

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1226

Thursday, August 29, 2024

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Staffens celebrate grand opening of new accommodations business, The Penrose Suites



Members of the Staffen family, their partners and St. Marys Mayor Al Stratthdee cut the ribbon at the grand opening of Staffen Family Holdings' new business, The Penrose Suites. Photo by Galen Simmons

By Galen Simmons

St. Marys' Staffen family has added another business to the family legacy.

Overlooking the ninth hole at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club, The Penrose Suites hosted its grand-opening ceremony Aug. 22, the same day the nine-suite accommodations business was set to welcome its first guests after three years of construction.

"We began this project three years ago and through grit, determination and countless hours of research, planning, design and development, we've created a premier accommodations destination in south-western Ontario," said Staffen Family Holdings CEO Matt Staffen ahead of the ribbon cutting for The Penrose Suites.

"This journey to building The Penrose Suites didn't begin with us," added Staffen Family Holdings director of business development Candra Staffen. "It began decades ago in the 1970s when our grandfather opened a humble grocery store in St. Marys. It was his vision, hard work and dedication that laid the foundation for our businesses, including The Penrose Suites. The name Penrose is more than just a name. It's a tribute to him, honouring his legacy and the values he instilled in our family."

Candra Staffen said her grandfather, Earl Staffen, had customers in the 1970s mark products with prices using a red pen before bringing them up to the checkout, which is where the "pen" in Penrose comes from. Similarly, "rose" in Penrose is symbolic of that red ink.

"At The Penrose Suites, we pride ourselves on three things: superior views, premium design and an inclusive experience," Candra Staffen said. "... The purpose behind our building's placement (is) to frame the extraordinary, sweeping views of the

Suspects wanted after racial slur sprayed on trailer in St. Marys

By St. Marys Independent staff

Stratford police are investigating after they received a report Aug. 20 of graffiti spraypainted on a trailer that had been parked at a residence on James Street South in the Town of St. Marys.

In a press release, police did not include details about why the graffiti

was of particular interest to police, however a police spokesperson confirmed a racial slur and a graphic image were sprayed on the trailer in question.

The graffiti is believed to have happened during the overnight hours between Aug. 19 and Aug. 20. Two unknown individuals believed to be

Continued on page 5

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COMMUNITY

Avon Maitland District School Board appoints new superintendent of education

By Galen Simmons

The Avon Maitland District School Board (AMDSB) has hired a new superintendent of education to replace outgoing superintendent April Smith, who is leaving at the end of August.

The new superintendent, Riley Culhane, will begin in his new role on Sept. 1 and has been appointed the lead for the kindergarten-to-Grade 12 program department. He will also oversee the schools Smith previously supported.

"It's an opportunity to support new communities throughout the province," Culhane said. "I spend lots of time in the area, specifically the Stratford, St. Marys, Listowel area, over the years and this is just an opportunity to support communities in a different area of the province.

"My primary role is to really be supporting the good work that's happening in the district, supporting the director and the board in the implementation of their strategic plan, and making sure our staff, our students and our community members are well-supported, as well."

Culhane brings 11 years of senior-leadership experience to AMDSB, having most recently served with the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB). He also worked as an elementary school administrator and educator. Prior to joining TVDSB in 2000, Culhane worked as a speech-language pathologist and child and youth worker.

"I have lots of experience in education over the last number of years," Culhane said. "Certainly,

a lot of the priorities the Avon Maitland District School Board is working through are provincial priorities, so I bring experiences that I have from my previous work to this board in order to keep the work going, in order to make sure our students are well-supported, specifically in the areas of student achievement and wellbeing."

Specifically, Culhane said he is committed to supporting area students in the areas of literacy and math, as well as enhancing supports for student mental health and wellbeing.

"I really want to spend some time listening, learning, keeping the good work the board is already implementing moving forward, and really continuing to support prioritizing and improving student achievement, particularly in the areas of literacy and mathematics, and supporting student mental health and wellbeing," Culhane said.

"Provincially, we know that student mental health and wellbeing is a priority. Improving academic achievement, exposing (students) to a variety of pathway opportunities are other priorities, so certainly, I want to continue that good work that's happening."

Culhane is passionate about collaborating with all interest groups to ensure students are provided with the necessary tools and resources to pursue their goals. He said he's looking forward to joining the AMDSB team.

"We are thrilled to welcome Riley to Avon Maitland," AMDSB director of education Graham Shantz said in a press release. "He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience and is a coura-



Riley Culhane, who formerly served in a senior-leadership position at the Thames Valley District School Board, has been appointed the new superintendent of education at the Avon Maitland District School Board. Photo courtesy of Avon Maitland District School Board

geous, visionary leader who will support our students and staff in the areas of curriculum support, professional development and equity."

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COMMUNITY

Town hosting Speed Chat: Budget Edition event Sept. 14

By St. Marys Independent staff

The Town of St. Marys is hosting a Speed Chat: Budget Edition event to gather feedback on the 2025 budget.

The event will take place on Saturday, Sept. 14 at the St. Marys Farmers' Market, located at the north end of Milt Dunnell Field. This informal, drop-in event will run from 9-11 a.m. and is open to all residents and ratepayers.

The idea is to give residents a chance to ask questions and make comments in a casual environment about topics within the community, not only specific to the budget but important topics like asset management, housing, property

taxes, roads, etc. The event, resembling business speed networking sessions, will give participants the chance to engage in one-on-one interactions with each member of council for three to four minutes. A bell will signal when it is time to switch to the next member to provide everyone access.

Several members of council are planning to attend, including Mayor Al Strathdee. Town staff will also be available to address any topics or concerns that residents may wish to discuss.

"We invite all residents to come down, check out the vendors and chat about the budget," said Strathdee in a press release. "This is a great opportunity to

discuss community topics with your councillors and support the St. Marys Farmers' Market."

In previous years, the town hosted successful public-engagement events such as Coffee with Council to encourage ratepayers to weigh in on the town's budget. This year's Speed Chat: Budget Edition event introduces a new approach to actively involve residents and aims to gather feedback earlier in the process to ensure the 2025 budget reflects the wants and needs of ratepayers.

Attendees can enjoy free coffee, courtesy of the town.

This event is just one of several opportunities for the public to provide input on the budget. Another public-engagement event will be held in early October. Council will meet to discuss the budget on Tuesday, Oct. 15 and Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 9 a.m. Residents can attend the meetings, submit questions in advance, or view the meetings on the town's YouTube channel.

Additional information about the budget is available at www.townofstmarys.com/budget. Questions can be directed to André Morin, director of corporate services/treasurer at 519-284-2340 ext. 217 or amorin@town.stmarys.on.ca.

School supply drive to make back-to-school season easier

By Emily Stewart

St. Marys resident Sean Finch is looking to give back to families this back-to-school season.

Finch is collecting backpacks and school supplies to help families in need. He usually collects food and other donations to help families during the Christmas season and a few other times throughout the year. Finch recognized that, with the increasing cost of living, the back-to-school

season is more financially stressful than in the past.

"It's such a hard time right now. Even people that have two full-time jobs ... are having a hard time paying their bills and mortgages and food," Finch said. "I know that the food banks; an abundance of people have been reaching out to the food banks so it would be nice to have a little bit of relief even if it's just a backpack or a thing of pens.

"I don't need a full backpack full of stuff. One thing from everybody will make a huge difference for sure."

So far, Finch received a few donations from residents and is hoping to collect some more before the first day of school. He said people have asked about the condition of the items to be donated.

Finch will be collecting new and gently used back-to-school items until the school year starts. As he collects food do-

nations and gift cards year-round to help people in need, he said anyone interested in donating can pass along a backpack with a \$10 grocery store gift card inside, for example.

Backpacks and school supplies can be dropped off at 129 Maxwell St., St. Marys. Finch is also able to pick up supplies from those unable to drop off their donations.

Email sfinchy@hotmail.com for more information.



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EDITORIAL

Vacations, what are they good for?

By Galen Simmons

As I write this – and likely as you read this – my girlfriend, Julia, and I are preparing to take a week off work to go camping on Georgian Bay near Tobermory – just a stone's throw away from that always Instagram worthy natural attraction, The Grotto.

While we're both excited to get up there and begin our week of outdoor adventure and relaxation, the mountain of things we need to do before we leave on Monday has me wondering if the stress from getting through our last week of work and packing everything we need for the week ahead might just counteract any relaxation we can get while on holiday.

I must have picked the worst week to take off. Not only do I have to leave my colleagues to put together all three of the newspapers I oversee, but next week is also our due date for the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette's program for Wellesley's Apple Butter and Cheese Festival in September – a 32-page guide to the festival in need of plenty of content, all of which needs to be edited.

I also need to write my own story for that program, write stories for all three papers next week and write my reviews from the two Stratford Festival opening-night performances last weekend.

Meanwhile, Julia has just started two new jobs on top of the two she

already had. So, after she finishes her day job, she's busy in the evenings with training and making new connections. I'm so proud of her, but I know it's going to be stressful for her to leave town for a week so soon after beginning these new jobs.

We also need to drive to Hamilton this weekend to pick up a canoe generously given to us by friends of ours, buy a week's worth of groceries, and then we need to sift through the pile of camping gear we borrowed from my mom to figure out what we need, what we can leave behind and what definitely won't fit in our car.

I guess I should probably mow the lawn before we go, too. Add that to the list.

I know. I'm complaining about getting time off work. Really, I should be excited for our trip, and I'm sure I will be once we get to the campsite and everything is set up. I'm sure we're going to have an amazing trip and the weather looks like it will be a little cool, but nice – which wasn't a given after all the rain we've seen this summer.

It has been a long time since I went camping – something I did with my family every summer growing up – and this is Julia and my first camping trip together, just the two of us.

I have no doubt we're going to have a great time together as long as both of us can ignore that growing mountain of work emails waiting for us when we get back.

Bravo

We have 2 Bravos this week.

1) Bravo to Nathan Wolfkamp who recently won the St. Marys Golf Club's club championship. What a great accomplishment for a 15-year-old.

2) Bravo to homeowners who have diligently cut their lawns every five to six days, keeping our neighborhoods in pristine condition. The usual dry spell that has been experienced in previous years never materialized in the summer of 2024.

Boo

We have 2 Boos this week.

1) Boo to the person on Hooper Street that lets their dog run loose and do their business on our garage wall and in our flower bed. They are supposed to be on leashes in town.

2) Boo to drivers that don't know what that handle on the left hand side of their steering wheel is for. It's the turning signal! Not only is it a courtesy to other drivers on the road, you are breaking the law not using it.

*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

"[Trump] used to tell me, 'It doesn't matter what you say, Stephanie – say it enough and people will believe you.'"

**- Former White House Press Secretary
Stephanie Grisholm, one of many Republicans
who spoke at last week's Democratic National
Convention.**

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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This labour day try not to think how the next holiday is Thanksgiving

I am looking for a wine that pairs well with fall allergy medication.

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

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THOUGHTS
OF THE WEEK**

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The secret to growth is to help others grow.

COMMUNITY

Suspects wanted after racial slur sprayed on trailer in St. Marys

Continued from page 1

teenagers were observed in the area at approximately 11:30 p.m. Aug. 19., however it is not known if the youth were involved in this matter and no description of them is available.

The Stratford Police Service is asking anyone with information to contact Const. Amy Knechtel at amknechtel@stratfordpolice.com. Residents in the area of James Street South are also asked to check any video surveillance during the timeframe of this incident and to report any suspicious activity.

The Town of St. Marys was called to clean up two other graffiti incidents last week with hateful language and a racist slur spraypainted at the St. Marys Skate Park and more graffiti discovered at Milt Dunnell Field.

"I am shocked and saddened to see graffiti of this nature in our community," St. Marys Mayor Al Strathdee told the Independent. "I encourage anyone with any information to contact the police. This type of vandalism is illegal, unacceptable and not reflective of the values we hold as a community."

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



SUMMER IN ST. MARYS PASSPORT

July 1 - August 30

Visit at least 6 of the 10 passport sites to receive stamps. Return your completed passport to the St. Marys Museum by September 6 to be entered into a draw to win \$100 in St. Marys Money!

museum@town.stmarys.on.ca or 519-284-3556

SCRAPBOOKING GARAGE SALE

Sept. 14, 9 AM - 1 PM | Pyramid Centre

Shop a variety of gently used and new crafting supplies. Admission to this cash-only event is free and a portion of sales will support local seniors' programs.

519-284-3272



GRANDPARENTS' DAY CELEBRATION

September 3, 9 - 11 AM | Pyramid Centre

Join EarlyON and Friendship Centre friends in the 1/3 Hall at the Community Centre to celebrate Grandparents Day!

There will be face painting, story time, crafts, snacks and even a magic show!

townofstmarys.com/earlyon or 226-374-6544



EARLYON PLAY & BROWSE

Sept. 23, 9 - 11 AM | Community Closet

Come and join EarlyON at the St. James Anglican Church (65 Church St. S) for a play and an opportunity to browse the free Community Closet.

townofstmarys.com/earlyon or 226-374-6544



SHOWER PROGRAM

Thursdays, 9 AM - 1 PM | Pyramid Centre

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

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Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Ron Hunter. Ron was born in London and lived in Exeter when his dad was transferred to Toronto. The family lived in the city until 1945 when Ron was in grade one. It was then that they moved to St. Marys. He has been married to Bernice for 61 years and they have lived in the same house since they were married. They have three children, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren. In his spare time, Ron loves cutting lawns, working in flower beds and curling.

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

Weekend Quiz

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1. What killed all the dinosaurs?
2. Who holds the MLB record for most bases stolen?
3. What country has the largest military?
4. The h1n1 virus was also known as what?
5. Bootlegging is the illegal traffic of what?
6. What year was the Empire State Building built?
7. How many holes does a harmonica have?
8. What is Alaska's national sport?
9. What was Jane Austen known for being?
10. What is the hottest color of fire?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

COMMUNITY

Scrapbookers share their passion while fundraising for seniors' programs with Scrapbooking Garage Sale Sept. 14

By St. Marys Independent staff

A group of volunteers for the St. Marys Friendship Centre is preparing to organize a Scrapbooking Garage Sale on Saturday, Sept. 14.

The event will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Pyramid Recreation Centre (317 James St. S., Entrance C).

A variety of gently used or new crafting supplies will be available for purchase tax-free. Admission to the event is free, but please note that this event is cash only.

"We want to thank the dedicated scrapbooking volunteers who have planned this sale to raise money for local seniors' programs," said St. Marys senior services program coordinator Sarah Jones. "The

creativity and hard work of these volunteers is what makes this annual event so successful."

The event will feature a variety of items including paper, handmade greeting cards for all occasions, stamps, cartridges, embellishments and more.

Once stocked up on the latest supplies, attendees may be interested in attending the Friendship Centre's monthly Scrapbooking Crops and upcoming classes.

Those with gently used or new craft supplies they no longer need are encouraged to consider donating to the Scrapbooking Garage Sale.

For details about the sale, classes, or to donate supplies, contact Jones at 519-284-2340 ext. 621 or sjones@town.stmarys.on.ca.



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COMMUNITY

Melodies at the Museum week three



On Aug. 21, local duo Stacey Frayne and Johnny Bowes took to the stage and performed an entertaining mix of '90s and 2000s covers for a well attended crowd of people in the third segment of Melodies at the Museum. Photo by Nancy Bickell

From Pioneer Days to Modern Ways

KIRKTON FALL FAIR

September 6-8, 2024

Friday

- 6:30-9:00 pm: Inflatables and food trucks
- 6:30-7:30 pm: Exhibit Hall open for viewing
- Dusk: Community Fireworks

Saturday

- 10:00 am - 4:00 pm: Great events and activities for the whole family including parade, baby show, inflatables, pig races, pedal tractor pull, pony rides, 4-H dairy show, agriculture awareness tent, face painting, balloon artist, food trucks, pumpkin catapult and exhibit hall viewing
- 3:00 pm start: Truck and Tractor Pull
- Food Trucks and Beer Garden

Sunday

- 9:00 - 11:30 am: Community Breakfast and Exhibit Hall
- 10:00 am: Community Church Service
- 1:00 pm start: Demolition Derby and Classic Car Show
- Food Trucks

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ARTS & CULTURE

Whispers of Paris - A Night in White at Art of Ideas Gallery



Elena Dumitru and her partner, Florin, recently hosted a Dîner en Blanc – inspired by a similar event they stumbled across years ago in Paris, France – at Art of Ideas Gallery and Historical House in St. Marys.

By Elena Dumitru, Art of Ideas Gallery and Historical House

“The best things in life are the people we love, the places we’ve been and the memories we’ve made along the way.” – Unknown

In 2011, we embarked on what we considered a once-in-a-lifetime adventure – a month-long vacation in Paris. Though this article isn’t a detailed recounting of that trip, it is a reflection on one unforgettable evening in the City of Lights that set the tone for our entire journey.

At that time, AirBnB hadn’t yet become the go-to for travelers, but we managed to find a quaint – and cheap – little studio in Saint Germain des Prés by booking directly with the owner. The studio was really tiny, yet its charm lay in the perfect location near sights of interest to us, and just steps away from the local bakery where fresh baguettes and pain au chocolat awaited us every morning. Twice a week, the street transformed into a vibrant fruit market with stalls overflowing with fresh produce that added a burst of color and life to our surroundings.

But let’s focus on that first evening in Paris.

Before diving into the experience, I should mention that travelling with Florin, my partner and a talented visual artist, always meant a backpack weighed down with lenses, cameras, tripods and other essential gear. Our trips were never just vacations; they were opportunities to capture the

world through his lens and this trip was to be no exception.

As we set out to explore the city, we didn’t realize that we were about to stumble upon something quite unique – a celebration of friendship, culture and community known as the Dîner en Blanc.

Since it was our very first day in Paris, I made a simple request to Florin: leave the camera at home and let’s spend the evening absorbing the beauty of the city without any distractions. Much to my surprise, he agreed.

We strolled along the Seine, enchanted by the architecture, the gentle flow of the river, the elegance of the bridges and the linden trees in full bloom. The air was filled with the hum of voices speaking in countless languages, the soft hues of the evening sky and the delicate perfume of the city, all coming together in a vivid mosaic of images and sensations.

Hand in hand, we wandered without a destination, captivated and overwhelmed by the beauty around us. It was then we finally understood the enchantment of this magnificent metropolis, the very magic that has been immortalized by artists throughout the ages.

As we continued our journey, we found ourselves on Île de la Cité, standing before the majestic Notre Dame. The iconic Gothic cathedral loomed above us, a monument to centuries of French history and a testament to the enduring spirit of Paris.

To our amazement, the square in



The guests, table settings and décor were all white for the recent Dîner en Blanc at Art of Ideas Gallery and Historical House in St. Marys. Photos courtesy of Art of Ideas Gallery and Historical House

front of the cathedral was eerily empty, yet surrounding it were thousands of people, all dressed head to toe in white. We initially thought we had stumbled onto a film set but felt too shy to ask anyone.

There was a palpable sense of anticipation in the air, as if everyone was waiting for something extraordinary to happen. And, indeed, as the clock struck 10 p.m., the square came to life. People began setting up picnic tables adorned with pristine white tablecloths, white napkins, quaint, white flowers, silver candlesticks and flickering candles. It was as if we had walked into a carefully choreographed scene – a symphony in white.

At some prearranged signal, everyone raised their napkins in unison, a wave of white that marked the beginning of the meal. We watched in awe, still unsure of what we were witnessing. It was beautiful, a bit surreal and, frankly, utterly French. We chalked it up to one of those delightful peculiarities of Parisian life and let ourselves be swept up in the magic of the moment.

Now, why share this story? Because, all these years later, Florin still reminds me of that one special night when he left his camera behind, unable to capture a truly unique memory. And you know, he’s right. So, I decided that in our beautiful town of St. Marys, we would host our own gathering in white each year – a way to recapture a bit of that magical evening in Paris from 13 years ago. And when better to start than this year, with a

small group of friends?

Of course, planning an outdoor event comes with its challenges, especially when it involves the whims of nature. For the past two weeks, I had been obsessively monitoring the weather, hoping that our chosen date wouldn’t be marred by the heavy clouds and rain that seemed determined to dampen our spirits. While the rain was certainly a blessing for flowers, plants and trees, it wasn’t exactly welcome for our evening plans.

Enter Florin – visual artist, occasional weatherman and eternal optimist – who confidently assured me that the rain would stop by 7 p.m., just in time for our garden gathering. All day, the skies teased us with a relentless dance of rain and drizzle. In St. Marys, it rained then paused then rained again. Over in Stratford, it poured. Some guests understandably bowed out, unsure if the weather would cooperate.

But by 7:30 p.m. though, the skies hadn’t completely cleared, they were smiling down on us and, one by one, guests began to arrive. What followed was a beautiful evening filled with friends, both new and familiar, who came together to share laughter, stories and a delicious meal under the open sky. We made memories that night – memories that, this time, were captured not just in our hearts but also in photographs, ensuring that this Dîner en Blanc with friends would be remembered for years to come.

COMMUNITY

Staffens celebrate grand opening of new accommodations business, The Penrose Suites

Continued from page 1

golf-course valley. The Penrose Suites offers views that are truly exceptional and unique.”

Located in close proximity to amenities like the St. Marys Golf and Country Club or the Social Thirty-One restaurant – also businesses owned by the Staffen family – The Penrose Suites offers one- and two-bedroom units with plenty of space to host social gatherings, a guest-experience app, a digital concierge, free WiFi, keyless entry, a kitchenette, daily housekeeping, a private veranda and more.

The Penrose Suites has three two-bedroom suites with two king beds, three one-bedroom suites with one king bed and three two-bedroom suites with one king bed and two twin beds.

“Thank you to the Staffen family for

bringing this investment to our community,” Mayor Al Strathdee said before the ribbon cutting. “This is incredibly important and (I) know that it will carry on the tradition of customer service in our community.

“I just spent the last week in Ottawa at a municipal convention and we were driving back last week (and my wife) Gloria said to me, ‘Do you think they’re going to be done?’ I said, ‘Knowing the Staffens, they’ll get it done.’ ... What an incredible look. We’re so lucky to have it.”

The Staffens and all of their contractors, partners and supporters celebrated the ribbon cutting with a champagne toast before offering tours of each of the suites to those gathered.

For more information on The Penrose Suites, visit www.thepenrose.ca.



The Penrose Suites is now open at 725 Queen Street East in St. Marys. Photo by Little Big Creative



The bedroom of one of the one-bedroom suites at The Penrose Suites overlooks the ninth hole of the St. Marys Golf and Country Club. Photo by Galen Simmons



The suite at The Penrose offer plenty of room for entertaining. Photo by Galen Simmons

Holiday hours for town facilities – Labour Day (Sept. 2)

By St. Marys Independent staff

The following hours will be in effect for Town of St. Marys facilities for Labour Day (Monday, Sept. 2).

Closed:

- Administrative offices (town hall and municipal operations centre)
- Adult learning
- Child-care centre

- Town of St. Marys EarlyON Centre
- Fire station
- Friendship Centre
- Landfill
- Library
- Mobility Services offices (rides must be booked by 3 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 29)
- Museum and archives

- Pyramid Recreation Centre (including the aquatics centre)
- Service Ontario
- Home Support Services**
 - Home support services such as Meals on Wheels and Telephone Reassurance will continue.
- Garbage and Recycling Collection**
 - Will continue as scheduled. Details at [www.bra.org/my-services/st-](http://www.bra.org/my-services/st-marys-town/)

marys-town/.

Quarry

- Open daily from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Last day of the season is Sept. 2.
- Pre-register at townofstmarys.com/quarry.

St. Marys Train Station

- The Train Station will be open; visit www.viarail.ca for train scheduling.

COMMUNITY

Who is the St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary?

By Janis Fread, Hospital Auxiliary

Meet members Pat Froud and Victoria Vine, two very experienced volunteers with the St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.

During her teaching career, Froud spent two terms volunteering for the Ontario Trillium Foundation, but when she retired in 2012, she decided to put her volunteer time into something a little less intense and into an organization that directly benefited her community.

Choosing the hospital Auxiliary was an easy choice for Froud as the St. Marys Memorial Hospital has greatly impacted her family's life. Her four children were born in the hospital, her daughter received caring and compassionate care during her illness and palliative care, and Froud was an active participant in the rally to save the hospital in 1996.

"I've only ever had good experiences with the hospital; the care it gives is like a community," she said. "And it's important to know that what we fundraise stays right here in town."



Meet St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary volunteers Pat Froud and Vicky Vine. Photo courtesy of Janis Fread

Vicky Vine has been volunteering most of her adult life in the health-care community. She has twice re-

ceived the Ontario Volunteer Award at Women's College Hospital, Toronto, she was a volunteer for nine years

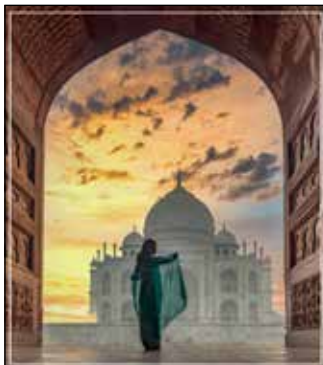
at the Stratford General Hospital and now she is a member of the St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.

Vine happily assists with the group's special fundraising events, she works in the hospital Boutique, but her first choice is spending time with the patients which the Auxiliary membership has been invited to do beginning this fall.

After all, says Vine, "Volunteers are patient people!"

The next project Auxiliary members will be doing is Fidget Aprons. These are aprons that incorporate all kinds of tactile fabrics, gadgets and textures, as well as pockets and strings to keep dementia patients busily engaged. The aprons will be available to the nursing station and the Alzheimer's Day Program at the hospital.

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



STONETOWN TRAVEL



GROUP TRAVEL PRESENTATION

Join us to learn more about our upcoming group trip: **New Delhi to Kolkata Ganges Voyager II with Uniworld 13 Days (October 26 - November 9, 2025)**

PRESENTATION DATE:

Tuesday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m.
Wilmot Recreation Centre
1291 Nafziger Road, Baden

Come and speak to expert, Ernie Balint, Strategic Account Manager from Uniworld Boutique River Cruises, and Stonetown Travel's Hilary Purvis about Uniworld's India voyage, Golden Triangle & the Sacred Ganges.

To RSVP, email stew@stonetowntravel.com or call our office at 226-333-9939 (New Hamburg)

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COMMUNITY

Ram Rodeo and Country Music Showcase in Thorndale



Ryland Doucette takes a ride on the mechanical bull on the Saturday show of the 3rd annual Purple Hill Ram Rodeo and Country Music Showcase, which took place from Aug. 23 to 25 at the Purple Hill Country Opry in Thorndale.



Rob Kirkham and Neon Rain play during Saturday's intermission to a tent-covered crowd. The three day event had more than just horses on display. It kicked off with a cowboy party at the Purple Hill Opry Hall Friday night and carried on with multiple performances until the Canadian Country Showband and the Purple Hill Grand Ole Country Opry Show closed out the event on Sunday night.



Huge crowds made it out to the Purple Hill Country Hall and campgrounds in Thorndale over the weekend, wandering the field filled with stalls of vendors and community representatives.



From experienced cowboys to those just "learning this sport of rodeo," as the announcer said, joined the multiple Ram Rodeo shows over the weekend.



Some horses were "born to buck," kicking dirt up across the whole arena as a packed audience looked on from the stands.



After a competitor is thrown off, the still-bucking horses are rounded up by experienced hands and brought back into their pens. Photos by Connor Luczka

COMMUNITY

St. Marys firefighters, Perth County paramedics and Stratford police team up for training exercise

By St. Marys Independent staff

On Wednesday, Aug. 21, the St. Marys Fire Department, in collaboration with Stratford Police and Perth County Paramedics, conducted a full-scale emergency exercise.

The exercise, which was held to enhance the preparedness and effectiveness of first responders, was designed to simulate a two-vehicle, motor-vehicle collision involving multiple casualties that had to be extricated from the vehicles and transferred to an ambulance for medical care.

“These drills are a crucial part of our commitment to ensuring the safety of the community and the coordinated response of our first responders,” said St. Marys Fire Chief Richard “Andy” Anderson in a press release. “By simulating challenging and high-pressure situations, we can assess and enhance our readiness to protect the lives and wellbeing of our citizens.

“The safety of our community and our ability to respond in a time of crisis is our top priority. Full-scale

emergency exercises are an invaluable tool for training and preparing all our first responders to react swiftly and effectively in high-stress situations. It is through these drills that we fine-tune our response strategies and ensure that our emergency personnel are fully equipped to handle any critical incident.”

The drill involved a multi-agency response and tested the coordination and communication between St. Marys, Stratford and Perth County emergency services. It provided an opportunity for participants to evaluate their actions, identify areas for improvement and refine emergency response protocols.

“We want to thank the students who volunteered to participate as actors in this exercise and to Kent Robson of Robson Scrap Metal Ltd. for the donation of vehicles.” said Anderson.

For more information on the St. Marys Fire Department and training, visit their website at townofstmarys.com/fire. or contact Anderson at 519-274-2340 ext. 201.



Area emergency services, including the St. Marys Fire Department, conducted an emergency training exercise simulating a two-vehicle collision with multiple casualties. Photo courtesy of the Town of St. Marys



collette **STONETOWN TRAVEL** ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

GROUP TRAVEL PRESENTATIONS

Come join us to learn more about these upcoming group trips:

Rocky Mountaineer - Journey Through the Clouds (May 7-15, 2025)

Collette Tours - African Safari: Kenya and Tanzania (July 28-Aug 11, 2025)


PRESENTATION DATES

<p>Wilmot Recreation Center (New Hamburg)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">September 5</p> <p>2:00 p.m. Rocky Mountaineer - Journey Through the Clouds</p> <p>2:45 p.m. Collette Tours - African Safari: Kenya and Tanzania</p> <p>Branch Office: 210 Mill Street, New Hamburg, ON N3A 1P9 226-333-9939 newhamburg@stonetowntravel.com TICO #50025796</p>	<p>Pyramid Recreation Centre (St. Marys)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">September 5</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Rocky Mountaineer - Journey Through the Clouds.</p> <p>7:45 p.m. Collette Tours - African Safari: Kenya and Tanzania</p> <p>Head Office: 150 Queen Street East, St. Marys, ON N4X 1B4 519-284-2332 agent@stonetowntravel.com TICO #50010159</p>
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COMMUNITY

Donation from Windmill Family Campground



On Aug. 20, a \$2,750 donation was given to the Salvation Army from the Windmill Family Campground. This was the proceeds from the annual car show held at the park. Organizer Jim Fedyk presented the cheque to Jennifer Morris, manager of community family services at Salvation Army. Photo by Nancy Bickell

THANK YOU

Thanks to the following businesses for donating door prizes to the Windmill Car Show that took place on Sunday August 4th

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| Canadian Cart Sales | Home Hardware | St. Marys Ford |
| Canadian Tire | Ideal Pipe | Stratford Farm Equipment |
| Dowler Karn | Harris-Greig Automotive | Thorndale Farm Supplies |
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SKC students capture 23 medals at London tourney



Nine Stonetown Karate Centre (SKC) students combined to win 23 medals in the Forest City Karate Challenge on Aug. 10 hosted in London. Pictured from left to right are Marieke Van Lierop and Isabelle Lariviere, who combined for seven of the SKC's overall cache of medals from the tournament. Contributed photo

Pictured in front is Emma Dungo, who won a silver medal at the Forest City Challenge, her first-ever karate tournament. In the middle row, from left, are Shannon Campbell, Sensei Jalyne Lorentz, Fox Houston and Morgan Houston. In the back row, from left, are Geoff Holdsworth and Lisa Sheldon. Contributed photo

By Spencer Seymour

Nine Stonetown Karate Centre (SKC) students combined for 23 medals at the Forest City Karate Challenge in London Aug. 10.

One of the most-special results included Emma Dungo taking the silver medal in the six-and-under novice division's traditional forms competition. The tournament was the first in Dungo's young karate career.

In the 13-14 boys black belt division, Fox Houston captured a trio of gold medals, including in traditional weapons, traditional forms and creative weapons. Houston also picked up a silver in creative forms.

Competing in the 35+ novice men's bracket, Geoff Holdsworth earned a pair of first-place finishes in traditional weapons and traditional forms.

Sensei Jalyne Lorentz took the top prize in traditional weapons and traditional forms in the 15-17 girls black belt group. Lorentz also picked up silver medals in creative weapons and creative forms.

Three medals were won by Marieke Van Lierop in the 15-17 girls advanced division, including a gold in traditional weapons, a silver in traditional forms and a bronze in point sparring.

Shannon Campbell finished atop the

field in the 35+ women's advanced point sparring competition. She also added a bronze in traditional forms.

In the 35+ women's novice category, Morgan Houston won a gold in traditional forms along with a silver in traditional weapons. In the 35+ women's black belt division, Lisa Sheldon captured a silver in point sparring.

Isabelle Lariviere added a pile of silver to the SKC haul while competing in the 18+ women's division, including second-place honours in traditional forms, traditional weapons, creative forms and creative weapons.

Sensei Jeremy Lorentz raved about the performances of his students.

"Our students delivered amazing performances at the Forest City Challenge," Jeremy Lorentz told the Independent. "They displayed their tremendous dedication, skill and sportsmanship. The array of medals they won while competing against some of the top martial artists in the region was very impressive. Their success not only highlights their individual talents but also reflects the strength of our program as a whole. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing them continue to excel in future competitions."

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SPORTS

Nathan Wolfkamp wins St. Marys Club Championship



With this shot on #7, Mark Vandenberg dramatically tied the lead by holing out for an unexpected birdie.

By Stewart Grant

In a final round that exhibited maturity beyond his years, 15-year-old Nathan Wolfkamp overcame a four-shot deficit on Sunday to win the 2024 St. Marys Men's Club Championship by one stroke over Mark Vandenberg.

Some difficult pin positions on Saturday led to higher scoring by the field in general. After day one, Jarrett Smith and Mark Vandenberg led the tournament with rounds of 75, giving them a four-shot advantage over Wolfkamp and Eddy Seok, who each shot first-round 79s.

On Sunday, this final foursome of Smith, Vandenberg, Wolfkamp and Seok started very strong right out of the gate. Wolfkamp and Smith birdied their first hole (Hole 10), Wolfkamp and Vandenberg birdied their second hole (Hole 11), and Smith responded with a birdie on the following hole.

As the group made the turn towards the final nine (the traditional front nine at St. Marys), Vandenberg held a three-stroke lead over Wolfkamp and Smith. It was during this difficult stretch of holes that Wolfkamp's consistent play pulled him even, and then ahead. With three holes to play, Wolfkamp led Vandenberg by one, and Smith by three.

The uphill Par 3 seventh hole, which played as the group's 16th hole of the day, featured two of the most dramatic shots of the final round as the leaders jockeyed for position. Lying on the upslope just short of the green, Vandenberg made a glorious pitch that found the hole for a birdie to tie the lead. Wolfkamp, who still faced a difficult, breaking 15-foot par putt from above the hole, calmly weaved the ball into the cup to maintain a share of the lead with two holes to play.

"That was a big putt because I came even with him with the chip-in," re-



Moments after Vandenberg's chip-in, Nathan Wolfkamp drained this winding downhill putt to maintain a share of the lead with two strokes to play.

flected Vandenberg on Wolfkamp's pivotal putt.

What was now a two-man race for the title came down to the final two holes. A solid two-putt par on the penultimate hole for Wolfkamp put him a stroke ahead when Vandenberg failed to get up-and-down from left of the green. This proved to be the margin of victory, as Wolfkamp's final-round 72 (even par) was just enough to win the title.

When asked by the Independent after the round whether he had a target score in mind, Wolfkamp replied, "I wasn't really worrying on that, I was just playing my game and let the score come to me."

This answer was representative of the maturity and poise the young golfer showed throughout the day.

"The kid's good, man," said Vandenberg. "He hits the ball a mile. It was fun to battle. His driving was spot-on today. I don't think he really got into any trouble off the tee."

"Mark and Nathan were just solid, just super consistent," Jarrett Smith added. "Nathan didn't miss all day."

At 15 years of age, Nathan Wolfkamp is the youngest player ever to win the Men's Club Championship at St. Marys. This year, he enters Grade 11 at St. Marys DCVI, with hopes to continue competitive golf at the university level following his high school years.

Tournament notes:

• There have been six different winners of the club championship in the last six years: Nathan Wolfkamp (2024), Darryl Sterkenberg (2023), Tom Westerveld (2022), Taylor Booth (2021), Bob Hearn (2020) and Marty Rutledge (2019).

• Kenny Hutton, with a score of 83-76-159, won the men's B Flight by three shots over Steve Hinz. The C Flight was won by Eddy Seok (79-85-164), five strokes clear of Bob Hearn.

• In the Seniors' Club Championship, Rich Parsons shot 70-76-146 and cruised to a 16-stroke victory over Steve Fisher and Eric Henkemans, who posted scores of 162. Tony Cabral won the seniors' B Flight with a score of 168 while Scott Rinn was the C Flight winner with 173. In the Super Senior contest, Bill Lowe prevailed with a two-day total of 176.

• In Ladies' play, Cheryl McVittie shot 101-90-191 to win the overall gross title by 11 strokes over Melanie Fisher and Janis Kapp, who each shot 202. Kapp had the low net score with a two-day total of 148. Linda Cooke won the ladies' B Flight with a score of 208.

St. Marys Golf & Country Club 2024 Men's Club Championship

#	PLAYER	R1	R2	TOTAL
1.	Nathan Wolfkamp	79	72	151
2.	Mark Vandenberg	75	77	152
T3.	Matt Murray	80	76	156
T3.	Kyle Heinbuch	80	76	156
T3.	Jarrett Smith	75	81	156
6.	Kenny Hutton	83	76	159
7.	Tom Westerveld	81	79	160
8.	Evan Bechtel	82	79	161
9.	Steve Hinz	80	82	162
10.	Eddy Seok	79	85	164
T11.	Alex Taylor	85	83	168
T11.	Kevin McCotter	86	82	168
T13.	Jason Firby	87	82	169
T13.	Bob Hearn	86	83	169
T15.	Tim Campbell	88	82	170
T15.	Scott Kean	87	83	170
T15.	Scott Kemp	85	85	170



From left to right, the final foursome of Eddy Seok, Mark Vandenberg, Jarrett Smith and club champion Nathan Wolfkamp shake hands after a memorable round on Sunday afternoon. Photos by Stewart Grant

SPORTS

SMGCC hosts Junior Club Championship



Charlotte Heinbuck tees off during the St. Marys Golf and Country Club's Junior Club Championship on Aug. 20. Heinbuck finished first in the girls 10-12 division of the tournament. Photo by Spencer Seymour

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys Golf and Country Club (SMGCC) saw several highly competitive divisions battle for supremacy at the Junior Club Championship Aug. 20.

With a score of 79, Kolton McAllister emerged as the overall Junior Club

Champion. One stroke back of McAllister was Gabriel Turno, who received the senior-boys division honours.

In the boys 13-14 category, Carson Jacobs won by a five-shot deficit, posting a 96 to take his division's top spot.

A hotly contested boys 10-12 bracket ended with Jack Brockman being de-



Rylee Cunningham makes a putt during the St. Marys Golf and Country Club's Junior Club Championship on Aug. 20. Cunningham won the senior girls division of the tournament. Photo by Spencer Seymour

clared the divisional winner. Brockman and Keaton Ward both shot a 46, while third-place Hudson Monteith scored a 47. Briland Cunningham narrowly came in fourth with a score of 48 and Braden Keating rounded out the top five with a 49.

The senior Girls champion was Rylee

Cunningham who posted a 58 to take first place in her division.

In the girls 10-12 division, Charlotte Heinbuck came in first with a score of 42. Jaelynn Seok finished second with a score of 52.

Registration open for 2024-2025 skating lessons

By St. Marys Independent staff

The Northern Star Skating Academy Inc. (NSSA) is excited for the upcoming 2024-25 skating season in St. Marys, for which registration is currently open.

Once again this year, the NSSA will be running a full slate of programming, including their Pre-school, Canskate, and Introduction to Figure Skating sessions.

The popular Preschool sessions for skaters aged three and four years old and nationally recognized Canskate programs for skaters five and up will be hitting the ice this coming September at the Pyramid Recreation Centre. The Preschool and Canskate sessions offer all skaters the opportunity to get onto the ice and enjoy Canada's favourite pastime. Skaters of all levels are welcome to join these sessions as there are different levels for skaters in these programs.

Skaters work through various progressions, which help them develop a number of different skills. Some skaters will start never having skated in the

past and the NSSA sessions offer them a fun opportunity to experience the ice under their feet and get comfortable moving on the ice.

Other groups will be working on furthering their skating development, including by practicing forward and backward skating, crossovers, turns and jumps on the ice, and edge development. These programs are a great way not only to be introduced to the ice but also for individuals to develop advanced skating skills.

The NSSA also offers Introduction to Figure Skating sessions, which introduce all skaters to the sport of figure skating. Development of basic skating skills is supplemented with the teachings of early figure skating jump and spin development. Registration in this session includes the regular Friday skating day in St. Marys and a second skating day in Stratford with the Stratford Skating Club.

Registration for all our programming for our upcoming season is currently open and more information can be found at www.stratfordskating.ca.

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SPORTS

Health-care foundation hosts 31st annual golf tourney at River Valley



Pictured from left to right are John Wolfe, Reid Dundas, Marty Rutledge and Tristan Dundas, who won the 31st annual St. Marys Healthcare Foundation Golf Tournament sponsored by Hubbard Pharmacy. Photo by McGinny Photography

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys Healthcare Foundation hosted its 31st annual golf tournament Aug. 22 at River Valley Golf Course.

Shooting 10 under par to win the tournament championship was the team of Reid Dundas, Tristan Dundas, Marty Rutledge and John Wolfe.

Reid Dundas commented on the team's victory, saying it was steady, consistent play all day long that earned the group the win.

"It may sound cliché, but it was just one of those days when enough went right and, probably more importantly, nothing really went wrong," said Dundas. "We finished with two eagles and six birdies, along with 10 pars and no bogeys."

Dundas added that the group did particularly well on the green.

"As with any scramble-team format, you need your putts to go in and we were fortunate that, as a team, we putted very well. The hole that really helped was the Par 4, number seven. Tristan drove onto the green and then we sunk the putt for an eagle. Anytime we needed a shot, someone seemed to make it, so overall, it was a team effort."

The men's longest-drive competition was won by Norm Coulthard while, on

the women's side, the longest-drive prize went to Amie Shackleton. The team of Kirstie Feltz, Taylor Kirktown, Sandra Mohr and Melanie Sabino won the putting contest. The four-person scramble featured 132 participants.

Foundation communications and fundraising coordinator Bernice De Decker told the Independent the tournament was once again a highlight for the organization.

"Our 31st annual golf tournament was a great success," De Decker said. "The enthusiasm from our golfers, sponsors and volunteers was palpable, and while we await the final amount raised, the impact of this event goes far beyond the numbers."

"Community support for events like our golf tournament is crucial, as it signifies a shared commitment to improving local health-care services and equipment. This strong involvement not only ensures the foundation's goals continue to be met but also brings people together, helping us make a lasting difference in the health and well-being of our community."

The tournament was title sponsored by Hubbard Pharmacy. De Decker thanked the sponsors and volunteers who helped make the event a success.

2024-25 St. Marys Lincolns Regular Season Schedule

September

Friday, Sept. 13 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs St. Thomas Stars

Friday, Sept. 20 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs LaSalle Vipers

Sunday, Sept. 22 - 7:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Chatham Maroons

Friday, Sept. 27 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Sarnia Legionnaires

Saturday, Sept. 28 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Strathroy Rockets

October

Friday, Oct. 4 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Pelham Panthers

Saturday, Oct. 5 - 7:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Fort Erie Meteors

Thursday, Oct. 10 - 7:10 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Sarnia Legionnaires

Friday, Oct. 11 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Elmira Sugar Kings

Wednesday, Oct. 16 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Stratford Warriors

Friday, Oct. 18 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Stratford Warriors

Friday, Oct. 25 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Chatham Maroons

Sunday, Oct. 27 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Kitchener-Waterloo Siskins

November

Friday, Nov. 1 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Caledonia Corvairs

Sunday, Nov. 3 - 7:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Welland Canadians

Friday, Nov. 8 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Strathroy Rockets

Wednesday, Nov. 13 - 7:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ LaSalle Vipers

Friday, Nov. 15 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ St. Thomas Stars

Saturday, Nov. 16 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Listowel Cyclones

Friday, Nov. 22 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Listowel Cyclones

Sunday, Nov. 24 - 7:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Elmira Sugar Kings

Thursday, Nov. 28 - 7:10 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Sarnia Legionnaires

Friday, Nov. 29 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs London Nationals

December

Friday, Dec. 6 - 4:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ London Nationals ***

Saturday, Dec. 7 - 8:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Ayr Centennials ***

Thursday, Dec. 12 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Listowel Cyclones

Friday, Dec. 13 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Stratford Warriors

Friday, Dec. 20 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Kitchener-Waterloo Siskins

January

Friday, Jan. 3 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Komoka Kings

Saturday, Jan. 4 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Strathroy Rockets

Friday, Jan. 10 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Kitchener-Waterloo Siskins

Sunday, Jan. 12 - 7:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Chatham Maroons

Friday, Jan. 17 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Listowel Cyclones

Saturday, Jan. 18 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Stratford Warriors

Wednesday, Jan. 22 - 7:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ London Nationals

Friday, Jan. 24 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Sarnia Legionnaires

Saturday, Jan. 25 - 7:15 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Komoka Kings

Wednesday, Jan. 29 - 7:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ LaSalle Vipers

Friday, Jan. 31 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs LaSalle Vipers

February

Saturday, Feb. 1 - 7:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Elmira Sugar Kings

Friday, Feb. 7 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Strathroy Rockets

Saturday, Feb. 8 - 7:15 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Komoka Kings

Friday, Feb. 14 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Elmira Sugar Kings

Monday, Feb. 17 - 2:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ St. Thomas Stars

Friday, Feb. 21 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs St. Thomas Stars

Sunday, Feb. 23 - 1:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Kitchener-Waterloo Siskins

Friday, Feb. 28 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Komoka Kings

March

Saturday, Mar. 1 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs London Nationals

Wednesday, Mar. 5 - 7:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ London Nationals

Friday, Mar. 7 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Chatham Maroons

*** - indicates a Showcase game taking place in Caledonia Note: Schedule subject to changes/postponements

SPORTS



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Landon McDonald fires the ball to first base during the Forman Electric U13 WOBA Blue St. Marys Rockies game last Wednesday.



Sawyer Hayes kneels to catch an incoming throw during last Wednesday's Cubberley Plumbing and Heating U13 WOBA Red St. Marys Rockies game.



Rylan Lord launches the ball up the field from the defensive end during the U10 Boys Tier Two St. Marys Storm game this past Sunday.



Emily Chateauvert chases down a loose ball during this past Sunday's U10 Girls Tier Two St. Marys Storm game.



Thomas Weernink launches the ball up the field during the U16 Boys Tier Three St. Marys Storm game last Tuesday. Photos by Spencer Seymour



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SPORTS

Lincs Alumni Group honours the past with new recognition boards

By Spencer Seymour

When fans of the St. Marys Lincolns go to the Pyramid Recreation Centre, it will be much easier to honour the past with the installation of new recognition boards paying tribute to the team's NHL connections.

A banner showcasing the team's players, coaches, management and officials who went on to play and/or work in the NHL previously hung on the wall of the Rock rink, but it was difficult for many to read and truly take it in. Scott Graham, president of the Lincolns' Alumni Group, explained the more prominent location for the updated boards makes it easier for hockey fans to recognize many of the Lincolns' all-time greats.

"We just wanted a better location for it to give these guys that have gone on to the NHL better exposure," Graham told the Independent. "I think it's important from our standpoint as the alumni group to recognize these guys that have gone on to greatness and we think this is a really good location where everybody can see it."

Graham also gave credit to alumni group past president Mike Mattiusi for being a driving force in getting the new boards made.



The St. Marys Lincolns' Alumni Group recently unveiled their new recognition boards on the wall of the lobby stairwell at the Pyramid Recreation Centre. Pictured from left to right are Scott Graham, Terry Crisp and Mike Mattiusi. Photo by Spencer Seymour

"I think they look really great. Mike did a tremendous job. He was a leading force on this along with several other members of the alumni group. Mike worked closely with the Corner Shop in Stratford to get it all laid out. It's been a really good effort by everyone involved and something

we're really happy about doing for the team."

Mattiusi said he was thrilled with the job done by the Corner Shop.

"The Corner Shop was just fantastic," said Mattiusi. "They constantly kept us updated about it and whatever we

asked for, we got, so working with them was great. They convinced us to try the white with the green instead of gold with black and I think it looks great."

Also on hand to comment on the new recognition boards was Lincs' legend Terry Crisp, who raved about the initiative and the finished products.

"Firstly, I've got to give kudos and total marks to the guys that put this together because you go down that list of players on there, from JP Parise to Don Luce to Danny Bylsma, and certainly, for me, we are proud to be Junior B players. We are proud to be Lincolns. We are proud that we committed to this town.

"When people come to the rink, your history should be on display, and now with these boards, everyone can really see this team's history," Crisp continued. "It's great for the kids who have gone through here and the ones who hopefully will be added to the board. The work that Mike,

Scott and the whole alumni group did to make this happen is great because it's exactly what our arena and our town needed."

U16-GT3 Storm celebrate league title with sponsor



The U16 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm recently collected their league's championship trophy and presented it to their sponsors, Mac Littlejohn and Kirkton Veterinary Clinic. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are coach Gord Aitken, Rowan Aitken, Leah Hachler, Mac Littlejohn, Libby McCurdy, Maddie Monisit Brown, and coach Nathan Brown. In the back row, from left, are Abby Martin, Marin Chateauvert, Olive Aarts, Avery Jones, Isla Unich, Ella Carter, Alyce Ruthig, Guin Jester, and Adrianna Hostelle-Black. Contributed photo

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COMMUNITY

Dr. Doug MacDougald retires, leaving a legacy in the swine industry



Clan MacDougald (Doug MacDougald is in the third row on the right), has competed as a team in the Stratford Dragon Boat races on the Avon for 24 years this year. With their Scottish family heritage, their banner reads "Victory or Death."



Stratford's Dr. Doug MacDougald with his grandson and healthy newborn piglets.

By Gary West

Raised on the 6th Concession of Fullarton Township in Perth County, Dr. Doug MacDougald understood pigs and pig diseases as good as any veterinarian in the country.

Not only did he have an impact on local farms as a veterinarian, but the

now-retired veterinarian was also a pioneer when it came to finding solutions to various pig diseases.

MacDougald's dad, Walter, was an entrepreneurial pig farmer in Fullarton Township from the late '50s to the '70s.

MacDougald said his dad was slightly

ahead of his time, setting up contract finishing barns with farmers getting out of the dairy business. MacDougald and his brother, Bill, were the labour and learned very early the value of hard work and a dollar.

The two of them had a few pigs of their own when they were young and kept a detailed ledger with full price

for pigs and feed, but they also still remember when the market went south and never having to pay their dad back the difference.

MacDougald said his dad, also clerk-treasurer of Fullarton Township at one time, had no use for

Continued on page 21

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COMMUNITY

Dr. Doug MacDougald retires, leaving a legacy in the swine industry

Continued from page 20

veterinarians as he had one on the farm – himself – to treat a sick pig, becoming the first, self-described Dr. MacDougald.

When Doug MacDougald was accepted into vet school, his dad’s comment to a friend was, “Well that will be a waste of skin,” but he did come around eventually.

Doug McDougall’s first year in practice was 47 years ago in Barrie, and he was interested in developing a swine practice right out of the gate. After meeting the Kell brothers, John, Larry and Roger, the practice began in earnest. Nearly half a century later, the Kell family and South West Vets in Stratford are still going strong on a much-larger scale.

In his second year as a vet, MacDougald moved to Milverton-Wellesley Veterinary Services and his very first herd-health clients, Gerald and Donna Yantzi, were dairy and pig farmers and they developed a close and trusting friendship and still re-

main friends today.

Since 1987 when South West Vets was first incorporated, they have since set up 15 different corporations which were a combination of veterinary and farm companies.

South West Vets has been the culmination of Doug MacDougald’s career, and he says he is “so thankful to his partners, vets and staff for their commitment to the swine industry, the profession and the culture of the business.”

Being a living-wage employer with 14 veterinarians and over 60 staff in total has been important to the culture of South West Vets serving area farmers, near and far.

Doug MacDougald wears many hats and even though he has retired from his daily duties at South West Vets, he is still involved in conference calls with farmers and companies looking for his advice and knowledge.

His family knows he will continue his life with many



Dr. Doug MacDougald, who has been a keynote speaker on swine diseases, has been known around the world as one who not only talked the talk but gained a reputation for walking the walk over his 47 years in veterinary medicine, especially in pigs. Contributed photos

pursuits, consulting when called upon, continuing his community involvement and charitable work, and travelling to many poor countries with his never-ending work for Sleeping Children Around the World.

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HISTORY

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Our First Small Churches

By Mary Smith

Small churches once dotted this part of southwestern Ontario, the heart of many crossroads villages. Establishing schools to educate their children and places to practise the religion of their choice were important goals for communities in the late 1800s. These churches, like the first schools, were a modest size, rectangular, unadorned, and built with the materials at hand. Many were frame or some, like Kirkton's Presbyterian Church, were built of field stone gathered from nearby farms. (The Kirkton Stone Church's photograph is shown with this week's column.) If the congregations prospered, these earliest churches were replaced by more substantial brick buildings, perhaps with some stained glass in their windows. The rural communities' social life centred on the churches, with all denominations attending and supporting each other's special, fund-raising events, such as oyster suppers, bake sales and evenings of skits and musical entertainment.

These rural churches represented several denominations. Lakeside, Thorndale, Prospect Hill, and Kirkton had Anglican churches. The church just west of Uniondale was built by a Baptist congregation. Presbyterian churches were established in Motherwell, Avonbank, Avonton, North Nissouri, and Kirkton. The Methodists won for highest number of churches. They could be found throughout the area surrounding St. Marys, and they came in different varieties – Wesleyan Methodist, Bible Christian Methodist, Primitive Methodist, New Connexion Methodist and Methodist Episcopalian – although by 1884, they had mostly come together to form the Methodist Church of Canada. The Roman Catholics, on the other hand, had one church on Widder Street in St. Marys that served all Catholic families in the surrounding area.

Many of these rural churches closed in the final decades of the 20th century as congregations dwindled. Following World War II, there seemed to be much more to do on weekends and car travel made it easy to get to larger centres. These small, tight communities with the church at their centre began to disperse. For those who still wanted to observe Sundays, the larger churches in St. Marys were able to help and, indeed, welcomed rural newcomers who augmented and enriched their congregations. And these churches had plenty of room. In the late 1800s, when the rural communities were working hard to build their modest churches, the main congregations in St. Marys seemed to be competing to construct the biggest church



The Kirkton Stone Church closed when its Presbyterian congregation became part of the United Church of Canada in 1925 and moved to the Kirkton United Church. The Stone Church was used for some years as a community centre and eventually demolished. From the St. Marys Museum's Historic Image Collection.

with the tallest spire on the most advantageous site. But it is worth remembering that the congregations of all these grand, town churches began their existence in buildings no bigger and no more pretentious than those of their rural neighbours.

The first meeting place for many early St. Marys congregations was the original village school, built in 1845 on the southwest corner of Queen and James Street. It was constructed using local limestone at a cost of £100. A small government grant helped, but the hours of volunteer labour made this the village's first community project. Although grateful to have this space to use for services, of course all the denominations wanted churches of their own. And by the early 1850s, the pioneer congregations – Presbyterian, Methodist, Anglican and Roman Catholic – all had building sites in good locations.

The Presbyterians were the first to make use of their site. James Ingersoll had granted two full lots on the north side of Widder Street between Wellington and Church Streets as the home of the "Scotch Church" – this is how it is identified on early survey maps. But although they had been surveyed, these streets did not yet exist. This part of St. Marys was still undeveloped, and the congregation's first task was to organize bees to clear the site of trees and brush. By 1852, when William Caven, the 22-year-old minister assigned to this new church, arrived to meet his congregation, the walls and roof of a frame building had been erected. The only known photograph of this church is a panoramic view of the north ward taken from the Queen Street Bridge ca 1860.

(See Picture St. Marys, 1007ph) The congregation had done a good job of clearing the site; the crest of the north ward hill is almost devoid of trees. The church building shows up clearly as a plain, white building with a gable roof. There are five windows along the south side. According to contemporary accounts, the dimensions were 36 feet by 60 feet. The pews were planks set on blocks of wood in rows facing the pulpit. As the Presbyterian congregation grew, several frame additions were added to the original building, but these did nothing to make it more attractive. By the early 1870s, the congregation decided it was time to start fund-raising for a new church. In 1881, the current beautiful limestone building with tower and steeple was officially opened.

According to a 1908 history of this church, the early Methodist congregation in St. Marys was part of a missionary circuit that encompassed Blanshard Township, and parts of Fullarton, Downie and Nissouri. The centre of this mission's work was "the new but flourishing Village of St. Marys" with between 40 and 50 members. They had been granted four village lots "for sites of church, parsonage and a burying ground." The congregation at first worshipped in the stone schoolhouse on Queen Street but in 1856, they built and dedicated their own church building on their property at the southeast corner of Church and Elgin Streets. From that time on, there were regular Sunday church services and Sunday School classes. The new church was built of limestone – a step up from the frame church of the Presbyterians. It also was rectangular in shape with the pulpit at the east. When the new and much larger brick

church was built in 1879, it was constructed around the earlier church. A portion of the original limestone wall can still be seen on the east side of the building near the entrance to the Sunday School wing.

The Anglicans who settled in St. Marys were first served by a missionary priest, the Reverend Archibald Lampman. Following his ordination, he was given responsibility for two fledgling parishes – St. James in St. Marys and St. James in Clandeboye. These two charges were 20 miles apart, connected only by a trail through mostly uncleared forest. But Lampman was young and energetic. Between 1851 and 1858, he married, baptised and buried members of the "English Church" in Blanshard, Bidulph and West McGillivray Townships. In St. Marys, services were held either in private homes or in the stone school. In 1856, Lampman was part of a committee to plan and build a permanent church. It would be placed on property that had been deeded by James Ingersoll to the John Strachan, Bishop of Toronto, whose diocese, at that time, was responsible for all Anglican Churches in Ontario. This property consisted of an entire town block, bounded by Church, Elgin, Peel and Jones Streets. The congregation was given permission to sell off the north half of this block of land to raise funds to build their new church. Bishop Strachan recommended building in stone and the building committee agreed, calling tenders in May 1857. The cornerstone was laid in August. But fundraising was challenging, and the church was not formally consecrated until February 1859.

The finished church was similar in dimensions to the frame Presbyterian Church and built in limestone like its Methodist neighbour across Elgin Street. It too had five windows along the north and south sides and a large circular oriel window in the west gable that gave light to a choir loft. Three decades later, when the Anglican congregation decided that a larger, grander church was needed, they chose to renovate this building rather than build an entirely new church. The roof was raised to a steeper pitch, the entrance porches on the west and south were added, along with the gothic tower on the southwest corner. The chancel was extended to the east. The building's appearance changed dramatically but a close examination of the exterior still reveals the outlines of the original rectangular structure, a reminder of this beautiful church's simpler beginnings.

Next week, part two of this column will describe three more early St. Marys churches.

Thorndale News

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Thorndale Fair Ambassador program

By Nancy Abra

For more than 165 years, the Thorndale Fall Fair has been the main community event of fun, food and exhibits, but also a showcase of education, talent and pride.

People of all ages enter in the various competition categories, one of which is the Thorndale Fair Ambassador program, open to those aged 17-23 who reside in the Thorndale fair area.

Since the competition's inception in 1977, this program contest has taken on a few different titles including "Sweetheart of the Fair," then "Fair Queen" and now formally called the "Fair Ambassador." Contestants are judged on their community knowledge and involvement, knowledge of agriculture and their personality and presentation.

The 2023-2024 Thorndale Fair Ambassador is Lindsay Shepard. Besides taking in and participating in last year's fair activities, Shepard also attended the Thorndale Agricultural Society annual general meeting and the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies convention last February in Toronto. Recently, she represented the Thorndale fair at the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) Ambassador of Fairs Leadership Program in Toronto along with 48 fair ambassadors from across Ontario. Shepard participated in three seminars including speech writing and delivery, mental health

and another on self defence. She also participated in an interview and delivered a speech and a brief pitch on the Thorndale fair.

"I love representing our community, which may be small but is big at heart," said Shepard. "While at the program at the CNE, I enjoyed getting to know other ambassadors that come from similar small towns like Thorndale. One of the biggest lessons I learned that weekend was the importance of being yourself.

"This program has been amazing experience to get to know others, while increasing confidence in public speaking, a skill that can be used in many different fields," she continued, discussing the Thorndale Fair Ambassador program. "Being the 2023 Thorndale Fair Ambassador also opened my eyes to the endless community efforts throughout the year and especially during the fair season, plus learning more about agriculture. I feel all these learning opportunities will benefit me as awareness is knowledge. Many thanks to the Thorndale Agricultural Society for providing me with this opportunity and the Thorndale Lions for their generous sponsorship."

For more information on the Thorndale Fair Ambassador program, contact Laura Langford at 519-319-0214 or lj.langford@gmail.com, or visit www.thorndalefair.com/ambassador-program/.



Lindsay Shepard is the 2023-2024 Thorndale Fair Ambassador. Photo courtesy of Lindsay Shepard

Good Neighbour Project Barbecue raising funds and awareness

By Nancy Abra

Despite the unsettled weather, there was a good turnout for the Good Neighbour Project Barbecue held Sunday Aug. 17 at Brown's United Church.

This barbecue, initiated 30 years ago, is a fun way to raise awareness and funds for the Good Neighbour Project that supports the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. The barbecue pork and corn on the cob were provided with people bringing a salad or dessert to share. Musical entertainment was provided by John Uren.

After Good Neighbour Project committee member, Glen Baskerville, thanked everyone for coming, he introduced Henry Reinders, the Ontario regional representative for Canadian Foodgrains Bank. In Reinders' address to the BBQ attendees, he remarked on the past

farm-crop year's success and contribution to the project, adding this year's crop hopefully will generate good funds despite the wet weather in southern Ontario and the dry conditions in the west. Reinders updated everyone on the Foodgrains Bank focus that provides emergency food assistance and facilitates response work to many different countries, including the food emergency in Gaza.

Besides the donations from individuals and corporations, the Foodgrains Bank also relies on community farmers' projects. The local Good Neighbour Project currently has approximately 35 acres of beans. When this crop is harvested and sold this fall, the funds will go to Canadian Foodgrains Bank along with any donations collected, which will be matched 4:1 by the Canadian government.



Pictured from left at the Good Neighbour Project Barbecue fundraiser Aug. 17 are, from left, Good Neighbour Project committee members Roger McKay, John Elliott, Canadian Foodgrains Bank regional representative Henry Reinders, Glen Baskerville, Bob Duffin and George Wonnacott. Photo by Nancy Abra




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COLUMN

UKRAINIAN CORNER: The magic of Hopak

By Olena Olianina

We all love dances for their rhythmicity, fun and for the good mood they give us. Have you ever thought that the most difficult dance in the world exists? If not, then this will be an interesting discovery for you.

I want to introduce readers to the Hopak, a unique piece of Ukrainian cultural heritage. We are used to dance being something romantic and gentle or exciting and energetic, but the dance that will be discussed is not only about romance and admiration, but also about hardening and endurance.

The most difficult dance in the world is Hopak, a traditional Ukrainian folk dance known for its extraordinary level of complexity and technical requirements. This dance not only impresses with its energy and endurance, but it is also a symbol of Ukraine's rich cultural heritage.

Hopak has its roots in the times of the Zaporozhye Cossacks, who used dance as a form of training and demonstration of their physical capabilities. Initially, it was performed during festive events and military exercises, which made it an integral part of Cossack culture. Today, Hopak continues to be an important element of Ukrainian cultural celebrations, and its technical complexity and dynamism attract the attention of dance fans from all over the world.

I want to point out that, other than movement, the main thing in Ukrainian dance is clothing. Mandatory elements



Hopak is a Ukrainian traditional dance. It is considered the most difficult dance in the world. Contributed photo

of the costume are an embroidered shirt, trousers, a belt, boots and a hat. Men wear an embroidered shirt with a traditional Ukrainian ornament. The embroidered shirt can be white or light in colour with bright, embroidered patterns on the chest, sleeves and collar. Trousers are wide and loose – a traditional element of men's clothing in Ukrainian dance. They often have bright colours such as red, blue or green.

A bright belt, often red, is tied around the waist over trousers. It emphasizes the waist and adds dynamism to the dance. Men wear tall, leather boots, which are often black, and they may also wear a hat or cap. This costume

is not only functional for performing dynamic Hopak movements, but also reflects the rich cultural heritage of Ukraine.

At the age of nine, I was engaged in Ukrainian folk dances and the guys from our ensemble were lucky enough to perform the Hopak; the complexity of this dance is amazing.

It is characterized by complex acrobatic elements, fast and high jumps, as well as demanding endurance of dancers. This is a real test of physical abilities and coordination.

One of the key aspects is the ability to maintain high energy throughout the performance, which can last up to half

an hour. Dancers often train for years to achieve the required level of stamina and coordination.

In addition to its technical complexity, Hopak has a deep, symbolic meaning. It represents the spirit of freedom, independence and unity inherent in the Ukrainian people. Dancers often portray in it the struggle for justice and patriotic feelings, which makes each performance not only impressive but also meaningful.

Today, Hopak is widely known on the international scene. Cultural ensembles representing Ukrainian culture often include Hopak in their programs, demonstrating its technical complexity and cultural significance. Spectators around the world admire the endurance of the dancers and impressive performances, which have become a symbol of Ukrainian national pride.

In the 1980s, King Charles danced hopak with some of the folk groups of the Ukrainian diaspora in Great Britain.

Hopak is one of the most complex and impressive dances in the world, due to its technical complexity, energy and symbolic meaning. Its performance is a true art that combines physical capabilities and cultural heritage. For those who seek to understand the beauty and complexity of the Hopak, there is nothing quite like it that can impress as strongly.

It is a dance that amazes, inspires and continues to capture the hearts of people all over the world.

Ask the Arborist

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



Dear Arborist,

I have a big tree, it has a big hole in it, it is rotten. A family of raccoons keep living in it every year. Should I seal it off with cement or concrete or something?

Sincerely

Raccoon Problems

Dear Raccoon Problems,

In the past, people have used concrete or cement. But cement is a really bad idea as the cement makes the tree impossible to remove later. Also, cement increases how fast the tree rots by affecting moisture content within the

cavity. Normally, we recommend leaving tree wounds as natural as possible.

However, if you need to keep the raccoons out, you can fill it with spray foam and add a hard covering to the outside (maybe something like JB Weld, or a similar epoxy type product. Something that will not dull a chainsaw.)

Sincerely

The Arborist

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



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ST. MARYS, ONTARIO

COLUMN

FROM THE GARDEN: Tasty tomatoes with unique history



By Nancy Abra

Gardeners spend endless hours in prepping, planting, and weeding with the expectation to be rewarded with the fruits of their labour. Whether it is the floral display of beautiful blooms or delicious garden vegetables, they are all welcomed and rewarding. But for me, the ultimate prize are those delicious tomatoes, right from the garden and so tasty!

The tomato, part of the Solanaceae or the nightshade family, has an interesting history. Early cultivation has been traced back to ancient civilizations. Indigenous cultures of Mesoamerica played a pivotal role in the cultivation of tomatoes for consumption and trade. In the 16th century, after the Spanish explorers encountered the Aztecs, they brought the tomato plant back to Europe

and it became popular in Spanish and Italian cooking. But in France and northern Europe, people were suspicious and hesitant due to the resemblance to other toxic plants within the nightshade family. Tomatoes came back to this hemisphere with immigrants. The earliest reference to tomatoes in North America was in the Carolinas in early 1700s.

According to a couple of sources, there are more than 10,000 varieties of tomatoes worldwide which can be broadly categorized in several types: cherry, small and sweet; beefsteak, large and meaty; roma, ideal for sauces; standard globe, classic round; oxheart, heart-shaped for cooking. There are many heritage or heirloom varieties that fall in these categories and have become increasing popular to grow for various reasons. From the array of colours, sizes, disease resistance to wonderful acidic and sweet flavours, these attractive features and traits have inspired many gardeners to become tomato enthusiasts. And many of these tomatoes have unique names that reflect their origins which adds to their charm.

A popular heritage variety is 'Brandywine'. This American variety is believed to be named after Brandywine Creek in Pennsylvania. It is known for its large size and rich flavour. But there is some debate on its true origin, from an Ohio family farm that first introduced it by Johnson & Stokes Seed Company in 1889 or by Burpee Seeds in 1882.

Another variety is 'San Marzano', named after a town in Italy and renowned for its use in authentic Italian sauces. The 'Black Krim' originated from the Crimean Peninsula and is noted for its dark, almost black colour and intense flavour. Another deep purple variety is the 'Cherokee Purple' which is said to have been passed down by the Cherokee people and has a sweet, smoky flavour, making it a favourite for tomato enthusiasts.

The 'Mortgage Lifter' tomato has a unique story behind its name. It was developed in the 1930s by M.C. Byles who was a radiator repairman in West Virginia and a passionate gardener. He crossbred several large tomato varieties over six years to create his special tomato variety which



is called 'Mortgage Lifter'. He used the proceeds of the sale of these seeds to pay off his \$6,000 mortgage in just six years. Besides becoming famous for its unique name, its large size, meaty texture and delicious flavour have become a favourite among tomato growers.

One of my favourites is the 'Persimmon' that dates to the 1800's. It has a beautiful peachy-orange colour which deepens from light green

shoulders to the bottom of the fruit and is prized for its sweet, fruity and juicy flavour.

Heirloom tomatoes not just a culinary delight but also have a connection to their unique past. As they are not available in grocery stores, they can be found at your local farmers' markets this time of the year.

Source: <https://www.tomato-plant.com/history/tomato-history>

<https://www.epicgardening.com/types-of-tomatoes/>

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Riddles

Why did the lion spit out the clown?

Because he tasted funny

What is the best way to communicate with a fish?

Drop it a line

What is a mosquito's favorite sport?

Skin-diving

Why couldn't the chicken find her eggs?

She mislaid them

Why can't a leopard hide?

Because he's always spotted

Which beans do kids like best?

Jellybeans

What does a cat have that no other animal has?

Kittens

What has two heads, four eyes, six legs, and a tail?

A cowboy riding his horse

What is as big as an elephant, but weighs nothing at all?

The shadow of an elephant

What fur do we get from a Tiger?

As fur away as possible

Why do dragons sleep all day?

They like to hunt Knights

- Word Search -

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K H I Q Y Y H W D I F E D U C A T I O N
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Word List

Hooray

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Schedule



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What's black, flies over water but never swims?



A bird's shadow!

Ivy Smith (8)

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

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PET OF THE WEEK

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



Our Pet of the Week is Hendrix, a six-month-old Sheltie named after Jimi Hendrix by his owners, Katrina and John Fitzgerald. Hendrix is curious and social. He gets excited for walks but is also happy lounging in the front window watching outside.



St. Marys Veterinary Clinic is pleased to be the sponsor of the **PET OF THE WEEK** Preparing your pet for back to School

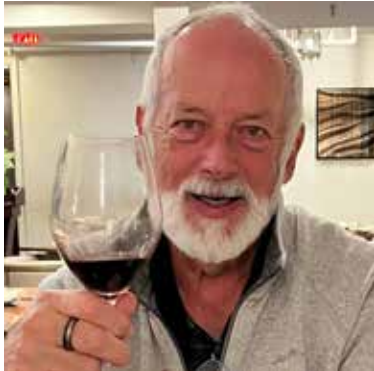
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COLUMN

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Musical surprises in Newfoundland



By Paul Knowles

Canada's newest province – though the first region in the country to be settled by Europeans – seems to be on everyone's bucket list.

When it was announced that St. John's, Nfld., was going to host the annual conference of the Travel Media Association of Canada (TMAC), the conference sold out in very few hours. That had never happened before in the history of TMAC.

It seems half the travellers I talk to these days have recently been to the Rock, or plan to go very soon. I can't blame them.

Most of us travel to Newfoundland and Labrador with a set of assumptions packed in our carry-on. We plan to see whales and icebergs and maybe puffins. We intend to eat seafood. We are pretty sure we will see wildly coloured houses.

And we fully expect to hear some great, Celtic-based music.

Well, you will. The pubs and restaurants of St. John's and

other Newfoundland communities are surefire places to find fine musical entertainment. And during my week in the St. John's area, I was treated to a lot of down-east music, from an amazing, musical guided tour through Newfoundland musical tradition, presented by the troupe, Spirit of Newfoundland, to a singing guide on a whale-watching and puffin tour, to a one-man concert by a campfire.

That musician was Stephen Maher, a lifelong fisherman, carpenter and musician who now plays with his son, Liam, in a band called Down Forward.

Stephen captured the historic Newfoundland passion for music when he told me, "Irish/Newfoundland music has played a major part in my life as my great-great-grandfather came from Cork, Ireland, and settled in Aquaforte in 1838."

We heard solo artists and small bands performing in the pubs on George Street.

On the closing night of our conference, the organizers had booked The Navigators, one of the finest Celtic music bands in the province. So, when it came to my rather healthy appetite for great east-coast music, I was pretty satisfied.

But what I also loved was our discovery of the unexpected breadth of live music on offer in Newfoundland and Labrador. A classical string quartet greeted us in the foyer of the Emera Innovation Exchange. And at the closing gala of our

conference, we were introduced to another thriving facet of the St. John's music and entertainment scene, drag.

Yep, our host and the entertainers for the evening were three of the many drag queens who practice their talented trade in the provincial capital.

A high point in the evening came when the host – glamorously made up and clad in a gorgeous red dress and very, very high heels – teased one of our board members and then said, "You don't remember me, do you?"

We thought it was just a comic line until he revealed that he was Keith Power, the same person who performed as a "stereotypical" male Newfoundland singer, part of the Spirit of Newfoundland cast, who had sung songs by Newfoundland musicians from Ron Hynes to Great Big Sea. Turns out, Keith has a highly diversified musical act!

And please allow me a personal digression: one thing that did not happen (although the spirited Navigators' concert might qualify) was a genuine kitchen party. I craved the experience of a few folks sitting around a room, playing and singing.

After the official conference, Jeanette, the Destination St. John's representative who was going to take five of us on a three-day tour of the "Irish Loop", reminded me that we had talked about how each of us plays guitar. As we set out on the tour, I noticed a guitar



Stephen Maher, a local musician, dropped in on our campfire meal outside St. John's.

in the back of the mini-bus.

"Are you going to play for us?" I asked Jeanette.

"No, my dear. You are," she replied.

She had brought the instrument for me, and – I love this bit – because she didn't have a guitar case, she had borrowed one from her ex-husband just so I could have a guitar to play.

So, sure enough, as we sat in the lounge of the Cliffs Edge Retreat on Witless Bay two nights later, she handed me the guitar and my colleagues, our Destination St. John's hosts and most of the members of the March family who own the place, consumed a few beverages and sang song after song. I guess my age was showing, though. The next day, one of my younger colleagues told me she had never met anyone who knew so many protest songs!

So, I even got my kitchen party – though they had to import the guitarist from southwestern Ontario, so I'm not sure it counted. But what touched me was the typical thoughtfulness and generosity of Jeanette, who went so far out of her way to bring me a moment of joy.

And that, I believe, is actually the number one reason people come to Newfoundland and Labrador. While the landscapes and seascapes are amazing, the natural adventures never-ending and the music superb, the best thing about the Rock will always be the people.

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.



Guests at a reception in St. John's were greeted by a classical string quartet – perhaps not the down-east music they expected!



Our singing guide on the O'Brien's whale- and puffin-watching voyage. All photos by Paul Knowles

OBITUARY

Hutton



Gloria Dianne Hutton (nee Parker) passed peacefully surrounded by her family at St. Marys Memorial Hospital on August 25, 2024 in her 84th year.

Beloved wife of Murray Hutton for 60 years. Dear mother of Gary (Romana), Lynne McDougall (Mike), and Shelley

Tubman (Jeff). Loving grandmother of Nicholas, Kyle, Paige, Taylor, Tyler, Brody and Zack. Sister of Beth Duff (Dick), Charles predeceased by Elaine and brother and sister-in-law Robert and Jean Hutton. Also remembered by many nieces, nephews and extended family members.

Music was a big part of her life, playing the piano at church and teaching the local kids. Gloria was devoted to her family and enjoyed gardening. Cremation has taken place.

Visitation at the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, 47 Wellington St. S. St. Marys, on Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024, from 7 – 9 pm. A private family graveside service will be conducted at the St. Marys Cemetery. Gloria's family wish to thank Bev Graff and all the staff at St. Marys Memorial Hospital for their kindness and compassion. Memorial donations may be made to East Nissouri Union Church or the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation. Online condolences at www.hodges-funeralhome.ca.

THANK YOU

Crown Jewels - Popcorn Charlie I survived



We wish to thank everyone for their support during his illness in the last 2 months.

Charlie lost his two best friends Frannie and Sugar from the same illness two days apart. These dogs were poisoned.

We want to thank Dr. Jeff Buckland and Dr. Erin Minten, Dr. Douglas Awde and staff for being instrumental for their care and guidance of Charlie's recovery.

Thanks also to Jack Murphy, Tracy Pritchard and Staff (Flour Mill), Liz and Olivia (Chocolate Factory), Angela MacPherson (Angela Dawn Aesthetics), Laurie Westman, Marlene McKenzie.

**Thanks to all Friends and Family
John and Judy Chapman**



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COLUMN

Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

The summer holidays may be drawing to a close, but summer itself isn't over quite yet! Catch our final Movie in the Park next Friday (Sept. 13) at Cadzow park; we are showing "Garfield"! Be sure to bring your own chair or blanket (and maybe some lasagna?) for maximum comfort. The movie starts at dusk. Thank you to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this event and for providing the popcorn. Donations are accepted and appreciated.


This Week's Recommendation

Many of us have fond memories of flipping through the newspaper and getting a good laugh from the comic section, a lot of those laughs coming from a certain orange cat and his hatred for Mondays. Relive those memories and make some new ones by checking out a Garfield graphic novel. Found under "J GN Davis" in our children's graphic novel section, titles such as "Garfield: Home Cookin'" and "Garzilla" are sure to bring a

smile to your face. Check one out today!

Up This Week

- Fri., Aug. 30: Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Sat., Aug. 31: Open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 - Mon., Sept. 2: CLOSED
 - Tues., Sept. 3: Cooking Club* (10:30 a.m.)
 - Wed., Sept. 4: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30-10:30 a.m.), Mahjong Intro (1-2 p.m.), Mahjong! (2-4 p.m.)
 - Thurs., Sept. 5: Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- *Registration Required



Community Liaison Committee

The next Community Liaison Committee Meeting will be held on **September 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 **September 4th, 2024**.



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3		1		7			
		4		8		2	5
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				5			

Solutions on page 31



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LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

Constructing Sparling Crescent

25 years ago (1999)

After 20 years of owning and operating the local bake shop, Henry and Yvonne Schoelier are calling it quits. Little Falls Bakery's last day of business is August 28. It means not only the loss of another business, but for the first time since the town was incorporated in 1858 there won't be a family-owned bake shop downtown.

Last week, Rachel Coulthard was among those off to Camp Kintail for camping and hiking at Algonquin Park. The campers hiked 35 km and were very tired and sore afterward but the week-long trip to Algonquin was enjoyed by all.

St. Marys Ford Bantams won the Ontario Rural Softball Championship last week. The team was coached by Brendan McDonald and Dan Bickell.

50 years ago (1974)

Frank Reid points out that your nickel no longer is of any use insofar as purchasing parking time on the Jones Street lot is concerned. The mechanism on the automatic ticket machine went askew recently and Frank had no choice but to replace said mechanism with one which will issue two-hour tickets for one dime instead of the former nickel-per-hour system.

The first stage in the building of the new Sparling Crescent sub-division is nearing completion. Curbs and gutters are installed with most of the construction of the first twenty homes well along the final stages.

The St. Marys Kinsmen Club has won the top attendance award for Canada, in competition with 540 other Clubs across the country. The award was announced at a National Convention now being held in Western Canada.

75 years ago (1949)

The Ontario Department of Health has approved a grant of \$38,333 toward the construction of the St. Marys Memorial Hospital.

Arthur Mallalieu, who looks after the St. Marys Post Office building, has a new gadget for washing windows. It consists of an aluminum platform and railings which, when thrust out the window, forms a perfectly safe standing place for window cleaners. The apparatus can be adjusted to fit any window.

The annual population increase of the United States is estimated at twenty million. The problem of the U.S. is where they are going to put this excess population in a few years' time. Canada is one of the logical overflow places.

100 years ago (1924)

Ed Kinsmen of Elgin Street West brought a freak cucumber, or rather three cucumbers, to the Journal Office on Tuesday. He claims it is the prize freak of the year. It is formed of three perfectly natural vegetables that are grown together practically along their whole length in a semi-circular hand-shaped formation. These are perhaps the cucumber counterparts of the Siamese twins.

The Thames Valley Bread company have started the construction of an addition to their bakery plant. The annex is being erected on the north end of their present cement block building, and when completed, will be used as a storeroom for bread and flour. They are also putting in a boiler to supply steam for their ovens and heating purposes.

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- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Giant Asteroid | 6. 1931 |
| 2. Rickey Henderson | 7. Ten |
| 3. China | 8. Dog mushing |
| 4. Swine flu | 9. An English Novelist |
| 5. Liquor | 10. Violet |

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Please mail or email resume to the following with wage expectations:

Echo-Tech Machine & Tool Ltd.
2253 Rd 120, RR#2
St. Marys, Ontario N4X 1C5
Karen@echo-tech.ca

GARAGE SALE

Saturday, August 31

7 Maxwell St - 8am - ?

Antiques, miscellaneous, something for everyone, blue mountain pottery

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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 29

Friday, August 30

- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 p.m.

Saturday, August 31

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 a.m. to Noon.

- Garage sale at 7 Maxwell Street - 8 a.m. to ?

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

- World Music on the Porch Day at 111 Water St S - 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 1

- Vining Cemetery decoration day - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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