

# St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1202

Thursday, March 14, 2024

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## Lincs one win away from second round



The St. Marys Lincolns won the first three games of their first-round playoff series against the Sarnia Legionnaires and have a chance to sweep the series this Thursday in Sarnia. The Lincs have outscored Sarnia 25-2 in the first three games, including an 11-0 thrashing this past Monday in which the Lincs set several all-time team records. Read more on pg. 14. Photo by McGinny Photography

## St. Marys councillors considering addition of new housing incentives to community improvement plan

By Galen Simmons

As part of its Opening Doors to Affordable Housing strategy, the Town of St. Marys is proposing new financial incentives aimed at increasing the local attainable and affordable housing supply as part of a housing-focused community improvement plan.

At a recent St. Marys strategic prior-

ities committee meeting focused entirely around updates on the town's strategy to increase the local housing supply, town planner Mark Stone and director of building and planning Grant Brouwer took councillors through proposed changes to the town's 2021 community improvement plan, including a separate, draft com-

Continued on page 11

## St. Marys Friendship Centre hosts International Women's Day event

By Wendy Lamond

On March 7, the Friendship Centre held its annual International Women's Day event with more than 200 people in attendance to listen to three guest speakers.

Pauline White, senior services wellness coordinator with the town, welcomed the crowd with an acknowledgment and thank-you to those who came before us, as well as remembrance to the late Sheila Greason by recognizing all her volunteer work.

The first speaker of the day was Frances Taylor. Taylor is a registered nurse and has been a group leader for the seniors' mental health team for over five years. She talked to the crowd about aging, mental health and wellness.

In Canada, one in five are living with mental illness or dementia. Depression and anxiety are most common in older adults, especially in women, however they tend to use the services available more often than men.

Taylor's message to the group was to discuss positive ways to live with mental-health issues such as managing diet, taking appropriately prescribed medication, exercising, and viewing mental health as a balance of overall wellbeing.

The second speaker of the day was Jenn Parsons, the food logistics manager from the Local Community Food Centre in Stratford. Parsons discussed the importance of International Women's Day and gave the group a reminder there are many women in the world whose voices are not being heard.

She also discussed the importance of tackling the

Continued on page 2

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# COMMUNITY

## Friendship Centre hosts International Women's Day event

Continued from page 1

root causes of food insecurity such as poverty, exclusion and injustice. The Local Community Food Centre has many programs for residents of Perth County. Some of those programs include the Boost Your Brain Brunch with the Alzheimer Society of Perth County, a community connections program that links people to other needed support groups, and programs geared toward Indigenous residents.

The Local also host kitchen-skills programming for families and children and provide free menstrual products at various locations across the county. On the first and third Thursday of the month, the local hosts its Nourish Market at the United Church in St. Marys.

Single moms tend to be the most vulnerable when it comes to food security. Parsons remembers a mom coming in to participate in a kitchen-skills class and was so happy to be provided vegetables as she didn't usually have the chance to have any herself so she could feed her children.

The centre promotes food as a basic human right and works toward alleviating poverty through low-cost markets, community building and community meals.

The final keynote speaker was Anne Innes. Innes was a delegate for the ACWW (Associated Country Women



On Friday, March 8 over 200 women of all ages from St. Marys and surrounding districts attended the celebration at the Pyramid Center. Nancy Bickell photo

of the World) and attended the International Women's Day 2022 event at the United Nations in New York. This was a dream come true for Innes who said it was incredible to see women and men of all races and dress huddled together in deep conversation.

The purpose of the United Nations is to keep peace around the world, improve poverty, create friendly relations, end hunger and promote respect for everyone's rights and freedoms.

One of the first things that caught Innes' eye was the 193 flags of all the members of the UN. The building itself is very high security and getting a grounds pass was as precious as a passport. Some women had literally risked their lives to attend the event

so their voices could be heard.

Innes was able to see what most of the chambers in the building looked like. There are translation booths and six different languages that can be heard through the headphones. They are instructed not to take pictures of other delegates and not to have their pictures taken for security reasons.

Most of the topics discussed involved gender inequality and gender violence. Innes learned 83 per cent of women have a cell phone, 58 per cent have access to the internet and 38 per cent have experienced online violence, but many more will never report it. There are still three billion women not online because of lack of access. In some countries, women are not allowed to have a bank account and in one country the government will give a prize to any parents that

put their girls in school.

Another topic discussed by the Ukrainian delegation at last year's UN event was the number of landmines that remain from past conflicts in 60 countries and injure or kill innocent women and children. There was a Ukrainian mother who shared that she tapes a coin to her son's shoe before he leaves for school so, if there is an explosion, she will know if he triggered it.

Women's rights have come a long way however there is still so much that needs to be done. Though all three speakers touched on varying messages, all are important topics that affect everyone. International Women's Day is a great time to view all we have accomplished and what we can do to help each other.

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# COMMUNITY

## Secret Marathon 3K run hosted by GC Boyle Law Firm returned to St. Marys March 8

*St. Marys Independent staff*

In 2019, Gwendolen Boyle of GC Boyle Law Firm brought the Secret Marathon 3K run to St. Marys for the first time.

On March 8, GC Boyle Law Firm hosted the fourth-annual Secret Marathon 3K run. Covid did not allow for the run in 2020 and 2021, but it was back again this year with 11 participants running or walking through the light rain and full of enthusiasm.

The Secret Marathon is a movement inspired by Zainab, the first Afghan woman to run a marathon in Afghanistan to protest the country's unjust gender norms. This led running legend Martin Parnell to steadfastly support Zainab and her cause, vowing to run the Marathon of Afghanistan the following year.

He partnered with filmmaker and marathoner Kate McKenzie to train and run the marathon

in secret for fear of making the marathon a target of terrorism. The whole story can be found in *The Secret Marathon*, a book by Parnell, as well as the documentary of the same name. For more information on the Secret Marathon, go to [thesecretmarathon.com](http://thesecretmarathon.com).

After participants returned to GC Boyle Law Firm, they were met with snacks, water and of course Gwendolen Boyle. Conversations between friends, colleagues and the staff of GC Boyle Law Firm were full of laughter. The Secret Marathon will be back again next year, and it is hoped more runners will be in attendance for this fun and free event.

Thanks to those who attended: Marg Howorth, Piper Banks, Maggie Banks, Jacqui Banks, David Banks, Paula Muxlow, Mandy Verge, Cheryl Firby, Andrea Slade, Anna Doupe and Harmanpreet Kaur.



St. Marys and area runners participated in the Secret Marathan 3K run hosted by GC Boyle Law Firm March 8. Contributed photo

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## COMMENTARY

# Spring has sprung and the weather is turning

By Wendy Lamond

Spring is on the horizon. Or is it?

One day the temperature is warm and the next there is a cold front moving in. For those who suffer from weather-pressure headaches, this is not a fun time. It does make it better seeing the buds coming up out of the ground and the robins returning, however, if we are confused with the weird weather, just imagine what the plants and animals are experiencing.

I have to say, though, I am feeling for our fellow Canadians out east who have had a terrible winter.

Seeing pictures from out there brings back memories of my childhood here and the snow we used to get. I remember ripping my snow pants as we slid off the roof of our shed into the huge snowbanks.

We really haven't seen that kind of winter here in quite a while.

"Weather" you love it or hate it,

this winter was a lot easier to get around by foot or by car. The lack of sunshine in December and January were hard on those who go through bouts of seasonal depression, but the good news is we are officially seven days away from Spring and, because of daylight savings, it is lighter later in the day.

Spring gives us so much to look forward to with the dawning of new life. It gets me thinking of birds and flowers and being one step closer to losing golf balls on the course. I also love this time of year as people emerge from their cocoons and get out to enjoy the slightly warmer weather.

Even after a mild winter like this one, getting outside for some exercise while sharing smiles with others emerging from their winter hibernation is a welcome change.

Spring is the season of new beginnings. Use the time the best way you can.

## Bravo

We have 1 Bravo this week.

1) Thank you to the lovely gentleman who paid for my groceries (over \$100) when I forgot my PIN.



## Boo

We have no Boos this week.



\*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

*"I'd like to thank my terrible childhood and the Academy, in that order. I'd like to thank my veterinarian – I meant wife – Susan Downey over there. She found me a snarling rescue pet, and it loved me back to life. And that's why I'm here. Thank you."*

**Robert Downey Jr. at the Oscars on Sunday after winning Best Supporting Actor for his performance in Oppenheimer. Downey Jr. lived years with drug and alcohol addiction.**

## Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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And now for the weather, it will be sunny unless it rains or snows.

The St. Marys Lincolns are on a roll - 3 for 3 in their first playoff round.

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

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# COMMUNITY

## St. Marys Museum to close March 27 to April 22 for renovations

By St. Marys Independent staff

The St. Marys Museum is getting a makeover.

The exhibit spaces will be closed to the public as of March 27 to accommodate minor renovations. Work is expected to be completed and the exhibit spaces reopened on April 22.

Staff will remain on site during the closure to accommodate research appointments in the archives and answer telephone inquiries during business hours (Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Researchers can pre-

book an appointment by contacting the museum at 519-284-3556 or museum@town.stmarys.on.ca.

The seminar scheduled for April 8 at 7 p.m. will continue as planned at the museum.

Updates about the reopening will be provided through the Town of St. Marys website (www.townofstmarys.com/museum), the museum's Facebook (www.facebook.com/stmarysmuseum) and the museum's voicemail (519-284-3556).

## STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



### EARLYON BEDTIME STORYTIME

March 25, 6 - 7 PM | Friendship Centre

Put your pajamas on, grab your favourite stuffy and join the EarlyON Centre for stories and songs before bed!

townofstmarys.com/earlyon or 226-374-6544

### BRONZE CROSS LIFEGUARD TRAINING

Sundays, April 7 - May 5 | Pyramid Centre

Bronze Cross will help you level up your skills and prepare you for a job as a lifeguard. Register online for this five-week course starting April 7.

townofstmarys.com/aquatics or 519-284-2160



### COMMUNITY HOUSING CONSULTATION

March 20, 5 - 8 PM | Pyramid Centre

Join the Town of St. Marys and the City of Stratford to learn about local efforts around housing and homelessness. A free shuttle to and from the event will be available.

Registration is not required.

townofstmarys.com/stonetownsupports



### CAMP PRC

Registration is now open for the following camps:

- March Break Camp (March 11 - 15)
- PA Day Camps
- Summer Camp (starting July 2)
- Specialty Summer Camps at the Quarry

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## Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Irma Coveny. Irma turned 80 on Monday, March 11. She was born in Chatham, Ont and grew up in Wallaceburg until moving to St. Marys in 1975. Irma was married to Bev for 53 years. They have three children, seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren. She worked at Inovatech for 22 years. In her spare time Irma loves reading, camping, fishing and spending time with family and friends. Happy birthday Irma.

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

## COMMUNITY

# Town of St. Marys seeking feedback on municipal website

By St. Marys Independent staff

The Town of St. Marys wants to know what you think of its website.

The municipality is running a survey from March 11-20 to gather feedback about users' experiences browsing [www.townofstmarys.com](http://www.townofstmarys.com).

The survey – which can be found at [www.townofstmarys.com/websurvey](http://www.townofstmarys.com/websurvey) -- is part of a project to overhaul the site. The goal is to make it easier for users to find information about municipal programs, services and events while also modernizing the site and improving accessibility.

The survey includes questions about navigation, the website's search function, the types of information users are seeking and the features that users like or don't like. It also offers users the opportunity to provide general feedback and share examples of other sites they enjoy.

The feedback gathered through the survey will help determine the design, features and navigation of the new site.

"We want this new site to reflect the needs and preferences of our residents," said St. Marys corporate communications manager Brett O'Reilly in a press release. "The survey will ensure that the user experience remains top of mind as we work through this exciting project."

Everyone who participates in the survey will be entered into a draw for a chance to win \$50 in St. Marys Money or a limited edition Stoney hat. Questions about the survey can be directed to O'Reilly at 519-284-2340, ext. 432 or [communications@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:communications@town.stmarys.on.ca).

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# St. Marys Train Station to be closed March 19 and 20 for painting

By St. Marys Independent staff

The St. Marys Train Station building will be closed to the public on March 19 and March 20 for painting.

VIA operations will re-open for regular hours on

March 21 from 10:15-11:15 a.m. and 8-9 p.m.

VIA Rail will continue to operate during the closure and tickets can be purchased online at [www.viarail.ca](http://www.viarail.ca) or by calling 1-888-842-7245.

## Weekend Quiz

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1. What is the maximum number of golf clubs allowed in a golf bag?
2. What is the name of the longest river in the US?
3. What is the most abundant gas in Earth's atmosphere?
4. Who is known as the "Father of Modern Philosophy"?
5. Who was the very first American Idol winner?
6. How many railroads are there in Monopoly?
7. What is the world's most venomous snake?
8. What is the biggest and fastest roller coaster in Canada?
9. How many degrees measures a semi-circle?
10. According to Chinese Zodiac, 2024 is the year of what?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

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**COMMUNITY**

# Library hosting Service Canada outreach events

By St. Marys Independent staff

On March 22, July 26 and Oct. 25, Service Canada will be setting up shop in the St. Marys Public Library.

The federal agency is running pop-up events at the library to help connect residents with services that are not typically available in town.

Each event will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the library. An agent will be available to help residents apply for passports and social insurance numbers, EI benefits and leave, public pensions, GST and HST credits, Apprentice Incentive Grants, the Wage Earner Protection Program and other government benefit programs.

The pop-ups are open to all residents and people from surrounding communities. Appointments will not be available. Services will be provided

on a first-come, first-served basis. Attendees will have an opportunity to speak with the agent in a private, secure space.

Library staff arranged the events with Service Canada after seeing similar pop-ups in neighbouring communities.

"We recognize that there are people in our community who cannot conveniently access these services, for a number of reasons," said St. Marys Public Library CEO Sarah Andrews in a press release. "Partnering with Service Canada to offer these events in person is a way to reduce or remove those barriers."

Questions about the pop-up events can be directed to the library at 519-284-3346 or libraryinfo@stmaryspubliibrary.ca

# Crib Champs for the St. Marys Legion



Legion winners of the Provincial Cribbage championship from St. Marys. Pictured, from left, Darrell Gorvett, Dave "Bim" Graham, Grant Graham and Ray Hewitt. Photo Contributed

By Wendy Lamond

St. Marys Legion branch 236 were the winners of the Legion's Ontario Cribbage Championship.

The team won the championship at the provincial finals in Branch 336 Falconbridge, Ont.

The team will be competing in the National Dominion Championships in Shediac, N.B from April 26 to the 29.

Bim Graham will be competing in the

singles category, Darrell Gorvett and Grant Graham will be in the doubles division and all four of the players will be competing in the team play.

Team member Darrell Gorvett, who has been playing crib for 60 years, commented, "Hopefully we do as well in N.B representing our local branch 236 Legion. Is there anyone that doesn't like winning? It was definitely a team effort."

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# COMMUNITY

## Coffee Talk at Brown's School

By Jake Grant

For more than two years, every Wednesday morning has witnessed the unfolding of a heartwarming tradition within the cozy confines of Brown's School at the corner of 13th Line and Road 92, south of St. Marys.

Here, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., local men from around the area come together for a ritual that has become more than just a caffeine fix, but for the sake of camaraderie and community spirit.

At the forefront of this cherished gathering stand Jim and Lenora Conn, a semi-retired couple who don't live far from Brown's School and thought of a unique way to use the forgotten area.

"You have to use interesting, old places or they fall into disuse," said Lenora. Their idea stemmed from a palpable absence of community engagement during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We never see each other out here," said Jim. At the time, a lot of people were fearful of dining and drinking coffee in restaurants, so they decided to create a safe place where folks could interact.

"We didn't know how well it would go over but over time it's just built and built," said Lenora.

Amidst the backdrop of lively discussions and homemade delicacies, Coffee Talk at Brown's School serves as a sanctuary for many. For retirees, Coffee Talk is more than just a weekly routine – it's a lifeline, offering companionship and support in equal measure.

"Coffee hour is really great for the lads, good for their mental health being with their buddies," said Jim.

"Women can call their friends and their kids. They're better at keeping in touch with people," Lenora added. "These guys didn't have anything and, once you retire, what do you do with your day?"

"It really is a nice place to sit, chat and get out of the



Jim and Lenora Conn welcoming the boys behind the counter. Photo by Jake Grant

house," Jim said. Fuelled solely by the goodwill of its attendees, the coffee hour is a testament to the power of grassroots initiatives.

"It's just funded by donation and that pays for everything," Lenora said, gesturing toward the spread of homemade treats and steaming pots of coffee. "All of the extra proceedings go to the church and we couldn't be happier doing this. If it wasn't for these guys sponsoring it and showing up, it wouldn't have gotten as big as it is now."

In 2021, the group started with just eight members, which is hardly comparable to the more than 30 people that typically come for coffee now. "It can get loud because nobody can hear," Lenora laughed.

Such community spirit has seen the initiating of other coffee hours starting up in Thorndale and Harrington. Some of the locals make trips to them all.

Another positive project at Brown's School is Wisdom Wednesdays. Wisdom Wednesdays is the brainchild of John Uren through which, on the second Wednesday of every month, a community speaker shares their story on a new topic for locals to learn about.

This monthly gathering is about learning and celebrating the achievements of ordinary people from the area and how they're making a difference in their community.

"We try and promote what someone in our community has accomplished and learn from them," said Lenora. Topics from Kintore Coffee to local dragon-boat racers are just a few of the experiences that have been discussed.

"Our motto is for people to leave more knowledgeable than when they arrived," Uren said noting his vision has transformed from a simple gathering into a beacon of enlightenment and inspiration for all who attend.

Starting promptly at 7:30 p.m. and ending before 9 p.m., Wisdom Wednesday invites everyone to come together, engage in stimulating discourse and forge connections that extend beyond the confines of Brown's School.

Other events like the Tractor show (held June 22) and the Car show (held Sept. 28) at Brown's School have become community favourites thanks to the people of St. Marys and area who continue to join together to create something remarkable.

The simple yet profound ideas, like the cherished Coffee Hour at Brown's School, truly encapsulate the essence of what makes communities like St. Marys special. These moments of laughter and conversation are the heart of our day-to-day lives and celebrating these simple joys in our community really makes St. Marys a town worth living in.



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COMMUNITY

# Owen Wrigley named Firefighter of the Month for March

The St. Marys Fire Department is pleased to announce Owen Wrigley as its Firefighter of the Month for March.

Wrigley became a firefighter in 2022, after completing his co-op placement with the department the previous year. He attended Lambton College to achieve his Firefighter Level I & II, Hazmat Awareness and Operation certificates.

Wrigley is a certified lifeguard which made him a prime candidate to become a member of the Fire Department's swift water/ice rescue "Go Team".

"The fact that I can utilize my lifeguarding skills for the betterment of the "Go Team" is a real bonus," said Wrigley in a press release

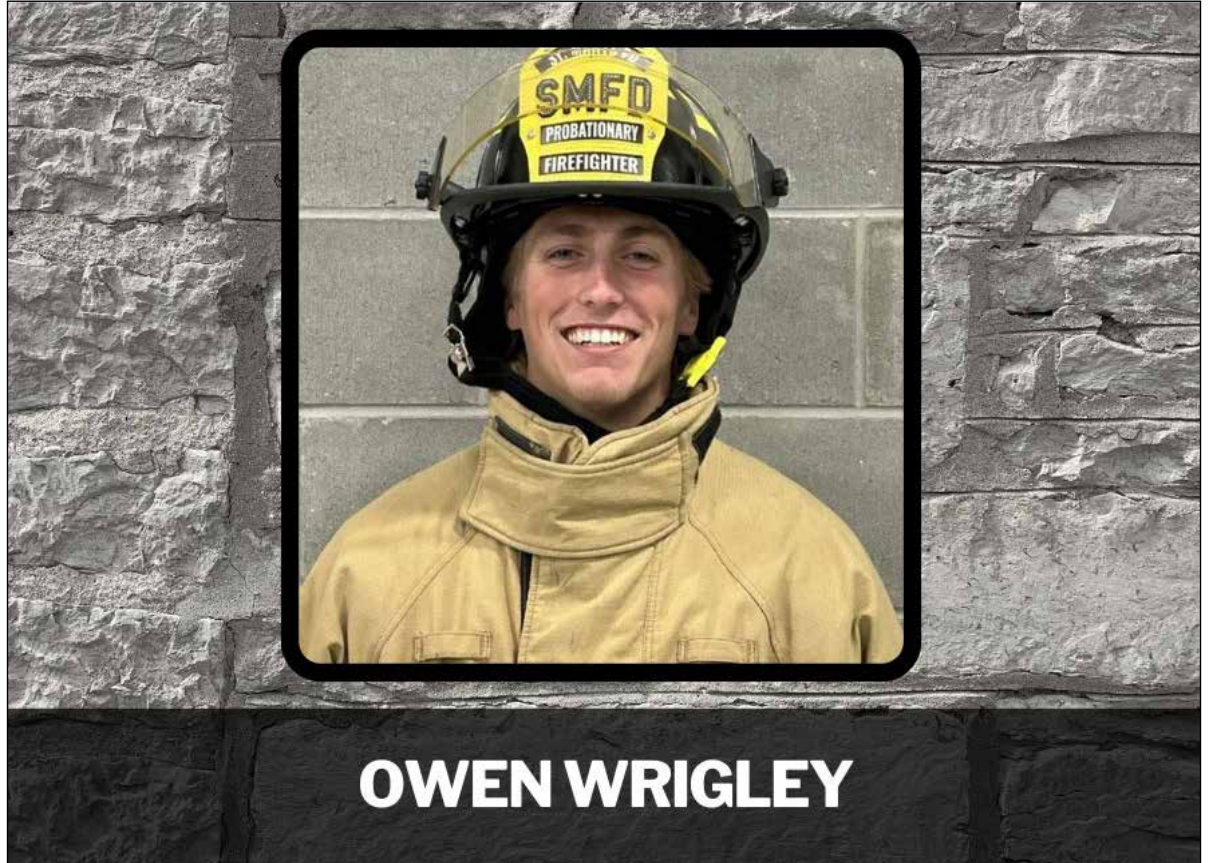
"The main reason I wanted to become a volunteer firefight-

er is because it's an active job that allows me to help people in danger."

Off duty, Wrigley dedicates his time to his family and hobbies.

"Owen was selected as Firefighter of the Month because of his passion for the trade," said Fire Chief Richard Anderson in the release. "Owen has embraced being a volunteer firefighter by helping our community through educational and charity events. This gives him the opportunity to be a positive influence in our town."

"Owen is making a real impact on the department," added Deputy Fire Chief Phil West "He is steadily progressing with his recruit-training program and has obtained his DZ license which allows him to drive and operate some of the fire apparatus."





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## ARTS &amp; CULTURE

## From farm boy to opera star



Professor James Westman, international baritone. Contributed photo

By James Giles, edited by Alice Rixson  
Canadian baritone James Westman has appeared in many of the world's leading opera, recital and concert halls.

A St. Marys native born in 1972, he was raised on a heritage-family homestead just outside of town.

Young Westman loved music. His grandmother was an organist, his mother, Doris Levy-Westman, was an accomplished fiddler and violinist who taught music in many regional schools. She also chorded piano for June Carter Cash and Ward Allen, and Westman describes his mother as "a relentless yet graceful stage mom who nurtured a deep appreciation for all music in my youth." His unyielding father on the other hand was not a fan of his son's singing and desperately wanted him to be a hockey-playing farmer.

Showing musical potential, Westman received early tutoring as a boy soprano at age nine with the St. Marys Children's Choir under the direction of Eileen Baldwin, who conducted more than 130 choristers to national and international acclaim.

"Ms. Baldwin was a hardworking and a consummate artist," said Westman.

As can happen with many in the early stage of life, Westman's love for singing and early fame spurned conflict and jealousy from peers. He was often harassed for his singing passion and got into fights at schools and while playing hockey. Westman was unwavering that singing was also for boys and defended himself. He literally has the scars to prove it.

In his teenage years, the ongoing

bullying and physical fights forced Westman to leave St. Marys DCVI to attend Stratford Central High School.

He was only 12 when he was offered the prodigious opportunity to perform *Mahler's Fourth Symphony* with Leonard Bernstein, the internationally renowned American composer, conductor and director.

"But my voice changed before I had the opportunity to tour and record with Bernstein," said Westman. (Actor Bradley Cooper recently directed and stars in the 2023 biographical, *Maestro*, an intimate portrait of Bernstein.)

Westman recorded as the first boy treble with Benjamin Zander. He also performed and recorded with the Vienna Boys' Choir, American Boys' Choir, Paris Boys' Choir, Boston Symphony and the Toronto Symphony. Westman was the first youth to perform and record the fourth movement of *Mahler's Symphony No. 4, (Child's View of Heaven)* and he toured this work with the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra in Austria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Germany and Russia.

Westman attended the opera division at the University of Toronto where he earned a Master's degree in operatic performance, studying under Patricia Kern and Lois Marshall. He credits his success to Kern, a petite but feisty Welsh-born mezzo-soprano and voice instructor. Westman also feels honoured to have had mentors like Dame Joan Sutherland, Martin Katz, Marilyn Horne and Louis Quilico to name but a few. Westman was a member of the Canadian Opera Company ensemble studio and studied at the Britten-Pears Young Artist Pro-



James Westman, opera performer. Contributed photo

gramme in Aldeburgh, England, and the Tanglewood Music Center in the U.S.

"Canada has a massive tradition of opera," says Westman. "It stems from the profound tutelage of the University of Toronto Opera School that was created by talented Italian opera refugees after World War II. Many don't realize that Canada produces more professional opera singers per capita than any other country. Canadian singers have been representing Canada with excellence for many years."

Westman's versatility and artistic sensibility earned him the highest praise from audiences and critics of grand opera, oratorio, art song, baroque, chamber and modern classical music. He became one of Canada's most respected operatic exports, best known for his signature role as Ger-

mont in *Verdi's La Traviata*, which he has performed over 250 times around the world. He has been nominated for two Grammy Awards and three Canadian Juno Awards – not bad for a farm boy from St. Marys!

Between opera gigs, Westman sometimes sang the national anthem at NHL games, including Wayne Gretzky's final game at Maple Leaf Gardens. His father must have been proud.

Westman resides in Stratford with his partner, Dini, and has two sons who play cello and violin. He continues to sing professionally and teaches music and opera at Western University in London. Read more about this gifted vocalist at [jameswestman.com](http://jameswestman.com).

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## COMMUNITY

# St. Marys councillors considering addition of new housing incentives to community improvement plan

Continued from page 1

community improvement plan focused on incentives that could encourage developers to build more affordable and attainable housing.

"The town has had this imperative objective to get housing in the ground," Stone said. "We're working with the current (community improvement plan) and looking to do some expansion to put those tools into the toolbox so you and staff can work with developers on further encouraging housing in the community.

"... There's a lot of interest in housing and there's a lot more interest in housing on a bigger scale – not (a development) with 400 units or anything like that, but more than what we've seen. Bigger can just be 10 units, but it can also be dozens of units. ... We're now getting some of these applicants, these landowners saying, 'We're going to provide you with affordable housing,' and what we're looking for ... are those additional tools that will give us the negotiation power to say, 'That's nice you're going to give us three or four (affordable units). How about doubling that?'"

While a standalone housing community improvement plan will require consultation with the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and resident input in the form of a mandatory public meeting, the proposed affordable-housing-incentive programs that would, if approved by council, make up that plan include some of the programs set out in the town's 2021 community improvement plan.

The town's downtown-rental-grant program, which currently provides successful applicants with up to \$5,000 per unit to assist in the creation of new rental units and improve the condition of existing rentals units in the upper stories of downtown commercial and office buildings, is included in this draft housing community improvement plan with a proposed boost to the maximum funding available to \$15,000 to better reflect the cost of improvements.



Similarly, the town's accessory dwelling unit grant program, which currently provides successful applicants with \$10,000 per unit to assist in the creation of new residential-rental units outside downtown in existing single, semi-detached and townhouse dwellings, makes up part of the draft plan with a proposed boost to the maximum funding available to \$15,000 per unit or \$10,000 per unit for new builds.

"If it doesn't happen up front, then it's much more difficult later on," Stone said, explaining that building homes with what's required for accessory units in the first place is much less costly than adding accessory units to existing houses later on. "... We still have to work out the details of the program ... but there's incentive, there's assistance there. I think the key is it's done up front and the developers are more likely to offer this as an option and almost encourage it."

"I just don't want us to be giving the builder (funding) to do this stuff and then adding that ... to the price of the house," Coun. Marg Luna said, voicing a concern over whether the funding for this program should go to developers or homeowners. "That sounds like double-dipping to me."

The final housing-incentive program carried over to this draft plan from the town's 2021 community

improvement plan is the planning-application and building-permit rebate grant program that provides successful applicants up to \$5,000 to reduce the cost of improvements by offering a grant for any required planning-application or building-permit fees.

Town staff has also proposed three new financial-incentive programs for inclusion in the draft housing community improvement plan.

A proposed development charge rebate program would waive development charges, or a portion of development charges, on qualifying housing projects for eligible property owners; a proposed tax increment equivalent program would provide a grant or loan to rebate a portion of the municipal taxes attributed to significant or impactful increases in assessment over a 10-year period; and a proposed surplus land grant program would identify town-owned lands deemed surplus to the town's needs and offered, either at a reduced price or for free, through a request-for-proposal process for development purposes.

"The one good thing about this process is the municipality can identify very specific criteria, and development and design details that it wants," Stone said of the surplus land grants program. "It's not just, 'Everybody make your bid and tell us how you want to make affordable housing.' The town would be very specific about what it wants.

"You could ask for a mix of market and affordable housing to make it more appealing for development. We can talk about a certain percentage of accessible units. You could talk about (something being) built for exactly what the municipality wants."

At the end of the meeting, committee members voted to have staff consult with the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs about the draft housing community improvement plan, as well as other proposed changes to the town's existing community improvement plan.

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# COMMUNITY

## St. Marys Quarry to launch branded merch this season

By Galen Simmons

Fans of Canada's largest freshwater swimming pool will soon be able to take a piece of the fun home with them as the Town of St. Marys prepares to launch branded, St. Marys Quarry merchandise this year.

Partially a result of the success of the inflatable SuperSplash Sports Park added to the swimming Quarry in 2022 and partially in response to public demand, St. Marys aquatics manager Andrea Slade confirmed the town is launching a preliminary line of Quarry merch this year.

"Over the past two years, we've had

our partnership with SuperSplash, which has been very successful," Slade said. "Attendance at the quarry has increased, so we feel this is an exciting opportunity to offer merchandise."

Slade said a town employee who is currently finishing the business-marketing program at Fanshawe College in London has designed a logo for the St. Marys Quarry branded merchandise. This year, that logo - which will be unveiled in coming weeks - will appear on adult and youth t-shirts and tote bags.

Based on the success of the merchan-

dise's first season, the line of available products may be expanded in future years.

"Everything should be finalized by the end of next week and we're working with a local supplier to produce the merchandise," Slade said, noting the cost of the branded t-shirts and tote bags will also be announced soon.

"I feel like this is a good community initiative that will benefit local tourism as well."

The St. Marys Quarry was formerly a limestone Quarry that closed in 1920. In the mid-1940s it was converted into a public swimming area and re-

mains one of the most popular spots in the area to visit on those hot summer days.

A variety of outdoor activities and services are offered including cliff jumping, a water trampoline, the SuperSplash inflatable water park, a canteen, picnic areas, and washrooms and changerooms.

Visit [www.townofstmarys.com/en/recreation-and-culture/Swimming-Quarry.aspx](http://www.townofstmarys.com/en/recreation-and-culture/Swimming-Quarry.aspx) for more information about the St. Marys Quarry and to stay up to date on when it will open for the 2024 swimming season.

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## SPORTS

# Lincs take commanding 3-0 series lead

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys Lincolns are one win away from advancing to the second round of the Sutherland Cup Playoffs after earning three dominant wins over the Sarnia Legionnaires.

Game one didn't start as a blow-out with the Legionnaires getting the jump on the Lincolns in the first few minutes, punctuated by Iain MacIsaac opening the scoring for Sarnia last Friday. However, the Lincs quickly bounced back and took the game over, culminating with Maddox Callens tying the game at one apiece with a powerplay one-timer at the 18:41 mark of the first frame.

"Our mantra this year going into the playoffs is 'execute, execute, execute,'" said head coach Jeff Bradley. "We know we have a style of play that works and as long as we trust it when things don't go our way, we're asking the players to say that to themselves and it reminds them to keep sticking to the plan. It took us a few shifts to get into the game and we had a bad turnover on their first goal but that's what we talked about with our mantra. We want to be playing for a long time in the playoffs and it's not always going to be rosy, but as long as we trust our style, no matter what happens, we're going to play our style."

The dominance that began in the first 20 minutes carried over to the second period when the Lincolns outshot the Legionnaires 28-6 and exploded for six goals. Luca Spagnolo had a pair of shorthanded tallies while several high-end talents who had entered the playoffs in the middle of offensive slumps also found the back of the net.

"I thought every guy on our team was really good, but to see guys like Billy (VanSumeren), Noah (VandenBrink), and Chase (MacQueen-Spence) score was great," Bradley told the Independent. "Those guys have been working so hard and they put a lot of pressure on themselves to put pucks in the net so to see them finally get rewarded was awesome."

VanSumeren came into the playoffs with one goal in his last 18 games of the regular season while MacQueen-Spence and VandenBrink both scored once in their last nine. Luke Bogart also chipped in a goal in the



Chase MacQueen-Spence (left) and Ethan Weir (right) are tied for the team lead in goals through three games of the St. Marys Lincolns' first-round playoff series against the Sarnia Legionnaires. MacQueen-Spence has scored in each of the first three games this post-season while Weir posted a hat-trick in game three. Additionally, the two forwards scored powerplay goals 40 seconds apart, setting a new Lincs' record for the fastest two playoff goals in team history. Photos by Spencer Seymour

second frame.

Although he didn't score, one of the Lincolns' veteran rearguards stood out to the head coach.

"Josh (Cornfield) was great. He's had a tough couple of seasons in terms of injuries and illnesses which isn't a worry but it's something to think about when the games start, meaning a lot more to the opponent. Josh responded really well to an opponent that was pushing the pace on us. He was one of, if not our best defenceman."

In the third, VandenBrink potted his second goal of the night on a powerplay, helping the Lincolns' man advantage go two-for-seven – a significant improvement from the nine goals on 62 powerplays the Lincs accumulated since Feb. 1. According to coach Bradley, the team's internal competition for powerplay minutes ignited the group's production.

"Our focus going in was perfecting our style of play and executing that consistently. We're fortunate that we've got a very competitive team and I don't just mean competitive only against other teams, but they are also competitive with each other. Our powerplay was something we had to address, so we created a third unit. Now, every forward is getting powerplay

time and they are competing for powerplay minutes. Competition, especially when you've got the depth that we do, brings out the best in people."

Sarnia is a team known for being incredibly tough to play against, which Bradley felt would give his team a necessary tough, first-round test.

"We wanted to play Sarnia and the reason was not out of any disrespect to them, it was because they work their tails off. They are physical, they have some skill and they really work their guts out. We don't want to take any time off or get comfortable and with the way they play, Sarnia never lets you get comfortable. Having the privilege of playing that team in their building, it gives our guys an opportunity to get acclimated to playing in hostile territory."

Brandon Abbott turned away 23 of 24 Sarnia shots to earn the win in the Lincolns' crease.

## Game Two - Lincs win 5-1

Despite controlling the majority of the play, Legionnaires' netminder Logan Phillips turned in 39 saves in the first 40 minutes of Game Two, keeping the score to 1-1 heading into the third last Saturday. Ethan Weir fired his first goal of the post-season nine minutes and two seconds into the first

before Anthony Tudino tied the game with two minutes and 20 seconds left in the opening period.

After just two penalties were called in the first 20 minutes, 20 infractions were assessed in the final two periods. The St. Marys powerplay scored two goals on 11 opportunities.

"It certainly wasn't our best, but we got them off their game and limited them to just 15 shots," Bradley said of the overall game. "They wanted to send a message that they were going to fight and play us hard but it kind of cost them at the end. We stuck to our gameplan and tried our best to turn the other cheek and stay focused on our mission and we did a pretty good job of that. You can't always skate away, but I think we did a good job in that regard."

Though Bradley didn't see his team's showing as flawless, he was pleased with how his squad stuck to their systems and structures even in moments of imperfection.

"It's a testament to their commitment. Even though at times we stray from the plan a little bit, it shows that the players respect the core tenets of how we play and believe and trust in it. It's good to know that even when things don't go perfectly, they've built good habits that ensure things don't go too crazy for us."

Starting the third on a man advantage, the unit quarterbacked by the elder Cornfield brother appeared shot out of a cannon with the 20-year-old Kitchener native wiring a snapshot from the high slot past Phillips and into the Sarnia net. Cornfield's first of the playoffs went down as the game-winning goal.

"Our powerplay was so rotten in February, it forced us to put a ton of time and effort into it," said Bradley. "(In game two), we relied a bit more on the (Josh) Cornfield unit but that's the nice thing about depth. On any given night, any one of those three units could step up. Puck movement and retrievals have been really good. I don't think we were stopped on a single breakout. They're being decisive and getting pucks to the net. All of the areas we were struggling in seem to have been corrected."

*Continued on page 15*

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## SPORTS

# Lincs take commanding 3-0 series lead

Continued from page 14

Jaden Lee and Owen Voortman both found their first goals of the playoffs later in the period, the latter being credited by Bradley for his physically imposing style.

"Owen has been such a beast for us. He's a playoff player. He's big and he's got skill and speed. The combination of all that makes him untouchable at times. Part of our plan in the offensive zone is winning battles along the boards and below the goal line and it's tailor-made for a guy like Owen."

MacQueen-Spence added a powerplay goal with just over two minutes left in the game, while Abbott once again earned the win in between the pipes for St. Marys.

## Game Three - Lincs win 11-0

Chaos erupted on Monday when the series shifted back to the Pyramid Recreation Centre (PRC) for game three, a serendipitous game number as it included three powerplay goals on as many opportunities, three all-time Lincs' records being set, and the three most-lopsided periods yet in the series.

It took just four minutes and 27 seconds for Weir to begin a luminescent night with the game's first goal. Later in the first, after Jacob Montesi went to the box on a tripping minor, Sarnia's powerplay was negated by a five-minute major handed to Jace McGrail after a knee-on-knee collision

with Spagnolo that forced Spagnolo to leave the game unable to put weight on his leg. Spagnolo didn't return and, as of press time, his status for game four is unconfirmed.

Once Montesi was out of the box, the Lincolns had a nonstop powerplay for over three minutes and had a record-setting output. At the 9:32 mark, MacQueen-Spence potted his third of the post-season, followed by Weir's second of the period just 40 seconds later. According to Scott Holland, a tracker and keeper of GOJHL team records, the pair of goals set a new Lincolns' record for fastest two goals scored in the playoffs.

Bradley agreed that his team displayed a tremendous killer instinct.

"It was a blood-in-the-water-type thing. At times, they've taken some liberties with us, and another one was the knee on Spagnolo, so once that happened, on top of winning the game, we wanted to make sure they regretted making a play like that. They kind of ended the game themselves by giving us the five-minute powerplay."

The history didn't stop there, however, as another powerplay goal by Hodgkinson just 46 seconds later capped off the fastest three goals in Lincs' playoff history.

Bradley believed a big factor in the game turning into the biggest blowout of the series so far was the back-breaking toll the three powerplay goals took on the Legionnaires.

"When it comes to winning in the playoffs, it's not just out-coaching, out-playing, or

out-executing. You need every edge you can get and if you can take a team's confidence early, they really don't have a great shot at beating you that game. We knew if we put a couple behind them, considering the suffocating style they were up against, it would take a lot of their hope out of it."

Before the first period was done, Cohen Bidgood got rewarded for his gruelling net-front work which has earned him plenty of abuse from the Legionnaires' defenders. The Peterborough product scored his first of the playoffs to give the Lincs a 5-0 lead heading into the first intermission.

Weir capped off his hat-trick less than five minutes into the second to make it a six-goal lead for St. Marys. The Kingston Frontenacs' second-round pick was also a stand-out to the head coach for his detail-oriented effort.

"Ethan had a bit of a cold spell offensively," Bradley admitted, "but he's doing the little things right and he's seeing that if he does those little things right, he's going to be in positions to get rewarded with more offence. We're really happy to see him get those goals."

VanSumeren and Cornfield added goals in the second stanza before MacQueen-Spence, Lee and Hodgkinson all found the back of the net in the

third, enroute to the third and final record of the night, the largest playoff shut-out in Lincolns' history, an 11-0 final score.

Hodkinson, according to the bench boss, has elevated his game at the best possible time of the year.

"Ryan has taken his game to another level when it's mattered most. We've played a lot of playoff-style hockey in the last month and a half and he's become a big-time player. It doesn't matter what role he's in, whether he's on the second line, the fourth line, the powerplay, or the penalty kill, he does it all well and he does it at the same speed and intensity."

Abbott recorded the shut-out, stopping all 15 shots sent his way. Through three games, the Lincolns have nearly tripled Sarnia in shots, peppering the Legionnaires' net with 150 shots compared to just 54 directed at Abbott in the Lincs' net.

Game four takes place Thursday night in Sarnia and a win by the Lincolns would push them to the second round of the post-season with a four-game sweep for the second straight season. If necessary, game five goes Friday in St. Marys, while game six would be back in Sarnia on Saturday and game seven would take place on Tuesday in St. Marys. Half an hour before every playoff game, the Lincolns' Season Special, a series of five mini-documentaries, airs on St. Marys Radio.



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# SPORTS

## Final night of weekly Minor Basketball play for grades 5-8 students



Last Thursday saw St. Marys Minor Basketball conclude their weekly games for the grades 5-8 age group. The night started with the finals of the grades 5-8 girls which culminated with an exciting gold medal game that required overtime between the Mystics and the Lynx, which finished in a 12-12 tie. Following the game, Tim O'Connor was presented with the St. Marys Basketball Legacy Award for all of his work with basketball in St. Marys.



Next to take the court were the grades 5-6 boys contingent of the local Minor Basketball program. A tight, gritty Gold Medal clash pitted the Ravens against the Mustangs, with the Ravens emerging victorious in a 6-2 defensive masterclass by both sides. This was the 17th season of action for the youth basketball program and a big reason for its longevity is the dedicated troop of volunteers.



In the main event of the evening, although there was a depleted group available due to other sports' conflicting schedules, the grades 7-8 boys division played a gold medal match between the Spurs and Lakers. A high-scoring contest ended with the Spurs claiming the gold. Several of the coaches and officials for the games were former players. Photos by Spencer Seymour



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## MINOR SPORTS SCRAPBOOK



Lyla Habermehl carries the ring to the slot during the U12 St. Marys Snipers game last Saturday.



Emerson Borg passes the ring to begin a play during this past Sunday's U14 St. Marys Snipers game.



Mitchell Grant advances the puck through the neutral zone during the U9 LL Boys 3 St. Marys Rock game this past Sunday.



Grace McLean tracks a loose puck near the blue line during last Saturday's Harris-Greig Automotive U9 HL Girls St. Marys Rock game.



Hannah Schmidt bursts over the opposition's blue line during the Hitching Post U11 C Girls St. Marys Rock game this past Sunday.



Olivia Davis dumps the puck into the opposition's zone during this past Sunday's U13 B Girls St. Marys Rock game. Photos by Spencer Seymour



# SPORTS

## Michael Hitchcock wins gold at Special Olympics



Former St. Marys resident Michael Hitchcock recently helped the Special Olympics Ontario (SOO) London Blazers win the gold medal in Floor Hockey at the 2024 Special Olympics Canada National Winter Games recently held in Calgary. After going 2-1 in the round-robin, Hitchcock and the Blazers defeated Manitoba 3-2 in the semi-finals to advance to the finals. In the championship game, London downed Team Alberta 4-1 to claim the gold. London was one of four floor hockey teams representing SOO at the games with the other three coming from Peterborough, Milton, and Newmarket. Sixteen teams in total from across Canada competed in Calgary. Contributed photo

## Gearing up for St. Patrick's Day



Carter Quinlan and Stephen Goad of the St. Marys Badminton Club were getting into the St. Patrick's Day spirit last Wednesday night as the DCVI gym was a sea of green.

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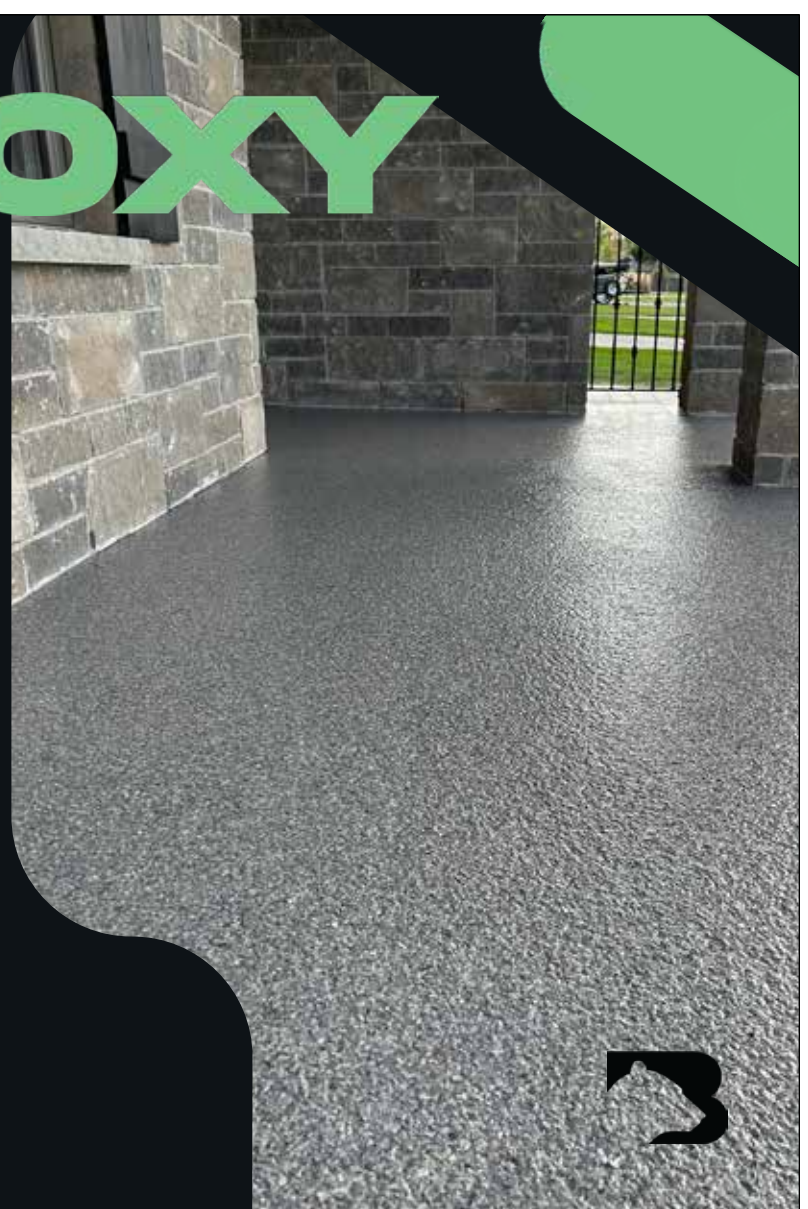
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# COMMUNITY

## Total solar eclipse, April 8, 2024

By George Pucula, KW-RASC

A total solar eclipse is taking place April 8 in our region. This is a spectacular astronomical event and may be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience totality.

The next opportunity for southern Ontario to see a total solar eclipse is Oct. 26, 2144. A total eclipse occurs when the moon moves between the Earth and the sun, completely blocking the light from the sun.

In our backyards, we will experience close to totality, but not 100 per cent. The website [timeand-date.com](http://timeand-date.com) shows, in St.Marys, the moon will cover approximately 99.23 per cent of the sun's disk, in Thorndale, 99.6 per cent, and in Dorchester it will be 99.9 per cent. Whilst this is very exciting, it is very much worth the short drive to get closer to the centerline to experience 100 per cent totality. For us, this would be towards Lake Erie or elsewhere if you follow the map of totality.

It is extremely important you do not look at the sun's disk directly without proper eye protection. Solar glasses specifically designed to look at the sun are available. Indirect methods such as a pin-hole projector are also recommended.

With 100 per cent totality, it will be possible to experience the different stages of the eclipse. As the moon blocks the sun, it will be possible to see an effect called Bailey's Beads. This is caused by the sunlight streaming through the valleys on the edge of the moon. This will transition to a single bright spot referred to as the Diamond Ring. When the Diamond Ring disappears, this is the safest time to take off the solar glasses and enjoy totality. You may see a slight haze around the sun, it's corona. It will get cooler and animals react differently. It may be possible to see some bright stars and planets during totality.

Many school boards have declared a PD day on April 8 due to the eclipse. This offers a wonderful opportunity for families to share in this event.

The Kitchener Waterloo Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (KW-RASC) has a Facebook page and webpage, [kw.rasc.ca](http://kw.rasc.ca), dedicated to making the most of this significant event with much more information and links. KW-RASC has solar-eclipse glasses available at \$2 each. Make your request for solar glasses on the website under the Ask-A-Question tab. We can arrange local delivery or a pickup point.



St. Marys and Thorndale residents will see 99.23-per-cent and 99.6-per-cent totality during the total solar eclipse April 8. Contributed image




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COMMUNITY

# Scrapbooking to raise money for the St. Marys Friendship Centre

By Emily Stewart

The St. Marys scrapbooking community has two fundraisers for the Friendship Centre to look forward to this spring.

The Friendship Centre will host the Scrapbooking Garage Sale April 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 317 James Street South. The garage sale will feature more than 30 tables of gently used or unused scrapbooking and crafting supplies.

"Some people are getting out of the craft or the hobby and they're selling some of their stuff," said Jenny Mikita, senior services manager for the Friendship Centre. "Other people just collect a lot of stuff and purge every once in a while."

The Scrapbooking Garage Sale is also a cost-effective and more-accessible way to stock up on supplies.

"If you can find paper and products at lower costs, sometimes it makes it more accessible for people to access that at this particular hobby, as it can get quite expensive," Mikita said.

The garage sale is popular amongst scrapbookers and crafters in town

and elsewhere. Mikita said someone from Port Huron once visited St. Marys for the garage sale.

The Friendship Centre will also host a Scrapbookathon April 27 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. where attendees can fill up their scrapbooks for 10 hours. The event, which will have enough space for 150 scrapbookers, is already sold out, but there is a waiting list.

Mikita said the events help bring in funds for the Friendship Centre and watching scrapbookers craft and make new friendships is fascinating.

"Scrapbooking is a great way to preserve your memories," she said. "We've just always had a strong group of participants in St. Marys who, in turn, are also volunteers for the Friendship Centre that support the effort. It's definitely a niche market."

All proceeds from the events will go back into the Friendship Centre's programs for seniors and people with varying abilities.

"It helps to keep program costs low for everybody and, at the end of the day, it's also supporting others' hobbies and what they enjoy doing in

their free time," Mikita said.

There will be another Scrapbooking Garage Sale in the fall. More information about the upcoming Scrapbook-

ing Garage Sale, Scrapbookathon and other events can be found on [townof-stmarys.com/en/recreation-and-culture/Friendship-Centre](http://townof-stmarys.com/en/recreation-and-culture/Friendship-Centre).

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Solutions on page 31

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## The Friends of the St. Marys Museum

### Notice of Annual General Meeting

#### Presentation of Annual Reports

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 St. Marys Museum, 177 Church Street South  
 (in Cadzow Park)

Take entrance off Tracy Street to parking lot beside Museum.

Please note: All are welcome but only paid members are entitled to vote or to stand for executive positions.

Memberships are \$15 per year and will be available at the meeting.

For information or for an agenda package, contact the Museum 519-284-3556 or [museum@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:museum@town.stmarys.on.ca)



## HISTORY

## HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Some help from Friends (of the St. Marys Museum)

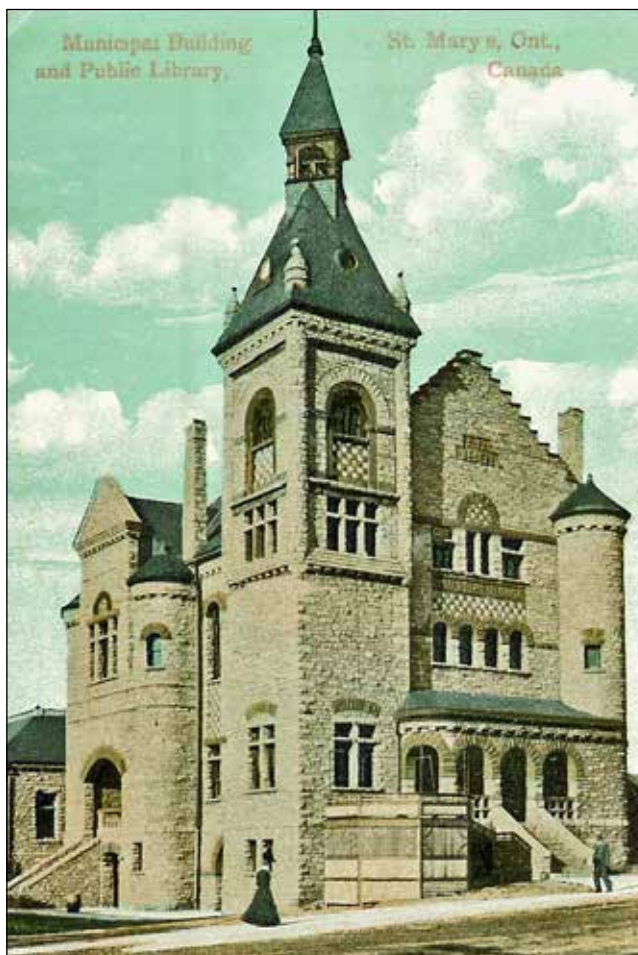
By Mary Smith

The Friends of the St. Marys Museum will celebrate the organization's 19th year at the Annual General Meeting this coming Monday, March 18, at 7 p.m. in the Museum's reference room. The group's inaugural meeting was held in February 2005 in the town hall auditorium. Its original purpose was to raise funds for the proposed archival addition to the historic, limestone house at 177 Church Street South, the St. Marys Museum's home since 1954. At the first meeting, executive positions were filled and a fundraising committee was formed. The activities of the Friends' first year of operation were reported a year later at the first Annual General Meeting on March 22, 2006.

That first meeting was held in a committee room at the Friendship Centre. A great deal had happened in 2005. Most significantly, the Museum's renovation/addition project was underway. Although the office and research areas remained open in a very limited way, most of the building was sealed off to protect the exhibit rooms from the dust and general turmoil of construction. The addition officially opened on June 6, 2006 and from that time onward – with the exception of the Covid years – it has been possible to hold the AGM in the archives reference room, the space that the Friends worked so hard to build.

Through the years, after the major addition project was completed, the Friends have continued to play a supporting role in the Museum's activities, giving extra assistance for special projects and events. They have actively participated in the seminar series and prepared displays for the annual Heritage Fair. They have provided both financial assistance and volunteer services for the summer concerts, Melodies at the Museum. The chair of the Friends, Ken Telfer, has volunteered his expertise as a property history researcher, an activity that benefits the Museum in several ways. First of all, the owners of the property make a donation to the Museum when they receive their completed history report. This generates some income. Also, with each report, the genealogy of the successive owners is investigated, adding to the files of information about local families available to visiting researchers. Sometimes these early owners made significant contributions to the growth and development of St. Marys. Finding out more about them adds to our understanding of local history. Frequently doing a detailed study of the house on the property reinforces information about traditional 19th century building styles.

Currently, a property history report is underway for 63 Wellington Street South, a two-and-a-half storey brick house. The property where this comfortable and roomy family home is located has been associated with a number of interesting people who either owned it when it was still undeveloped or later lived in the house itself. In the 1850s, when the land within the boundaries of St. Marys was surveyed, three large lots were laid out on the east side of Wellington, south of Jones Street. For a number of years, these three lots were bought and sold as one parcel. The abstract – a record of legal transactions involving this property – indicates



**John Elliott (1854-1903) was the mason responsible for the stonework when the St. Marys Town Hall was built in 1891. His contracting work in St. Marys has been researched extensively by volunteer Friends of the St. Marys Museum. Contributed photo**

that it was owned by a succession of people who probably purchased the lots as an investment. No photographic evidence survives, but assessment records show that there was at least one modest house along this part of the street that was rented out. There may also have been stables and other outbuildings.

This was a good neighbourhood – close to shops and businesses in the downtown area and within walking distance for workers at local industries such as Richardson's foundry almost directly across the street, the flour milling complex near the Queen Street Bridge, and several different quarrying operations a few blocks south on Wellington Street. In May 1899, John Elliott purchased these three lots and built a house for himself on the most northerly portion, right at the southeast corner of Jones and Wellington Streets. Originally constructed as an impressive private residence, today it is the location of the Andrew Hodges Funeral Home. Elliott was able to build this beautiful home because of his success as a contractor. He started out as a teenager, working as a quarryman for his step-father, well-known quarry owner and master mason, James Elliott. When he was older, John branched out as a builder in his own right. In partnership with another mason, James Clyde, he built the two-arched Church Street Bridge in 1884, and in 1891, he won the contract for the masonry for the St. Marys town

hall. He also built in brick. His step-father, James, had been the mason of choice in the 1870s; by the mid-1880s, John Elliott was in equally high demand as a builder. As well as his own residence, there are a number of fine brick houses still standing in St. Marys that he built at the height of his career.

John Elliott's plan was to develop the rest of his property on Wellington Street. But rather than do the work himself, in 1901, he sold the portion that is today 63 Wellington to another mason/contractor, Walter Leslie, who, a few years later in 1914 would build Central School. However, once Leslie had finished the house, John Elliott bought the property back in 1902 and immediately resold it, at a slight profit, to Samuel Riddell, who, with his wife, Isabelle, was moving into St. Marys from a farm in Blanshard Township. John Elliott died of heart failure in January 1903, at age 49. His obituary stated: "Mr. Elliott was a successful builder and through honest industry amassed considerable wealth." He was survived by his wife, Margaret, and one daughter, May.

Samuel Riddell was in his early 40s when he and Isabelle moved into the Wellington Street house. For a number of years, he was a well-driller. Then, until his retirement, he was foreman of carpentry work at the St. Marys Cement Company. Samuel died in 1946 at the age of 88. He and Isabelle had no children. Isabelle inherited the property and continued to live there until the mid-1950s when she moved to Kingsway Lodge Nursing Home. At that time, she transferred the ownership to Samuel's great-niece, Elizabeth (Bessie) Riddell Frank, her heir. Isabelle died in September 1957 age 91.

Bessie Frank had been a nurse at St. Marys Memorial Hospital and owned a house on Elgin Street West. She rented out the 63 Wellington Street house, for some years to Reg Shelton and his family. Reg was a draftsman at C. Richardson & Co. and so this house was very convenient to his workplace. In July 1958, Bessie Frank sold 63 Wellington Street to Edward and Marguerite Liddle. Thomas Edward Liddle was born in Walkerton, Bruce County, in 1914, the oldest child of Rees Liddle, a machinist, and Mary Burrell Liddle. Edward attended school in Walkerton, then went to Normal School and began a life-long career as a teacher. He taught junior classes at St. Marys Central School and North Ward School for many years. He donated some of his school memorabilia to the St. Marys Museum and these records indicate a conscientious and respected teacher, dedicated to the well-being of his students. He and his wife, Marguerite Reid Liddle, were both faithful members of St. James Anglican Church. Marguerite died in 1996 and Edward in 2000. They are buried in the St. Marys Cemetery.

Doing research of this sort is one of the many volunteer opportunities at the St. Marys Museum. To learn more about the Museum's collection, the many interesting resources in the R. Lorne Eedy Archives and various projects involving the Friends of the Museum, attend the Annual General Meeting next Monday evening, March 18, at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome. Contact the Museum at 519-284-3556 for more information.

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community info at [ilovethorndale.ca](http://ilovethorndale.ca)

## Celebrating area women on International Women’s Day

By Nancy Abra

Many women across the world, the country and this region celebrated International Women’s Day in various ways on March 8. In this area, Community Futures Middlesex hosted a Women’s Day Symposium and Luncheon at the Lucan Community Centre.

Approximately 200 businesswomen of all ages from across the County of Middlesex attended. The event comprised panel discussions of inclusive female entrepreneurs from the region sharing their experiences and stories. As well, there were presentations from an inspiring young woman, an advocate for women’s health and prominent women in leadership roles who also shared their career journeys in public positions.

Susan Judd of Thorndale was one of the panelists. She is the co-founder and owner-operator of Ride The Bine



Pictured from left are Sylvie Verwaayne of SylverDesigns Fine Art, Sharyl Vandendries of Shake the Sugar Tree, Susan Judd of Heeman’s Mead & Cidery, Melanie Studholme of JAS Woodworking and Debbie Ziraldo of Ziraldo Alpacas at a Women’s Day Symposium and Luncheon in Lucan March 8. Photo by Nancy Abra

and a certified pommelier at Heeman’s Mead & Cidery. Judd shared the passion of her agriculture roots and was inspired to take the leap to start

an agriculture tourism business when she was in her teens. She emphasized the importance of taking advantage of local resources and embracing the

opportunities and support from others.

The event concluded with keynote speaker Emm Gryner of St. Marys, a Canadian recording artist, songwriter and author who shared her journey in life and music through her inspiring words and beautiful singing voice.

“Singing mirrors life,” she said. “It reflects emotions, expresses joy and love but also sorrow and longing. Song is a connection to our true selves that resonates passion, embraces courage and inspiration.”

“Being inspired” was the theme throughout this special event celebrating women. Topics discussed by the inspiring women included seeing the opportunity, taking the chance, learning from mistakes, being innovative but embracing local resources, supporting each other, and being empowered by the community of women mentors.

## Thorndale Optimists hosting this year’s Easter Egg hunt

By Nancy Abra

For almost a decade, I Love Thorndale has hosted an Easter Egg hunt for the community. This year, the Thorndale Optimist Club will be hosting this event on Saturday, March 30 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Thorndale Community Centre and grounds.

As the community of Thorndale continues to grow, this fun event for young children and their families has grown in popularity. Besides the egg hunt on the grounds outside, the community centre will have fun activities for children. Angels Childcare of Thorndale are sponsoring and managing an Easter craft activity.

There will also be face painting and Laughing Goat Yoga Studio will be there with a couple of little goats for children to pet. Members of the Thorndale Optimist Club will be serving and selling breakfast sandwiches and drinks.

I Love Thorndale is a sponsor for this event and to ensure there are enough eggs and treats for all the children participating, parents are strongly encouraged to register their children from toddlers to elementary school age for the egg hunt for either the 9 a.m. or 10 a.m. time slot at <https://www.ilovethorndale.ca/event/easter-egg-hunt/>.

## Thorndale United Church hosts trivia night

By Sarah Smith

An enthusiastic group of trivia lovers gathered on Saturday March 2 in the Fellowship Hall at Thorndale United Church for our bi-annual Trivia Night.

The night included a wide range of trivia questions, lots of laughs, snacks and a late meal. Thank you to local business Thorndale Ace Hardware, which contributed towards our prize. We are thankful to our church congregation for the generous donations of food and door prizes.

This year, total profits of \$1,245 went to the Harvest Bowl. We also received a donated quilt which raised \$350 towards our overall donation. The quilt went home with a very happy trivia goer.

If you like trivia or just want to have a good time with friends, come join the fun! Save the date for our next Trivia Night on Saturday Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Call 519-609-6132 or email [tickets@tzuc.ca](mailto:tickets@tzuc.ca) to reserve tickets.

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Dr. Jen Hewson



COLUMN

FROM THE GARDEN: Planting for summer blooms



By Nancy Abra

Once March arrives and the weather warms, we gardeners get excited for the upcoming gardening season. Many of us are itching to start planting. Besides starting some seeds, how about starting some summer bulbs for the garden?

When someone mentions bulbs, often thoughts go to bulbs planted in the fall for spring blooms, but there are many bulbs that provide colour and interest for our summer gardens as well. As many of these summer bulbs are tropical in origin, they can be directly planted in gardens and containers once the risk of frost is past. They can also be started in pots now to get established before setting out in the garden once the weather and soil is warmer.

Summer blooming bulbs

come in different forms – true bulbs, corms, tubers and rhizomes. These underground plant structures have unique characteristics and each serve as a storage organ for new plant growth. Depending on its origin, some of these can overwinter in the gardens while others need to be dug up in the fall and overwintered indoors in a cool, dry, dark place.

The structure of a true bulb is layered like an onion. The outer layer is papery and the inner layers contain nutrient-filled leaves. Once planted, the growth shoots emerge from the top while roots grow from the bottom. A lily is a very popular summer bulb and can be left to overwinter in the garden. But other summer bulbs such as gladiolus and pineapple lily need to be dug up in the fall and stored for next years planting.

Corms are swollen, solid stem bases without distinct layers. New growth sprouts out of the corms, developing into above ground plant parts. Some examples of summer-flowering corms are anemone, freesia, crocosmia and elephant ears. After being stored over winter, they will look dried out

and can be soaked for three to four hours in room-temperature water to plumb before planting.

Tubers are thick underground stems or roots that store the plant's nutrients. They have buds or eyes from which new shoots grow. Dahlia, alstroemeria, tuberous begonia and calla lily are examples of tubers. These won't overwinter in the garden and should be dug up in the fall and stored in a cool, dry place indoors.

Rhizomes are swollen stems of nutrients that grow horizontally in the ground. They have buds along their length from which new plants sprout. Some common summer bloomers are bearded iris and peony which overwinter in our gardens. However, canna, another plant grown from rhizomes, should be dug up in the fall to store for next year's garden.

Summer blooming bulbs, corms and tubers are available for sale now at most garden centers. True lilies are sometimes also sold for fall planting. To get a jump start on the growing season, bulbs can be potted up to a month or two before moving them outdoors. They can be plant-



Anemone (pictured) are summer-flowering corms that, before planting, should be soaked for three to four hours in room-temperature water after being stored over winter. Photo by Nancy Abra

ed in larger containers or transplanted into the garden when temperatures are warm and the risk of frost is past. The success of these summer bloomers will depend on the correct site conditions for each variety, taking into consideration light, temperature

and soil. Some summer bulbs, corms such as alstroemeria, caladium, calla lily, canna and tuberous begonia, are also available as nursery-grown plants at your favourite garden centre, which can be directly planted in the garden or decorative containers.

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COLUMN

# HOSTING UKRAINE: Wow, things are happening

By VJ Knutson

I can never stress enough what a difference volunteers make. There are so many events in the works, either started or planned, that could not happen without the creative, energetic minds behind them. Thank you all.

After many weeks of planning and meetings, we held our first English as a Second Language support class in Stratford last Saturday at the Falstaff Family Centre. Volunteer teacher Tanya Golub is Ukrainian with degrees in English and Chinese. She kept participants engaged for three hours with me prying them away for a break midway.

Tea, coffee, juice, and snacks were provided by Vicky, and Svitlana Smalghii helped with registration and organization. Students from DCVI volunteered to provide childcare and Kiri-Lyn, a volunteer from Stratford, joined us for support. Thanks to Henry from the Falstaff Centre, everything was set up and ready for us when we arrived.

Though the classes are held in the same building that houses the Multicultural Association of Huron Perth, I would just like to be clear that this program is a grassroots effort and not funded or co-organized with that organization.

The first of six swims happened Sunday thanks to the Cook-Rees Memorial Fund for Water Search and Safety. This event is open to all newcomers to Canada and their hosts. The next swim is Sunday, March 24 from 4:15-5:15 p.m. Preregistration is required.

March marks the birth and death of one of Ukraine's beloved poets, T.G. Shevchenko (1814-1861). Lesia is planning a recital of Shevchenko's poems in English and Ukrainian. Local children will present the poems as a tribute to a man whose words are even more relevant in today's war-torn climate. All will



Anya Bila and Rayan Golub at English as a Second Language class in Stratford. Photo by VJ Knutson

be welcome. Contact me for further information or check on St. Marys Life for details.

Save the date for Saturday, March 30 as we plan a Ukrainian-Canadian Easter celebration.

I am thrilled to announce another new business coming to town. Vira Spivak shares her story in her

own words.

"A little about my bakery background. In Ukraine, I pursued my passion for baking by going to college for a three-year program, achieving a diploma as a technologist of bakery and pasta products. Upon graduating, I landed a job at a warehouse working in the kitchen, managing a staff of nine and preparing the meals for 560 workers.

I learned many things about running an efficient and positive workplace environment. At the same time, I enrolled in and completed a confectionary course. After eight years, I accepted a job at a children's school, providing nutritional, balanced meals that were kid approved. Later on, I learned about the benefits of sourdough bread, which inspired me to take a sourdough-bread baking course. My future looked very promising until war struck my beloved Ukraine. Thinking of our safety, Vlad and I decided to come to Canada and have been blessed by the hospitality of the people of St. Marys.

Now I prepare to start my own bakery. I plan on offering gluten-free products for those who seek such an alternative. I have been working hard at creating new recipes that will appeal to all. Having trained in food handling, I am now ready to begin. All I need is a location for baking and then I'll be open for business."

I can attest to Vira's baking prowess. Her gluten-free bread is heavenly. She is looking for a kitchen to prepare her baked goods, which will be sold through local retailers and not directly to customers.

I think that's it for now.

Until next time.

(Please contact me at [english.knutson@gmail.com](mailto:english.knutson@gmail.com) if you have a question or would like to help out.)



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## Ask the Arborist

By Joel Hackett | 519 272 5742 | [jtsquote@gmail.com](mailto:jtsquote@gmail.com)



*Dear Arborist,*

The tree in our backyard fell into the municipal creek. Is this our responsibility, or will the township clean it up?

*Sincerely,*  
*Concerned*

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*Dear Concerned,*

Without knowing the exact location of the waterway, it is difficult to determine responsibility. Normally, you would talk to the Municipality and then follow up with whichever Conservation Authority is in charge of the area.

If they are unable to rectify the situation, we are always happy to help.

*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](mailto:jtsquote@gmail.com)**



# Riddles

What did the banana say to the judge?

"I'm sure to win this case on a-peel"

Why did the students study in the aeroplane?

Because they wanted higher grades.

What is a volcano?

A mountain with heartburn

Why is the White House spotless?

Because it lives in WASHINGTON

Why did the skeleton go to the store?

To get some spare

ribs.

What do clothes and airplanes have in common?

Hangers

What do you call an Italian cow that likes coffee?

De-calf.

Why are ghosts always hungry?

Because the food goes right through them

How many sides does a circle have?

Two, inside and out.

What is black and white and read all over?

A newspaper.

## - Word Search -

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

### Word List

- Orioles
- Phillies
- Red Sox
- Mets
- Nationals
- Yankees
- Braves
- Tigers
- Astros
- Cardinals
- Rays
- Blue Jays
- Marlins
- Twins
- Pirates



## The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What has to be broken before you can use it?



An egg.

Juliet Mills (6)

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

## TONS OF FUN FOR KIDS EVERY WEEK!

### PET OF THE WEEK

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



Our pet of the week is Tweety, a six year old female Budgie. Tweety loves to do somersaults on her perches and give kisses to her human family. She can also say a few words. Proud owners are Greg Luyten and Charlanne Russell.



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

March is National Tick Awareness Month

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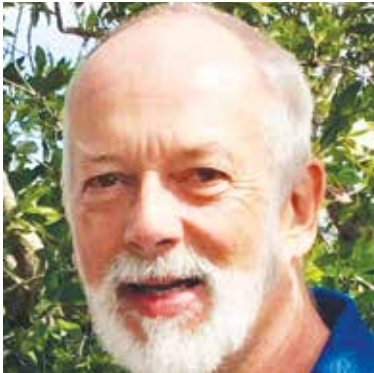
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## COLUMN

## OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Where to find great wine and a warm welcome



By Paul Knowles

It's mid-March and we can't wait to turn off the TV, get out of our family rooms and do something just a tad adventurous. We want to head for the great outdoors, but the great outdoors has not put out its welcome mat just yet.

What to do? Well, there is one day-trip activity that is pretty terrific year round. Why not head to the Niagara Region and experience the tastes, the atmosphere and the invitation to relaxation at some Ontario wineries? Of course, if you opt not to head out this week or next, these wineries will be ready to welcome you warmly all year long.

Right now, I am told, there are over 100 wineries in the Niagara Region. That's a lot. And because I write about wineries from time to time, and also organize a winery coach tour for 30 good friends once a year, I often get asked about my favourites.

That's a long list, but I will say I try to avoid the big, industrial wineries – although some do make really good wine. I just find the experience of visiting or touring

most of these big boys very impersonal and I prefer a small winery where they are really glad to see you, will offer you great tastings and are happy to tell you all about their wines, their wineries, and their history.

Of the 100 wineries on the entire Niagara Peninsula, there are perhaps 20 that I really enjoy visiting. I won't list them all here, but I will mention a few that aren't my main focus today. You will never go wrong dropping in at Fielding, Palatine Hills, Ridge Road, Flat Rock, Vienni, Big Head, or Megalomaniac.

But today, let's visit just two. Both were included in the wine tour I led last fall and both treated our group like royalty. I'm talking about Sue-Ann Staff Estate Winery near Jordan, and Ridgepoint Wines near Vineland. They're actually only 10 minutes apart and close to several of the other wineries I mentioned earlier. So, there's your day-trip itinerary signed, sealed and delivered.

One of the many things I love about both of these wineries is the complete lack of pretention. Let's face it; when it comes to wine, there is no lack of wine snobs. And there are Niagara wineries which fit right into that category.

But at Sue-Ann Staff Winery, the person in the shop or greeting you on the lawn may well be Sue-Ann herself if she is not busy among the vats since she is the winemaker of all the wines that carry her name. And her

work has been highly recognized. Sue-Ann has won over 450 national and international wine awards, and she has been named Winemaker of the Year in Ontario and, internationally, one of four Women in Wine.

And at Ridgepoint, you may have trouble identifying co-owner Mauro Scarsellone because he's the guy in the muddy, torn jeans driving the tractor.

They may be equally unpretentious, but Sue-Ann's and Mauro's roots in the wine business are quite different. The Staff family has owned the land that is home to the winery for 200 years. They have grown grapes there for 125 years. So, Sue-Ann has inherited her award-winning winemaking skills honestly. She's a fifth-generation grape grower.

Ridgepoint is not nearly that old. It was founded by Mauro and his sister, Anna Gottardo, in 1995. The winemaking history they brought to the endeavor had its roots in Italy – their parents came to Canada from that country. And their heritage is evident in their unique wines, produced with old-world wine techniques like Appassimento and Rippasso. They love working with unusual varieties like Nebbiolo and Corvina.

Ridgepoint also offers another great reason to visit the winery – their dining room, where the owners' Italian heritage meats the great market-gardening traditions of the Niagara Peninsula.



Award-winning winemaker Sue-Ann Staff, who makes great wine on her family's historic estate. Photo courtesy of Sue-Ann Staff

I enjoy almost all the wines at both of these vineyards. But most of all, I think I enjoy the atmosphere, which is the polar opposite of wine snobbery.

At Sue-Ann Staff, our group sat around tables on the lawn in front of the house that now holds the shop and enjoyed a tasting that featured equal parts wine and wit from our hostess.

At Ridgepoint, we tasted wine after wine and then were told if there was anything else we might like, just ask. Amazing!

Both wineries feature many of the varieties of wine you would expect in Niagara, but they also each have some special bottles. At Ridgepoint, I really enjoy their White Cab (with a white taxi on the label) – a white wine made unexpectedly from cabernet

sauvignon with a distinctive peachy flavor.

Our wine-loving group fell in love with Sue-Ann Staff's collection of Fancy Farm Girl wines.

But frankly, all the wines are good at both these small, family-owned wineries. The tastes are terrific, the welcome is warm and, believe me, when you spend some time with Sue-Ann or Mauro, you will thank me.

A nice bottle of Nebbiolo would be appropriate.

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



Ridgepoint Winery is the home of amazing, Italian-style wines and is another family-run business. Photo courtesy of Ridgepoint Winery



A happy group of wine lovers enjoy the ambiance and the flavours of a tasting at Sue-Ann Staff Winery. Photo by Paul Knowles







# COMMUNITY

## Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

Join us on Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m. in the Friendship Centre for the Author Talk with Loghan Paylor in which Loghan will discuss their debut novel, *The Cure for Drowning*, a groundbreaking Canadian historical novel that puts queer and non-binary individuals front and centre. Copies of the book will be available to purchase courtesy of Betty's Bookshop. Register for this free program at [tinyurl.com/SMPL-Bookings](http://tinyurl.com/SMPL-Bookings).

### This Week's Recommendation

Everything changed the day Irish Canadian Kathleen (Kit) McNair was brought back to life by their mother's Celtic magic after drowning in an icy river at the age of 10. Feeling most at home in boy's clothes, Kit struggles to fit in until April 1939 and the arrival of the understanding Rebekah, a German Canadian who moves to Kit's town in southern Ontario. What ensues is a love triangle between Kit, Rebekah and Kit's older brother, Landon, a fraught situation further complicated by the arrival of war. Told through the compelling voices of Kit (later known as Christopher) and Rebekah, *The Cure for Drowning* is an evocative novel that

sheds light on queer experiences during a dark time in history. Place a hold on Loghan Paylor's *The Cure for Drowning* today.

### Up This Week

Friday, March 15: Tech Petting Zoo (drop-in, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Saturday, March 16: Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, March 18: Trivia Night at Gilly's Pub-house^ (7 p.m.)

Tuesday, March 19: Writing Club\* - Ages 10-17 (6-7 p.m.), Writing Club\* - Ages 18+ (7-8 p.m.)

Wednesday, March 20: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30-10:30 a.m.), Mahjong Intro (1-2 p.m., 6-6:30 p.m.), Mahjong! (2-4 p.m., 6:30-8 p.m.)

Thursday, March 21: Scrabble (6-8 p.m.), Author Talk with Loghan Paylor\*~ (7 p.m.)

\*Registration Required

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

~Held at the Friendship Centre (317 James St., St. Marys)

## LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

### French immersion

25 years ago (1999)

The Dunny's Petites A ringette team is off to the provincial championships in Whitby next week. Good luck to coach Shirley Patterson and company.

The Avon Maitland School Board is moving forward with its plans to implement French immersion beginning with a Grade 1 entry. The board has named three schools for French immersion: Bedford Public School, Grey Central Public School and Huron Centennial Public School.

An unnamed band made a lot of noise with its first appearance on stage at the Youth Talent Show Friday night. Members of the band include Josh Doherty, Matt Greene, Andrew Tapley and Mike VandenHoven.

50 years ago (1974)

The gas shutoff for one day in January cost the local P.U.C. a fair bundle. Increased use of electric ovens to provide home heat played with the peak-load period, thus drastically increasing the cost of power from Ontario Hydro on that particular day.

A rather unusual incident was reported as a result of the ice conditions over the weekend. A helicopter with heavy ice on the blade landed in the field behind the former McKillop Wholesale on Queen Street West, remaining on the parking lot from Friday afternoon until the noon hour on Saturday. The identity of the owner of the craft has not been established.

Rev. Vernon Tozer has been named the new minister of the St. Marys Presbyterian Church. He is coming to St. Marys from Pictou, N.S. He has two children ages 6 and 8.

75 years ago (1949)

Local coal dealer Art Francis, who had his hands badly injured some weeks ago, has been back at work in his office this week.

A member of the local police force picked a most-inappropriate period in council-board proceedings to thrust his head and shoulders through the council-chamber doorway on Monday night. Just when the chief of the force was giving a very intimate review of the shortcomings of certain police officials, this local copper opened the door to suggest that the chief meet someone who wanted something. The way the chief reacted made it plain to all present that such intrusions of this sanctum of council was definitely not the thing for a budding police officer to do.

100 years ago (1924)

The formal opening of the addition to Central School will take place Friday, March 14 at 8 p.m. At 3 p.m., a concert will be given by the children of the school, to which parents and the general public are cordially invited. In the evening, a suitable program will also be given.

A regular air service to connect Sweden and England will be inaugurated shortly. Six hours is the time required for the journey, which ordinarily takes two days by boat.

Farmers are directed to look up the St. Marys Hardware advertisement where sap pails, spiles and other sugar-making equipment is described.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

St. Marys Library events - See Page 29

### Friday, March 15

- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog/sausage lunch at Noon

- Woodstock Home Show at Woodstock Fairgrounds - 3 to 8 pm

- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 pm

### Saturday, March 16

- Woodstock Home Show at Woodstock Fairgrounds - 9 am to 6 pm

- McCully's Maple Syrup Festival - 10 am to 2 pm

- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm

### Sunday, March 17

- McCully's Maple Syrup Festival - 10 am to 2 pm

- Woodstock Home Show at Woodstock Fairgrounds - 10 am to 5 pm

### Monday, March 18

- Friends of the St. Marys Museum annual general meeting at the Museum - 7 pm

### Wednesday, March 20

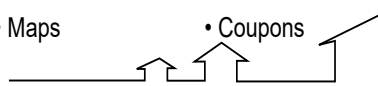
- Ministerial Association lenton lunch & worship service at St. Marys United Church - 12:10 pm

- Community housing consultation at the PRC - 5 to 8 pm

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## "Journey Through Grief"

Have you suffered the loss of someone dear to you?

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## QUIZ ANSWERS

- |                       |                   |                |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. 14                 | Descartes         | 8. Leviathan   |
| 2. The Missouri River | 5. Kelly Clarkson | 9. 180         |
| 3. Nitrogen           | 6. Four           | 10. The Dragon |
| 4. René               | 7. Inland Taipan  |                |

## SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

## HELP WANTED



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Please refer to the City of Stratford website at [www.stratford.ca](http://www.stratford.ca) for details of the duties for this position, minimum qualifications, and application submission process.

Application forms will be available on the Stratford Police Service website under the "Careers" link.

Completed application packages for this Part Time Special Constable position will be accepted until March 26, 2024.

Please mail or deliver completed applications to Stratford Police Service, 17 George Street West, Stratford, ON N5A 1A6.

We thank all applicants for their interest; however only those selected for testing will be contacted.

# SHOP LOCAL. SAVE LOCAL.

Support the local businesses that keep your community and its newspapers thriving.

**CORRECTION:** There was an error printed in the story, "St. Marys' Express Sign Products building new warehouse at James Street South and Highway 7," in the March 7 edition of the St. Marys Independent. The story indicates the new warehouse will have 300 square feet of space for Express Sign Products to rent out to other businesses, however it will actually include 3,300 square feet for rentals. The Independent regrets any confusion this may have caused.

## OBITUARY

### Arthur



Sheila Margaret Rosemary Arthur (nee Kittmer) of Blanshard township, passed away at Stratford Rotary Hospice on March 7, 2024, in her 77th year.

Wife of William (Bill) Arthur married for 55 years, mother of Jonathan (Bee), Andrea Martin (Rick), Jessica, and Kathryn (Sean). Grandmother

of Alicia (David), Melanie (Hunter) and Abby Martin, Rory and Graeme Arthur. Sister of Colin (Nancy) Kittmer, Charles (Linda) Kittmer, sister-in-law to Shirley Arthur (Bill Critchley), Marvin (Pauline) Arthur. Predeceased by her parents Jessie and Andy Kittmer and sister-in-law Marilyn Arthur.

Sheila graduated with her diploma in nursing from St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing (London) in 1967. Her nursing career began at St. Marys Memorial Hospital where for 20 years she worked as a registered nurse in the operating room, the emergency department and as evening supervisor before moving on to Director of Resident Care both at Hillside Nursing home and later Kingsway Lodge. Her most rewarding job came after she retired and assumed the duties of spoiling her grandkids.

Family was of utmost importance to Sheila and during the multitude of family celebrations if you didn't find her baking up a storm in the kitchen you would find her behind the camera capturing the memories for everyone. In retirement, Sheila and Bill enjoyed many trips to explore the Island of Bermuda, even taking the entire family with them on 2 occasions.

Cremation has taken place. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations of sympathy can be made to Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth. Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneral-home.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneral-home.ca).

## LOCAL MATTERS.



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