huron and Perth Country as the province's new four-year curriculum is gradually implemented.

Longtime LACAC member Glen Millson was recently recognized by the Ontario Heritage Foundation for his work towards preserving, protecting and promoting Ontario's Heritage. Tom Bishop, Chair of St. Marys LACAC, presented Glen with his award at a recent LACAC meeting.

50 years ago (1974)

The close result of the vote in the recent municipal election here led some to speculation as to the possibility of a recount. However, a close count is in itself no excuse for a recount. A better case for a recount is apparently something similar to that which happened in Goderich where a number of ballots were missed in the counting.

The annual meeting of our local Horticultural Society was held on December 2. Some of the highlights of the annual report included that membership is now at 890, an increase of 86 over last year.

75 years ago (1949)

A group of boys from the West Ward have established a hockey and skating rink on the river below the Sarnia Bridge.

Bill Wood met with an unfortunate accident in London on Tuesday morning. While engaged in construction work on the London Life building, he slipped and fell, breaking both arms. One was a simple fracture, but the other is a multiple fracture of the elbow. Bill is now resting comfortably in Victoria Hospital, although the elbow break has not yet been set.

100 years ago (1924)

Mr. G.W. Ainslie recently purchased a fine residence at 133 Balmoral Avenue, Toronto, and it is his intention to move his family there for the winter months. Mr. and Mrs. Ainslie spent several months as residents of Toronto last winter in order to be near their children who are attending school there.

The Traffic Officer who is in charge of the Provincial Highway from Stratford to Sarnia has received instructions from the department that he is to enforce the law regarding cattle or other animals allows to roam at will on the highway. Formerly the fine for this offence was \$2.00 per head but in the future the fine will be \$5.00 per head. Besides being a nuisance to traffic, animals running at large are a real danger.

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Health & Safety Coordinator

This position would start in 2025, approximately 5 days a month and could be an independent H&S Business.

Duties would include visiting our 5 locations to ensure compliance with established H&S program and monitor safety training. Assist in onboarding new employees, H&S committee members and H&S meetings.

Ideal for a person looking for flexible work schedule with excellent communication skills, attention to detail and require minimal supervision. Willing to train the right individual.

Applications and inquires can be sent to accounting@countrymills.ca

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1) Twelve drummers drumming | 5) 1997 |
| 2) Children | 6) Dormancy |
| 3) St. Stephen's Day | 7) Polar Bear |
| 4) Norway | 8) Fifteen |
| | 9) Igloo |
| | 10) Plum Blossom |

THE WEEK AHEAD

SPONSORED BY: **McDonald's St. Marys**
752 Queen St E
Founding and Forever partner of Ronald McDonald House

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

St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 26

Friday, December 13

- Royal Canadian Legion "hot dogs and more" lunch at Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Stratford Warriors at William Allman Memorial Arena - 7:30 p.m.
- Harmony of Friends Christmas concert in support of the St. Marys Library pantry at St. Marys Presbyterian Church - 8 p.m., Cash or food donations welcomed

Saturday, December 14

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

Sunday, December 15

- St. Marys Legion breakfast with Santa - 8 a.m. to Noon
- Santa at The Hitching Post, Bring the kids in for a visit - 9 a.m. to Noon
- Thorndale Community Christmas at Thorndale Country Mills - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- A.N.A.F. Sunday funday darts - 12:45 p.m.
- Avonbank Community Church Christmas service - 7:30 p.m.

Monday, December 16

- Ultimate Foot Care open house at 194 Queen St W - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Community dinner at St. Marys United Church - 5 p.m., Sponsored by Bob Doupe

\$6.99 + TAX



Stacked PANCAKE & BREAKFAST HOUSE



Breakfast *Special*



Not Valid On Stat Holidays

Dine-In Only

7 AM - 9 AM

MON - FRI

Lunch *Specials*



Served with
Chicken Tomato Soup or
Cheddar Broccoli Soup



Substitute Soup
for Fries or
Homefries for \$1

Monday
Cheddar Jalapeno Burger



Tuesday
California Burger



Wednesday
Melt Burger



\$13.99 +Tax
Each

Thursday
Loaded Mushroom Burger



Friday
BBQ Philly Burger



Not Valid On Stat Holidays

925 Ontario St, Unit No-5B, Stratford, ON, N5A 6W5