

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1211

Thursday, May 16, 2024

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A major geomagnetic storm from the sun gave Ontario residents the chance to see the Northern Lights from the comfort of their homes over the weekend. This photo was taken by Scott Stroud from the Queen Street Bridge in St. Marys and posted to St. Marys Life. Thanks, Scott!

Improved Rotary All Wheels Park officially open

By Wendy Lamond

A good crowd met on James Street Monday afternoon to officially open the new and improved Rotary All Wheels Park.

Deputy mayor Brogan Aylward welcomed everyone, thanked the donors and spoke about how much the upgrades mean to the town. Also in attendance were other members of council, the All Wheels fundraising steering committee, Rotary Club members, Saputo representatives, St.

Marys Kinsmen Club members and town residents.

The budget that was needed for the upgrades was \$400,000. The Rotary Club of St. Marys made a commitment to donate \$100,000 over ten years, the skatepark fundraising steering committee raised another \$108,443, Saputo St. Marys contributed \$25,000 and the St. Marys Kinsmen donated \$10,000. These were just a few of the local donors who made the All Wheels

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Perth South residents' access to St. Marys Library restricted amid funding dispute

By Galen Simmons

Perth South residents can no longer check out books, e-books and other materials at the St. Marys Library amid a funding dispute between the library board and the Township of Perth South.

Last month, Perth South council voted to cut the township's library services budget and asked the St. Marys Library board to reduce its funding request. The library board voted down that request, citing the fact that St. Marys residents already subsidize library services for their neighbours in Perth South and, as a result, Perth South residents no longer have access to the library's physical collections, e-resources, programs, computer services, printing, or Perth County Information Network resources.

"This was an extremely difficult decision for the board to make," said St. Marys Public Library board chair Cole Atlin in a press release. "We would like to continue to offer services to Perth South, but not at the expense of St. Marys' residents. We hope Perth South council will reconsider its decision so we can once again provide high-quality library services for all."

At the April 4 library board meeting, board members discussed a March 20 letter sent by Perth South CAO Fred Tranquilli informing the board the township council had reduced its budgetary allocation for library services from both Stratford and St. Marys to just \$53,734 combined.

Meanwhile, as part of a 20-year service agreement

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COMMUNITY

Perth South residents' access to St. Marys Library restricted amid funding dispute

Continued from page 1

between the two libraries, as well as the Huron County Library in Kirkton, the St. Marys Public Library had requested Perth South contribute \$74,363 – an increase by five per cent over what the township paid last year – to allow Perth South residents to access free library services from St. Marys. The Stratford Public Library also requested \$45,480 from Perth South to allow its residents to access services provided by the Stratford Public Library.

In his letter, Tranquilli said Perth South council already approved a request from the Huron County Library for \$11,266 in funding this year. While Tranquilli said the budget for Stratford library services can be accommodated in this reduced budget allocation for library services, he asked the St. Marys library board to consider submitting a revised budget request that fits within Perth South's allocation.

Speaking with the Independent after the St. Marys library board announced library services would be restricted for Perth South residents, township Mayor Jim Aitcheson said Perth South council and staff are committed to securing library services for all residents.

"We're still working on a final solution," Aitcheson said. "We're part of the Kirkton Library, so we have a lot of Blanshard residents using the Kirkton Library. That facility is half owned by South Huron and Perth South. We've got a bunch of residents who are getting books out of there and I think they can even do e-books out of there. So that's solving some of the problem for now, but there's still some discussions going on. ... Eventually we're going to get library services from some place. It's just where are we going to get it from."

During the April 4 St. Marys library board meeting, both Atlin and library CEO Sarah Andrews noted, with their budget request from Perth South this year, Perth South residents would already pay just 48 per cent of what St. Marys residents would pay for the



A disagreement over library services funding this year has left Perth South residents without access to books and other materials from the St. Marys Public Library Photo by Wendy Lamond

library. The \$74,363 requested by St. Marys does not account for the library's building costs or the costs of administration services from other town departments like finance, human resources, clerks and the CAO's office.

"The library board has taken a strong position in the best interests of the ratepayers of St. Marys," St. Marys Mayor Al Strathdee told the Independent. "Ultimately, the question should be, 'Is it fair for St. Marys taxpayers to pay more for Perth South residents to use library services?' It is unfortunate that the council of Perth South arbitrarily made large cuts to their library budget without consultation after many years of St. Marys providing library services. We would welcome the opportunity to engage in dialogue going forward and are hopeful the council for Perth South will reconsider their decision."

While Perth South residents cannot borrow or access library materials, they are still welcome to visit the library and browse resources inside the building.

"The library remains a free and safe space for everyone, including Perth South residents," said library CEO Sarah Andrews in a press release. "We encourage anyone in Perth South who is concerned about changes to library services to speak to their council members. It is our sincere hope that we will once again be able to offer library services to Perth South residents in the future."

The Stratford Public Library has taken a similar stance to St. Marys, refusing to submit a reduced budget request to Perth South and has therefore not renewed its library service contract with the township. That library board was expected to discuss next steps for Perth South residents who use the Stratford library at a library board meeting May 14, after the Independent went to press.

In a previous statement to the Independent, Tranquilli said Perth South council chose to reduce its library services budget after the township's costs for residents to access the Stratford and St. Marys libraries more than doubled from \$53,000 combined in 2008 to \$120,000 this year.

While speaking with the Independent, Aitcheson said Perth South council and staff are trying to keep costs down for the township's ratepayers in a difficult economic climate.



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24	25	23	25	28	29	27

COMMUNITY

Improved Rotary All Wheels Park officially open



Pictured from left, Quin Bolton, Jean Rowcliffe and Sully Bolton were the masterminds behind initiating the newly renovated All Wheels Park in honour of Rowcliffe's late son, James. Photo by Wendy Lamond



The skatepark fundraising steering committee members, from left, are Julie Docker-Johnson, Claire Bolton, Jean Rowcliffe and Heather Douglas. Photo by Wendy Lamond

Continued from page 1

Park possible. Approximately 75 donors were involved in making this vision happen.

The current park, which has been at this location since 2013, was starting to deteriorate and needed some work to maintain safety for its users.

The journey to improve the park started in 2021 when Quin and Sully

Bolton, who used the park quite frequently, saw the need for the update and approached neighbour Jean Rowcliffe to see if she would be interested in helping with the project. Rowcliffe's son had passed away in 2009 and was a talented skateboarder. By helping the Bolton boys with this endeavor, it was a way to honour James' memory with an updated skate park on James Street.

That was when the project was brought to council and the fundraising efforts started.

Through the hard work of the fundraising steering committee comprising Rowcliffe, Julie Docker-Johnson, Heather Douglas and Claire Bolton, many businesses and people came forward to help and support such an important upgrade.

With skateparks becoming more pop-

ular, a change was necessary to accommodate not only skateboarders but scooter riders, rollerbladers and cyclists.

The planning committee consulted the public via online surveys looking for input and visited local schools to find out what was needed most.

Aylward cut the ribbon making the official declaration that the Rotary All Wheels Park is now open.

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EDITORIAL

Taking ownership of your bets, whether you like it or not

By Wendy Lamond

This time of year, with hockey playoffs and baseball pools it is easy to get caught up in the competition of

betting on your favourite teams and players.

Well, that is what happened to this Leaf fan ... again.

You think I would know better by now, but apparently not. This is what led me to having a Boston Bruin flag hanging on my door and having to make apologies to my neighbours for having to look at it until they get knocked out of the playoffs.

Having said that and sounding a little whiny, I still don't regret betting on my team. I think that is what makes people good fans and team players. It is all in good fun and a lesson to take is, if you make a bet and lose, you need to own up to your decisions and see it through.

I have had a few people say to me, just don't hang it. Well, that is not how I was raised. We keep having hope as Toronto fans and I thought maybe this is the year, however the mantra that keeps running through my mind is this:



"Know your limit and play within it or you may end up with a Boston Bruins flag on your door."

A worthy lesson to keep in mind, for sure.

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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First long weekend of "summer", let's hope mother nature agrees.

Congrats to the St. Marys Lincolns on a great season.

Have you heard something humorous around town that you think might be of interest to others?

Either email them to us at info@stmarys-independent.com with the title

"Overheard at The Coffee Shop", call 519-284-0041 or drop by the office to let us know!

Bravo

We have 3 Bravos this week

1) Bravo to everyone who worked long and extra hours during this year's personal income tax season. We appreciate all your hard work so others can file their income taxes on time.

2) Bravo to all of the volunteers and employees who helped out at McHappy Day. Such a great day for an excellent charity! The food was delicious, as always!

3) Bravo to the staff of The Town of St Marys Daycare. They go over and beyond on a daily basis, and did so again on Friday with a Mothers Day Muffin social. It was so lovely to be able to chat with some of the other moms of my children's friends, and with the educators as well. I feel so fortunate to have this facility and these lovely people to care for my children. Thank you for everything you do!

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

Boo

We have 2 Boos this week

1) Boo to the members of Perth South council who forgot the families who they were voted in by and slashed funding to the St. Marys library, used by those Perth South families. The library provides valuable services and programs to families both in Perth South AND St. Marys. Boo on them for not even trying to negotiate a deal.

2) Boo goes out to the individuals that are using Cadzow Park as their personal drinking spot and then leave their trash and broken glass strewn all over the playground! There was a broken alcohol bottle right next to the water fountain and broken glass by the sidewalk near the washroom. Maybe the town should consider surveillance to deter this issue?

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

Quote of the Week

"This town, this team, the great game of hockey all bundled into one, can bring us together. Thanks to all who have made the journey past and present possible, as St. Marys will continue to punch above its weight class, both on and off the ice. See you next season".

- St. Marys Lincolns President Brandon Boyd at the end of the fantastic season.

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journalism, one community
at a time!

St. Marys Independent

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The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS
OF THE WEEK

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Having a clear mind
and clear space
allows you to think
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The mind is like
water. When it is
turbulent it is hard
to see but when it is
calm, it all becomes
clear.

Life is like a bicycle.
To keep your
balance you must
keep moving.

Growing old is
mandatory but
growing up is
optional.

COMMUNITY

Connecting with community is what Police Week 2024 is all about

By Connor Luczka

Despite rainy weather, the start of Police Week 2024 was a huge success, according to Const. Darren Fischer.

He told the Stratford Times there was a huge turnout to the community barbecue hosted by the Stratford Police Service (SPS), with upwards of about 600 people being served.

Police week is an annual celebration, aiming to increase community awareness of all local police services do. Taking place from May 12-18 this year, it first started in 1970 across the nation to coincide with Peace Officers Memorial Day May 15.

This year, the SPS hosted events across its jurisdiction, which includes St. Marys and Perth South.

To start, on May 11 the SPS hosted the free community barbecue in Stratford's Market Square, catered by Joe's Diner. The Optimist Club of Stratford had a draw for Totally Spoked, a local cycling shop.

On May 13, Fischer was outside of the St. Marys Public Library for Coffee with a Cop, where residents could enjoy a free coffee and conversation with Fischer.

On May 14, the SPS hosted a Car Seat Clinic at Fire Hall 2 in Stratford, inviting anyone with questions about their children's car seats to swing by and receive help from technicians from the Child Passenger Safety Association of Canada.

On May 15, there was a Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run, with participants running from



Const. Darren Fischer outside of the St. Marys Public Library for Coffee with a Cop, just one of the events hosted by the Stratford Police Service for Police Week 2024. Photo by Connor Luczka

Stratford Police HQ on George Street downtown to Boston Pizza on Erie Street.

On May 16, another Car Seat Clinic was held at the St. Marys Fire Department and on May 17 there was a Coffee with a Cop event in Stratford as well.

In a social media post on the SPS' Facebook page after the community barbecue, police thanked the community for its help.

"This was a great way for us to engage," the post read. "We can't wait to do it again next year, only bigger and better!"

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



EARLYON CIRCUS DAY

May 25, 9:30 - 11:30 AM | Pyramid Centre

Come out to the 1/3 Hall on Saturday, May 25 and join in on a morning of fun and engaging activities while pretending you're at the circus!

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LIBRARY ARTICLE CLUB

Last Thurs. of the month | 2:30 - 3:30 PM

Starting May 30, articles from Pressreader will be discussed at the library's free program monthly, similar to a book club. Printed copies will be available at the library.

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Registration is now open for the following camps:

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Senior of the Week



Our Senior of the Week is Jim Rankin, who will be 95 on July 28. Jim lives in Perth South. He's fondly known as "Bump" by family and friends. He has three children (one deceased), eight grandchildren (one deceased) and 18 great grandchildren

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

Weekend Quiz

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1. When did Bon Jovi release Livin' On a Prayer?
2. Whose face is on all the Canadian coins?
3. In what country did french fries originate?
4. From the periodic table, what element is Li?
5. On a chess board, what piece moves in an L-Shape?
6. What is the color part of the eye called?
7. How many ships do you have to sink in Battleship?
8. Hepatic disease is also known as?
9. What Canadian province is the largest?
10. A tree that loses its leaves is known as what type of tree?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

COMMUNITY

Heritage Festival full of spectacular live entertainment

A solid Saturday from morning until... Rotary Fireworks

By St. Marys Independent staff

This year's Stonetown Heritage Festival promises a Saturday filled with a diverse range of live entertainment options, with many acts making their debut at the festival.

"We are thrilled to showcase fresh performances and local talent at the festival this year, appealing to a wide range of ages and interests," said Town of St. Marys events coordinator Alanna Bowes in a press release. "Saturday's lineup will surely be a standout feature."

The intersection of Queen and Water streets will feature demonstrations and performances throughout the day from Bex in Motion, a hula hoop and comedy artist, and a strolling stilt walker thanks to the generosity of McLean Taylor Construction Ltd.

There will also be local performances throughout the day from various entertainers, including Community Players and young musicians from The World's Coolest Music Store.

In addition to these featured performers, youngsters can enjoy a downtown Kids Zone. This area will include inflatables, face painting, activities

from the Town of St. Marys EarlyON Centre, the St. Marys Museum and the St. Marys Public Library.

Be sure to stop by Milt Dunnell Field to check out the St. Marys Farmers' Market between 8 a.m. and noon for a wide range of local produce and fresh foods brought in by local farmers, as well as craft products created by members of the community.

Downtown will be the place to be the Saturday evening of the festival as a concert featuring local acts takes the stage. Frank St. Germain and Friends, a rock band, will kick off the show, followed by Johnny & Stacey, indie duo York Street Thought Process, and Fleetwood Mac cover band Sweetwood Mac will perform as the sun sets.

Following tradition, the Rotary Fireworks will light up the sky around dusk (approximately 10 p.m.). The fireworks will be set off from the Grand Trunk trestle, and St. Marys Rotarians will be present in the area with donation buckets to help support the display expenses.

The full festival schedule is available at www.discoverstmarys.ca/festival. Watch for more details as the dates approach.



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COMMUNITY

Third annual Pride in the Park to include returning and new programming



By Emily Stewart

Movie Night in the Park, Puppy Pageant and Drag Queen Story Time are part of the St. Marys Pride schedule in early June.

St. Marys Pride's celebrations for Pride Month begin with a screening of Barbie on June 7 in Cadzow Park in collaboration with Friends of the St. Marys Public Library. The third annual Pride in the Park will occur on June 9.

Pride in the Park will have a children's area featuring face painting, games and bouncy castles. The event will also include Drag Queen Storytime, a march around Milt Dunnell Field, food vendors, an artisan craft market, a drag queen lip-synching competition and a Puppy Pageant.

Organizations such as PFLAG Stratford, Friends of the St. Marys Public Library and the Little Falls Public School Gay-Straight Alliance will also attend Pride in the Park to provide information and resources supporting the local 2SLGBTQIA+ community and allies.

"We try to be family friendly, but also educational as well," said St. Marys Pride president Robin Awock.

Awock said the past two Pride in the Park events had great turnouts. The first event in 2022 had 600 attendees, and the 2023 Pride in the Park had between 600 and 700 guests attend.

In addition to Pride in the Park, St. Marys Pride also hosts Dungeons and Dragons events once a month at the St. Marys Public Library. St. Marys Pride will also be at the upcoming Recreation Fair at the Pyramid Recreation Centre on June 7 from 4-8 p.m. Awock said she hopes St. Marys Pride can have more events, including movie nights, in the future and can also be more active in the community.

"Our motto for St. Marys Pride is foster inclusivity in our small town," she said. "It's a good idea to show that we are there, that we are a group that you can reach out to if you have questions or parents who have questions concerning their children. We want to be there so young teens and pre-teens can show that they can be themselves in the community and that they're out there as well."

More information on St. Marys Pride and updates on events like Pride in the Park can be found at facebook.com/StMarysOntarioPride.

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COMMUNITY

St. Marys BIA board members express concerns around impacts of Ontario Summer Games triathlon

By Galen Simmons

The St. Marys Business Improvement Area (BIA) board members don't yet know what the full impacts of the 2024 Ontario Summer Games triathlon, to be held in St. Marys on the mornings of Aug. 2 and 3, will be on BIA-member businesses, and some are frustrated they weren't consulted by the town earlier.

At Tuesday's regular BIA meeting, St. Marys community services director Stephanie Ische presented details of the triathlon that will see as many as 60 athletes between the ages of 12 and 18 swim at the St. Marys Swimming Quarry, bike through town along Water Street to Queen Street and run behind the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame across four heats between 7 a.m. and noon Friday, Aug. 2 and Saturday Aug. 3.

"Staff have been discussing with representatives from Tourism London since the late fall of 2023 to become a potential event host for the 2024 Ontario Summer Games," Ische said. "Staff have continued to work with Tourism London to evaluate our eligibility, and we held our first meeting with town departments including the police on Monday, May 6. At this meeting, staff were able to finalize the route and confirm event requirements."

The event, which is being held in St. Marys as part of the summer games in London, is expected to attract a few hundred spectators – mostly friends and family of racers – and will require the town to close several arterial roads to accommodate the cycling portion of the competition, which needs high-quality asphalt surfaces with no topcoat asphalt, railways crossings or parked cars along the route.

Ische said the town will close Water Street South and Queen Street from Water Street to Charles Street beginning at 7 a.m. both days with the expectation the roads will be reopened once the races finish, possibly as early as 11 a.m. A Queen Street east-west detour will be in place during the road closures and Stratford police will provide traffic control at the Queen-Wellington intersection.

Those road closures and the restrictions on street parking for between three and four hours during the triathlon, however, are a source of contention among some BIA board members concerned with the potential for lost business when customers can't make it downtown or find parking on what might otherwise be a busy summer long weekend for already struggling local businesses.

"For business owners who will be af-

ected, two months out; to be in the infancy stages of a communications plan is a far cry from what's necessary," board member Lisa Fewster said. "Every businessperson sitting here has now got to make amendments to that weekend for their businesses. Should we not have been included last fall in the discussion about what this does to downtown businesses? ... Saturday that weekend, you've got yard sales. What about Tim Hortons? What about the rest of downtown businesses that will not have access to their customers? If you're a hairdresser and you've got six bridesmaids and a bride coming in at 7:30 a.m. for hair, makeup and nails, how do I get them back to their car?"

While Ische said town staff is working with Tourism London on a plan to promote St. Marys and all it has to offer to as many potential spectators throughout the region and beyond as possible in hopes of getting those people downtown and possibly encouraging them to return to St. Marys in the future, Fewster and the other board members said there is no guarantee those visitors will come downtown and offset whatever local business they would have otherwise generated on those mornings.

"A lot of the businesses need to have a really good summer because they

haven't had a great start to this year," said board member Jan Scott. "They don't need any roadblocks set up that will keep them closed longer than they have to be. ... I am the busiest on a Saturday between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m."

BIA vice chair Alexandra O'Shea also touched on the town's ask that local businesses consider donating items to be part of a gift bag for each of the 60 participating athletes.

"As small businesses, we get asked a lot for gifts all the time," O'Shea said. "... Because of this demographic – they're teenagers who are receiving the bags – I look at the businesses lining our streets and think, 'What would a 16-year-old want from my store that I'm willing to share?'"

O'Shea suggested instead of businesses donating items for a grab bag, the BIA foot the bill for a gift bag that includes both BIA and town branded items like water bottles.

Ultimately, the BIA appointed Scott and treasurer Sue Griffith as liaison members of the triathlon organizing committee to help the committee mitigate the potentially negative impacts of the event on local businesses. The two liaisons were also granted a budget \$1,000 to purchase gift-bag items for the athletes.



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COMMUNITY

Holiday hours for Town facilities - Victoria Day (May 20, 2024)

By St. Marys Independent staff

Please note the following hours will be in effect for Town of St. Marys facilities for Victoria Day (Monday, May 20, 2024).

Closed Monday, May 20:

- Town Hall (Closed for renovations until further notice)
- Municipal Operations Centre
- Adult Learning
- Before and After School Program
- Child Care Centre
- Town of St. Marys EarlyON Centre
- Fire Station
- Friendship Centre
- Landfill

- Library
 - Mobility Services Offices (Rides must be booked by 3 p.m. on Thursday, May 16)
 - Museum and Archives
 - Pyramid Recreation Centre (including the Aquatics Centre)
 - Service Ontario
 - Youth Centre
- No change:
- Leaf and Yard Waste collection will proceed as scheduled for the North and West wards on Monday, May 20.
 - The Train Station will be open; visit www.viarail.ca for train scheduling.
 - Home Support Services such as Meals on Wheels and telephone reassurance will continue.



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Town of St. Marys | 226-261-0098



More local resources:
townofstmarys.com/stonetownsupports



COMMUNITY

Troyer's Spices in St. Marys is now a pickup and drop-off location for FedEx

By Wendy Lamond

As of April 1, Troyer's Spices is the latest FedEx Canada location where St. Marys residents can pick up and drop off their packages.

FedEx Canada, as most know, is a reliable delivery service committed to getting parcels where they need to go.

Dan Troyer told the Independent he was approached by the company to be a go-to spot for the community.

"I talked to my staff about it and we already sell theatre tickets and help out in other ways, and decided it wouldn't be much different. It is a service we could provide for our community," Troyer said.

The business also has FedEx supplies available including envelopes and boxes at no charge to use as packaging for shipment.

The drop-off and pick-up times correspond to Troyer's business hours with the only difference being FedEx will only do pickups Monday to Friday. Residents can still drop off on Saturdays, but their packages won't be picked up by the delivery service until Monday.

Troyer said his store will also serve as a holding space. If FedEx tries to deliver a package to a home but no one is there to answer, the package will be brought to Troyer's until someone can pick it up.

Troyer's Spices is open Monday to Friday 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For any questions, call Troyer at 226-661-8777 or email dan@troyersspices.ca.



Dan Troyer shows the FedEx boxes that are available at no charge for packaging.



FedEx sign in Troyer's Spices window for new pick-up and drop-off location. Photos by Wendy Lamond

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COMMUNITY

St. Marys native Jocey Asnong launches new children's book at Betty's Bookshelf

By Wendy Lamond

Award winning children's illustrator and author and St. Marys native Jocey Asnong will be at Betty's Bookshelf to launch her latest book May 18.

Her Nuptse and Lhotse series is about two cats that love adventure and use their imagination to teach readers about the country. Asnong's other books teach ABCs and numbers using Canadian regions.

Her latest book is called Nuptse & Lhotse in the Land of the Great Lakes and is about the two cats going on an adventure with their new racoon friend.

"I have loved books and creating pictures and stories for as long as I can remember. I don't think of it as choosing a line of work, as it has always been a part of me, but rather figuring out how to build a life around that passion." Asnong said.

The trio make their way across Canadian Shield near Lake Superior, learn how to make smores near Lake Huron, visit the fruit fields around Lake

Erie and see a lovely rainbow over Niagara Falls.

Asnong has 13 books published and uses wonderful colours and textures in her books, which makes them popular among young readers.

The book signing at Betty's Bookshelf will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Asnong will be there to sign books, talk about her book and read from it. There will be refreshments for all to enjoy.

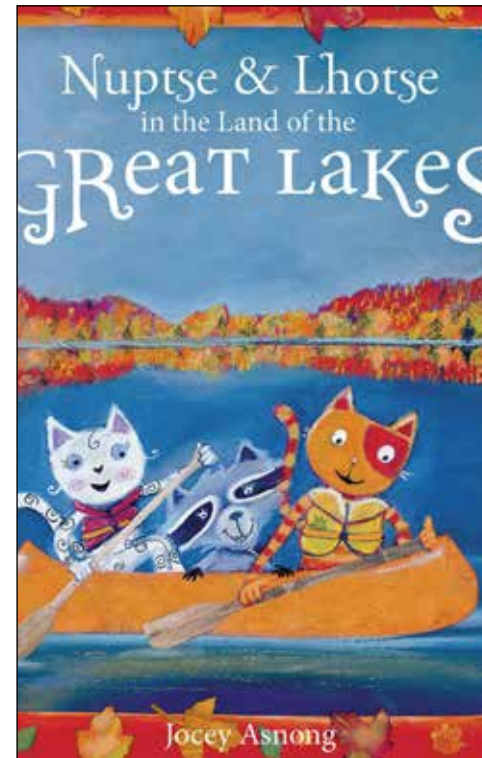
Asnong was born and raised on the outskirts of St. Marys. She attended Upper Thames Elementary in Mitchell and then went to high school in Goderich.

Her books are all Canadian based and focus on different locations with the intention of educating readers about those places.

She attended illustration school at Sheridan College and then decided to move out to Alberta but has since moved out to the east coast to Belfast P.E.I. Asnong loves to travel and is a cat mom.



Children's author and illustrator Jocey Asnong will launch her new book at Betty's Bookshelf May 18. Contributed photo



Cover of author-illustrator Jocey Asnong's new book, Nuptse & Lhotse in the Land of the Great Lakes. Contributed image

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COMMUNITY

Friendship Centre Choir presents Music Sweet Music

An enchanting evening of music and sweet treats May 29

By St. Marys Independent staff

On May 29 at 6:30 p.m., the Friendship Centre Choir takes the Pyramid Recreation Centre stage for their year-end performance of Music Sweet Music.

Under the direction of Lanny Hoare, the choir consists of 29 older adults who gather weekly at the Friendship Centre for rehearsals. The group is actively seeking new members; those interested in joining are encouraged to contact the Friendship Centre at 519-284-3272.

"Working with these talented musicians is such a fulfilling experi-

ence," Hoare said in a press release. "Together, we have created a performance that showcases a wide range of musical styles and genres, guaranteeing a memorable experience for everyone in the audience."

All proceeds raised will be used to purchase supplies for the choir. A sweet treat and light refreshments will be served as part of the event.

Tickets are \$12 and pre-registration for the event is required on a first come, first serve basis through ActiveNet (www.townofstmarys.com/activenet) or by calling the St. Marys Friendship Centre at 519-284-3272).

St. Marys Legion Branch #236 holds annual bake sale



Legion members Jan Jenkins and Marion Goltz show off some of the delicious goodies at the Bake Sale on Saturday. All the money raised from the sale goes back to the St. Marys Legion. The sale has been an annual event for the local branch #236 for approximately 20 years. Photo by Wendy Lamond



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COMMUNITY

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Women's League



The Holy Name of Mary Catholic Women's League ladies brunch was held on Sunday, May 4. All of these ladies received pins for their many years of service. Pictured from left, Patricia Healy 20 year, Marie Brennen 15 year, Annie Weersink 55 year, Joan Hahn 35 year, Kathy Broers 20 year, Pauline Crawford 45 year, Fieke Rietmeyer 60 year, Theresa Heenan 60 year, Jane Hartman 20 year; Front row Jo-Anne Carr 20 year and Jennie Robinson 55 year pin. Photo by Nancy Bickell

AMDSB
CO-OP Corner



THANK YOU to the businesses and organizations who have employed a St. Marys DCVI co-op student this year. You have provided a wide variety of meaningful learning experiences for our students, which helps them build skills for success after high school.

The co-op department would especially like to recognize the following businesses for participating in the program this year:

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| Andrew L Hodges Funeral Home | MTH Contracting and Consulting Ltd |
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PUBLICATION DATES:

WOODSTOCK INGERSOLL ECHO: JUNE 7

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT: JUNE 6

WILMOT-TAVISTOCK GAZETTE: JUNE 6

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Introducing our Seniors Month feature, celebrating the remarkable seniors who enrich our communities during Ontario's Seniors Month in June. This annual nationwide celebration is more than just a tribute—it's a recognition of the invaluable contributions seniors make to the vibrancy of our community.

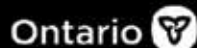
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519-284-1731 or Lori.Black@ed.amdsb.ca



amdsb.ca/pathways

SPORTS

Lincs fall to Cyclones in Sutherland Cup Final

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys Lincolns season came to an end May 12 when they lost 4-3 in overtime to the Listowel Cyclones.

The win ended the GOJHL championship series in five games and gave the Cyclones their second Sutherland Cup in franchise history.

Game three saw Listowel take a 2-1 series lead May 7 with a 2-1 overtime win. Both goals scored in regulation came in the first period, which was dominated by the Cyclones. Mason Eurig opened the scoring with a goal at the 15:15 mark of the period. With just 19 seconds left in the first, Owen Voortman tied the game with a short-handed goal.

Head coach Jeff Bradley felt his team played much better in the final two periods of regulation after a less than stellar start.

"We were a little too tentative, a little too deliberate and second to pucks too often in the first period," Bradley told the Independent. "Fortunately for us, Brandon (Abbott) was dialled in and he kept us in the game. Owen's goal was big for us as it allowed us to close that chapter on the first period. I thought, in the second and third period, our guys started to push the pace a little bit. We started getting pucks up as fast as they could and getting into that attack mode, so I liked our last two periods (of regulation)."

The Lincolns were outshot 20-11 in the first 20 minutes as opposed to a much-closer differential of 19-16 in the second and third periods combined. The tighter play saw both teams unable to score in the final 40 minutes, sending the game to overtime. In the extra frame, a tripping penalty assessed to Adam Barkley put Listowel on a powerplay which ended with a point shot by Jordan Alexander travelling through a maze in front and into the Lincolns' net.

Bradley explained how he felt his team showed positive signs of adjusting to the physical style of the Cyclones.

"As the series goes on, you start to get a feel for your opponent. You see what they're about and under-



Maddox Callens breathes a sigh of relief as he celebrates his slump-snapping goal in game five of the Sutherland Cup Final between the St. Marys Lincolns and Listowel Cyclones. Photo by McGinny Photography

standing that physicality is a part of Listowel's game is important. Sometimes, that takes a little bit of time to get used to and I thought we did better on that."

Though St. Marys only had one full powerplay opportunity along with an abbreviated man advantage, Bradley liked what he saw from the team's powerplay.

"I thought it looked good. Obviously, it's about production and we didn't get that, but we're starting to see some progression game after game and then in practice as well. There were definitely some good things to take away from how our powerplay looked, especially with the Cornfield unit."

Bradley had high praise for defenceman James Sigmon, who the bench boss believed was a linchpin on the team's blueline in the championship series.

"James has just been unbelievable these playoffs and in this series. He's been our best defenceman by a mile. He works incredibly hard. He's smart. He pushes the pace. Everything he does helps our team and he's a great partner for Adam (Barkley). Obviously, Adam is the incredible player that he is, so to have a guy like James with the speed and smarts he has,

it's a great compliment to what Adam brings. Plus, he's able to play the left side as a right-shot guy, which is very helpful, too."

Three-goal third lifts Cyclones past Lincs in Game 4

The series shifted back to St. Marys May 10 for game four but, once again, a lack of depth and powerplay scoring by St. Marys combined with an explosive third period by Listowel pushed the Cyclones to a 4-3 win.

Bradley liked the performance by his squad, feeling once again victory was well within reach.

"It was a great back-and-forth game, but it's just unfortunate we came out on the wrong side of it. Of the first four games, that was our best overall game. We've lost two very tight games and one where we had a little bit of a letdown. For the most part, we've played well this series but (game four) was definitely our best overall effort."

Luca Spagnolo scored the first two goals of the game, both of which were set up by Jaden Lee with the second goal being a shorthanded tally. Bradley explained why the line of Spagnolo, Lee and Owen Voortman was able to break through the Cyclones' defence that otherwise shut

the Lincs down.

"They're not scared to work along the boards and get in front of the net. That's what you need with playoff hockey. You can't be a perimeter player and those are three guys that are definitely not perimeter players. They'll play anywhere. They play any style of game you want to play.

They've got the will. They care and they love winning."

Though the trio didn't find the back of the net, Bradley also credited the newly-minted line of Ryan Hodkinson, Maddox Callens and Billy Van-Sumeren, who the head coach appreciated for the amount of offensive pressure they facilitated.

"It's nice to see the Hodkinson line with Maddox and Billy do really well together. We've been starved for another line to step up other than the Spagnolo line, so it was really nice to have another line do that. They didn't get on the scoresheet, but most of the time, the puck was in the offensive zone which is what we need from them."

Luke Eurig cut the Lincolns' lead to one with a goal just over 12 minutes into the second frame. Merely 46 seconds into the third, Ben MacRobbie potted a powerplay goal to tie the game at two apiece. St. Marys retook a one-goal lead at the 4:38 mark of the third – the first goal of the playoffs for former Cyclone Ryder Livermore, whose consistent willingness to do hard, physical work in the defensive zone made it special to see the Exeter, Ont. native get on the scoresheet.

"It was great for him. Ryder has been a bit of an unsung hero for us. We're playing his old team, who traded him away, so for him to score in a game that big in the Sutherland Cup Final, it's huge for Ryder. He does not do this for the points, but for him to get a big goal like that to put us back in the lead at the time was massive for the whole team," Bradley said.

The never-say-die Cyclones continued to push back, however, leading to goals by Mason Eurig and Tanner Dietz just two minutes and 21 seconds

Continued on page 15



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SPORTS

Lincs fall to Cyclones in Sutherland Cup Final

Continued from page 14

apart, the latter of which went down as the game-winner.

When asked what made the Cyclones such a difficult team to penetrate offensively, Bradley remarked on the defensive parallels between the two teams vying for the Sutherland Cup.

"It probably would be the same thing they would say about us. They've only scored one more goal than us in two of the three games they won. It's just tighter at this time of year. Ice isn't as easily available, so you've got to battle harder. Listowel is a big team, they're a driven team, they want to win and when you're facing a team that will do anything to win, it's tough to push them off their gameplan but that's what we have to figure out a way to do."

Cyclones win Sutherland Cup in Game 5 OT

A lacklustre first period was answered by a stellar second and third period, but the bruised and battered Lincolns ultimately couldn't withstand the pressure of the Cyclones, who earned a 4-3 victory in overtime to win the Sutherland Cup Final four games to one.

Bradley noted that, much like game three, the Lincs didn't start the game the way they needed, as evidenced by a 2-0 lead taken by Listowel heading into the first intermission, with goals coming from Wylie Birkett and Wyatt Kerr.

"We had a slow start. We were a little late to battles and just not very ready to go. But after the first, we played a great game. We talked about how, if we get the powerplay going, we could maybe start to strike a little bit of fear into Listowel, so for us to tie it up on two powerplay goals and then go up on a powerplay goal was big for us."

After failing to score on a first-period

man advantage, the Lincolns dropped to zero goals on 17 powerplays in the series. They also only had one goal in the series from someone other than Voortman, Spagnolo, or Lee.

In game five, however, all of that changed.

Chase MacQueen-Spence got the Lincolns on the board with a powerplay tally just under

six-and-a-half minutes into the second frame, which snapped a seven-game goal drought for the Western Conference Playoff MVP. Almost exactly nine minutes later, overage defender Josh Cornfield fired another powerplay goal to tie the game at 2-2.

In the third, back on the powerplay, Maddox Callens rocketed home a goal that not only put St. Marys ahead by one but ended an 11-game stretch during which the former Kingston Frontenac didn't have a single point.

"It was really good," Bradley said about the offensive output from different players and the powerplay. "Not just because the team needed it, but also because the guys who scored them deserved those. They work hard and it's nice for them to get something to show for it. On the first two especially, they were doing a great job of getting pucks to the net and having a little bit more desperation. Then, on the third one, it was more about moving the puck quickly to open up seams."

Bradley further noted that the powerplay going three-for-eight was a turning point in the game.

"Getting those powerplays and capitalizing on them definitely changed things. We needed those for sure. Five-on-five, we weren't making a ton happen all game long and I don't think that changed too much. But when we got our first powerplay goal, it seemed to wake us up a bit and every goal after that seemed to

wake us up more and more."

The Cyclones wouldn't be denied, however, and just under two minutes later, Listowel got a powerplay marker of their own as Birkett scored his second goal of the game.

Tied at three at the end of regulation, having slayed the demons that were depth scoring and powerplay production, the Lincolns were faced with one final hurdle that had gone largely unconquered all season long - overtime. In the extra frame, an ailing Lincolns squad, down to four defencemen and an injury-riddled forward group, took the Cyclones into deep waters before Jack O'Donnell, who had gone four games without a goal, tucked home the series-clincher at the side of the net to win the Sutherland Cup for Listowel.

According to the head coach, the Lincs, missing their captain, didn't go down without a strong team-wide fight.

"It was a good team game. Not having Adam (Barkley) obviously was a big loss for us and put our defence under some stress. Then, Jacob (Montesi) getting hurt added to the stress on our guys. It was a tough game for Hayden (Barch) to get thrown into, but I thought as the game went on, he settled in nicely and did a good job for us."

Less than 24 hours after the bitter disappointment of the game five loss, Bradley noted the tough nature of the team's defeat but recognized the plentiful positive takeaways of the 2023-24 campaign.

"It's fun but it's a grind at the same time. We haven't really had time to reflect yet. We've got exit meetings (this past Monday). But on the surface, it seems like a pretty successful season. We played more games than anybody in our league this year with 74 over the regular season and playoffs combined and you don't do that

unless you have a successful season, whether you win the last game or not. I'm sure some people believed other teams would beat us, but I think we proved that our belief in ourselves was right.

"Every year for the last three years, we've continued to move in the right direction. Year after year after year, we've made progress. So, if that trend continues, then we'll have even more of a successful season next year, but we understand what it takes to get there now and we understand, from firsthand experience of witnessing Listowel, what it takes to win it."

Bradley also was appreciative of the Lincolns fans who, in his eyes, gave the players lifelong memories with their unwavering and electric support.

"It's a great experience for the players. Kids dream about playing in the NHL or the OHL and when you get to those points, you're able to experience the big crowds and the fandom that comes with it. I'm sure when a Maddox Callens or a Chase MacQueen-Spence or a Noah Vandenberg comes here, they may not expect the passion and the energy that St. Marys brought to Junior B hockey.

"The experience that the fans were able to bring to the players, I think that's what's important to the players and it's stuff that they'll remember forever," added Bradley. "They'll remember their names being chanted. They'll remember signing autographs for kids. They're going to remember being really loved for the entertainment they brought to the fans. It's special for 16- to 20-year-olds to be able to bring that type of joy to a community. I think it's all about the experience for the players. They're the ones that bleed, sweat and get hurt for this team. They deserve all the greatest experiences, and the community and the fans gave them that."

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SPORTS

Lincs' season an unforgettable journey



Adam Barkley served as Captain of the St. Marys Lincolns, leading the team to their first Western Conference Championship in 30 years.



Brandon Abbott flashes the glove as he makes a big save. The overage netminder became a calming, steady presence for the Lincolns in goal.



Ryder Livermore defends the front of his net. Livermore often went unsung for his less flashy but incredibly important, hard-nosed brand of hockey and unyielding defensive responsibility.



Jacob Montesi was another under-the-radar member of the Lincs' lineup. Montesi seldom got beat by the opposition's offensive stars thanks to his always-responsible defensive work.



Cohen Bidgood drives towards the Listowel Cyclones net. Bidgood was totally unafraid of going to the net and taking abuse in front to create gritty scoring opportunities for himself and his linemates.



Owen Voortman looks to pass the puck to Jaden Lee. Voortman and Lee, along with Luca Spagnolo, were the Lincolns' best line in the Sutherland Cup Final. Photos by McGinny Photography

SPORTS

St. Marys Legion team wins Ontario Cribbage Championships




The St. Marys Legion Team recently won the Ontario Cribbage Championships in Falconbridge on March 2 and travelled to Shediac, New Brunswick on April 27 - 28 for the National Championship. Pictured, from left to right Ray Hewitt, Darrell Gorvett, Grant Graham and Bim Graham. Darrell and Grant came in second in the pairs division. Photo by Jan Jenkins


St. Marys bowlers compete in Stratford tournament



On May 12, two teams comprised of St. Marys bowlers travelled to Mike's Lanes in Stratford to play in the Bob Howie Tournament. Both the girls and boys teams finished fourth and bowled over their averages. The St. Marys Bowling Lanes are incredibly proud of their bowlers and gave a special thanks to those who donated in the name of the late Kelvin Chambers to the YBC program to covering lineage fees for this tournament. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Leia Slaney, James Van De Gevel, and Natalie McKeen. In the back row, from left, are Tyler Sims, Rory Brockman, coach Helen Brockman, Nathan McKeen, and coach Gerry Brockman. Contributed photo



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SPORTS

DCVI Sr. Boys win trio of important road games

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys DCVI Senior Boys soccer team is in position to potentially host WOSSAA after winning two vital games against single A teams from Goderich and Wingham May 7.

In their first game of the day, the DCVI Senior Boys took on F.E. Madill, a team that has given the Salukis fits over the last two years. St. Marys dominated from the opening whistle, preventing Madill from getting a shot on goalkeeper Charles Black. Head coach Richard Farmer credited a pair of players who have filled in admirably for two significant absences which helped their goalie have an easier shift in net.

"Charles caught a few balls that were kicked into the box but other than that, he didn't have much to do," Farmer noted. "We continue to play without Ryan Hodkinson and Blake Elzinga as they are busy with the Lincolns, so Peyton Lobb has had to step up and

play on defence. He has been excellent playing centre-back alongside Dan Zulu. The two have been working really well together."

DCVI's dominant effort culminated in a 3-0 victory, which included goals from Owen Littlejohn, Carson Brock and Roger Sebben. The first goal began down the wing with Julio Fontes who worked it into the box a set of passes popped out to Littlejohn at the top of the box, who blasted the ball into the left corner.

About 10 minutes into the second half, Carson Brock ripped past his defender on the left wing, cutting in from the end line and beating the keeper with a powerful shot from a tight angle. Roger Sebben finished off the scoring with another great finish from the top of the box.

Farmer told the Independent the team's stellar offensive performance came despite some bad luck with many of their shots.

"The passing all day was excellent, but the shots in this game weren't paying off as much as they could have. The boys hit the post a couple of times, scuffed the ball just wide several times and put the ball over the net quite a bit."

The second game of the day saw the Salukis take on a stronger squad from Goderich but, thanks to another strong defensive effort by DCVI and better shooting, St. Marys took a 5-0 victory.

We knew Goderich had some strong and fast players," said Farmer. "But they play a very simple dump-and-chase game. We were on to this and set our defenders up deep which nullified the speed of the Goderich attack. We seemed to have found our shooting again but were up against a very talented Goderich keeper who made several impressive saves."

Goderich finally broke through DCVI's defence but Black made an incredible save, leading to a St. Marys counter-attack. Hayden Brintnell had the final touch on the counter, burying the ball past the Goderich keeper.

"The defence was excellent in this game with Dan (Zulu) controlling things and making sure each defender was in the right spot. Diego (Franco-Farmer) had his best game of the season. He was relentlessly chasing down Goderich attackers and was able to stop Goderich's best player on what was nearly a one-on-one with

our keeper.

In the second half, Littlejohn added a hat-trick with three impressive strikes and Brock added one of his own.

"The boys have found their groove at the right time," Farmer remarked. "The passing in the game against Goderich was excellent. Their defensive work and communication were also strong."

St. Marys was back in action May 13 and experienced an off game to start the day, losing 3-0 to South Huron. In their second game of the day against St. Anne's, the Salukis refocused and played a much more dominant game. However, they still struggled to score, narrowly escaping with a 1-0 victory. Littlejohn scored the only goal of the day for St. Marys after a series of great passes.

Farmer admitted that it was a frustrating day on the field but also was happy with the team's dominance against St. Anne's.

"It was an off day for us and I'm not sure why. We outplayed South Huron for most of the game, but we couldn't score and had some calls go against us. We were in full control against St. Anne's. Our goalie never really felt threatened, but we still couldn't find the net. We had several good attempts but the shots were off target or too soft. It was frustrating because we should have been the dominant team but, thankfully, we should still be safe in the top four to get to WOSSAA."

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Ask the Arborist

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

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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

SPORTS

DCVI Sr. Girls atop H-P after winning three of four

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys DCVI Senior Girls soccer team won three of their last four games after a quartet of away games May 7 and 13, which has the Salukis in first place in the Huron-Perth standings.

In their first game of the day, the Salukis took on F.E. Madill in a nail-biting, hard-fought battle and earned a 1-0 shutout win. DCVI struggled early in the game but thankfully, according to head coach KayLee Sykes, strong defence and goalkeeping held DCVI in the game.

"We were struggling to get the ball towards Madill's net in the first half of the game," said Sykes. "A lot of time was spent in our end, but we have some strong defensive players who were able to keep pushing the ball up and defending our net. Isla (Unich) did an amazing job in goal for us blocking the shots that came to her. Isla isn't afraid of the ball and she's willing to challenge players rushing at the net."

St. Marys regrouped at halftime and came out flying in the second half, peppering Madill's net with shots and creating chances for rebounds. How-

ever, they weren't able to connect until the late stages of the game. With less than five minutes left, Lila Corby got control of the ball and took a shot from outside of the box which midfielder Avery Jones followed to the net and knocked in to score the first and only goal of the game.

Regan Jones, a junior player, was called up for the game and received praise from Sykes.

"The team was ecstatic. For the last few minutes of the game, we were able to keep the ball in Madill's end and prevent any goals. Regan (Jones) did an amazing job on midfield. She helped set up plays, cut off break-aways and kept spirits high during the game."

The Salukis picked up where they left off against Madill in their second match of the day against Goderich. Most of the game was spent in Goderich's zone, with Sykes explaining how the team appeared to have gotten into a groove.

"It was clear that everyone was playing a bit more calm. They were taking a second to think. They were communicating with each other and advancing the game in a smooth and cohesive

manner. Like in every game this team plays, each player brought something that propelled the team forward and helped us to accomplish both wins."

Another goal was scored by Avery Jones who hustled after the ball and was able to sink it into the net. A beautiful goal was scored by Alex Binning, who was off for a shift and stated that she felt she needed a goal. Binning hopped onto the field and got a goal within minutes. The Salukis' final goal was scored by Eve Greig, who kept taking shot after shot on the net before finally burying the ball in the top corner. Goderich ended the shut-out bid but the Salukis held on for a 3-1 victory.

The Salukis were back in action May 13 with a pair of games hosted at St. Michael Catholic Secondary School in Stratford, the first of which ended in a scoreless draw between St. Marys and South Huron. Sykes said both teams got scoring chances but were a bit snake-bitten offensively.

"We had players taking lots of shots, but they weren't able to find the back of the net. The amount of gameplay in our end compared to how much was in their end was pretty equal the

entire game. Towards the end of the game, I thought we were going to get a goal. The girls were really hustling and going for the rebounds, but the shots just kept going over or wide of the net. Isla (Unich) stopped some powerful shots and repeatedly sent the ball flying up the field for the forwards and midfielders to break away with."

DCVI broke through on the score-sheet in the second game of the day against St. Anne's to pick up a 3-1 victory. Defensive midfielder Olive Arts brought the ball up the field and crossed it to forward Kendra Roberts who netted the first goal of the game. Later in the first half, Sydney Grant brought the ball up to the corner of the net and put it on a tee for Binning who buried on a powerful shot into the corner.

Partway through the second half, St. Anne's got a penalty shot after a hand ball in the goalie box by a St. Marys defender. Though St. Anne's cut the lead in half, the Salukis responded quickly with Eve Greig maneuvering around multiple St. Anne's players to score from just outside the box en route to the 3-1 win.



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ARTS & CULTURE

Gardens: Echoing the Beauty of Masterpieces



Tom and Nadeem's Garden. Photos courtesy of Tom Shurtliff

By James Giles with Tom Shurtliff and Nadeem Hussain, edited by Alice Rixson

All forms of art stem from innate talent, enhanced by passion and practice, often with the guidance of masters.

This also pertains to gardening. Gardening is art. The soil is like the canvas and the plant varieties, rocks, mulches and the shapes of garden beds are the multi-coloured paints.

Gardeners are artists as they design and develop their spaces in a leisurely fashion to achieve the desired colours by selecting plants and arranging them in aesthetically pleasing ways to maintain the overall harmony and balance. Just knowing when the various flowers come into bud and the length of time the blossoms last is an art in itself.

The gardener wears the hat of an engineer, an ecologist, a botanist, a farmer, a mathematician and a biologist. The lessons learned from each of these disciplines allows the gardener to transform his garden into a work of art.

Many passionate and dedicated gardeners like St. Marys residents Tom Shurtliff and Nadeem Hussain are well aware that gardening can be strenuous but enormously rewarding work. "Our garden stands as a testament to nature's artistry, mirroring the vibrant colours, intricate textures, and harmonious compositions found in renowned works of art," say Shurtliff and Hussain. "As we stroll through its lush pathways, we are reminded of the profound connection between gardens and artistic expression, where each flower, tree, and composition tell a story of beauty and

creativity. In many ways, our garden echoes the principles of Impressionist art. With its emphasis on capturing the fleeting moments of light and movement, we seek to immortalize the ephemeral beauty of our garden through careful observation and cultivation."

Gardens are comprised of many layers and each plant has its unique narrative. "With meticulous care and attention, we have established a varied and fascinating collection that captivates the senses of sight, touch and scents and sparks curiosity and awe. From exotic blooms of rare gems gathered from around the world that emerge from the ground to the dramatic elegance of more than 90 varieties of Japanese maples complementing blooms, each plant has been selected for its distinctive characteristic and contribution to the overall tapestry of the living canvas. The garden reflects our appreciation for their graceful form and exquisite foliage," says Shurtliff.

Shurtliff and Hussain believe a garden should spark interest all year long and to make that happen, plants are chosen for their alluring features throughout the seasons, not necessarily or solely for their flowers.

"Our collection of dwarf conifers provides a sense of structure and permanence to the garden, their evergreen foliage serving as a backdrop for the ever-changing palette of seasonal blooms. The whimsical twists of contorted pines, the stately elegance of weeping spruces, the rich colours of the firs are magical marvels that add a sense of charm and joy to the landscape. Their compact size and low maintenance requirements serve as

the backbone of our garden, anchoring it in both space and time," the gardeners claim. "But perhaps what truly defines our garden is our willingness to push the boundaries with borderline hardy species, experimenting with kinds that may not thrive in our climate but nevertheless add a sense of adventure and excitement to the landscape," says Hussain. "We are thrilled to hear visitors exclaim 'that shouldn't grow here' as they point to South African lilies and Mediterranean peonies." Such daring inclusions challenge conventional notions of what constitutes a Canadian garden. With each new addition, they push the limits of what is possible, creating a garden that is as diverse and dynamic as the natural world itself.

Visitors from many points in southern Ontario have visually experienced Shurtliff and Hussain's garden, which serves as a source of inspira-

tion not only for themselves but also for the wider community. "We love to share the beauty and wonder of our garden with others, inviting them to experience firsthand the transformative power of nature and art," they say.

Shurtliff and Hussain believe that just as a painting, sculpture and other forms of art can touch the soul and stir the imagination, so too can their garden by beckoning them to pause, reflect and marvel at the surrounding beauty.

If you are a passionate gardener and would like to visit Tom and Nadeem's garden nestled against the backdrop of their Queen Anne Victorian house, you can forward your request to smindependentarts@gmail.com

Please send comments and proposed topics for Arts articles to - smindependentarts@gmail.com



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COMMUNITY

The Optimist Club of Downie holds annual free bowling event for kids



The Downie Optimists held their kid's bowling night at St. Marys Bowling Lanes on Wednesday night. There were 72 kids in attendance. The service club provides the bowling for free and provides pizza, drinks and chips. The Optimist Club also held a similar event that same night in Stratford at Mike's Bowling Lane with 30 kids partaking in the fun. Above left, a group of happy bowlers pose with the sign of the event sponsor The Optimist Club of Downie. Above right, St. Marys Bowling Lanes was the venue for the free kid's bowling night. Contributed photos

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HISTORY

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: A St. Marys Collegiate student's trip to a coronation

By Mary Smith

Canadians are about to enjoy a holiday Monday named in honour of a British queen who was born more than 200 years ago. Today, five monarchs later, many Canadians do not feel any particular connection to royalty – not that they would ever give up the Victoria Day weekend! This was not the case in this part of Canada in the 1930s, the period between the two World Wars. There was still a British Empire and a general affection for the royal family. In 1937, there was a special interest in the new king, George VI, his consort, Elizabeth, and their two young daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret. This family had been thrust into the limelight when George's older brother, Edward VIII, abdicated in order to marry the American divorcee, Wallis Simpson. King George and Queen Elizabeth took on the challenges in their new lives with a grace and dignity that appealed to their subjects. Their coronation was scheduled to take place on Wednesday, May 12, 1937, in Westminster Abbey.

The directors of the Overseas Education League (OEL) planned to have a role in the celebrations. Founded in 1910 by Major Frederick James Ney, an educator who had immigrated to Canada from England, the League's goal was to facilitate exchanges of teachers between Canada and other countries in the British Empire. By 1937, the League had offices in Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg, and overseas offices in London and Paris. It sponsored not only teacher exchanges but also tours of student groups. Major Ney was the Executive Secretary and the League's letterhead proudly proclaimed that the Honorary President was the Right Honourable Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor General of Canada.

In 1937, Major Ney established the Empire Youth Movement so that young people from other countries could go to England and share the experience of the coronation. In Canada, 200 students were selected from across the country, travelling to England in two groups – boys and girls on separate ships. The Province of Ontario was allotted space for 40 students representing 40 different secondary schools in the province. The OEL required the students to be between the ages of 16 and 19 and planning to return to school in Ontario the following September. It suggested various ways that schools could select their representatives, such as a vote by the teaching staff or by the entire student body. Aca-



Ted Rice from St. Marys, shown on the right, travelled to England with a student group for the coronation of King George VI. Here he and a fellow student are about to disembark at Southampton on May 7, 1937. Contributed photo

demical achievement was also taken into account. The 1930s were depression times and the OEL suggested that each school should support their representatives with a scholarship to help with costs.

There is no record of the selection process used at the St. Marys Collegiate Institute and no mention of a scholarship when 17-year-old Timothy Henry Lincoln Rice (called Ted) became the school's representative. Ted's family seems to have applied directly to the Overseas Education League. They were willing to pay the \$215 third class return fare from Montreal and Ted was keen to go. The application process, the trip overseas, and the excitement of the events taking place in England are well documented in a scrapbook, donated to the St. Marys Museum by the Rice family. It includes a small clipping from the St. Marys Journal Argus announcing that Ted, with a group of other Canadian boy students, would sail to England on April 28 on the RMS Montcalm to see the "thrilling" coronation procession and to take part in an Empire Youth Rally in Royal Albert Hall. Later groups of boys would be guests for two or three weeks at one of England's boys boarding schools. They would also enjoy time at a seaside camp. Most of the group was scheduled to return to Canada at the end of June, but Ted had relatives in the south of England and the OEL would help him connect with them. He planned to spend most of the summer in England, returning with another OEL student group on August 21.

It is very probable that the position of the Rice family in the community was a factor in Ted's uncontested selection as the St. Marys Collegiate representative at the coronation. His grandfather was Henry Lincoln Rice, former president of the St. Marys Milling Company. His grandmother, Charlotte, was the daughter of George Carter, a prominent grain merchant and the founder of the milling business. The milling business had failed, but the Rices' sense of importance remained. Ted's father, George Dwight Lincoln Rice, had served overseas during World War I and in 1937, was a major in the reserves. In signing his correspondence with the OEL, he used his military rank: Major G D L Rice. He was also Registrar of Deeds for Perth County.

Ted's mother, Catherine (or Kitty) had met Lincoln Rice in England during the war and in the fall of 1917, came by sea to join him after he had been invalided back to Canada. Lincoln and Catherine were married in Toronto on December 3, 1917. Ted, born in 1920, was their only child. By 1937, H. L. Rice, Ted's grandfather, had died, but his grandmother, Charlotte, was still alive. Three generations of the family lived together in the family home built in 1869 by George Carter at 224 Jones Street East. Various cousins and other relatives were frequent visitors, often staying for prolonged periods of time. Catherine's family, the Kellehers, lived in Billingham, Sussex, and they were the relatives that Ted

planned to visit after the coronation.

The students going overseas would miss the last few weeks of school, including their final examinations, some of which, in the 1930s, were "departmentals" – provincial examinations set and graded in Toronto. The OEL made arrangements with the Minister of Education to exempt the students from the examinations if their current grades were adequate. The Rice scrapbook contains a letter signed by the school principal, Erskine S. Evans, recommending Ted for departmental standing in English Composition and Literature and in Canadian History. He would be promoted in Latin, French and German. However, he would eventually have to write departmental examinations in Ancient History and Algebra. Ted did not let this prospect spoil the plans for his holiday.

The OEL sent each student several pages of instructions to follow as they prepared for their trip. They were told that they would be allowed two pieces of baggage, a club bag to carry on and a medium sized suitcase. The boys were advised to bring one warm spring overcoat, a navy blue suit, a school blazer or a double-breasted jacket, two pairs of grey flannel trousers, six shirts, underwear, stockings, two pair of good walking shoes and one pair of running shoes and a hat. They would be expected to wear a navy blue blazer and grey trousers on coronation day and to the Empire Day Rally. They would be sent their cabin and berth numbers so that they could label their suitcases. As OEL tour members, their baggage was insured.

Once they were on board ship, they were advised that deck chairs had been reserved for them on the third-class deck. They were unlikely to require steamer rugs, but if they did, they would have to pay the extra charge themselves. But instead of sitting, they would be encouraged to participate in games and other activities on board. Students were advised to carry their money in travellers' cheques, obtained from their own local banks. The OEL advised that \$50 should be enough spending money. (It wasn't for Ted Rice.) They also would need to have some cash on hand for shipboard gratuities.

RMS Montcalm sailed from Montreal on April 28 with the Canadian boys aboard. On Friday, May 7, Major and Mrs. Rice received this telegram: "Just came ashore at Southampton best wishes Ted." The coronation was five days away. The next phase of the adventure was about to begin.

Thorndale News

A section within the
St. Marys Independent



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Upcoming Firefighters Community Breakfast for Muscular Dystrophy

By Nancy Abra

Since 1954, firefighters across Canada have been a continuing partner and supporters of Muscular Dystrophy Canada (MDC), an organization that supports research for a cure for Canadians with the neuromuscular disorder.

More than 600 fire departments and their associations across Canada have raised more than \$3 million annually for MDC. Over these 70 years, Canadian

firefighters collectively have raised nearly \$100 million through various fundraising campaigns such as Fill the Boot, the non-profit's community breakfasts and other events.

For many years, Thames Centre Thorndale Station firefighters have hosted their community breakfast in May with the proceeds going to Muscular Dystrophy Canada. For the last decade or so, firefighter Derek Johnston, who has been at the Thorndale Station for 23

years, has taken the lead in organizing and getting the supplies for this fundraising event.

He said they have great support from local suppliers, including eggs donated through the Egg Marketing Board from Duffins, a local egg producer, discounted prices from Gerber Meats, and supplies from Real Canadian Superstore on Oxford Street in London – the manager has a local connection to the community. Johnston also mentioned there are

some children's activities with the new inflatable Fire Safety Education House for the children to explore at this year's event.

"Over the years we greatly appreciate the support of the community who attend our breakfast at the Thorndale Station," Johnston stated, "so we hope we have another great attendance on Sunday, May 26, 8 a.m. to noon for this year's breakfast with the proceeds going to Muscular Dystrophy Canada."

Thorndale Horticultural Society plant sale deemed successful



Pictured from left are Thorndale Horticultural Society members Carolyn Noble, Elaine Wein (with red umbrella) Melanie Gilchrist, Elaine Clays, AnneMarie Holstelle and MaryLou Bontje at the society's annual plant sale May 11. Photo by Nancy Abra

By Nancy Abra

Many residents of the community look forward to the Thorndale Horticultural Society's annual plant sale each May, when society members and friends share some of their perennial plants.

Even though it was a rather chilly and soggy morning last Saturday, May 11, people came out to support the Horticultural Society and the plant sale was deemed successful despite the weather. These funds will go towards purchasing annuals for the concrete planters that are

located throughout the town of Thorndale and help revamp the Memorial Rose Garden on King Street this year.

The Thorndale Horticultural Society has another fundraiser event, Green Thumb Garden Tour, which is scheduled for Sunday, June 23. Adult passports for the tour of local private gardens are \$10 each and children aged 12 and under are free when accompanied by an adult. Passports are available from society members and on the day of the garden tour at the cenotaph.

Youth Summer Program in Thorndale

By Nancy Abra


BGC London (formerly Boys & Girls Club of London) has been a cornerstone of empowerment and engagement for the youth of Thorndale and community for almost a decade now. Last summer, they embarked on a new endeavor, introducing an afternoon youth skills program to complement the popular Next Level Sports basketball and volleyball program, which was met with resounding success. Building upon this success, they have further refined their Skills Academy program and expanded their sports leagues, eagerly anticipating the return of last summer's participants with the addition of new youth participants.

The Skills Academy offers a diverse array of activities, including Soccer Baseball, Flag Football, Cooking & Baking, and Survivor-themed challenges. These programs are specifically tailored for upper elementary school students, with the aim to ignite ex-


citement and engagement. This program is scheduled for later in the day, which allows participants to relish a leisurely morning routine during their summer break.

This summer, the basketball and volleyball program will begin in early July and span 8 weeks, concluding in a final showcase where youth can proudly represent their community team and compete against teams from neighboring rural communities.

BGC London is dedicated to encouraging youth to seize the summer as an opportunity to acquire new skills, forge new friendships, and embrace outdoor activities away from electronic devices. Their commitment extends to Thorndale this summer, as they eagerly anticipate bringing their enriching programs to the community. Detailed information and to register for these programs can be found on their website at <https://www.bgclondon.ca/rural>



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COLUMN

HOSTING UKRAINE: Celebrating milestones with Ukrainian newcomers

By VJ Knutson

The twins, Yehor and Kiril, turned 6 on May 1st. "Kiril wants to invite his whole class," their mom told me leading up to the big day. She just shook her head. How quickly the boys have adapted to Canadian life.

Ric and I dropped by after dinner to find a backyard full of children and many adults mulling about a full table of food. The best part for us was the hugs we received on arrival and the chance to catch up with each family.

There have been several other birthdays this month. Demian Shyshkivskyi turned 9 on May 10th, and his father, Ruslan adds a year on May 16th – two years from the date they first arrived on our doorstep.

The most exciting milestones to witness, of course, are the first-year birthdays of the three Canadian Ukrainians born last Spring. Now toddlers, these little beings will never know the horror of war – at least that's what we all pray for.

It is remarkable to see how quickly children pick up a new language. One mother remarked that her daughter speaks 90% English now. Another told me that she struggles to understand her child when he speaks English, as her skills are lagging behind. It's an interesting dilemma, and one that raises other concerns. As much as Ukrainians want to become Canadian and build lives here, they also do not want to lose their culture.

In response to this concern, we are



The twins turn 6. Contributed photo

currently talking about setting up a Ukrainian Sunday School, where children can learn their native tongue and be schooled in traditions and history. As part of a multi-cultural family, I can attest to the importance of remembering and acknowledging heritage. As I said, this is a work in progress.

April marked the end of our Saturday English classes with Ukrainian teach-

er, Tetiana Pipus. Thanks to the Rotary Club of St Marys and the United Church for supporting this program.

Saturday classes are now being held in Stratford, with volunteer teacher Carol Leeming, a retired English teacher of 30 years. The focus of our class is to support those already studying English with an opportunity to practice conversation and fine-tune grammar points. Student volun-

teers offer childcare, and tea, coffee and snacks are provided. We gather at the Falstaff Family Centre in Stratford at 12:30 for social time, and the class itself runs 1:00 pm to 3:30.

Volunteer teachers, Barb Reinwald and Sonia Waind, continue to offer programs throughout the week in St Marys.

Free swims for newcomers will continue through the upcoming months. Sponsored by the Cook-Rees Memorial Fund for Water Search and Safety, the swims take place on Sunday afternoons. Registration is required as the available spots are limited to 60 persons. Watch Facebook for more information or message me for the link.

Mark your calendars for June 28th as Studio Cirque, featuring our own Alina, will be performing in Goderich, Ontario. More details to follow.

Lastly, there are three or four Ukrainians in our community currently in need of work. As our friends seek independence, and an opportunity to give back, employment is essential. Backgrounds and levels of English vary, but if you know of any openings, or can help, let me know. Ukrainians are hard-working and industrious people. They just need a chance to prove themselves. Most are highly educated and all have a wealth of experience to offer.

Until next time.

(Reach me at english.knutson@gmail.com)

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Solutions on page 31

COLUMN

WHAT'S FOR DINNER: May long weekend recipes

**By Lauren Eedy**

These luau-inspired skewers are perfect for a long weekend party. They can be made vegetarian by omitting regular hotdogs in favour of meatless hot dogs and substituting Worcestershire for additional soy or tamari in the BBQ sauce.

BBQ Hawaiian Hot Dog Skewers

Total Time: 25 minutes;
Serves: 8

Canola Oil for brushing grill

8-10 Wooden Skewers soaked in water at least 30 minutes

1 package hot dogs of your choice, cut into thirds

Large green bell pepper, cut into 1-inch pieces

Pineapple, peeled, cored and cut into 1-inch pieces

Large red onion, cut into 1-inch pieces

BBQ Sauce:

1/3 cup ketchup

1/3 cup brown sugar

1/4 cup soy sauce

1 tbsp Worcestershire

1/4 cup pineapple juice

1/2 tsp garlic powder

1 tsp rice vinegar

Method:

- Soak 8-10 wooden skewers in water for at least 30 minutes.

- Combine ketchup, brown sugar, soy sauce, pineapple juice, Worcestershire (if using), garlic powder and rice vinegar in a small bowl. Set aside for brushing skewers.

- Heat grill to medium heat and brush grates with oil. Thread skewers with hot dog pieces, bell peppers, pineapple and red onion alternating ingredients evenly.

- Grill skewers, flipping occasionally until fully cooked, about 8-10 minutes. About 5 minutes before skewers are finished, brush with BBQ sauce.

- Serve with remaining BBQ sauce for dipping.

Green Goddess Pasta Salad

Refreshing, full of flavour, healthy and sure to please a crowd. To make this vegan, just omit the shaved parmesan at the end and if you have a gluten allergy, use gluten free pasta.

Total Time: 57 minutes;
Serves: 12

1 lb farfalle or other short pasta

10 oz frozen peas or fresh snap peas

1 head broccoli florets only, cut into 1-inch pieces. Save and freeze stems to make soup another day.

1 lb asparagus, end removed and cut into 2-inch increments

1 1/2 cup fresh basil leaves

1 cup fresh spinach leaves

1 cup parsley

15-20 chives

2 cloves garlic (it calls for one, but never use just one)

1 lemon, juiced

2/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil

1 tsp sherry vinegar (or other

light vinegar on hand)

1 tsp kosher salt

1/2 tsp ground pepper

1/4 cup freshly shaved parmesan, optional

Method:

- Cook the pasta according to instructions in salted water, drain. Rinse pasta with cold water and drizzle with 1 tbsp olive oil.

- Boil and salt water in a medium or large pot. Add peas to boiling water and cook according to package instructions or just about floating; add broccoli and asparagus to blanch. Drain and rinse well with cold water.

- To make dressing, add all remaining dressing ingredients to a food processor saving about 1/2 cup olive oil. Pulse for about 15 seconds, then blend on low, slowly adding remaining olive oil which will emulsify the dressing. Continue to blend until your desired consistency is reached (about 30-60 seconds). Taste and adjust (i.e. add more olive oil, lemon, salt, etc.).

- In a large bowl, add pasta, vegetables and dressing, stir

to combine. Add shaved parmesan here if you choose. Allow flavour to meld 30 minutes before serving.

Rhubarb Custard Pie

This is my tried-and-true rhubarb custard pie recipe I make every year, often more than once as it's requested a lot. I prefer making my own pastry but a store-bought pie pastry will speed up the process and is nothing to scoff over.

3 cups rhubarb, cut

1 cup sugar

2 tbsp flour

1/2 cup light cream

2 eggs

1/4 tsp salt

1 tsp vanilla extract

Method:

- Mix the cut rhubarb with 1/2 cup sugar and the flour. Put into an unbaked pie crust.

- Mix together 2 beaten eggs, 1/2 cup remaining sugar, salt, cream and vanilla. Pour over rhubarb.

- Cover with top crust.

- Bake 15 minutes at 450° F, then 30 minutes at 350° F.

Mission statements, footprints and action plans

**By Bruce Andrews**

I was invited to a dinner recently where the host organization referred to their mission statement. They base all their decisions on that document, asking if their business choices reflect their core values. From that, I wondered if I should create a personal mission statement, so I reviewed noble statements of purpose, including Bible verses, to find what phras-

es would express my reason for being. It was worthwhile and I would encourage you to do the same.

That reflection led me to think about my life, my family, my community and my past. It was then an easy step to reconsider the very popular poem entitled "Footsteps" written in 1964 by Margaret Fishback Powers. Many of you will recall that "Footprints" is about someone looking back on their life as though it had been a journey on a sandy beach. Travelling through the years, footprints had been made and sometimes two sets of footprints could be seen and sometimes only one.

At the end of my jour-

ney, I'll look back and see three sets of footprints: my wife's, mine and a bigger set made by that same Special Friend from the poem. In our case, there were times when three sets of prints were visible, sometimes only two and during the hardest times, only one set of big prints. Sometimes I carried my wife, sometimes she carried me and sometimes when the journey was too hard for both of us, that Special Friend carried us both.

In thinking of words to express my own core values, I was drawn to think of our community - you and your loved ones. We in St. Marys do a pretty good job of looking out for each other - our friends,

the less fortunate, the stranger at the post office that we hold the door for. We can all do better though. Perhaps each of us should have a personal mission statement that codifies what we believe and

guides our actions, so that in times of confusion or lack of direction, it would keep us accountable and on the right path.

For me, it is "to act justly, to love mercy and to

walk humbly with our God."

Dr. Bruce Andrews is a retired optometrist and member of the Worship and Membership Committee at the local United Church.

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Riddles

- Why did the duck cross the road?
hot or cold?
- Because it thought it was a chicken.
Hot. You can catch cold
- What did the hat say to the scarf?
What has a neck but can't swallow?
- "You can hang around. I'll just go on a head"
A bottle.
- Why did the bird go to the restaurant?
What's it called when a snowman has a temper tantrum?
- Because he wanted a tweet
A meltdown
- Where did the pencil go for vacation?
What do you get if you cross a cow and a camel?
- To Pennsylvania.
A lumpy milkshake
- If there was a spelling test, which animal would win?
What's the difference between a dog and a flea?
- The bee
A dog can have fleas, but a flea can't have dogs.
- Which one is faster,

- Word Search -



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Word List

- Celebration
- Birthday
- Union Jack
- Fireworks
- Monarchy
- Sparklers
- Victoria
- Sovereign
- May Two Four
- Statutory
- End of winter
- Planting time
- Long weekend



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What did the Pacific Ocean say to the Atlantic Ocean?



Nothing, it just waved!

Ava Bage (10)

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

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PET OF THE WEEK

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



Our Pet of the Week is Bailey, a 15 year old Yorkshire Terrier that just had his birthday on May 10th. He is loved dearly by his owners Scott, Amy, Camille, Everett and has taught them what loyalty means. He loves his routine, his sleep, getting outside as soon as he goes to the door and picking up his sister and brother from the bus.



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

Fireworks Safety For Pets

While the experience of witnessing fireworks is magical to us, it can be very scary for our pets.

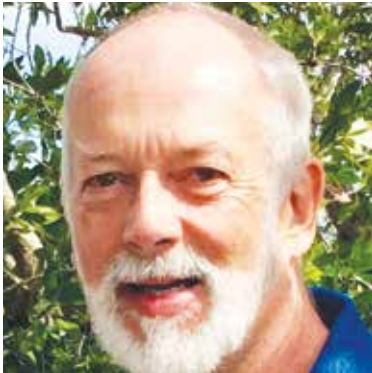
- *Keep your pets secured INSIDE your home
- *Give them a safe place to hide
- *Use ambient noise to mask the loudness- Remember their hearing is far more sensitive than ours
- *Update their ID's and microchips just in case they escape

Wishing everyone a safe and happy long weekend!

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COLUMN

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: The magic of The Lost Gardens of Heligan



By Paul Knowles

Several times a year, I am invited to speak to horticultural societies or other garden groups. Usually, it's because they had a series of very professional gardeners who told them how to prune, plant, fertilize and propagate plants, and they need a break from all the seriousness, so they ask a guy who has written a number of whimsical garden books to come and tell silly stories. That would be me.

I tell them stories about my own gardening misadventures – ask me about the woman in the garden pond sometime – and about great gardens I have visited around the world. Almost always, I talk about The Lost Gardens of Heligan.

"How many of you have visited Heligan?" I ask.

Most have not.

"Go at once," I insist. "Leave now in the middle of my talk, if you must."

And while I am once again just being a bit silly, I actually mean it. The Lost Gardens of Heligan, in Cornwall, England, are one of the most intriguing destinations in the world, and

not just for gardeners – there is so much here to fascinate any traveller, even dedicated non-gardeners. It gets me every time, and I have been to Heligan on multiple occasions.

Of course, it doesn't hurt that Heligan is in the heart of one of my favourite destinations anywhere. Cornwall is magical, largely unspoiled, very non-urban and steeped in history.

And you will find a unique perspective on that history at Heligan. As I did, yet again, when I led a group on a tour of southern England last year at this time.

The Heligan story is amazing, and very well told in Tim Smit's book, *The Lost Gardens of Heligan*.

Once upon a time, Heligan was one of the great English gardens. At its heart was an enormous Victorian walled garden, replete with vegetables and flowering plants. There were walks through towering rhododendron trees, a sub-tropical "jungle" garden with tree ferns, grottos, streams, glass houses (the English term for greenhouses) filled with tropical plants including productive banana trees and an amazing pineapple pit.

There was also an army of gardeners and support staff, all working to keep this astonishing garden in tip-top shape.

And then came World War I. The gardeners went off to war and most did not return. In the words of Smit, "The

Tremaynes (the garden's owners), losing heart in their great creation, moved out and the gardens began their slow but inevitable journey into sleep."

And so they remained for 70 years until 1990. That's when Smit and some colleagues hacked their way into what had become an almost impenetrable jungle, and fell in love. A certain horticultural madness seized them and they became determined to restore this sprawling, utterly neglected estate. An almost unimaginable task – but they did it.

I first visited Heligan in the early 1990s when it was very much a work in progress. I was there again in 1997, the same year things had moved along far enough for Smit to write his book.

Those visits were fascinating, but now it's even better. Today, visitors get to see the amazing fruits (literally) of the labours of this army of dedicated volunteers and staff members, who have restored one of the wonders of the gardening world to the height of its majesty.

If you take a tour of Heligan, you will learn of the incredible archaeological work done that produced evidence of original design and plantings. You will hear of amazing artifacts, unearthed quite by accident, that gave more information about the earlier days of Heligan.

But most importantly, you will revel and relax in the sheer beauty of the place. I admit



One of Heligan's permanent residents – a cheeky English robin. Photos by Paul Knowles

that the walled garden is the most educationally interesting from a horticultural point of view, but my favourite activity is to wander among the enormous rhododendron trees when they are in full, spring-time flower. It is, to steal one of my favourite British phrases, gobsmacking.

The site is huge. The main area – the walled, productive (vegetable) garden, the beautiful Flora's Green with its handkerchief tree, the flower garden and the special areas like the Italian garden – can make for a wonderful afternoon even if you don't venture further afield to delights like the newly created rare breeds farm or the jungle. But do plan for a day here and make the hike down to the jungle to explore this utterly different take on landscape gardening. There is nothing else like it.

Heligan is very close to the coastal village of Mevagissey and other beautiful spots on the south coast and interior of Cornwall, so it's easy to spend several days here. And it's only 25 minutes from Tim Smit's second astonishing venture, the Eden Project, a series of giant geodesic domes housing a tropical rainforest, a desert environment and more.

I like the Eden Project, but I absolutely love The Lost Gardens of Heligan, and I am totally confident that you will, too.

You might even find yourself becoming a gardener, after all.

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.



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OBITUARY

Harrett

Sheila Patricia, 82 of Stratford ON passed away at Stratford General Hospital on May 4, 2024, after a long battle with C.O.P.D.

She was born to the late Herson (Mike) and Kathleen (Kay) Iredale, Jan 2, 1942, in St. Marys ON.

She is survived by two daughters, Sandy Iredale (Stratford) and Sherry Schmidtpeter (Ottawa); 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Sheila was predeceased by her husband Robert (Bob) Harrett, her son John MacLean and her infant grandson Quinton Hauschildt.

Sheila worked for many years at Campbell's Soup in St. Marys ON then at Cooper Standard in Stratford ON and often regaled family and friends with humorous stories from her working career. In her later years she took up painting and playing the Bodhran. She enjoyed playing cards and games with her friends at Woodland Towers, winning at Bingo so often that when she missed a night, other players liked to have the chance to win!

A Celebration of Life for friends and family will be held from 2:00 – 4:00 pm on Saturday, June 29, 2024, in the Griffith Auditorium at Spruce Lodge, 639 West Gore St, Stratford Ontario.

In lieu of flowers, please donate in Sheila's memory to either Optimism Place, Women's Shelter and Support Services, 270 Freeland Dr, Stratford, ON N4Z 1G8 or Family Services Perth-Huron, 142 Waterloo St S, Stratford ON N5A 4B4.

OBITUARY

Nutt



Carol D. Nutt (Rieck) at age 83 on May 8, 2024 at Tillsonburg General Hospital.

Predeceased by husband Arthur Nutt, parents Eliane (Voegtle) Peer and father Adolph Rieck, and son Peter Nutt. Survived by children Dorothy (Doug) Cooper of Tillsonburg, Arthur (Ruth) Nutt of Stratford, Douglas (Kim) Nutt of Embro, Nancy (Rick) Wall of Stratford, Donald (Angie) Nutt of Stratford, Carl Couth of Stratford, nine grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Also predeceased by her sister Doris Schafer and special friend Wilfred Couth.

The funeral service was conducted at the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home on May 13, 2024. Burial took place in St. Marys Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

OBITUARY

McEwen



May 17, 1959 to April 27, 2024

Patricia Ann "Patti" McEwen, age 64 of Calgary, Alberta passed away on April 27, 2024. She was the chosen daughter of the late Keith and Ruby (Marple) McEwen of Stratford, Ontario. Patti attended schools in Stratford and was a graduate of the

Stratford Central Secondary School. She is survived by her son Michael Keith, whom she loved unconditionally; sister-in-law Shirley; nieces, nephews, cousins, and their families. Besides her parents, Patti was predeceased by her brother Lorrie Douglas (2008).

In keeping with Patti's wishes, cremation has taken place. Burial in the Avondale Cemetery, Stratford, Ontario will take place at a later date.

Donations may be made to a charity of your choice.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Glanville



David Leslie Glanville, who passed away on January 17, 2024 at the age of 67, will have A Celebration of Life open house at Kin Station, 555 Binning Street West, Listowel on May 25, 2024 from 1 - 4 pm with Words of Remembrance at 2 pm. Arrangements with the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, 519-284-2820. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

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

St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 29

Friday, May 17

- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog/sausage lunch at Noon

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

Saturday, May 18

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

- Garage sale at 6 Meadowridge Court - 8 a.m. to Noon

- Jocey Asnong book signing at Betty's Bookshelf - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

Tuesday, May 21

- Community Dinner at the St. Marys United Church - 5 p.m., Sponsored by the Salvation Army



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COLUMN

Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

Come down to Gilly's Pubhouse on Monday, May 27 at 7 pm for our next Trivia Night! Come as a team (of up to four players) or link up with new friends as you join Rebecca for what is sure to be another night of brain-tickling excitement. Prizes are up for grabs for the winning team, but fun is guaranteed for all. No registration is required to play, but booking ahead with Gilly's is recommended to secure your spot. Game on!



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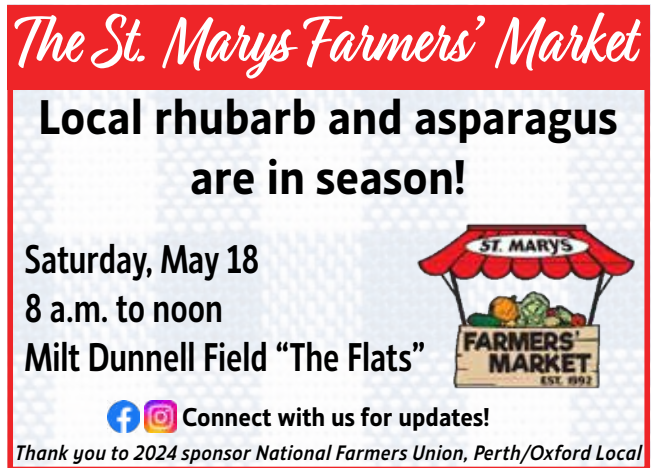
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This Week's Recommendation

Facts about famous books can make for great trivia questions. For example: what is the name of the woman Winston Smith becomes entangled with in George Orwell's "1984"? The answer is Julia, and you can hear her side of the story in Sandra Newman's riveting retelling of the dystopian classic. "Julia" is a provocative exploration of a woman's experience in London under the tumultuous rule of Big Brother. You will be on the edge of your seat following Julia as she navigates the complex realities of the Ministry of Truth, the Thought Police, the Junior Anti-Sex League, and more. You can find "Julia" both in hard copy and on Libby. Please note that this novel is explicit and only intended for adult audiences.

Up This Week

- Friday, May 17: Open 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Saturday, May 18: Dungeons and Dragons (10:30 a.m.)
- Monday, May 20: CLOSED
- Tuesday, May 21: Writing Club* - Ages 10-17 (6-7 p.m.), Writing Club* - Ages 18+ (7-8 p.m.)
- Wednesday, May 22: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30-10:30a.m.), Mahjong Intro (1-2 p.m., 6-6:30 p.m.), Mahjong! (2-4 p.m., 6:30-8 p.m.), Scrabble (6-8 p.m.)
- Thursday, May 23rd: Open 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m.



The St. Marys Farmers' Market

Local rhubarb and asparagus are in season!

Saturday, May 18
8 a.m. to noon
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LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

Wright ain't right

25 years ago (1999)

Perth-Middlesex voters will have five candidates to choose from on election day in June. Incumbent Bert Johnson from the PC party will be joined on the ballot by Liberal John Wilkinson, NDP Walter Vernon, Pat Bannon from the Family Coalition Party, and Rob Smink representing the Freedom Party.

A St. Marys Kinsmen Life Membership was awarded to 25-year member Gord Shaughnessy during a special celebration on May 1. David Proudlove, Past Governor of District 1 Kinsmen Clubs, presented the award to the proud recipient.

Dan Murrell has helped the Maroons capture the Sutherland Cup. The 20-year-old Thorndale area native scored a key goal, helping Chatham Maroons defeat the Cullitons 6-3 and bring the City of Chatham its first ever James T. Sutherland Cup.

50 years ago (1974)

Bell Telephone technicians are now busy making changes at the local switching building on Church Street North. Come late July, you will no longer need to tell the operator your number on long-distance calls.

Mrs. Shirley Knight of St. Marys has received approval from the Planning Board and Town Council for the establishment of a beauty shop and health spa in the train station on Queen Street East. Waiting room and wash-room facilities will be kept for railway passenger use.

Recreation Director Len Love tells us a Provincial government grant of \$1,000 has been received under the "Youth in Action" fund legislation. The money will be used in connection with developments at the St. Marys Friendship Centre.

75 years ago (1949)

The contractors of the new St. Marys Memorial Hospital are preparing to start pouring the first concrete for the foundations of the building.

Some Blanshard farmers are finding that there is a growing loss to their cattle herds owing to broken legs when animals are out in pasture. It is suggested that the breakage is due to some deficiency in the mineral content of the food that the animals eat.


The Parks Board has levelled the fill recently placed on the three vacant lots on Jones Street, West Ward, the park and playground area recently deeded to the town by Mr. Tom Watt.

100 years ago (1924)

Rev. W.R. McIntosh of King Street Presbyterian Church, London, is not in sympathy with those who condemn all the little fads to which women take. He believes they only add to the charm of feminine nature. No one would like a woman to remain always the same. It was partly in the little changes in style of dressing their hair and in their clothes that they developed. Bobbed hair and short skirts were clean and sensible, he said, and women should not be condemned for adopting them. Those who said that such styles were merely frivolous did not understand women.

His many friends in St. Marys learned with regret during the last week of the serious illness of Mr. William Wright, Peel Street South, who has taken ill with very little warning with what appears to be a nervous breakdown and has been in a serious condition ever since.

LOCAL MATTERS.



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- Remember when **Facebook** bought a case of Girl Guide cookies to support your daughter?
- Remember when **Google** provided free pizza to your child's soccer team when they won the championship?

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

THANK YOU

Lackie

To the congregation of St Marys Presbyterian Church.

Though we have only been with you a short time, we cannot express widely enough our thanks for your warm welcome, your assistance in unloading the truck, and your care and concern conveyed through cards, calls and so many other things.

We are also grateful for the genuine and generous welcome shown to us by businesses, neighbours and so many random, friendly faces who have combined to make our move to St Marys such a lovely experience.

Thanks you all.

(The Rev'd) Jeff and Lea Lackie

THANK YOU

Craig

My sincere thanks to friends, neighbours, family for the cards, phone calls, flowers and gifts. Especially for the 30 bags of donations to The Salvation Army Community Food Bank of St Marys.

Kudos to Lexi and her helpers for pulling it all together, much appreciated.

I am very lucky, an 80 year old mom, grandma and great grandmother.

Flo

IN MEMORIAM

Rudd

In Loving memory of

Donald Earnest Rudd March 8, 2010

Marion Lou Rudd May 15, 2021

I hold you close in memory even though we are apart,

Your spirit will live forever within my heart.

My heart still aches in sadness and secret tears still flow,

For what it meant to lose you both, no one will ever know.

In heaven we shall meet again where farewell is never spoken.

We shall clasp each other hand and hand,

And the clasp shall never be broken.

Your loving daughter

Bonnie Lynn

IN MEMORIAM

Pratt

In loving memory of Verna Pratt May 19th, 2020

Those we love don't go away,

They walk beside us every day.

Love your kids Gerry, Brenda, Tony and families

HELP WANTED



HAPPY VALLEY FAMILY HEALTH TEAM

The Happy Valley Family Health Team is a dynamic team of professionals including 11 Family Physicians, Dietitian, Pharmacist, Mental Health Workers, Addictions Counsellor, Nurses, Nurse Practitioners and administrative support.

We currently have an opening for:

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The Patient Flow Coordinator will be responsible for calling patients from the waiting room to the exam room, collecting and documenting height, weight, temperature and blood pressure in the Electronic Medical Record as required. Will also include administrative duties as assigned. The Patient Flow Coordinator must be able to communicate and work effectively on a multidisciplinary team. The Happy Valley Family Health Team has a mandatory vaccine policy.

Please forward resume by May 27th 2024 to:

Happy Valley Family Health Team

Attention: Kimberly Lang, Executive Director

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Thank you to all applicants who apply.

Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Happy Valley Family Health Team welcomes and encourages applications from people with disabilities. Accommodations are available on request for candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process.

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QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. 1986 | 6. Iris |
| 2. Queen Elizabeth II | 7. Five |
| 3. Belgium | 8. Liver disease |
| 4. Lithium | 9. Quebec |
| 5. The knight | 10. Deciduous |

CORRECTION: An error was printed on page 9 of the May 9 edition of the St. Marys Independent in the story, Savour and Sip Trail features six St. Marys businesses. In the story, one of the businesses was identified as The Wine Shop when it is actually called The Wine Lab. We regret any confusion this may have caused.



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