

# St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1163

Thursday, June 15, 2023

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## Barfield, Boucher, Harden, Wiwchar to be inducted into Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum on June 17

2020 inductees John Olerud and Jacques Doucet also to be honoured



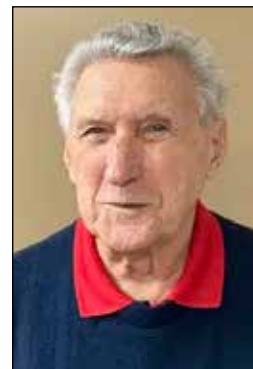
Jesse Barfield



Denis Boucher



Rich Harden



Joe Wiwchar



John Olerud



Jacques Doucet

St. Marys, Ont. – The Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame will induct Jesse Barfield, Denis Boucher, Rich Harden and Joe Wiwchar in a ceremony at the Hall of Fame grounds on June 17.

The four 2023 inductees will be honoured alongside John Olerud and Jacques Doucet who were elected in 2020 but have not been able to attend the ceremony until this year.

Long-time Canadian Press and Expos beat writer Richard Milo will also be presented with the 2022 Jack Graney Award. The Hall presents this award annually to a member of the media who has made significant contributions to baseball in Canada through their life's work.

"Each of these inductees has had a significant impact on the game of baseball in Canada in their own distinct way," said Jeremy Diamond, chair of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame's board of directors. "We're also proud to honour Richard Milo, whose articles were essential reading for

French-speaking baseball fans in our country for more than two decades."

A ceremony will also be held at 10:15 a.m. in front of the museum at the end of the driveway to commemorate the roadway through the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame being renamed Ferguson Jenkins Way, in honour of the legendary right-hander who won 284 major league games in 19 seasons.

The induction ceremony will be part of a series of activities that will also include a meet-and-greet with the inductees and other special guests called "The Opening Pitch" in Toronto (June 15) and the Hall's 25th annual celebrity golf tournament and banquet (June 16).

**Here's a complete agenda for the three days of activities:**

Agenda of 2023 Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Events

\*All times in Eastern Standard Time (E.T.)

**Thursday, June 15**

Event: The Opening Pitch at Left Field Brewery in Toronto, which will feature a meet and greet with inductees Jesse Barfield, Denis Boucher, Rich Harden, John Olerud and Joe Wiwchar, plus other Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame inductees, including Fergie Jenkins, and media personalities and Toronto Blue Jays executives. Food will be provided by Sportsnet Grill.

Location: 36 Wagstaff Drive, Toronto, Ont.

Time: 6:00 to 10:00 pm

Cost: Tickets are \$100. For more information visit [baseballhalloffame.ca](http://baseballhalloffame.ca)

**Friday, June 16**

Event: 25th Annual Celebrity Golf Classic and Banquet

Time: Registration at 9 a.m., Tee-off at 10 a.m., Dinner/banquet starts at 4:15 p.m. Program and awards will immediately follow the dinner.

Continued on page 8

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# COMMUNITY —

## PC Connect launches new Library Bus Passes

The County of Perth and the Perth County Information Network (PCIN) are excited to announce the launch of the NEW PC Connect Library Bus Pass Collection – a FREE PC Connect fare pass available for residents to borrow from their local library! Effective Monday, June 12, 2023, the PC Connect Library Bus Passes will be available at all PCIN Libraries, which includes Listowel, Atwood, Monkton, Milverton, Mitchell, Stratford and St. Marys branches. Residents will be able to use their borrowed bus pass to get anywhere along all 5 PC Connect

routes, as many times needed during the 4-day loan period.

“We are very pleased to be partnering with the PCIN to further the accessibility of public transportation across our region,” said Maggie Kerr, Transit Project Coordinator. “Our partnership with the PCIN will further alleviate transportation barriers for residents, while also promoting the use of our PC Connect Transit Service. Residents are encouraged to borrow a PC Connect Library Bus Pass to familiarize themselves with the benefits of the service, and explore the convenience of riding PC Connect to work, attend appointments, or visit friends and family.

Launched in November of 2020, PC Connect is funded by the Government of Ontario’s Community Transportation Grant Program. Since launch, the service has welcomed over 20,000 riders aboard its fleet of 5 buses. PC Connect operates 5 routes Monday to Saturday, serving Perth County, Stratford, St. Marys, Kitchener/Waterloo and London.

The PCIN is a computerized library network that enables the residents of Perth County to have access to the resources of all of the 7 participating libraries. “Having access to these passes increases connectivity for all of our PCIN patrons, so we couldn’t be more excited about this collection addition,” said Hayley Dietz, Coordinator of Digital Services at the North Perth Public Library.

For more information about PC Connect, please visit: perthcounty.ca/pc-connect. For more information about the PC Connect Library Bus Pass, visit your local library!

## Enjoy a classic Canada Day celebration at Cadzow Park

There’s no better place to party on Saturday, July 1 than Cadzow Park in St. Marys! Come celebrate our nation, rain or shine, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Start the day with the popular Canada Day parade! This ever-growing parade departs the Pyramid Recreation Centre at 11:00 a.m., then makes its way downtown and ends at Cadzow Park. The parade is free to enter; register your float by calling organizers Don and Margaret at 519-284-1548. The deadline to register a float is Fri-

day, June 23.

Three musical performances will be offered at Cadzow Park after the parade. The duo from La Grove kicks it off at 11:30 a.m., followed by Paul Droog with family favorites at 1:00 p.m. Indie-folk pair York Street Process will take the stage at 2:00 p.m.

The official flag-raising and singing of the national anthem will take place at 12:30 p.m. Patsy Anne Day will also lead a land welcoming ceremony to acknowledge our Indigenous

homelands. Enjoy a snack courtesy of Tremblett’s Your Independent Grocer following the ceremony!

Activities for all ages will be offered throughout the afternoon, including an inflatable jumper, arts and crafts with Paint and Palette, and fun with the St. Marys Public Library. Pack your swimsuit as the splash pad will be open all day, as will the St. Marys Museum with exhibits and children’s crafts.

There will also be an opportunity to contribute to a community art project led by RubiArt. The completed banners will be on display at the 2023 Stonetown Heritage Festival! An Artisans’ Market will be set up at the east side of Cadzow Park. Browse and

buy from local creative talents!

After working up an appetite, grab a bite at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum’s fundraising barbecue. The Sunset Shack will also offer a fun selection of street eats for purchase.

Stop by Milt Dunnell Field from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for food, friends, and most importantly, fabulous cars at the St. Marys Lions Club Car Show! Admission is by donation.

Offering something for everyone, St. Marys is the place to celebrate Canada Day!

For more information on the event, visit [www.discoverstmarys.ca/canaday](http://www.discoverstmarys.ca/canaday) or call 519-284-2340, ext. 249

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**7 Day Forecast - Weather Sponsored by The HITCHING POST**

Wednesday June-14th	Thursday June-15th	Friday June-16th	Saturday June-17th	Sunday June-18th	Monday June-19th	Tuesday June-20th
Sun/cloud	Few showers	Potential showers	Sunny	Mainly sunny	Sunny	Mainly sunny
20°C	20°C	22°C	23°C	24°C	24°C	25°C
Feels Like 21	Feels Like 21	Feels Like 23	Feels Like 23	Feels Like 26	Feels Like 27	Feels Like 30

**COMMUNITY —**

# Rae Announces \$200,000 Funding for Local Seniors Programs

Last week, Matthew Rae, MPP for Perth-Wellington, announced over \$200,000 in funding for local seniors' programs.

"Our seniors built our province and country," said MPP Rae. "It is important that we support them in their golden years. Perth-Wellington is home to many seniors. It is wonderful to see so many local programs receive this funding, which will help them continue to enrich the lives of our seniors."

"Seniors Active Living Centres are the action centres for our seniors all over Ontario," said Hon. Raymond Cho, Ontario's Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. "These Centres are a part of our community and they help keep our seniors fit, active, healthy, socially connected and close to home."

The Seniors Active Living Centres (SALC) program and Seniors Community Grant (SCG) program are funded by the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility and provides programming to help seniors stay fit, active, and connected in our communities. SALCs and SCG's are community connectors. Together these investments support local, not-for-profit community organizations, municipalities, and Indigenous groups by helping them deliver programs and learning opportunities for Ontarians age 55+ offering a wide variety of activities to promote engagement, reduce isolation and promote healthy living.

SALC Recipient	Funding Amount
Stratford Kiwanis Community Centre	\$ 51,438
North Perth Seniors Centre	\$ 28,531
The Town of St. Marys	\$ 45,730
Spruce Lodge Home for the Aged	\$ 51,438
SCG Recipient	Funding Amount
North Perth (Lonely No More)	\$ 25,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 202,137</b>

"June is Seniors Month in the Province of Ontario," said MPP Rae. "It is a time for us to recognize and thank the many seniors in Perth-Wellington for the many contributions they have made and continue to make in our communities."

This year, a total of up to \$4.5 million in funding will be made available through the 2023-24 SCG program with grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000. The Government of Ontario also invests over \$14 million annually to support almost 300 SALC programs.

Since 2018, Ontario has invested over \$22 million dollars in over 1240 SCG projects all over Ontario.

Grant allocations are pictured above.

Starting June 5, 2023, through Transfer Payment Ontario the province will be accepting applications from municipalities or organizations partnering with a municipality that does not have an existing SALC program to start a new program.

The deadline for submissions is Thursday, July 20, 2023, at 5PM EST.

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## COMMENTARY —

# The history of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum

One of the first recorded games of baseball in North America took place in Beachville, Ontario (30 minutes south of St. Marys) on June 4, 1838. It was written about by St. Marys native Adam Ford, a local doctor, in the 1886 Sporting Life magazine. Adam became the Mayor of St. Marys in 1877.

The Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum was started in Toronto by Bruce Prentice and was incorporated on November 19, 1982. The main two homes for the Hall of Fame in Toronto were Exhibition Place and Ontario Place. The Hall of Fame closed its doors in Toronto in 1991.

During the early 1990's 12 cities expressed interest in becoming the new home for the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. The top 2 cities were Guelph and St. Marys and St. Marys won the bidding process on August 25, 1994 and became the new home for the Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame Museum originally opened in a farmhouse, which was built in 1868. It was established in collaboration with the St. Marys Rotary Club, and the St. Marys Cement Company, who donated 32 acres of land to the project to establish playing fields.

The project created a secure archive facility and resource library for the

Hall's extensive collection which consists of over 6,000 books and magazines and more than 10,000 artifacts and papers. The renovations also included a new entrance and gift shop area, an accessible washroom and new auditorium/exhibition space.

The project was made possible by a number of generous private donations and funding through the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program. Since opening, over 125 individual members have been inducted into the hall. This includes professional and amateur players, builders, administrators, umpires, broadcasters, writers, and honorary members who have helped popularize the sport in Canada. Several teams or groups have also been inducted. Multiple members of the hall have also been inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York, as players, managers, or executives.

In addition, the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame awards the Tip O'Neill Award annually to the Canadian baseball player "judged to have excelled in individual achievement and team contribution while adhering to the highest ideals of the game of baseball" and the Jack Graney Award for Lifetime Media Achievement.

## Bravo

We have two Bravos this week.

- 1) It was our first time with a resident in a hospice. A Big Bravo to the Staff, Volunteers, and Donors of the Rotary Hospice in Stratford. When you spend time at this lovely facility you read the donor walls and realize what a great community we live in and the people on a continual basis that step forward! Thanks to you all for making this project possible!
- 2) Bravo to people who take their garbage home instead of throwing it in the ditch in the country.

## Boo

We have four Boos this week.

- 1) Boo to corporate Canada. So many products whether they are big or small have jumped 100% in price from five years ago. Do we really have to cover your losses from the COVID years?
- 2) To landlords that evicted a tenant saying that "family" is moving. Then the landlord increased the rent for the next tenant!
- 3) Boo to the idea of removing the roadway around the Flats. This is a road that people use all times of day for the scenic drive. If the road is removed people will not walk that distance for the Farmers' Market.
- 4) Boo to the women who stole my daughters lego from our garage sale on Saturday. Wow!

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

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

## Quote of the Week

*"We are becoming elected officials who judge our self-worth by how many 'likes' we get on social media, but not how many lives we change in the real world. Performance politics is fuelling polarization. Virtue-signalling is replacing discussion and far too often we're just using this Chamber to generate clips, not to start national debates."*

- Erin O'Toole, in his final address in the House of Commons this week.

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## The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS  
OF THE WEEK

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A friend to all is  
a friend to none.

It doesn't matter  
if a cat is black  
or white, so long  
as it catches  
mice.

Good taste is  
boundless, while  
bad taste knows  
no bounds.

After all is said  
and done, more  
is said than done.

## Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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Happy Father  
Day to my least  
embarrassing  
parent on facebook

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

**COMMUNITY —**

# St. Marys Quarry to open on June 30

## New Resident Season Pass offers discount for local swimmers

The Stonetown's coolest outdoor attraction is almost ready for another season.

The St. Marys Quarry opens on June 30, 2023, with swims happening daily from 11:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Admission to the quarry is \$4.75 for children and youth (ages 3 to 17), and \$7.25 for adults (18 and older).

New this year is the Resident Season Pass, which offers a discounted rate for local swimmers. The pass is \$71.25 for children and youth, and \$108.75 for adults. It is valid for weekday admission throughout the season; regular admission applies on weekends.

The popular Super Splash inflatable park will also open on June 30. Perfect for a group or family outing, this

floating playground features obstacles like the 14-foot Ice Tower and 12-foot Action Tower. Admission to the Super Splash is separate from regular quarry admission; pricing and pass information is available at [www.supersplashstmarys.ca](http://www.supersplashstmarys.ca).

Follow the Town of St. Marys (@stmarysontario) and Super Splash St. Marys (@supersplashstmarys) on Facebook for regular updates about the quarry and the inflatable park, including weather-related closures and last-minute openings.

For questions about the quarry, contact 519-284-3090 or [aquatics@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:aquatics@town.stmarys.on.ca); questions about the Super Splash inflatable can be directed to 519-808-5121 or [supersplash2022@gmail.com](mailto:supersplash2022@gmail.com).

# STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



## HERITAGE FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers to help out at the Stonetown Heritage Festival on Saturday, July 15! This is a great opportunity for high school students to gain volunteer hours.

[townofstmarys.com/volunteer](http://townofstmarys.com/volunteer)

## SHOWER PROGRAM

Tuesdays, 9 AM - 1 PM | Pyramid Centre

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

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## PUBLIC ROLLER SKATE

Bring your own roller blades for some roller skating fun at the Pyramid Recreation Centre! Visit our website for details on dates and times.

[townofstmarys.com/skating](http://townofstmarys.com/skating) or 519-284-2160

## SUMMER CAMP PRC

Camp PRC will keep your child happy and engaged with activities for all interests. Sign up for specific days or a full week by searching "Camp PRC" on ActiveNet.

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## SUMMER SWIM LESSONS REGISTRATION

Registration for summer swimming lessons is now open! Visit our website for details on dates and times.

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## Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Judy Woosnam who celebrated her 76th birthday on Friday, June 2nd. Judy was raised in the country, outside of Thorndale. Judy enjoys volunteering with the Cancer Society and at church events. She taught Sunday school and sang in the church choir for many years. She has lived at Kingsway Lodge for 12 years. Happy Birthday Judy!

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

## Weekend Quiz

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- 1) In what country was Elon Musk born?
- 2) What is the smallest US state by area?
- 3) What is a Beaujolais?
- 4) What height is a regulation NBA basket?
- 5) Who was the first Disney princess?
- 6) Name Fred Astaire's famous red-haired dancing partner.
- 7) Paul Newman ate fifty eggs in which film?
- 8) Who was the first woman pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic?
- 9) Which member of the Beatles married Yoko Ono?
- 10) The name of which African animal means "river horse"?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

## COMMUNITY —

# St. Marys Duo Publishes First Book



A year ago, Kyra McLennan and John Stevens had no idea who the other person was. Through collaboration on the children's book, "Hi, I Am Yakut the Cavalier," they are equally proud of their final product. Its vocabulary is suitable for ages between 2 and 6, but it is a pleasant read for everyone.

The book is about an actual dog, Yakut, who lives in Istanbul. Like many dog lovers, her owners treat her like a human. She even has her own Instagram account.

This premier edition deals with her thoughts about dogs and people. The message is a universal one of inclusion and acceptance.

Stevens says, "While I am happy with what I have written, Kyra's illustrations are what make the book so effective. Without her talent, it wouldn't be as great as it is."

Kyra chimes in, "John certainly gave me a challenge. We work well together and I think you can see this

in the final product."

The book costs \$12. You can get it in town at Betty's Bookshop, Lyric Flowers, and The Flower Shop and More. If you know Kyra or John, you can simply order it from them by sending an e-transfer to [stevens.john@zohomail.com](mailto:stevens.john@zohomail.com) or [jackiemcl557@gmail.com](mailto:jackiemcl557@gmail.com). Ordering the book using this method will get you a copy signed by Kyra and John.

You can also buy the book from Amazon. The URL is rather long; however, type in Yakut in the search engine and you will get to the English and French versions. The French version is perfect for beginners who are learning the language.

John and Kyra have plans for a second book, but this depends on the first one breaking even. To help promote the book, they plan on doing book signings and readings at Betty's Bookshelf, and the St. Marys Public Library. If any teacher, store or organization would like a visit to their classroom, you can contact John by email.

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**CANADA DAY**  
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**Saturday July 1, 2023 11am**  
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To enter your school, business, organization or any other interested folks, contact Don or Margaret at 519-284-1548. Deadline is Friday June 23.

**COMMUNITY —**

# A summer reunion with Santa



Lyric Flowers had their annual Fundraiser last Christmas along with Nina Polidoro who took photos of different people with Santa. They recently got together for a picture. Altogether they raised \$2,000. which is being donated to the St.Marys Health Care Foundation. Pictured, from left, Nina Polidoro (photography) Santa (Terry Todd) , Lanny Hoare, Callie Hoare (Santa's Helper) Jay Harrison and Linda McFadyen (St. Marys Health Care Foundation). (Nancy Bickell photo)

# AllWheelsPark donation of the week



A big thank you to Tristan and Reid Dundas of the The Dundas Team, Re/Max a-b-realty ltd. for their generous donation supporting this exciting community project! Please visit the website to see the complete list of donors and to make a contribution: [www.townofstmarys.com/allwheelspark](http://www.townofstmarys.com/allwheelspark). (Contributed photo)



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## COMMUNITY —

# Barfield, Boucher, Harden, Wiwchar to be inducted into Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum on June 17

*Continued from page 1*

Location: St. Marys Golf and Country Club, 769 Queen Street East, St. Marys, Ont. Banquet will be held on the Hall of Fame grounds, 386 Church Street South.

Cost: Sold out.

Celebrities for this event will include: Jesse Barfield, Denis Boucher, Rich Harden, Joe Wiwchar, Fergie Jenkins, John Olerud, Jacques Doucet, Tom Henke, Jason Dickson, Bill Humber, Mark Bell, Larry Landreth, Pete Orr, Billy Atkinson, Steve Rogers, Aaron Myette, Pat Borders, Josh Barfield, Richard Griffin, Rich Butler, Claude Raymond, Jamie Romak and Paul Spoljaric.

## Saturday, June 17

Event: Induction Ceremony for Jesse Barfield, Denis Boucher, Rich Harden, Joe Wiwchar, Jacques Doucet and John Olerud. It will be emceed by Sportsnet's Hazel Mae.

### Induction Day Schedule:

9 a.m. to 8 p.m. – Baseball games will be played on the Hall's diamonds.

9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. – Inductee press conference inside the museum (386 Church St. S.) (media only)

10:15 a.m. – Ceremony at the end of the driveway in front of the museum for official unveiling of Ferguson Jenkins Way.

11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. – Museum open to public for regular admission fees.

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Induction Ceremony on the Hall of Fame grounds (386 Church St. S.)

3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Autograph session\* (Please read rules below) with inductees, past inductees and other special guests. Check the Hall's website for more information.

Cost for Autograph Session\* (Please read rules below): Members should bring their membership card. Members \$20 each to enter, non-members \$30 each to enter the autograph session.

\*Hall of Fame 2023 members will enter the autograph line first.

\*Autograph session is 90 minutes long.

\*Autographs are limited to one item per person per inductee/special guest.

\*Autographs will be signed on a first-come first-serve basis.

\*Hall of Fame staff reserve the right to cut the autograph line at any time.

\*Autographs are not guaranteed.

\*NO posed photos.

### 2023 Inductee Bios

#### Jesse Barfield

After being selected in the ninth round of the major league draft by the Toronto Blue Jays in 1977, Jesse Barfield would spend parts of five seasons in the minors before making his major league debut on September 3, 1981.

Starting in 1982, Barfield became the club's regular right fielder. His 18 home runs that season helped him earn Blue Jays Rookie of the Year honours.

In 1985, the right-handed hitting slugger helped lead the Blue Jays to their first American League East title when he had 27 home runs, 22 stolen bases and 22 outfield assists. This made him just the second player (Willie Mays was the first in 1955) in big league history to have at least 20 home runs, 20 stolen bases and 20 outfield assists in the same campaign. His 22 outfield assists remain a Blue Jays' single-season record.

Barfield followed that up by setting a then-franchise-record with 40 home runs in 1986. That season, he also became the first Blue Jay to lead the American League in home runs. His performance earned him his first All-Star selection and a Silver Slugger Award. For his outstanding defence in right field, he also received his first of two consecutive Gold Glove awards.

Barfield's throwing arm is widely recognized as one of the greatest in major league history. In his nine seasons with the Blue Jays, he topped American League outfielders in assists four times (1985 to 1987, 1989).

In total, in his parts of nine seasons with the Blue Jays, Barfield played 1,032 games and ranks in the club's all-time top 10 in several statistical categories, including fourth in WAR (29.5), seventh in home runs (179) and ninth in total bases (1,672) and RBIs (527).

"I'm still in disbelief with the news of being voted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame," said Barfield. "Being drafted by and then playing for the Blue Jays has always meant so much to me and my family. I'm truly honoured, humbled and speechless right now."

#### Denis Boucher

Born in Montreal in 1968, Denis Boucher honed his skills with the Junior National Team and at the Na-

tional Baseball Institute in Vancouver prior to being signed as an amateur free agent by the Toronto Blue Jays in 1987.

After parts of four seasons in the minors, he'd make his first major league start for the Blue Jays on April 12, 1991 at SkyDome (currently Rogers Centre) and hold the Milwaukee Brewers to three earned runs in 5 1/3 innings. He'd make six more starts for the Blue Jays before he was dealt to Cleveland on June 27. On July 20 that season, Boucher picked up his first major league win when he allowed just one run in 7 2/3 innings to the California Angels to propel Cleveland to a 4-1 victory.

After a short tenure in Triple-A with the San Diego Padres in 1993, Boucher was dealt to his hometown Montreal Expos. Boucher's highly anticipated first game with the Expos came on September 6, 1993 in front of more than 40,000 boisterous fans at Olympic Stadium. With Windsor, Ont., native Joe Siddall catching and Maple Ridge, B.C., native Larry Walker in right field, the contest represented the first time in modern baseball history that three Canucks have been in the starting lineup for the same team. Boucher held the Colorado Rockies to one run in six innings and the Expos prevailed 4-3. With that start, Boucher also became the first Canadian to have played for both the Blue Jays and Expos.

Boucher returned to make 10 appearances for the Expos in 1994. In total, he pitched 10 professional seasons and accumulated 87 wins, while posting a 3.99 ERA, in 263 games.

Following his playing career, Boucher joined the national team as a pitching coach. Among the tournaments he has coached for Canada at are the 2004 and 2008 Olympics, all five World Baseball Classics and the 2011 and 2015 Pan Am Games when Canada captured gold medals. He has also developed into a highly respected scout, first with the Washington Nationals from 2004 to 2009 and with the New York Yankees, from 2009 to present.

"It's an incredible honour to be elected to the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame," said Boucher. "I'm very humbled and proud to have my name amongst the best baseball players in the country."

#### Rich Harden

Born in Victoria, B.C. in 1981, Rich Harden honed his pitching skills with the Victoria Mariners of the B.C. Premier Baseball League. Out of high

school, the young right-hander was selected by the Seattle Mariners in the 38th round of the 1999 MLB draft, but he declined to sign.

He re-entered the draft in 2000 and was chosen in the 17th round by the Oakland A's and signed with the club on May 18, 2001. Harden would enjoy a breakout minor league campaign in 2002 when he went a combined 12-6 with a 2.94 ERA, while striking out 187 batters in 153 innings in 28 starts between High-A and Double-A. His efforts earned him A's Minor League Player of the Year honours.

Harden would make his major league debut on July 21, 2003 and permit just one run on four hits in seven innings against the Kansas City Royals in a 6-1 A's victory. From there, Harden became a mainstay in the A's rotation for the next two seasons. After setting career-highs with 31 starts and 189 2/3 innings in 2004, he went 10-5 with a 2.53 ERA and struck out 121 batters in 128 innings in 2005.

Following two injury shortened campaigns, a rejuvenated Harden put up ace-like numbers with the A's in 2008, going 5-1 with a 2.34 ERA in 13 starts before he was dealt to the Chicago Cubs on July 8. He continued his dominance with the Cubs, going 5-1 with a 1.77 ERA in 12 starts down the stretch. He completed the season with a combined 10-2 record and a 2.07 ERA with 181 strikeouts in 148 innings in 25 starts.

Harden returned to the Cubs in 2009 and fanned 171 batters in 141 innings in 26 starts prior to finishing his major league career with single seasons with the Texas Rangers (2010) and the A's (2011).

In all, in parts of nine major league campaigns, Harden had a 59-38 record and a 3.76 ERA in 170 appearances. His 949 strikeouts and 17.9 WAR rank sixth all-time among Canadian big league pitchers.

"When I received the news that I was being inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame, I was at a loss for words," said Harden. "I am proud and honoured to have my name added to a list that includes so many great people who have had such a positive impact on baseball in Canada. I'm so grateful to all the people who helped and supported me along the way, and I'm looking forward to the induction weekend in St. Marys this summer."

#### Joe Wiwchar

Born in 1935 in Winnipeg, Man., Joe Wiwchar has devoted seven decades

*Continued on page 9*



## COMMUNITY —

# Barfield, Boucher, Harden, Wiwchar to be inducted into Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum on June 17

Continued from page 8

to baseball in his home province, as a player, coach, volunteer, executive and administrator. Best known for his long and successful coaching career, which spanned from 1953 to 2013, the tireless Manitoban regularly coached two or more teams in a season.

One of his most successful years was 1971 when he coached the South Central Beavers Peewee squad to a provincial title and a silver medal at the Western Canada Championship. That same year, he started a 28-year tenure as head coach of the Morden Mohawks of the Border League, a senior baseball circuit.

Along the way, Wiwchar helped lead Team Manitoba to a silver medal at the 1977 Canada Summer Games as an assistant coach and he was the head coach of the provincial Bison (Juvenile) team that captured the 1977 Western Canada championship.

As an executive, Wiwchar was a member of the committee that formed the Manitoba Baseball Association in 1968 and he would serve as president of the organization in 1976 and 1977.

On a national level, Wiwchar served on the Baseball Canada executive in 1974 and 1975. He has also helped out internationally. For example, in 1994, he served as a chaperone for five Canadian kids at the World Children's Baseball Fair in Japan and then in the following year, he worked as the head coach for four children's teams in La Rochelle, France.

In 1998, he became the first administrative manager of the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame, a position he held until 2022. The Town of Morden renamed a baseball field in his honour in 2011.

"When I received the call from Scott Crawford letting me know that I was being inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame, I had to sit down. I was speechless," said Wiwchar. "I was both surprised and elated. I'm still in disbelief, but I am very grateful for this honour."

## 2020 Inductee Bios

### John Olerud

After being selected in the third round of the 1989 MLB draft, John Olerud signed with the Blue Jays and went directly to the big leagues. He made his major league debut on September 3, 1989 and singled in his first big league at bat. With that, he became just the second Blue Jays' draft pick to make their organizational debut at the big league level.

From 1991 to 1993, he was a key part of three consecutive division-winning squads and two World Series championship teams. In 1993, he flirted with .400 for much of the season and is still the only Blue Jays' player to win an American League batting title.

In all, Olerud suited up over eight seasons with the Blue Jays and he ranks first all-time in franchise history in OBP, fourth in walks and sixth in batting average. His .363 batting average, .473 OBP and 33 intentional walks in 1993 remain Blue Jays' single-season records.

In all, in his 17-year big league career, the two-time All-Star and three-time Gold Glove Award winner finished with a .295 batting average, a .398 OBP (which ranks 70th in major league history) and 2,239 hits. Olerud finished his career with the New York Mets, his hometown Seattle Mariners for parts of five campaigns, the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox.

For many, the soft-spoken first baseman was an inspiration. Prior to his junior college season, he suffered a life-threatening brain aneurysm. He worked diligently to get back on the field and recovered to enjoy a successful collegiate and pro career. His performance and perseverance earned him Major League Baseball's Hutch Award in 1993. This honour is handed out annually to a player who best exemplifies the fighting spirit and competitive desire of Fred Hutchinson.

### Jacques Doucet

Born in Montreal in 1940, Jacques Doucet has been calling major league baseball games for more than four decades and many Quebec baseball fans credit him as the reason they fell in love with the sport.

Doucet served as a Montreal Expos beat reporter for La Presse from the time the franchise was awarded to the city in 1968 to 1971. He began performing play-by-play for the Expos' French language radio broadcasts in 1972 and continued for 33 seasons. Along the way, he called virtually every meaningful game in the franchise's history, including 2016 Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame inductee Dennis Martinez's perfect game on July 28, 1991. For many years, Doucet also broadcast major league playoff and World Series games in French.

In total, Doucet has called more than 5,500 big league games during his storied career. In 2004 Jacques won the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame's Jack Graney Award and has been a finalist for the National Baseball Hall

of Fame's 2020 Ford C. Frick Award.

Doucet has also been a strong supporter of baseball at the grassroots level in Quebec. As an ambassador for Baseball Quebec, he has been an active supporter of many fundraising activities for minor baseball teams in the province. He also served as an executive with the Quebec Junior Elite Baseball League from 2004 to 2010 and was involved in the Quebec Summer Games held in Longueuil in 2014.

### Richard Milo - 2022 Jack Graney Award Winner

Born in 1950 in Montreal, Richard Milo was a standout outfielder for the Laval-Ahuntsic of the Montreal Junior Baseball League during his teens and was a member of the Quebec teams that won the Canadian Junior Championships in 1970 and 1971.

He was also the only player from Quebec to suit up for Canada in the 1975 Intercontinental Cup which was held in Moncton, N.B. and Montreal. Canada lost in the bronze medal game to

Nicaragua in that tournament.

Following his playing career, Milo started a sportswriting career, working for weeklies, *Le Petit Journal* and *Le Patrie*, before moving on to *Le Devoir* in 1978. He started covering the Expos in 1977 and was present on October 3, 1981 when the Expos clinched their first and only postseason berth with a 5-4 win over the New York Mets at Shea Stadium.

In 1985, Milo joined the French service of the Canadian Press where he would cover the Expos until the club moved to Washington after the 2004 campaign.

Milo was inducted in the Quebec Baseball Hall of Fame in 2007.

"I was speechless when I received the call. It is such a great honour," said Milo of being the recipient of the 2022 Jack Graney Award. "I was fortunate to cover two perfect games and now, this award! I fell in love with the game when I was young and ever since, it has been fun and rewarding."

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# COMMUNITY —

## Another successful Pride Day in St. Marys



Stratford-Perth Pride brought a Pride Day to St. Marys last Sunday at Milt Dunnell Field. Among the day's many attractions was a variety of vendors, musical performances, drag storytime, and a pie-to-the-face segment featuring Mayor Al Strathdee, Councillor Rob Edney, and Robin Awcock of Stratford-Perth Pride. (Both photos by Stratford-Perth Pride)



Pride Day in St. Marys was very well attended with a steady, heavy flow of people coming by to check out the festivities. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

Rob Edney, Al Strathdee, and Robin Awcock pose with their faces covered in pie after one of Pride Day's feature segments. (Photo credit: Stratford-Perth Pride)

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**June 26, 2023 at 7 p.m. via Zoom**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the **Clinton Public Hospital, St. Marys Memorial Hospital, Seaforth Community Hospital and Stratford General Hospital** will be held on Monday, June 26, 2023 to:

1. Receive Annual Reports of the Board of Directors, including Financial Statements, together with the Auditor's Report thereon.
2. Appoint Auditors.
3. Amend each of the Hospital Corporation's By-Laws.
4. Receive the Ad Hoc Nominating Committee Report.

*Only members of the hospital corporations shall be entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting.*

**Members of the public are welcome to attend!**

RSVP to Sue Davey, Executive Assistant at 519-272-8205 or [susan.davey@hpha.ca](mailto:susan.davey@hpha.ca) to receive the Zoom link in advance of the meeting.

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## SPORTS —

# Dragon Boat Worlds feature two St. Marys residents

## Stephens, Gammon raising funds to cover travel costs

### Alexandra Stephens:

From August 7th to 13th, the World Dragon Boat Racing Championship is being held in Thailand and with the help of generous donors, St. Marys resident Alexandra Stephens will represent Canada as part of the Under-16 National Team.

Recently, Stephens was one of two St. Marys natives who were selected to be a part of the U16 Canadian squad that will compete on the global stage. Now, she is raising money to cover the travel costs to reach Thailand.

Stephens recently spoke to the Independent about her selection to Team Canada, calling the feeling she has a mix of awe and pride.

"It's absolutely unreal," Stephens said. "It's a big dream of mine that has come true and it makes me really happy that my hard work has paid off and will take me to Thailand to compete against other countries and represent Canada with my friends."

Stephens has been training with the goal of making the National Team since late last year and, in the lead-up to the recent selection camp in Montreal, had an inkling that she was on pace to make the U16 team. However, Stephens admitted that the achievement didn't truly sink in until she had the confirmation and called the feeling when she officially received the news "unbelievable."

"I had some indication that I had a decent shot at making the national



team but it still didn't really hit me until I got the email with the 'Congratulations, your hard work has paid off' and the confirmation that I had made Team Canada. It honestly felt like time stood still in that moment and I felt so much joy and relief."

Although Dragon Boat Racing isn't the most well-known or understood sport, it is very unique and requires a variety of different physical strengths and attributes. Stephens gave an insight into the work that she's put into becoming physically capable of be-

ing a nationally-skilled Dragon Boat paddler.

"During the warmer months, we are on the water in the boat three times a week and I will also work out once or twice a week during the Summer in the gym. In the winter months, I do dryland training which also includes weightlifting as well as using the paddling erg machine."

Like all athletes who find success in their chosen sport, Stephens is motivated by a strong love and passion for Dragon Boat Racing, which stems

from a variety of aspects that make up the sport.

"I love this sport for the competitive and technique aspect of it and that it wasn't just putting a paddle in the water. It's more than that and requires me to use my mind as well as my body. I love Dragon Boat Racing for the teamwork aspect of it."

"Most of all, I love the community. I have seen in other sports that some communities aren't always the most fun, but whenever I walk into the team tents on race day, everyone is happy, everyone is rooting for each other, and it's just a really positive environment."

As mentioned, Stephens is raising money to cover the travel costs to reach Thailand as Dragon Boat Racing is not a nationally-funded sport. You have multiple ways to support Stephens, including a bake sale offering pies, tarts, cookies, and bread. Pick-up days include June 17th, 24th, and 26th, as well as July 12th and 15th. All orders must be placed at least two days before your desired pick-up day. There will also be a barbecue at 125 Millson Crescent on June 17th starting at noon.

For direct monetary donations, Stephens' family has set up a GoFundMe campaign where you can donate online. The GoFundMe is set with a goal of \$8,000. To donate there, go to [www.gofundme.com/alexandras-team-canada-fund](http://www.gofundme.com/alexandras-team-canada-fund).

### Elissa Gammon:

Elissa Gammon loves explaining to people who are unfamiliar with Dragon Boat Racing what the sport is all about. She won't meet many people who need any explanation this August, however, when she travels to Thailand as part of the U16 Canadian National Team at the World Dragon Boat Racing Championship.

Gammon, a St. Marys resident, will be part of Canada's Under-16 team competing in the global Dragon Boat competition and she is currently raising money to cover the travel costs to get to Thailand. Recently, Gammon

talked to the Independent about the feeling of having the opportunity to represent her country.

"It feels really good. It feels like all the hard work and all the years of doing the sport and trying to get better at it has finally paid off. It also feels really cool to have the chance to represent my country and do so not only as an individual but as part of a team."

In 2018, Gammon began paddling in a five-week program with the Thames River Paddling Club and she described having "a lot of energy" after every outing on the water. She

quickly dedicated more and more time to the sport, eventually reaching a point when her coaches told her that making Team Canada could be in her future.

"Growing up, I've always really loved being around the water. I started canoeing when I was really young and ever since I've enjoyed a lot of water-related sports. It's a very interesting sport and I love explaining it to people. Personally, I love the energy that I get and the positive connections and reinforcements that I get from my coaches and teammates."

Gammon also detailed the kind of

physical training that is required to be a paddler in Dragon Boat Racing, noting how it requires strength throughout one's entire body

"In addition to using the paddling erg machine, I was training every Sunday with Ken (Gene, Gammon's trainer) and began weightlifting to build up my strength. I also had at-home workouts that I was doing. Right now, I'm also doing outrigger canoeing to continue building up my paddling skill. It's certainly been a long process but it's definitely been worth it."

"It may seem like it only requires up-

*Continued on page 13*

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## SPORTS —

# DCVI Track and Field athletes compete at OFSAA



The three St. Marys DCVI athletes who qualified for the OFSAA Championship held in Ottawa last weekend all earned strong top-eight finishes. Payton Blight (pictured standing on the right) finished fourth in Novice Girls Discus, while Colton Hawkins (pictured in action) finished seventh in Junior Boys Pole Vault and Eden Sinnett (pictured standing on the left) took eighth in Junior Girls Javelin. Track and Field Co-Coach Ian Morton, who focuses on the pole vaulters and throwing athletes, said the team had a "wonderful" season. "Nathan, Megan, and I couldn't be prouder of the team," said Morton. "We had so many great results, so many stories of perseverance and overcoming adversity. From those personal best results to the camaraderie of teammates and friendships created with adversaries." (Contributed photos)

## Dragon Boat Worlds feature two St. Marys residents

Continued from page 12

per body and arm strength but it actually does require a lot of leg strength and you use a lot of core muscles in Dragon Boat Racing. It also requires a ton of endurance so it also requires a lot of cardio work."

When asked about why she loves the sport, Gammon not only mentioned the physical and mental test it poses but also the people that are part of

the sport.

"More than anything, everyone in the Dragon Boat community that I've been around feels like they're all a part of the team no matter what. No matter what you look like, who you are, or anything like that, it just has always felt like the best community in sports to be around for me."

As Dragon Boat Racing is not a nationally-funded sport, the paddlers

on Team Canada must pay for their flight to Thailand, meaning Gammon is seeking donations to help pay for her travel costs. You can support Gammon's journey by participating in a raffle, with prizes including a \$200 gift card for The Keg, a \$175 LCBO gift card, and a \$50 gift card of the winner's choice, as well as a Na-

tional Team supporter's shirt.

Gammon's family will have a table where they will accept donations in front of Lyric Flowers on July 15th during the Heritage Festival. To donate online, Gammon has a GoFundMe page which you can find at [www.gofundme.com/help-send-elissa-to-thailand](http://www.gofundme.com/help-send-elissa-to-thailand).



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## SPORTS —

## Lincs bolster blueline in trade for Sullivan

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys Lincolns continued shaping their roster for the upcoming 2023-24 season with the acquisition of 19-year-old defenceman Ethan Sullivan.

Last year, Sullivan played 23 games with the Wellington Dukes of the OJHL in which he posted one goal and 17 points. In 2020, the Hamilton Bulldogs drafted Sullivan in the 13th round of the OHL Priority Selection.

Lincolns' General Manager Pat Powers told the Independent that Sullivan garnered plenty of interest from various clubs before ultimately choosing St. Marys.

"Ethan comes with high-level hockey experience having played in the OJHL for a couple years. He was a highly sought-after player this Summer and with him choosing to go to school at Western, he made the decision to sign with us. Ethan is going to bring a good offensive touch to our team from the backend this coming season and just be a good overall

person to have in the dressing room."

Going back the other way to the Dukes are the rights to goaltender Carter George. The Thunder Bay native posted 13 wins and a 0.910 save percentage in 17 games for the Lincs, along with seven wins and a 0.924 save percentage in 10 games with the OHL's Owen Sound Attack. Right now, it seems likely that George will be battling for the Attack's starting netminder job in the Fall.

Powers complimented the young netminder for his maturity and humility with the Stonetown's Junior 'B' squad even when his stock rose dramatically when he found success with the Attack.

"Carter played beyond his years and experience in the league. He brought stability and maturity to the Lincolns playing behind a former major junior goalie. Carter showed loyalty to the Lincs even though he knew his time with us was limited after his success in Owen Sound. We wish him all the success in pursuit of achieving his goals in hockey."



## Patient, smart play leads U16 Storm 4-1 win

By Spencer Seymour

Head Coach of the U16 Girls' St. Marys Storm Nathan Brown told the Independent that the group played like "a totally different team" in last Tuesday's 4-1 victory over Tillsonburg, with Brown saying the team played "patient and smart."

"It took us a little while to get our legs going in the first half," Brown acknowledged. "We've got some pretty exhausted athletes who are finishing up high school soccer and juggling other sports. We were able to slow things down a bit which works for us. When they play with a bit more patience, they do a lot better."

Patience is a virtue that the squad has been working on early on this season, which Brown was very happy with last Tuesday, specifically in the second half.

"We're focusing on getting the ball deep and making those short, 12-to-15-foot passes. When we settled in and started executing on those things, the game changed. In the second half, we totally took over because we were playing with that patience we've been working on."

Erin Green got the Storm on the



Abby Martin takes a penalty kick that found the back of the net during the U16 Girls' St. Marys Storm 4-1 victory during last Tuesday's game against Tillsonburg. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

board with their first goal of the contest midway through the first half, finishing a cross from the right side to give the Storm their first goal of

the game. Before the end of the first, Abby Martin capitalized on an opportunity, finding the back of the net with the first of two penalty-kick goals of

the match.

The scoring continued in the second half with Haruka Omachi battling inside the box to bat a loose ball past the Tillsonburg keeper. Olive Aarts helped facilitate Omachi's goal with a stellar feed from the baseline. The second penalty kick goal came later in the second half when Sydney Grant put the Storm up by three en route to the 4-1 final score.

"We know that this team has lots of speed. We know that everyone on this team can shoot. Sometimes, they just need to take a breath and slow everything down around them. Focus on making those short passes, get available, and make the ball do the work."

Brown added that the team continuing to improve their communication on the pitch will allow the team to reach even greater heights this season.

"Better communication is going to take this team to another level. When the girls are not just getting open but shouting and making their teammates aware of the options they have, it brings your head up and allows you to slow things down and make those short passes even more effective."

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**SPORTS —**

# U13 Red Rockies' 15-5 win fueled by complete team effort

By Spencer Seymour

The U13 Red Cubberley Plumbing and Heating St. Marys Rockies came away with a 15-5 victory over Goderich last Wednesday. According to Head Coach Ken French, the already-close-knit squad got the win thanks to everyone pulling their weight.

"We got great pitching from our three guys on the mound," said French. "Everyone at the plate got on base and had at least one stolen base. This team has really banded together early in the season and they support each other really well in every instance."

On the mound, Jude Schlotzhauer led the way with eight strikeouts in three innings pitched, backed up by strong efforts from Nate Hern, who posted three strikeouts in two innings as well as a good inning from Jacob Savile that included another strikeout.

Offensively, Adam Nelson went three-for-three and scored three runs to lead the team that got contributions at the plate from every member of the order. French added that the team's performance displayed a strong intelligence and compete level.

"They played really smart and worked really well together, none more so than Benny Graham who really used his head on Wednesday," French said. "The camaraderie and sportsmanship has been off the charts. This is



Nate Hern pitches during last Wednesday's 15-5 victory for the U13 Red Cubberley Plumbing and Heating St. Marys Rockies. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

the youngest team in the league and they show up every night with confidence and a maturity that is growing every game. We are working on building up the team's character. That is our biggest priority right now."

# DCVI Senior Boys soccer team battles valiantly at OFSAA



The St. Marys DCVI Senior Boys soccer team played incredibly hard right until the very end of last week's OFSAA Championship. Two wins in three games put the Salukis in the quarter-finals, with a 3-1 victory over E.C. Saint Charles Garnier which saw goals from Carson Brock, Wil Boreham, and Roger Sebben, followed later by a 1-0 win over Heritage Christian with the lone goal scored by Jaden Shiell. DCVI was banged up by the time they reached the quarters and while they put up a scrappy, hard-fought battle, they weren't able to come away victorious but did go further in the tournament than the top-seed from WOSSAA, Holy Cross. Head Coach Richard Farmer spoke glowingly about the team, saying he was "super proud of all the boys who played hard all tournament long." (Contributed photo)



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## SPORTS —

# Zinger cycles every day for three years

By Spencer Seymour

No matter the weather, and no matter how busy he was, Bruce Zinger has gone out and ridden his bicycle, averaging 25 kilometres every day and oftentimes significantly exceeding that median.

Recently, Zinger spoke to the Independent about his streak of riding every day, which surpassed the three-year mark earlier this month, and said that it started as simply a way to keep his mind in a positive place.

"I didn't really start out thinking I was going to ride every day for three years," Zinger said. "It was based more on a need to keep negativity from creeping into my life from the outside world. I was enjoying cycling in the countryside and then the pandemic hit and I stopped riding for a while."

Zinger explained how he had been cycling regularly and completed multiple multi-century rides. A century is a ride of 100 miles, or 160 kilometres, and Zinger has completed numerous rides of between 200 and 400 kilometres. He even had a 500-km ride from Toronto to Grand Bend and back, which he completed in under 24 hours.

"I had been riding with quite a few people and even though I may not have always ridden as fast as some of the guys younger than me, the fact that I had proven myself to be able to achieve these long distances in pretty decent time gave me some status within my community of cyclists."

As mentioned, Zinger's consistent cycling took a dip when the pandemic hit and brought with it a wave of outside negativity and noise.

"This negative news cycle started creeping into our lives so we were watching movies and streaming shows to get away from it. As a photographer, my work shut down, so I wasn't doing anything. I had continued cycling for a bit but that soon got hindered because there were no cafes open to stop for snacks and drinks, and restrictions were put on how many people you could cycle with."

Zinger then recalled the day he realized that he had fallen out of the cycling habit.

"One day, I'm sitting outside and a couple of friends ride by and they don't even ask me to join them on their ride, and I knew why. It was because, for the last couple of months, every time they asked me, I said 'No, I don't feel like riding.' I realized then that the pandemic was impacting me negatively on a very personal level

and I reacted very quickly to that."

Feeling a strong conviction to battle back against the negativity of the first lockdown era, Zinger told his wife Laurie that he had the idea to ride his bike every day because he knew it would improve his mental state. He didn't quite know what that meant but he needed his wife to always encourage him because if he kept going, it would help alleviate the stress and negativity going on around him.

"She was great about doing that because there were some days when I didn't feel like riding but she was always there to keep me going. Soon enough, I'd cycled every day for several months, and after about day 80 or so, it wasn't about achieving a goal or some milestone, it had really crystallized that this was for my own psychological well-being."

Eventually, an obvious challenge presented itself – the winter. While his rides did get, on average, a bit shorter than they were in the nicer weather although many still over 60 km every day, Zinger quickly found that his determination to continue riding was stronger than the winter wind.

"Having a skiing background, I was able to use that to help me get through the winter. I figured out the air pressure in the tires that would be best, I got some studded tires to ride over any ice. What was really interesting was that there was a liberation from the cold and snow because you just know you were going out. Laurie would sometimes say 'Well, the weather is really bad,' and I would respond 'No, the weather is irrelevant.' Once you set your mind to something, everything else becomes irrelevant and you put up with it."

"As the weather started getting nicer and the riding became a bit easier, I just knew this was something that I was going to keep doing. I don't really have a specific goal in mind, I just want to keep going because this has become part of my day-to-day routine."

In his first year, Zinger did 12,000 km, which jumped up to 16,000 in year two. His third year dropped to 11,000, but Zinger pointed out that most avid cyclists only hit between 6,000 to 10,000 km every year. The decrease also was due to Zinger getting back to work with the world reopening after the pandemic's worst shutdowns were over. The more balanced riding schedule helped Zinger realize what it truly meant to him to maintain his cycling streak.

"That's when I realized that this isn't about some super, Tour de France-type route every day. I figured out that



my minimum was 10 kilometres, and if I could do 10 kilometres, I could get the physical benefit of it and get that mental satisfaction."

Zinger also emphasized that, above all else, the routine of spending so much time outside on such a consistent basis has been therapeutic for his mental state far more than the physical health benefits.

"For me, it's become this incredibly

doable thing that helps me in every possible facet. I've found myself to be more focused, I'm reading more and watching less TV. If I drive to and from Toronto for work, I'll ride when I get home at night and I find myself sleeping better. More than anything, though, the process of just getting out and having that routine of getting out of the house has been psychologically therapeutic for me."

## Hartsell wins playoff to capture Lincs golf tourney trophy



The St. Marys Lincolns held their annual golf tournament last Friday at St. Marys Golf and Country Club with over 120 golfers participating in the tournament. Pictured is the winning team consisting of, from left to right, Bob Hearn, Dale Levy, Jim Craigmile, and Ryan Hartsell. After finishing in a tie for the top spot with eight-under-par, a 100-yard closest-to-the-pin contest was used as a tiebreaker, with Hartsell getting within a foot of the pin to secure his team's victory. In the post-tournament banquet, several items were raffled off and a Washington Capitals VIP experience was auctioned, along with an interview featuring former sports writer Pat Payton. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)



**SPORTS —**

# From 73 feet to a Canadian Heritage Moment



Tyler Quinn of St. Marys was in great position to witness this epic moment in Canadian sporting history, when he snapped this photo of Nick Taylor on the 4th playoff hole of the RBC Canadian Open on Sunday. Taylor made the 73 foot eagle attempt to edge Tommy Fleetwood for the championship, and in doing so became the first Canadian to win the national championship since Pat Fletcher in 1954. "The experience was unbelievable," Quinn told the Independent of attending the event. "So many amazing golfers and incredible shots made." Of the winning putt, he said, "A once in a lifetime experience, the finish was wild!"

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**COMMUNITY —**

# Town Wide Yard Sale a Success



Christmas decor, furniture, household items - there was something for everyone at the Drown household at 4 Sparling Crescent.



It was perfect weather for a yard sale and buyers were eager to examine all items available at the 40 sale locations throughout St. Marys and area.



Besides hosting a garage sale, Ray Broadworth, owner of Wild Dog Woodworking located at 4 Ethel Court took the opportunity to display his one-of-a-kind furniture pieces and other woodworking items.



Judging by the traffic congestion, the town wide yard sale can be classified a "success". (All photos by Murray Grant)

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Solutions on page 31

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**COMMUNITY —**

# St. Marys Clicks celebrate another successful year



The St. Marys Clicks have celebrated another successful year. The group will now be taking a break for the summer months and meetings will resume in the fall. At the June meeting the winner for the monthly contest 'framed' was announced as Stephanie Taylor with 'silhouette', and the runner up was Tina Switzer with 'squirrel litter'. Congratulations to them both! The members also had a chance to vote for 'photo of the year' and wish to congratulate Darlene McBride for her winning photo 'the last can'. They would like to wish everyone a great summer, with lots of photography opportunities, and look forward to meeting again on Thursday, September 7th. (Contributed photos)

*The St. Marys Farmers' Market*

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**COMMUNITY —**

# Alzheimer Society Huron Perth celebrates 1st year as a unified agency

The Alzheimer Society Huron Perth has completed its first year serving the communities of Huron and Perth Counties.

This past year has been one of dedication and hard work, as the new organization has grown stronger and better able to serve those living with dementia and their care partners. The Alzheimer Society Huron Perth is committed to continuing to provide local and enhanced services throughout our region and are grateful to all those who have supported the organization along this journey.

Some of the highlights of the past year have been broadening the reach and availability of programs, services, and education across Huron and Perth Counties, and streamlining the systems in place to decrease infrastructure duplication.

Throughout the unification, the clients have re-

mained as the focus, and programs and services have been tailored to their needs.

To celebrate the New Beginnings and achievements in the first year of the unified Society, the public is invited to attend the Annual General Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation event on Wednesday, June 28.

Located at the Mitchell Golf and Country Club, the evening will begin at 6 pm with a business meeting and awards ceremony, followed by light refreshments and live music. The guest speaker for the evening will be Cathy Barrick, the CEO from the Alzheimer Society Ontario who will provide highlights from the provincial work and the Landmark Study.

To learn more or to reserve your spot, please contact Lori at [loris@alzhp.ca](mailto:loris@alzhp.ca) or 519-482- 1482 / 519-271-1910.

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# HISTORY —

## HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Restoration Projects – Part Three, Junction Station

By Mary Smith

Of all the historic buildings in St. Marys, the Junction Station is probably the one with the most controversial history. Built in 1858, it played a key role in the development of transportation systems in southwestern Ontario and was then abandoned by the railway. The building has survived threats to demolish or relocate it. It has been recognized as a National Historic Site but also been vandalized and at times has fallen into dangerous disrepair. The station's relationship with the town of St. Marys was always ambivalent. It had potential to be an asset but was frequently perceived as a problem. The third part of the St. Marys Museum's recent seminar on restoration projects explained how this fine old building finally found a second purpose. Thanks to Ryan and Erin Leaman, it became the Broken Rail Brewery.

In the mid-1850s, there was great excitement in this part of southwestern Ontario, or Canada West as it was then known. The Grand Trunk Railway (GTR) had reached Stratford and was extending its line westward. The main line would go to Sarnia while a spur would run southwest to London. The stakes were high for communities in the area. Their economic future depended on whether the railway came through their towns and villages or bypassed them. St. Marys gratefully learned that the GTR planned to pass right through its limits and this community would be the junction point for the two lines. A railway station, built at the junction, would be the most important depot between Stratford and Sarnia.

But where exactly would it be located? Speculation was rife. Property along potential railway lines suddenly became much more valuable. The St. Marys Argus, a newspaper with a keen nose for scandal, reported that rival groups were offering incentives to the project manager, Casimir S. Gzowski, to build the junction station on their favoured site. In the end, it was probably economic expediency that swayed his decision. It was practical to extend the Sarnia line westward, passing through mostly undeveloped property along the northern limits of St. Marys. Thus, fewer landowners had to be compensated for railway right-of-way. The London line veered off to the south, passing along the eastern limits of what was then the core of the village. Once again, while within municipal boundaries, the properties that this line passed through were either undeveloped or, at best, partially cleared for farming.

By May 1858, the site for the junc-



The Junction Station, ca 1930s, when it still offered passenger and freight service. This photograph shows the impressive masonry that gave the building its lasting value.

tion station was decided. Two local masons were awarded the contract for a substantial, rectangular, limestone building on property belonging to David Glass, a politician and speculator who lived in London, Ontario. The new station did fall within the village boundaries but in the extreme northeast corner, inconveniently distant from its business and industrial centre. St. Marys residents were partially placated when a road – called “New Station Street” on early maps – was built from the Wellington Street Bridge along Trout Creek to connect with James Street North and then Glass Street. This provided access to the station for delivery wagons. A few years later, freight yards were located on the London line, near Elizabeth Street, closer to the heart of St. Marys, and in 1878, a small, frame passenger depot with a ticket booth was added in that area. Still, it was not until 1907 when the GTR built the current railway station just off Queen and James Streets that the residents of St. Marys forgave the company for locating the Junction on remote Glass Street.

Meanwhile, although isolated from downtown St. Marys, the Junction Station was a busy place, serving freight and passenger trains between both Sarnia and London and points to the east. A small community of two hotels, a livery stable and a store sprung up nearby. The GTR also built houses for the stationmaster and other railway workers, as well as a large limestone repair shop, a water tower and pump house, freight sheds and livestock pens. But after World War I, travel changed. The GTR was taken over by the Canadian National Railway. Freight trains were still vital to the economy but many people now travelled in their own automobiles, especially as Ontario's highways were

upgraded. That meant fewer people needed the services of the businesses at the Junction. This little community had almost vanished by 1941 when CNR terminated station's public functions, removing all personnel and shuttering the building.

CNR maintenance crews continued to use the station for storage for a few more years. However, by the 1960s, the building was abandoned and derelict. In 1965, CNR announced its intent to demolish it. There was a public outcry and, with the support of J. Waldo Monteith, MP for Perth County, the station was recognized by the Parks and Monuments Board (now Parks Canada) as having national significance. This recognition came with a nice bronze plaque, unveiled in 1979. However, the building was still CNR's private property. In 1980, the town signed a lease agreement with the railway company to rent the premises. Secure fencing was erected to protect it from break-ins and vandalism. In 1993, the Junction Station was designated under both the Heritage Railway Stations Act and the Ontario Heritage Act. However, these measures did little to leverage support from senior levels of government. Municipal Heritage Committee members and other interested citizens formed a group: “Save the Junction Station.” Through their fundraising and generous volunteer efforts, the exterior of the building was repaired and stabilized. In 1998, the Town of St. Marys purchased the building from CNR. But the company wanted the building moved off the site. In 2008, the railway finally agreed to sell the land underlying the station and eventually, title was transferred to the town.

When the Junction Station was built, its distance from downtown St. Marys had been a disadvantage. But by the

beginning of the 21st century, the town was expanding, with suburban development moving closer and closer. Services such as electricity and water were no longer out-of-reach. But what practical use could be made of the building? Preserving it as some sort of museum in its original state was impractical. Through the years, there had already been structural changes. For instance, the small wooden lean-to entry shown in this week's photograph was added at some time and then removed. This is the only known photograph showing it. Whereas the original building had six openings for French doors along both sides and two openings at each end, photographic evidence suggests that some of these doors were filled in with limestone blocks almost immediately, possibly for security reasons or for heating efficiency in winter. Although volunteers worked valiantly to keep the building stable and to encourage local interest in its story, all initiatives to find a permanent re-use started optimistically, then faded away.

Finally, in 2019, a practical town administration and council decided that the best hope for the survival of the building was to offer it for sale or lease to private interests. Ryan and Erin Leaman impressed council with their proposal to convert the station into a brewery. Their concept floor plan showed space for the production room, taproom, self-serve cooler and merchandise area as well as accessible washrooms. The interior would retain the original wainscoting and the framing of the French doors. But the walls and ceiling would be insulated and redecorated. A patio with picnic tables would be available for patrons during warm seasons.

The Leamans had barely completed their purchase and received approvals when Covid shut everything down. Through the long pandemic months, they gutted and insulated the interior, plumbed and wired, installed the brewing equipment, hired a brew master and prepared their public spaces. A large number of potential patrons followed their progress on social media and so were poised and ready when, in early 2021, the Leamans began to offer their beer for drive-by pickup.

As Covid restrictions relaxed, the Broken Rail grew livelier and livelier. Today it offers a wide variety of brews, some developed in collaboration with other local businesses. Several service clubs have used the premises for drive-by fundraising dinners and other special events. The problematic old station is now a productive and contributing part of the community.

## THORNDALE WEEKLY NEWS

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## Thorndale's Athletic Dual



By Nancy Abra

Karen Lucas of Thorndale said the shocked look on her son Devan's face was priceless. "When the announcer broadcasted the winner of the WOSSA (Western Ontario Secondary School Athletic Assoc) hurdle race and time, Devan's reaction was shock and disbelief. It was actually crazy," Lucas recalled, "Devan raced in the slow qualifying heat and ended up winning the whole race, beating the Dorchester High School record and his time by three seconds. And" she added proudly, "he only started doing hurdles about three weeks before competing in this race."

Lucas is also doubly proud. "Tyson also competed at WOSSA in the javelin and got 8th. He did such a great job considering he is also new at this sport."

These 15yr old brothers have been active in sports since a young age, starting at four years old in T-ball in the summer and hockey in the winter. Over the years, they grew, and

their athletic abilities developed. They were involved in track & field at West Nissouri Public School, Thorndale and are currently active at Lord Dorchester High School. Devan was a member on the cross-country team and Tyson on the volleyball team which won silver at WOSSA. Tyson also played on the Lord Dorchester's basketball team.

Outside of school, this past winter the Lucas brothers played on Dorchester U18 local league and won their division championship. For the summer, their energies are focused on baseball, playing for the Dorchester Diamond Back hardball team, where Tyson is their back catcher. These brothers are also certified umpires and officiate over ball games in Dorchester, Thamesford and Thorndale.

Whether it is on the ice, on the court or on the field, this 'athletic dual', is a dedicated and energetic force, with proud parents always cheering them on.

## Thorndale Optimist Bike Rodeo held Saturday



By Nancy Abra

Last Saturday morning, the Thorndale Optimist hosted their bike rodeo at the Thorndale Community Centre complex. This has been an annual event for more than 40 years and this year attracted 35 children from the community. Young ones with their bikes with training wheels to older public school children all enjoyed this fun morning of bike safety.

Members of the Optimist Club and Community Policing member, Mike Olds were on hand to inspect each bike for the proper safety equipment, as well as for proper riders' helmet. After a brief safety lesson, the children, one at a time, were directed through a course to prove their riding skills from manoeuvring around py-

lons, stopping, turning, and using the proper hand signals. As a token for completing the course, each child received a safety item for their bicycle.

The morning's event was concluded with a draw of two bicycles courtesy of the Thorndale Optimist Club. Cruz Aveiro, age 4 won the boys bicycle and Rosy Parsons, age 10 won the girl's bike. Both children are from Thorndale.

Thorndale Optimist president, Bill Tipping, said "Many thanks to Mike Olds and his family for their help and support for our bike rodeo this year and over the years. We also appreciate the parents of our community for bringing their children as we work together to educate bike safety."

### THE ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT AND ITS WEEKLY "THORNDALE NEWS" IS AVAILABLE WITHIN THORNDALE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

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COLUMN —

# HOSTING UKRAINE: A grateful new community

By Ric Knutson

From the byline, I have hijacked VJ's article for this week. I don't possess the amazing writing skills of my wife, so I relied upon a request for comments from the Ukrainian community. I received 37 printed pages of the emails received including one from Gwen Ament who has been an inspiration to VJ as you learned last week. Spelling and grammar are as received.

Without further ado, the following is how VJ is seen by the community she helped create:

"We remembered that at the train station where our train arrived, when we arrived to Poland we met volunteers who told us that once we had all the documents to leave to Canada, they would help us buy tickets. We went to the train station, registered and waited for an answer. Suddenly I received a message that these volunteers have created a Facebook group and invite me to join. We joined, and it was in this group that I read V.J.'s post that she wants and can help find a host family. We started talking and thanks to V.J. we found a wonderful family in Canada!

"We are very grateful to V.J. for everything, but especially for the fact that when we were scared and confused, because our life completely changed in a single moment due to the war in Ukraine, she found the same words that calmed and inspired! And so, this week we celebrated the anniversary of coming to Canada! We are very happy and lucky to have V.J. and Rick in our lives! Thank you for being in our lives!"

"V.J. - You are a kind, interesting, versatile, unique, amazing, beautiful, radiant, talented, reasonable, courageous, cheerful and open person. With a beautiful bright soul and an open heart. You will always come to the rescue."

"My story began in March 2022, and I still admire this extraordinary woman V.J!

"She is strong-willed and determined, beautiful and intelligent, sincere and frank. Her soul is big and warm.... She rallied a large Ukrainian-Can-



Photo by Gwen Ament.

dian community in the city (St. Marys). Together with a supportive environment, they organized support: held many free events for children and adults, found volunteer teachers who still help to learn English, various art activities, winter entertainment, a church shelter... She attracted many good people, who have now turned into a supportive environment and friends.

I can say one thing, I adore this native person, a strong woman who is not afraid of difficulties and moves forward. The world needs it!

"This is heroism! You are an example for everyone and for us Ukrainians too!

I want to say that VJ is an example of a person who has united hundreds of like-minded people around her dream.

She made a soft start available to many hundreds of Ukrainians.

Her wisdom inspires us to do good to everyone, everywhere, regardless of how others perceive it."

"She provides great help to Ukrainians, very sincerely supports and sympathizes with us. This woman amazes me with her kindness, she has already helped and given shelter to more than 50 families from Ukraine! She cannot simply remain without the attention of the whole world. A simple elderly woman who undertook such a task.

It can't help but surprise me.

In addition, it is very nice to live in such a wonderful family. Surrounded by love and care, it was great to see Vj's husband Rick worry about his wife and she worry about him. But the way this family treats us is very good! they say we are their children and there is nothing to worry about. This is a very warm welcome!

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for everything you have done for us! We will never forget this in our lives!"

I was not surprised by the words of our new friends. This has been an amazing journey and VJ's heart is as large as said above and only part of why she has so much love (mine too).

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This meeting is for YOU! Come out and enjoy.  
Membership not Required to Attend  
Reminder to bring a mug if you'd like to enjoy a beverage at our meetings.



COLUMN —

# WHAT'S FOR DINNER: Perth County Flavours



**By Lauren Eedy**

## Asparagus Tart

Nothing says spring like fresh local asparagus. Start with a baked puff pastry shell brushed with grainy Dijon. Filled with savoury delights, including fresh chopped Ontario asparagus and diced ham, this is the perfect entrée for your next brunch or dinner.

Prep: 30m Cooking time: 1hr Serves: 4-6

### Ingredients:

-Half package frozen puff pastry, defrosted

-4 tsp grainy Dijon mustard

### Filling:

-2 tbsp olive oil

-1 c chopped Ontario onions

-1 tsp dried oregano

-Salt & pepper

-2 ½ c chopped Ontario asparagus

-1 c chopped Ontario sweet red pepper

-1 c diced ham

-1 c shredded gruyere or Swiss cheese

-3 Ontario eggs

-3 tbsp low-fat evaporated milk or light cream

### Method:

-On a lightly floured surface, roll out puff pastry into a circle large enough to line a 9" quiche pan or pie plate, leaving ½" overhang to allow for shrinkage during baking. Pierce pastry all over with a fork. Place parchment paper over pastry; fill with dried beans or pie weights to blind bake. Bake in 425°F oven for 10 minutes. Remove beans and paper; bake for 6-8 minutes longer, or until light brown. Let cook completely. Spread mustard evenly over bottom of the cooled shell. Set aside. (Can be baked a day ahead).

-In a large skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Add onions; cook, stirring occasionally, until softened and light brown, 8-10 minutes. Sprinkle with oregano, salt and pepper. Stir in asparagus, red

pepper, and ham, cook for 5 minutes or until asparagus is crisp-tender. Spread evenly in pie shell and top with cheese.

-In medium bowl, whisk together eggs and evaporated milk; pour evenly over asparagus mixture. Sprinkle lightly with salt and pepper to taste. Bake in 350°F oven for 35-40 minutes or until filling is set and top is golden. Serve warm.

Although the heatwave we experienced has cooled off a bit, a refreshing classic strawberry popsicle is the perfect addition to warm weather. For some fun ways to add some kick, try a pinch of chili power or Tajín, stir in a tablespoon or two of heavy cream, or include whole pieces of added fruit for texture.

## Strawberry Popsicles

Yields: 6 Prep: 10m Total time: 8hrs 10m

12oz. fresh strawberries, rinsed and quartered (about 3c)

¼ c strawberry jam

2 tbsp granulated sugar

1 tsp fresh lemon juice

Pinch kosher salt

### Method:

-In a blender, blend strawberries, jam, granulated sugar, lemon juice, and salt until smooth.

-Pour strawberry mixture into ice-pop molds. Cover and insert sticks.

-Freeze until solid, at least 8 hours. Dip molds into luke-warm water to release pops.

Enjoy!

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**Community Liaison Committee**

The next Community Liaison Committee Meeting is going to be held on **Friday June 16th at 10am**. Members of the public who wish to observe as the members of the Committee discuss information with respect to St Marys Cement can watch the live meeting online. Please see the Town of St Marys Events Calendar for the link to the online meeting.

Please submit any questions and concerns for the meeting by June 14th to kara.terpstra@vcimentos.com.

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Sat. June 10 - Dave Wreford, Embro	\$200.00

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# Riddles

- What are the strongest days of the week?  
**Saturday and Sunday, because all the rest are week days.**
- Where does the president keep his armies?  
**In his sleeves.**
- What is the texture of a dog?  
**Ruff**
- Why did the football coach go to the bank?  
**To get his quarter back**
- What kind of can never needs a canopener?  
**A pelican**
- Why did the grizzly catch cold?  
**Because he went out in his bear feet.**
- What did the pony say when he had a sore throat?  
**Excuse me, I'm a little hoarse**
- What do you get when you cross a pony with a bird?  
**A horse fly**
- What do you get if you cross a skunk and a teddy bear?  
**Winnie the phew**
- Can a boy scout make a fire with one stick?  
**Yes, if it is a match**
- What did the hiker say when he ran into a porcupine?  
**Ouch**
- Which football player wears the biggest helmet?  
**The one with the biggest head**

## - Word Search -

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

### Word List

- Fathers Day
- Hall of Fame
- Craft beer
- Food trucks
- Live music
- Festival
- Advance tickets
- Rotary projects
- Support
- Broken Rail
- Sunset Diner
- Heemans Cider
- Campbells Canteen



## The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What do you call cheese that's not yours?



Nacho cheese!

Lily Webb (8)

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

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### PET OF THE WEEK

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



Our Pet of the Week is Daisy. She is a gentle golden doodle who likes to sit on the front porch with her owners Greg & Carol Walker and watch for her furry friends to walk by. Occasionally Daisy likes to say hello. The Walker family have enjoyed her company for 13 yrs.

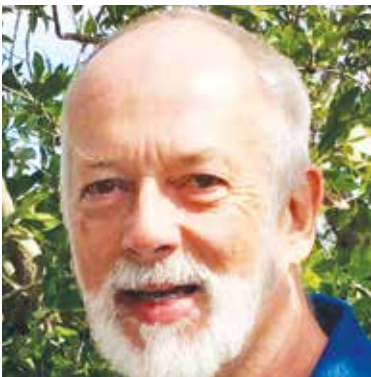


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## COLUMN —

## OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: The Florida Keys are "a musician's paradise"



**By Paul Knowles**

Michael McCloud, a 76-year-old roots singer with an acerbic and often profane sense of humour, was filling the afternoon slot at the Schooner Wharf Bar, one of my favourite hang-outs on the old Key West harbourfront. Michael has performed in Key West for 45 years. A patron asked him to sing McCloud's favourite song. His response? "That's a very bad idea. After performing for decades, musicians have incredibly bad taste in music." But his true feelings emerged through his actual choice, a soulful rendition of "Somewhere over the rainbow".

And that eclectic combination, dark humour mixed with a true sense of hope and optimism, sums up the prevailing attitude in the Florida Keys.

Key West is known as a party town and parties require music. But when you talk to the local musicians, you realize their love for their job goes way beyond the parties or the paycheques... and also, way beyond the boundaries of Key West proper. You will find music and the people

who make it, all the way up the Keys to Key Largo.

Seven years ago, Sheldon Benton came to Key West from his native South Africa. When I talked to him between ballads at the Hog's Breath Saloon, he made it clear that he has found his happy place. "Key West is my home."

Celtic songstress Eim Grace was in Ireland when "Somebody told me about this magical place called Key West... Little did I know it was a musician's paradise!" Grace has been plying her craft as a working musician since she moved to Key West six years ago. Her comments might be dismissed as hyperbole... until you hear them again and again from folks who love their lives as working musicians all over the self-proclaimed "Conch Republic".

Gabriel Wright was doing a spot-on solo version of Aerosmith's "Dream On" in the fabled Captain Tony's bar when I met him. He told me, "I'm originally born and raised in Ohio and have lived and worked in Key West for over 10 years. I have the greatest job ever. I play music and I bring people joy and happiness every day."

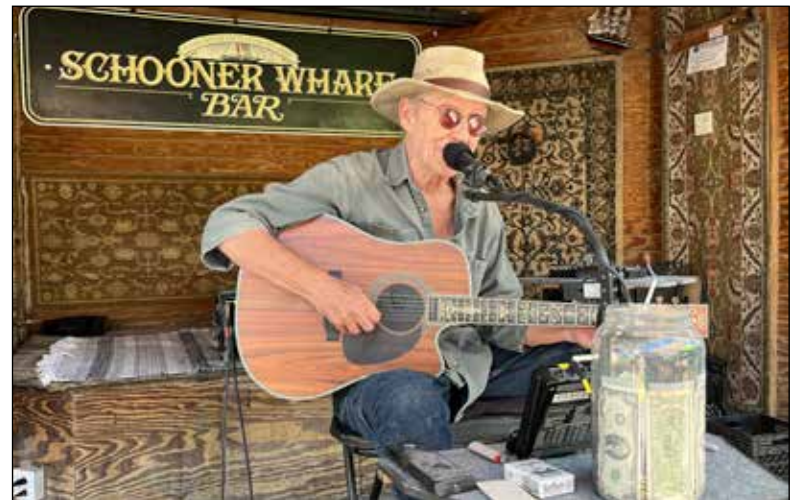
Billy Davidson was born in Syracuse, New York. He's been making music for 50 years but he's been based in Key Largo and Islamorada for most of that time. The Keys, he says, are the ideal landing spots for good musicians. "There are tons and tons of places that do live music." For 33 years he has

played a regular gig at Lorelei Restaurant and Cabana Bar in Islamorada; during Covid, he and his wife, Cindy, also opened the garden of their Key Largo home for weekly garden party concerts which now pack the place. Admission is by donation and guest musicians usually join Billy on the small stage that fronts his studio.

That conviviality among Keys' musicians is undoubtedly one of the reasons they love the musical environment. "I help anybody who comes down here to find gigs" Billy says. "That's really good karma." Asked who he especially enjoys, at the top of Billy's faves is flamenco guitarist Dave Feder, who lives with his Canadian wife, Suzie in their own little bit of paradise on Plantation Key.

Feder not only performs his unique and often improvised masterpieces in person, on international tours, and on social media, he has also founded a non-profit that runs fundraising music festivals. The proceeds supply instruments – to date, by the hundreds – and scholarships to aspiring young musicians from the Keys.

The fundraising concerts operate on an unusual plan – they're free. Donations are welcome but Feder says they raise most of the money through beer sales. That's because of one man – Canadian Craig McBay, owner, with his wife, Cheryl, and brewmaster at the Florida Keys Brewery in Islamorada. McBay not only provides work to many



Long-time Florida Keys entertainer Michael McCloud. (All photos by Paul Knowles)

local musicians at the brewery's popular beer garden, he also donates all the beer to Feder's events, creating a 100% take for the cause.

It's probably surprising that we've come this far in an article about music in the Keys without mentioning the name "Jimmy Buffet". And

Buffet does maintain a large footprint in Key West. He occasionally returns to town to perform and the original Margaritaville is a popular stop on Duval Street. That's where I met the Baha Brothers, a five-man band from Boston that has backed Buffet in concert. They were thrilled to be back in Key West after an absence of four Covid-wracked years. Keyboard player Bill Strojny told me, "It was fantastic to be back playing for an enthusiastic crowd each night." He added, "Playing music isn't about money... it's the pure joy of when a song comes together."

Musicians gotta play music but they all say it only really works when the environment is right. And clearly, the environment is right in the Florida Keys. Gaby Gabriel is another import. He and singer Millie Duran commute from Miami to Sol by the Sea in Key Largo four times a week. He describes their Cuban-influenced style as "the sound of Miami" and he should know, as the man who for 20 years fronted the band at the Fontainebleau in Miami Beach. The current gig "is my retirement" he says with a grin. Why make the commute? "I love it here" he says. He's been making the regular trip since 2017 and has no intention to actually retire. He laughs and with a sweeping gesture toward his congas, the venue, and the audience, he sums it up: "It's great."

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



Veteran Florida Keys singer/songwriter Billy Davidson performs every week in his own backyard, as well as playing local bars and restaurants.



"Miami Sound" performer Gaby Gabriel.



Mustafa is a regular busker at the sundown celebrations at Mallory Square.

**OBITUARY**

*Walker*



**WALKER:** Jean of St. Marys, formerly of Thordale area  
 With thanks to God for a faithful life well-lived, the family of C. Jean Walker announce the passing of their treasured mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and family matriarch. Constance JEAN Walker, formerly of the Thorn-

dale area, and recently of St. Marys, Ontario, passed on June 5, 2023, at the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth, in her 94th year. Jean was the daughter of the late Sydney and Isabel (Betty) Febrey, and the loving wife of W. Howard Walker (2010), married 59 years.

Jean was a very kind, thoughtful and resilient lady who overcame rheumatic fever at a young age, experienced the Depression and WW II, moved to become a farm and rural community woman, and dedicated her life to her family.

Loving and loved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother of Diane and Mike O'Shea and their family: Jamie, Melanie and Blake O'Shea, Jeremy, Belinda, Mallory, Indie and Ripley O'Shea, Shannon, Mark, McKenna, Sheamus and Maclean Ross, Colleen O'Shea and Luc Tremblay; Katherine and Jim Grieve and their family: David, Emily, Keenan, Rohan, Melayna and Rayelle Grieve, Lesley Grieve and Jason Rooney, Laurel and James Winger, Bronwen Grieve and Will Langer, Keely, Fady and Eden Rofail, Sheena, Josh, Henry, Cecilia, and Adeline Jongerden, Iain Grieve; Steven and Jane Walker and their family: Ben, Jeff Walker and Danielle Fehr and Clark Walker; Melanie and Vern Thomson and their family: Aubrey, Mikayla, Brinsley and Lydia Thomson, Neil and Emily Thomson; Robert and Marilyn Walker and their family: Jennifer and Bria Walker; Tim and Teresa Walker and their family: Kate, Mackenzie and Reese Connell, Matt and Lynsey Walker, and Lindsay Walker. Jean is fondly remembered by brother Paul and his wife, Barbara. Predeceased by brother Jack and his wife, Edna, Walker brothers and sisters-in-law, Truman and Grace, Clarence and Winnie, and Verna and Jim Sewers.

Visitation will be held at Haskett Funeral Home, 223 Main Street, LUCAN on Wednesday, June 7th from 2 – 4 and 6 – 8 PM. Registration is appreciated. To register, please click "Register Now" below.

Jean's funeral service will be held at St. George's-on-the-Wye Anglican Church, 172 King Street, THORNDALE on Thursday, June 8th at 11 AM. Interment Medway Cemetery, Middlesex Centre.

Memorial donations may be made to Thames Valley Education Foundation, Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth, or The Kidney Foundation of Canada.

**OBITUARY**

*Bieber*

It is with great sadness, that we as a family announce the passing of Gord Bieber Jr. on June 1, 2023 at Victoria Hospital.

After a long illness and a courageous battle, Gord is at peace.

**Love you always,  
 Your family.**

**IN MEMORIAM**



**In loving memory of my dear sister, aunt, friend and neighbour, Marjorie Hornby who sadly passed away June 15, 2022**

*The world changes*

*From year to year*

*Our lives from day to day*

*But the love and memory of you*

*Shall never pass away.*

**Forever remembered by brother John and family.**

**IN MEMORIAM**

*Mountain*



In memory of John Mountain  
 February 20, 1956 -  
 June 18, 2018.

*Thanks for everything we did*

*Everything that's past*

*Everything that's over too fast*

*None of it was wasted*

*All of it will last*

*Everything that's here and now and us together!*

**Forever in our hearts.**

**OBITUARY**

*Forman*



Maureen Forman passed away at Kingsway Lodge on June 8, 2023 in her 102nd year.

Wife of the late Lloyd (1991). Mother of Clare (Marlene), John (deceased, 2021), Randy (Linda) and Lyn (Karen) and Sylvia Blackler (Dave).

Also survived by 14 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and 8 great-great-grandchildren. Remembered by many nieces, nephews, and extended family members. Predeceased by her parents Jack and Minnie Aicken, siblings Tom and Ruth Aicken, Roberta and Lorne Atwell, John deceased and his surviving wife and Joan Aicken, Bill and Myrna Aicken, Dennis and Donna Aicken, Bob Aicken, Marg and Bruce Knowlton, Jim deceased and his surviving wife Ev Aicken.

The Funeral Service was conducted at the St. Marys United Church on Monday, June 12, 2023. Interment in St. Marys Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation. Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca). Maureen's family wish to sincerely thank everyone for their expressions of sympathies, the staff at Kingsway Lodge for their wonderful care, Gary Mallalieu for officiating the funeral service and the Hodges Funeral Home.

**OBITUARY**

*Lavolette*

Daniel Roland Lavolette passed away on June 2, 2023 in London, at the age of 62. Son of Jeremie Lavolette deceased 2005 and survived by his mother Thérèse (nee Barbeau). Father of Vinson, Daniel and survived by six grandchildren. Brother of Celine Lavolette deceased 2021 (Roy Maynard), Madeleine Hicks (Douglas), Claude Andre Lavolette (Cindy), Steve Lavolette deceased 2013, Jeannine MacDonald (Rod), Gerald Lavolette deceased 2022, Michel Lavolette (Michelle), Cecile Lavolette, and Richard Lavolette deceased 2021. Also remembered by many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. Cremation has taken place.

A private family interment was held in St. Marys Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Ontario Heart & Stroke Foundation. Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

**IN MEMORIAM**

*Lang*

**In loving memory of Dan Lang**

*Gone are the days we used to share  
 But in our hearts you are always there*

*Remembering the years we spent together*

*With memories we will treasure forever.*

**Love you forever - Sam, Erin, Jesse and family**

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**COLUMN —**

# Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

Our next After Hours @ the Library: Make and Take is quickly approaching! Join us at 8:00pm on Wednesday, June 28th for Diamond Painting. Enjoy company and refreshments while you create a beautiful piece of art. This is an 18+ event and there is a recommended donation of \$20. To sign up for this event, please visit the following link and select "After Hours @ the Library: Diamond Painting Make and Take": <https://tinyurl.com/SM-PL-Bookings>

**This Week's Recommendation**

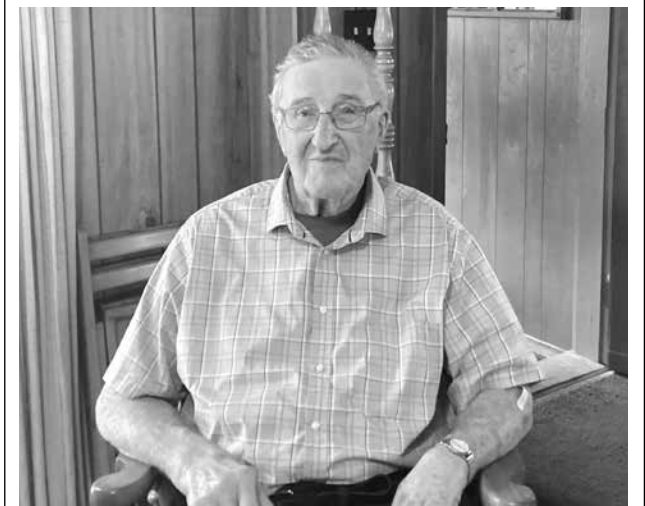
Do you have what it takes to be the "Diamond of the Season"? If you're a fan of Netflix's "Bridgerton", you'll know exactly what I mean. Even if you've never seen the show, the book series the

show is based on is well worth a read. Starting with "The Duke and I", Julia Quinn's novels of romance, friendship, and Regency-era intrigue will have you flipping pages and longing for more. Visit our on-line catalogue to browse the series today!

**Up This Week**

- Friday, Jun. 16th: Open 10:30am-5:00pm
- Saturday, Jun. 17th: Learn to Play D&D (10:30am), Game Day (1:00pm-4:00pm)
- Monday, Jun. 19th: Mahjong Intro (6:00pm-6:30pm), Mahjong! (6:30pm-8:00pm)
- Tuesday, Jun. 20th: Crafternoon (2:00pm-4:00pm), Makerspace Demo Day (2:00pm-4:00pm and 6:00pm-8:00pm), Crafterdark (7:00pm-9:00pm)
- Wednesday, Jun. 21st: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30am), Mahjong Intro (1:00pm-2:00pm), Mahjong! (2:00pm-4:00pm), Scrabble (6:00pm-8:00pm)
- Thursday, Jun. 22nd: Open 10:30am-8:00pm

## CELEBRATION



**Happy 90th Birthday Bill McKay**  
 Please come out to celebrate on Saturday June 17 from 1pm-4pm at #922957 Rd 92 Medina for cake and a visit

## CELEBRATION

### Happy 60th Anniversary



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 Each day just feels so different,  
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 Each day we always question,  
 we often wonder why?  
 You had to go away from us,  
 Our Angel in the sky.  
 We keep you in our memories,  
 since we've been apart,  
 We will always have a part of you  
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# LOOKING BACK



By AMY CUBBERLEY

## Explaining the siren

**25 years ago (1998)**  
 Grade 3 Central School student Laura Layland's artwork was chosen to adorn the cover of a CD and tape currently in production and expected to be available next week. The CD includes 19 songs from the Central School students performed at this year's Kiwanis Music Festival.

Alan Slater, an RR2 St. Marys resident, received a prestigious award from the Chemical Manufacturers Association last week. Slater, 56, has taught science at Stratford Central School for the past 30 years.

As part of several Avon Maitland District School Board transfers and appointments, Ron Aitken, currently principal at Downie Central Public School, will be the new principal at Arthur Meighen Public School in September.

St. Marys Kinette Kelly Wiffen won the Phyllis Spearin annual award for her dedication and work she has done for the club this year.

**50 years ago (1973)**  
 Petty vandalism continues to plague local parks. Over the past weekend, the drinking spout was smashed from a Cadzow fountain, rocks were thrown into the swimming pool, and other senseless damage was carried out.

Dawn Blackler returned home from the Far East this past week and is spending a few days with her mother, Mrs. Maurice Blacker, in Blanshard Township. On her way home from Hong Kong, she spent several months in India.

The fire siren "whoop" Tuesday afternoon was simply a test to make sure the system worked properly before final plastering was carried out in the new Town Hall quarters for the Clerk and Deputy Clerk.

Stan Culbert of Cascade Cleaners is hoping to retrieve his rototiller which someone borrowed last year. Stan would like it returned so that he can loan it out again.

**75 years ago (1948)**  
 The foundations are being laid for Nelson Bonis' new warehouse and service station at the corner of Peel and Queen Streets.

Engineers making a survey of the Wildwood dam site for the Upper Thames River Valley Authority have been casting about the past week in quest for a supply of an impervious type of clay, which might be used to face the inside of the earthen dykes which will form seventy-five percent of the main dam when built. This clay would be used to stop water seepage and ten thousand cubic yards would be required. It is desired that such clay be secured within a short haulage distance of the dam site.

Shirley Cull, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Cull, St. Marys, has been chosen by the Girl Guides Association to represent Canada at the Empire Ranger week in Bermuda in July. Shirley is one of two Canadians Rangers who will spend two weeks in Bermuda as guests of the Rangers there. She is a final year student at St. Marys Collegiate Institute.

**100 years ago (1923)**  
 McCully's Hill east of town is in a well-nigh impassible condition owing to the operation of the Provincial highway steam excavator. The bank on the north side has been widened some twenty feet and the earth used to widen the road nearer the bridge.

Dr. W.H. Taylor of Toronto comes to town in a week or two and takes over the practice of the late Dr. Knox and will occupy his office. Dr. Taylor is a married man who has been practicing for the past two years in the city of Toronto.

Mr. Wm. Andrews and his daughters, Minnie and Agnes, left on Tuesday by train for Port McNichol where they will take a boat for Port Arthur, where they will take the train to Edmonton and other points West on a few months' trip.

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3	9	8	5	7	6	4	2	1
1	6	4	3	2	8	5	9	7
8	2	1	7	6	5	3	4	9
6	3	9	8	4	2	1	7	5
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- 2) Rhode Island    7) Cool Hand Luke.
- 3) A type of red wine      8) Amelia Earhart
- 4) 10 feet / 3.02 meters      9) John Lennon
- 5) Snow White      10) Hippopotamus
- 6) Ginger

**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, June 16**

- CBHOF celebrity golf tournament at the St. Marys Golf & Country Club - 9 am registration
- St. Marys Cement community liaison committee meeting - 10 am. Watch the live meeting online, see St. Marys Events Calendar for the link
- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog/sausage lunch at Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 pm

**Saturday, June 17**

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 am to Noon
- River Valley Hope for Haiti golf tourney
- CBHOF Induction ceremony at the Hall of Fame - See Page 8 for a list of times & events
- BBQ at 125 Millson in support of Alexandra Stephens - Noon to ?
- Bill McKay 90th birthday open house at #922957, Rd 92, Medina 1 to 4 pm
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm
- Harmony of Friends concert at the Legion - 7:30 pm, Tickets \$20 each

**Sunday, June 18**

- Father's Day
- Rotary Club Brews & Food Fest at the Hall of Fame (JMRD field). Noon to 6 pm

**Monday, June 19**

- Community Dinner at the St. Marys United Church - 5 pm, Sponsored by the United Church Women. Admission is free but donations are greatly appreciated
- St. Marys Horticultural Society Rose & Flower show and open meeting at the Legion hall - 7 pm

**Wednesday, June 21**

- Villages United Church Beef & Strawberry Supper at the Granton park pavilion - 4:30 - 7 pm



Villages United Church of Canada

**Beef and Strawberry Supper**

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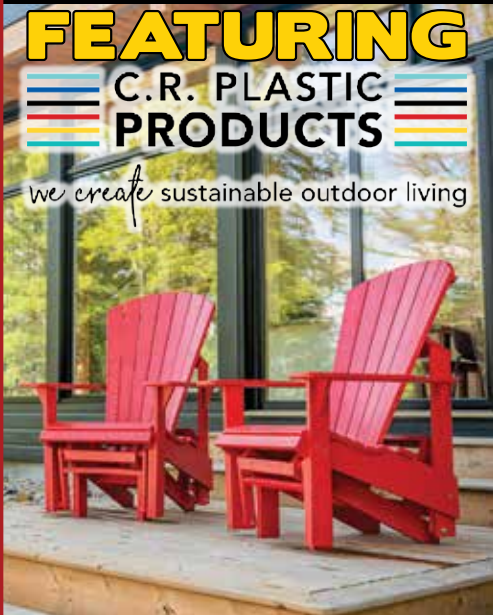
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