

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1224

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Osprey rescue in St. Marys ends in tragedy



By Herman Veenendaal

For several weeks, myself and two other birdwatchers from St. Marys, Pamela Mulholland and Peter Osborne, had been concerned about the young osprey on its nest at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame.

Normally, the young would have left the nest by now, but the chick remained and, while still being fed by its parents, was obviously in some distress. It appeared in need of rescue.

A similar rescue took place in 2015 when one of the young had become tangled in binder twine. It could fly to a height of about two meters before reaching the end of the twine trapping it. Brian Salt of Salthaven Wildlife Rescue attended and released the bird from its trap and the bird immediately flew free.

On Aug. 4, I made a post asking for help on the St. Marys Life Facebook page, which resulted in many expressions of concern and suggestions of who to contact for a truck big enough to reach 70 feet, the height of the nest. Kevin Adams of Tri-County Brick in Stratford was one of those who responded and kindly volunteered the use of his boom truck. I then contacted Salt of Salthaven Wildlife Rescue to arrange the rescue operation.

On Aug. 6, Salthaven Wildlife Rescue along with Joe Hanna of Tri-county Brick in Stratford attended the osprey nest at the hall of fame to rescue the trapped osprey chick, which had been unable to leave the nest. It had become trapped in plastic binder twine which the parent birds brought to the nest earlier in the nesting season. A brief break in the rain allowed the operation to go ahead at 9 a.m.

Sadly, the young bird will not survive. One of its legs had been severed by the twine and, while this had healed over, a one-legged osprey cannot hunt. It's also nearly impossible to feed them as a captive bird so the difficult decision was made to humanely euthanize the bird.

A recent attempt to rescue an osprey chick from a nest 70 feet up at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum ended in tragedy after the bird, which had been tangled in plastic baler twine, had to be put down because the plastic twine had severed one of the bird's legs, making it impossible for it to hunt on its own. Photo courtesy of Herman Veenendaal

St. Marys' success as host of Ontario Summer Games Triathlon opens doors for similar sporting events

By Galen Simmons

When it comes to hosting large sporting events, St. Marys put itself on the map recently when it successfully hosted the Ontario Summer Games triathlon Aug. 2 and 3.

As the summer games were hosted in London this year, organizers approached the town late last year seeking a suitable location for the swim-

ming portion of the triathlon. The St. Marys swimming quarry, as it turned out, fit the bill and 60 young athletes, their families and fans converged on the Stonetown for the two-day event that included swimming in the quarry, biking on town roads and running on the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum grounds.

Continued on page 2

Continued on page 3

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COMMUNITY

St. Marys' success as host of Ontario Summer Games Triathlon opens doors for similar sporting events

Continued from page 1

"I think that it went very well," said St. Marys Mayor Al Strathdee. "We heard compliments from the organizers that they enjoyed working with our staff and said that the town was very accommodating. There were comments on social media about spectators enjoying the race and the town. One visitor remarked how friendly the people were and how beautiful the town was. We are hopeful that visitors will return to the town in the future."

Strathdee said the town is constantly looking for opportunities to showcase St. Marys and encourage future tourism, two things he believes this event did very well. Working with organizations like Tourism London and the City of London not only provided a unique chance to show people from across the province what St. Marys has to offer, but Strathdee said it has also opened doors to future sports-tourism events like the triathlon.

"These types of events create awareness and showcase what St. Marys has to offer," added St. Marys corporate services director André Morin. "The economic benefits pre- and post-event are just as important as the actual event. We have noted many visitors prior to the event, and we are noting many social-media posts on various tourism or Ontario travel social media groups talking about how great St. Marys is to visit in relation to this event. The pride of the community really shines through with these types of events."

Hosting the triathlon was an all-out effort that involved numerous town departments and organizations including the community services, public works and corporate communications departments, the Stratford



A total of 60 young athletes descended on St. Marys Aug. 2 and 3 to compete in the Ontario Summer Games Triathlon. Pictured, Clara Murison celebrates as she crosses the finish line during the running portion of the triathlon. Photo by Spencer Seymour

Police Service and the local business community to ensure its success.

"Overall, this event was a huge success and did showcase our community," St. Marys community services director Stephanie Ische said. "Sue Hyatt from the BIA (St. Marys Downtown Business Association) had a map at the quarry where people could mark where they were from and the map demonstrated people had travelled from all over, not just Ontario."

"We heard multiple times over the course of the weekend people saying they wanted to come back and spend a weekend here in our community. It was wonderful to see the number of community members that volunteered to help make the event run smoothly. It was also nice to see just

how many came out to cheer on the athletes."

Ische added the event did not seem to affect the normal attendance at the swimming quarry over the long weekend which, despite rain, saw 2,411 people come to enjoy the amenities.

The triathlon also required the closure of two downtown roads between

7 a.m. and noon to facilitate the cycling portion of the race, its setup and takedown. Both Queen Street East from Charles Street South to Thomas Street and Water Street South from Queen Street East to the entrance of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame were closed with the help of police, public works and volunteers on the Friday and Saturday mornings.

While traffic was delayed, vehicles were able to move through the town with only minor inconveniences.

"It was an opportunity to test public works' operational response capabilities," said town director of public works Jed Kelly. "It tested our traffic-control implementations and tear downs, internal-communications system as well as our interdepartmental and external communications without being in an emergency situation."

While the event did go smoothly, Strathdee said town staff and council may look at alternative routes to improve traffic flow for future events like this one. Following concerns by the BIA board of directors about road closures affecting normal weekend business, Strathdee also said the town would strive to engage the public as soon as possible in the future to understand concerns and start the conversation around how an event like the triathlon can benefit everyone.



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COMMUNITY

Osprey rescue in St. Marys ends in tragedy



Joe Hanna, a boom truck operator from Tri-County Brick in Stratford, and Brian Salt of Salthaven Wildlife Rescue discuss how to rescue the trapped osprey chick from its nest 70 feet up. Photo courtesy of Herman Veenendaal



The osprey chick was trapped in its nest after it was tangled in plastic baler twine brought to the nest previously as nesting material by the parent birds. Photo courtesy of Herman Veenendaal

Continued from page 1

This was not the ending any of us had hoped for, but my heartfelt thanks go

out to all who responded to the original post, especially to Adams for volunteering the use of his boom truck, Hanna for operating the boom and to

the heroic Salt of Salthaven Wildlife Rescue for reaching the nest to rescue the bird.

If there's a lesson to be learned from

this, it's to never discard plastic baler twine or any other form of plastic that could trap a bird, ending its life.

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EDITORIAL

From monsters to heroes, I love local legends

By Galen Simmons

There's nothing quite like hearing someone tell a story that's been passed down through generations.

Recently, I've had the pleasure of learning about the legend of the Nith River Monster, a mythical beast who calls the Nith River in New Hamburg home and was first "spotted" by local police chief George Thomas in 1953.

Since then, the monster and its story have lived and evolved in the minds and hearts of New Hamburg residents through generations as parents and grandparents tell their children and grandchildren of the beast that sometimes leaves footprints in the muddy banks.

Listening to stories of Nithy got me thinking about how every community has those legends, true and imagined, that survive the test of time and continue to be told today. Sometimes they involve real people doing extraordinary things, while others started with a practical joke or a tall tale that was so enticing people keep retelling and adding to the original story.

As a journalist, I've dedicated my life to writing truth and fact as much as possible but, in cases like these, a little fiction is really what makes a story legendary.

So, here's the deal. I want to read as many local legends as I can. Whether it's a story passed down within a single family or one known by locals from St. Marys to Granton to Thorndale, St. Pauls Station and everywhere in between, send it my way.

I want to read about UFOs, ghosts and sasquatch sightings, the gigantic fish caught in a local pond, the heroes who rescued children from impending disaster and the public figures who made split-second decisions that changed the course of local history forever.

And, if you send me a local legend I feel is worth sharing – even if it doesn't have a lick of proof to support it – I may even consider printing it in the pages of this paper.

Who knows? Maybe by sharing these local legends with a wider audience, they too may grow and evolve and be retold by countless generations, cementing their places as important pieces of local history.

Send your local legends to galen@granthaven.com. Be sure to include your name, address, where the legend takes place and the names of everyone involved, as well as any photos or images related to the legend, as part of your submission.

Bravo

We have 5 Bravos this week and no Boos.

1) Bravo to those who have supported Kids CAN! We've been able to give back \$100 into the community.

2) Bravo to the good samaritan, Shane, who helped me hobble home when he saw me fall on Monday, and bravo to neighbour Jeremy who took me to and from the hospital with a broken ankle. Many thanks to both of these kind gentlemen.

3) Bravo to Action Health Care. My walker broke down and they came and picked it up for repair. The man who came to the house was knowledgeable, straightforward and courteous. The walker brake cables were replaced and the wheels oiled and tuned up and the whole unit cleaned. I was given a loaner to use and my unit came back spiffy smooth from the shop in a reasonable time. All for an extra reasonable price. We're lucky to have this outstanding business here in St. Marys

4) Bravo to the Town of St. Marys! This past Saturday my friend and I explored St. Marys. I'm from New Hamburg and have never visited. I have never met so many kind shopkeepers in my life! I especially enjoyed talking to the wine store owner and his son! I will return! Way to go St. Marys!

5) After a recent health-care crisis, I ended up being admitted into our hospital. I received the most amazing care. I was treated promptly, professionally, with dignity and respect. We are so grateful for our wonderful little hospital and for all the excellent staff.

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

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

Quote of the Week

"Russia brought war to others, now it's coming home. Ukraine has always wanted only peace, and we will definitely ensure peace."

- Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy on August 12, 2024, days after Ukrainian forces advanced into Russian territory

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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How many times did parents hear the phrase "Are we there yet?" this summer?

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

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OF THE WEEK**

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COMMUNITY

Broken Rail Brewing welcomes participants in the Barley's Broken Rail 50-km Relay Run



Broken Rail was a busy place on Saturday as the Barley's Broken Rail 50km relay run ended up there. Contributed photo

By Wendy Lamond

Anyone enjoying a cold one at Broken Rail Brewing on Saturday may have been surprised to see approximately 120 runners along with supporters and family members coming up the road.

The Barley's Broken Rail 50-kilometre Relay Run started in North London and ended up at the Glass Street microbrewery. The event was sponsored by Backroads Brews & Shoes, Broken Rail Brewing and New Balance Shoes, and organized by Scott Goodyear.

The relay run included a mix of trails and roads and finished up with some

beer and food. The money raised from the run was to be donated to the Ronald McDonald House in London.

For the event, Broken Rail Brewing released a very refreshing lime lager called Finish Line Lime and it plans to have it in stock for a while with proceeds also going to Ronald McDonald House.

Ryan Leaman from Broken Rail Brewing told the Independent there were 120 participants but about 150 people in total visit the brewery Saturday. Some teams had matching outfits while others certainly went for the fun and silly.



Enjoying the day are from left to right Steve Emery, Jen Ryan, Joe Larkin, Kelly Richardson and Laura Holt. Contributed photo

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 Marie Stevens who turned 78 on the eighth day of the eighth month. Marie was born and raised in Michigan. She moved to Ottawa in 1972 where she was employed as a human-resources professional in municipal government in Ottawa. Her last 10 years of employment was with London Health Sciences Centre. In 2000, Marie and husband John moved to St. Marys and established Riverside B & B which they operate to this day. Marie has two sons and six grandchildren, all of whom reside in the U.S. Happy belated birthday, Marie.

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

COMMUNITY

MPP Rae Opens Nominations for King's Coronation Medals

By St. Marys Independent staff

Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae recently announced the opening of nominations for King Charles III Coronation Medals.

The medals are an opportunity to recognise outstanding individuals who have made significant differences in their local communities or the country.

"There are so many great Ontarians that live in Perth-Wellington," said Rae in a press release. "I encourage all residents to think about nominating a deserving individual in their communities for a King Charles III Coronation Medal."

In May 2023, the federal government announced the striking of 30,000 commemorative medals for the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, King of Canada. Rae is inviting community members to put forth nominations to be considered.

Members of the community should consider nominees for the King Charles III Coronation Medal to be individuals who have made significant contributions to Canada, Ontario or their local communities. This includes but is not limited to first responders and front-line workers, veterans and veteran organisations, community leaders, volunteers and more.

Eligible candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Have made significant contributions to the country, Ontario, region or community, or an achievement abroad that brings credit to Canada.
- Be alive on May 6, 2023. The Coronation Med-



Matthew Rae

al can be bestowed posthumously as long as the candidate was alive on the date of the coronation.

- Reside in Perth-Wellington.

Nominations are open until Sept. 9 and will be accepted both online and in person at Rae's constituency office.

Nominations can be submitted online at <https://bit.ly/4fEefpq> or in person at 55 Lorne Ave. E, Unit 2 in Stratford.

Weekend Quiz

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1. What year did Canada get its own flag?
2. Where does meningitis affect?
3. What country won the most Olympic medals at Paris 2024?
4. When did Newfoundland and Labrador join Canada?
5. What is a baby horse called?
6. How did Princess Diana die?
7. Who was the first black athlete in the Baseball Hall of Fame?
8. Who painted Girl with a Pearl Earring?
9. Don Bradman was known for dominating what sport?
10. What country was the first to grant women the right to vote?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

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COMMUNITY

Donations collected at garage sale to help feed stray kittens



Natalie Chiasson and Matt Luyten share some yummy baking at their garage sale on Saturday. Money raised was going towards helping a family of kittens. Photo by Wendy Lamond

By Wendy Lamond

On Saturday at one of the many garage sales taking place in town, Natalie Chiasson and Matt Luyten were collecting donations in exchange for some delicious baking to help raise money to go toward the the cost of food for a family of stray cats they had found.

Approximately two weeks ago, Chiasson and Luyten came across a family of four kittens and their mom. They are hoping to catch and rescue the family but so far have not had any luck. They have been feeding them

every day to make sure they are getting some nutrition and have also tried reaching out to rescue centres, however, with this being a busy time for animal care, most places are overcrowded.

The money raised from the donations will go towards the care of the cats.

With lots of people out looking for garage-sale treasures in the lovely weather, it was a good way for them to share their story. For more information or to help, email Chiasson at nc2265045@gmail.com.

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ARTS & CULTURE

Portraits by Sylvie Verwaayen a reflection of artist's career

By Emily Stewart

Sylvie Verwaayen's first solo exhibition brings four decades of her portrait work to the St. Marys Station Art Gallery.

Verwaayen, a staff member of the art gallery, attended the opening reception for her Portraits exhibition on Aug. 3. The gallery was filled with a variety of people captured in her portrait illustrations, paintings and sculptures. There was even a section filled with portraits of dogs, a bee on a flower and other animals.

She has loved creating portraits from the time she was 12 years old when she drew faces she saw in printed media such as magazines. The exhibition's collection has her work from the past 40 years including portraits of her family, friends and commissioned pieces.

"It's capturing the person," Verwaayen said when asked what she loves about doing portraiture. "It's always a moment in time, a snapshot. Portraits, a lot of the time, is about getting the eye rendered really nicely."

At one point, she took a break from



Sylvie Verwaayen's first solo exhibition at the St. Marys Station Art Gallery is a collection of her portrait work from the past 40 years. Photo by Emily Stewart

portraiture and focused on still life, landscapes, florals and abstract paintings.

For the past 15 years, Verwaayen participated in art shows and exhibitions in and around the London area, but Portraits is her first solo exhibition.

"I'm excited," Verwaayen said. "I've been doing this for over 20 years and so, to be able to have my own first solo show is humbling and exciting."

Verwaayen experimented with mixed-media portraits during the COVID-19 pandemic as she wanted

to capture the subject's face perfectly. She began using coloured pencils, a tool she likes to use as an illustrator, for the skin. All other components of the portrait, including the hair, were done in acrylic paint. She also uses markers and paint pens in her work.

Like many, creativity helped Verwaayen cope during the pandemic.

"It kept my sanity, absolutely, to have something to focus on at home," she said.

Verwaayen also mounted, wired and framed all the portraits. She sprayed the art down with varnish at least three times to ensure it stays intact.

After her exhibition, she wants to do more experimentation with her art.

"I want to play with different metallic paints and different subject matters," she said. "As an illustrator, I can draw landscapes, florals, still life. My head's kind of full, so I have to figure out where I go next."

Portraits by Sylvie Verwaayen will be at the gallery until Sept. 16. More of her work can be found on the SylvieDesign Fine Art Facebook group.

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COMMUNITY

The Front Porch Show hosts special edition

Submitted by The Front Porch Show

That's right, folks, it's back! The Front Porch Show rides again with a one-night-only, special-edition show this Sunday, Aug. 18 at its original location at 96 Robinson St.

While the show goes live at 6 p.m., attendees will want to plunk their lawn chairs on some prime real estate at about 5:45 p.m. for the pre-show warm-up – always a lot of interactive fun.

"When's the next show?" That has been the most-frequently posed question to John Stevens, creator of The Front Porch Show, since the live variety show paused production in August 2022. Bursting onto the scene in July of 2017, The Front Porch Show series, performed live every Sunday evening in July and August for many years, showcased the captivating stories and talents of local St. Marys residents. With the recent production hiatus, many in the community have been longing for a comeback and, this Sunday, their wish is granted.

"It's great timing," said co-host Liane



The much-beloved Front Porth Show will be back at 96 Robinson St. for a live performance Aug. 18 with the pre-show starting at 5:45 p.m. and show going live at 6 p.m. Pictured are The Front Porch Show mainstays Liane Gregory-Sterritt, John Stevens, Frank St. Germain and Don Van Galen. Photo courtesy of The Front Porch Show

Gregory-Sterritt in a press release. "With John continuing his recovery from a recent illness, this is a great

opportunity to deliver a hefty dose of laughter medicine and for everyone in the community to share once again

our warm St. Marys camaraderie."

And if that wasn't special enough, this Sunday will also be a world premiere. Frank St. Germain, the ever-entertaining musical mainstay of The Front Porch Show, will perform his latest musical creation about his hometown of St. Marys.

"This is exactly the kind of thing that is the essence of The Front Porch Show," said Don Van Galen, always on hand to provide colour commentary for the show. It's not just about who is on the stage. It's about the whole experience – whether you're on the stage or on the tech crew or watching from the comfort of your lawn chair in the audience. The Front Porch Show is a mini replica of the St. Marys community spirit packed into one very fun hour."

Bring a chair, have a laugh, join in the fun, all for free.

Lawn chair setup starts at 5:30 p.m. Pre-show begins at 5:45 p.m. and a live webcast of the Front Porch Show is available on the Facebook page starting at 6 p.m.



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COMMUNITY

Sunday is the day the teddy bears have their picnic



This Sunday marks the annual Teddy Bear Reunion at East Ward Park in St Marys beginning at 1 p.m. Photo by Wendy Lamond

By Wendy Lamond

This Sunday Aug. 18 is the day the teddy bears have their picnic in St. Marys.

An annual tradition, the Teddy Bear Reunion was started 37 years ago by Dawn Bennett before it was taken over by Cliff Elliott and then Marlene Forman.

The Teddy Bear Reunion, which

brings joy to all, will be held at the East Ward Park. The parade will start at the high school at 1 p.m. There will be judging for best decorated bike or wagon and there will also be judging that will take place at 2:30 p.m. at East Ward Park across several categories including best dressed teddy, best teddy bear lookalike, best sportsman teddy, teddy with the most friends and largest teddy.



CJ taking in the sights of Alaska. Submitted photo

Face painting, train rides, games, bouncy castles and more fun activities are also going to be available for the kids to enjoy.

CJ the bear is back for the reunion. He has had a busy spring and summer travelling with John and Marie Stevens to South America.

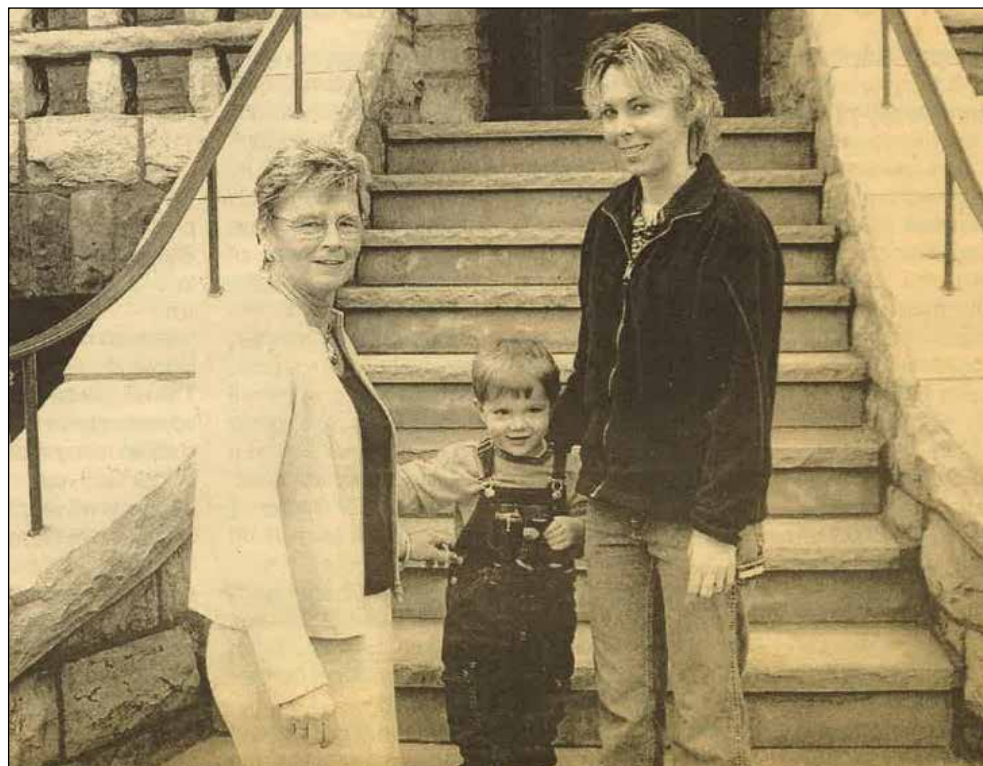
When he returned from that trip he then left with Pam and Dan Ryan where they travelled to Mount Rush-

more, Calgary Stampede then on to Alaska.

Even though he saw lots of the world on his travels, CJ is now getting ready for the Teddy Bear Reunion on Sunday and is looking forward to seeing everyone. All proceeds from this event go towards purchasing teddy bears for the St. Marys Memorial Hospital. For more information contact Forman at 519-284-1390.



CJ the bear with John and Marie at the Christ the Redeemer statue that overlooks Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Submitted photo



CJ the bear was named after Cliff Elliott, who organized the annual Teddy Bear Reunion in St. Marys for many years. The annual Teddy Bear Reunion has been a tradition in St. Marys for 37 years. This photo was in the Independent newspaper in 2002 and was the first time CJ was travelling. He was leaving for New Brunswick then on to Germany. Pictured from left are Marlene Forman (Cliff's daughter), Jacob (Cliff's great-grandson), and Wendy Calcott (Cliff's granddaughter). Photo by the late Frank Doyle

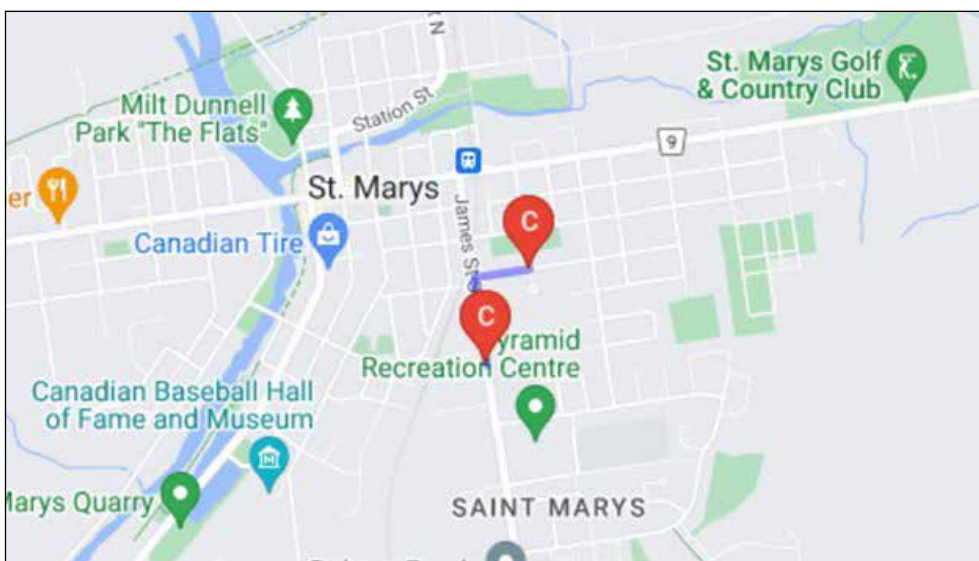
COMMUNITY

Halloween at Happy Hills



Happy Hills Resort, located near Embro on Road 92, held their annual "Halloween in August" celebration this past weekend. It started off Friday night with a Halloween dance with many people in attendance. Some campers in the park decorated their trailers for the fun event - every year it just gets a little bigger and a little better. Saturday night was the highlight for the little people and big ones too. Many dressed up and went around trick-or-treating, collecting yummy treats at the end of campers' driveways. All ages were included. Everyone had a wonderful time and the costumes were amazing. A lot of people came to trick or treat, not only the seasonal and permanent residents at Happy Hills but people from St. Marys and other area towns. Pictured above, this property was one of the many amazing displays in the park. Photo by Nancy Bickell

Teddy Bear Reunion parade route



A section of James Street South will be closed on Sunday, Aug. 18 from 12:30-2 p.m. from the DCVI high school entrance to Elizabeth Street and travelling on Elizabeth to the East Ward Park entrance for the Teddy Bear Reunion Parade. Image courtesy of Town of St. Marys

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COMMUNITY

Positives and negatives for downtown businesses during Summer Games triathlon, BIA board reports

By Galen Simmons

Despite the spin-off benefits of putting the town on the sports-tourism map, the Ontario Summer Games triathlon held in St. Marys Aug. 2 and 3 did have some unintended consequences for downtown businesses resulting from road closures and a lack of pre-event communication.

At the Aug. 12 St. Marys Downtown Business Association (BIA) meeting, board members discussed what worked and what didn't when it came to St. Marys hosting the triathlon that saw 60 young athletes, their families and other spectators visit the town for the two-day event.

"I got the good job of being up in the (BIA) tent (at the swimming quarry) and seeing the parents and grandparents and spectators and locals and trainers who said we were the best host of any sort of sporting event that they've been to in many, many years," said BIA treasurer Sue Griffiths. "A number of the people said they didn't know much about St. Marys and, had they known before the planning what the knew after being here, they would have booked a vacation around it because of the hospitality, the amenities and the natural features and the treatment.

"So, from a visitor's perspective – and there were people here from New Brunswick, Elliot Lake, the States, quite a few from London, quite a few from



the Peterborough area ... Leamington, Hamilton – that was the positivity that I heard."

Though roads were closed downtown for much of the mornings Aug. 2 and 3, making it difficult for local customers to travel to businesses there, some businesses like Troyer's Spices saw a positive impact from the influx of visitors in town. That business' owner and BIA board member Dan Troyer told board members his business on Queen Street East saw nearly the double the number of customers it would have normally seen come in on the Friday and roughly the same number of customers stop by on the Saturday, many of whom he said were from out of town.

Yet while there were plenty of out-of-towners

down at the swimming quarry to watch the athletes compete, St. Marys Coun. Brogan Aylward – council's representative on the BIA board – said it was clear many if not most of those people did not visit downtown during the event itself.

"Every conversation I had with staff afterwards highlighted to me that each of them saw we definitely probably shouldn't run it down (the) main street again if we're going to have this exact event or an event like this (in the future)," Aylward said. "To me, let's just try and have it (on) residential (roads) somewhere. It's insane. I don't know, man. I was at the quarry and the vibe at the quarry was great. ... But then I was downtown and I was like, 'Oh, yeah. Everyone's at the quarry.'"

Alex O'Shea, BIA board vice chair and co-owner of the Flour Mill on Water Street South, noted the closure of downtown streets and a lack of communication to visitors, residents and business owners did deliver a bit of a blow to downtown businesses. While the roads were closed for part of the morning, O'Shea said they were still navigable, but many locals chose not to come downtown to avoid those closures. As a result, reservations were cancelled, the number of walk-in customers dwindled and many customers opted not to shop downtown until the following Sunday or the next weekend on what

Continued on page 13

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COMMUNITY

Positives and negatives for downtown businesses during Summer Games triathlon, BIA board reports

Continued from page 12

should have otherwise been very busy days for downtown businesses.

"I had three separate people come into the store on Friday and comment ... 'We kind of thought we weren't supposed to come downtown,'" said Jan Scott, BIA board member and owner of Betty's Bookshelf on Water Street South. "It was like, roads are closed but they'll reopen at 11 a.m.; stay home and then they'll come downtown. (It's) interesting how people interpret messaging (and how) the people who came into my store on the Friday morning didn't understand they were welcome to come down and watch this event."

Though many businesses did not see

the economic spinoff town staff and council may have hoped for with the triathlon, the BIA board members said the event offered opportunities to better plan road closures and cycling routes, improve communication before the event and create that draw for athletes and spectators to visit downtown in preparation for any similar sporting events in the future.

"It's exactly what some of us expected it was going to be. It was a devastating day for several businesses," BIA board member and owner of The Wine Lab on Water Street South Lisa Fewster said. " ... We love to have tourism here, we love to have sports tourism here. We will be ready the next time should this come around."

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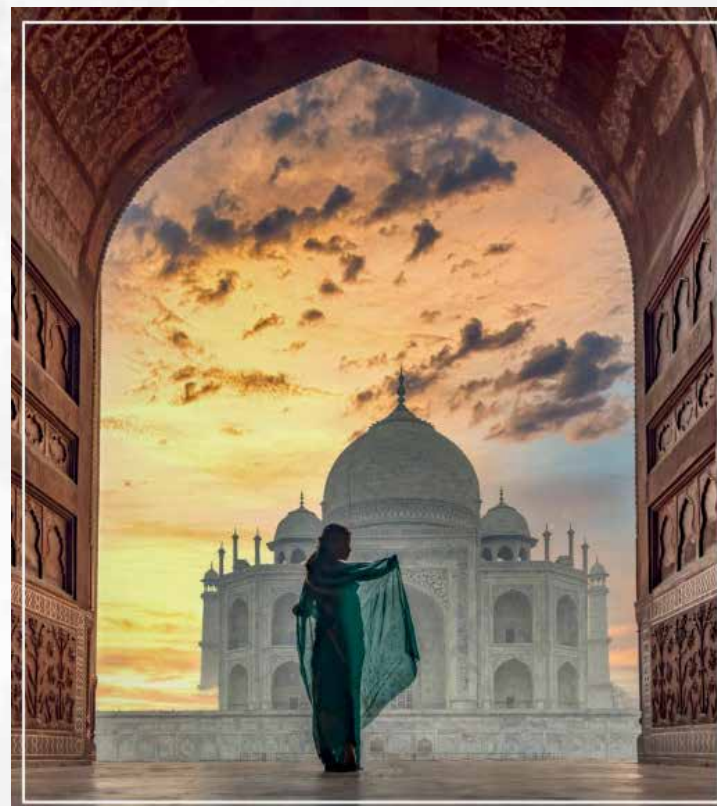
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COMMUNITY

\$3,000 raised during recent St. Marys Lions Club Car Show



Despite a change in location from the Flats to the Little Falls Public School parking lot, the St. Marys Lions Club annual Car Show went off without a hitch under sunny skies July 20. Photo courtesy of St. Marys Lions Club



A total of 117 cars and trucks were entered in this year's St. Marys Lions Club Car Show at Little Falls Public School July 20. Photo courtesy of St. Marys Lions Club

By Galen Simmons

Despite a last-minute change, the St. Marys Lions Club recently hosted another successful car show, raising more than \$3,000 to support the good work the club does in the community. Though flooding from torrential rain the week prior forced organizers to move the car show from the Flats at Milt Dunnell Field to the parking lot at Little Falls Public School, all 117 car and truck owners got the message and the car show went off without a hitch under beautiful, sunny skies from 8

a.m. to 1 p.m. July 20. "Participants and car enthusiasts had a great day and there was nothing but positive feedback the day of and on social-media posts after the event," said Gwendolen Boyle, president of the St. Marys Lions Club. "On behalf of the St. Marys Lions Club, I thank everyone who came out and a special thanks to all who volunteered to make this event amazing, even with the last-minute location change. We look forward to next year!" With the sun shining and old-style

music playing on the loudspeakers, those who attended enjoyed a sausage-and-pancake breakfast and a sausage-and-hot-dog lunch. There were prizes donated by many local businesses for the draws, a 50/50 draw, trophies and dash plaques. The winners from the 2024 car show are as follows:

- Pre-1970: '40 Ford, Steve Rounds; Lakeside, Ont.
- '70 - present: 1980 Firebird; Tim and Carol Newell, Arkona, Ont.

- Best of Show: 1934 Ford; Keith Jacques, Petrolia, Ont.
- Furthest distance: Brian and Kathleen Eden, Arthur, Ont.
- 50/50 Winner: Don Crocker, London, Ont. - \$332.50
- Car quilt winner: John Vosson

The St. Marys Lions Club extends a special thanks to the judge, Darryl Gorvett, as well as all of the wonderful sponsors who made the car show successful, of which there are too many to name in this paper.



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COMMUNITY

Melodies at the Museum returns to Cadzow Park



Many people took advantage of the perfect weather to enjoy the return of Melodies at the Museum at Cadzow Park on Aug. 7. This was the first of four summer concert series in August. Photo by Nancy Bickell



Megan Brady kicked off the series and performed a blend of oldies, classic rock and pop tunes from the decades. Photo by Nancy Bickell



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Valcke, Canada wins bronze at Women's Baseball World Cup

By Spencer Seymour

St. Marys native Mia Valcke played a vital role in Team Canada's win of a bronze medal at the Women's Baseball World Cup in Thunder Bay.

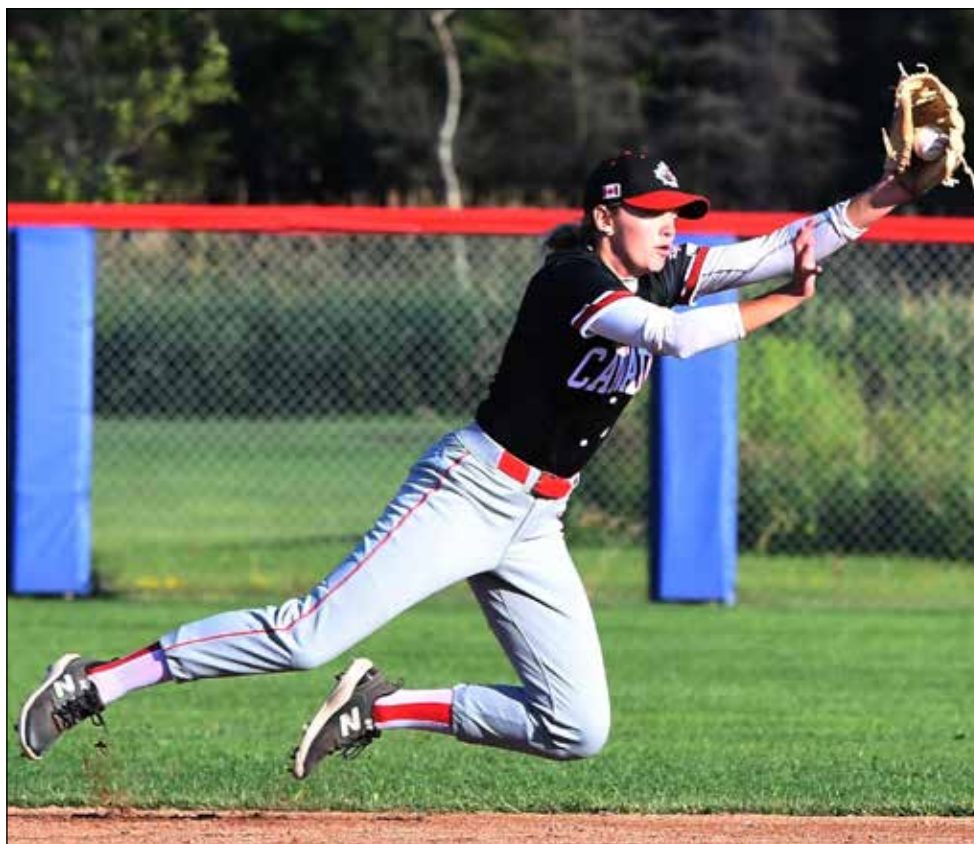
According to Valcke, the experience of competing on the global stage for the fourth time carried incredible weight.

"Even though this was my fourth World Cup, the excitement, angst and pressure were all the same, if not elevated, given we were playing on our home turf," Valcke told the Independent. "The team was very young this year and has completely changed since the 2016 World Cup. I was considered a veteran this year, and I'm only 24. Although we were young, we were a talented and vibrant group with a lot of depth. I am so excited for our future. Winning the bronze was a fantastic achievement, but I always aim for gold. Our team will get there and winning a bronze this year will only fuel our fire for upcoming years."

Valcke added why she believes in the Canadian national team's ability to rise up the podium.

"I believe in this group because, despite having the youngest average age in the tournament, we've already shown immense talent and haven't yet reached our full potential. I'm honoured to play alongside these extraordinary baseball players. While I'm proud of our bronze medal, I genuinely believe we've only begun to tap into what we can achieve. The connection we built this year was incredibly strong and I can't even imagine the heights we'll reach by the next World Cup in 2027. I truly believe the sky is our limit."

Valcke spent much of her first 19 years in St. Marys after her family moved in December of 2000, just months after her birth.



Mia Valcke makes a heroic catch during a Women's Baseball World Cup game earlier this year. Valcke played a crucial role in helping Canada leave the World Cup with the bronze medal. The World Cup ran from July 28 to Aug. 3 and was hosted in Thunder Bay. Photo by Gary Moskalyk

Some of the highlights of Valcke's strong tournament, which ran from July 28 to Aug. 3, included the short-stop going five-for-five and scoring three RBIs in a 9-8 win over Chinese Taipei in extra innings. Valcke also recorded the winning run in the bronze-medal game, a 4-2 victory over Mexico. Her excellent tournament earned Valcke a spot on the All-World team.

Valcke was humble when discussing her individual success.

"Being named to the All-World team was an honour and a shock. These are the best players worldwide and

I honestly couldn't believe it when I saw my name there. I was incredibly proud because it showed that my hard work and leadership had paid off over the years.

"I was able to be in a groove because of my teammates," Valcke continued. "With such a strong team, I felt a lot of pressure taken off my shoulders because I knew that if I didn't make a clutch play or get a critical hit, the girl right after me would get it done. I wouldn't be the player I am without the support and depth of my team, and I am very grateful for all of them."

Valcke also said, in addition to feel-

ing gratitude for her teammates, she also felt proud to represent her country on such a significant scale.

"I love playing for Canada. It feels impossible to describe. I am so grateful to be playing a sport that I love with people that I love, to play against the best players in the world, to travel the world and to get to represent Canada while doing it. That is what I have dreamt of my whole life. I am so proud, excited, determined and fearless when I have 'Canada' across my chest. It is an honour and a privilege that I do not take lightly."

Despite the intense and hugely consequential nature of the World Cup, many positive relationships were forged by players from around the world, including Valcke and Japan's Ayaka Deguchi. Valcke discussed the respect the two developed for one another, as well as all of her World Cup opponents.

"Ayaka is an outstanding player and I looked up to her the entire tournament," Valcke said. "We became friends after the tournament finished. After they beat the USA in the finals, I went up to congratulate her and get a photo. The crazy thing was that she also wanted a picture with me."

"I've looked up to so many of these players all my life, so competing against them and having them interested in getting to know me was a whirlwind. Despite being competitors during the game, I have so much respect and appreciation for all of these women and I cherish all the relationships I have formed throughout these tournaments. The World Cup is bigger than just competing in baseball. Building relationships, uplifting women and growing the game is just as important to me."

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SPORTS

Father-son, tractor-pulling duo's year includes strong results, engine-failure comeback



Tanner Harris competes in a tractor-pulling event earlier this year. Photo by Michelle Sayers

By Spencer Seymour

It has been an eventful tractor-pulling season for Brian and Tanner Harris, to say the least.

Not only have the father-and-son duo competed in a wide array of competitions, they've also had to overcome significant mechanical issues with their tractor along the way.

The Harris team, who are members of both the Ontario Vintage Tractor Pulling Association (OVTPA) and the Western Ontario Steam Threshers Association (WOSTA), was most recently in Forest for a pair of events on Aug. 10. During the first event of the day, a pull hosted by the OVTPA, both men won their respective fields as Tanner Harris finished first in the 7,700-pound improved class, while Brian Harris earned the top spot in the 6,700-pound improved class.

Later in the day in the WOSTA event, the two combined for first-place finishes in both the 6,000-pound and 7,000-pound classes. The pair of pulls came after the duo and their generous

supporters had to perform significant repairs to the tractor's engine after a major failure occurred mid-competition.

"We had what was called a failure with our inner cooler and it introduced water to the engine," Brian Harris told the Independent. "The engine doesn't like cold water being introduced to the cylinders. The water went into the one and three cylinders. That locked up the motor so it couldn't turn over and it bent the rods, causing catastrophic failure to the engine."

Brian Harris added that the support from the tractor-pulling community and one of their strongest backers allowed them to get the necessary repairs done quickly.

"Basically, it required a whole new engine," Brian Harris said. "We had to make some serious phone calls quickly to some friends and other competitors. It's phenomenal that all the competitors were there to help us. It's such a close-knit family of guys and girls and, as early as that night, people



Brian Harris operates the tractor during a pull earlier this year. Photo by Abby Dittmer

were reaching out saying they've got pieces and parts we could have. There was one guy who was taking a collection up to help rebuild the engine.

"Thankfully, we found an engine pretty fast and, within a week, we were able to get back up and running again with the help of sponsors and Dave Armstrong and Science Hill Farms. Dave is the glue that holds this whole thing together. He works a lot of long hours to make us go. Without him, we wouldn't be anywhere."

Brian and Tanner Harris also made note of all of their sponsors who help them compete:

- Dave Armstrong and Science Hill Farms
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- Cherry Hill Carpentry
- Dan Mcauslan Hoof Trimming
- Mr. Amish
- StrongArm Designs
- Couchy

The results on Aug. 10 followed multiple strong events for the two, including a second-place finish for Tanner Harris in the 6,500-pound pro-farm division at an event in Aylmer, along with Brian Harris taking second in the 6,500-pound hot-farm category at an event in Ilderton.

Other top-five finishes for the pair include Brian Harris capturing third in the 6,500-pound hot farm and Tanner Harris claiming fifth in the 7,500-pound hot farm in Listowel. At a pull in Dresden, Tanner Harris came in third in the 6,500-pound pro farm and Brian Harris took fourth in the 7,000-pound pro farm. Then, in Palmerston, Tanner Harris finished second in the 6,500-pound hot farm while Brian Harris ended up in fourth in the 7,500-pound hot farm.

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SPORTS

Lincs gearing up for 2024-2025 season

By Spencer Seymour

Later this month, the St. Marys Lincolns will begin sanding off the edges of their roster with a four-game exhibition schedule.

The Lincolns' preseason will preview the 2024-2025 St. Marys roster and the GOJHL's new

two-conference alignment with the Lincs playing a pair of home-and-home series' against two of their newest conference rivals.

On Aug. 30, the Lincolns will host the Kitchener-Waterloo Siskins followed by a trip to the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex for a second contest against the Siskins. The Lincs will then take on the Stratford Warriors on Sept. 6, before wrapping up their preseason by hosting the Warriors on Sept. 8.

Some of the most notable dates during the regular season include Sept. 13 when the Lincolns will open their season hosting the St. Thomas Stars at the Pyramid Recreation Centre (PRC).

On Oct. 16, the Lincolns will begin a home-and-home series when they

take on the Warriors for the first time during the regular season in Stratford. The two teams will then clash in St. Marys on Oct. 18.

The GOJHL Showcase tournament takes place in Caledonia with the Lincolns facing the London Nationals Dec. 6 followed by a clash against the Ayr Centennials on Dec. 7.

In addition to meeting the Centennials at the showcase, the Lincs will have four other interconference games including Oct. 4 when St. Marys is home to the Pelham Panthers before visiting one of their 2024 Sutherland Cup round-robin finalists, the Fort Erie Meteors, on Oct. 5. The Lincolns host the Caledonia Pro-Fit Corvairs Nov. 1 followed by a road game in Welland with the Jr. Canadians.

Their final game of the regular season will take place on home ice March 7 when the Lincs are visited by the Chatham Maroons.

The Lincolns' complete 2024-2025 schedule will be published in an upcoming edition of the Independent.



Owen Voortman, Jaden Lee, and Luca Spagnolo line up for a faceoff during a 2024 play-off game for the St. Marys Lincolns. The trio were one of the team's most effective lines during the post-season and will be counted on for major contributions this coming season. Photo by McGinny Photography

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Brayden Gowan rockets the ball towards the opposition's box during the U10 Boys Tier Three Two St. Marys Storm game.



Bryce Blight blasts a shot on target during last Tuesday's U12 Boys Tier Two St. Marys Storm game.



Hannah Rumble fires the ball out of the defensive zone during the U14 Girls Tier Three Two St. Marys Storm game.



Rowan Aitken pushes the ball up the field during last Wednesday's U18 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm game.



Carson DeActis touches first base to get an out during the St. Marys Firefighters U9 WOBA White St. Marys Rockies game last Wednesday



Rory Brockman launches a pitch during last Thursday's McLean-Taylor Construction U17 HP St. Marys Rockies game. Photos by Spencer Seymour

COMMUNITY

The Local Community Food Centre launches major fundraising campaign

By St. Marys Independent staff

The Local Community Food Centre (CFC) is launching a major fundraising campaign to help the organization continue to support and provide for the people of Perth County for years to come.

To kickstart the campaign, local companies Shackleton's Real Estate & Auction Co. and KDB Law have each donated \$50,000, contributing a total of \$100,000.

The campaign, called "My Community Includes The Local," needs to raise \$750,000 by next summer.

High rates of inflation have contributed to growing food insecurity and financial stress for individuals and families living in Stratford, St. Marys and the surrounding communities. Food insecurity alone has risen by 26 per cent in Canada this past year. The demand for The Local's services and programs have risen sharply over the past year and The Local CFC continues to have a major, positive impact on people's lives.

As campaign chair and board member for the past five years, Brent Shackleton has witnessed firsthand the increasing demands on the organization and the important contributions it makes.

"From the fresh food markets to the community suppers, The Local plays an important role in our community and we need it to be sustainable in the long term," he said in a press release. "The Local gives people access to healthy food, creates a sense of belonging and is also an advocate for issues related to social justice. I'm



Katie DeBlock Boersma and Brent Shackleton each pledged \$50,000 on behalf of their businesses, KDB Law and Shackleton's Real Estate & Auction Co., to kick off the Local Community Food Centre's \$750,000 'My Community Includes the Local' fundraising campaign at the Local's recent annual general meeting. Photo courtesy of the Local Community Food Centre

proud to support such an integral part of our community."

"Everyone has the right to healthy, nutritious food at accessible prices," added The Local CFC board chair Katie DeBlock Boersma from KDB Law. "We live in a farming community, yet people are not often getting the food they need, which is why the weekly meals, accessible food markets and urban gardens provided by

The Local are so vitally important. I'm honoured to be able to help The Local meet the rising need in our community for affordable and quality food."

In 2023, The Local CFC served 13,800 meals to people in need, including seniors, families and people experiencing homelessness. Last year, The Local CFC also distributed more than 700 bags of fruit to people

living in emergency shelters.

According to a recent community survey, 81 per cent of respondents said The Local CFC is an important source of healthy food, 87 per cent reported a feeling of belonging and 75 per cent said their mental health improved by attending programs hosted by The Local CFC.

Funds raised through the "My Community Includes The Local" campaign will go towards operating and providing the programs and services the community has come to depend on such as the Monday Community Supper, Friday Community Lunch, Connection Centre Meals, mobile food markets, kitchen-basics workshops and more. Funds raised will also help replace the 10-year-old kitchen equipment and update facilities and other resources used for community meals and workshops.

Through this campaign, The Local will also seek to establish a reserve fund for future capital improvements and unforeseen operating costs.

"Now is the time for people to rally around this unique and vital organization," Shackleton said in the release. "Katie and I are making substantial donations on behalf of our organizations and are calling on other local companies and individuals to do the same.

"Our community needs The Local CFC."

To make a tax-deductible donation to The Local Community Food Centre, visit thelocalcfc.org and click "Donate."

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



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Beech Hedge, located in Scotland, was planted in the autumn of 1745, and stands just under 100 ft tall. We have a spider lift that will go around 70 ft, so that is probably our maximum height. When reducing a hedge you can do 50% but it's not recommended. Normally in hedge trimming the general rule is 10% to 25%.

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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HISTORY

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: The Dr. W. F. Brown Family

By Mary Smith

Elisha Harris Brown (1831-1916) was the oldest of Thomas Brush Brown and Amanda Brown's 13 children. Like his father and most of his brothers, he was a farmer. The Browns were a close family – supportive of each other and close geographically. The 1876 Historical Atlas for Oxford County shows six farms owned by Brown family members within a mile of Brown's Corners in East Nissouri Township. T. B. Brown's sister, Rebecca, was married to John Uren. Their farm was just across the road on the southeast corner of the Brown's crossroads. The Methodist Episcopal Church, founded by T. B. Brown, was on the same corner.

Elisha grew up understanding his father's position not only in the church but also in the community. The Browns were among the earliest settlers and T. B. was a leader, promoting, among other issues, schools for township children. He was also a strong advocate for the temperance movement. Elisha Brown, like his father, was an active member of his church. According to 1908 booklet marking the 60th Anniversary of the Methodist Church in St. Marys, Elisha Brown had been a steward in the Methodist Episcopal Church for 38 years and recording secretary for a quarter of a century. He later became "a venerable and useful member" of the Methodist Church in St. Marys. He was an officer in Oxford County's sedentary militia and served for many years on township council.

On June 12, 1861, he married Nancy McKim from another Nissouri family. Born in 1845, she was just 16 years old when she married 30-year-old Elisha. They settled on a farm in Concession Eight, East Nissouri, part of his grandfather's original 200-acre purchase. Their first son, Wilber Franklin Brown, was born on August 8, 1862. Elisha and Nancy had two more sons and two daughters, a family of five. Wilber was a good student, attending the St. Marys Collegiate Institute and then Ingersoll Normal School to qualify as a teacher. He taught for several years in Oxford County. In 1888, he began studies at the University of Toronto. He graduated with honours in medicine in 1893 and returned to set up a practise in St. Marys. In December 1893, when his grandfather, T. B. Brown, died in his 90th year, Dr. W. F. Brown was the attending physician.

On September 7, 1897, Dr. Brown married Effie Charlotte Brown in Flushing, Genesee County, Michigan. Effie was a second cousin, descend-



Family members pose at the wedding of James Brown and Elizabeth Eedy in 1940. The newly married couple are on the right. From the left: Effie Brown, mother of the groom; Grace Eedy, mother of the bride; Kathaleen Mary Brown, sister-in-law of the groom, with her little daughter, Nancy; Alice Eedy, sister of the bride. Lorne A. Eedy, father of the bride, can be seen in the centre background. From the St. Marys Museum's historic image collection.

ed from Brown family members who had moved to Michigan in the 1820s. All her life, she was very proud of her American birth. The couple started their married life in a new home in St. Marys, a white brick house, today, 72 Wellington Street South. Their three children were born there: Helen Harger Bodwell Brown in 1902, Wilber Franklin Brown Junior in 1905, and the youngest, James Elisha Brown, in 1913. The Wellington Street house was comfortable and conveniently close to Dr. Brown's office further north on Wellington Street. However, it was right across Elgin Street from a busy foundry, C. Richardson & Co. Ltd. That business expanded in the early years of the 20th century, manufacturing equipment for cheese factories and creameries across Canada. As it got busier, increased noise and activity became a factor in the neighbourhood.

In 1914, the Browns purchased a lot severed from the west side of the property at 224 Jones Street East. This lot was in a quiet, well-established neighbourhood, just two or three blocks from the Methodist Church and from Central School. That same year, the school trustees finally persuaded St. Marys Town Council to agree to building a new school on the grounds of the over-crowded, out-dated, original Central School, opened in 1857. The London firm, Watt and Blackwell, were the architects. Dr. Brown, on the school board at that time, liked their work and hired them to prepare plans for his new residence. The firm designed a 10-room, red brick house in Revival Renaissance style, the main entrance facing north. Dr. Brown hired William

Cockram as his general contractor. Cockram was in his mid-60s at the time, but Dr. Brown persuaded him to come out of retirement because he considered him to be the best builder in St. Marys. The Brown family's second home is the lovely, well-preserved house at 218 Jones Street East.

The family lived there for 20 years. Meanwhile, their daughter and two sons grew up and started careers of their own. Dr. Brown continued his practice and, like his father and grandfather, was very involved in his community. He was a faithful member of the St. Marys Methodist (later United) Church and was on the Official Board for many years. As well as serving on the public school board, he was a charter member of the St. Marys Rotary Club and belonged to the Masonic Lodge. For recreation, he enjoyed lawn bowling and fishing. After 35 years as a family doctor, in the late 1920s, he retired, turning his practice over to Dr. J. G. Jose.

Effie Brown apparently also felt the need for a change. Although her children had all left home, she persuaded her husband to sell their Jones Street house, and in 1933, they moved into an even larger, grander house, currently 163 Church Street South, the large, red brick mansion just north Cadzow Park. Dr. Brown had only a few years to enjoy this splendid home. He was in poor health and died on August 14, 1937, six days after his 75th birthday. His obituary in the St. Marys Journal Argus, written by his friend and fellow Methodist, publisher Lorne A. Eedy, was two full columns, giving details of his life and accomplishments.

Dr. Brown would have been proud of his children's continued success. His daughter, Helen, graduated from the University of Toronto in 1925 and then studied fine arts at the Sorbonne. She eventually became a librarian in New York City, working as a researcher for the Reader's Digest publishing empire. In 1933, she married fellow librarian, William Henry Duncan. They lived in New York until William died in 1962. Helen Duncan returned to Canada and lived in Toronto. She wrote several novels, including *The Treehouse* and *Across the Bridge*, both containing autobiographical elements. (These books are in the St. Marys Public Library.) Reading them gives a sense of the lives of the Brown family during the early decades of the 20th century. Helen Duncan died in 1993.

Wilber Junior studied medicine at the University of Toronto. In 1933, he married a nurse, Kathaleen Mary Grogan, in Toronto, and at the time of his father's death, they lived in Stratford. He served as a surgeon during World War II, maintaining his connection to the Canadian Armed Forces after the war ended. He resumed medical practice in Guelph where he died in 1994, survived by three daughters.

James Elisha, named after his two grandfathers, had, perhaps, the most impressive career. At the time of his father's death in 1937, he was studying in England. He returned home to take law at Osgoode Hall. In 1940, he married Helen Elizabeth Eedy, daughter of Lorne A. and Grace Eedy. When James graduated in 1941, the young couple settled in Brantford where James joined a law firm. He began his political career as an alderman in that city and eventually entered federal politics. He was elected as Liberal Member of Parliament for Brantford from 1953 to 1957 and again from 1962 to 1968. He then represented the newly formed Brant Riding from 1968 to 1971. After retiring from politics, he was appointed to the Bench as County Court Judge of Norfolk County. He was a favourite graduate of St. Marys Collegiate Institute, returning several times to speak at special occasions at the school. Following the family tradition, he attended Zion United Church in Brantford, serving as an elder and as Sunday School superintendent. In 1953, just as he entered parliament, he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis but carried on with his work despite this progressive illness. He died in January 1974, age 60, survived by his wife, a son, and two daughters.

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Where will the next cycling venture be for Thorndale-area teen?

By Nancy Abra

As the Olympics were being played out in Paris, closer to home, the Ontario Summer Games were held in London and area with over 3,500 participants from across the province competing in 18 sports over the course of four days at the beginning of August.

For many of these young athletes aged 12-18 years, the Ontario Summer Games may be the high point of their sporting careers, while for others, the games are a stepping stone for the PanAm Games or even the Olympics.

Thorndale-area cycling enthusiast Harry Langford, 14, was one of the young athletes who competed at the Ontario Summer Games. To qualify for the Games, cyclists aged 13-18 were able to apply to the Ontario Cycling Association (OCA) and were considered based on their previous results in OCA races.

Langford participated in the eight-kilometre time-trial race and then the 63-kilometre road race which looped around Middlesex Centre. He placed 12th in the road race, a result he was proud of.

"Staying in the athlete's village at the Western dorms was really fun and getting to race around Springbank Park with friends and family watching was cool too," Langford said.

Langford rides with Attack Racing, a youth-development club based in London in which he performs road cycling, track cycling and mountain biking. He has been cycling competitively for five years. His mom, Laura Langford, said her son was inspired by his uncle, Brian, who is a bike racer and his dad, Matt, also a cycling enthusiast. At the age of nine, Harry Langford and his dad cycled 3,000 kilometres across Europe over the course of 30 days. Last summer, the pair cycled to New York City, covering 1,000 kilometres carrying their belongings and camping gear.

"It was a great opportunity for him to participate in this level of competition close to home, lining up on the start line with national-level athletes and seeing Harry improve in each of the races," Laura Langford said. "We are so proud of him."



Harry Langford, 14 of the Thorndale area, recently competed as a cyclist in the Ontario Summer Games hosted in London. Photo by Laura Langford

It's bittersweet: Thorndale Women's Institute disbands

By Nancy Abra

"It is a bittersweet decision," remarked some of the members of the Thorndale Women's Institute, "but without new and more younger members, we are not able to continue and disbanded at the end of 2023. We are sad about it, but our Institute has had a good run."

The Thorndale Women's Institute was organized in 1908. For more than a century, this group has been an integral part of the community of Thorndale. They initiated the founding of the Thorndale Library in 1914 and were instrumental in the formation of the Thorndale Public Library board a year later.

In those early years, they donated to

the Red Cross and sent care boxes to the soldiers fighting at the front in the First World War and then again in the Second World War. They also contributed to community projects. In 1958, they donated the stone posts and gates at the entrance of the Thorndale Fairgrounds. In the late '60s, together with the Crumlin and Wellburn Women's Institute, they circulated a petition to the Department of Transport that resulted in the installation of flashing lights at railway crossings in former West Nissouri Township.

Throughout the many years the Thorndale Women's Institute was active in fundraising through catering, fashion shows and other special events it hosted. Members raised money for various

undertakings they supported such as the Thorndale Fair, area school graduations, Thorndale Library, area food bank, disaster victims, community sport and special events as well as annual contributions to the London Children's Hospital and Women's Community House. As well as part of their mandate, they maintain the Tweedsmuir Books, a valuable resource of newspaper clippings, recorded events and people of the community of Thorndale to preserve and record history.

Throughout the last few decades, the Thorndale Women's Institute maintained the kitchen in the old Thorndale Community Centre and helped the Lions Club with the operating costs of the centre until the building was signed over to

the Municipality of Thames Centre.

The Thorndale Women's Institute was part of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario with the mission statement of "working with and for rural and urban women and their families." Through the network in this affiliation, they offered "quality education and support programs and services to advocate for social and economic changes (as well as to) work towards the personal growth and the empowerment of all women."

Trudy Nieuland, secretary of the Thorndale Women's Institute, stated with concern, "Who is going to carry this advocacy for women forward?"

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COLUMN

UKRAINIAN CORNER: Through the eyes of a newcomer

By Kateryna Maslova

I've been in Canada for almost a year. It's been a challenging year, filled with a wide range of emotions and discoveries. I never planned to leave Ukraine and I certainly never considered Canada as a place to live. I've been to various European countries and beyond, but Canada was never on my travel list: too far, too much hassle with the visa and it wasn't on my bucket list. However, circumstances had their own plans and, by chance, I found myself here in Canada, in St. Marys.

Do I miss home? Yes. Do I love everything here? No. There are many things that are better here, but some things pale in comparison to Ukraine. As an immigrant, you constantly compare everything to your past experiences in your home country. Perhaps if immigration to Canada had been a long-held dream or goal, or if I had been dissatisfied with my pre-war life in Ukraine, there would have been more initial euphoria. There would have been fewer moments of weakness and fewer thoughts like, "Maybe this is temporary and I'll be able to return to my old life in my beloved Kyiv?" Memories of familiar places, friends, lifestyle and family traditions often bring nostalgia and sadness, but understanding that the war in Ukraine will last for a long time and that I can't put my life on hold is sobering. You have to be flexible and learn to rebuild your life from scratch.

Every day, I discover something new about Canada and St. Marys, and I'm starting to fall in love with this country and town. The moments that seem ordinary and simple to locals amaze and inspire me.

Walking along the Thames River in the evening, I often feel like Snow White. I'm reminded of the old Disney cartoon where the princess is surrounded by forest animals. Squirrels, rabbits, deer, chipmunks, geese and various birds with magical voices are part of my usual evening stroll. People just walk by, but I'm still not used to it. I marvel at this fairy tale every time. My latest discovery, which brought childlike joy, was seeing fireflies. For the first time in my 34 years, I saw fireflies. You don't realize how lucky you are to live surrounded by such magical nature. The greenery, the rivers, the countless



Ukrainian newcomer Kateryna Maslova is finding magic in her everyday life in St. Marys. One such point of wonder for Maslova is her evening walks along the Thames Rivers amidst the natural beauty the river and surrounding green space have to offer. Photo by Kateryna Maslova

waterfalls and, of course, the enchanting animals. Ukraine is a large country with beautiful places too, but there are far fewer of them, and they are diminishing every year.

What will happen after the war? Mine-strewn forests, scorched meadows and affected wildlife.

I believe that no European country can compare to Canada in terms of natural beauty and I have great respect for the residents and authorities here because it's thanks to you that everything is so well preserved and protected.

I also want to highlight the friendliness and smiles of Canadians. It's here that I've also learned to smile,

and it's become part of my new life. Canadians are always ready to help, whether with advice, support, or just a kind word. This creates a wonderful sense of warmth and comfort. I think this is a special trait of St. Marys in particular. In Ukraine, living in a metropolis, I hardly knew my neighbors, even after living in the same building with 200 apartments for seven years. In St. Marys, my family ended up here thanks to such strangers-neighbours like the Shishkovskys. Through mutual acquaintances, they recommended this place and helped us find hosts. We actually got to know our neighbors, with whom we had lived for many years in the same building, here, on the other side of the planet.

In Ukraine, it's not common to say "hello" to strangers, let alone ask, "How are you?" You might be seen as intrusive or even crazy. But here, I've realized how much power there is in the phrase, "How are you," and in a stranger's smile. It has often changed my mood and given me a positive boost for the entire day. People, thank you for your smiles.

There's a lot of open space in Canada, and people here are more open, unafraid to express their emotions. This is clearly visible in the homes – it's rare to see exterior fences. In Ukraine, one-story houses are usually surrounded by high fences, and people share their feelings less. Here, people shower you with sincere compliments and aren't shy about being emotional. It's nice to receive compliments from strangers in passing. By nature, I'm quite reserved, but I'm sure that it's here that I'm becoming more open. Although I must admit, I still find it hard to start a conversation first or to voice compliments to strangers, even if I do note them in my mind.

Despite all the difficulties, I understand that moving to Canada is a new chapter in my life, full of opportunities and prospects.

Every day here is a chance to learn something new, meet interesting people and become a part of this amazing country, and I'm very glad that I ended up here in such a welcoming town as St. Marys.

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COLUMN

FROM THE GARDEN: Lock the doors...it's zucchini season



By Nancy Abra

Zucchini often becomes the star of garden humour, especially in August when they tend to grow abundantly. As well as being the subject of silly veggie jokes, I saw a few photos on facebook circulating around of a hunter, shotgun in hand, standing beside a large pile of overgrown zucchini and his cat by his side with the caption, "it's zucchini season". In past years, there was a humorous rumor circulating that if you didn't lock your car doors at night, you could find the front seat full of zucchini in the morning.

Putting the jokes aside, zucchini has a fascinating history and cultural significance. Zucchini, along with other summer squash (Cucurbita

pepo) is part of the extensive Cucurbitaceae family that includes cucumber, pumpkin, watermelon and winter squash. Summer squash is a culinary distinction and zucchini included, are eaten when they are immature and skin tender. Whereas, winter squash varieties are left to develop tough skins so they will keep into the colder months of the year.

Zucchini and other squashes originated in the Americas, particularly in the present-day Mexico and northern South America. Archeologists found seeds in Mexican caves that suggest that Cucurbita pepo was first cultivated about 10,000 years ago. Indigenous peoples like the Maya and Aztec were among the first to cultivate these early forms of squash which were a key component to their diets. The Spanish, who brought these squashes back to Europe, called them calabacitas which is still widely used in Latin America. In Mexico they are used in tradition dishes of soups and in quesadillas. The flowers are also popular Mexican cuisine.



The name 'zucchini' actually comes from the Italian word 'zucca' meaning squash. The zucchini as we know it today was developed in Italy in the late 19th century, near Milan. It was introduced back to North America in the early 20th century by Italian immigrants. In Italy, the zucchini is a staple in many dishes, such as 'zucchini ripieni' or stuffed zucchini and 'fiori di zucca', stuffed zucchini flowers. It is celebrated for its versatility and is a component of the Mediterranean diet.

In France, zucchini is known as courge or courgette. It is a crucial ingredient in the clas-

sic French dish 'ratatouille' which showcases the vegetable's ability to absorb and complement various flavours. In the U.K. it is also called courgette and is popular in many dishes.

Zucchini is easy to grow and loves a temperate climate. And as the weather this summer with the heat and ample rain, there has been an overwhelming production of this vegetable. One can control the number of zucchinis developing by harvesting the female flowers which are popular at many farmer's stalls at markets. The flowers can be stuffed or dipped in

a tempura batter and deep-fried. Zucchini is a beneficial food that contains folate, potassium and Vitamin A. They should be harvested while young as they taste better, and their seeds are soft.

So, lock your car doors or you will need to crack open those recipe books and be resourceful. It's zucchini season.

Sources: <https://foodprint.org/real-food/zucchini-and-summer-squash>

<http://www.vegetablefacts.net/vegetable-history/zucchini-history/>

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 31

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Riddles

- What comes down but never goes up?
Rain.
- What did Delaware?
A New Jersey
- What do you call a person with a tree for a briefcase?
A branch manager.
- What did the calculator say to the other calculator?
"You can count on me"
- Why were the pirates so good at singing?
They were
- working on the high Cs.
- What do prisoners use to call each other?
Cell phones.
- What did one NASCAR driver say to the other?
"Do you want to crash at my place tonight?"
- Why do gorillas have broad fingers?
Because they have large nostrils.
- Why is a snake lucky?
Because you can't pull its leg

- Word Search -

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

- Christa Deguchi**
- Summer McIntosh**
- Ethan Katzberg**
- Camryn Rogers**
- Jerome Blake**
- Aaron Brown**
- Andre De Grasse**
- Brendon Rodney**
- Katie Vincent**
- Phil Wizard**



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What does a phone eat?



Minutes!

Violet Smith (11)

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

TONS OF FUN FOR KIDS EVERY WEEK!

PET OF THE WEEK

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



Our pet of the week is Molly, a 12-week-old cocker spaniel. Her favourite activities are playing fetch and going for walks. This sweet, loving girl's owner is Linda Vandermolen.



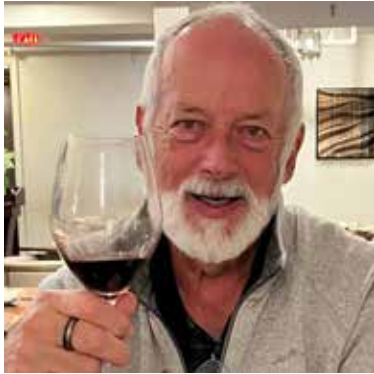
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COLUMN

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Elaine's offers a great menu of food and of stories



By Paul Knowles

As a veteran traveller journalist, I have learned that if you don't know anything about a destination, admit it and ask for advice. Our hosts in Alexandria, Va. were happy to help.

Their recommendations included, "Dinner at Elaine's," and that's all we knew – we were to dine at a restaurant called Elaine's in the heart of historic Alexandria.

Little did we know that Elaine's is home to one of the most fascinating stories I have ever encountered.

If the story were just about the cuisine, that might be enough. Elaine's boasts a modern Mediterranean menu and the food is superb. We shared hummus, which my notes remind me was terrific. My main was the braised lamb shoulder – also delicious and complimented by a special red wine. Dessert was baklava – yum!

So, from a foodie perspective, Elaine's is unquestionably a destination. But wait, as they say, there's more.

Elaine's is owned and operated by a married couple – Cynthia Farahat and Jeffrey James Higgins. They opened Elaine's a little over a year ago.

But when Cynthia is not running a restaurant, she is also, to quote her biography, "an Egyptian-American bestselling author, columnist, political analyst and counterterrorism expert." She's the author of the non-fiction book, "The Secret Apparatus: The Muslim Brotherhood's Industry of Death." She has testified before the U.S. House of Representatives concerning the threat of radical Muslim terrorism. Her biography adds, in chilling detail, that she was listed on "an Al-Qaeda affiliated group's hit list and, after her brother was tortured, her friend was murdered and Islamists tried to assassinate her, Farahat immigrated to the United States."

And what of her husband and partner in this Mediterranean restaurant? Well, he's also an author of excellent thrillers and previously was a spy. At the same time as he was recommending a really fine Lebanese wine to complement my lamb, he mentioned he and Cynthia host many literary events at the restaurant.

What he didn't mention, but I later discovered, is that Higgins has "wrestled a suicide bomber, fought the Taliban in combat and chased terrorists across five continents." He has received the Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Heroism.

So, these are the people who created the cuisine we were enjoying and the guy serving me wine was a spy and a hero. Amazing!

It won't surprise you that I followed up with Farahat and Higgins, basically asking what

people with their resumé's were doing running a restaurant, no matter how tasty the food.

"My happiest childhood memories were cooking with my grandmother, Elaine," Farahat said. "She was a heroic and brilliant woman. She was the first famous female investor in the Egyptian stock market in the 1950s and a philanthropist. Before she passed away, she gave up every cent she had to family members and charity. When I was 12 years old, I told her one day I'll open a restaurant and call it Elaine's. It only took 30 years, but I did it.

"Serving people food and cocktails and seeing happy people is a very benevolent and emotionally rewarding experience. It's the opposite of my background in counterterrorism."

Higgins worked in law enforcement on local, national and international stages. He told me, "On 9/11, I was in the first group of people to reach the north tower after it collapsed. I vowed to fight terrorism that day and spent most of my career doing that. I helped stand up the DEA office in Kabul and led Afghan police on raids. I made the first, precedent-setting narco-terrorism case, convicted the world's most prolific heroin trafficker and fought with special forces in combat."

He transferred all that experience to his new career as a thriller writer. Doing due diligence, I have read several of his novels and I have to say, they rank with the best in the thriller genre.



Elaine's owners Cynthia Farahat and Jeffrey James Higgins. Photo courtesy Jeffrey Higgins

The couple's writing careers and their commitment to the restaurant keep them more than busy. Farahat is working on an Arabic counterterrorism textbook and a fictional murder mystery. After writing three novels, Higgins has signed a four-book contract with a publishing firm and there are even more books in the works.

They also continue to support other authors. Higgins told me that they have turned their restaurant into a "literary salon."

"I've interviewed close to 70 authors since we opened, including numerous New York Times bestsellers. We offer free space to writers to give back to the literary community. A huge predatory industry has developed to take money from authors, and we won't be part of it. We consider Elaine's a refuge for readers and writers," he said.

Speaking of being a refuge, I asked Farahat and Higgins if

they were concerned about security in their restaurant. Farahat told me that Old Town Alexandria is one of the safest neighbourhoods in the country.

"Minutes away from Washington D.C., many officials, diplomats, intelligence agents and government officials reside here," she said. "It's actually a general policy for jihadists to refrain from any violent actions in such affluent D.C. neighbourhoods."

"Elaine's is a place of laughter and love," Higgins added.

I would add Elaine's is also a place of amazing stories, both true and brilliantly written fiction – a must-visit for anyone in the Washington area.

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



The unassuming entrance to a fascinating culinary destination in Alexandria, Virginia. Photo by Paul Knowles



Elaine's double feature: excellent cuisine, and dozens of literary events. Photo by Paul Knowles

OBITUARY

Armstrong



Tammy Lynn Armstrong, passed away, after a short but hard fought battle with cancer, peacefully at Victoria Hospital with family at her side on August 9, 2024, 10 days after she celebrated her 49th birthday.

Loving wife for 25 years to Mark Armstrong. Beloved mother of Jordan (Stacy), and Avery (Noah). Daughter of Bruce and Deb Hutton and daughter-in-law of Herb and Pat Armstrong. Sister of Jason Hutton (Teresa) and sister-in-law of Stacey Armstrong (Wilmer). Aunt of Larissa Le, and Hank Hutton.

Tammy will be missed by all of her dear friends and Finest Lady Willow. Visitation took place at the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home on Aug. 12, 2024, followed by a private family funeral. Interment in St. Marys Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society, London Health Sciences Foundation or Ronald McDonald House. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

THANK YOU

Scheuermann

I would like to thank everyone for making my 80th a special day and for all the cards & good wishes. A special thank you to my wife Liz & Jennie for all the work, to Darcy for making a special trip home and his help and to Duane and the rest of the family.

Ralph Scheuermann

Avonbank Community Cemetery Decoration Service

Sunday August 25, 2024 at 2:30pm

Receipts for donations over \$20 available on Saturday & Sunday

DECORATION DAY

Harrington Decoration Service Knox Presbyterian Church

Sunday, August 18, 2024 @ 11:00 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Rev Marg Murray

Special Music and Light Lunch

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Henderson

Henderson/ Wilhelm, Michael Anthony

Son of Diane Henderson and Tony Wilhelm Born Feb 4, 2000 - Died Aug 16, 2018 in Fredericton New Brunswick, in a construction accident.

The light and love you brought for 18 years will shine forever. The beauty of a life can never be forgotten by the tragic circumstances of death. Your beautiful soul has left a trail of memories full of love and laughter.

Memories drift to scenes long past and tears still come but our love will always last.

Today, as everyday, we fondly remember our handsome young man, loving son, precious grandson, loving cousin.

Gramma Bessie and family

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Cemetery Decoration Day Sunday August 18th, 2024

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Taylor

In loving memory of Sue, a loving wife, mother and grandmother who left us on Aug 18, 2002.

You did so many things for us

Your words were kind and true

When we needed comfort,

we could always count on you

Your gave us all you had to give,

Gifts both big and small

But most of all you gave us love,

The greatest gift of all.

Loved and remembered always

by Ken, Paul and Anne, Jeff and Leslie, and your seven loving grandchildren

IN MEMORIAM

Abel

In memory of my wonderful sister, Sylvia who passed away 6 years ago.

Time goes by so very fast

Six years ago, I saw you last

I miss your smile, your caring face

You are one I cannot replace

I live my life the best I can

So that one day we will meet again.

Miss you lots, love your

Sister Phyllis



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COLUMN

Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

The winners of the grand prizes for the Summer Program will be revealed next Friday, Aug. 23 at 12:30 p.m. on our Facebook page! One lucky senior reader will be going home with an electric scooter and a junior reader will win a pedal go-cart. The more tickets you've earned, the better chance you'll have of winning, so be sure to unlock the final weekly reading badge and to attend the in-person programming to receive codes for bonus tickets. Log your reading and your codes on Beanstack: stmaryspubliclibrary.beanstack.org.

This Week's Recommendation

The theme for the final week of the Summer Program is Magical Creatures and Fantasy Lands. Stories of myth and magic exist in every culture and on every continent. Explore a diverse array of these creatures and characters in D.K. and Stephen Krensky's "The Book of Mythical Beasts & Magical Creatures". Filled with stunning illustrations, this title will provide

hours of entertainment and inspire your imagination long after you've put it down. Find "The Book of Mythical Beasts & Magical Creatures" (J 398.2454 Kre) in our children's non-fiction section.

Up This Week

Fri., Aug. 16: Exploring Nature with Kendra Martin of Coyote Nature School*^ (10 a.m.)

Sat., Aug. 17: Open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mon., Aug. 19: Crafty Kids (10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.), Club SMPL (1:30-3 p.m.), Trivia Night at Gilly's Pubhouse~ (7 p.m.)

Tues., Aug. 20: Reading Help* (10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.), Discovery Den (1:30-3 p.m.)

Wed., Aug. 21: 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.)

Thurs., Aug. 22: Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Registration Required

^Meadowridge Pond (175 Southvale Rd., St. Marys)

~Gilly's Pubhouse (17 Water St. S, St. Marys)



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Wed. August 14 - Scott Frayne, St. Marys	\$50.00
Thur. August 15 - Colleen Hutchison, St. Marys	\$50.00
Fri. August 16 - Brad Miller, Stratford	\$50.00
Sat. August 17 - Jim & Joan Morrison, Ottawa	\$200.00

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LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

New phone booth

25 years ago (1999)

There was a hair-raising experience at Intertec Systems last Thursday. Intertec employee Gord Denomme's long tresses helped raise \$656 for the Canadian Cancer Society. Several of Gord's colleagues took turns cutting his hair, which he had been growing for more than nine years.

The Children of Chernobyl are back for another visit to St. Marys. In its seventh year, St. Marys and area families are opening their homes and hearts to children from the country of Belarus.

Jim Craigmile, Derek Fifield, Rick Fifield and Ken Kelly won the annual St. Marys Lincolns golf tournament.

50 years ago (1974)

Bell Telephone is replacing the phone booth at Town Hall with one of the modern plexi-glass versions.

A car driven by a Woodstock man struck and killed a cow on Sunday afternoon, on Highway 7 about three miles west of Elginfield. Damage to the car was \$700 and the animal was valued at \$400.

Interest in the upcoming senior citizen apartments in St. Marys is increasing steadily, according to Clerk-Treasurer Ken Storey. A total of 49 have expressed interest in the apartment spaces but with only 32 units scheduled for the Queen Street West building, it would appear the demand for the additional 28 units proposed on Emily Street is sufficient to warrant attention in this area in the future.

75 years ago (1949)

Arthur Pringle and his men are giving the post office a fresh coat of paint.

Potatoes are being grown with handles these days! P. Healy of George Street came upon an unusual potato in his garden the other night. A china handle from the teacup is growing firmly into the potato. The phenomenon is on display in the Journal Argus window.

The new East Middlesex High School at Arva is scheduled to officially open this September. Registration has reached 522 and is expected to top the 600 mark.

100 years ago (1924)

The many friends of Miss Sara Gilpin, proprietress of Gilpin's Shoe Store, were grieved to learn on Saturday last that she had undergone an operation for appendicitis. She is making splendid progress, and it is hoped she will be able to be about again before too long.

Dandelion wine from a tin container, followed by a drink of buttermilk, was responsible for the death by ptomaine poisoning of a farmer near Pembroke.

The delivery horse owned by the St. Marys Hardware Limited became dissatisfied with its lot while being unhitched from the wagon on Friday. It started off before the driver had undone all the harness fastenings and, owing to the narrow and winding roadway, the rig caught on several obstructions which smashed a wheel and shaft and otherwise broke the harness. The horse nor driver were not injured.

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I will pay cash for antiques and collectibles. Coca Cola, Pepsi or any pop company. Brewery items - Kuntz, Huether Labatts, etc. Old radios and gramophones, wristwatches, pocket watches, old fruit jars - Beaver Star, Bee Hive etc. Any old oil cans and signs - Red Indian, Supertest etc. Any small furniture. If you are moving or cleaning out stuff please contact me - 519-570-6920.

Trees

Shade trees, Fruit trees, Apple, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Sweet and Sour Cherries, Apricot, Nectarines, Blueberry, Haskopp, Black Chokeberry, Grapes etc. Lots of Spruce, Pine, Cedars for windbreaks and privacy hedges, Sizes 1 to 6+. Flowering shrubs and much more. Come check us out Mon-Sat 7:00am - 6:00pm Martin's Nursery 42661 Orangehill Road Wroxeter (1 concession north of Wroxeter on Belmore Line)

Wanted

International W4, W6 or other old International tractors Call 519-424-2231 in the evening.

For Sale

Looking for nice wedding gift ideas? Check the following Noritaki China Table Setting 8 Plus (Belle Forte Pattern), 2 Swan Candle holders, 2 Glass candle holders, stainless steel silverware in box (8 person), crystal glasses, bowls, wine decanter, 3 pc fruit plaque set, 2 tier wood spice rack, H.B. table top grill. Krohler Oak Dining set (table plus 2 leaves, 7 chairs, 2 pc buffet) Gold scroll edge mirror 3 pc Patio Set (table and 2 swivel chairs) Baldwin Band organ Phone 519-273-0853 or 519-271-3494

For Sale

Men's left handed golf clubs, bag and pull cart, extra clubs. Please call 519-284-1481

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. 1965
2. Brain and spinal cord
3. USA
4. 1949
5. A foal
6. Car collision
7. Jackie Robinson
8. Johannes Vermeer
9. Cricket
10. New Zealand

HELP WANTED



"Homing in on your Auto Parts Needs"

Radar Auto Parts has a full-time position open in our St. Marys location. Currently looking for a driver/counter opportunity. Looking for a team player. Please send resume to Radar Auto Parts, 395 Queen Street in St. Marys.



A place for Living. A place for Spring.

CURRENTLY SEEKING: Licensed Hairdresser

Kingsway Lodge has an opportunity for licensed hairdresser who would enjoy a low-stress work life, consistent clientele, and the ability to run their own salon. The hairdresser can work with Kingsway to set work hours, which can be up to 4 days per week. Kingsway assists in setting appointments. A price list for services is set, and can be adjusted in the future. **Please call 519-284-2921 ext. 221 or email info@kingswaylodge.com for more information.**

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR TO US!

CALL 519-284-0041 OR EMAIL INFO@STMARYSINDEPENDENT.COM

THE WEEK AHEAD



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

St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 29

Friday, August 16

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

Saturday, August 17

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 a.m. to Noon. This week is the Dog Days of Summer event for the Humane Society (pet parade, by-donation photos, prizes)

- A.N.A.F. beef and corn roast - 3-6 p.m., \$20 per person

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

Sunday, August 18

- Harrington Decoration Service at Knox Presbyterian Church, Harrington - 11 a.m.

- Granton Community Cemetery decoration day

- Teddy Bear Reunion - Parade from DCVI at 1 p.m. followed by activities at East Ward Park

- The Front Porch Show at 96 Robinson Street - 5:45 p.m.

Wednesday, August 21

- Melodies at the Museum featuring Stacey Frayne and Johnny Bowes at Cadzow Park - 7 p.m.

Thursday, August 22

- Woodstock Fair

Country Antiques and Treasures

15 Mile Road

East of Highbury Ave N

Phone 519-225-2609

Cell 519-630-7930

E-Mail ksparkinson@quadro.net

Quality rugs, door mats, wood signs, home décor, Watkins Products, honey and eggs

CORRECTION:

1) You can never be too sure of what you hear at the coffee shop. In last week's paper, we referred to the triathlon cyclist coming down the Queen Street hill at 93 km/hr (58 miles/hr). Well, we overheard wrong. The actual speed was 58 km/hr. We apologize for the misinformation.

2) An error was published in the Aug. 8 edition of the St. Marys Independent. In the story entitled Local Community Food Centre looks to rise to the challenge at recent AGM on page 24, it was incorrectly stated that Katelyn Cullitin of BMO Wealth Management pledged \$50,000. Katelyn is a member of and treasurer for the Local's board of directors, however, it was Katie Deblock Boersma of KDB Law that pledged the \$50,000. Also, the Local would like to clarify that the number of meals distributed last year was 10,800 meals served at the Local and 3,000 servings of soup or stew distributed through the Stratford Connection Centre. We regret any confusion this error may have caused.



GLOBUS

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ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

STONETOWN TRAVEL

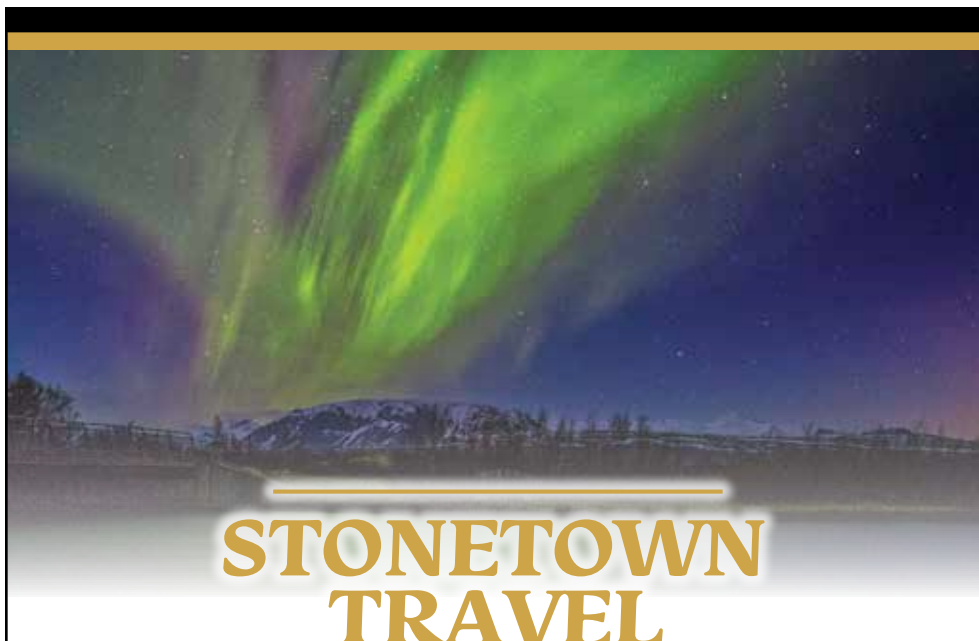
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AND GOLDEN CIRCLE
OCTOBER 7-13, 2025

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& THE SACRED GANGES
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