

# St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1164

Thursday, June 22, 2023

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## Busy weekend at Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame



The Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum inducted six deserving candidates last weekend, including four members of the 2023 Class as well as two members from the 2020 Class. Pictured from left to right are Rich Harden, John Olerud, Jacques Doucet, Denis Boucher, Joe Wiwchar, and Jesse Barfield. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)



The Rotary "Brews and Food Fest" on Sunday, June 18th was a big success with beautiful weather, tasty food truck choices and delicious craft beverages. Pictured above enjoying the day are David Standeven, Jeff Jones, Rob McIntosh, Jaden Ropp, and Mark Ross. (Stewart Grant photo)

## Perth South Council Appoints new CAO

Mayor Jim Aitcheson and the Council of Perth South are pleased to announce the appointment of Fred Tranquilli as Chief Administrative Officer and Deputy Clerk. Tranquilli comes to Perth South from Strathroy-Caradoc where he served as that community's CAO and Clerk for nearly five years. Tranquilli is a graduate of Western University's Faculty of Law.

He was selected from a highly competitive pool of candidates and brings to Perth South extensive and varied municipal government experience and a proven track record of success.

"Having a CAO with Fred's background and experience is a wonderful step forward for Perth South as we continue to manage pressures related to growth and longer-term planning," said Mayor Aitcheson.

"I am thrilled to be joining Perth South!" said Tranquilli, adding " I look forward to working with the strong staff team and Council as we meet the challenges ahead serving the community."

The position became available when Council agreed with current CAO and Treasurer Rebecca Clothier who recommended the two roles be separated. The Council agreed with Clothier that economic growth and regulatory change had made the combination of CAO and Treasurer in a single position increasingly difficult to perform at the accustomed high standard.

"I am excited to be working collaboratively with Fred Tranquilli, leveraging our collective experience and expertise to support the continued growth and success of Perth South." said Rebecca Clothier.

Clothier will continue to serve the community as Deputy CAO and Treasurer.

Tranquilli's appointment becomes effective July 4, 2023.

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# COMMUNITY —

## Help needed to identify thief in St. Marys

On Tuesday, May 23, 2023 the Stratford Police Service was contacted regarding a Shoplifting incident that occurred at the Canadian Tire, located in the Town of St. Marys shortly after 3:00 p.m. that day.

The suspect involved in this matter is described as a white male, approximately 5'7" in height with a slim build. The male has long dark brown hair pulled back into a ponytail and a goatee. At the time of the offence, the male was wearing black jogging pants, a white t-shirt, flip flops, and white socks.

The male had selected several

items with a total value of approximately \$2,000 and left the store without making any attempt to pay. He was last seen fleeing the area in an older model blue Honda Civic.

To this point, attempts to identify the male have been unsuccessful. Photos of the suspect male have been attached to this release and the Stratford Police Service is asking for anyone with information as to the identity of the male to please contact them at 519-271-4141. If you have information and wish to remain anonymous please contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS, or submit a tip online at [www.p3tips.com](http://www.p3tips.com)



## St. Marys Museum offering Heritage Kayak Tours

Due to popular demand, the Museum is offering heritage kayak tours again this summer!

Date and time: July 7 at 2:00 p.m., approximately 75 minutes long.

Included: All the required gear (kayak, paddles, PFD, safety kit) and

a guided tour of the heritage features along the Thames River and Trout Creek, led by Museum staff/volunteers.

Pre-registration: Required as space is limited. Call the St. Marys Museum at 519-284-3556.

Fee: \$15 per person, payable by cash.

Note: This is not a learn to paddle program. First time paddlers are

strongly encouraged to book a Yak Shack kayak for free to try out paddling before registering for a tour.

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## COMMENTARY —

# It was a successful Hall of Fame weekend, but was it a home run?

By Stewart Grant

Kevin Glew, founder of Cooperstowners in Canada and Editor of the Canadian Baseball Network, tweeted on the weekend, "Every year, I encourage people to go to the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame induction in St. Marys, Ont. It's free to attend. You can buy a hamburger, a bag of chips and a pop for \$10. And there are magical scenes like this:"



John Olerud and Jesse Barfield, pictured here, are two of the all-time greats of the Toronto Blue Jays. For people my generation, we grew up idolizing these players and cheered them to many AL East titles, and even a couple of World Series victories for Olerud.

Today, the Blue Jays average more than 30,000 fans for each of their 81 home games, where people fight traffic and pay high prices (tickets, parking, food, and drink) to see the players play on the field. In contrast, here in St. Marys on Induction Day, there's an opportunity to see legendary players of the past at almost no charge, and to interact with them up close. You might even sit next to Fergie Jenkins at Joe's Diner!

Scott Crawford told the Independent that this year's event was a success, with 1,000 to 1,200 in attendance, of which about 80% came from out of town. The tent was full, and it was a beautiful day.

These numbers are decent, but in comparison, Tavistock's crokinole tournament had nearly 600 competitors this year, and Wellesley's Apple Butter and Cheese festival this September will have more than 30,000 in attendance. Crokinole's great, but it's not exactly a major sport like baseball. And to be honest, I only recently discovered what "apple butter" is.

With baseball being such a popular sport in this country, shouldn't there be more people attending the Hall of Fame's signature event in beautiful St. Marys?

## Bravo

We have two Bravos this week.

1) Bravos to all the Inductees at the Hall of Fame on the weekend with a special Bravo going to Fergie Jenkins who shows up here every year.

2) When St. Marys redesigns Milt Dunnell Field, it should take into consideration that people travel many miles to see public art that often defines the culture and history of a place. A major work of art, that honours the "Stonemen of Stonetown" could be included in the designs and not excluded. Beautiful public monuments in all parts of the world are always photographed, and shared in all types of media. This is a great promotion for local businesses.

## Boo

We have two Boos this week.

1) I live on Ontario Street North, and people travelling up and down this street should realize there is a stop sign at the top. This street has a lot of children playing in this area and this street should not be used as the Indianapolis 500. People need to slow down.

2) As a US visitor, St. Marys does not have many places for tourists to stay. Staying 15, 20 or minutes away does not work. The Town is losing money. Also, why does the Hall of Fame not have some sort of parade or procession through the Town for the Inductees to make it a more community oriented event.

\*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

*"This is a great honour. This is a long time coming. I honestly never thought I was going to get in. I was very shocked that I got the call as I had already made peace with the fact that I wasn't going to get in. But when Scott [Crawford] called and told me that I was in, I was just shocked."*

- Jesse Barfield, during his Induction acceptance.

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## The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS  
OF THE WEEK

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Nothing makes me want to donate to a Pride organization more than an anti-Pride letter.

So how much does Fergie Jenkins weigh?

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

# COMMUNITY —

## Enjoy your retirement Rev. Gwen Ament!



The St. Marys Presbyterian Church recently held a lunch and open house to acknowledge Rev. Gwen Ament's retirement and to celebrate 13 years of faithful service in the church. Rev. Gwen has worked in the community in many ways and the church would like to give thanks to her contributions to the church and community. Best wishes from all your friends. Rev. Gwen (pictured far right) will officially retire on July 31, 2023. (Contributed photo)

# 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

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

### SUMMER CAMP PRC

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



### 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 Diane Furtney who will be celebrating her 80th birthday on Saturday June 24. Born in London, Diane has 3 kids, 5 grandkids and Mika the dog. Diane loves quilting spending time with family and her favourite child Mika.  
Happy Birthday Diane!

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

## COMMUNITY —

# Arts and culture take centre stage at Stonetown Heritage Festival

There will be many opportunities to get creative and get in touch with local history at this year's Heritage Festival, happening July 14 to 16, 2023.

"The cornerstone of creativity takes place on the Riverview Walkway with our new Art Walk, featuring the talents of local artists from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., on Saturday," says Town of St. Marys Events Coordinator Alanna Bowes.

There will also be a display of heritage-themed photos from local photographers. Please submit your original photo to [abowes@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:abowes@town.stmarys.on.ca) no later than this Thursday, June 22.

The recently restored Riverwalk Commons building (84 Water St. S.) is open for discovery and as a cooling station from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. Architecture aficionados can also check out 14 Church St. N (formerly the Mercury Theatre) from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Attendees can explore parts of the building and share memories of the building with museum and heritage volunteers.

Those curious about local heritage can participate in a walking tour or a bus tour. Walking tours depart from Town Hall at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Bus tours leave on the hour, between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., from Town Hall. Both tours will last 45 minutes and are free, but advance registration

is strongly recommended by calling the St. Marys Museum at 519-284-3556.

Opportunities for arts, culture and history abound during the downtown street fair on Saturday. The St. Marys Community Players will entertain at the performance space at the intersection of Queen and Wellington streets at 2:00 p.m., and children can participate in activities from The Museum of Ontario Archaeology and the St. Marys Museum. All ages can enjoy the first-ever outdoor children's art gallery at Paint and Palette on Water St. S.

Just east of the downtown fun, the St. Marys Station Gallery hosts Northern Journey, an exhibition by multimedia artist Lionel Venne. The exhibit opens on Friday, July 14 with a "Meet the Artist" reception on Saturday, July 15 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

On Sunday, July 16, culture and the arts take on a green thumb with the return of the St. Marys Horticultural Society's Garden Fair from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Tour maps will be sold for \$10 at Town Hall on July 16 from 12:45 to 3:00 p.m. Contact the Horticultural Society ([stmarys.horticulture@gmail.com](mailto:stmarys.horticulture@gmail.com)) for more details.

The full festival schedule is available at [www.discoverstmarys.ca/festival](http://www.discoverstmarys.ca/festival).



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## Weekend Quiz

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- 1) Which is the only letter in Scrabble to have a value of five points?
- 2) Which is the first book of the Bible alphabetically?
- 3) Which English author created the priest-detective 'Father Brown'?
- 4) In which sport could you win the Davis Cup?
- 5) "I think I'm gonna be sad, I think it's today..." These are the opening lyrics to which 1965 hit?
- 6) When referring to a cash machine, what does 'ATM' stand for?
- 7) In which US city was the sitcom 'Frasier' set?
- 8) Name all of Disney's 'Seven Dwarfs'.
- 9) Which is the capital city of the United Arab Emirates?
- 10) What was the full name given on Marilyn Monroe's birth certificate?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

## THORNDALE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

233 King Street, Thorndale

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Sunday July 9 1-3 pm



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### 2023 Summer Camp Registration

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**COMMUNITY —**

# HPPH launches Check What We Inspect webpage



On Wednesday June 14, Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) launched Check What We Inspect, a webpage that provides health inspection reports of local food premises. These include restaurants, mobile food trucks, catering premises, grocery stores and rental halls. All food premises will be required to display the Check What We Inspect signage at the entrance to the premises.

“Disclosing inspection results online allows the public to access inspection reports more readily,” says Lori Holmes, Public Health Manager. “When supporting local businesses, look for Check What We Inspect signage at the entrance to know that the premises is inspected.”

The Check What We Inspect webpage can be accessed at [www.hpph.ca/check](http://www.hpph.ca/check). The public will be able to view a small portion of each inspection report, including the date of inspection and any infractions observed. Inspection reports from January 1, 2023 onward are gradually being added to the

webpage.

Leading up to the launch, inspection staff have been working closely with food premises operators by providing written updates, conducting a survey, and hand delivering an information package and signage.

HPPH is moving inspection reports online in phases. All other premises inspected by HPPH, including recreational water facilities (pools and spas), small drinking water systems, personal service settings (tattoo shops, hair salons) and childcare facilities, as well as infection prevention and control investigations and lapses, will be added to the webpage in the future.

Check What We Inspect enhances the existing disclosure program at HPPH. Beach water quality and convictions of tobacco and vaping product retailers are already available on the HPPH website. The public has always been able to access any public health inspection report by contacting the health unit and requesting a copy.

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## COMMUNITY —

# Community Conversations

## Her Collab Co: Where Innovative Ideas Are Born



By Kate Orland Bere

When entrepreneur Natasha Bell first stood in the centre of the commercial rental building at 6 Water Street, she understood that the magical space new owner Tracy Pritchard had created represented the ideal setting for her dream of opening a collaborative entrepreneurial work space for women – an innovative hub for the women of Perth and well beyond. And in March of 2022, Natasha Bell's inspiring vision of women sharing a work space to virtually build their enterprises and/or to nurture their careers, gathering at times for dynamic business conversations and presentations – that dreamed space did indeed open as Her Collab Co. If you have not yet connected with the space, consider doing so. Within her first year at the helm of the business, Natasha hosted 30 events in the space, creating a network of female entrepreneurs intricately connecting their enterprises even as they learned from one another, leaned into one another – female entrepreneurs intentionally choosing to grow with one another.

Natasha discovered the bones of her dream in that first visit to the space, a dream she had already found in larger cities of the world she had lived with her family, there in that 800 square foot space in St. Marys on Water Street not 30 minutes from where she grew up. With lofty ceilings, partial stone walls, polished concrete floor, a lovely, large, arched front window facing onto Water Street – and now after renovations, with a small meeting room that is possible also to use for Podcast recordings, a kitchenette – with a backdoor opening onto the Thames...this miraculous space speaks volumes about the engaging conversations that are now possible there. In balmy weather, with the backdoor open, the space invites a breeze flowing through the space along with the spectacular natural light.

Inspiring!

If you are a woman who creates – who works and needs a space to call yours during daytime M-F 9 a.m. -5 p.m. hours that is impossible to provide within your own home, and where you are connected to a community of growing female businesswomen – this is a unique space to utilize to grow. Membership also gives you the ability to rent the facilities after daytime hours or on weekends at a reduced price, if you have classes or workshops or team meetings, or perhaps any one-off event you want to host. If you are creating a Podcast, this is the space in which you can grow that creative project – and also with support. Natasha herself has created a successful Podcast – Thrive With Me. If you want to know more on how it all works, membership or rental/use of the space, contact Natasha to arrange to see the space and discuss your potential needs.

Guys – please know that Her Collab Co is not off-bounds for men to attend events that are created for women and men. More: both genders can rent the space and the space can be rented by both members and non-members. During daytime M-F hours, it is a women-only, members-only shared work space except for an odd booked event. But for after-hour rentals, evening or weekends, the space can be rented to offer events that are open to both or either gender.

Why not attend a summer open house at Her Collab Co to be held during the St. Marys Heritage Festival: Saturday July 15th from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.? Drop by – hang out in the space. Get a feel for what it would be like to work in this idyllic environment, or to offer a workshop or a class there – discover this space.

What could you grow or initiate there?

Last week, I attended a Female Founder Spotlight event at Her Collab Co and was delighted with the engaging discussion that ensued. Sue Hyatt-Griffiths of Stone Home Creatives told the inspiring story of her successful career as an entrepreneur over the past 2 decades in St. Marys. Truly hers was an inspiring tale of innovation and hard work that brought Sue to where she is today. Check out Sue Hyatt-Griffiths enterprise @ 158 Queen St. in St Marys, Stone Home Creatives.

Female Founder Spotlight nights are held the first Wednesday of each month, although note in September



it will be my turn for Odyssey Indigo, my venture launch: please note that FF Spotlight will be held that month on the 13th of September, the second Wednesday, for just that one month. Anyone willing to purchase tickets may come to hear a local female entrepreneur present or speak about her venture – how it began and succeeded – or to present the business she is launching. Tickets are provided for members with their membership. Female Founder Spotlight nights are for women only.

To attend events, including the FF Spotlight held on 13th September

[now the next one being held], you can purchase tickets here: <https://bit.ly/herlollabcoEVENTS>

Drop in to see Her Collab Co on Saturday, the 15th July during the St. Marys Heritage Festival. Bring your friends – bring your significant other! Check it out.

Natasha Bell: [www.hercollabco.com](http://www.hercollabco.com)

Thrive with Me [Podcast]:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/thrive-with-me-female-entrepreneur-momprenneur-health/id1674905926>

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## COMMUNITY —

# Firefighter Curtis Downham named Firefighter of the Month for June

This June the St. Marys Fire Department is pleased to announce Curtis Downham as "Firefighter of the Month".

"Firefighter Curtis Downham was selected as Firefighter of the Month due to his high level of technical competence and developing a strong camaraderie among the team members," expressed Fire Chief Richard "Andy" Anderson. "He displays an exceptional ability to learn new methods and shares his experience with his peers."

Downham joined the St. Marys Fire Department as a firefighter in 2018. Prior to joining he had obtained his National Fire Protection Association "NFPA" Firefighter Level I and II certificates through the Lambton College Pre-Service Firefighter Program. He also graduated from Lambton's Fire Science Technology Program receiving an Advanced Diploma. Since then, he has acquired his Technical Rescuer, Pumper Operations, Hazardous Material Operations, Advanced Auto Extrication, and Ice Water Rescue Awareness certificates.

Downham has been an integral part of the low slope rescue operations team. With his working knowledge of rope rescue he can perform basic rope rescue tasks, identify specific equipment, proper inspection and maintenance procedures, and victim management.

"You always have to be prepared to drop what you're doing at any moment of the day when the pager goes off", said Downham. "That's why our training is so important for all aspects of the job. You need to know how to get the job done quickly and efficiently in the middle of the night without thinking twice."

Downham was born and raised in Stratford where he attended Hamlet Public School and Stratford Central Secondary School. He realized towards the end of high school, when deciding on a career path, that his main priority was to be able to help people. "I chose to pursue a career in firefighting because I knew I would be able to help people and have a sense of purpose and fulfillment at the end of the day." Says Curtis, "In my five years of firefighting I have had countless opportunities to use my skills to help several members of the community."

One of his favourite memories since joining the department is his first real fire call. "It was a brush fire, and I was full of adrenaline gearing up to knock down a giant fire," said Downham. "When we arrived on scene, I was handed a fire broom by a senior firefighter and told to start knocking it down. It wasn't what I imagined as my first fire fight, but I was happy to help and get the fire under control."

When asked what some significant changes he had seen over the last five years he said, "There have been many significant changes in a relatively short amount of time including the new firehall, aerial ladder truck, numerous rescue tools and equipment and a new pumper."

Off duty, Downham devotes his time to his wife Jenny, his two children, Zac, and Maeve. Curtis is employed at Ruby360 as an electrician.

Curtis is the first in his family to become a firefighter and is confident he will not be the last. "Having two children of my own and being integrated into the St. Marys Firefighting family, will no doubt play a significant role in their lives." He proudly states, "I can barely drive by the fire hall without Zac wanting to go see the trucks and sit behind the wheel of



Firefighter Curtis Downham named Firefighter of the Month for June.

one of the big rigs. Maybe one day, I'll get to guide them through the process of becoming a firefighter."

"Downham is consistent, dependable and accurate in carrying out responsibilities to a successful conclusion," said Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Edwards. "He continues to strengthen and refine his professional effectiveness through educational and professional improvement programs."

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# COMMUNITY —

## AllWheelsPark donation of the week



A hearty All Wheels thank you to our "scooter friends" at Action Healthcare for their donation to the Rotary All Wheels Park here in St. Marys. Please visit our website to see the complete list of donors and support the project. All donations over \$20 receive a tax receipt! [www.townofstmarys.com/allwheelspark](http://www.townofstmarys.com/allwheelspark). Pictured from right to left. Mike Ford, Korey Graham, Deb Parker, Kate Hoornaert, Nelson Graham. (Contributed photo)

## Armstrong Paving sponsors music at Stonetown Heritage Festival



Thank you, Armstrong Paving and Materials Group Ltd., for providing a \$2,500 sponsorship to the Milt Dunnell Field Music at Stonetown Heritage Festival. The music concert will take place on Saturday, July 15 at Milt Dunnell Field from 5:00 pm until dusk. Pictured: (back row left to right) Jay Armstrong, President; James Armstrong, Paving Superintendent with Bentley Armstrong, Future Owner; Abe Sivalingam, Project Superintendent. (Front row left to right) Morgan Maddock, Admin, Sales with Matilda Armstrong, Future Owner; Jessica Armstrong, Shareholder; Liz Armstrong, Vice President. (Contributed photo)

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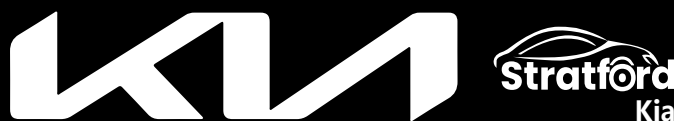


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# COMMUNITY —

## Optimist Club of Downie contributes to SMHF



On Saturday June the 10th, 2023 the Optimist Club of Downie held a Smoked Pork Chop Drive Thru Dinner. The purpose of this meal was to contribute to the club's commitment of \$25,000 dollars for upgrades to St. Marys Hospital through the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation. Last Wednesday gave them the opportunity to make a first installment of \$8,100. They are looking forward to holding more drive thru dinners to benefit a great cause in a great town. Pictured above, from left, Manny Puetz (Treasurer) and Jeff Rolston (President) who donated the \$8,100 of proceeds from the Optimist Club of Downie Drive Thru Meal to Cindy Bilyea (Board Chair) St. Marys Healthcare Foundation. (Contributed photo)



**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.

| [www.hpha.ca](http://www.hpha.ca)

### NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS TO DESTROY WEEDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all persons in possession of land within the municipalities of the County of Perth that:

In accordance with the WEED CONTROL ACT, R.S.O., 1990, Chapter W.5, Sections 3, 13, 16 and 23 and the respective property standards bylaw of each municipality, you are requested to destroy all noxious weeds on your property by June 17, 2023 and throughout the season.

The co-operation of all citizens is earnestly solicited.

*Marvin Smith, Weed Inspector*

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## SPORTS —

# Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Weekend a memorable occasion

By Spencer Seymour

The Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum took centre stage last weekend as six greats took their rightful place amongst all-time Canadian baseball legends.

This year's Induction Weekend saw six inductees honoured, including the 2023 Class of Jesse Barfield, Denis Boucher, Rich Harden, and Joe Wiwchar, along with John Olerud and Jacques Doucet who were elected in 2020 but hadn't yet been able to attend the ceremony.

## Beloved Barfield entertains in headline spot

The reception for Jesse Barfield proved that the only thing more widely-agreed-upon than the product of Joliet, Illinois, having one of the best throwing arms in Major League Baseball (MLB) history is the fact that he is one of the most beloved players in Canadian baseball history, thanks in no small part to his infectious charisma and delightful personality, both of which were on display all weekend.

During the press conference before the formal induction ceremony and his speech, Barfield expressed what the induction meant to him.

"This is a great honour," said an appreciative Barfield. "This is a long time coming. I honestly never thought I was going to get in. I was very shocked that I got the call as I had already made peace with the fact that I wasn't going to get in. But when Scott [Crawford] called and told me that I was in, I was just shocked."

"There is a lot of talent and a lot of great baseball minds on these walls," Barfield remarked as he looked around the Museum's room covered with the plaques of its inductees. "To be included with these people is pretty surreal. It's awesome and this is something I will cherish for the rest of my life."

Barfield talked to the Independent about what the game of baseball has done for him on a personal level and, ever the eloquent communicator, he said it has allowed him to make his



"Christmas card list longer and longer every year."

"You meet some tremendous people. I've been able to go to South America, Japan, and of course, Canada. It's great because those guys mean a lot to me. I've been to their weddings and their kids' weddings and they have become family. Baseball has afforded me a great life and I'm very grateful for the guys who came before me and allowed me to have this experience in life."

During his speech, Barfield explained how he was a teenager dreaming of suiting up for a major league game at Comiskey Park in Chicago, a dream that later came true when he put on the powder blue Blue Jays' sweater for the first time. Barfield added that he was so excited to debut for Toronto at his childhood ballpark that he didn't mind the makeshift nature of his jersey.

"For me, it all started when I was 13 years old sitting in the upper deck at Comiskey Park and I told my buddies 'one day, I'm going to be playing right out there.' And then, years later, my first major league game was in that very ballpark. The Blue Jays got in late from Texas the night before so they didn't have a chance to sew the number 29 on the back of my jersey so they stapled it on. I couldn't have cared less."

## Boucher calls pro ball career 'a great life'

Denis Boucher told the Independent that the career path he took was an incredible way to make a living.

"You go through a lot of adversity in baseball and I think it's a great learning process playing this game," Boucher explained. "You go through pretty much every situation that you could go through that will allow you to grow and become a better person. It's a great life being a pro ball player and being part of a team and gives you a lot of great life lessons."

The Montreal-born pitcher also commented on the special nature of the weekend.

"It's a great weekend and just a great feeling to be here and to get inducted. It's something you don't really dream about, it's not what you set out to accomplish when you start playing but when this honour comes, it's incredible and frankly overwhelming."

"I'm very grateful and very honoured to be inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and be a part of the 2023 class," Boucher added during his speech. "And to the great game of baseball, thank you for the lifetime of memories and the lifelong friendships."

On September 6th, 1993, Boucher de-

buted for his hometown Montreal Expos in a history-making game. With Boucher on the mound, Joe Siddall as the catcher, and Larry Walker in right field, the game marked the first time in history that three Canadians started for a single team. Boucher also became the first Canadian to play for both the Blue Jays and the Expos.

His time with Montreal also allowed Boucher to meet and befriend fellow inductee Jacques Doucet, who Boucher talked about listening to as a young Expos fan.

"Jacques had such a great voice and made such an impact on me at an early age. Listening to the guy calling your favourite team as a kid and now, all these years later, after getting to know Jacques during my career and becoming friends with him, to go into the Hall of Fame with him, it's a really great feeling."

## Harden: 'Never too late to do what you want to do'

It wasn't just Boucher whose induction had an added layer of sentimentality with it taking place at the same ceremony as someone who influenced him as a kid. Rich Harden stated a similar feeling about the class he was a part of, saying he was "honoured and humbled" to be entering the Hall of Fame with the people he was inducted with.

"Obviously, it's a huge honour to be going into the Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame never crossed my mind when I was a kid. I was so fortunate just to play in the major leagues and to now go in with the people I'm going in with, someone like John Olerud, who I grew up watching and modelled my swing after him, it's really crazy to be a part of it."

"Standing on this stage next to Fergie [Jenkins] and having him present me with my Hall of Fame jacket is crazy and incredible. I'm thankful to share this day with the other inductees and I thank Scott Crawford and the Hall of Fame for honouring me and their work at preserving the baseball history in Canada."

Continued on page 13

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## SPORTS —

# Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Weekend a memorable occasion

Continued from page 12

Harden complimented another member of the class for his work off the field.

"I'm also very thankful that the Hall of Fame recognizes the people in this country who dedicate their lives to growing baseball in Canada. Someone like Joe Wiwchar who deserves a lot of credit and to me, those builders like Joe are the most deserving of this honour because they are the heroes of the game."

Harden then explained how, as he approached his draft eligibility, he had become increasingly interested in switching from playing in the outfield to becoming a pitcher. At one point, he was told that he "should stick to the outfield." But Harden was undeterred and spent months getting stronger and developing his skill which ended with Harden becoming a Hall-of-Fame-pitcher.

"It's never too late to do what you want to do. People are going to tell you that you're not ready for it or you can't do it or you shouldn't, and a lot of those people may be trying to help you. But when it comes to doing what you want to do, don't take no for an answer."

## Wiwchar influenced countless people over seven decades

When talking about baseball in Manitoba and especially in the town of Morden, it likely won't take long for the name Joe Wiwchar to be brought up.

Wiwchar, born in Winnipeg, was inducted as a builder as a result of his incredible 70-year tenure in baseball which included being a player, manager, coach, volunteer, executive, and administrator.

The Hall of Fame illustrated many of Wiwchar's

major accomplishments, including Wiwchar managing the South Central Beavers Peewee squad to a provincial title and a silver medal at the Western Canada Championship in 1971. That same year, he also started a 28-year tenure as head coach of the Morden Mohawks of the Border League, a senior baseball circuit.

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.

During the Hall's press conference, Wiwchar said that the shock of his induction still hadn't worn off.

"[Being inducted] is unbelievable. I'm still in awe standing here. It was completely unexpected and I would have never thought it would happen to me. I've said there are other people in Manitoba who are just as deserving of this honour as me. People like Glen Scott, who pitched in the Pan-Am Games and beat Cuba, and Ian Lowe who played in the majors. I feel so grateful to have this honour knowing all the amazing people who are also Hall of Fame-worthy."

Wiwchar then said that the game of baseball has allowed him to develop connections with countless people, relationships that he deeply cherishes.

"The biggest thing this game has given me is the connections I have with all the players I've coached. I've coached three generations of players from the same family. One time when I was coaching, I had all three of my sons in the outfield. Even just when someone stops and waves on the street, it means a lot to me."

## Olerud thankful for innumerable blessings

Whether in a conversation with him or listening to his induction speech, John Olerud couldn't help but reiterate how "blessed" he was feeling.

"When something like this happens," Olerud said regarding his Hall of Fame induction, "it forces you to get out of your present life cycle and look back at your career and your life. I've done that and looking back, I'm just so grateful for all the blessings I've been given. Now, to have an honour like this on top of all the blessings in my life is just over the top. It's a tremendous honour to be here and be recognized like this and I truly appreciate it."

Olerud's blessings weren't limited to baseball with the Blue Jays' great also thanking his family. Olerud also earned a great laugh from the crowd when he explained that he heeded the advice of a veteran player who, when Olerud's wife Kelly visited John in Toronto while they were dating, said, "John, you need to marry that girl before she has her cataracts surgery."

Of course, the main reason for celebration was the blessing that was Olerud's Hall of Fame induction, which he continually expressed deep appreciation for.

"It's a huge honour, not only going into the Hall of Fame obviously but also to go in with the peo-

ple I'm being inducted with. They've all had really amazing careers as have all of the people who have previously been inducted. It's just a big honour."

Olerud also expressed gratitude for the game itself, which he said "did everything" in helping him carve out his path in life.

"It's done everything for me personally. To have such a great career with the teammates I've been lucky to play with and the relationships you make and the life lessons you pick up along the way are so rewarding. I've put a lot into baseball during my career and it's been a great experience."

## Doucet thanks fans for letting him share passion for baseball

It came as no surprise when one of the most eloquent articulators of the whole weekend was legendary broadcaster Jacques Doucet.

Many baseball fans in Quebec credit Doucet's play-by-play career as a major reason they fell in love with the sport of baseball. According to Doucet himself, who spoke to the Independent during the pre-induction press conference, the fans contributed just as much to his love of the game.

"The fans have been such a big part of my life," Doucet gratefully said. "Baseball brought me close to the fans which, to me, is very important because they're the ones who allow us to make a living. Without the fans, the athletes on the field can do whatever they want but if there's no one to see it, it's all for nothing but the athletes' benefit."

Later, during his induction speech, Doucet elaborated on how much the fans and his relationship with them has meant to him and his career, revealing one anecdote about a blind listener who told Doucet that his vivid descriptions of the play actually allowed him to visualize the action on the field.

Doucet stated that, when he first learned of the MLB expansion into Montreal, as a young reporter looking for his big break, he "couldn't believe his ears or luck." With five decades in the business, Doucet summed up his career with a softly-spoken yet powerful statement.

"I've spent 50 years of my professional life as a pro baseball broadcaster. 50 years of sharing my passion for baseball with the fans. 50 years of witnessing great baseball history. What a way to make a living. I've been a very, very lucky man."

## Milo honoured to receive Jack Graney Award

Before the inductions were carried out, the 2022 recipient of the Jack Graney Award was recognized, with Montreal's Richard Milo earning the honour.

The Jack Graney Award is presented annually by the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame to a representative of the media who has made a significant contribution to the game of baseball in Canada through their life's work, or for a singular outstanding achievement.

Working for a variety of outlets including Le Petit Journal, Le Patrie, Le Devoir, and the French service of the Canadian Press, Milo covered the Expos from 1977 until the team was relocated in 2004. In 2007, Milo was inducted into the Quebec Baseball Hall of Fame.

Continued on page 14



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**SPORTS —**

# Another strong tournament showing for SKC members

By Spencer Seymour

Several students of the Stonetown Karate Centre (SKC) came home with another impressive slate of results from the recent Generation Martial Arts (GMA) Championship tournament held in Waterloo.

Jalyne Lorentz led the way with three top-place finishes in the 15-17 Black Belt division, including in Traditional Forms, Traditional Weapons, and Open/Creative Forms. Additionally, Lorentz finished second in the Creative Weapons event.

In the 13-14 Junior Black Belt division, Fox Houston earned a pair of third-place finishes in the Traditional Forms and Creative Forms categories. Shannon Campbell placed third in the 35+ Women's Advanced Point Sparring, while Darren Campbell finished third on the men's side of the 35+ Advanced Point Sparring.

The GMA Championships attract-

ed many different martial arts styles including karate, taekwondo, kung-fu, and more, and had more than 500 competitors attend. SKC Sensei Jeremy Lorentz told the Independent that the tournament was yet another example of the talent of the local karate program.

"Every tournament helps our students grow, gain confidence, and get better each time they enter the ring," said Lorentz. "The smile you see on their faces when they realize the extra training and hard work has paid off is priceless and a great life lesson learned."

"The respect our students display to the judges, competitors and spectators at these events makes us very proud to have them part of our Stonetown Karate family. The sport of karate offers so much to our students of all ages and we are very grateful we are able to be part of every student's journey."



Four Stonetown Karate Centre members earned top-three finishes at the recent Generation Martial Arts tournament held in Waterloo. Pictured from left to right are Shannon Campbell, Fox Houston, Jalyne Lorentz, and Darren Campbell. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

# Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Weekend a memorable occasion

Continued from page 13

Milo addressed the audience and expressed his gratitude for receiving the award.

"Baseball has always been a big part of my life. It's a great honour to receive the Jack Graney Award and I thank the voting committee. Not only is it a big thrill to be here today, but it was also unexpected. I didn't know what to say in late November when Scott Crawford told me that I would be receiving this award."

### Ferguson Jenkins Way

The first major event open to the public was a ceremony christening the street on which the Baseball Hall of Fame resides, 'Ferguson Jenkins Way.' The Hall of Fame's Chair Jeremy Diamond opened the ceremony with introductory remarks before Councillor Rob Edney introduced the new street's namesake.

"Ferguson Jenkins exemplifies the spirit and grace of the game through his goodwill," said Edney. "We're here today because, beyond his amazing career, Fergie has selflessly become the greatest advocate for the Hall [of Fame], and to that end, an inspiration for all future Canadian ball players."

"It's not an exaggeration to say that the success of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame has been aided directly by Fergie's unwavering support and participation. Ultimately, one day in the near future, we'll have the opportunity to rebrand the address of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame to 1 Ferguson Jenkins Way."

Jenkins then was welcomed to the podium where he spoke about his career and the feeling of being honoured with a street bearing his name.

"The nice thing about sports is that, when you

play hard and you've got good teammates, success comes your way. When I look back at the 20 seasons I played, I had some incredible teammates, and without their excellent offensive and defensive abilities, I wouldn't have earned all those honours."

"To have a street named after me, especially the one leading to the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame, I'm really humbled and honoured. There have been a lot of accolades, but not a lot of street signs, so I'm very appreciative of this."

The incandescently charming personality of Jenkins was on display when a slight mishap occurred during the street sign unveiling. As the rope was pulled to remove the red cloth covering the sign, it came detached from the cloth and the sign remained hidden. As the ceremony's saviour Julie Docker-Johnson retrieved a ladder to remove the cloth, Jenkins drew a chorus of laughter by mentioning that the unveiling ceremony "wasn't pre-recorded."





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**SPORTS —**

# Pickleball program continues welcoming new members



Pictured are Elizabeth Hill and Dan Ferguson taking on Jody Stone and Rob Wrigley in a close match which saw Hill and Ferguson win 11 to 9. To promote the sport and assist new players, the St. Marys Library will loan paddles and balls for one week at a time to anyone that wants to try out the sport. Contact the Library for more information. Additionally, Steve Lawton, a member of the St. Marys Pickleball Association (SMPA) and a certified level-one pickleball instructor with the International Pickleball Teaching Professional Association, has provided lessons to over 100 new players that signed up to learn pickleball since the start of the season. You can learn more about the SMPA or learn to play by emailing stmaryspickleball@gmail.com. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

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# SPORTS —

## DCVI 2023 Major Athletic Award winners announced

<u>DCVI Major Athletic Awards</u>	<u>2023 Winner(s)</u>
<i>Intermediate Girls Sportsmanship</i>	<b>Neva Foley</b>
<i>Intermediate Girls MVP</i>	<b>Alanna Savile</b>
<i>Intermediate Boys Sportsmanship</i>	<b>Zach Larmer</b>
<i>Intermediate Boys MVP</i>	<b>Vaughn Barr</b>
<i>Grade 9 Girls Sportsmanship</i>	<b>Adrianna Hollestelle-Black</b>
<i>Grade 9 Girls MVP</i>	<b>Marin Chateauvert and Payten Blight</b>
<i>Grade 9 Boys Sportsmanship</i>	<b>Chase McDougall</b>
<i>Grade 9 Boys MVP</i>	<b>Simon Taylor and Kaleb Dingman</b>
<i>Junior Girls Sportsmanship</i>	<b>Rylee Nethercott</b>
<i>Junior Girls MVP</i>	<b>Kiara McGregor and Eden Sinnett</b>
<i>Junior Boys Sportsmanship</i>	<b>Oliver Black</b>
<i>Junior Boys MVP</i>	<b>Trevor Richardson</b>
<i>Senior Girls Sportsmanship</i>	<b>Avery Jones</b>
<i>Senior Girls MVP</i>	<b>Lydia Taylor</b>
<i>Senior Boys Sportsmanship</i>	<b>Wil Boreham</b>
<i>Senior Boys MVP</i>	<b>Owen Littlejohn</b>
<i>Colin Hood Awards</i>	<b>Matt Luyten, Michael Boonstra, and teacher Jessica Chateauvert</b>
<i>Graduating Athlete</i>	<b>Ellen Thorup</b>

### Graduating Athlete / Colin Hood Awards



Pictured on the left are Michael Boonstra, Jessica Chateauvert, and Matt Luyten, who were this year's recipients of the Colin Hood Awards. These awards are presented to two graduating students and one teacher who have been committed to the success of sports at their school and within their Association. Both Boonstra and Luyten were both described as "representing everything we want in an athlete." Chateauvert was described as being kind and positive even when offering constructive criticism and someone who is always focused on getting things done. The award for the top graduating athlete capped off the Athletic Social with Ellen Thorup, pictured on the right, taking the honour. Thorup has played in a variety of different sports and has helped many of her teams find strong success, including during a pandemic-impacted high school career. She was also praised for "unmatched effort and determination" and for doing "whatever she can to help her team."

### Intermediates:



From left to right are Alanna Savile, Vaughn Barr, Zach Larmer, and Neva Foley. Savile won the Intermediate Girls' MVP and was described as a natural leader with a positive mindset who "took every opportunity in between tournament games and practices to enhance her skill set." On the Boys' side, Vaughn Barr was the Grade 7/8 MVP and was praised for being "incredibly coachable, using feedback to constantly improve." Barr was also a good leader who "could often be heard encouraging his teammates." Pictured beside Barr is Zach Larmer, who won the Intermediate Boys' Sportsmanship award. In a field full of deserving candidates, Larmer was cited as "often the first one to say thank you after a practice or a game." Even though he brings a high compete level, Larmer "also recognizes when to let others take the lead and accepts any role he is asked to fill with dignity." Pictured on the right is Neva Foley who earned the 7/8 Girls' Sportsmanship award. Foley "always listened attentively to morning announcements just waiting for the next activity she could get involved with." An eager maverick, Foley "never missed a practice, was the first to offer someone from either team praised for a good play, and was the loudest voice of support for her teammates."

### Grade 9 Girls:



Pictured from left to right are Adrianna Hollestelle-Black, Marin Chateauvert, and Payton Blight. Hollestelle-Black was the Grade 9 Girls' Sportsmanship award winner at last Thursday's DCVI Athletic Social, an honour she earned for being "a positive member of every team she played on. She showed up to every practice with a smile and was a motivating force for her teammates." Chateauvert and Blight were co-winners of the MVP award as "both played significant roles in helping their teams win championships" as well as finding success as individuals. It was also noted that "it's very obvious that Chateauvert and Blight love everything about sports, strive to make themselves and their teams better, and are proud to wear the Saluki uniform."



## SPORTS —

# DCVI 2023 Major Athletic Award winners announced

## Junior Girls:



Pictured from left are Rylee Nethercott, Eden Sinnett, and Kiara McGregor. Nethercott took home the Junior Girls' Sportsmanship award last Thursday at the DCVI Athletic Social. Nethercott "always brought a big smile and positive energy to the field and court and gives 100 percent whether her team is winning or losing." She also has shown a strong work ethic as she improved her skills, which allowed Nethercott to display "significant growth through her various sports." McGregor and Sinnett were co-winners of the Junior Girls' MVP award. During the presentation, it was noted that "all of McGregor's coaches described her as a fierce competitor." McGregor displays an intense desire to succeed and high expectations for herself, balanced by "a lot of positive energy" that lifts her teammates up. As for Sinnett, her quiet demeanour indicates a lead-by-example mentality, being described as having a strong work ethic and desire to improve. Sinnett ran the offence as the setter for the Junior Girls' volleyball squad and also qualified for OFSAA in the Javelin event.

## Grade 9 Boys:



Pictured from left are Chase McDougall, Kaleb Dingman, and Simon Taylor. McDougall brought home the Grade 9 Boys Sportsmanship Award. During his award presentation, McDougall was described as "happy to play different positions and with different partners, always with a smile, and demonstrates the rare ability to maintain athletic excellence and supreme sportsmanship at the same time." Dingman and Taylor were co-winners of the Grade 9 Boys' MVP Award. Beginning with Dingman, he was described as pairing "natural talent with a tenacious desire to excel," evidenced by what was called a "passionate dedication to training." Dingman's strong athletic year included claiming the Gold Medal at WOSSAA in the gruelling 3000-metre race. Taylor also was recognized as a co-winner of the Grade 9 Boys MVP thanks to his "positive attitude and natural ability." Taylor was an integral part of every team he played on and had the unique balance of being able to "compete hard while keeping it fun."

## Junior Boys:



Oliver Black captured the Junior Boys award for sportsmanship while Trevor Richardson earn the Junior Boys MVP honours. All of his coaches described Black as "positive, encouraging, and enthusiastic." Black is "genuinely thoughtful and respectful of his teammates and competitors." It was also noted that he was deserving of being in the MVP conversation as well but his "model sportsmanship" stands out as much as his skill. Meanwhile, Richardson won the MVP award and, according to his volleyball coach, "In practice or in games, you know what you are going to get – 100 percent effort." Richardson met each of the criteria for an MVP, including an outstanding skill level, strong leadership and work ethic, and a tenacious desire to succeed, the last of which was demonstrated by Richardson digging deep and battling back to win a Hurdle race during which he fell.

## Seniors:



Pictured from left are Wil Boreham, Owen Littlejohn, Avery Jones, and Lydia Taylor, the four Senior Salukis who claimed a major award at DCVI's Athletic Social last Thursday. Boreham earned the Senior Boys Sportsmanship honour and was credited for "providing an immeasurable amount of intensity, determination, and desire to whatever team he is a part of." Littlejohn was named the MVP of the Senior Boys division and was described as the "epitome of what an MVP is" as well as a "true leader for every team" he played on. Littlejohn always gave everything he had to his teams even when hurt and never stopped trying to be the best he could be. On the Senior Girls' side, Jones was presented with the Sportsmanship Award. The crop of Senior Girls had sportsmanship in spades amongst its athletes so Jones winning the award was truly an impressive feat. It was mentioned that "Jones is a remarkable athlete that shows unwavering effort, a contagious work ethic, and a strong sense of gratitude and responsibility, with dedication and leadership skills making her an inspiring role model." Last but not least, Taylor earned the MVP award after an incredible final high school year. Taylor's "exceptional athleticism" was evident with her playing a "staggering" seven different sports and earned Sportsmanship or MVP honours in many of them. Her coaches report that she approaches athletics with a wonderful balance of competitiveness and the spirit of sport, showcasing "incredible talent, versatility, drive, and positivity" in her fifth year.



**D&S** D&S DOWNHAM  
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*Big  
Opening*

# D&S Downham Equipment hosts Grand Opening June 24th in new 19,000 sq. ft. facility

By Stewart Grant

A local business for 62 years and spanning three generations, D&S Downham Equipment Ltd. celebrates a key milestone this month as they move into their brand new 19,000 sq. ft. building at 3981 Perth Line 26, Stratford.

Downham invites the community to stop by for a visit on Saturday, June 24th for the company's Grand Opening - right across the road from the "old schoolhouse" where they've operated since moving there in 1974.

"It's going to be an exciting day," says Mark Downham, third-generation owner of the business, following in the footsteps of his father Bob and grandfather Cecil. "We are going to give away a \$7,000 Kubota lawn mower to somebody that shows up, and a \$1,400 Karcher sweeper. We'll have live music, a 4-H barbecue, a photo booth, registration table to participate in the draw, bouncy castle, and lots of equipment on display."

The new building, which they started

working out of on Monday, June 5th, is representative of how the business has grown and evolved over the years.

D&S began in 1961 on the west end of Stratford as a Massey Ferguson dealership. Co-founder Cecil Downham moved the growing business to Perth Line 26 in 1974, where since then they've occupied and expanded upon the former SS No. 5 Downie school which dates back to 1857.

While primarily a Massey Ferguson dealership in the early years, differ-

ent product lines were added over the years. Most notably in 1985, D&S Downham added the Kubota Tractor Sales and Service agreement. As Kubota has grown its offerings over the decades, so has D&S Downham.

"Kubota's expanding lineup of turf, construction and agriculture equipment allowed us to restructure in 2015 as a Kubota-only stand-alone store serving Perth and Oxford counties," said Mark. "Traditionally, Kubota was a compact

*Continued on page 19*



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Bob Downham (left) and Mark Downham in front of the brand new 19,000 sq. ft. D&S Downham facility at 3981 Perth Line 26, Stratford. Bob Downham purchased D&S Downham from his father Cecil in 1987, while Mark became the third-generation owner in 2021.

*Continued from page 18*

tractor company, that's where their core roots are, but through the years they've acquired other companies, including Kverneland, Land Pride, and Great Plains, and those are all sub-categories of Kubota."

Kubota product line now includes tractors, mowers, utility vehicles, mini excavators, skid steer loaders, compact track loaders, wheel loaders, tractor loader backhoes, track carriers, K-Haul trailers, implements, and construction attachments.

Also operating as a division of D&S Downham Equipment is Karcher Professional Wash Systems. "When we merged in a location in Brunner, they sold Karcher products. One of the guys there really spearheaded selling the Karcher line and by 1995 it had really taken off," described Mark.

"Karcher is big on any kind of cleaning equipment - industrial pressure washers, industrial floor-care such as scrubbers, sweepers and all of those products. We do a large chunk of business on the Karcher side, covering much of the southwestern Ontario territory. Like with Kubota, we offer both sales and service."

It became apparent over time that a new building would ultimately be needed to accommodate the growth of D&S Downham Equipment Ltd.

"We were land-locked and we couldn't grow the business any further out of the schoolhouse," said Mark. "In 2017, we purchased seven acres across the road

from the schoolhouse for future expansion. In 2022, we officially broke ground."

Among other benefits, the new facility provides the company the space to more effectively complete final assembly and display of the larger implements of manufacturers such as Kverneland and Great Plains that Kubota has acquired over the years.

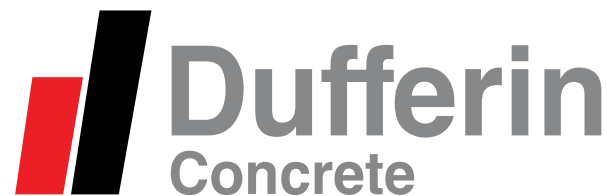
Though the business has grown and evolved over the years, Mark says that some of the constants that have remained over the years has been their strong relationships with their community and with their loyal staff.

"We've also maintained being local owner/operators, close to our community. We've tried to support as many community events as we can, whether it be financial help, equipment needs, or just helping out wherever we can." D&S Downham is also a key supporter of the Stratford Warriors Hockey Club and sponsors local minor sports teams.

"Our staff is very dedicated, with several years of experience not only in the industry but also with D&S - most of our current staff have been with us for 10 years or more. Even many who have retired with us came back to help us with the move. We're pretty proud of our staff."

Come on out to see the new D&S Downham Equipment Ltd. facility for the Grand Opening at 3981 Perth Line 26, Stratford, on Saturday, June 24th. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**A building needs a solid foundation if you're going to have a successful future. Best Wishes at your new location!**



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D&S Downham Equipment Ltd. owner Mark Downham and Karcher Professional Wash Systems sales representative Chris Clifford stand amongst some of the industrial cleaning units offered by Karcher. The company provides sales and service support for Karcher products throughout southwestern Ontario. (Stewart Grant photos)

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Bokkers Excavating would like to congratulate the whole team at D & S Downham on their new building. It was a pleasure to be a part of the project and we wish them much success in the future!

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**COMMUNITY —**

# An Illuminating Evening of Glass Poetry

*Words of a poem should be glass  
But glass so simple-subtle, its shape  
Is nothing but the shape of what it  
holds."*

(Robert Francis - American poet; 1901 - 1987)

This Friday on June 23, 7pm to 9pm, the St. Marys Station Gallery & St. Marys Poetry Circle host an informal event to delight the eyes, ears and mind. Surrounded by the stunning work of acclaimed glass & paper artist, Mary Louise White, members of the Poetry Circle will present an evening of original poetry on the theme of glass.'

The current exhibit, which runs at The Station Gallery until July 8, -- 'Fashion in Glass and Paper: Wishes and Dreams', -- has attracted attention for its unique and thought provoking

installations of child's garments made from glass, and others made from exquisitely crafted hand-made paper, pleated, creased and embellished with beads and print motifs.

The St. Marys Poetry Circle has enjoyed several collaborations with Cameron Porteous at the Station Gallery, and written poems inspired by past photography exhibits, "Stone" and "The Minimalist Eye", both of which can be purchased as a book.

We have also recorded poems for St. Marys Radio, collaborated on two projects with the St. Marys Photography Club, and this April, worked with the St. Marys BIA and downtown merchants to display poems in store windows for National Poetry Month. New members are always welcome. Please contact Alizon Sharun for more information: alizonsharun@gmail.com;



All are welcome to join us this Friday Free. Donations are welcome to support a sparkling evening of poetry, art and refreshments in the unique atmosphere of the train station. support the work of the gallery. st-marysstationgallery.ca;

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# HISTORY —

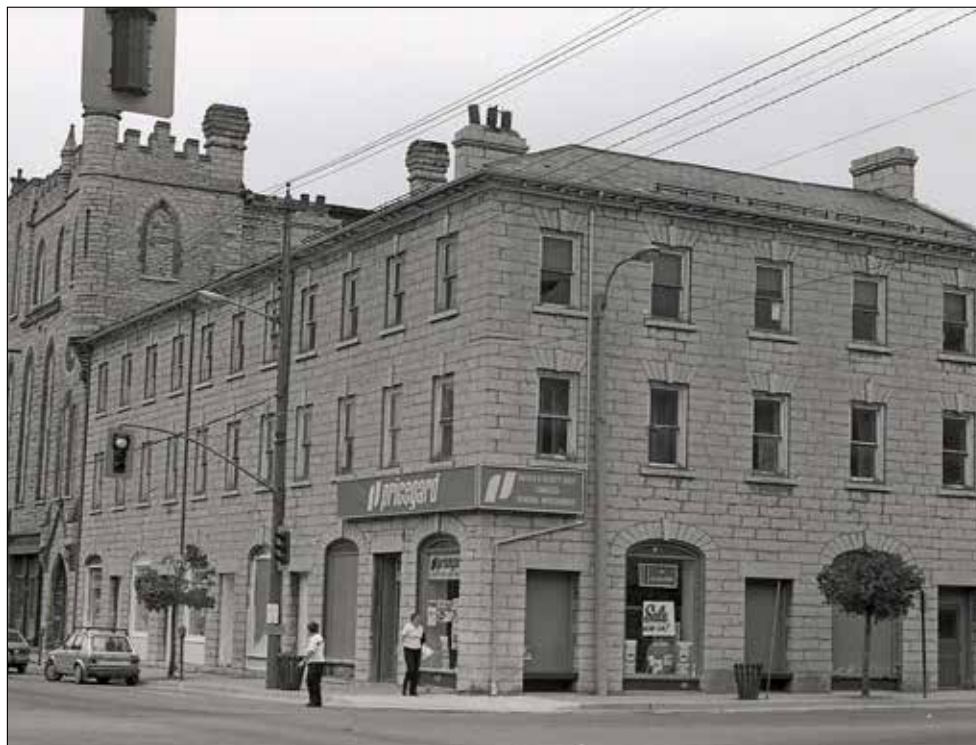
## HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Restoration Projects, Part Four – The Flour Mill

By Mary Smith

Before this column's short series on renovations of historic limestone buildings ends, another project that has been happening right in the heart of St. Marys should be considered. During the pandemic lockdown, many local residents kept an eye on the paper-covered windows at 6 Water Street South – fondly remembered as M&M Variety. It is formally designated as the second Hutton Block, one of the most significant heritage structures in St. Marys. Set on the southwest corner of Queen and Water Streets, it has been a major part of the downtown for 160 years. In 1863, William Veal Hutton, realizing the economic potential of the location, had the large stone block built on the property he owned between Water Street and his flour mill on the Thames River. Through the decades, it has been a very adaptable building, the location of many different enterprises. St. Marys folks were accustomed to its being M&M Variety. When, after more than 40 years in business, Dick and Joan MacPherson sold the building and closed their store in June 2019, everyone wondered what would be next for this venerable location.

William Veal Hutton was 27 years of age when, ca 1850, he came from the south of England to St. Marys with his parents and other family members. He was just one brother in this family of young ambitious men, ready to invest energy and resources in their chosen community. George Hutton and his brother, Theodore, both opened stores near the intersection of Queen and Water Streets. Joseph Osman Hutton purchased property in the west ward along Thomas Street and became an early land developer. W. V. Hutton had perhaps the grandest vision for St. Marys. He was involved in municipal politics and served a term as mayor in 1865 – just after the village had been elevated to town status. But his greatest contributions were his buildings. By the mid-1850s, he had taken over the Ingersoll family's modest grist mill beside the Victoria (Queen Street) Bridge, enlarged it and turned it into a prosperous business, soon one of the economic drivers of the growing community.

W. V. Hutton's construction projects did not stop there. In 1858, he had an impressive house, the miller's residence, built near the north east end of Victoria Bridge, 75 Queen Street East today. He also had a limestone commercial block constructed on the northwest corner of Queen and Water Streets. This first Hutton Block – somewhat altered but still standing – had retail outlets at street level



The Second Hutton Block, 6 Water Street South, early 1980s

and office space on the second floor. The mansard roof creating a spacious third storey was added in 1884 by the owner of the building at that time.

The second Hutton Block was next. On February 26, 1863, this short item appeared in the St. Marys Argus: "As spring approaches, preparations are being made for building in St. Marys on an extensive scale. W. V. Hutton, Esq. has already let the contract for a block of five stone stores to be finished off for offices above and to be three stories high. The site selected is the corner of Queen and Water Streets, opposite the National Hotel. This block will be ornamental as well as useful to the town." W. V. Hutton, with his brother, Joseph, undertook one further impressive building project. W. V. sold his prosperous flour mill in 1867, along with the miller's house, and moved down the river to a limestone manor on spacious grounds. The brothers named it Westover Park. However, the commercial block at 6 Water Street remained connected to the Hutton family until the early 1940s.

It is worth taking the time to stand on the opposite corner of the intersection and take a good look at the building's stonework. When it was designated in 1987, the reasons for its architectural significance were stated: "This building has been described as the purest example of the stonemason's craft in St. Marys. Even the ornamentation is simple and effective – the segmental arches above the windows with their finely finished voussoirs and projecting keystones... It has a ten-bay façade and originally housed five retail stores with offices and larger

assembly rooms on the upper floors." The photograph shown with this column was taken in the early 1980s – 120 years after 6 Water Street was built. Eliminate the distraction of overhead wires and stoplights and it's the same building that St. Marys residents would have seen in the 1860s when it was completed, and the same building that we see there today. This fine building is listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places. ([historicplaces.ca](http://historicplaces.ca))

W. V. Hutton had no trouble finding tenants for his new commercial block. Early occupants of the first two floors included a grocery store, an apothecary, a shoe store, two law offices and a dentist. The third floor had space for two sets of lodge rooms. In February 1864, the Argus reported: "The Good Templars do not get a hall in the Hutton block, Mr. Hutton having rented the space before (their) application had been made." Through the years, the number of retail outlets on street level varied with the requirements of the occupants. Longtime residents remember Clifford Baldwin's hardware store as a fairly large space in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1980, Pricegard, a sort of early Shoppers Drug Mart, presented its health and beauty aids in two retail sections in the northeast corner of the building. For their variety store, the MacPhersons opened up all five sections into one large space where they sold almost everything.

When Tracey Pritchard purchased 6 Water Street in early 2019, it had been for sale for a number of years. The MacPhersons were in their 80s and ready to retire. Tracey and her daughter, Alex O'Shea, had been looking for

space to run their businesses – Perfect Pastry and The Farm Juice Company. They believed they could create this space within the Hutton Block. But Tracey also planned to make use of the entire building. The challenges were enormous. The space at street level had been in constant use during the MacPhersons' ownership but although they and various members of their extended family had sometimes lived on the upper levels, a large part of the second floor and the entire third floor had been unused – except for storage – for many years. The building was solid but it was old and parts of it – the windows and eavestroughs, for example – had worn out and needed to be replaced. Then the pandemic struck. Although contracted work slowed right down, Tracey herself kept working away. She and her two large dogs were the lone occupants of the big building for many months. Looking back on that time, Tracey reflects that, in spite of the isolation, she never regretted her decision to take the project on.

Work did eventually start up again. She and Alex chose the name "The Flour Mill" for their retail outlet and signage appeared on the windows. A couple "pop-up" events were held during the pre-Christmas season in 2020. Three more retail outlets facing Water Street were renovated and rented to new businesses. A yoga studio took over the space above the store while Tracey created comfortable living quarters for herself in another part of the second storey. As old drywall and temporary partitions were removed, there were surprises – a doorway on the second floor that once led into the Opera House; a stairway in the heart of the building, going from the second to the third level; the beautiful interior of the structural limestone walls. The vast space on the third floor remains a challenging work in progress. With high vaulted ceilings and large windows offering wonderful views of the town, it has great potential. Tracey hopes to make part of it into some sort of public rental space.

The Flour Mill was finally able to open fully in 2021 and currently is thriving. It offers fresh produce, cheeses, salads, soups, sandwiches, beverages and delicious baked goods. Customers can either take-away or sit at one of several tables – inside or out – and have lunch and a drink with friends. In 1863, the Argus predicted that the building would be "ornamental and useful" to the town. Tracey and Alex have ensured that it is still a major community asset.

**THORNDALE WEEKLY NEWS**



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# The Summer Skills Academy coming to Thorndale

By Erin Moir

BGC Thorndale and Next Level Sports are set to bring a brand new program to Thorndale this summer, The Summer Skills Academy. Tuesday to Friday, children ages 9 to 13 can join BGC staff for 3 hours of life skills and sports. Life skills focus on preparing youth for key life skills like leadership, cooking and baking and so much more!

Each week we will focus on a different life skill and sport to have fun and

encourage youth to work together and learn new skills!

From July 25 to 28 we will be focusing on leadership skills while learning flag football (plus lots of other sports). Activities like escape rooms, minute to win it challenges and obstacle courses will teach leadership and teamwork. At the same time, having the opportunity to learn the new sport of flag football through different skills and drills.

From August 1 to 4 we will be learn-

ing how to cook and bake while learning some new soccer skills! We will be making easy-to-make snacks and teaching the fundamentals of kitchen safety. Along with learning about general health and eating, participants will move their properly fuelled bodies and work on those soccer skills.

From August 15 to 28, the Skills Academy is bringing the Babysitting Course to Thorndale for any youth who wants to gain their Red Cross Certification. Participants will receive

a certificate from the Red Cross in the babysitting course at the end of the week. This course will cover a wide range of topics ranging from Leadership to Child Development & Behaviour Management, to the Business of Babysitting. This is a great course for any youth who are looking to babysit before or after school during the school year!

Contact cmoir@bgclondon.ca with any questions about the program and registration information.

## A Visit to Fanshawe Pioneer Village



A visit to Fanshawe Pioneer Village is always a fun and educational way to learn about the past. Mr. Jim Sercombe, grade 3 teacher at West Nissouri Public School has been taking his class here for many years for their annual June field trip. Fanshawe Pioneer Village school program offers students the opportunity to participate in six stations throughout the Village, with activities designed to be interactive and with hands-on elements. The children experienced the hard work of village life, learned about 19th century skills, and did a little role play in a one room school. The school class visit to this Village is a fun way for the children to learn about rural life of the past as they compare it to their life of the present. (Nancy Abra photo)

## Thorndale Lions' member receives special award




Thorndale Lions Club member, Ron Johnson was presented the 'Helen Keller Fellowship' award by 1st Vice District Governor, Sydney McLean at the club's June meeting. This special award was given to Johnson in recognition of his 53 years of dedicated and active service to the Thorndale Lions Club as well as in the community of Thorndale. Johnson later said, "I am the oldest active member of our Thorndale Lions Club. I have, over the years as a Lion's member, received a few awards but I was very surprised and am very honoured to receive this special award." (Nancy Abra photo)

THE MCCONNELL CLUB OF ST. MARYS PRESENTS

*Cheryl Bauman*  
Chair of the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides for District A 15 and "Riley"

**Wednesday, June 28 at 2pm**  
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COLUMN —

# HOSTING UKRAINE: A Father's Day to Remember

By Alona Zabihailo Trofimova (Edits by VJ Knutson)

When the war started, I was already pregnant. We had been trying for a second child for a long time. No one thought that such a disaster would happen in our country.

We decided to move to another part of Ukraine to be closer to the border with Poland. There, we learned that Canada provides an opportunity to obtain visas. We have always known that Canada is a safe country. We had to try.

My son Maxim and I got the visas in our passports first. We went to Poland and did our biometrics. My husband could not leave. He waited. It would not be until July, when the visa center re-opened in Ukraine, that he completed his requirements.

At the beginning of September, I went on maternity leave. The child inside me was already big. I was torn: either stay or fly alone with Max and give birth in Canada. It was a difficult choice, but in the end, the safety of the children was our priority. We bought plane tickets from Warsaw to Toronto for the end of September. I posted in a Facebook group for help in Canada.

A pastor in Mississauga replied and referred me to a volunteer, who had been living in Canada 20 years. This woman was from my city in Ukraine. She, along with Pam Robson, found a host family for us and helped gather the things we needed. I was so grateful.

Our journey to the airport lasted 3 days: two days by car, 8 hours by bus across the border, and 9 hours by plane. I was 33 weeks pregnant. We were met by colleagues of Dr Geza and taken to the hotel. The next day, he helped us do all the paper-

work and took us to our host family in St Marys, Tracy and Ian. We lived with them for the next seven months, passing all of our holidays without our Dad.

Throughout my pregnancy, many Canadians helped me. Nicole and Bob took me to the clinic every week. I gave birth to David on November 11th. Tracy was with me. My host family did so much for us.

At the end of November, my husband received his passport with visa, but men were still not being allowed out of the country. We looked for every opportunity. It was complicated. Nobody could help us. In April, he went to the border, but was turned back. At this time, the boys and I had already moved into an apartment and waited for him. It was stressful, not knowing.

On June 14, he again tried to cross the border and was successful. The next day he was on a plane. Tracy, Maxim and I went to the airport to meet Oleksandr. So much had happened in the 8 1/2 months we were without him.

(VJ's note: We have all felt the loneliness and stress of a new mother missing her partner. We are all relieved that her husband is safely amongst us. Oleksandr's SIN number has been acquired and OHIP applied for. Now, Alone writes, he will start the process of finding work. Both Alona and her husband were pharmacists in Ukraine. Not sure how their qualifications translate here, but that is the challenge all encounter. Alona, whose English is quite good, tells me her husband's is "not good/not bad".


Welcome Oleksandr!

Till next time. )



David gets used to him. (Contributed photo)

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 Call: 519-703-1327 or contact any member of the St. Marys Lions Club

[www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/stmaryson](http://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/stmaryson)



## COLUMN —

## FROM THE GARDEN: Campers, Hikers and Homeowners beware



By Nancy Abra

Summer has arrived. Besides working in our gardens, many people have taken up hiking and camping to enjoy more of the great outdoors. While out on those rustic trails or remote camping areas, there are some plants that are highly poisonous and can be fatal.

Some hazardous plants may look harmless and some even beautiful but don't let looks deceive you. Encountering these plants can cause symptoms ranging from itching, irritating and painful rashes to extremely dangerous or deadly if ingested.

Giant Hogweed or *Heracleum mantegassianum* is a member of the carrot family, massive in size and quite striking but this is the important part, it is very invasive and poisonous. Hogweed is native to eastern Europe and western Asia and was probably introduced to North America in the early 1900's as an ornamental plant. It has been in Ontario since the late 40's and since then, has spread into natural areas of roadside ditches, stream banks, along tree lines and even in open

wooded area.

At flowering maturity, the giant hogweed can reach a height of 4-5 metres and have a stem diameter of 5-10 centimetres, with purple blotches and coarse white hairs. The hairs are especially prominent that circle the stem at the base of the leaf stalks. The leaves are lobed, deeply incised and up to almost 2 metres across. Giant hogweed is considered a perennial as leaf clusters sprout from over wintering roots each spring for 2-4 years until the plant flowers. These flowers look very much like the wild carrot we see along the county road but with one difference. These clustered flowers can be more than a half a metre across. Once the giant hogweed has bloomed in June or July, and has released its thousands of seeds, the plant dies.

Giant hogweed is considered a health hazard because its clear, watery, toxic sap can cause severe skin irritation. When this sap contacts the skin it causes sensitivity to sunlight, thus resulting in a painful burning blister within 15 minutes and up to 48 hours after contact. When this poisonous sap comes in contact with the eyes, it can result in temporary blindness, and in a few cases, permanent.

There are a couple of plants in the same family that look like giant hogweed. Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*) is a native plant, and much smaller in size, growing to a height of 2 to 3 metres. The stem may be entirely green or have a slight purplish

tinge, is deeply ridged and only 2.5 to 5 centimetres in diameter. The leaves are lobed, measure up to approximately a half a metre in length and have a velvety appearance. It produces a flat-topped white flower cluster which is much smaller than hogweed. It is not as toxic as giant hogweed but still can cause nasty burns that can take weeks or months to heal.

Poison Hemlock, *Conium maculatum* is a biennial. In the second year the plant grows to a height of 2 to 3m and produces umbrella-shaped clusters of tiny, white, 5-petaled flowers. Flowering poison hemlock may be confused with wild carrot (*Daucus carota*) or Queen Anne's Lace. Poison hemlock's stems are smooth with reddish or purple spots and streaks. All parts of this plant are toxic.

And then there is Angelica (*Angelica archangelica*) which is smaller than giant hogweed, growing to 2.5m. Its stems are red/purple and hairless. Its large, compound leaves are comprised of many small leaflets while giant hogweed's leaf contains 3 large and deeply cut lobes. The flowering umbels of angelica are smaller and globe-shaped. Angelica is not toxic when used in therapeutic amounts, although it is considered mildly toxic due to some of its components.

For more information about other poisonous and dangerous plants, check out <https://www.insideottawavalley.com/life/top-7-most-toxic-plants-found-in-ontario>



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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR —

## Thank You to our healthcare workers

I'm home after a 5-day stay in hospital. All is well thanks to an incredible healthcare team. A few reflections:

It is clear that our healthcare workers are being pushed to the limit - long wait times in ER, nurses working extra shifts ( borrowed from other departments), staff working between 2 hospitals as renovations begin here in St Marys - but not one person, from paramedics, to custodial staff, to PSWs, technicians, nurses, or doctors complained. They did their duties with compassion and respect for the patient.

Patients, however; complained loudly, and at times were abusive. I even had a roommate that yelled at me because I wouldn't (couldn't) get up and get a

nurse. It's clear that we have taken our healthcare for granted. Our expectations fail to recognize and empathize with the current state of care.

The answer is not more private services- that only ensures the rich get looked after. The answer isn't more beds - there were beds available. The answer is caring for the people who we so depend on - proper pay, more staffing, and whatever it takes to make it happen.

I am recovering at home now, with gratitude for all who helped me get here. I post this as a reminder that we need to protect our healthcare system: accessibility for all, and the staffing necessary to continue quality of care.

VJ Knutson

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## Word List

- Canadian
- Baseball
- Hall of Fame
- Fergie Jenkins
- Way
- Barfield
- Boucher
- Harden
- Wiwchar
- Olerud
- Doucet
- Jack Graney
- award
- Ceremony
- Autographs

## 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 23

- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog/sausage lunch at Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 pm
- St. Marys Poetry Circle meeting at the Station Gallery - 7 to 9 pm

### Saturday, June 24

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 am to Noon
- Sam's Home Hardware yard sale - 8 am to 1 pm
- D & S Downham Grand Opening - 10 am to 4 pm
- Diane Furtney 80th Birthday celebration at St. James Masonic Hall - 1 to 4 pm
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm

### Monday, June 26

- HPHA virtual annual general meeting via Zoom - 7 pm RSVP to Sue Davey at 519-272-8205 or [susan.davey@hpha.ca](mailto:susan.davey@hpha.ca) to receive Zoom link

### Wednesday, June 28

- The McConnell Club of St. Marys presents Cheryl Bauman, Chair of the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides for District A15 & "Riley" St. Marys United Church hall - 2 pm
- Alzheimer Society annual general meeting at Mitchell Golf Club - 6 pm



## The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What is yours but mostly used by others?



Your name

Graham Mills (2)

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

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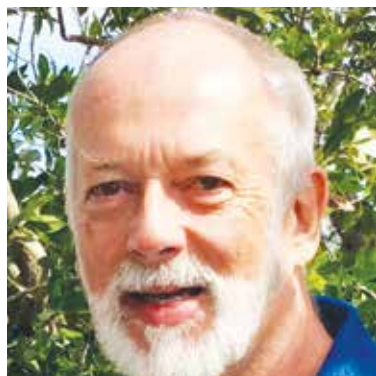
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## COLUMN —

## OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: The bells of St. Michael's



By Paul Knowles

St. Michael's Mount is one of those places that inspires gasps of delight when you first spot it as you crest the hills just inland from the site. This impressive fortress (today, both a private home and a popular visitor attraction) sits on an island just off the south coast of Cornwall, England.

At least at times it is an island. That's one of the many magical things about the Mount. At high tide, you travel to St. Michael's Mount by boat. At low tide, you walk a causeway back to the mainland to the village of Marazion. Or vice versa.

This complexity of access is enough in itself to make for an intriguing afternoon. But there is so much more. There is the topography – the Mount sits high atop the island, and for visitors, there is no way to access the fortress except on foot, climbing up rocky paths and uneven stairs, stopping for breaks as necessary.

There is the history – the

Mount has been, at various times dating back to the late eleventh century, a priory (affiliated with Mont St. Michel in France), a church, and as noted, a fortress and a private home. It's still several of those things today.

And there is the legend. The island is named in dedication to the Archangel St. Michael who, it is said, appeared in the year 495 to some Cornish fishermen on the site.

So, as is the case with so many British sites, the history is deep and layered here. The place is also very beautiful.

Our group visited the Mount last month and as I toured the Mount – much is open to visitors, beautifully furnished, and well supplied with guides – I was reminded how long I have been enjoying the role of travel writer. Because, way back in 1995, I interviewed the then occupant of St. Michael's Mount. Lord St. Levan and I sat down in his study (not included on the public tour) and he told me all about his unusual home and about his family's connection to it. In that complicated reality that is the British aristocracy, Lord St. Levan was born John St. Aubyn; the St. Aubyns acquired the Mount in 1659. They live there still although the place is now National Trust property.

So my memory of that visit and several others I have

made to St. Michael's Mount was front of mind when I was talking to one of the guides. I asked when Lord St. Levan had passed away and she told me that he, who it turns out, they all affectionately called "Lordy", had died in 2013, at age 94, after welcoming about 30,000 visitors every year to his "private home".

Today, his heirs continue in that role.

Prior to our recent departure for England, I went to my bookshelves and found the slim paperback called "St. Michael's Mount" written by Lord St. Levan in 1978. It's autographed to me in a tiny, scratchy, almost illegible script but I love it.

So I came to St. Michael's Mount in 2023 with a lot of memories and the hope of enjoying one more visit to this unusual place. I got that and more. We toured the rooms, saw the art and the artifacts, and strolled on the open terraces atop the castle (a feature you won't find in many ancient sites, and one which offers amazing views of the English Channel, Mount Bay, the Cornwall coast, and the unexpected gardens on the seaside of the castle).

And there would be more. I mentioned that St. Michael's Mount is also a church and there is an ancient chapel where regular worship services are held. As we wandered through the church,



Mel the bell-ringer – he was deeply honoured to toll the bell to mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. (Photo by Paul Knowles)

we met a friendly guide, a man named Mel, who sported pretty spectacular side-whiskers.

He started by sharing his usual spiel but then learned we were from southern Ontario. "I worked in construction in Meaford for nine months, decades ago," he said. A bond was formed.

He then told us more details about the chapel, about the history, the plaques, and the bells. Turned out, he is a bell ringer and English bell ringers take that role very, very seriously. The St. Michael's Mount church has a ring of six bells. Today they are, by and large, played electronically but Mel told us that the ropes are still there and that the bells can be played manually as well.

In fact he said, one of the bells had been tolled by hand

to mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. And he added, he had been given the honour of carrying that out. This tribute obviously meant a great deal to him.

At my request, he moved a chair or two and opened up the case concealing the pulls so I could get a photograph.

And once again I thought of Lord St. Levan and the fact that while historic sites may be constructed of brick and stone, history is really about unique people, from a Lord of the Realm to a convivial bell ringer. And one of the best things about travel is you just might get to meet them.

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).

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*Nancy Caroline Taylor  
August 17, 1941 – June 14, 2023*

*It is with great sorrow that we share the sudden passing of our mother, Nancy Caroline Taylor on June 14, 2023 at the age of 81. Nancy grew up in Tilbury, Ontario where she met and married her high school sweetheart*

*George Simpson Taylor. Together they raised four children spending time in Chatham, Ontario, New Westminster, British Columbia, London, Ontario, San Francisco, California, and Markham, Ontario before settling in St. Marys Ontario in 1982.*

*Nancy was first and foremost a mom to her children. She was that neighbourhood mom who was always home and had extra cookies to share with the neighbourhood children. She returned to school when her children were grown and became an Early Childhood Educator, nurturing many little ones during the time she devoted to working in childcare. But farming was her and George's passion and in the early eighties Nancy and George made the decision to leave the hustle and bustle of city life and purchased a century farm in St. Marys Ontario. Nancy would spend many nights feeding baby sheep and goats until they were strong enough to make it on their own, she was determined to make sure each one made it through one more night.*

*Nancy and George travelled the world together, always sharing these trips with their children and grandchildren. They were typical Ontario snowbirds spending many winters at their home in Bonita Springs, Florida. Nancy was also a diehard Toronto Blue Jays fan, and particularly enjoyed their World Series Championships in 1992 and 1993. During the last few years, Nancy became an avid bird watcher, and she would spend hours watching and identifying birds in her gardens, always sharing when the Orioles and Hummingbirds arrived back in St. Marys. And while watching the birds, she spent hours knitting preemie hats and booties, donating them to local hospitals.*

*Nancy was passionate about the theatre. Over the years, the Stratford Festival became one of her favourite places; Nancy was instrumental in supporting the Stratford Shakespeare Summer School, ensuring youth would have access to learning the beauty of acting, the intricacies of production, and the inclusive culture of the theatre. Nancy and George were Legacy Level donors to Stratford, and recently, Nancy established the Nancy and George Taylor Theatre Arts Camps Financial Assistance Program to support future generations of actors.*

*Nancy was predeceased by her parents, Benjamin and Laura Tremblay, her husband, George Simpson Taylor, and her son, George William Taylor. Nancy is survived by her brother Benny Tremblay, her children April (Paul) Rietdyk of Grand Bend, Ontario, Barbara (Mike) Reid of Avon, Ontario, and Cindy (Scott) McLauchlan of St. Marys Ontario. Nancy is also survived by her grandchildren Kaitlyn (Jason) McMannis, Jared (Amanda) Rietdyk, Evan (Emma) Rietdyk, Laura (Tony Prillo) McLauchlan, Breanna (Scott Wright) Reid, Ryan McLauchlan, Nicole Reid, and Aidan Reid. As well as her great grandchildren, Eleanor Rietdyk, Maxon Rietdyk, and Charlotte Rietdyk.*

*A visitation was held on June 17, 2023 at Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, St. Marys. Following Nancy's wishes, cremation and a private family interment will take place. Memorial donations may be made to The George and Nancy Taylor Fund Stratford Festival (if donating by cheque, make payable to Stratford Festival), Sleeping Children Around the World, or a charity of your choice. Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).*

**OBITUARY**

*Bolton*



*Brenda Bolton (nee Louch) passed away peacefully on June 12, 2023 at the age of 77 at VON Sakura House Hospice, Woodstock Ontario. Beloved wife of the late David Bolton.*

*Loving Mother of Kristie (Scott), Andrea (Ian), predeceased by daughter Tracy*

*(Darren). Nana to Jordan (Brandon), Emma, Brooke (Brady), Morgan (Brennan), Carter, and Gavin. Sister of Dr. Robert Louch (Judy); sister-in-law to Stewart (deceased) and his wife Joyce, Ron (deceased) and his wife Mary Jo, Marion Fitzgerald and her husband Ron, and George and his wife Audrey. Brenda will be missed by her nieces and nephews and many close friends Brenda graduated from Woodstock General Hospital School of Nursing as a Registered Nurse in 1967; beginning her nursing career at St. Mary's Memorial Hospital shortly after and she remained there until her retirement in 2000. Brenda had several passions that kept her busy including her gardens, golfing at Sally Creek, cheering her grandchildren on during hockey and soccer games; travelling with Dave and their friends on their motorcycle across Canada and the US; enjoying dinners with their Gourmet Group; cheering on the London Knights and trying to keep the squirrels out of her bird feeders. Her antics will be missed.*

*Cremation has taken place with a Celebration of Life to be held Saturday July 15, 2023, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, at the St Mary's Golf and Country Club. Memorial Donations can be made directly to the St. Mary's Healthcare Foundation, Woodstock Hospital and Sakura House Hospice. Wareing Cremation Services, 225 Norwich Ave., Woodstock, Ontario entrusted with Final Arrangements. Your messages of remembrance and condolence may be shared here at [wareingcremation.ca](http://wareingcremation.ca)*

**ANNOUNCEMENT**



**Happy 30th Anniversary!**

*to Normand & Diane Bélanger  
Engaged to one another 56 years ago,  
Married on June 26th, 1993.  
(There's a story behind that one???)  
And the adventure continues...*

*Luv, Family*

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**In loving memory of**



**David Smith 1955 – 2016**

*Those we love don't go away  
They walk beside us every day  
Unseen, unheard, but always near  
Still loved, still missed and very dear.  
Forever in your friends and families hearts  
and thoughts.*

**THANK YOU**

*Bradley*

*I wish to thank everyone for the get well wishes, cards, visits and treats I received after my recent fall.*

*Special thanks to my family for all their help which is still continuing.*

*Also thanks to Dr. Berta and to the helpful caring staff at St. Marys Memorial Hospital during my stay there.*

*All of your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.*

**Jean Bradley**

**CELEBRATION**



**Please join us!**

*From 1 to 4 pm June 24th to celebrate  
Diane Furtney's 80th birthday  
St. James Masonic Hall 45 Thames St N.  
(behind St Marys Ford)  
Best wishes only!*

COLUMN —

# Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

The 2023 Summer Program is almost upon us! Join us this summer for fun, free, and informative programming with our summer student, Kiersten Walsh.

Our weekly drop-in programs are Crafty Kids, Club SMPL, and Wonder Workshop. Our other weekly programs (Reading Help, STEAM League, and Funday Fridays) require registration. To book your 30-minute Reading Help session and/or reserve a spot for a Funday Friday event, go here: [tinyurl.com/SMPL-Summer-Program](http://tinyurl.com/SMPL-Summer-Program). To register for the summer-long STEAM League program, go here: [tinyurl.com/STEAM-League](http://tinyurl.com/STEAM-League). The recommended age of participants for our in-person programming is 7+, but children younger than 7 are welcome to attend with a guardian.

Our summer reading challenge will be tracked using Beanstack again this year. Children from 0-12 can pre-register for either the Junior (aimed at ages 0-5) or Senior (aimed at ages 6-12) version of the challenge today. Both challenges have weekly prizes up for grabs, personal milestones to reach,

and a chance to win a Nintendo Switch Lite at the end of the summer. Create a Beanstack account here: [stmaryspubliclibrary.beanstack.org](http://stmaryspubliclibrary.beanstack.org).

Both the in-person programming and the online reading challenge officially kick off on Monday, July 4th. For more information, please visit [tinyurl.com/Summer-Program-2023-Info](http://tinyurl.com/Summer-Program-2023-Info).

**Up This Week**

Friday, Jun. 23rd: Open 10:30am-5:00pm

Saturday, Jun. 24th: Afternoon Tea with Author Jennifer Robson at the PRC (1:00pm)

Monday, Jun. 26th: Mahjong Intro (6:00pm-6:30pm), Mahjong! (6:30pm-8:00pm)

Tuesday, Jun. 27th: Book Club (11:00am), Crafternoon (2:00pm-4:00pm)

Wednesday, Jun. 28th: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30am-10:30am), Mahjong Intro (1:00pm-2:00pm), Mahjong! (2:00pm-4:00pm), Scrabble (6:00pm-8:00pm), After Hours at the Library: Diamond Painting Make and Take (8:00pm)

Thursday, Jun. 29th: Open 10:30am-8:00pm

# LOOKING BACK



By AMY CUBBERLEY

## Wildfires and bagpipes

25 years ago (1998)

Over the past weekend, the PUC reports that town residents used over four million gallons of water. PUC manager Terry Martin would like residents to try and conserve water if possible.

On Friday, St. Marys' own Mark Fletcher will start what has become a quiet little tradition in St. Marys over the past couple of summers. Fletcher will play his bagpipes next to Little Falls each Friday evening for the rest of the summer.

If you or your friends have a hankering to play summertime hoops or in-line hockey, Jeff Richardson wants to hear from you. A government summer job grant has allowed the St. Marys Parks and Recreation department to hire Richardson as the department's assistant programming director to help run sports programming at the Lind Sportsplex.

50 years ago (1973)

Construction is underway by Kintore Box for a picnic style shelter at the north end of the Flats for the St. Marys Fair Board.

Two St. Marys chartered banks have announced a change in banking hours this week, extending the Monday to Thursday times from 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. They are the Royal Bank of Canada and the Bank of Montreal.

A total of 165 trailer units were camped for the weekend at Windmill Trailer Park on the Mitchell Road. Park operator Larry McLean has been very happy with a good start this season.

As far as the St. Marys Rotary Club is concerned there will be no flag displays on either Park Street bridge or the overhead railway bridge on Queen Street this year. Too much vandalism in past years is given as the reason for not erecting flags in 1973.

75 years ago (1948)

One of the Vampire jet propelled aeroplanes which demonstrated over Western Ontario airfields on Saturday passed over St. Marys during that afternoon. It was described as traveling very fast.

Last Friday when a haze hung over this district, the condition was probably due to the direction of the wind and the fact that a large section of Ontario's bushland in the northern part of the province was burning. The distinct smell of timber burning was in the air most of the day which seemed to verify the origin of the blaze.

Hospital Board Finance Chairman, Harold Maxwell, informed the Journal Argus yesterday that the sum of \$39,412.70 has already been raised to fund the building and equipping of St. Marys Memorial Hospital. The Hospital Board is quite pleased with the progress of the campaign so far.

100 years ago (1923)

Margaret, the four-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Jeffrey of Downie was killed when a loaded shotgun with which she and her brother were playing discharged. The tragedy occurred while her parents were in the fields on Tuesday.

Many adults as well as children have a habit of leaving their bicycles against the curbs on the street. Very often a wheel is left near the back of a parked car at the curb. The driver of the car comes along, backs up his machine to get away from other cars, and in the meantime the wheel suffers irreparable damage.

Mr. W.C. Coupland had his large touring car damaged in an accident on Sunday evening. He was traveling along Queen Street West and turned down Salina Street South when the left-hand front wheel struck the end of the curbing. The axel gave way under the strain and the car plunged headlong across the sidewalk digging up the sod for a considerable distance. Mr. Coupland was uninjured and although the axel was bent the car will be easily repaired.

## The St. Marys Farmers' Market

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

Solutions on page 31

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

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- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1) K                        | Teller Machine   |
| 2) Acts of the Apostles     | 7) Seattle   |
| 3) G.K. Chesterton          | 8) Doc, Grumpy, Happy, Sleepy, Bashful, Sneezy and Dopey |
| 4) Tennis                   | 9) Abu Dhabi   |
| 5) Ticket to Ride - Beatles | 10) Norma Jean Mortenson                                 |
| 6) Automated                |  |

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