

# St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1223

Thursday, August 8, 2024

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## St. Marys hosts Ontario Summer Games triathlon



Several cyclists ride through downtown St. Marys during the first day of the Ontario Summer Games triathlon hosted in St. Marys from Aug. 2-3. After swimming in the Quarry, the athletes biked through the downtown area and back, before completing their course by running the grounds of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame. The first day was dedicated to the team relay version of the triathlon, while the second day saw the individual competition. St. Marys Deputy Mayor Brogan Aylward and Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae were on hand to help present the medals to the winning athletes. See more photos on page 20. Photo by Spencer Seymour

## St. Marys community outreach worker assisted 109 residents last year

By Galen Simmons

St. Marys' community outreach worker assisted 109 residents last year and continued to develop a collaborative approach to providing outreach services to the town's most vulnerable.

At the July 23 St. Marys council meeting, outreach worker Brittany Petrie

presented a report outlining her work from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024. The community outreach worker is a full-time position within the town dedicated to meeting and supporting community members of St. Marys by providing outreach services to optimize social determinants of health.

Continued on page 3

## Camp Bimini friends remember Sheila Greason with tree dedication

By Galen Simmons

Though she's gone, St. Marys' Sheila Greason's impact on Perth South Christian camp Camp Bimini won't soon be forgotten.

On Aug. 5, dozens of Greason's friends and members of her Camp Bimini family gathered at the camp's lower parking lot to dedicate a tree in her memory after she passed away unexpectedly at the age of 81 on Sept. 20, 2023.

"Today we come with mixed emotions; sad that Sheila's life has ended but glad there is eternal hope for Sheila and for all of us," said camp coordinator Carol Young. "... This tree is planted for the glory of God, a reminder in life or in death, nothing can separate us from the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. ... May her memory live on in this tree and in each one of us who knew and loved her."

Speaking ahead of the tree dedication, longtime friend and former Camp Bimini-Oxford Presbytery committee member and registrar Linda Bender said Greason's time at Camp Bimini began in the early 1980s, if not before then. Affectionately nicknamed Bubbles, Greason is remembered as the heart of Camp Bimini Oxford. Serving as camp coordinator, she organized staff applications and training events, found camp cooks, scheduled meetings for the camp board and its subcommittees and worked at all of the camps on the Bimini property in the summers.

Bender, whose family donated the redpointe maple dedicated in Greason's memory, said the tree was planted on June 9 and will feature flamboyant fall colours every year around the time that she passed.

Continued on page 2

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# COMMUNITY

## Camp Bimini friends remember Sheila Greason with tree dedication

Continued from page 1

"Sheila did love to have fun, which made her smile even more," Bender said, recalling stories of playing games every Saturday night as told

by her close friends at Greason's celebration of life last fall. "Her camp name, Bubbles, was so fitting. Kind, caring, giving and thoughtful, Sheila had a positive effect on many campers' lives here at Bimini. She even had

a gift for remembering their names. Sheila left this world a better place."

After her formal remarks, Bender invited Greason's friends, Shelly Buchanan and Tammy Gooder to lead those present in the singing of a camp

song, "The Magic Penny."

Following the dedication, those gathered were invited to spread mulch and water the tree before heading over to the camp mess hall for refreshments and to share memories of Greason.



Longtime friend and former Camp Bimini-Oxford Presbytery committee member and registrar Linda Bender speaks at the tree-dedication ceremony for Sheila Greason.



Camp Bimini coordinator Carol Young leads those present in a prayer at a tree dedication in memory of St. Marys' Sheila Greason. Photos by Galen Simmons



Friends and her Camp Bimini family spread mulch and water a tree dedicated in memory of Sheila Greason Aug. 5.



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Sunny	Sun/cloud	Mainly cloudy	Sun/cloud	Scattered showers	Partly sunny	Sunny
 <b>24</b> °C	 <b>25</b> °C	 <b>27</b> °C	 <b>21</b> °C	 <b>20</b> °C	 <b>23</b> °C	 <b>25</b> °C
Feels Like <b>27</b>	Feels Like <b>30</b>	Feels Like <b>35</b>	Feels Like <b>23</b>	Feels Like <b>21</b>	Feels Like <b>26</b>	Feels Like <b>29</b>

## COMMUNITY

# St. Marys community outreach worker assisted 109 residents last year

*Continued from page 1*

This role is funded by the United Way Perth Huron and the City of Stratford until 2026 and, as part of the funding agreement with United Way Perth Huron, the town is required to track key performance indicators and report on an annual basis.

"Overall, I supported 109 residents of St. Marys," Petrie said. "This level of support very much differs. Some people are ongoing case management which means I'm meeting with people sometimes a couple times a week, sometimes monthly, and then there are other people just needing that short-term or interim support until they are connected to other resources or supports."

Petrie told councillors she continued to foster partnerships and collaboration among area service providers last year. By aligning with the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County, Petrie said she can effec-

tively communicate, collaborate and coordinate with community service providers.

This collaborative approach has led to improved integration, reduced duplication of services and enhanced coordination among service providers. As a result, Petrie has played a vital role in facilitating wraparound services for vulnerable individuals within the community. By leveraging existing service providers and resources, this approach has helped to address the diverse needs of the community.

"There are some challenges that have occurred as this position has developed," Petrie said. "As the position has developed over time, people are getting to know about the position ... and we're kind of seeing more needs of the community and people reaching out, which is wonderful, but there is only one full-time position at this point. So that is a challenge, especially during staff absence – so if I'm

away – but there have been proactive strategies implemented which means utilizing the support from collaborating agencies to provide additional support when needed upon absences or high caseload."


Petrie said the Town of St. Marys took a significant step forward in recognizing and acknowledging the increase in homelessness locally by signing a memorandum-of-understanding agreement with the City of Stratford social services department earlier this year. This agreement formalizes and strengthens the collaboration among service providers in Perth County, providing wrap-around services to vulnerable locals experiencing homelessness.


In her role, Petrie serves as an access point for people who are unsheltered and need services and support. She can support those she helps with collecting and completing required documentation needed to secure permanent housing. Another key compo-


nent of support offered through the outreach-worker role is homelessness prevention by ensuring at-risk households are connected to existing housing services.

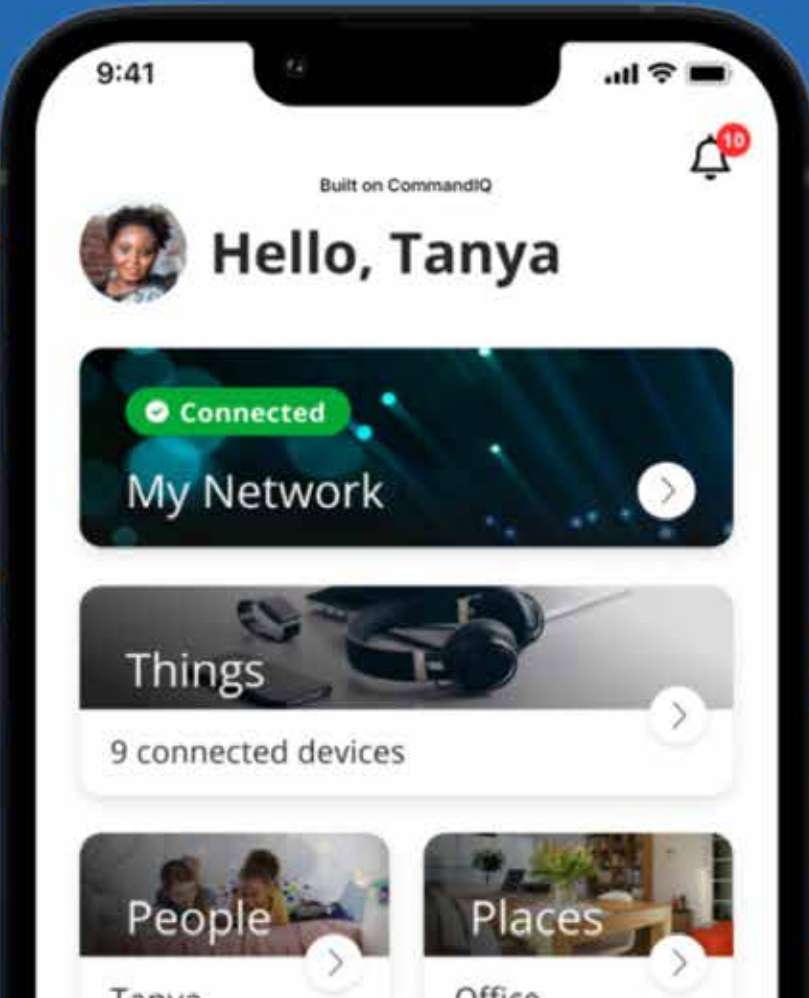
Last year, Petrie also served on a number of local boards and committees including the St. Marys community wellness committee, the Huron-Perth Situation Table and the United Way's St. Marys and area community committee among others. Petrie also helped facilitate a number of educational events and presentations including the town's housing and homelessness consultation and a mental health and addictions 101 session for town staff and council in partnership with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

"We know that your workload is growing, unfortunately, but we're very appreciative of the work you've done to date," St. Marys Mayor Al Strathdee said at the conclusion of Petrie's presentation.










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## EDITORIAL

# The challenges of living in an old house

By Galen Simmons

As much as I love the fact that my girlfriend and I found a house to rent well within our budget, there are some things about this house I don't love quite as much.

The house we're living in is over 100 years old. According to my insurance agent, it was built in 1911, though our landlord says it's at least several decades older than that. While it has been maintained through the decades, there are some much-needed upgrades that would solve a few of our problems.

First of all, the basement hasn't changed since the house was built and I don't think anyone's ever been down there with a vacuum. It's unfinished, it's only half height, there are spiders and other bugs living in the ceiling, the concrete floor gets wet when it rains and I hate going down there. That last point isn't so much a feature of the basement as it is a warning that if I ever go missing, you'll probably find me unconscious under a pile of boxes down there.

Though I try to spend as little time in the basement as possible, that - as it usually is - is where the fuse box is located. We have one of those old-style fuse boxes and the last person who lived in this house (or maybe the one before them or the one before them) made sure every fuse was labelled incorrectly. So, last week when my TV and internet went out, I had the joy of testing every fuse in the box. Then, when our air fryer went out, I had to do it all again because I didn't relabel the fuses and forgot which one went where (that one's on me, I'll admit it).

Finally, when I thought I had gotten everything right again, I realized the fuse for our fibre-internet equipment in the basement, which is also where we have our sump pump plugged in, was also not working and I couldn't for the life of me figure out how to fix it. So, after hooking

up an extension cord, calling in my internet-service technician to help me actually find the fibre equipment and then having my landlord come figure out why it wasn't working, we now have everything back up and running the way it should.

My landlord and his handyman suggested we not run so many appliances off each circuit, but with only a scant number of electrical outlets in each room and no central air in the summer, that's not really an option right now.

We also have mice living in our walls. They've chewed through some of our food in the basement, they've chewed through food in the kitchen cupboard, my girlfriend saw one run across the kitchen floor one morning and they seem to be wise to our attempts to trap them. My cat, Ziggy, is no help - she's old and her mousing days are long behind her - but my girlfriend's dog, Phoebe, certainly likes to bark at them in the walls. Maybe she'll step up and become the mouser this house needs.

This house is also in desperate need of a water softener. While my landlord is unrelenting in his opinion that purchasing one would be too expensive, we live in Stratford where the water is notoriously hard. Since we moved in, our dishes, pots, pans, glasses and everything else we put through the dishwasher have developed a hard, calcified layer, and we've just about resorted to washing everything by hand - something I'd hoped I wouldn't have to do after living without a dishwasher my entire adult life.

While these challenges haven't been ideal, I know there are many who don't have access to or can't afford the kind of housing we have, so I am grateful to have a roof that doesn't leak over my head and four walls to keep the elements out. Someday, we will look for a home that checks off all the boxes, but for now, we'll just have to live with what we have, and I'm ok with that.

## Bravo

We have 3 Bravos this week.

1) Bravo to everyone involved with making the town (downtown) look so beautiful. The planters, flags, storefronts decorations, the flower beds along the river walk trails are outstanding. St Marys Proud.

2) Bravo to Blaine Myers for walking us out of Joe's Diner with his umbrella after our lunch in the pouring rain. What a sweet man and such a nice gesture!

3) Bravo to Brogan Aylward for not only being part of our town council, but also speaking up and making the voices heard of the younger population who are going to be the next generation of this town. Thanks for standing up for the needs and values of the people who voted you in! Wonderful to see the vote we make actually can make a difference. Keep spreading your ideas, and make your voice heard.

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

## Boo

We have 1 Boo this week.

1) Very tired of people using Little Falls Green Space as a "dog park", they let their dogs off leash and let them go to the bathroom and not clean up after. These are soccer fields and back yards.



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

## Quote of the Week

*"There's been so many before me that have led the way and inspired me to be where I am today. I really owe a lot back to that. I'm just proud of what I've been able to accomplish."*

- Triple gold medallist Summer McIntosh on her place in Canadian sports history.

## Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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Wow - last place in this year's men's 100m final was faster than Carl Lewis' gold in 1988.

One of the cyclists in the Triathlon was clocked at 93 km/hr coming down the Queen Street hill.

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](mailto: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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**COMMUNITY**

# Perth County council eliminates Cultivating Opportunity Grant program; directs funds toward public AEDs

By Galen Simmons

Perth County will scrap its \$10,000 Cultivating Opportunity Grant program and instead direct those funds to support a Perth County Paramedic Service initiative to replace and enhance publicly available automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) across the county.

At the county's July 4 meeting, councillors asked staff to bring back a report on the viability of the Cultivating Opportunity Grant program, which supports charitable and non-profit organizations in the county with programs and services that benefit county residents, to determine whether the grant program could be scrapped to help lessen the tax burden on county ratepayers in light of the jaw-dropping 12.31-per-cent 2024 tax levy increase approved by council earlier this year.

"The overall feedback for the Cultivating Opportunity Grant program has been positive (and it) showcases council's community support within the county," said county clerk and manager of legislative services Tyler Sager at council's Aug. 1 meeting, noting county staff in the communications, finance and legislative services departments spend a combined 32 hours each year to administer the program.

"... We looked at eight different (neighbouring) municipalities, of which six had community grants. Those grant (programs) ranged between \$750 to \$100,000. ... Overall, the program has functioned fairly well since the refresh (in 2022)."

While Sager noted previously the program had seen an uptick in the average number of applications each year from 2.6 between 2018 and 2022 and 7.5 for 2023 and 2024, and he said staff recommended maintaining the program, Coun. Todd Kasenberg pointed out the majority of the community grant programs offered in neighbouring and nearby municipalities were not geared toward supporting charities and non-profits similar to Perth County's program. Instead, those programs are aimed at enhancing economic development and supporting businesses in their respective municipalities or counties.

"I fundamentally have a concern about a grant program that sort of picks some winners among various community entities and projects and organizations for taking various sorts of community development actions," Kasenberg said. "... In most of those cases, it there are people in the community who want to see those things happen, they

will donate to the cause, they will contribute hours to that cause. So, I'm one who is not enamoured with continuing the Cultivating Opportunity program."

Though Coun. Hugh McDermid reiterated his talking points from the previous meeting around the need to reduce the annual budget impact on ratepayers as the cost of living continues to increase, Coun. Dean Trentowsky instead suggested council reallocate the annual \$10,000 budget for the grant program to Perth County Paramedic Service's Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) program. At that same July 4 council meeting, councillors learned that PAD's goals are to streamline and ensure consistent service delivery to the public, enhance accessibility of AEDs and ensure AEDs in public places comply with provincial requirements and best practices.

"When I asked the question, 'How much does one AED, brand new, typically cost,' (paramedic service deputy chief of program development Chris Keyser) said around \$2,500," Trentowsky said. "To me, it seems like the perfect opportunity to allocate the \$10,000 that we normally put toward the community grant program ... towards AED purchase. Ten-thousand dollars would purchase four new AEDs. That would be one new AED for each of the lower tiers."

"What we're speaking about is replacement of AEDs that are existing in the community," added paramedic service chief Mike Adair. "... Some of those (AEDs) were funded by the county, some were by donations and now we're at the point where those need to be replaced. ... What we're talking about today would certainly be helpful to replace those particular AEDs. That's not to say that we wouldn't want to expand AEDs in our communities to create safer and healthier communities so we have opportunities to respond to these emergencies ... and every year we can save lives. But (we would apply this funding) to replacement AEDs."

While council ultimately voted both to scrap the Cultivating Opportunity Grant program and reallocate that funding to the PAD program, Coun. Jerry Smith noted his opposition to scrapping the grant program in the first place, suggesting \$10,000 is just 0.005 per cent of the county's annual budget and would make little-to-no difference for ratepayers. Ultimately, Smith said he was in favour of reallocating the funding towards replacing public AEDs.

## STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



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## Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Lorna Parkinson, who was born in England in 1944 and came to Canada aboard the Queen Mary in 1946. She worked at the Memorial Hospital from 1989 until retiring in 2009. Widowed seven years ago, Lorna has a daughter in Mitchell and two wonderful grandkids. Lorna loves painting, sewing, and volunteering at the art gallery.

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

## COMMUNITY

# Accredited health-care organizations look to future expansion

By Connor Luczka, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Although 10 organizations in the Huron Perth and Area Ontario Health Team (HPA-OHT) recently were accredited under one umbrella, there is still more that can be done, according to the team.

There are a total of 46 member organizations in the team that may be included in future accreditation cycles.

"As we review the accreditation report, updated standards and complete self-assessments and surveys, we will continue to identify areas for continuous improvement," said Kim Van Wyk, HPA-OHT's project coordinator, in a recent media release. "Our goal is to provide support and knowledge sharing among our member organizations, ultimately enhancing the quality of care for our community."

The accreditation milestone is the first of its kind in Canada, where multiple organizations that are separately governed have come together under the umbrella of accreditation, setting a new standard for integrated health-care delivery.

Accreditation Canada is a national body that sets health and social-services standards, assessing organizations against those standards to help them continuously improve the quality of their care.

The recent joint accreditation process started in 2019, according to the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance's (HPHA) website, with the participation of the HPHA and six health-care partners.

Ten organizations were a part of the successful accreditation that just occurred: Alzheimer Society Huron Perth, Clinton Family Health Team, Community Living North Perth, Huron Health System, Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance, Knollcrest Lodge, Listowel-Wingham and Area Family Health Team, ONE CARE Home

and Community Support Services, West Perth Village and Huron Perth and Area Ontario Health Team.

Starting in 2024, the collaborative will transition to a four-year continuous accreditation cycle, focusing on ongoing quality improvement and integration of safety practices into everyday operations.

They will be focused on:

- Implementing the equity, inclusion, diversity and anti-racism plan created in 2024 to provide education to governors and staff;
- Aligning governance processes and policies across organizations;
- Expanding the collaborative to include more HPA-OHT member organizations; and
- Developing OHT-level emergency and disaster planning by engaging with municipal and county planning initiatives.



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## Weekend Quiz

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1. A specific technique that writers use to convey a deeper meaning is known as what?
2. Who fought in the heavyweight Fight of the Century (1971)?
3. Who invented the radio?
4. The Dutch farmers' protests in the Netherlands have been ongoing since?
5. A triathlon includes what 3 sports?
6. True or false. Stairs always turned clockwise in medieval castles.
7. What does a metronome do?
8. What was Malcom X primarily known as?
9. How many balls are in Newton's cradle?
10. What does IP address stand for?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31



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### Summer Produce at McCully's

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**COMMUNITY**

# Local long-term-care homes receive nearly \$133,000 in provincial funding

By St. Marys Independent staff  
Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae was at Knollcrest Lodge in Milverton last week to announce local long-term-care homes will receive \$132,898 through the Province of Ontario's Local Priorities Fund.

This funding will help residents with complex needs like dementia and bariatric care receive care in the right place.

"Our seniors helped build our local communities and this province, our government will ensure we take care of them in their golden years," Rae said in a press release. "This funding will allow our rural long-term-care homes to continue supporting our seniors as they age and receive the care they need when they need it and where they need it."

In Stratford, Spruce Lodge Home for the Aged will receive \$12,650 and Hillside Manor will receive \$3,398, while Kingsway Lodge Nursing Home in St. Marys will receive \$63,174. Knollcrest Lodge in Perth East will also receive \$53,676.

"The team at Knollcrest Lodge is thrilled about the opportunities these funds present," said Denise Bedard, CEO of Knollcrest Lodge, in the press release. "They will play a crucial role in our vision to develop and implement a Small House Alternate Level of Care Model in the near future."

"We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Ministry of Long-Term Care for their continued support and investment in our community," added Chuck Meyer, vice chair of the board of directors at Knollcrest Lodge. "This funding underscores the dedication of our staff, the trust of our residents and their families, and the collaborative efforts

of all involved in providing exceptional long-term care."

The Local Priorities Fund will help long-term-care homes purchase items such as IV equipment, bariatrics equipment, bed support, bladder scanners and ECGs. The funding even goes towards important everyday things like slip-proof floor mats, wraparound bed rails and grab bars.

Launched in 2022, the Local Priorities Fund invested \$20 million in 2022-2023 to help long-term-care homes purchase specialized equipment and train staff to provide more specialized care.

"Our government is continuing to take action to ensure long-term-care residents across Ontario get the right care in the right place," said Minister of Long-Term Care Natalia Kusendova-Bashta in the release. "This funding will expand specialized staffing, equipment and other services at homes across the province so long-term-care residents with complex needs can connect to the care they need when and where they need it."

"Through the Local Priorities Fund, our government is continuing to ensure that Ontarians at every stage of life have access to the care and support they need when they need it," said Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Sylvia Jones in the press release. "This investment builds on the historic work our government is doing to provide people with the right care in settings most convenient to them, whether in their community or in their home."

This funding builds on last year's announcement of over \$80,000 for local long-term-care homes through the Local Priorities Fund.



Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae was at Knollcrest Lodge in Milverton last week to announce \$132,898 in funding through the province's Local Priorities Fund for long-term-care homes in Stratford, St. Marys and Milverton. Contributed photo

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# COMMUNITY

## Perth County council approves purchase of three power stretchers, completing paramedic-fleet-modernization project

By Galen Simmons

A nearly four-year project aimed at modernizing the Perth County Paramedic Service fleet with power-load systems and power stretchers is almost complete after Perth County council approved the purchase of the final three power stretchers.

Paramedic service deputy chief Tristan Barter presented a report on the purchase of three Stryker PowerPro stretchers to county councillors at their regular meeting Aug. 1. The purchase marks the end of a project that started in 2020 aimed at improving both patient outcomes and safety for front-line paramedics.

"In 2020, paramedic services started a modernization of our fleet which included a power-load unit, which

went into the back of the ambulance, and power-load stretchers to aid in the movement of patients in transport," Barter said. "... This investment modernizes our fleet and demonstrates our dedication to leveraging cutting-edge technology to improve emergency medical services in our community."

The Stryker PowerPRO stretcher, when integrated with the Stryker PowerLoad system, represents a significant advancement in patient-handling and ambulance-safety technology, Barter wrote in his report to council. The power stretcher is designed to enhance operational efficiency and patient-care delivery by using powered assistance for lifting and loading, thereby reducing the physical strain on paramedics during

transfers. This technology ensures smoother and more controlled movements of patients, minimizing the risk of musculoskeletal injuries among health-care providers.

The integration with the PowerLoad system further enhances these benefits by automating the ambulance loading and unloading process. This system uses a battery powered lift to safely and effortlessly load stretchers into the ambulance, reducing the potential for mishandling or drops during transfer. The PowerLoad system not only enhances patient safety but also reduces the time required for loading and unloading, enabling paramedics to focus more on patient care rather than manual handling tasks.

While the purchase of the final three

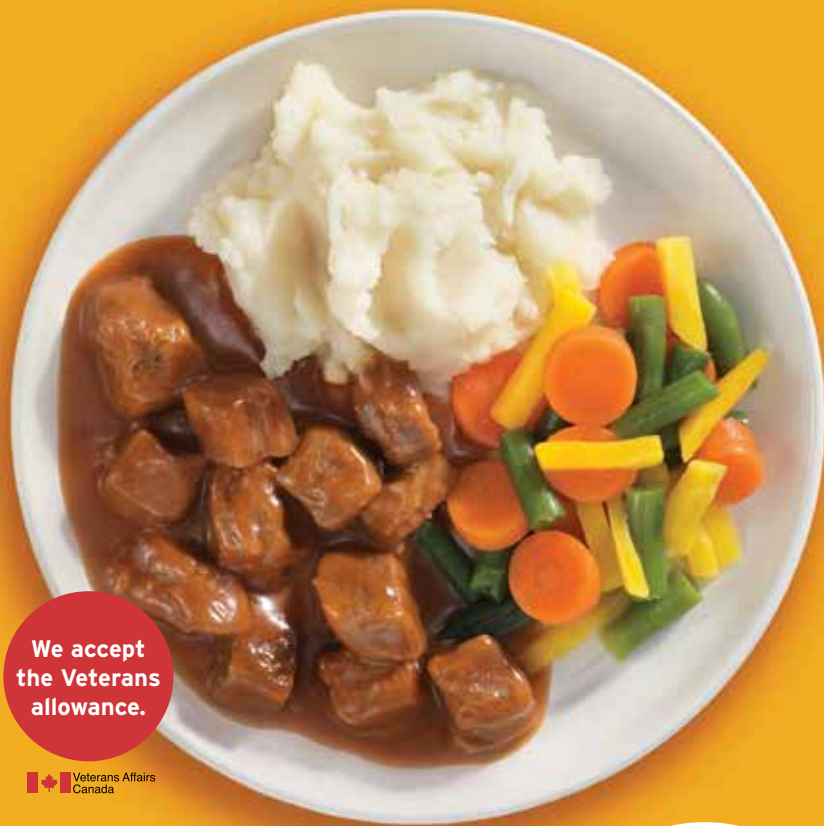
stretchers was budgeted for in the county's 2024 capital budget at an estimated cost of \$72,000, Barter told councillors that cost had increased by just over \$8,000 to a little more than \$80,000 – preferred pricing secured through a purchasing agreement between the manufacturer and Medavie Health Services, the organization that operates Perth County's paramedic service.

Perth County Paramedic Service Chief Mike Adair told councillors funds to cover the additional cost will be taken from the county's capital medical equipment reserve.

The Perth County Paramedic Service currently has 11 ambulances in its fleet, all of which are or will soon be equipped with the power stretchers and power-load systems.

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# COMMUNITY

## Camp Bimini deals with recent flooding quickly

By Gary West

With the wettest spring that many crop farmers have experienced in many years and a planting season that was more than stressful, that same stress was also felt at a local church Camp in southern Perth County recently.

Everyone dealt with the major flooding in whatever way they could, and leaders and campers at Camp Bimini south of Stratford should be given full marks in dealing with a high-water situation.

Farmers in the area said over five inches of rain fell in a short time and creeks and rivers overflowed.

With the stream at the back of the

camp no different, campers couldn't get to their cabins and Plan B was their only option.

Camp coordinator Carol Young and her leaders organized and bused campers to the auditorium at Grace United Church in Tavistock and, with sleeping bags in hand, slept overnight after being fed with help from church volunteers from the kitchen, and had a good night's sleep.

By mid morning the next day, water had receded enough to let the campers back to their cabins and the mess hall on higher ground, up the hill, was again ready for the week of camp.



A look at the water that flooded from the local creek on the western edge of Camp Bimini, south of Stratford on Embro Road, following five inches of torrential rain. Photos by Gary West



Quick action by coordinator Carol Young, who is also youth leader at Grace United Church in Tavistock, saw the Bimini campers bed down for the night, safe and sound, in the church's auditorium once it looked like their cabins would be flooded by a torrential rain.



A homemade thank-you note was sent to Grace United Church from young Bimini campers, thankful to the church for sheltering them in the auditorium after the rains came and flooded their cabins at the summer camp.

## Ask the Arborist

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



Dear Arborist,

Can a tree drown? I have three blue Spruce, and the area has been so wet this year. They seem to be dying.

Sincerely

Spruce troubles....

Dear Spruce Troubles,

Yes, trees can drown. Especially trees that have been planted in the last 5 years. Standing water for a week or longer is often enough to suffocate the root system. Standing water, in

general, intermittently can cause mold or root rot.

It's important to have adequate drainage, especially this year with all the rain that we have been getting.

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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## ARTS AND CULTURE

# From Helicopter Seed to Warp Drive: New Metamorphic outdoor sculptures in St. Marys



Once a 30-foot tree at the corner of Jones and Church streets, the trunk of this tree now makes up St. Marys artist Eugen-Florin Zamfirescu's sculpture, "Warp Drive." Photo by Eugen-Florin Zamfirescu/Art of Ideas Gallery

By Britton Theurer

If we are lucky, trees spend a long time in one place. Like Tolkien's Ents, we are acquainted with stillness and patience, enjoying the stately elegance that grows more visible with each new ring around our expanding girth.

This is a brief account of my unusual journey from a whirling seed to 30-foot sentinel to my final incarnation as Eugen-Florin Zamfirescu's sculpted vision of a time- and space-bending Warp Drive.

After settling into the soil at the corner of Jones and Church, I grew tall and strong from over one hundred years of feeling the various effects of the summer's rain and sun, and winter's frigid wind and snow. I developed a complex root system and an underground fungal network which supported me with nutrition, news and a rich social network of neighboring trees and plants.

Although I felt the rumble of cars and heavy machinery as houses and roads were built and maintained, I was enjoying my life and didn't mind the slight incursions from the vibrant community of people, dogs, squirrels, birds and insects which added to my distinct appearance.

Suddenly last fall, I felt the sharp, painful invasion of a chainsaw severing my upper branches, limbs and finally my trunk because it was said I was too fat and obstructed the view of some drivers. Even my roots were ground into wood chips and sawdust!

But luckily the portions of my trunk that were still whole were carried by bulldozer up the hill and dumped on three separate yards because of the intervention of an artist who saw potential in my dismembered body.

At one location, on Jones Street between James and King, I was jabbed, rolled and turned, and lay through the cold winter decorated as a Yule log with two stone frogs on my back before learning that in the warm weather, I would be sculpted into a work of art!

In May, a tripod with block and tackle was rigged up over me and I was unceremoniously lifted onto five large rocks!

The sculptor, Eugen-Florin Zamfirescu, then employed more chainsaws, hammers, chisels and various copper tubing and brass vacuum fixtures to turn me into something with the dramatic potential of bringing historically focused St. Marys into a community capable of experiencing faster-than-light travel!

According to Britton Theurer, the musician/composer/sponsor of this project, the lines, angles, and layers highlighted by copper and brass give me rhythm, motion, and a complexity that might even be musical. This kind of music and motion is an internal response – a personal rhythmic resonance to this visual experience.

My new form invites you to walk around me and consider each new perspective's impact on the unfolding, continually evolving visual image. My



Every angle you look at it, "Warp Drive" by artist Eugen-Florin Zamfirescu offers a new perspective. Photo by Eugen-Florin Zamfirescu/Art of Ideas Gallery

huge mass and weight, via the artist's imagination, seems to defy gravity and take flight.

Theurer thinks that my metamorphosis may be something truly unique – an original and monumental achievement in sculpture!

But I leave that for you to judge. Lots of folks have been stopping on their walks, trying to imagine what I have become. I am told that eventually a special sign with a QR code will link me to more information about my transformation and the artist responsible for my new life.

I have to say I am thankful that I can live on as a "Warp Drive," hopefully for at least as long as I did as a tree. I am also relieved that the other parts of my trunk have landed on other lawns along Jones Street and will also become part of Florin's series that imagines machines that will someday defy the limits of time, distance and even the speed of light.

For more on Eugen-Florin Zamfirescu, the creator of "Warp Drive," as well as details on the sculptures, his art and gallery, please visit [www.artofideasgallery.com](http://www.artofideasgallery.com).



Check out "Warp Drive" on Jones Street between Jones and Kings streets. Photo by Eugen-Florin Zamfirescu/Art of Ideas Gallery

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# ARTS AND CULTURE

## A portrait is worth a thousand words

By James Giles, edited by Alice Rixson

A portrait can be a painting, photograph, sculpture or similar artistic representation of a person in which the face is always the focal point. It can also capture the perception or the personification of someone. Portraits can also grasp a particular mood of the subject or how the individual wishes to be identified.

History's first portraits are attributed to artists of the ancient Egyptian culture beginning about 2,700 BCE. Solely dedicated to deceased pharaohs and their divinities, these paintings were not rendered to be viewed by the living but instead were intended for the spiritual world. At that time in antiquity a painted, sculpted or drawn depiction was the only way to record the appearance of someone.

Portrait painting is challenging. The artist requires not only talent and skill but also technical knowledge to convert three-dimensional images such as facial features onto a two-dimensional surface. A large caliber of proficiency is essential to mix colours to achieve natural skin tones and hair.

One of the most recognized portraits in the Western world is Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa, a masterpiece he painted late in his life in the first decade of the sixteenth century. Before the age of photography, portraiture was the common means by which to capture the likeness of someone. England's Henry VIII commissioned a portrait of Anne of Cleves of Germany before his intention to make her his fourth wife. He was dissatisfied that the artist's depiction didn't accurately match his betrothed. Although the wedding proceeded, the marriage was never consummated and the union annulled six months later.

The first official portrait of King



Sylvie Verwaayen arranging a portrait. Contributed photo

Charles III of the UK has drawn controversy and criticism. The characterization of the monarch features a life-like depiction of his face, set against a backdrop of abstract reds swirling, almost enveloping him. Some critics assert he appears to be "bathing in blood". As an example of a portrait exemplifying more than simply the subject, the butterfly near the King's shoulder is said to pay tribute to his passion for the environment. In the context of art history, a butterfly in a portrait often the symbol of metamorphosis and rebirth. Thus, it also parallels the King's transition from prince to monarch.

The National Portrait Gallery in London England houses the world's greatest collection of more than 200,000 portraits, including paintings, sculp-

ture, miniatures, drawings, prints and photographs spanning six centuries. Australia boasts the Archibald Prize, a portraiture art prize for painting, generally seen as the most prestigious portrait prize in Australia. Canada has the Portrait Gallery of Canada, described as "a new kind of museum —one that collects and shares the stories of the individuals and communities that define Canada." Regrettably, it's only available online.

After last year's successful digital portraiture showcase, St. Marys Station Gallery is featuring a similar event – the portrait premiere exhibition of the works of local area artist Sylvie Verwaayen, a BealArt and Fanshawe Industrial Design graduate.

Verwaayen's ability to draw people helped to further her interest in

creating portraits. "My two children where the first subjects. Later I created portraits of other family members," she recalls. She has researched the techniques of American John Singer Sargent (1865-1925) and Dutch Ben Lustenhouwer (1971-present). These are the styles that she is striving for.

This exhibition is a culmination of 40 years of work. "It is a show of portraiture in illustration, painting and sculpture. Some subjects are of people I know and some are from royalty-free reference photos available online," says Verwaayen. Two recent portraits are the most personal so far. One is of Seana McKenna, a Stratford actress and director, the other is her high school art teacher, Bill Meaden. She met with them at either their home or hers, took photos in sittings and then created the portraits in her studio.

Verwaayen primarily applies acrylic paints on canvas but some pieces in her exhibition are also done by using media of coloured wax and oil pencils, markers and paint pens. "For me, it is the joy of experimentation that drives me forward in whatever medium I am working in. I have had commissioned work in the past where I have painted on outdoor brick, stone, wood and metal. No surface is out of reach and each is an adventure." She adds that, "Each portrait in this exhibition has a story behind it and a joy in my heart in its making."

View Verwaayen's portrait exhibit at St. Mary's Gallery from Aug. 3 to Sept. 14. The Gallery is open Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Please send comments and proposed topics for Arts articles to - [smindependentarts@gmail.com](mailto:smindependentarts@gmail.com)

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## COMMUNITY

# “We can celebrate everyday”: Emancipation Day recognized by multicultural association

By Connor Luczka, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As pointed out by many during a celebration of this year's Emancipation Day, Canada's involvement with the slave trade may not be well known by Canadians – but all the more reason why Emancipation Day is so important.

On Aug. 1, representatives from the Multicultural Association of Perth Huron (MAPH) invited the community to join them at the Falstaff Family Centre to celebrate Emancipation Day, a day for Canadians to reflect on emancipation in this country and beyond.

Area residents gathered in the family centre's basement and shared refreshments and company.

Nadine Williams, a Jamaican-Canadian poet, artist and educator, among other vocations, joined the group via phone, thanking city councillor and MAPH founder Geza Wordofa for organizing the celebration. She read one of her poems, “Ase Ase,” about Emancipation Day, and unveiled one of the many quilts entitled *The Fabric of Our Being* she made for the International Decade for People of African Descent.

The decade is from 2015 to 2024 and was declared by the United Nations to recognize that people of African descent represent a distinct group whose human rights must be promoted and protected.

“The decade's theme of recognition, development and justice is found running along the bottom,” Williams said. “And the country of Canada is covered



Area residents gathered at the Falstaff Family Centre in Stratford on Aug. 1 to celebrate Emancipation Day with a commemorative quilt made by Jamaican-Canadian poet, artist and educator Nadine Williams. Emancipation Day is a day for Canadians to reflect on emancipation in this country and beyond. Photos by Connor Luczka

in Ankara fabric, indicating that people of African descent are tightly woven into Canada's fabric.”

According to Wordofa, the organization will be keeping Williams' quilt for one month and can be brought across the city as a teaching resource. He said they are privileged to be selected to have this symbol in the community.

Stratford Mayor Martin Ritsma spoke at the event. He said he thinks about Emancipation Day on a number of different levels.

“When I grew up as a young man in schools, we never ever heard about

Emancipation Day,” Ritsma said. “That was something that happened south of the border, not in Canada. But there were times in Canada, before emancipation, where government leaders actually had enslaved people.

“I think days like today bring some awareness that is needed and we have much work to do. ... We're living in a world of racism, and that is the child of slavery.”

Omar Alshehri, founder of the Stratford Mosque, shared his own experiences with racism.

“When I came to Canada in 2009, I made a decision with myself that I will

never feel difference. I will be part of the community,” Alshehri said. “So, if someone yells at me or someone kicks me from his store ... I will treat it on an individual basis. So, I had a peace of mind and a beautiful life.”

Alshehri shared that one day he didn't follow his own advice and was jogging in his neighbourhood in Waterloo when a woman came outside and told him to leave. He assumed she acted that way because he was Muslim, but her son came outside and explained he was an addict and she was worried that he was a drug dealer coming to sell him drugs.

“Imagine if I just walked off with this idea in my mind,” Alshehri said. “It would have been toxic to me – I would feel (like) a stranger, outsider.”

He clarified he is not denying racism, rather is entreating people to interpret what happens to them in a way that lets them live in peace.

Emancipation Day began in 2021 after the Canadian House of Commons voted unanimously to recognize the day in 1834 that the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 came into effect across the British empire.

Each Aug. 1, Canadians are invited to reflect, educate and engage in the ongoing fight against anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism and discrimination as Canadians are not always aware that Black and Indigenous Peoples were once enslaved on the land that would become Canada.

But, as Wordofa said, it doesn't always need to be on the first day of August.

“We can celebrate every day,” Wordofa said.



Geza Wordofa, Stratford city councillor and founder of the Multicultural Association of Perth Huron (MAPH), phones Williams so she can share not only her story, but a wider perspective on Emancipation Day. MAPH organized a celebration for the day that evening.



Stratford Mayor Martin Ritsma shared that growing up, his generation was taught that emancipation was something that was needed and done south of the border – but Canadians need to recognize this country's involvement in slavery and racism, too.

# Beguiling India: Memories to Last a Lifetime



By Hilary Purvis

Complex and beguiling, India is a country unlike any other. Wondrous sights rich in romance and intrigue come alive in the Golden Triangle of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur.

New Delhi, India's sprawling capital city, is colourful, confounding, and captivating. The broad boulevards were laid out early in the 20th century after the British moved the capital of the Raj from Kolkata to New Delhi. Though the British are long gone, this area continues to house India's government.

For centuries New Delhi was the capital of the Mughal Empire, so it hosts spectacular examples of Mughal architecture, including Humayun's Tomb, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The immense red sandstone

marble tomb, commissioned by Emperor Humayun's grief-stricken wife, will capture your heart. Erected in 1570, it was the first Mughal garden tomb in India and a model for the Taj Mahal and Birla House.

Delhi is also home to Raj Ghat, a black granite memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, the founder of modern India.

The Taj Mahal in Agra is one of the most famous buildings in the world with its white domes and minarets floating serenely above the reflecting pools. At sunset, the light bathes the white marble in a panoply of colours. It's a monument to a love story between a great ruler, Shah Jahan, and a learned and powerful woman, his third wife Mumtaz Mahal. After she died giving birth to their 14th child, he gathered some 20,000 craftsmen to build her mausoleum endowing it with dazzling translucent marble carvings inlaid with precious and semiprecious stones. Step through the gate and into the symmetrical gardens, and experience one of the most beautiful places on earth.

Jaipur, the mesmerizing Pink City, is the capital of the state of Rajasthan. It was founded in the 18th century by Maharaja Jai Singh II and carefully planned out in a grid pattern.

Jaipur is strewn with massive palaces and architectural projects. Jaipur is known for its art, and the bazaars are famous for their traditional Rajasthani crafts: jewelry, pottery, hand-printed textiles, and carpets.

Jantar Mantar is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Jaipur devoted to astronomy. Each of the curious structures, called yantras, in this observatory without telescopes enabled court astronomers to study the heavens, measuring various celestial phenomena: eclipses, the position of stars, or the time of day. Some of the old instruments are still used by astrologers today to determine which days will be auspicious for weddings or other important events.

Visitors to India should visit Kolkata. The city is synonymous with the enduring legacies of Mother Teresa and the colonial-era British Raj. Though teeming, Kolkata is home to palaces and tenements, new developments and modern office buildings, grand hotels and parks. Its historic architecture reflects its status as the longtime administrative heart of the British Raj. The colonial buildings offer a blend of baroque and neo-classical styles that say much about British colonial taste. But there are some surprises. The façade of the Kolkata High Court is a replica of

the red and white city hall in Ypres, Belgium. The Victoria Memorial Museum, built as a tribute to Queen Victoria, was partly inspired by the Taj Mahal.

Cruising the Ganges River, sacred to the Hindu religion, is the best way to glimpse life away from the big cities. About 40% of the population depend on the Ganges which runs from the Himalayas in Northern India to the Bay of Bengal and into Bangladesh. Along the river are many small towns and large cities, Hindu temples, religious centres, palaces, and historical monuments. In the Rajbari temple complex in Kalana you will find the Pratapeshwar Temple, which is embellished with exceptional terra-cotta carvings depicting myths and rituals, as well as scenes of everyday life.

Mayapur is the center of the international Hare Krishna movement and home to the new Temple of the Vedic Planetarium, still under construction. The small towns are also a place to see metal craftsmen or watch a cricket game.

A trip to India is life changing, and the memories will stay with you forever.

*Hilary Purvis is a travel consultant with Stonetown Travel in New Hamburg.*

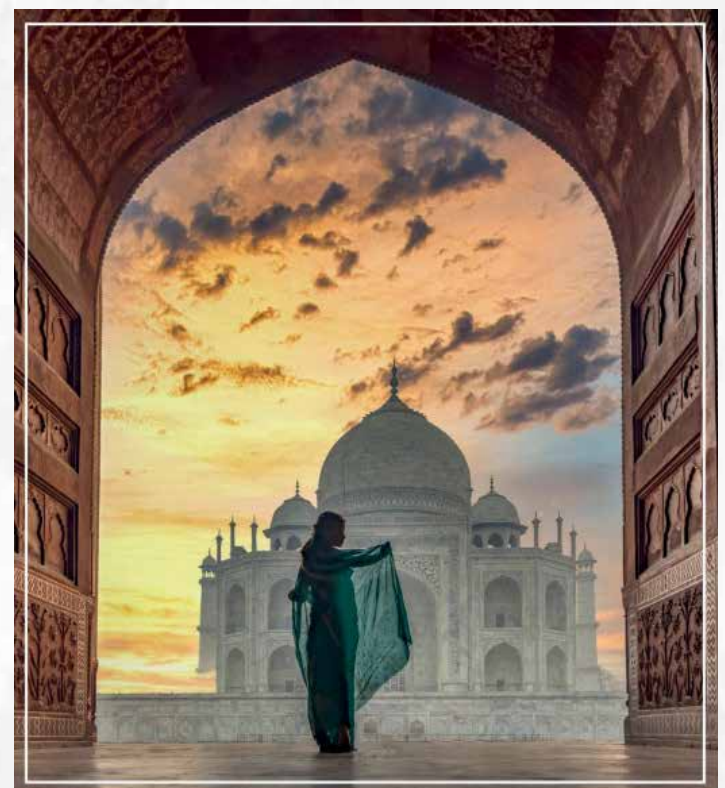
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## U16-BT3 Storm win wild game over Whitecaps

By Spencer Seymour

Between back-and-forth goal scoring, a sudden mid-game resurgence, and a game-winning goal with just seconds to spare, there was no shortage of drama during the U16 Boys Tier Three St. Marys Storm 4-3 win on July 30 over the Whitecaps from London.

Still reeling from the madness he and everyone had just watched, head coach Richard Farmer explained how his team found their footing once they finally got on the score-sheet.

"Our first goal started to change the momentum for us," Farmer told the Independent. "It seemed to make them say, 'You know what? I think we want to win this game.' But man, with how that game ended, I thought my heart was going to explode."

The team's first goal, which Farmer felt began turning the tides in St. Marys' favour, didn't come until well into the second half of the game when the Storm found themselves trailing 2-0. Before that point, the head coach felt his team was struggling to generate a high-intensity attack.

"For a large chunk of the game, I thought London was the better team. I was not very happy with my players after the first half because we were sluggish, just kicking the ball and hoping we



Griffin Ball gets engulfed by his teammates in celebration of his goal during the U16 Boys Tier Three St. Marys Storm game. After being down 2-0 after the first half, the Storm came back to life and won 4-3, with the game-winning goal by Nathan McKeen with just seconds left to play. Photo by Spencer Seymour

could run onto it, which is not what we've been working on in practice. We've been working on trying to move the ball around a bit more."

According to Farmer, part of the reason for this less-than-stellar first half was the team still getting accustomed to a new tactical approach that it didn't have much opportunity to hone coming into the match against the Whitecaps.

"We changed formation a couple of weeks ago, but because of the weather recently and guys being on holidays, I haven't had a good practice with the whole team in that time, so we're still trying to learn the positioning. There's no doubt this team has a lot of fight in them."

Farmer highlighted fellow coach Karen Brinke as helping the team find their stride

within their new formation as the game went along.

"Our positioning was much better overall by midway through the second half and we started moving the ball around a bit better. They were starting to be a bit quicker and more confident in those passes and then we finally started getting shots on net.

"I give Karen credit for this because she was really watching players and catching instances of being out of position, so I would sub them off and she would have a conversation about their positioning," added Farmer. "I think that one-on-one was a bit more successful in getting everyone eventually to follow through a bit better on what they needed to do."

After trailing by two goals in the second half, Griffin Ball, Macklin Hern and Matteo Napolitano scored three straight for St. Marys to resurrect the Storm and put them up by a goal with just minutes left to play. However, it seemed the game was destined to end in a draw when the Whitecaps tied it at three apiece with barely any time remaining.

Then magic struck. With mere seconds before the referee blew the final whistle, Nathan McKeen found himself all alone close to the box and booted home the game-winning goal, which left even the head coach at a loss for words.

"That last goal," Farmer said, before holding up his arms in stunned silence, unable to find the words for the last-second heroics. "I don't know how you print a shocked gesture and a facial expression, but I was just speechless."

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# SPORTS

## Valcke helps Canada win Bronze



Pictured is Mia Valcke, who played a starring role in Team Canada's bronze medal victory at the Women's Baseball World Cup in Thunder Bay on Aug. 3. After going five-for-five and recording three RBIs in a 9-8 extra-innings win over Chinese Taipei, the shortstop once again came up big for her country in the bronze medal game, scoring the winning run in Canada's 4-2 victory over Mexico to secure the Bronze. Her strong performance also earned Valcke a selection to the tournament's All-World Team. Valcke's family moved to St. Marys in December of 2000, where they lived for 19 years. The Independent will have more on Valcke's win and experience at the World Cup in an upcoming edition. Contributed photo

## Bugler, McLellan win Open Pairs Lawn Bowling tournament



Pictured from left to right are Larry McLellan and JoAnne Bugler, who came away as the winners of the Parks Lawn Bowling Open Pairs tournament held on Aug. 4 at the local greens. The tournament was close to full and was generously sponsored by Little Caesars and Hubbard Pharmacy. Leigh and Paula Foliott finished in second place, while Murray Bennewies and Susan Macaulay took third. Garret Fisher and Jim Smith came in fourth and the consolation prize went to Dawn Collins and Mark King. Contributed photo

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## Kittmer shoots first-ever hole-in-one



It was an exciting night for Rob Kittmer at River Valley Golf Course's weekly men's night on Aug. 1 when he shot a hole-in-one. The ace was Kittmer's first and came using a seven-iron on hole number 13. Kittmer didn't see the ball go in himself, but according to Kevin Edwards, who witnessed the ace, the ball hit about five feet away from the pin before rolling into the hole. Contributed photo

# SPORTS

## SMPA members win medals at Ontario Championship Series

By Spencer Seymour

Several members of the St. Marys Pickleball Association (SMPA) returned home with medals from the Ontario Championship Series hosted July 26-28 at RIM Park in Waterloo.

Headlining the slate of results for the St. Marys players was the duo of Dwayne and Jody Henderson, who claimed the gold medal in the 55-64-year-old 3.5 skill level mixed-doubles division. As a result of claiming the top prize in their di-

vision, the Hendersons qualified to attend the provincial finals being played in Toronto from Aug. 8-10.

Dwayne Henderson also earned a bronze medal when he teamed up with Merlin Leis in the 55-64 3.5 men's doubles bracket.

That was one of two bronze medals earned by Leis, who also took home the third-place prize in the 65+ 3.5 mixed doubles as part of a pairing that also featured Angela Martin



Pictured on the left are Jody and Dwayne Henderson, members of the St. Marys Pickleball Association (SMPA) who won the gold medal in the 55-64-year-old 3.5 skill level mixed doubles division at the Ontario Championship Series hosted July 26-28 in Waterloo. On the right are Angela Martin and Merlin Leis who teamed up to capture the bronze in the 65+ 3.5 mixed-doubles action. Henderson and Leis added another bronze to the cache of SMPA-won medals when they took third in the 55-64 3.5 men's doubles division. The Hendersons will go to Toronto to compete in the provincial finals running from Aug. 8-10. Contributed photos

## St. Marys Pickleball Association to host beginner round robins

By Emily Stewart

Anyone who is familiar with the rules of pickleball and wants to improve their skills can play in the upcoming Beginners Pickleball Fun round-robin tournaments run by the St. Marys Pickleball Association.

The round robins will be held for up to 20 players on Aug. 11 and 25 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. The events are for beginners who have played a few games and know the rules of pickleball or have taken a beginners' clinic but want to brush up on their game. Members of the association and non-members can participate.

Steve Lawton came up with the idea of the Beginners Pickleball Fun Round Robins. Lawton told the St. Marys Independent the round robins will pair beginners up with experienced players and they will play a series of games with rotating players.

"The overall intent is to get beginners playing together, gain experience in a game situation and be more confident in playing on club nights," Lawton said.

The St. Marys Pickleball Association was founded in 2017 and has grown to 127 active members. The sport grew in popularity during the COVID-19 pandemic, with many desiring to stay active and engage in outdoor activities.

Since many pickleball players in St. Marys are experienced, however, it can be tricky for beginners to find fellow beginners. Lawton hopes the Beginners Fun Round Robins can help bridge the gap.

"It is hoped that beginners will be encouraged to play between themselves on an ongoing basis," he said.

"It's recognized in pickleball that not every player will become an intermediate or advanced player so it's important for a club to offer the opportunities for like skill levels to play together. This is the start of that process."

Carol Venn, president of the St. Marys Pickleball association, said the sport has something for everyone.

"It's social and can also be challenging and competitive. All ages can play together, which means it's a great activity for families," Venn told the St. Marys Independent. "I love it when I'm on the court with my teenagers. Pickleball also requires very little equipment. All you need is a paddle, a ball and decent shoes."

She added that as an optometrist, she also recommends wearing protective eyewear when playing to prevent rare but possible eye injuries.

Venn also said anyone interested in playing pickleball should give it a try by either reaching out to a friend who plays it, reaching out to the St. Marys Pickleball Association on Instagram or Facebook, or taking one of Lawton's beginner clinics.

"You'll probably love it. You'll get some exercise, you'll make a bunch of new friends and you'll have a fun, new activity that you can do almost anywhere with anyone," Venn said.

More information about the St. Marys Pickleball Association can be found by visiting @st.marys\_pickleball\_assoc on Instagram, the St. Marys Pickleball Association Facebook group, or by sending an email to either stmaryspickleball@gmail.com or stevejlawton@gmail.com.

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# SPORTS



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## MINOR SPORTS SCRAPBOOK



Isaac Palmer fires a shot from the wing during the U10 Boys Tier Three One St. Marys Storm game this past Sunday.



Sydney Hawkins scores a goal on a penalty kick during this past Sunday's U10 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm game.



Sam Richardson catches an incoming pitch during the Veterinary Purchasing U11 WOBA Red St. Marys Rockies game last Thursday.



Sophie Stewardson takes the ball into the box during last Thursday's U14 Girls Tier Three One St. Marys Storm game.



Ella Frayne steps into a shot on goal during last Thursday's U16 Girls Tier Two St. Marys Storm game. Photos by Spencer Seymour



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# SPORTS

## St. Marys hosts Ontario Summer Games triathlon



St. Marys played host to the triathlon event on Aug. 2-3, part of the London 2024 Ontario Summer Games. Pictured are the three male athletes who finished with medals competing in the bike portion of one of the heats of the triathlon, with Daniel Hasson in front, followed closely by Quinn Fitzgerald and Jacob Jansen.



Senna Chan Carusone and Clara Murison, who ended up finishing in the top two spots of the female division, sprint from the water to the transition area to begin the bike portion of the triathlon. The competition saw athletes swim in the Quarry, cycle through downtown St. Marys, and run the grounds of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame.



Murison celebrates as she crosses the finish line during the running portion of the triathlon.



Several male athletes speed to the exit ladder during the triathlon's swimming portion.



Pictured from left are the female silver medalist Carusone, gold medalist Murison, and bronze medalist Ruth Maley.



Pictured from left to right are the male division's silver, gold, and bronze medal winners, Hasson, Jansen, and Fitzgerald. Photos by Spencer Seymour

**SPORTS**

# Full team effort leads U13 WOBA Blue Rockies to victory

By Spencer Seymour

The Forman Electric U13 WOBA Blue St. Marys Rockies put forward a strong teamwide performance on July 31 and were rewarded with an 11-4 victory over Exeter.

Head coach Rob Martin was thrilled with every member of his team, all of whom he felt contributed to the team's win.

"Teamwork, team spirit and collective team skill led these boys to victory," Martin told the Independent. "The

entire team played well and all had strong points throughout their game and in various areas on both sides of the ball. They proved that when they work together, they can come out on top."

The team's complete effort allowed the Rockies to steadily control the game en route to the 11-4 final. Martin noted that, among all the positives to come out of the game, the group's aggressiveness on the bases stood out.

"The boys were able to steal a few

more bases than normal, which put them more often in scoring position and thus able to score runs on the passed ball. This isn't necessarily specific to (July 31), but it definitely was a key factor in our win against Exeter. The way the game progressed put the boys in a winning mood and they carried that energy through the entire game."

According to Martin, the U13 WOBA Blue Rockies have seen just as much development amongst one another off the field as they have in their skills on

the field.

"This team has come together this year really well," Martin noted. "They've really gotten to know each other and learned to play together. Not all of our players attend the same school or would have the opportunity to interact with each other outside of this sport. I think that, in general, their personal skills have been the biggest development for these boys and it's helped them continue developing their playing skills."

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## HISTORY

## HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Thomas Brush Brown

By Mary Smith

The remarkable photograph with this week's column shows a group of 67 people – adults and children – gathered in 1880 to celebrate Thomas Brush and Amanda Harris Brown's 50th wedding anniversary. T. B. Brown, the older, clean-shaven man, and his wife Amanda are standing to the left of the white veranda pillar in the centre of the photograph. Somehow, Ingersoll photographer Ichabod Hall managed to get most of this large group to keep still long enough to capture the picture. The site was the family homestead at the crossroads still known as Brown's Corners in East Nissouri Township. The creased and faded print is one of the treasures in the St. Marys Museum's archival collection. Another treasure is a small, 76-page, hard-cover book, the Autobiography of Rev. Thos. B. Brown, published by the St. Marys Journal in 1899, six years after Brown's death. There are several transcripts at the Museum and the contents, of considerable local interest, can be read without handling the original, fragile book. In 1967, a descendant, Isabel Grace Uren, had the book reprinted in paperback with additional notes.

The author, T. B. Brown (1804-1893), had good material for his autobiography. He is remembered as a preacher whose energy and dedication were responsible for the growth of Methodism in this part of Ontario in the mid-1800s. But there is more to his story: he and his family lived through interesting times. His grandfather, Thomas Brown, a comb-maker, was born in Northumberland, England, and emigrated to North America, settling in Rhode Island in the mid-1700s, later moving into Vermont. He fought and was wounded in the American War of Independence, but at its conclusion, was dissatisfied with some aspects of the new government and moved his family across the border into Lower Canada (Quebec) in 1789. He remained there for the rest of his life, farming along the Richelieu River near the northern tip of Lake Champlain.

One of his sons, Joseph, was born in Rhode Island, grew up there and, like Thomas, became a comb-maker. He married Rebecca Brush in Vermont ca 1790. They also moved to Lower Canada, bringing their first three children with them. Thomas Brush Brown, their fourth child, was born on August 4, 1804, on his father's farm in Argenteuil, west of Montreal. Joseph and Rebecca later had two more daughters. In 1812, the American government declared war on Great



A gathering in 1880 to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Thomas Brush and Amanda Harris Brown in East Nissouri Township. Descendants of this family still live in St. Marys and area. From the archival collection of the St. Marys Museum. Contributed photo

Britain, targeting its colonies in Upper and Lower Canada. Although his children found it exciting to watch the preparations for war, Joseph was anxious for his family and decided to move them to a more populated area for their safety. They crossed into New York State and stayed there throughout the war. In 1818, they decided to return to Canada, moving all their goods by wagon and crossing by ferry from Buffalo. T. B. Brown comments in his autobiography on his first sight of Niagara Falls.

Today, when citizenship is documented and borders tightly controlled, we are surprised how effortlessly people crossed back and forth between Canada and the United States 200 years ago. T. B. Brown explained that his father's "predilections were in favour of Canada," but the well-being of his family was his primary concern. After returning in 1818, Joseph remained in Canada, but his older son, James and his family, eventually moved to Michigan, again crossing the border.

From 1818 to 1822, Joseph Brown farmed near the village of Smithville in the Niagara Region. T. B. Brown recalled, since his father had moved the family around so much, those few years provided his only chance to attend school. He and his sister, Rebecca, were also able to attend Sunday School at the local Methodist Church. There, they had the opportunity to hear some inspiring travelling pioneer preachers whom T. B. remembered fondly in later years.

But Joseph Brown was ready to move again. He purchased, sight unseen, 200 acres of land in Concession Eight of East Nissouri Township, from a soldier who had received this land for his army service but had not devel-

oped it. Leaving the well-settled Niagara area behind, the family set out in the early spring of 1822 for their new home in the wilderness. After days of travel over barely passable roads, they reached Thamesford at the southern end of Nissouri Township. The Browns then hired a man to take them north to their nearest neighbour, Charles Moore, who lived about three miles from their property. Although the Moores, a family of four, lived in a 12' x 12' shanty, they made room for the Brown family of eight until the men succeeded in constructing a shanty on their own lot. Thomas remembered that although the winter's snow was gone from the roads of Oxford County, it was still a foot deep in the woods. But they got their shanty built and set to work to clear some land in time to plant a spring crop.

The township was very sparsely populated when the Brown family arrived. The few settlers there lived miles apart. Brown explained that full settlement was hindered by Clergy Reserves – land set aside to benefit the Church of England. He vividly describes the hardships of carrying grain to the closest grist mill in Ingersoll, many hours of travel by oxen. They sold potash or, in the spring, maple syrup, to buy a few provisions. "Articles of clothing were very dear and hard to be got," and so they grew flax for linen and bought wool to card, spin and weave to manufacture their own, "wearing woollen as it came from the loom." Shoes were kept for winter. "In the summer neither men nor women ever thought of wearing any. Of course, the large nettles and mosquitoes which were very plentiful in the woods, were a great annoyance to barefoot people." He

remembers that they sometimes suffered from hunger and cold. "There were no newspapers taken among us and books were scarce; therefore, the only way we had of enjoying ourselves was by meeting together."

T. B. Brown was a naturally sociable, outgoing young man. He and his brother had friends they met at occasions such as barn-raising and harvesting bees. He admitted that after the day's work, "we spent the night in a spree, dancing to the sound of a fiddle." Whiskey was plentiful and "it was not considered proper etiquette to leave until the whiskey was all drunk." But, as roads improved and more civilized influences came to bear, the backwoods culture changed. T. B. Brown also changed, his life shaped by religion. In his mid-20s, he attended a camp meeting near London and was converted. From then on, he was committed to the Methodist Episcopal church. He became a leader in new congregations being established in Nissouri and received his first licence to preach in 1829. In 1830, he married 17-year-old Amanda Harris of Ingersoll. Their first child, Elisha Harris Brown, was born in 1831.

Precipitated by the 1837 Rebellion, reforms eventually came to Canada West. The Clergy Reserves were done away with and settlement in Nissouri began to grow. T. B. Brown was given increasing responsibilities as a preacher and leader, expanding his work to rural communities in Nissouri, Blanshard, Zorra and London Townships. Amanda Brown was frequently left in charge of the farm and their large family – the Browns had six sons and seven daughters. As well as preaching to one congregation or another on Sundays, Thomas was often called away in the middle of the week to officiate at a wedding or a funeral. He was a great favourite, according to contemporary records, because of his "joyful nature and great force of character."

Thomas and Amanda lived long lives, seeing their children married and their family expand and prosper. Amanda died on January 5, 1893, and Thomas Brush Brown died within the year, on December 17, 1893. He left behind a draft of his autobiography. A fellow Methodist and admirer, John McAinsh, revised and edited the manuscript and provided an introduction, explaining that Brown had wanted to write an account of his "Life and Times" with special reference to the history of Nissouri. But "the infirmities of old age came on," preventing him from completing this project himself.

# Thorndale News

A section within the  
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## Fundraising for the Good Neighbour Project

By Nancy Abra

The Good Neighbour Project is a community project that extends beyond the local community, county, province of Ontario and even Canada. It is part of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, a Christian-based charitable organization that facilitates the collection and distribution of cash, grain and other agricultural commodities to the world's hungry through its member agencies.

Pat Jones of the Thorndale area is an active member of this local Good Neighbour Project. Being involved in this local project and having an extensive daylily garden, she thought one could help the other.

Jones' daylily garden is vast with 25 varieties totalling approximately 2,000 plants. She started growing daylilies as a retirement project 10 years ago, purchasing the original daylily plants from Horner's Lilies when they closed their garden business. Her daylilies range in colours of burgundy, pinks, oranges, reds and yellows to bi-colour variations.



Pat Jones is hoping to use her daylily garden to help raise money for the Good Neighbour Project and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Photo by Nancy Abra

The flower size also varies according to the different varieties along with the blooming times from June to mid August. Daylilies are basically bug free as Japanese beetles and the scarlet lily beetle don't seem to bother them. Over time, the plants increase

in size as does the number of blooms each plant produces.

"I thought this would be a good way that my daylily garden can support our local Good Neighbour Project selling my daylily tubers with the sales going

to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank," Jones said.

Anyone interested in purchasing these daylily tubers to support this worthy organization can contact Jones at [pjones@start.ca](mailto:pjones@start.ca) or 519-670-4124. Jones will also be at the Thorndale United Church on Saturday Aug. 10 for Thorndale's Townwide Garage Sale selling her daylily tubers alongside the church with their bake sale and barbecue that morning.

On Sunday, Aug. 18, the Good Neighbour Project is having its annual barbecue at Brown's United Church, which is located west of Highway 19 on Plover Mills Road. There will be musical entertainment provided by John Uren and Chris Yeats starting at 5:15 p.m. with supper to follow at 6 p.m. There is no admission, but people are asked to bring their own dishes and cutlery, lawn chairs plus a salad or dessert to share. Pork and corn on the cob will be provided. A donation jar will be available for those wishing to donate to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

## Mount Olivet participated in a local car rally

By Nancy Abra

On Saturday July 27, Mount Olivet 300 Masonic Lodge in Thorndale was one of the many stops in the Dumball Rally.

From the starting point in London, pre-registered vehicles received a map and set out to various locals to answer trivia questions at each stop. Mount Olivet Lodge was the fourth stop in the rally where lodge mem-

bers Scott Ivins, Geoff Clays, Bab Wakefield and Jeff Fleming were ready with their trivia questions on movies and the Oscars for the rally participants.

The Dumball Rally event, hosted by Union 380 Masonic Lodge and Nu-life Automotive in London also included live music, food, prizes and a unique car-and-bike show, raised \$6,000 for the Children's and Veterans Hospital.



Dumball Rally participants stopped off at Mount Olivet 300 Masonic Lodge in Thorndale July 27. Photos by Geoff Clays




Both bikers and car drivers participated in the Dumball Rally, which brought participants to a number of stops throughout the region where they had to answer trivia questions.



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# COMMUNITY

## Heavy rains produce localized flooding and road closures

By Nancy Abra

In the early afternoon of Tuesday, July 30, another rain event hit the area. Some people in and around Thorndale reported they received three to three-and-a-half inches of rain in under two hours. This is the second time this month that this area has endured substantial heavy rainfall.

It was just 15 days prior that there was an extensive rain event which amounted to, in some places, seven inches. This is the second time this past month that some roads in the area of Thames Centre were closed by a police order because of flooding.

The rain event the Thorndale area experienced last week may be the result of a single-cell thunderstorm, sometimes referred to as popcorn convection. This type of thunderstorm is formed through a process of convection whereby heat

and moisture are transported vertically in the atmosphere. They are short-lived but produce heavy rains and sometimes lightning.

Twice in the month of July there was flash flooding because of these strong thunderstorm cells with creeks and streams overflowing their banks as well as many farm fields inundated with large pools of water. According to a local farmer, their corn crop seems to be doing okay with the excess water. The week before, many corn fields were sprayed with a fungicide which is important, especially in wet weather. As for the beans, there seems to be a lot of damaged fields as the plants are struggling to recover from the first heavy rainstorm. Beans do not like wet feet.

As our climate is changing, it seems hard to predict what Mother Nature has in store for us. Time will tell.



Recent rain events cause streams and creeks to flood their banks and resulted in problems for some area farmers. This photos was taken on Heritage Road looking north at Gregory where the road was closed due to flooding from early afternoon heavy rain with pools of water still laying in the bean fields. Photo by Nancy Abra

## Local Community Food Centre looks to rise to the challenge at recent AGM

By Julia Schneider

“Most people aren’t excited to attend an AGM” unless they have an association with the organization involved, said Margaret Smart, executive director of The Local Community Food Centre, at the start of its 2024 annual general meeting July 24.

Despite that, anyone interested in food security, local health and a community agency involved in delivering these would likely find the meeting of interest.

It came at the end of a hard year, she continued. Change, challenges and transition were the recurrent themes as staff changes, financial challenges and facil-

ity shortcomings had to be faced and overcome.

Some highlights of the meeting were:

- a surplus of revenue over expenses at the end of the year of \$30,000 after a deficit of \$150,000 at its beginning;
- the Monday and Friday community meals attracting 170 people weekly to the capacious dining room, as compared to the 130 in the previous year;
- over 10,800 meals provided through the Connection Centre with 30,000 servings of warm soup or stew and 700 bags of fruit distributed to people in emergency shelters;

- the number of volunteers increased substantially from 80 to 175; and
- markets in Stratford, St. Marys and Milverton continued with added summer markets at Stratford’s city hall and Dufferin Park, the site of The Local’s large community garden.

All of this happened at a time of great need for The Local’s services. Food insecurity has risen by 26 per cent over the previous year, with visits to profit-driven grocery stores becoming a stressful experience for many.

Local MP John Nater, Stratford deputy mayor Harjinder Nijjan and St. Marys deputy mayor Brogan Aylward all voiced support for The Local.

“Everything represents individuals,” said Aylward. “We’re here for the people; they come for all sorts of reasons.”

Surveys show the beneficial effect of The Local for those people. Eighty-one per cent of respondents said the community food centre improved their access to nourishing, culturally appropriate food, 87 per cent said it gave them an increased sense of belonging and support, and 91 per cent said it had made changes to their eating habits.

The Local goes into the new fiscal year with a renewed sense of purpose, a dedicated and focused board of director chaired by Katie deBlock Boersma and a strong staff including Smart, gardener Lucas Tingle and Chef Lucy Dillinger.

Even so, as director, local realtor and auctioneer Brent Shackleton said, The Local cannot survive, let alone continue to thrive, without the support of the donors who came through this year. The need for them and to ask for their help continues. Immediately following this statement, Shackleton pledged \$50,000 and treasurer Katelyn Cullitin of BMO Wealth Management pledged another \$50,000 towards the \$750,000 needed to keep the operation going.

Following the meeting, those in attendance were invited to stay for a sampling of what The Local offers: a variety of delicious and healthy treats, a chance to visit the Fresh Produce store that is open twice a week, and a tour of the newly cleared area where an outdoor space is planned – a prelude to more of the same to follow.

### Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 31

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COLUMN

EAT AT OUR HOUSE: Beating the August heat



By Lauren Eedy

Grilled shrimp kebabs

Total time: 20 minutes; Serves: 4-6

1 1/2 lb extra large peeled and deveined shrimp

2 tbsp olive oil

1 tbsp lemon juice, plus grilled lemon wedges for serving

2 tbsp Chesapeake-style rub\*

Method:

- Heat grill to medium-high. In a large bowl, toss shrimp with olive oil and lemon juice, then 2 tbsp Chesapeake\* rub or Herby rub.\*\* Thread onto wooden skewers that have soaked in water for 20 minutes. Three to five shrimp per skewer. Grill until opaque throughout, about 2-3 minutes per side. Grate lemon zest over top and serve with grilled lemon if desired.

\*Chesapeake-Style Rub

16 bay leaves, finely crushed

(2 tbsp)

1 tbsp paprika

1 tbsp kosher salt

2 tsp celery seed

1 tsp ground ginger

1/2 tsp ground mustard

1/8 tsp ground nutmeg

\*\*Herby Rub

6 tbsp dried oregano

1 tbsp dry mustard

2 tbsp coriander

1 tbsp sumac

1 tbsp dried thyme

1 tbsp dried sage

1 1/2 tsp kosher salt

Method for Rubs:

- Store all ingredients together, store in airtight container for up to three months. Use about 2 tbsp on each pound of meat, seafood or vegetables.

Zucchini bread

Prep: 15 minutes; Cook: 1 hour; Serves: 8

1 1/2 cup all-purpose flour

1/2 tsp baking powder

1/2 tsp baking soda

1/2 tsp salt

1/2 cup vegetable oil

3/4 packed brown sugar

1/4 cup granulated sugar

2 large eggs, room temperature

1 tsp vanilla extract

2 tsp cinnamon

1 1/2 cups shredded zucchini

Method:

- Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease an 8x4 inch or 9x5 inch loaf pan with non-stick cooking spray or butter.

- Whisk flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt in a small bowl. Set aside.

- Add oil and both sugars to a large bowl. Stir until smooth.

- Mix in cinnamon, eggs and vanilla extract.

- Stir in the flour mixture, mixture will be thick. Add zucchini and stir until combined. Mixture will get looser and more pourable after adding zucchini.

- Pour batter into prepared pan and bake for 50-60 minutes (for 9x5 inch pan) or 50-55 minutes (for 8x4 inch pan) or until toothpick inserted into the centre comes out clean.

- Cool before slicing or removing from pan. Store covered for two days or

freeze up to three months.

- Can add 1/2 cup of chocolate chips or chopped nuts to batter. You can use both sugars or just granulated. I prefer all brown sugar. Shred zucchini using a box grater and do not drain or strain liquid out so the bread remains moist.

No-bake orange-vanilla cheesecake bars

Prep: 40 minutes; Total: 6 hours 40 minutes; Serves: 20

16 graham crackers

2 tbsp granulated sugar

1 stick salted butter, melted

3 8-oz packages cream cheese, at room temperature

1 1/2 cups powdered sugar

1 1/2 cups heavy cream

2 tsp grated orange zest

1 tbsp fresh orange juice

1 tsp orange extract

1 drop each red and yellow food colouring

1/2 tsp vanilla extract

Method:

- Line a 9x13 inch baking dish with parchment paper, leaving an overhang. Put the graham crackers and sugar in a food pro-

cessor until finely ground. Slowly pour melted butter and process until texture of coarse sand. Transfer to dish and press crumbs to the bottom of pan in an even layer. Freeze 20 minutes.

- Beat cream cheese until smooth, add powdered sugar, scraping sides and transfer to large bowl.

- Add heavy cream to mixer bowl and beat with whisk attachment. Add 1/3 whipped cream to cream cheese mixture and gently fold, continue with remaining whipped cream.

- Transfer 1/2 cheesecake mixture to a separate bowl. Add orange zest, juice, extract and food colouring. Add vanilla to the other bowl and gently combine.

- Remove crust from freezer and add vanilla cheesecake batter. Top with orange cheesecake batter and gently smooth into an even layer. Swirl with a toothpick and cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until set, up to six hours or overnight. Loosen cheesecake from pan and cut into squares.

**St. Marys**  
**TOWN WIDE**

**Garage SALE**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 10**

<b>44 Pelissier St.</b>	<b>286 Church St. S.</b>	<b>55 Thames Rd.</b>
<b>121 Carrall St.</b>	<b>99 Church St. N.</b>	<b>34 Cain St.</b>
<b>8 Valleyview Lane</b>	<b>38 Trillium Cres.</b>	<b>101 Markham St.</b>
<b>331 Elgin St. W.</b>	<b>43 Sparling Cres.</b>	<b>310 Tracey St.</b>
<b>385 Elizabeth St.</b>	<b>31 St John St. S.</b>	<b>536 Jones St. E.</b>
<b>249 Southvale Rd.</b>	<b>10 Trillium Cres.</b>	



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**Speaker: Rose Odell**  
**Topic: Designing Without the Use of Floral Foam**



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*Refreshments provided by St. Marys Tim Hortons*

# Riddles

It belongs to you, but your friends use it more. What is it?

**Your name.**

There's only one word in the dictionary that's spelled wrong. What is it?

**The word "wrong." It's the only word that's spelled W-R-O-N-G.**

What has thirteen hearts, but no other organs?

**A deck of cards.**

What's the capital of France?

**The letter "F." It's the only capital letter in France.**

What has a heart that doesn't beat?

**An artichoke**

What gets sharper the more you use it?

**Your brain**

What can you hold in your left hand but not in your right hand?

**Your right elbow**

I have cities with no buildings, rivers without water, and forests without trees. What am I?

**A map**

I am not alive, but I grow; I don't have lungs, but I need air. What am I?

**Fire**

## - Word Search -

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

### Word List

August

Cadzw Park

Classic Rock

Concert Series

Donations

Eleventh Year

Jazzmatics

Johnny Bowes

Megan Brady

Outdoors

Performance

Pop Tunes

Stacey Frayne

Wednesdays

York Street

Thought Process



The **Riddle Kid**  
OF THE WEEK

What fish only comes out at night?



A starfish

**Marcus Horenberg (7)**

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 Jade, a three-year-old German Shepherd. She likes fetching a ball, ice cream from Hearn's, car rides and cuddles. She is owned by the McEwan family.



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### PET OF THE WEEK

**Avoid hot cement or asphalt**

Make sure to walk your dog during the coolest parts of the day (early morning and late evening) – and don't overdo it. It's much easier to overheat in high temperatures.

Also, be sure to feel the cement with the back of your hand before walking your dog on it. If you can't keep your hand pressed to the cement for five seconds, it's too hot for your pet's feet and can cause burns and blistering.

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## COLUMN

## OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Myth and magic in Glastonbury



By Paul Knowles

Let's be honest here, England is awfully well supplied with monastic ruins, soaring cathedrals, ancient churches and such. An attraction in any of these categories is going to have to offer something pretty special to stand out in this crowded field of ecclesiastical antiquities.

Enter Glastonbury Abbey in Somerset in the south of England. From a distance, Glastonbury Abbey probably looks much like dozens of other ruins of religious houses, common across the U.K., but there is more here – much more.

And some of it may actually have a foundation in truth because this is a place associated in story with King Arthur and, even earlier, Joseph of Arimathea. I emphasize "in story" because the odds of these stories being founded in fact are slim.

Nonetheless, the stories are spectacular and it is in the storytelling that Glastonbury Abbey triumphs.

I have visited the abbey several times over several decades and each time, the tour

conducted by costumed interpreters who assume the characters of historic figures has been excellent.

Most recently, our group was led around the ruins that are central to the 36-acre site by Goodwife Molly, an energetic and entertaining guide who told us all the stories – and the backstories – of Glastonbury.

We stood around a flowering thorn tree, reportedly an offshoot of a tree related to Joseph of Arimathea. This particular Joseph, you may or may not recall, was the man who offered his personal tomb to hold the body of Jesus after the crucifixion, and who had the courage to claim Jesus' body from Pilate in order to bury him.

This we read in the New Testament and there are no reliable documents to indicate anything about Joseph's subsequent life except the oral traditions at Glastonbury, which say he came there and founded the monastery. Furthermore, when he arrived at the site, he stuck his walking staff into the ground as a sign that this was the chosen place.

And that wooden staff took root, producing leaves and flowers, and is the legendary, horticultural ancestor of the flowering thorn trees of Glastonbury Abbey today.

According to more reliable historical accounts, the Abbey was founded by Benedictine monks in the eighth century.

Joseph is not even the most famous connection here. Visitors can find the plaques that mark the graves of King Ar-

thur and Queen Guinevere. The fact that no human remains have been found there does nothing to lessen the legend. The explanations include the possibility that some monks stole or relocated the bodies – more stories to add to the charm of the place.

What are real at Glastonbury are the impressive ruins of an enormous church built by the monks in the eighth century and enlarged significantly in the 10th. There are other ruins on the property, including a lady chapel and the foundations of all of the buildings associated with a functioning monastery – dormitories where the monks slept, a more elaborate home for the abbot, an infirmary for the ill and old, a refectory where the monks dined, a cloister. Special at Glastonbury is the still-standing kitchen where visitors can spend time listening to even more fascinating tales.

The kitchen dates later than the other monastics ruins; it was built on the instructions of Abbot Sodbury in the mid-1300s. Though much newer, the Abbot's Kitchener is one of the best preserved medieval kitchens in Europe.

Its octagonal design with a domed roof also creates a wonderful acoustic environment. Braver guests may want to break into song to enjoy one of the most majestic sonic settings you will find anywhere.

The town of Glastonbury is a popular destination for other reasons, as well. This community is the namesake of



The ruins of Glastonbury Abbey, founded in the eighth century by Benedictine monks or, as legend says, by Joseph of Arimathea. Photos by Paul Knowles

the gigantic Glastonbury Festival, a five-day music and arts blowout that features the top names in pop music and a considerable amount of general excess. However, the festival actually takes place several kilometres east of Glastonbury, closer to the town of Pilton.

What does attract visitors to Glastonbury proper along with the Abbey is the Glastonbury Tor, a hill adjacent to the town topped by St. Michael's Tower. The tower was built in the 15th century, but the stories about the tor date back much farther and are, no surprise here, related to King Arthur and Joseph of Arimathea.

Legend says Joseph brought the Holy Grail – the cup used by Jesus at the Last Supper – and hid it at Glastonbury Tor. Finding the Holy Grail was, of course, the ultimate quest of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table as so accurately portrayed in the Monty Python movie.

Some stories insist that Joseph brought more than the grail here; that some years before that journey, he actually brought the boy Jesus to Glastonbury, a spurious myth nonetheless celebrated in the William Blake hymn, "Jerusalem," sung at countless courtly funerals and celebrations in English cathedrals.

With all this myth and legend about, it's not surprising that a great many shops in Glastonbury sell crystals, charms and, inevitably, King Arthur memorabilia.

Glastonbury is indeed a magical place, and if you don't believe the magical myths, you will certainly love the magic invoked by superb storytelling.

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](mailto:pknowles@golden.net).



Guide Goodwife Molly by the plaque acknowledging the alleged burial place of King Arthur.



The Lady Chapel at Glastonbury.



A statue of a 10th-century monk, Sigeric, who rode a donkey on a pilgrimage from Canterbury to Rome, located in the gardens of Glastonbury Abbey.

## IN MEMORIAM

### Nairn

Jim Nairn

In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather who left us suddenly Aug 3, 2005.

This month comes with deep regrets.

It brings back a day we cannot forget. You left us suddenly with no goodbye, but memories of you will never die. May the winds of love blow softly and whisper, so you will hear.

We will always love and miss you and wish that you were here.

Deeply missed and always loved.

Your Wife Marilyn, sons Jamie and Gwen, Dave and Sandy, grandchildren, Shaune, Jenna, Tyler, Ann Marie and Emersonn, Great Grandchildren Dominic and Brocklynn

## OBITUARY

### Szenasi



Leslie Frank Szenasi passed away at Stratford General Hospital on August 2, 2024 at the age of 76. Long-time and loving partner of Sabine Porter, whom he travelled with and had many happy adventures. In his younger years, Les traveled throughout Europe after graduating university, and saw many special places including Spain, Morocco and Portugal.

His working career spanned from working in a cannery, to tobacco fields, as an immigration officer and finally as a mental health councillor. He will be lovingly remembered by his partner Sabine of 24 years and friends he met throughout his life. Brother of Steven and William, both deceased. A private burial will take place in St. Marys Cemetery. Memorial donations to the Canadian Cancer Society. Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

## OBITUARY

### Harrison



Cameron Harrison passed away at Sakura House in Woodstock on August 2, 2024 at the age of 50. He is predeceased by his father John and survived by his mother Liz Harrison. Brother of Noel (Lianne) and Sarah. Proud uncle of Julie, Lindsay, and Daniel. Also fondly remembered by aunts, uncles

and cousins in the UK. Cremation has taken place. A private family interment will take place in Christ Church Anglican Cemetery in Lakeside. A Celebration of Life will be held at Browns School House, 136545 13th Line, RR#4, St. Marys, on August 24, 2024 from 2 – 4 pm. Memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society. Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

## THANK YOU

### Foster

Our family is incredibly grateful for the overwhelming support we received during the visitation and funeral for Earl Foster. The presence, kind words, and shared memories from our family, friends, and community have brought us comfort during this difficult time.

We are deeply touched by the generosity shown through the abundance of food, heartfelt visits, thoughtful phone calls, and the many beautiful cards. Each act of kindness has meant so much to us and has provided a great source of strength.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Bob Heywood, Ashley Giles, and Edwin Giles for their significant contributions to the service. Your efforts were deeply appreciated and made a meaningful difference. Thank you to everyone who participated in the service and supported us in so many ways. Your love and kindness will never be forgotten.

With sincere gratitude, The Foster Family

## OBITUARY

### Wiebe

Delma June Hiebert Wiebe passed away at Jessica's House Hospice in Exeter on July 18, 2024 at the age of 87. Wife of Virgil Wiebe. Mother of Michael (Joetta), Lois Warkentin (Randy). Grandmother of Brendan (Becky), Kyle (Kayla), Brock (Vanessa), Mackenzie (Adam), Aliya, Jaylee, Tara (Danny), Christine, Ricki, Tyson (Kristen), Marty (Brianna), Cole, Jonathan, Joshua and Great-grandmother of Max, Sawyer, Thomas, Milo, Isabella, Paisley, Ivey, Aspen, Georgia, Joseph and Finn. Sister of Naomi Penner (Denver, deceased), Delores Burch (Randal, deceased), Lee Hiebert (Neoma), and Lila Unruh (Gary). Sister-in-law of Denver Wiebe (Lavina, deceased), Iris Goossen (Peter), Mildred Wohlgemuth (Ron), Anna-Marie Kanagy (Jesse), Lyle Wiebe (Polly), Della Wiebe (deceased), Jennie Wiebe, Violet Hodgson (Craig), Harlen Wiebe (Sonia).

Also remembered by many nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends in Canada, USA, and Haiti. The Funeral Service was conducted at the MAPLEVIEW CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST MENNONITE on July 23, 2024. Interment took place in Kirkton Union Cemetery. Memorial Donations may be made to Jessica's House Hospice or to a charity of choice. Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

## NORTH NISSOURI

### Cemetery Decoration Day

August 25, 2024

Service begins at 2:30 PM

Speaker – Rev. Quentin Little  
Music - Joseph Flynn

All are welcome to visit the Cemetery and place flowers on graves



Directors will be available to answer questions and receive donations. Receipts will be given.



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## Beef and Corn Roast Saturday Aug 17

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Sat. Aug. 10 - Georgia Ahrens, Stratford	\$200.00

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# COMMUNITY

## Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

Thurs., Aug. 8, 2024

Our annual Summer BBQ Celebration is back! Join us next Wednesday, August 14 from 4-7 p.m. for food, face painting, balloon animals, prizes, and cake! All the fun festivities will take place on the Queen Street lawn in front of the Library. Everyone is welcome to attend, and donations are accepted and appreciated. Thank you to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this event.

### This Week's Recommendation

Under the Sea is the theme for next week of the Summer Program. Explore the vastness of the world's largest bodies of water with "Oceans" by DK and Andrea Mills. Learn about ocean formation, shipwrecks, underwater explorers, aquatic animals, and more in this book filled with easy-to-read facts and vibrant photos. Find "Oceans" in our children's non-fiction section. Its call sticker reads "J 551.46

Mil".

### Up This Week

Fri., Aug. 9: *Drew Ripley: Balloon Magic Show\** (1 p.m.), Movies in the Park: *The Fall Guy*^ (dusk)

Sat., Aug. 10: *Dungeons and Dragons* (10 a.m.)

Mon., Aug. 12: *Crafty Kids* (10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.), *Club SMPL* (1:30-3 p.m.)

Tues., Aug. 13: *Reading Help\** (10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.), *Discovery Den* (1:30-3 p.m.)

Wed., Aug. 14: *EarlyON Play and Read* (9:30-10:30 a.m.), *Reading Help\** (10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1:30-3 p.m.), *Mahjong Intro* (1-2 p.m.), *Mahjong!* (2-4 p.m.), *Summer BBQ Celebration* (4-7 p.m.), *FOL Social* (6:30-8 p.m.), *Books and Brews\*~* (7 p.m.)

Thurs., Aug. 15: Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

\*Registration Required

^Cadzow Park (177 Church St. S, St. Marys)

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

## LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

### Fine Dining

#### 25 years ago (1999)

The effort to establish a permanent skateboard park in St. Marys was recently given a higher profile. A "half-pipe" skateboard ramp has been set up in the high school parking lot for the month of August.

Three local restaurants (Westover, Woolfy's, and Smith & Latham) are featured in the latest edition of Anne Hardy's *Where to Eat in Canada*. Only 250 restaurants from across Canada made this year's edition.

The licensing fee for establishing a taxi business in St. Marys is now \$250. That figure was established at last week's regular Council meeting.

#### 50 years ago (1974)

The "patch fad" is quite welcome here in St. Marys. DeLong Scovill cuts, packages and distributes the patches in various sizes, colours, and materials.

July building permits totaled \$108,000 and included permits for three new homes on William Street, Huron Street and Ingersoll Street, as well as a new swim pool and various additions and garages.

The Parking Authority has established a parking area along Water Street South for Amish Mennonite shoppers in St. Marys. There is space for about six buggies.

#### 100 years ago (1924)

For the second time in the past two years, 23-year-old Edward Harlton, a former St. Marys man, has been arrested for theft. Last year, he was given a two-year sentence for stealing a club bag in London and also emptying a St. Marys cellar of a quantity of liquor. On Saturday, he was again arrested on a charge of stealing 38 chickens from Ernest Oliver of Wellburn.

Perth County Holstein breeders who have been chosen to represent the Association at Toronto Exhibit include W. Bolton and M. Oliver of St. Marys.

Ladies! You are invited to a demonstration of electric cooking. Some day you are going to have an electric range, so you are therefore invited to come and see an up-to-date electric range at work under the hands of an expert cook. A cooking demonstration will be held at the Hydro Shop from August 12-16.

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

## 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 9

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

### Saturday, August 10

- Town wide garage sale

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

- Harrington Grist Mill tour day - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

- Fashion show at the St. Marys Legion - 5-10 p.m., Tickets are \$10 each

### Sunday, August 11

### Monday, August 12

- St. Marys Horticultural Society flower show & open meeting at the Legion - 7 p.m.

### Tuesday, August 13

### Wednesday, August 14

- Melodies at the Museum featuring Jazzm@x at Cadzow Park - 7 p.m.

### Thursday, August 15



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