

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1238

Thursday, November 21, 2024

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SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS VISIT ST. MARYS (JUNE GRANT PHOTO)
Hundreds of spectators lined the parade route from the PRC to downtown to view the Kinsmen Santa Claus parade on Friday evening. The hour-long parade featured beautifully lit floats. Even the farm machinery entries were a hit with all their light displays. For more parade photos, see Page 8.

Council identifies James and Queen as intersection of concern in new, comprehensive road-safety plan

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Anyone who has needed to make a left turn from James Street South onto Queen Street East can attest to the danger that intersection poses for both drivers and pedestrians.

At the Nov. 12 St. Marys council meeting, councillors addressed a letter from St. Marys resident Nadia Sommerville outlining her safety concerns with the intersection, a discussion that carried into infrastructure director Jeff Wolfe's presentation of a brand-new, comprehensive road-safety plan for the town.

"My daughter goes to DVCI high school and walks travelling from downtown up towards that intersection to get to school each morning and later afternoon. As much as I tell her to avoid that intersection, it is the most convenient," Sommerville wrote in her letter. "... There is also the concern of not just my child but others who use this intersection to get to school on a daily basis. There is also a retirement home not even a block away from this intersection as well.

"So, this affects (the) most vulnerable in our community. There is definitely a high volume of vehicle traffic at the Queen and James intersection and an increase of volume of pedestrian traffic. This intersection only has one stop

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

St. Marys to replace annual flowers with perennials in effort to reduce beautification budget

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Following the St. Marys Business Improvement Area's (BIA) recent decision to eliminate its hanging-basket program and purchase self-watering planters, St. Marys council has decided to replace nine of the town's annual flowerbeds with perennial flowers to further reduce the town's beautification costs.

Building on the recent reduction in service approved by the BIA and coupled with the town's existing contract with St. Marys Landscaping nearing the end of its term in 2025, town staff began reviewing potential additional cost savings. The beautification budget was highlighted in 2018 by facilities staff during the efficiency service-level re-

CONTINUED TO PAGE 9



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COMMUNITY

Council identifies James and Queen as intersection of concern in new, comprehensive road-safety plan

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

sign and if you are looking towards the bridge for oncoming traffic, it is very hard to see oncoming traffic, especially if anyone is speeding.”

Councillors were quick to agree with Sommerville’s concerns with both councillors Marg Luna and Dave Lucas going as far as to say they actively avoid that intersection because of that lack of sightline.

“The intersection is certainly a challenge,” Wolfe said. “It has been that way for a long time. The current bridge that goes over the CN rail immediately adjacent to that intersection was constructed in the ‘70s, so it has been in the current alignment for (at least) 50 years. ... Certainly, there are challenges around the intersection with visibility to the east.

“... One of the main challenges with the intersection is the approach from the west and the steep angle of the road coming from downtown. Any attempt we could make to try and stop traffic on

that hill would be very challenging for any sort of large vehicle or even smaller vehicles for that matter if they were to come to a complete stop at a red light and if they had to restart. More likely, if they were backed up down the hill, it would be a challenge; maybe not right at the intersection, but if there was a lag and they were backed up, we would end up with issues with vehicles maybe not being able to get up the hill in the wintertime.”

While the intersection was identified in 2014 as an issue that will continue to get worse as the town grows, there has been no clear solution to the problem. A road-safety plan brought for council’s approval later in the meeting, however, may be the first step towards improving that intersection and the safety of drivers and pedestrians on all 56 kilometres of public roads in St. Marys.

The drafting of this plan was spurred on by a request from the St. Marys community policing advisory committee for

the town to investigate adopting a Vision Zero Strategy. The Vision Zero and Safe Systems Approach Strategy is a global initiative meant to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries on roadways. Ultimately, council decided to move forward with the development of a road-safety plan within the spirit of Vision Zero, but not to adopt Vision Zero in its entirety.

The town has undertaken various initiatives to improve road safety in the last five years and the road-safety plan compiles various strategies and initiatives to reduce the risk of fatalities and serious injuries on local roads.

“Specifically, the plan borrows from the safe systems approach which is a concept where we acknowledge the fact that ... everyone makes mistakes and we need to help build a system collectively that makes sure when someone does make a mistake, it doesn’t result in a lifechanging injury,” Wolfe said. “We acknowledge the fact that people make mistakes, we acknowledge the fact that people are squishy, we’re vulnerable and we need to be protected especially ... if we’re not in a vehicle. Also, all levels of the industry need to be involved whether it’s higher levels of government, automotive industry, safety regulators or health-care providers.

“Everyone needs to work together to make sure our roads are as safe as possible.”

The plan is broken down into three categories for developing countermeasures to injuries and fatalities on local roads: engineering, enforcement and education. The plan is intended to improve data sharing, elicit more public feedback, create additional educational programs, update engineering standards and encourage targeted analysis of safety issues that will inform future operating and capital budgets. An internal-safety audit team, traffic-calming program and annual reporting to assess progress will be developed as a result of the road-safety plan.



In response to concerns from council about specific intersections and safety concerns, Wolfe told councillors the town has developed a safety audit program based on staff’s recent experience improving another intersection of concern in town at Jones Street East and Church Street South. Wolfe told councillors staff could begin the process of auditing the James Street South and Queen Street East intersection to potentially identify both short-term and longer-term improvements that can be included in future capital budgets.








In their resolution approving the road-safety plan, council also identified Water Street South and Queen Street East as an intersection of concern to review in the near future.



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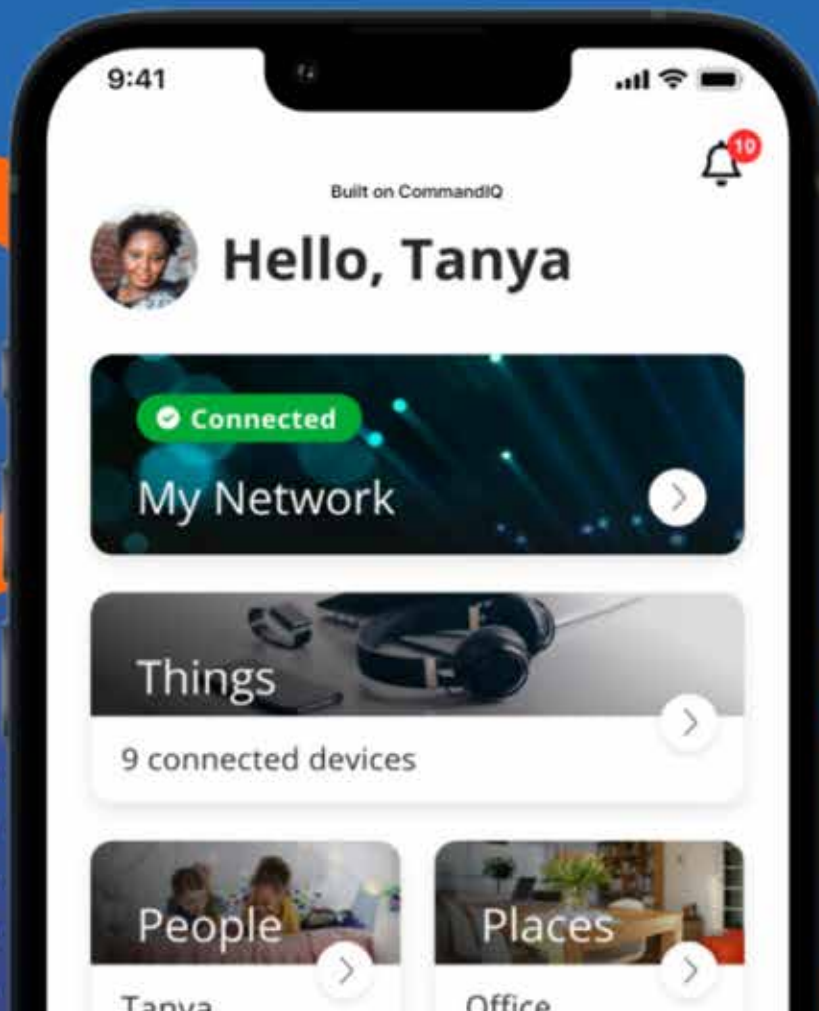
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How Will You Be "Giving" on Giving Tuesday, Dec. 3, we REALLY want to know, please!

Scan this QR code or email us at givingtuesdaystmarys@gmail.com and share your plan with us (it takes about 3 minutes).

We need to know so we can promote all of the amazing initiatives that will be Giving Back to our community on Tuesday, Dec. 3.

We will print a list of everyone participating (that we are aware of) next week so we need to know by Friday, Nov. 22 please.

If you need help, email us! Better Together Always! "Won't You Be My Neighbour"



For More Information Contact: jdockerjohnson@gmail.com

Bravo

We have 1 Bravo this week.

1) Bravo to Rev. Pirie Mitchell who offered a Christ honouring prayer in remembrance of our veterans and current service members at the recent Remembrance Day service.

Boo

We have 2 Boos this week.

1) Boo to all the individuals who drive pickup trucks in this town who have a blatant disrespect for this community revving your engines, making excessive noise, and racing through the streets at all times of the day! The town's bylaw officers should be out to levy fines on these people.

2) A boo to the Scrooge who damaged Christmas light displays at houses in the Ardmore area. You're on Santa's naughty list and we're checking to see if you are on a ring camera too!

*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

We are absolutely overwhelmed with gratitude after this year's Santa Claus Parade. The streets of St. Marys were alive with the magic of the season, and it's all thanks to you—the families, businesses, volunteers, and parade participants—who made it truly unforgettable.

- Vice president Trevor Schram from the Kinsmen Club on the success of the Santa Clause parade that took place Friday night.

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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

St. Marys Independent

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

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Fire Department reminding residents about siren alerts for fire calls

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The St. Marys Fire Department is reminding residents about the purpose of the siren that can be heard from distant areas of St. Marys and beyond, which acts as an alert mechanism when preparing to respond to a call.

The new siren, a modern replacement for the old air-raid siren, represents a significant upgrade in emergency alert systems for the community. Installed on May 12, 2023, this siren is a crucial tool in ensuring the safety and awareness of St. Marys residents.

Every time the fire department responds to a call during normal working hours – from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. – the

siren will sound for one minute. This powerful alert serves as an unmissable reminder to the public to be vigilant, watch for emergency vehicles and vehicles with green flashing lights, and pull over to allow firefighters to proceed to a call without delay.

“Our response time has improved since moving into the new fire hall and as a result of training,” said Fire Chief Richard “Andy” Anderson in a press release. “Having more people pull over has allowed us to respond even faster, and, in an emergency, every second counts.”

Questions about the siren can be directed to Anderson at 519-284-2340 ext. 201 or randerson@town.stmarys.on.ca.

Sip and Shop a success



(JUNE GRANT PHOTO)

Hospital auxiliary members Kate Graham and Janis Fread were eager to help visitors at their Sip and Shop event held at Riverwalk Commons on Sunday, Nov. 17. Customers took advantage of the terrific tax-free prices on all merchandise. All proceeds raised support the St. Marys Memorial Hospital.

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



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Dec. 1, 2 - 4 PM | St. Marys Museum

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Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Adele Freer. Adele will be turning 90 years young on Thursday Nov. 21. She was born in Stratford and grew up near Kirkton. Adele has a son and a daughter and two grandchildren. She currently resides in Fairhill where there will be a birthday open house for her on Nov. 24. In her spare time, Adele loves watching the Blue Jays and the Toronto Maple Leafs. She likes to read as much as she can and loves to do word searches. Happy birthday Adele.

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

Rae acclaimed as Progressive Conservative Candidate for next provincial election

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

Matthew Rae has been acclaimed as the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party candidate for Perth-Wellington in the next provincial general election.

"It is an honour to be acclaimed as the PC candidate for the next provincial election," said Rae in a press release. "I remain focused on ensuring Perth-Wellington receives its fair share of provincial funding and that we continue to build a better, stronger and safer rural Ontario."

"Matthew Rae has been instrumental in delivering results that matter to the people of Perth-Wellington," said party leader and Ontario Premier Doug Ford in the release. "Whether it's helping to grow Ontario's electric-vehicle industry, investing in vital infrastructure, or expanding access to health care, Matthew's leadership has had a real impact on his community. He's committed to making life easier and more affordable for families and businesses, and I'm proud to have him on our team as we continue to build a stronger Ontario."

Since 2022, the Conservative government has invested over \$161 million in health care, schools and infrastructure across Perth-Wellington.

"We have achieved a lot. However, there is more work to be done to ensure we are building the infrastructure we need, investing in our rural health-care system and ensuring that the next generation is set up for success," Rae told a crowd of supporters at his acclamation in Monkton.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTHEW RAE)

Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae will be the incumbent Conservative candidate for the riding in the next provincial general election.

Weekend Quiz

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- 1) What does Ariel give to Ursula in exchange for legs?
- 2) What do you call an animal that sleeps during the day and is awake at night?
- 3) Who was the Egyptian pharaoh known for building the Great Sphinx?
- 4) How long is a millennium?
- 5) What country has the most oil reserves?
- 6) How many dice are used in Yahtzee?
- 7) What year did Blockbuster close?
- 8) Who won the Jake Paul vs Mike Tyson fight?
- 9) What company is known for their Pumpkin Spice Latte?
- 10) What year did the US introduce two-letter state abbreviations?

This week's answers are found on pg. 33



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Toews reflects on Hurricane Helene disaster-relief efforts

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

The owner of Legacy Metalworks recently travelled to Georgia to support those affected by Hurricane Helene and assist with cleanup.

Cameron Toews got involved with Hurricane Helene disaster relief after he decided he wanted to give back following so many years of doing custom-weld and fabrication in St. Marys. Toews signed up for Hurricane Helene relief through Christian Disaster Relief (CDR), a volunteer-run program through which people from all around the world come together to help out with disaster relief.

Hurricane Helene was a Category 4 hurricane that ripped through several southern states including Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee and the Carolinas in late September. The hurricane caused several

deaths and mass destruction.

Toews and his brother drove 14 hours to Georgia and they were down there for about a week. There were about 40 other men, along with some married couples, of all ages from 16 to 80 years old helping out with hurricane relief.

"It was so much fun. Hot weather, hard work, good times," Toews said.

The volunteers were split into crews and drove off to job sites to remove storm damage. Volunteers would remove trees and other debris that fell into backyards and leaning on top of houses. After cutting up the wood and removing the trees, the crews would put the debris on the curbside for pickup.

"It was actually very well-organized," Toews said. "They had an app with a whole bunch of jobs."

Toews said he cleaned up about 20 yards during his time volunteering with the CDR.

Christmas Toy Drive at Canadian Tire



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

On Saturday, Nov. 16 the Salvation Army held their annual Toy Drive at Canadian Tire. Many generous people, along with the owners of St. Marys Canadian Tire, donated lots of toys to the Salvation Army. Pictured, from left, Jennifer Morris (community family service manager), Raelyn Marshall (family services worker), Const. Aaron Mounfield, and Stephanie Cameron (family services worker) were there to accept the donations.

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Kinsmen host annual St. Marys Santa Claus Parade



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

The Downie Optimist Club had one of the many colorful, well-lit floats in the Santa Claus parade.



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

Two of the Kinettes, Sandie Vanderschot and Terri Iredale, were happy to have their framed picture taken.



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

The anticipation of Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus was certainly worth the wait.



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

A snowman, with his costume made entirely of balloons, and his helper caught the attention of a lot of people along the parade route.



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Sisters Eva and Audrey Louwagie were all smiles taking in the Santa Clause parade on Friday night. The girls are growing up on a farm and loved seeing the trucks and farm equipment but the best was still the big man in red.



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

Greetings from Winnie the Pooh.

St. Marys to replace annual flowers with perennials in effort to reduce beautification budget

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

view, which projected costs of approximately \$60,000 for 2019.

Current costs for 2024 have now reached an estimated \$105,000 (after the BIA's annual \$4,500 contribution), which is a direct cost to the municipal tax levy. Annual flower beds represent most of the budget at \$78,000 and perennial beds constitute \$31,000. This represents an annual overall cost increase of 77 per cent or 19 per cent yearly since 2019 for a relatively consistent service level.

"We're entering our last year of the contract (with St. Marys Landscaping)," director of public works Jed Kelly told councillors. "There's one more year for 2025. So, kind of jumping from what the BIA started with the cost reduction

(from the elimination of) the hanging baskets ... we started doing a cost analysis on maybe doing a bit of a service reduction and changing about nine of the beds to perennial beds.

"... In a nutshell, what we're looking to do is focus our annual (flower bed) program in the downtown and places of Remembrance, so the urns would remain (planted with annual flowers), the cenotaph would remain, the cemetery service level would remain. Generally, we're focusing on changing annual beds around signage, town signs, that sort of thing to perennial beds."

In contrast to annual beds, perennial flower beds do not require new plantings and frequent watering, which in turn makes them significantly cheaper to maintain, though they do require annual

mulch top-ups and periodic weeding. As such, with reduced input requirements, the perennial beds have been more cost-effective to maintain with less fluctuation in price.

Kelly told councillors that St. Marys Landscaping has agreed to begin converting those nine annual beds to perennial beds in the Spring of 2025. Initial quotes for the bed conversions indicate that, despite recent cost increases, they could be funded through existing operational budgets. Town staff anticipate cost reductions of approximately \$47,000 starting in 2026, however the draft 2025 public works operational budget includes \$105,000 to maintain the existing service level. If approved, Kelly said in his report, beautification costs could be reduced to roughly \$60,000 beginning

in 2026.

"It's shocking when you see the numbers year over year and where we end up, so I fully support this report and I think it's important that we sometimes take a step back and say, 'What are we doing and how can we reduce some costs,'" Coun. Dave Lucas said.

The amended beautification program, according to Kelly's report to council, would include some annual beds, perennial-bed maintenance and contract watering. Additionally, a review of the watering programs will be conducted following the BIA's selection of self-watering planters. Kelly said it is possible the watering program could be brought in-house using seasonal staff, though this will be considered during the 2026 beautification-tender process.



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Celebrating local stores with St. Marys Gift Baskets

ST. MARYS LIONS CLUB

Contribution

The St. Marys Lions Club is celebrating this holiday season by curating gift baskets filled with items that can be found in our local shops. Gift baskets will be sold for \$40 and will include a selection of items from a list of partners. A few of our partners so far include:

- Country Roots Fresh Flowers & Market
- Delmar Foods
- Little Falls Artisan Market

- Millie's Gourmet
- Snapping Turtle Coffee Roasters
- Dunny's Source for Sports
- Pet Valu
- Tremblett's Independent Grocer
- Stone Home Creatives

All profits will support the charitable activities in St. Marys by the Lions Club.

Anyone who is interested in a basket or anyone who has a local business interested in joining the venture can reach out to stmlions1940@gmail.com.

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Don't have a family doctor? New clinic aims to connect locals with primary care

CONNOR LUCZKA

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The shortage of family doctors has been a growing problem for not only the region, but Ontario writ large. The newly opened Unattached Care Clinic (UCC) aims to tackle that problem head on.

The UCC is run by the Huron Perth and Area Ontario Health Team (HPA-OHT) through an earlier announced \$822,604 investment from the province. Robin Spence Haffner, executive director of Listowel-Wingham and Area Family Health Team, said all eight of the family health teams came together to put together a proposal and were ultimately successful in securing the funding.

“The clinic idea came from just looking at ways we could use our existing resources and infrastructure in the family health teams, the clinics we already have, to give access to more people,” Spence Haffner said. “We're really thrilled that we got the funding and now have the program up and going.”

There are 2.5 million Ontarians without a family doctor, Spence Haffner said, and she estimates there are many thousands of people in the Huron-Perth region who don't have a doctor. To that end, the UCC is designed to provide access to acute, chronic and preventive primary care services throughout the region, including treatment for acute illnesses and management of chronic conditions, mental-health support and preventive care such as cancer screen-



(CONNOR LUCZKA PHOTO)

Virginia Greene is a nurse practitioner at the Stratford Unattached Care Clinic, a new program aimed to connect residents without a family doctor to primary care. She has been a nurse practitioner for 26 years and has seen firsthand how important primary care is for families.

ings, vaccinations and wellness advice.

That care is done through the clinics' nurse practitioners.

Although not doctors themselves, nurse practitioners are able to provide a great deal of care that would normally be done by a family doctor. Additionally, they are also aware of what the limitations of their scope are and are able to refer to specialists as needed.

Spence Haffner called them a “criti-

cal part” of primary care.

Virginia Greene is a nurse practitioner at the Stratford UCC clinic and has been a nurse practitioner for 26 years. She said without going out looking for patients, people are already finding them – a testament to the great need there was in the community for primary care.

“The reaction's been very positive,” Greene said. “People are really, really

just so happy that we are here.”

“We're not going to be able to attach every resident of Huron and Perth county who doesn't have a family doctor to a nurse practitioner to this program, but it's at least a step in the right direction,” Spence Haffner said, clarifying that the initial investment will ensure the clinic will operate for a one-year period. “We're really looking at proving this model so that we can get increased investment.”

The clinics are strategically located in Stratford, Listowel, Wingham, Goderich, Zurich and Exeter, reaching residents within a 40-kilometre radius of each site. For appointments and general inquiries, patients can call the clinic closest to them:

- Stratford Family Health Team: 226-766-0510

- Listowel-Wingham and Area Family Health Team: 519-291-4511

- Bluewater Area Family Health Team, Exeter Medical Clinic; Maitland Valley Medical Centre: 519-870-9034

The UCC is not a replacement for walk-in clinics, leadership said, but a dedicated program to work in tandem with walk-ins. Appointments are required to ensure efficient care.

Spence Haffner also pointed out that in addition to the UCC, Urgent Care Ontario and Health811 are other virtual programs for those lacking a family doctor.

As always, she and the team are encouraging patients to register with Healthcare Connect to find a permanent family doctor.

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Resources for individuals experiencing homelessness in St. Marys

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

With cold weather approaching, the Town of St. Marys is sharing an update on the services available for individuals who are experiencing homelessness this winter.

Community outreach worker

The town's full-time community outreach worker is in regular contact with individuals experiencing homelessness in St. Marys and offers facilitation, education and referrals for those who require socio-economic support.

Anyone who is experiencing homelessness or is concerned about a person or family in need of help can contact the outreach worker at 226-261-0098 or communityoutreach@town.stmarys.on.ca.

Warming stations

Several town facilities are open for those looking for a safe, warm space during daytime hours. Options include:

- Pyramid Recreation Centre (317 James St. S)
- St. Marys Public Library (15 Church St. N)
- St. Marys Museum (177 Church St. S)

Emergency accommodation

The City of Stratford social services

department is the provincially designated provider of short-term emergency accommodation for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Perth County.

The town can connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness in St. Marys with the City of Stratford to arrange emergency accommodation.

Emergency accommodation services are completely voluntary; individuals experiencing homelessness have the right to refuse them and may choose to do so, despite the cold temperatures.

Anyone who is in need of emergency accommodation, or anyone who knows someone in need, can contact the outreach worker at 226-261-0098 or communityoutreach@town.stmarys.on.ca or the City of Stratford at 519-271-3773 ext. 200 or 1-800-669-2948 (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.); 519-272-2294 or 1-888-829-7484 (after hours, weekends and holidays).

More information

Additional information about local support services available for individuals experiencing homelessness is available at www.townofstmarys.com/stone-townsupports.



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Won't You Be My Neighbour: Giving Tuesday flag raised at St. Marys town hall



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Afton Poidevin helps Julie Docker-Johnson and deputy mayor Brogan Aylward raise the Giving Tuesday flag.

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

Town council declared Tuesday, Dec. 3 as Giving Tuesday, a day that encourages people to do a good deed and to

help others.

Many businesses, service clubs and individuals have joined the initiative with a goal of giving back. Why? Because it makes us smile and feel good to share with those less fortunate or just to show



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

The Grade 3/4 class from Holy Name of Mary School were on hand with teacher Nancy Wojcik to watch the raising of the flag and were treated with Smile Cookies.

our generosity.

Everyone is welcome to participate simply by giving their time, helping a neighbour or making a donation.

The Giving Tuesday flag was raised on Monday at St. Marys townhall. In at-

tendance was Nancy Wojcik's Grade 3/4 class from Holy Name of Mary School, deputy mayor Brogan Aylward and Giving Tuesday committee member Julie Docker-Johnson.

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Write for Rights (W4R) in St. Marys

Free event to be held Saturday, Nov. 30 at the St. Marys Public Library from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ALIZON SHARUN

Contributed

A letter can change someone's life. That is the idea behind Write for Rights (W4R), Amnesty International's global letter-writing campaign held each year around Human Rights Day, Dec. 10.

Given a different country and a different political situation, it could be any one of us who has been arrested for peacefully demonstrating against environmental threats to the land and waters which sustain us, or held without trial and tortured for speaking out against injustice.

In many countries, people from all walks of life are vulnerable to violations and discrimination and denied their basic human rights. They could be young or mature, a student, someone with a disability, or someone living in a city or an isolated rural area. For these people, speaking out against political

or social injustices and the erosion of their freedoms brings a heavy penalty and even death.

The nine cases chosen as a focus for Write for Rights this year include a singer and mother of two sentenced to two years in prison for criticizing the president of Angola on TikTok.

Another case describes a Vietnamese environmental justice lawyer, imprisoned in 2021, who is being held in poor conditions with deteriorating health.

A young fitness instructor in Saudi Arabia is another of the W4R cases this year. She is facing 11 years behind bars for supporting women's rights and has suffered beatings.

A fourth case is a man living with disability in South Korea, subject to lawsuits and often violence from the authorities who regard him and other disabled activists as a nuisance.

Letter-writing is a gentle but effective way to protest. The letters and petitions

go directly to the presidents, ministers of justice and governing authorities of the countries in question. There is also opportunity to write cards of support and encouragement to the prisoners or human-rights defenders themselves. Often, the sacks of letters which arrive at the prison or the law court or on the president's doorstep show that the world is watching, and may result in the release of the prisoner or protection from further harm, or the bringing to justice of the perpetrators of violence.

All are welcome to join the local St. Marys/Stratford/London group of Amnesty International for Write for Rights in the upstairs meeting room at St. Marys Public Library on Saturday, Nov. 30 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be copies of the cases, guidance and writing materials, and also refreshments to enjoy while writing letters, signing petitions or cards for the prisoners.

It's something we can do and it makes a huge difference.

Anyone who cannot attend this event but would like to join the W4R campaign can find information and details on the Amnesty International website at amnesty.org. For information about the local Amnesty group, which meets monthly, email elenadumitru1983@yahoo.ca.

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 10 million people, independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest, or religion, funded mainly by the membership and public donations. Amnesty members and supporters campaign for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all according to the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human-rights standards.

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All smiles from the Smile Cookie prep crew



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

The Smile cookie campaign has started once more with proceeds being split between Tim Hortons Camp and the Salvation Army Foodbank in St. Marys. Cookies can be purchased between Nov. 18 and Nov. 24. Busy prepping on Monday morning from front left is Alec Bish, social media representative, for Stratford Police, Const. Aaron Mounfield from the Stratford Police, Jennifer Morris with the Salvation Army and Stephanie Cameron with the Salvation Army.



NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of The Corporation of the Town of St. Marys intends to designate 140 Peel Street North as a property of cultural historical value or interest under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18, as amended.

Property Description

The subject property is described as LOT 13 WEST SIDE PEEL ST (LT 17 CONCESSION 17) PLAN 225 ST MARYS; PT LOT 12 WEST SIDE PEEL ST (LT 17 CONCESSION 17) PLAN 225 ST MARYS AS IN R285349 ; ST MARYS

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Design and Physical Value: The projecting porch at the front door opens out to an adjoining, gracious verandah with views of the gardens. Both porch and verandah have many original features: posts and carpentry details like dentils have been sympathetically restored. The original salmon pink brick has been painted (possibly for conservation); the quoins are still visible. The window openings are square-headed with original 2-over-2 lights and storm windows which probably date from 1900. Almost all windows retain their original shutters. The pendants and finials on the gables are either originals or have been restored.

Historical Value: 140 Peel Street North was built by Daniel McLaren, an early settler in this area. It was also home to the Egan family, strong supporters of Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church. Egan Avenue, which runs east and west across the north side of the Church property, was named in their honour. The house was later the home of Cardiff and Mabel Cline. Cardiff Cline was a well-known antique dealer, specializing in Canadiana. Mabel Cline was mayor of St. Marys in 1967. A more recent owner was Mark Fletcher, an artist whose much-sought-after early watercolours and acrylics often featured St. Marys buildings and landscapes and made the town attractive to residents and visitors from far afield.

Contextual Value: The house on the property at 140 Peel Street North is one of the oldest brick houses in the north ward of St. Marys. Early photographs show this house on the hilltop horizon between the Presbyterian and Roman Catholic Churches. Today the McLaren house is protected on the Peel Street side by a white picket fence and the shade of mature Norway spruce and Norway maples. On the west side, the property opens out onto a large lawn, perennial borders, and a high cedar hedge which isolates it from the neighboring houses: it is what garden historians call a "hortus conclusus" or an enclosed garden.

Description of Heritage Attributes

- The projecting porch at the front door.
- Original features of porch and verandah: posts and carpentry details like dentils have been sympathetically restored.
- The original salmon pink brick, which has been painted
- The window openings with original 2-over-2 lights and storm windows which probably date from 1900. Original shutters.
- The pendants and finials on the gables.

Notice of Objection

Any person may serve their notice of objection to the proposed designation to the Town Clerk within 30 days of the date of this notice, and no later than 4:30 pm on Friday, December 20, 2024. Objections should be directed to the Town of St. Marys, P.O. Box 998, St. Marys, ON N4X 1B6, Attention: Jenna McCartney, Clerk, or by email to clerksoffice@town.stmarys.on.ca. Consideration for receipt by traditional mail service is contingent upon a pending Canada Post strike. A notice of objection must set out the reason(s) for the objection and all relevant facts

The St. Marys Christmas craft show draws 2,000 visitors



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

The St. Marys Christmas craft show was held at the Pyramid Centre on Nov. 16 with approximately 2,000 people in attendance. Pictured, from left, Bonnie Farrell and Easter Coyle from St. Marys displayed some of their lovely Christmas wreaths and centrepieces.



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

These ladies can knit just about anything - they were displaying some of their lovely articles they had for sale. Pictured, from left, Tracey Ree, Hilary Wilson, Heather Wilson and Lois Bragg.



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Lincs win two of three in first half of road swing

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

It took the St. Marys Lincolns until almost 40 per cent of their season had been played to lose consecutive games for the first time.

Fortunately, it didn't take nearly as long to end that losing skid.

After losing 2-1 to the Strathroy Rockets on Nov. 8, the Lincolns travelled to LaSalle looking for redemption against the Vipers. Despite a strong performance, St. Marys fell 4-3, marking the first time this season the Lincs have lost two games in a row, and just the second time they have given up more than three goals in a game.

"The result was certainly disappointing," said Lincolns' head coach Jeff Bradley. "We did a lot of good things. I thought we played really well. We wanted to get in on the forecheck and make life tough on their defence and I thought we did an outstanding job at that, but we had momentary lapses in concentration and focus. Three of LaSalle's goals came off three uncharacteristic plays where we weren't focused.

"As a team that wants to be a top contender all season, we can't be making those mistakes."

After a scoreless first period, Luca Spagnolo opened the scoring for the Lincolns four minutes and 11 seconds into the second, followed by Ryan Hodgkinson ending a four-game goal drought for his seventh of the year just two minutes and 24 seconds later.

However, while the Lincolns were completely dominant for the first half of the period, they began leaking oil in the latter half, when several of the atypical blunders mentioned by the bench boss led to the Vipers tying the game at two apiece on goals by Adriano Tonin and Bryce Belleau.

In the third, against all odds, Hodgkinson and Owen Voortman broke out for a two-on-one despite the Lincolns being in the midst of a five-on-three disadvantage, with Hodgkinson setting up Voortman to bury his seventh of the season. But just 16 seconds later, Alec Stewart capped a quick rush off the faceoff and tied the game for LaSalle.

Just under three minutes later and a little over halfway through the third, Zach Vaillancourt fired the go-ahead goal, giving the Vipers their first lead



(MCGINNY PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

Luca Spagnolo celebrates as he jams home his second goal of the game in the Lincolns' 4-1 win over the Listowel Cyclones on Nov. 15. Spagnolo's first goal of the game was his 50th career GOJHL goal.

of the game and the eventual game-winning goal.

Bradley contrasted the loss to LaSalle with their preceding defeat at the hands of Strathroy, calling the loss to the Vipers "more frustrating" due to feeling his team gave away the two points far more than they had done against the Rockets.

"I don't think we beat ourselves against Strathroy. There are always two teams playing the game and Strathroy came in with a really good game-plan that they executed very well, and we didn't respond the right way. But against LaSalle, they worked hard, but three of their four goals were entirely preventable. We gave them three goals and ultimately gave away the game, and that's the frustrating part."

Despite the loss, several Lincolns impressed the head coach, namely two of the team's rearguards.

"Julian (Stubgen) and Jacob (Montesi) were great," Bradley said. "For Julian, it's taken him a little bit of time to get fully comfortable. He's obviously got some great offensive tools, but we've challenged him to also be reliable defensively, and lately, he's been playing some really great hockey. And Jacob, he's just a true Lincoln. He knows how we expect him to play. He knows exactly what we need from him."

Bradley also named first-year forward Dylan Searles as bringing an impressive level of tenacity and consistency to the Lincolns' forward group.

"Coming into this season, I didn't know much about Dylan, but Pat was really high on him and he's become an outstanding young player for us. He's just so trustworthy, he works incredibly hard and he does whatever you need him to do. He's happy to learn, happy to contribute however you need him and happy to do what his team needs. As a coach, you love having players like Dylan."

Lincs swarm Stars in 3-2 bounce-back

In the Lincolns' second of six straight away games on Nov. 14, despite having the ice tilted to the Stars' zone, St. Thomas managed to get an odd-man rush with Matthew O'Sullivan feeding to lights-out, goal-scoring machine, Lincoln Moore, who had goals in each of his first five games this season and currently has 10 goals in just six games since joining the Stars.

The Lincs' general control of the play finally paid off with 20 seconds left in the first when Voortman tied the game at one apiece heading into the first intermission.

Bradley explained the team's puck movement left him very happy with the

group's opening 20 minutes.

"Even though it was 1-1, we were playing really well so we had pretty positive feedback after the first period. We talked about continuing to do what we were doing along with a couple of minor adjustments and hoping that would pay off, which eventually it did. Our whole team played well. From top to bottom, I thought everybody gave us some really good minutes.

"Our puck support was great," Bradley added. "At times, you can get a bit complacent and in our last couple of games, we weren't moving the puck as well as we could have. Our outlet guys didn't have any options. But against St. Thomas, I thought we did a much better job moving the puck the way we need to. We looked like a pro team in the first period."

A little over seven minutes into the second frame, Owen Kalp fired a wrist shot through a maze of bodies and by goaltender Erik Maki for his second of the year to put the Lincs ahead by one. Just shy of 10 minutes later, Voortman picked the top right corner with yet another screen in front of Maki to register his second goal of the night, this time on the powerplay.

Moore found the back of the net for the second time for St. Thomas on a third-period powerplay to get the Stars within one, but St. Marys preserved the one-goal lead to take a 3-2 victory and end their losing slide at two games. Colby Booth-Housego made 24 saves to earn the win in between the pipes.

Veterans shine in feisty finals rematch

If there was any doubt that the litany of returning players on both benches had left their rivalry born in the 2024 Sutherland Cup Final, the Lincolns and Cyclones quickly erased it when they met in Listowel on Nov. 15.

Though the Lincolns emerged with the 4-1 victory in the end, Bradley admitted it took them a minute to catch up to the Cyclones.

"We had a bit of a rough start, but I think it was more so about Listowel coming out really hard. They had lost the night before and needed a win, and obviously assumed we would come out firing, so they played hard to match us and overmatched us in the first. But once we started really pushing back and

U18 A Boys unmatched en route to Silver Stick gold

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The St. Marys Cement U18 A Boys St. Marys Rock were an unstoppable force at the Nov. 15-17 Collingwood Silver Stick tournament and marched to a first-place finish as a result.

According to head coach Gord Cookson, the Rock played with tremendous intensity.

“The boys had another great weekend,” Cookson told the Independent. “They picked up right where we left off in our last tournament, where we also took first two weeks ago. They played with a pace that was unmatched and a forecheck that was very effective. The boys had a lot of energy and a lot of fun out there, finishing hits and scoring goals. When we’re playing like that, it makes for a great atmosphere that is hard for other teams to beat and really motivates us to win.”

The semi-finals saw St. Marys play a rematch from the round-robin against the Elmira Junior Sugar Kings, which the Rock defeated 5-1 on the first day of the tournament. The second time around, however, was much closer, as



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The St. Marys Cement U18 A Boys St. Marys Rock captured the top prize at the Collingwood Silver Stick tournament Nov. 15-17. Pictured laying on the ice are Luke Binning and Trevor Aarts. In the first row, from left, are coach Mason Boonstra, Hayden Britnell, Nathan Wolfkamp, Connor Hall, Adam Turner, Sam Johnson, Finn Wright and Griffin McGregor. In the back row, from left, are head coach Gord Cookson, coach Kyle Spence, Blake Lalande, Myles Clinton, Jarred Ballantyne, Grayson Boreham, Evan Ballantyne, Simon Taylor, Colton Henderson, Trevor Richardson, coach Lucas Spence and coach Brendan Near.

after Griffin McGregor and Colton Henderson scored for St. Marys, each time, the Junior Sugar Kings found an equalizer. With some stellar goaltending by Luke Binning, Elmira was held score-

less in the third period while St. Marys continued to build their confidence until, with a powerplay during a three-on-three overtime period, Evan Ballantyne buried the game-winner to put the Rock in the finals and down Elmira 3-2.

The goaltending platoon of Binning and Trevor Aarts continued to split the duties in between the pipes, with Aarts playing the final game, which saw St. Marys “outwork and outclass” the Brant Junior Titans, winning 3-0 to take the championship banner. McGregor and Ballantyne scored for St. Marys, along with Blake Lalande.

Cookson praised his goaltending tandem for being able to rotate so effectively, as well as the entire squad for their ability to perform under pressure.

“Having both our goalies playing so well in tournaments that we just have to keep rolling them every other game has been a great problem to have. To say the least, these boys all love to show up for these tournaments and keep elevating their game when it comes to elimination rounds. We’re really looking forward to what the boys are going to bring to the International Silver Stick in Sarnia in January.”

Lincs win two of three in first half of road swing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

getting in on the forecheck, we turned the game in our favour.”

In Bradley’s eyes, his squad found their stride through their intense work ethic.

“Our guys just battled incredibly hard,” said Bradley. “That was our first game this season that’s been a playoff-type atmosphere and attitude by our guys, and it was the same for Listowel. They obviously play very hard. They are very organized. We needed a minute to get there mentally, but once we did, there was no stopping us.”

With the Cyclones getting the early jump on the Lincolns, Listowel got out to a 1-0 lead when Teegan Middleton fired a point shot through a net-front crowd that sailed over Booth-Housego. That would prove to be the only shot that got by Booth-Housego, who made 22 saves to earn his 10th win of the season.

Not only has Booth-Housego won all but one of his 11 games, he has also posted a save percentage of 0.909 or higher in 10 of 11 appearances. On nine occasions, Booth-Housego’s save percentage has been at least 0.923 or higher.

On the season, Booth-Housego along with Nico Armellin have identical save percentages of 0.944 which, along with what Bradley described as an “outstanding attention to detail” on the defensive side of the puck by the entire team, has allowed the Lincolns to boast an implausibly stellar goals-against record through 19 games.

With 29 goals against in 19 games, the Lincolns are currently on pace to give up approximately 77 goals in the reg-

ular season, which would be 26 fewer than last year’s Sutherland Cup-winning Listowel Cyclones.

“They care about not getting scored on and know the importance of taking care of our end,” said Bradley. “They know they’ve got a good gauge of when they’re in trouble and when they can loosen up a bit. You look at our conference; we’re playing a tough team every night, so you have to be on your toes. They are well-prepared and willing to do what they need to do to execute our plan.”

The Lincolns emerged in the middle stanza with a more vigorous intensity, leading to Spagnolo tying the contest at one apiece. The goal was the 50th of Spagnolo’s GOJHL career, all but one of which came with St. Marys.

The final frame was when the Lincs’ burgeoning momentum finally pushed them over the top, beginning with Jaden Lee scoring just 24 seconds into the third. Spagnolo added his second of the night at the 8:51 mark of the period with a powerplay marker before Lee capped off a four-point night when he banked the puck off Listowel netminder Jack Bree from below the goal line.

According to Bradley, the team’s veterans led the Lincolns in every facet of the game, with Spagnolo, Lee, Voortman and Ryder Livermore turning in especially stellar performances.

“Luca, Jaden and Owen were obviously incredible. Ryder was outstanding as well. Those guys are leaders on this team and they played like true leaders in that game. Chase (MacQueen-Spence), Ryan (Hodkinson) and Ethan (Coups) had strong games. A lot of our older

guys really brought it and matched the physicality that Listowel threw at us.

“Ryder in particular was the big leader of all that,” Bradley continued. “Once everyone saw Ryder start going face-first into the hard, physical battles, the next guy followed after that and everyone kept it up. Our leaders set the tone for us and got us through in a really impressive way.”

Bradley was also thrilled with how his team rose to the pressure-cooker atmosphere of the game.

“You’re playing a team as good as Listowel. It’s their spotlight game and your first time playing the defending Sutherland Cup champions since losing to them in the finals. It was really the perfect opportunity for us to test

ourselves and see if those three losses we’ve had this year was something to worry about or just one of those little lulls that happen sometimes. Looking at how we played (on Nov. 15), you can look at those three losses and say, ‘You can’t win every game.’ We played absolutely fantastic against Listowel.

“It’s fun to be a part of a game like that and be a part of something that meant so much to the guys. There isn’t going to be any revenge or redemption in a regular-season game for what we went through the last time we were in that building, but our guys wanted to show them and show the rest of the league that we’re better for it and we’re turning all that pain into something good.”



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DCVI junior girls claim WOSSAA silver

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The St. Marys DCVI junior girls basketball team left WOSSAA on Nov. 13 with the silver medal after a wild semi-final win preceding a hard-fought loss in the championship final.

DCVI took on the host squad, Monsignor Bruyere, in the semis but, early on, the Salukis struggled, falling behind 13-0 and seemingly on the verge of suffering a blowout defeat. However, according to head coach Tim O'Connor, the team's ability to refocus and tighten the game off the ball swung things in their direction.

"We got better defensively and that made a big difference for us," O'Connor told the Independent. "Eventually, we hit a couple of baskets and chipped away at their lead, but the bigger part for us was getting stops. We got stronger and stronger defensively, and that has been key for us all season."

Once the Salukis found some momentum, the game became much closer, especially with Regan Jones, described as the "player of the game" by O'Connor, leading the team's revitalized defensive structure.

"Bruyere had a post player who was really solid and we had to make some adjustments at halftime to neutralize her a little bit. Regan was the main part of that effort. We tasked Regan with doing a lot to shut her down and she didn't score in the fourth quarter or overtime, which was a big part of us shutting Bruyere down altogether."

The contest became a full-blown



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The St. Marys DCVI Junior Girls basketball team captured the silver medal at WOSSAA on Nov. 13, making the finals after a thrilling 33-30 overtime win over the host Monsignor Bruyere in the semi-final. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Holly Black, Charlotte Richardson, Regan Jones and Alanna Savile. In the back row, from left, are head coach Tim O'Connor, Lena Thompson, Aryn Sheldon, Melody Weber, Reagan Stacey, Charlotte Johnson, Emma Hodgkinson, Lily Hollestelle-Black, Lu Zulu, Silver Breckon, coach Ellen Bettger, Maeve Wheeler and coach Jack Taylor.

thriller on the backs of a stellar second half that saw the Salukis complete their comeback and tie the game at 30 points apiece when Alanna Savile buried a rebound after Charlotte Richardson, who scored most of DCVI's points, fired a three-pointer that bounced off the rim four times.

"That was one of the more exciting games I've ever been a part of," said O'Connor. "We were playing Bruyere in their home gym, which was packed

and very loud, so it was a different experience from many of our other games. Whenever we were shooting free throws, the crowd was banging on the bleachers, and I love an atmosphere like that. It's fun to be in an environment like that."

The Salukis scored just three points in overtime, but with their defence holding Bruyere scoreless in extra time, DCVI took the game 33-30 to book their spot in the WOSSAA finals. The junior girls

lost in the final game to Woodstock Collegiate Institute, resulting in the team taking the silver medals.

Despite not winning their final game, O'Connor credited his group for cheering on their teammates in the pressure-cooker setting in the semis and added the team's cohesive nature was one of the hallmark achievements of the year.

"In the second half, the kids on our bench were really into the game. They were loud supporting their teammates on the court and cheering back against the crowd. That was great to see and I think that support for one another was a big part of our success in that game and this season.

"Most importantly, I hope they had fun and enjoyed themselves," O'Connor continued. "They were all very responsible in coming to practice or letting us know when they had to miss. They responded to suggestions really well. Coachability, teamwork and commitment are pieces you hope to develop in sports and I think they did a good job at those aspects."

After the medal presentation, the team gathered at centre court for one final tribute to former Saluki coach Gregg Blackler, an act of remembrance the team has performed after every game this year.

"We've tried to keep his spirit with us all season," O'Connor said. "Gregg would have really enjoyed being with this group and helping to coach them. I hope he's smiling down at us."

U11 LL Boys Blue take second at Aylmer Silver Stick

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The Nicholson Concrete U11 LL Boys Blue St. Marys Rock left the Aylmer Silver Stick tournament held Nov. 15-17 with the silver medals after an incredibly strong weekend-long performance.

During group play, St. Marys went a perfect three-for-three, beating Aylmer Red, Thamesford Green and Tillsonburg. Elliott Maddock earned his fourth shut-out of the season, supported by strong play by Maverick Akins, Brayden Rumble, Hudson Terpstra, Aiden Hibbert, Owen Barker and Harvey Terpstra.

The Rock also had numerous players record multi-goal games, including Sheamus McCutcheon, Clark Montieth, Jaxson Arn, Talon Sampson, Caxton Stewart-Noeske and Daxton Thistle.

The unbeaten round-robin record put St. Marys in a semi-final clash against Thamesford Yellow and they came away with a 6-3 win to earn a spot in the championship final. Head coach Eric Sampson told the Independent the semis was a high point in the team's year so far.

"This was our most well-rounded game this season," said Sampson. "All of our players stepped up in terms of how good their positional play and support for their teammates in tight battles were. It was a really good

team game."

Sampson also noted the team's tenacious hounding of the puck and their opponents was a major factor in their offensive output, crediting Cohen Faulhafer, Bryson Nairn, Jack McArthur and Elliot Cociu for pressuring Thamesford into making mistakes the Rock was able to capitalize on.

In the final game, St. Marys faced Aylmer Black in a high-scoring battle that was deadlocked 5-5 at the end of regulation. After a five-minute, four-on-four overtime frame and a subsequent three-on-three overtime period solved nothing, the game entered a shootout that lasted for 10 rounds until Aylmer finally scored the deciding goal.

Although describing the loss in the final game as a "heart-breaker," Sampson said he was incredibly pleased with his team's performance throughout the weekend.

"The coaches and parents may have aged during the final game," Sampson joked, "but the boys absolutely played their hearts out. They believe in each other. To go the distance on such a large stage this early in the season speaks volumes about how hard they are willing to push each other towards a common goal. I've never seen a team gel this well so early in a season. They're a special group and I feel like there's more where that came from this year."



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Hardworking U16 A Boys earn Boston Pizza Cup

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The St. Marys Legion U16 A Boys St. Marys Rock walked out of St. Thomas with their division's gold medal, winning the Boston Pizza Cup tournament hosted Nov. 15-17 in St. Thomas.

Head coach Bob Davis summarized his team's successful weekend with three key pillars.

"They came away with the tournament win because of three things – they played with confidence, they trusted what they have learned and they worked their tails off. We have been working on intensity and mental preparation coming into the tournament and we showed that in our first game against Dorchester."

Defensively, St. Marys was excellent, limiting their opponents to two goals or less in five of their six games in the tournament. The only outlier was a 3-2 loss to the Belle River Canadiens during the round-robin, a team that would later reappear in the Rock's path in the championship final.

Davis also praised his team for the speed and ferocity in going after the puck.

"We came out hard and fast, we played as a team and we didn't change over the entire tournament," remarked Davis. "We were so tenacious. We played like



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The St. Marys Legion U16 A Boys St. Marys Rock won the top prize in the Boston Pizza Cup tournament in St. Thomas Nov. 15-17. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Ethan Henderson, Zach Matheson, Cash Flannery and Ethan Culling. In the back row, from left, are Mike Davis, Bob Davis, Hunter Pickel, Kolton McAllister, Cainan O'Doherty, Don McGregor, Ben Ewing, Brody Cox, Nic Brintnell, Zach Larmer, Peyton Wynands, Hayden Wright, Jaxen Brown, Jack Turner, Grayson Gerber, Mark Brintnell and Andrew Davis.

we wanted the puck at every moment. Our forechecking all weekend was excellent and we gave ourselves opportunities to score consistently."

In an exciting semi-final, St. Marys

took on the host, the St. Thomas Junior Stars, who finished first in Pool A with a perfect four-for-four record in the round-robin, which included a 2-1 win over the Rock.

After the Stars took a 1-0 lead, Ethan Henderson tied it up in the second. The 1-1 deadlock held fast through the end of regulation and five minutes of overtime. A five-man shootout was played to determine a winner and St. Marys saw goals from Jack Turner and Kolton McAllister, while goaltender Cash Flannery only allowed one goal.

The win put St. Marys in the championship game against Belle River. This time, the Canadiens team that scored more goals on the Rock than any other failed to score a single one as Flannery backstopped the Rock to a 1-0 shutout win. The only goal of the contest was scored by Turner, who finished off a beautiful set-up pass from Zach Larmer to tally the eventual game-winner in the first period.

According to Davis, his squad managed to hang onto their one-goal lead for the remainder of the game thanks to the aggressive forechecking and never-say-die mentality they displayed throughout the weekend.

"Once we had the lead, we did two things well. We continued our aggressive forechecking, which kept Belle River frustrated and off balance. We also maintained our possession of the front of our net, which took away any of their good scoring chances. Everyone dug deep and there was no quit in anyone."

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Well-balanced U12 A Boys win Owen Sound Silver Stick

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

Seldom was there a dull moment during the Nov. 15-17 Owen Sound Silver Stick tournament, from which the St. Marys Building Centre U12 A Boys St. Marys Rock left with the gold medal.

Head coach Merlin Malinowski was ecstatic with his team's success at the tournament.

"It was so fun to see them celebrate after winning it all," Malinowski told the Independent. "They were beside themselves. They worked really hard and played so well as a team, so it was nice to see them reap the reward because they deserved it."

The Rock marched through the three-game round-robin without losing and outscored their opponents by a total of 13-4 in their three wins. Malinowski explained that his team got strong play from every part of their lineup.

"Our team is so well-balanced," Malinowski said. "We have great goaltending. Lucas (Savile) was the best goaltender in the tournament. We defend really well and we can get balanced scoring. If one line isn't scoring, our other lines are capable of chipping in. That balance throughout the lineup, both offensively and defensively, is what impresses me the most about this group."

In the semi-final, St. Marys took on the Woolwich Wildcats and withstood a late-game comeback by Woolwich to



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The St. Marys Building Centre U12 A Boys St. Marys Rock claimed the gold medal and championship banner at the Owen Sound Silver Stick held Nov. 15-17. Pictured laying on the ice is Lucas Savile. In the first row, from left to right, are Lane Munro, Attley Ehgoetz, Theo Keller, Sam Richardson, Keaton Ward and Jax Parsons. In the second row, from left, are Joey Brown, Talon Ward, Nick Simons, Liam Showers, Ryder Boehmer, Hudson Monteith and Jacob Tschirhard. In the back row, from left, are Jonathan Ward, Mark Monteith, Jeremy Savile and Merlin Malinowski.

escape with a 5-4 victory and earn a spot in the gold-medal game. After going up by 5-1, the Wildcats clawed back and got within one goal, scoring with

26 seconds left in regulation to cut St. Marys' lead to just one goal. However, the Rock managed to get the puck deep in Woolwich's zone and keep it there

long enough to run out the clock and hang on for the 5-4 victory.

The championship game featured the Rock doing battle with the New Hamburg Huskies in a fairly evenly matched, back-and-forth contest. Theo Keller scored the first St. Marys goal when he finished off a pass by Jax Parsons, who won a battle for the puck in the corner. Later in the game, Keaton Ward picked up the puck at the St. Marys blueline and flew by a Huskies' defender to get in all alone and beat the New Hamburg netminder to put St. Marys up 2-1.

After New Hamburg tied the game at two apiece, Keller jammed home a loose puck during a net-front scramble to put St. Marys back up by one. Keller's second goal of the game held up as the game-winner as the Rock held on for a 3-2 victory.

According to Malinowski, the tournament highlighted the team's steady improvement in many facets of their structural play.

"We've been talking about doing some things in various situations on the ice, whether that's in the neutral zone, in our end without the puck, how we want to defend and our powerplay break out, and we're starting to see them do those things and believe in those systems. It's great to see us take a step forward in that way because if they continue to buy into what we're preaching, we are going to be a really tough team to play against," the coach said.

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Natalie McCorquodale collects a loose ring in the offensive zone during the U12 St. Marys Snipers' game this past Sunday.



Liam McCutcheon puts a shot on net during this past Sunday's St. Marys Ford U9 LL Boys Red St. Marys Rock game.



Jack 'Elvis' Reitmeyer launches a shot from the blueline during the Easy Lift Doors U13 LL Boys Blue St. Marys Rock game this past Sunday.



Landon Thompson sends a wrist shot on goal during last Thursday's Cubberley Heating and Plumbing U13 LL Boys Red St. Marys Rock game.



Kane Douglas defends an incoming rush during the Social Thirty-One U11 A Boys St. Marys Rock game this past Monday.



Rylan Dobinson fires a shot from the point during this past Monday's Dunny's Source For Sports U13 A Boys St. Marys Rock game.

(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTOS)

U15 B Girls capture gold at Festival Cup



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Sam's Home Hardware U15 B Girls St. Marys Rock earned the gold medal at the Festival Cup held Nov. 15-17. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Maddie Jefferies, Jenna Gooder, Ramona Graham, Abby Russell and Ellie MacArthur. In the middle, from left, are Kayla Visneskie, Kasey Storey, Brooke Roth, Emma Carradine, Maeve Wheeler, Mira Broughton, Chloe Pethick, Avery Fifield, Janet Edey and Chandler Smith. In the back, from left, are Mike Carradine, Kelly Linton and Bob Wheeler.

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The Sam's Home Hardware U15 B Girls St. Marys Rock went undefeated in the Festival Cup tournament hosted Nov. 15-17, defeating the Lambeth Lancers 3-2 in the gold-medal game.

After a dominant 3-1 victory in the semis against the Wilmot Wolverines, the Rock met the Lancers in the championship contest where, for much of the game, the play stayed in Lambeth's half of the ice. According to head coach Kelly Linton, the team's swarming presence in the opposition's zone lifted them to their eventual win.

"Our pressure in the offensive zone was great," Linton told the Independent. "We didn't let them get into our end much. We outshot them by a pretty good margin. We were in their zone most of the time and that allowed us to control most of the game. We didn't have to worry too much about goals going in since we spent a lot of time in their end, but even when we weren't, Ramona (Graham) was awesome in net for us."

Kayla Visneskie, Chloe Pethick and Maddie Jefferies scored for St. Marys

in the final game. Visneskie is one-third of the team's top line alongside Ellie MacArthur and Emma Carradine, while Pethick and Jeffreys are part of a gritty, responsible trio of forwards in addition to Kasey Storey.

Linton had high praise for both lines, noting the team's depth was critical to their eventual tournament victory.

"What impressed me most was the strength of our depth. We had contributions from every line. Our line of Chloe, Maddie and Kasey did really well this weekend. We got two goals from them in the finals and another earlier in the tournament when we hadn't gotten a ton of offensive production from them this season. They really stepped up this weekend and made a big difference for us, which hopefully will give them a good confidence boost.

"Our first line of Kayla, Ellie and Emma was fantastic throughout the tournament as well," added Linton. "They controlled the puck incredibly well and were a big reason why we were able to keep the play in the other team's end so much. They definitely were a factor for most of the weekend."

Snipers grateful for Delmar Foods jersey donation



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The St. Marys Ringette Association (SMRA) had their Fun1's Snipers team go to Delmar Foods Factory and Outlet on Nov. 9 to meet the store crew. The visit was a sign of gratitude after Delmar Foods graciously donated jerseys for the Snipers' 'littles', which includes the Fun1, Fun2, and Fun3 teams. The players received a practice jersey for on- and off-ice activities which display the SMRA and Delmar Foods logos. The SMRA has developed several programs specifically focused on skating development for younger players, the largest registration group within the association.



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St. Marys bowlers compete in YBC singles tournament



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

The St. Marys Bowling Lanes had several of their youth bowlers earn strong results in the YBC Singles tournament on Nov. 17. On the left is Amanda Kittmer, who competed in the Bantam division at Victoria Bowl in Kitchener and placed fifth. Kittmer bowled all five games over her average. The Junior division was hosted in St. Marys and Jack Brockman took fifth while Natalie McKeen finished 13th, both pictured in the middle. Tyler Sims and Rory Brockman, pictured on the right, attended the Senior Singles tournament at Mike's Lanes in Stratford. Sims placed seventh and posted over 200 points in each of his five games. Brockman placed 10th in the Seniors division. The bowling lanes thanks the Downie Optimists for covering their lineage fees for the tournament.

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U11 B Girls never outworked in Festival Cup gold-medal run

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

A relentless work ethic led the St. Marys Landscaping U11 B Girls St. Marys Rock to the first-place prize at the Festival Cup held Nov. 15-17.

Head coach Dave Blake told the Independent he was thrilled with the tenacity of his group throughout the tournament.

“Goal number one for every game with this group is to never be outworked in any game, and they delivered on that goal all weekend,” said Blake. “The coaching staff couldn’t be more proud of the compete level these girls showed and their overall determination each game.”

The Rock’s strong teamwork and cohesive play allowed them to explode for 12 goals in the semi-final, taking a 12-0 shutout over the Cambridge Roadrunners to punch their ticket to the finals, where they met a familiar foe in the host Stratford Aces.

Both teams knew each other well, with the game being the fourth meeting of the teams in the last 10 days, and, after a brief spell of somewhat shaky hockey, St. Marys settled into the game and eventually scored the first goal of the contest with Ellie McDonald shaking off multiple defenders before finishing off a breakaway.

Kylie Blake extended the Rock’s lead to two with a goal early in the second



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The St. Marys Landscaping U11 B Girls St. Marys Rock won the gold medal at the Nov. 15-17 Festival Cup tournament. Pictured laying on the ice, from left to right, are Mya Grose and Brynlee Pickel. In the second row, from left, are Amelia Falkiner, Jessica Zwambag, Jaynie Johnston and Audrey Parsons. In the third row, from left, are Emily Ewing, Kylie Blake, Alex Harlton, Samantha Matheson, Addison Hudson, Ellie McDonald and Emily Chateauvert. In the back row, from left, are coaches Dave Blake, Ian Johnston, Jamie Matheson, Marty Rutledge and Nicole Pickel.

frame, punctuating St. Marys’ heavy momentum advantage and forcing Stratford to call a timeout to attempt to stem the tide.

Initially, it seemed to work with the Aces cutting the lead in half midway through the period. However, the second half of the game was overtaken by

Jaynie Johnston, who scored St. Marys’ third goal, set up the team’s fourth goal potted by Amelia Falkiner and iced the contest with her second of the game to make it 5-1.

Brynlee Pickel and Mya Grose shared the goaltending duties and both turned in strong play throughout the weekend.

Speaking on his team’s tireless work ethic, Blake said it was central to all of the positive elements of their game that guided the team to their gold medal.

“This team is a group of very strong skaters who have an incredible understanding and ability to backcheck. Every game, when other teams got the puck and tried to get something going, they would be met with strong defence and two forwards hot on their heels. This allows us to not only limit scoring chances against, but also to control play and frustrate opponents.”

The head coach also said the tournament highlighted some positive developments in the squad’s overall abilities.

“Our theme this year has been creating time and space, and we have been working on teaching the players how to do that by being mindful of positioning, anticipating the play and building team-focused skills such as good passing,” Blake said. “We saw big strides this weekend with team play as a whole that allowed us to move the puck around quickly, giving us more time with the puck and better opportunities as a group.”

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Solutions on page 33

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In response to Stewart Grant's editorial

I appreciated hearing a solid voice from our community newspaper on the critical subject of the absolute absurdity of a felon attaining the highest office on the planet over a professional woman known to be tough on crime from her career spent in successfully fighting crime.

This election result was a clear denunciation of rule of law in America, and further, an emphatic renunciation of America as world leader. Expect horrible outcomes, in this country and around the world, from the coming Trumpian leadership of the so-called free world. He has every intention of making it a dictatorship if he can.

People imagine this impossible, yet since this white-collar criminal descended his escalator at Trump Tower almost a decade ago, guess what has changed in America? Corruption is no longer hiding at all. It is embraced with brazen enthusiasm by a political party that has lost its very soul. If you are sickened by thoughts of Matt Gaetz as attorney general, you certainly should be.

We in Canada will not escape unscathed from this catastrophe. Trump will exempt no country from his tariff scheme. Expect the worst because Trump always brings on the very worst. Think back and remember his

last presidency and how many people died because of his irresponsible actions during COVID.

You want to fight back? Begin now to stand behind the efforts of the only party that does at least have some integrity, although it needs also to examine its soul (think of the donors funding it). If you know American Democrats, reach out to them – support them! Democrats need to remember that you don't merely try to appeal to a constituency, you do things that speak directly to them and to their lives. You see them. If the greater half of America is angry enough (many did not vote) to vote for a felon as their president, it is because the American middle class, just like Canada's, is struggling and they are filled with rage. They never recovered from COVID (think debt). The cost of living has become impossible for many, and the young cannot afford housing.

We are involved; our efforts matter. Inflation is not totally under control by any means, and if Donald Trump intends to deport millions of people from the USA, expect food to become far more expensive in the short term. Inflation is going to skyrocket from tariffs and our relations with the USA are about to become far more frosty. If you have land, start growing food and move in the direction of shared gardens.

Thank you for your editorial, Stewart. You laid it out well. Kamala Harris also lost because Americans, particularly Hispanic men – really many men from whatever community – are obviously unready for a strong, female president with morals, let alone a Black female president, which is utterly sad and stupid.

Harris also did play it too safe. She needed to be able to speak directly to the financial pain of the middle class, but she also, sadly too, counted on the female vote – and they deserted her. Almost half of white women, 46 per cent, voted for a convicted rapist. Just wow. As a fiction writer and poet, I would never have dreamed that America, where I lived a decade of my life, would ever have fallen so bloody low. We are in this together, yes, but it is going to be a surefire shit-show.

Buckle in and hunker down to fight.
Kate Orland Bere, St. Marys

Leave American politics out of the newspaper

Dear Mr. Grant,

Thank you for the many unseen hours you put into our local newspaper. I feel it enhances the community fabric in St. Marys and appreciate receiving it each week.

I am concerned, however, about several recent pieces I've read about your opinions on the political scene in the US. As one who is married to an American citizen, I am well aware that there are no shortage of places one can look to find coverage and differing commentaries on the latest in politics south of the border. This is not what I want to read in what is heralded as a local newspaper.


Would you consider investing your time and energy

into political commentaries that speak to local, provincial, or national political stories? I recognize that US politics have an undeniable impact on Canadians. As one of the households in this community that do vote in American elections, however, I would ask you to let us find our own coverage on the seemingly endless platforms that devote themselves to this arena.

Meantime, as the frontman for the Independent, you hold a strategic position that can wield great influence – without a clear and obvious bias – closer to home.

There's room here to do better for our community.
Respectfully,
Rachel Hilliker, St. Marys

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Community Liaison Committee
 The next Community Liaison Committee Meeting will be held on **Friday December 6th at 10am** at the St Marys Municipal Operations Center. Members of the public who wish to observe are welcome to attend.
 Residents who wish to speak in front of the Committee may submit a detailed request in writing at least 3 days prior to the meeting in writing to the Committee. The request will be considered by the Committee and approved prior to the meeting. Please submit all requests, questions, and concerns for the meeting to kara.pelissero@vcimentos.com by **Friday December 4th**

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COLUMNS

UKRAINIAN CORNER: Walking the streets of Odesa

TETIANA DIDKOVSKA

Independent Columnist

Today, I invite you to explore my favourite city, Odesa – the Ukrainian "Pearl by the Sea." This vibrant city is rich in history and charm. For centuries, Odesa has been a major trade and tourist center in Ukraine and is home to the country's largest seaport. A picturesque European resort town, Odesa retains its unique character, and its historic centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The first settlement on the site of modern Odesa was known as Kotsyubiyiv, later renamed Khadzhibey until Catherine II officially named it Odesa in 1795. The name has since spread worldwide. For instance, in the United States, cities named Odesa exist in Washington, Delaware, Missouri, Minnesota, Florida, New York, Nebraska and Texas. Even Canada's provinces of Ontario and Saskatchewan have their own versions of Odesa.

Now, let's take a stroll through this uniquely Ukrainian city, starting with one of its iconic landmarks, the Potemkin Stairs. These famous steps lead from the city to the sea. Over the years, the stairs have had different names. Originally known as the Richelieu Stairs and later as the Boulevard Stairs, they became "Potemkin" after featuring prominently in the classic film Battleship Potemkin.

This monumental staircase was a gift from Prince Vorontsov to his wife, Elizaveta. With a length of 142 metres and 192 steps, the Potemkin Stairs are among the ten most beautiful staircases in Europe. Every year, Odesa hosts the "Up the Potemkin Stairs" race with the record for climbing all 192 steps standing at 22.8 seconds. In recognition of its cinematic legacy, the Potemkin Stairs were designated a "Treasure of European Film Culture" by the European Film Academy in 2015.

In 1902, Ukraine's first funicular was installed beside the Potemkin Stairs in Odesa. Though modernized, the



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Top left: The Potemkin Stairs. Top right: The Steve Jobs Monument. Bottom left: The Darth Vader Statue. Bottom right: The Odesa catacombs.

funicular remains a vital part of city transport and offers a beautiful view of the seaport from its windows.

Another unique feature of Odesa is its numerous cat

sculptures – 21 in total. These metal cats can be found across the city, including on General Petrov Street, Torgovaya Street, Mayakovsky Alley, Lanzheron Beach and in Victory Park. Exploring Odesa in search of all these feline figures adds an extra layer of fun, and along the way, you'll discover some unusual monuments, such as:

- The Steve Jobs Monument – located on Novoselsky Street, installed by students of the technical university.
- The Darth Vader Statue – an amusing piece on the grounds of the Pressmash plant.

Odesa offers activities for all types of visitors. For those seeking relaxation, the Black Sea beaches provide a perfect place to unwind. For adventurers, the Odesa catacombs present a unique opportunity. Spanning over 3,000 kilometres, this network of underground passages is the longest in the world. Legends about Odesa's past criminals, including the bandit, Mykhailo Vynnytskyi, also known as "Mishka the Japanese," still echo within these catacombs. According to lore, Mishka hid a stash of gold and other treasures in these tunnels, hiding the loot from his smuggling activities.

Above all, Odesa is known as Ukraine's capital of good humour. Every year on April 1, the city celebrates Humorina, a festival dedicated to humour and satire. The event transforms the city with a vibrant parade featuring comedians, actors and acrobats in colourful costumes. The streets come alive with humorous performances and food festivals offering sweets for every taste.

Odesans are welcomed with warmth and a great sense of humour. The locals, skilled in the art of bargaining, love to interact with newcomers and showcase their charismatic city. After experiencing Odesa's charm, I am sure you'll be captivated by its spirit and will want to return. To be continued ...

Straight from the Shelves

LAURA MCASH

St. Marys Public Library

While you're enjoying the Downtown Merchant Open House this Saturday, stop by the Library to create an ornament or two at our Makerspace Workshop! Drop in anytime between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. to make a holiday ornament in our Makerspace. It's so easy and fun that you'll be wanting to come back to make more! This program is free to attend, and no registration is required. No experience is needed to participate, and staff will be on hand to provide support. We hope to see you there!

This Week's Recommendation

As musical theatre lovers prepare to defy gravity this weekend with the long-awaited arrival of "Wicked" at a movie theatre near you, consider getting familiar with Elphaba and Glinda in the book the musical is loosely based on. "Wicked: The Life and Times of the

Wicked Witch of the West" by Gregory Maguire offers a behind-the-scenes look at OZ. The first book in "The Wicked Years" series, "Wicked" follows Elphaba and her involvement with the political tensions in the Emerald City and beyond. "Wicked" is available as a regular book and as an eBook.

Up This Week

- Fri., Nov. 22: Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Sat., Nov. 23: Makerspace Workshop – Holiday Ornaments (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.)
- Mon., Nov. 25: Open 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Tues., Nov. 26: Tuesday Book Club* (11 a.m.)
- Wed., Nov. 27: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30-10:30 a.m.), Mahjong! (1-4 p.m.), Scrabble (6-8 p.m.)
- Thurs., Nov. 28: Article Club* (2:30 p.m.), Learn to Play...Mahjong!* (6-8 p.m.)

*Registration Required

Ask the Arborist

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



Dear Arborist,

Recently we removed a Manitoba Maple. The inside of the wood was red in some places but not in all places. Wondering why? It is kind of pretty, though.

Kind of Pretty

Dear Kind of Pretty,

The red colour in the Manitoba Maple is caused by stress, particularly weight or wind. The brilliant red colour occurs when the tree is resisting gravity or wind which stresses the wood. This rich coloured wood is

highly valued by wood workers especially those who turn wooden bowls on a lathe.

However, I have heard you have to get to it fairly early or it apparently fades.

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: Samuel Dusty

MARY SMITH

Independent Columnist

The rather blurry photograph with this week's column, taken about 75 years ago, shows the two-storey, white brick house that still stands at 195 Station Street. Built in 1879, it was sold that same year to Samuel Dusty, one of the first settlers in St. Marys. He was a boot and shoemaker by trade and for his first 30 or so years in town, he and his family lived above his shop on Church Street North near the market square. When he was well established and one of his sons was able to work along with him, he felt he could live on premises separate from his business. Dusty was a determined man and dedicated to his work.

Samuel Dusty was born in the Niagara region in September 1826, the son of Anthony Dusty and Mary Beaudier who had moved to Ontario from Quebec. They were descendants of Huguenots – members of a protestant sect from France who had been persecuted for their religion. Samuel's ancestors fled to North America, settling on Ile d'Orleans, Quebec. The family tradition was that the name "Dusty" was an English corruption of the French surname "D'Auste." Samuel was the eldest of Anthony and Mary's children. A brother Edward was born in 1827, and two sisters, Nancy and Mary, arrived soon after. When Samuel was nine, Edward eight and Nancy just three years old, both their parents and their baby sister, Mary, died in a terrible fire that destroyed their home.

A Scots family took in the three young orphans, and perhaps at this time their surname was settled as "Dusty." The head of the household may have been a shoemaker, and the boys became his apprentices. When they were old enough to move out on their own, both Samuel and Edward earned their living as boot and shoemakers. They went in different directions, however. Edward went to eastern Ontario and settled in Reach Township in Ontario County. By the 1861 census, he was married with three children. Samuel travelled west, and by the late 1840s, records show that he was a property owner in the village of St. Marys. The brothers kept in touch: Edward named one of his sons "Samuel" and Samuel named one of his sons "Edward."

In St. Marys, Samuel may have begun working with George McIntyre, another boot and shoemaker, who was about the same age. George was a member of a



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The home at 195 Station St. in St. Marys was built in 1879.

large Scots farming family in Fullarton Township, just north of St. Marys. He was one of several brothers in that family who left the farm and moved into St. Marys to become businessmen. In December 1848, Samuel Dusty married 18-year-old Janet McIntyre, George's sister. By the 1851 census, they were the parents of a little boy, named George. Nancy Dusty either followed or accompanied her brother, Samuel, to St. Marys. Although records of her life are scarce, she first married Thomas LaMarche. They had a son, Norman, born in the early 1860s. Thomas LaMarche died, and sometime in the late 1860s, Nancy remarried. The 1871 census shows her as the wife of James Jardine, a blacksmith. He was a widower with several children from his first marriage. Seven-year-old Norman LaMarche was also a member of this St. Marys household. By 1891, Nancy was again a widow, earning her living as a "tailoress."

In 1858, Samuel Dusty built a two-storey limestone commercial block on the northwest corner of Queen and Church Streets. He set up his boot and shoemaking business in a portion of the building that faced onto Church Street. George McIntyre, his brother-in-law, had his storefront nearby, facing onto Queen Street. Another brother-in-law, John Sanderson (who was married to Janet's sister, Agnes McIntyre) had a lumber business just to the southeast. Their investment in this part of downtown St. Marys gave Dusty, McIntyre and Sanderson considerable influence as the local council decided whether a new town

hall should be "downtown" – along Water Street, close to the grist mill by the Thames River, or "uptown" at the intersection of Queen and Church Streets. The uptowners won and a two-storey frame town hall was erected on the northeast corner of the intersection. That's where the first council meeting was held in 1864 when the village of St. Marys was raised to the status of a town. Samuel Dusty rented the front portion of his block to Alexander Beattie. His general store, A. Beattie & Co., prospered on that corner for many years.

By the time of the 1871 census, Samuel, age 44, and Janet, age 40, had six children living at home – all boys. (Four other little boys had not survived childhood.) Janet gave birth to her eleventh and twelfth children – twins – in 1872 when she was 42. The twins were a boy and a girl – Janet had a daughter at last! The little girl was also named Janet, but often called Jessie. Edward Dusty, the oldest surviving son, was listed in 1871 as a shoemaker, age 19, working with his father. By the 1881 census, Edward was married with two little boys of his own. There were more changes to come. In 1879, Samuel and Janet Dusty and the half dozen of their children still at home moved into a new house, set on a spacious double-lot on the northwest corner of Station and Peel Street, just a short walk across the Church Street Bridge to the boot and shoe shop on the market square.

Set well back from Station Street, the house was built into the Peel Street hill. From the front, or south façade, it ap-

peared to be a two-storey house. But, at the back, most of the lower level was below ground. A short set of steps led up to an enclosed back porch opening from the upstairs hallway. Perhaps it was used as a sleeping porch on hot summer nights. For a cross breeze, a door at the south end of the hall opened onto a balcony over the entrance porch. There were four bedrooms, two on each side of the central hall.

On the lower level, the front entrance led into a wide central hall with a staircase that turned at a large landing. On the east side, a parlour ran the full length of the house from north to south. On the west side were the dining room and the kitchen. The photograph shows a two-storey frame addition that was rather awkwardly attached to the main brick building, perhaps 20 years after it was built. It may seem out of keeping with the brick house but in 1900 piped municipal water became available in St. Marys. Rather than convert one of his existing rooms into a bathroom, Samuel Dusty chose to build an addition. Bathtub, sink, and toilet were on the upper level, nearest the bedrooms, and a new kitchen with running water was on the ground level. The earlier kitchen was converted to a pantry.

Samuel Dusty sold this house in 1906 to Isabella Donald whose family had lived on a farm just east of St. Marys, now the Gowan Brae portion of the golf course. Other relatives took over the farm and she moved into town with an unmarried son and daughter. Isabella brought strawberry plants and raspberry canes from the farm. She found space for a large vegetable garden beside the house and carried on all the family's traditional activities of growing and preserving fruit and vegetables. On the front lawn, there was a grape arbour and lovely beds of perennials. Maple trees along the front of the lot screened the house from the sawmill across Station Street. When the last of the Donalds died in 1963, the house was sold and converted into apartments, thus losing many of its original features.

Janet Dusty died in 1901, age 70, and Samuel died in 1912 at the age of 87. His obituary in the St. Marys Journal acknowledged him as one of the first merchants in St. Marys and one of the earliest members of the St. Marys Methodist Church. Six of his original 12 children survived him but they had all left St. Marys, taking the name and the memories of the Dusty family with them.

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FROM THE GARDEN: What's biodiversity?



NANCY ABRA
Independent Columnist

I recently attended a seminar on biodiversity that pertains to the garden landscape. It can be complicated, complex and for some, controversial. But simply put, biodiversity is the 'variety of all living things and their interactions'.

The term 'biodiversity' encompasses the variety of species, ecosystems and genetic differences living within an area, habitat and/or climatic zone. It is a crucial concept in understanding the interconnectedness of life in our gardens and on Earth.

We have taken many wildlife species for granted. According to World Wildlife Fund, there has been a substantial decline in wildlife populations of birds and various pollinators in the last 50 years. Across North America certain species of sparrows, warblers and finches have dropped. A significant portion of native bees have declined and some bumblebee species in Ontario

are endangered or at the risk of extinction. Monarch butterflies, important culturally and ecologically across North America have plummeted by 80% in the past 20 years. Some drivers of biodiversity loss include habitat destruction, invasive species, disease and climate change.

If we compare the landscape design of 50 years ago, yards had manicured lawns, sprayed for unwanted weeds, gardens were symmetrical with non-native perennials, shrubs and trees. The design was simple and orderly with no consideration of wildlife and the environment. In the last few decades there has been a cultural shift towards being more diverse with plant species, and the consideration of supporting wildlife, pollinators and being more sustainable but still be attractively pleasing. But we need to do more.

For instance, growing a wide range of plant species including trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and groundcovers, helps create a diverse ecosystem. Native plants are particularly beneficial as they adapt to the local environment and support a variety of wildlife. Did you know that oak trees are considered a keystone species, supporting over 500 species of birds, insects, mammals, and types of fungi?

Planting a variety of flowers and native plants that attract



pollinators such as butterflies, native bees and hummingbirds is vital. These plants provide homes, food, nectar, and pollen that support these essential species. Also, without pollinators biodiversity is lost, ecosystems could collapse, and food production would be severely impacted. Creating habitats such as log piles for our beneficial insects such as lady bugs, solitary bees, and predatory wasps and beetles helps control pest populations naturally. Shelters such as birdhouses and rockeries encourages birds and animals to

take up residence in the garden which increases biodiversity.

Biodiversity is also important below the ground. Organic matter added to the soil through composting improves soil health and biodiversity, providing essential nutrients and creating a habitat for beneficial microorganisms. Mulching helps retain soil moisture, suppresses weeds and adds organic matter to the soil as it breaks down. All of this helps promote a diverse soil ecosystem.

Biodiverse gardens are more resilient to environmen-

tal changes and stresses such as disease, pests and climate fluctuations. A diverse garden attracts natural predators of pests, reducing the need for chemical interventions. The variety of both native and non-native plants supports a wide variety of pollinators as well as other critters, providing food for birds and essential to produce many of our fruits and vegetables. A garden full of biodiversity is vibrant, visually appealing, full of life and a self-sustaining ecosystem.



THE TOWNSHIP OF PERTH SOUTH

2023 Audited Financial Statements

In accordance with Section 295 of the Municipal Act 2001, the audited financial statements for the Township of Perth South for the year ended December 31, 2023, are available at the Township of Perth South Municipal Office, at no cost to any taxpayer or resident of the municipality upon request. The audited financial statements are also available on the Township's website www.perthsouth.ca

Rebecca Clothier
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/Treasurer
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Thorndale News

A section within the
St. Marys Independent

Think Thorndale for those holiday shopping needs



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

The Christmas Market Boutique organized by Sharyl Vandendries of Shake the Sugar Tree on Saturday, Nov. 16 drew crowds of shoppers. There were over 80 artisans, crafters and entrepreneurs as well as Thorndale United Church ladies with their lunch counter and West Missouri Public School Grade 8 students with their bake table. Money raised through the raffle went to Child Can. "It is wonderful how people come out and support our local community," said Vandendries.

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

The holiday season is fast approaching and many people are preparing their to-do list.

Before making that trek to the malls or those online purchases, check out what the business community of Thorndale has to offer.

Small-town businesses and area entrepreneurs have a tremendous impact on this community. For instance, they provide jobs and income to area residents. They influence the economic growth as money spent at local business tends to stay within the community, creating a cycle of economic activity and prosperity.

Small businesses often bring a uniqueness with their products and services that enhances Thorndale's identity and character as well as strengthens community ties. On a regular basis, these businesses contribute to our community group's projects, which helps build a strong relationship. Besides the economic and social aspects, there is also the environmental benefits in shopping local, which reduces the need to travel to larger cities, and many area businesses prioritize sustainability and environmentally friendly practices.

The community of Thorndale is a good place to start holiday shopping and begins with checking out www.ilovethorndale.ca and the area business page.

Motion passed to lower speed on Fairview Road

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

Thames Centre council has voted to lower speed limits on Fairview Road at the northern entrance to Thorndale.

At the Thames Centre council meeting Nov. 4, a motion was brought forward by Ward 1 Coun. Tom Heeman and was passed by council. The result was direction to municipal staff to lower the speed limit on Fairview Road from the northern approach into the town of Thorndale from 80 km/hr to 60 km/hr starting at the railway crossing, and to

have the previous 50 km/hr transition to be reduced to 40 km/hr.

"The goal of this is to slow traffic down," Heeman said in a social media post, "before they enter the town boundary. "Eighty to 50 is too sharp of a transition. The new limits also create more enforcement opportunities for police. Here's hoping drivers will drive safer."

There is an OPP online Citizen Self Reporting tool www.opp.ca/index.php?id=132 for minor crimes including poor-driving complaints like following too close, unsafe passing and failing to abide by road signs.

Joining the Swiftie friendship movement



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Even though they didn't have tickets to Taylor Swift's concert, Hildie, age nine, along with her mother, Laura Langford, spent the day with all the Swifties in Toronto. "It was a wonderful experience for the both of us," Laura remarked. "Setting aside the troubles of the world, everyone was so happy and excited, meeting new people, having fun, making and trading friendship bracelets, and smiles everywhere. My favourite part was sharing the excitement of the day with my daughter, Hildie."

Masonic Child Identification Program to be hosted in Thorndale

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

The Masonic Child Identification Program (MASONICH.I.P) sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Canada in the province of Ontario, uses police-approved techniques to create a child-identification kit for parents or guardians to use in case their child goes missing.

On Saturday, Nov. 30, the MASONICH.I.P. program will take place at the Mt. Olivet Lodge on Harrison Street in Thorndale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is hosted by lodge members, is free and open to families with children as well as caregivers of seniors in Thorndale and the surrounding community.

That day, there will be different stations set up. Volunteers will record the child's height and weight along with

hair and eye colour, and any identifying birthmarks or scars. They will also take a cheek swab from each child. Digital fingerprints are also taken as well as digital photos of the front and profile of the child. Along with this, a video recording of that child is taken.

The volunteers will ask the child various questions about themselves as a voice print of the child. There are no surgical procedures used.

This identification information is given to the parents or caretakers and is not saved on the equipment or uploaded to any internet sites. This kit is offered free of charge as a community service from the Mt. Olivet Lodge members with the sentiment that "We hope you never need to use it." For more information, contact Geoff Clays at 519-461-1065.

Thorndale Lions

Santa Claus Parade

Friday, December 13th
at 7:00 PM

For route information, go to www.thorndalelionsclub.ca
Join us at the community centre afterwards for some holiday festivities



Riddles

If athletes get athletes foot then what do astronauts get?

Missile-toe

Why was the clock in the cafeteria always slow?

Because every lunch it went back four seconds

What is the hardest thing to hold that even the strongest person in the world has difficulty with?

Your breath

What did the duck say to the waiter?

"Put it on my bill"

Where does a 600 pound gorilla sit?

Anywhere he wants

What did the doctor say to the rocket ship?

"Time to get your booster shot"

What did the Nerds Candy want to be when it grew up?

A Smartie

What did the bread say to the man?

Nothing, bread can't talk

What did the bee say to the naughty bee?

"Bee-hive yourself"

If Mr & Mrs Bigger had a baby, who would be the biggest?

The baby would be a little Bigger

Word Search

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26 Wellington St. S. St. Marys

Phone: 519-284-4408 | Cell: 226-374-8231

Email: alearning@town.stmarys.on.ca

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DOWNTOWN MERCHANTS HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

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

Word List

Saturday

Sunday

Annual event

Bigger and better

Whoville

Carriage rides

Grinch

Elves

Treats

Selfie station

Decorations

Giveaways

Promotions

Merry Christmas



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What do you call a bear with no teeth?



A gummy bear!

Shauna Mary Barber (4)

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 Pets of the Week are Lily and Chase, both husky cross dogs that came from ARF, a rescue organization. Lily is eleven and Chase is almost two. You would never find two nicer dogs than these two with their happy manner and pleasing personalities. They are great companions for a hound, Maggy May who is three. Chuck and Diane Herniman are the happy owners of this menagerie.



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

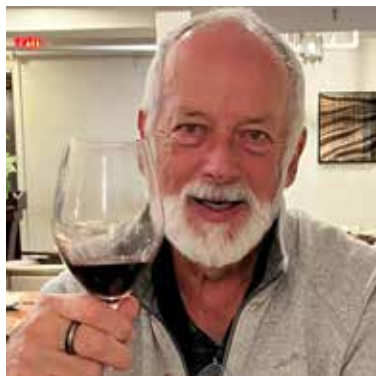
Many people think that allergies only happen in the spring and summer, but thanks to weeds and plants that pollinate in the fall (think ragweed), seasonal allergies are also quite common in the autumn. In addition, dogs who are sensitive to year-round household allergens, like dust mites and house molds, might have their symptoms flare up in the fall, when the cool, crisp air and the rainy season drive everyone back indoors.

Don't miss the signs of fall allergies—they're nothing to sneeze about

- Itching—this is the most common symptom!
- Excessive paw licking
- Redness and inflammation
- Hair loss
- Scaly or crusty skin
- Raised, red bumps and/or round lesions

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www.stmarysvetclinic.com

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Museum a labour of love in New Denmark



PAUL KNOWLES

Independent Columnist

Let's be honest, here; you are unlikely to travel to New Brunswick solely for the purpose of visiting the small, quaint New Denmark Memorial Museum. But if you are in New Brunswick – and I can give you dozens of reasons why this wonderful province should be included in your travel plans – you really should schedule a stop at this small-town museum, a labour of love by local folks determined to preserve and honour their legacy.

Our hosts at the museum were Shelley Partanan and Ron Hansen, both volunteers and both descendants of the original Danish settlers who came to this part of New Brunswick in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The newly refurbished museum is a product of the energy and commitment of the local community, a group of people determined to honour their heritage as proud Canadians, but also as proud offspring of some pioneering Danish immigrants.

Partanan told us that the first shipload of Danes to come to the area arrived in Saint John in 1872 and took a smaller boat up the Saint John River to found what is now New Denmark. They were lured to Canada by promises of land ready to be farmed, a road system and plac-

es to live. These promises were exaggerations at the least, outright lies at the worst.

That first ship brought 29 Danes to New Brunswick. They were given 100 acres of land each but found they had to clear the land, build the roads and live together in one common building.

They persevered and over the next five decades or so were joined by friends and relatives from Denmark until eventually, the community numbered 119 families.

This history – and subsequent events in the community – are commemorated in the museum. The exhibits include a building a few metres away from the main museum, a small-scale replica of the original communal house shared by the first Danes to arrive. That building was constructed several decades ago by a much younger Hansen, who was just 17 years old at the time the reproduction house was built.

The museum itself reopened in the summer of 2024 after extensive reconstruction of the building and reconfiguration and redesign of the exhibits.

The reconstruction was a challenging project. Partanan notes “every single thing in the building had to be packed up and removed” because they had to remediate mould and asbestos issues. But that also presented the volunteers with an unprecedented opportunity; they cleaned and labelled every artefact before they were returned to the museum.

The museum acknowledges the agricultural heritage of the area; New Denmark was home to dairy farms, a cheese factory and potato farming. Par-

tanan says that in the earliest days, “I have heard stories that they were planting potatoes among the trees,” for food for the pioneer families. Today, almost all the local agriculture is about potatoes.

There are exhibits about almost every aspect of life in New Denmark. The Women's Institute – once a vital organization in New Denmark, as it was in many smaller Canadian communities – has a section dedicated to its work. So does the school – which is appropriate, since the building that now houses the museum was once the local primary school, which Hansen attended in 1968 for one year. The school was closed in 1969.

It may not be a surprise considering the community's Scandinavian roots that New Denmark was once home to ski-jumping competitions and this and other local sports history is on display in the museum. One baseball team honoured bore the entirely appropriate name, The Spuds.

Hansen's grandfather was the first postmaster in the community, operating the post office out of his convenience store. His desk, chair and other memorabilia form one small exhibit at the museum.

And there are examples of unique Danish traditions carried on proudly in the newcomers' new homeland such as brightly coloured Danish dancing costumes.

One of the most moving exhibits in the museum is the



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

New Denmark Memorial Museum volunteers Shelley Partanan and Ron Hansen.

wall of photos honouring the men and women of New Denmark who were in the armed forces during the world wars. I noted that the relatively small community had contributed a surprisingly large number of young people to the war efforts, and Partanan and Hansen said this was a reflection of the love the people of New Denmark had both for their adopted country of Canada and for their original homeland in Europe.

The New Denmark Memorial Museum is a moving tribute to the Danish pioneers who came to New Brunswick to start new lives, and to their descendants who continued that commitment. But it is also a tribute to the residents of today who have devoted so much volunteer time

and effort to keep that history alive.

The museum is open to visitors, June through August, staffed by students thanks to government grants, but the local volunteers would be happy to give tours in the off-season to interested people as well. In a true reflection of rural hospitality, Partanan pointed out there is a sign with contact information and, if visitors call, “Somebody will run up.” Admission is by donation.

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 Women's Institute exhibit.



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KOATS

4

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CELEBRATION

SHACKS 80TH!



**Saturday, November 23rd
2 pm - 6 pm**

*Downie Optimist Hall, St. Pauls
Food, refreshments and music. No gifts please*

A Candlelight Christmas



Sunday, December
15th, 2024
@ 7:30 pm
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All Welcome

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**Nov 29 starting at Avonbank Community
Church at 7:30 pm.**

Keep vehicles to the right side of the parade direction because of the large equipment.
It goes west on Line 16, then south on Road 140, then east on line 15, then back to
the church on Road 134.

SHOP LOCAL. SAVE LOCAL



CELEBRATION



Adele Freer is turning 90!

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November 24th, 2024

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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Saturday December 7th
7 am - 12 pm

St. Marys United Church, 85 Church Street South

St. Marys Horticultural Society
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**Christmas Show, Potluck Dinner
&
Annual Meeting**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH
ST. MARYS LEGION HALL

- Christmas Flower Show Viewing - 6:00 PM
- Potluck Dinner - 6:30 PM (bring your own cutlery, plate, contribution to potluck)
- Coffee/Tea provided by St. Marys Tim Hortons
- Seasonal Entertainment
- Annual Meeting & Installation of the Board to Follow

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Acres

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You left me wonderful memories
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But to me who loved and lost you
Your memory will never grow old.

Always and Forever in my heart
Your wife Linda

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Friday Nov 22 and Saturday Nov 23

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CORRECTION: An error was printed
in the headline of the story, Stratford Farm Equipment
donates pedal tractor and sleds to Kirkton-Woodham
Optimist Club, on page 7 of the Nov. 14 edition of the
St. Marys Independent. As indicated in the story, Syl-
vester and Geraldine Grimminck manufactured and
donated the pedal tractor and pulling sleds to the Op-
timist Club of Kirkton-Woodham, not Stratford Farm
Equipment. We regret any confusion this error may
have caused.

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

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THE WEEK AHEAD

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

St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 26

Friday, November 22

- Eclectic Treasure 25th anniversary Christmas open house
- Royal Canadian Legion "hot dogs and more" lunch at Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 p.m.
- Stonetown Arts show & sale opening reception at Riverwalk Commons - 6-9 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Listowel Cyclones at Steve Kerr Memorial Complex - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 23

- Downtown Merchants open house - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Eclectic Treasure 25th anniversary Christmas open house
- Stonetown Arts show and sale at Riverwalk Commons - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Glen Shackleton 80th birthday party at Downie Optimist Hall, St. Pauls - 2-6 p.m.
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 p.m.
- A.N.A.F. pickerel fish fry - 5-7 p.m., \$20 per person

Sunday, November 24

- Downtown Merchants open house - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Stonetown Arts show and sale at Riverwalk Commons - Noon to 4 p.m.
- Adele Freer 90th birthday open house at Fairhill Lounge - 2-4 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Elmira Sugar Kings at Dan Snyder Memorial Arena - 7 p.m.

Tuesday, November 26

- Tampon Tuesday event at Gilly's Quarry Room - 5-7 p.m., Admission: menstrual hygiene products

Thursday, November 28

- A.N.A.F. football turkey dinner day - 1 p.m. until quantities last
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Sarnia Legionnaires at Pat Stapleton Arena - 7:10 p.m.

LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

UTRCA rejects restoration

25 years ago (1999)

The Pentecostal Church at 14 Church Street North will offer warm hospitality during and after this Friday night's Santa Claus parade. Free coffee, tea, hot chocolate and cookies will be served.

Two St. Marys teenagers have been charged with Mischief over \$5,000 after an incident at the St. Marys Arena on Friday evening. Police were called to the Community Centre after some apparently unhappy hockey fans threw objects at the Chatham Maroons' bus. The 1996 CMI Charger bus had a side window broken as a result of the incident. One 16-year-old young offender and an 18-year-old were arrested and charged with mischief.

50 years ago (1974)

Bob Cubberley of Adrian's Service Station is taking his final term of the Department of Labor course for licensed motor mechanics in London.

Austin Russell of Thomas Street was delighted with the catch of a 17lb Chinook salmon, three feet in length, while fishing at Bayfield recently.

The executive committee of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority rejected a proposal last Thursday to restore and preserve the stone farmhouse near Anderson in Blanshard Township that was the birthplace of the late Canadian Prime Minister, Arthur Meighen. The house has been vacant for 18 years.

75 years ago (1949)

Contractor Fenton Rumble is building a steel fire escape on the western wall of the Bank of Montreal to serve the Masonic Hall on the top floor and the offices on the second floor.

Bage Bros., the contractors, are busy these nights putting new ceilings in the lower rooms of the Town Hall. The Clerk and Treasurer's officer, the Assessors and Tax Collector's offices are among the rooms being renovated.

The Chainway Store on Queen Street was robbed sometime Friday night or Saturday morning. The robbery was discovered Saturday morning when manager George Browning opened the store for business and found some \$480 in cash hidden around the store office had been taken and that the tills in the store had been ransacked.

100 years ago (1924)

The Parks & Cemetery and Board of Works Committee are fitting up the hill on Brock Street North for a public toboggan slide for the children of the town during the coming winter. The Council deemed this step necessary because of the trouble experienced in past winters with children sleigh riding on the streets and sidewalks.

The gasoline reservoirs, pumps, oil containers and other equipment which went to make up A.B. Creighton's service station on the east side of his show rooms on Church Street were removed this week. This equipment has only been in place for about a year. Its removal was made necessary owing to the recent purchase of the block by the Bank of Toronto.

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1) Her voice | 6) Five |
| 2) Nocturnal | 7) 2014 |
| 3) Pharaoh Khafre | 8) Jake Paul |
| 4) 1,000 years | 9) Starbucks |
| 5) Venezuela | 10) 1963 |

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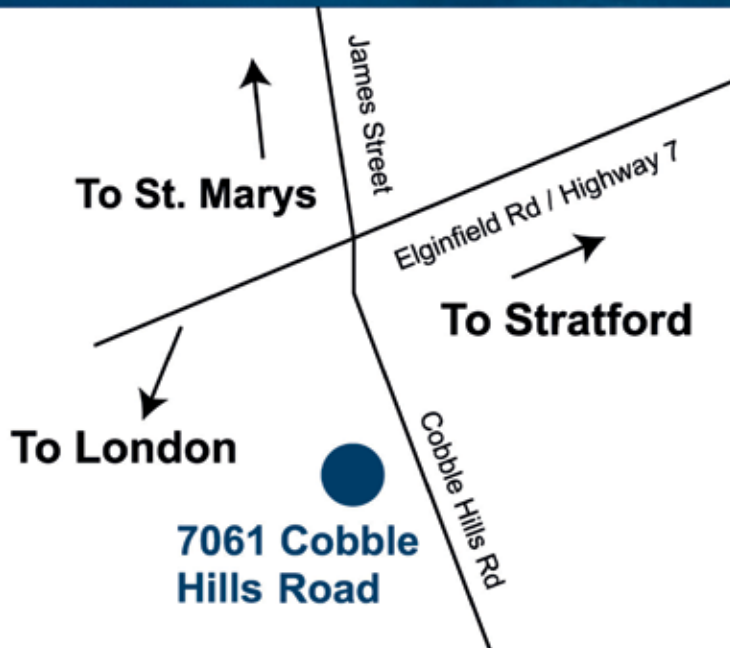
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