

# St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1155

Thursday, April 20, 2023

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## Rest in Peace, Rev. Jason Richards



The community was deeply saddened in recent days to learn of the passing of Rev. Jason Richards following a courageous battle with cancer. Richards is pictured above with his wife Rev. Young Seo and their son Lincoln. On page 8 of this week's paper, Bruce Andrews has penned a tribute to Rev. Richards.

## St. Marys residents reminded to follow open-air burning rules

With some warm weather here, the St. Marys Fire Department is reminding residents about obtaining an Open-Air Burn Permit before having a backyard campfire.

An Open-Air Burn Permit is required by by-law for all open air burning in town, including backyard campfires and outdoor fireplaces.

"The by-law exists to strike a balance between public safety and improving customer service," said St. Marys Fire Chief Richard "Andy" Anderson. "It's nice for people who wish to have a

small campfire for recreational use and for warmth. However, it's important to keep in mind neighbours that may have an increased sensitivity to smoke and smells in the air."

The Open-Air Burn By-Law provides guidelines for when open air fires can be set, how big fires can be, what materials can be burned, and how far fires must be from structures such as houses and sheds.

The by-law also authorizes the Fire Chief or his delegate to issue an Order

*Continued on page 7*

## Rae Announces Investments in Kingsway Lodge, Spruce Lodge

In an announcement made at Kingsway Lodge last week, Matthew Rae, MPP for Perth-Wellington announced over \$80,000 in provincial funding for three local long-term care projects. This funding will help seniors with complex medical needs like dementia and bariatric receive specialized care in their long-term care home instead of a hospital.

"These investments will ensure our rural long-term care homes can continue to provide the highest quality of care for their residents locally," said MPP Rae. "It will help keep our seniors out of the hospital and help them live a better life."

This funding is part of a \$20 million investment this year in 189 projects provincewide through a new Local Priorities Fund operated by Ontario Health.

The projects in Perth – Wellington receiving funding are:

- \$8,700 to Spruce Lodge for the purchase of diagnostic equipment to prevent avoidable emergency department visits and hospitalizations;
- \$52,417 to Kingsway Lodge for the purchase of bariatric equipment and specialized training for staff on dementia, palliative, and wound care to support the admission of residents with bariatric and other complex care needs and to prevent avoidable emergency department visits and hospitalizations; and
- \$19,207 to Kingsway Lodge for the purchase of diagnostic equipment to prevent avoidable emergency department visits and hospitalizations.

"Our government is increasing our investment in bold, creative, and innovative solutions that conveniently connect long-term care residents to the spe-

*Continued on page 2*

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# COMMUNITY —

## Pass It On Store closing after 20 years in business

By Wendy Lamond

The landscape on Water Street will be changing once again over the next couple of weeks due to the closing of the Pass It On store in its 20th year.

Owner Carey Pope has made the difficult decision to close up shop, finding it harder to compete with big box stores and on-line shopping which became more popular during and after the pandemic. Pope was always a fan of grassroot thrift stores with different niches that are unfortunately, slowly disappearing but understands that "You have to change with the times".

Pope will still be continuing to run her business on Facebook and Instagram only and commented that she will have her place on Church Street open to the public. "It will be set up like a showcase with coffee and tea and change rooms. Anything you see on-line you can buy there, pick up or continue to drop off donations."

When Pope decided to open the business 20 years ago, she was volunteering at the youth centre which was in the basement of the post office building. There was an old couch and an old TV set and she saw a need in the community for unique thrift items and the rest is history. It didn't take long for the business to take off.

Over the 20-year span of this successful business, there have some unique donations that included a

camel saddle, a gun, erotic photos and love letters. One of Pope's favourite memories included donations from a lady that would wrap up every donation with a note describing the details of where it came from and any interesting stories related to it.

Some other highlights that Pope has been very proud of over the years include the bikes program, baseball gloves and medical equipment that were sent to Africa and Haiti providing much-needed items for the locals. Also, scholarships for girls' education, eco projects, planting trees and building a well in Africa were also some very proud contributions.

The generosity of the town for their donations and even out of town people coming through that would stop to donate has always meant a lot to Pope and has kept her business going for so long.

What is next for Pope? She will have her online business and would like to spend more time at home. However, she would also like to get into Eco tourism and spend more time in Cabarete on the north coast of Dominican Republic, planting trees and gardens and volunteering abroad.

"Thank you to everybody for supporting me and will hopefully continue to support me. Without people donating and buying, the store wouldn't have been here. I have had some great employees and volunteers but mostly it has been me slugging it and I am very proud of that."



## Rae Announces Support for Specialized Care in Long-Term Care

Continued from page 1

cialized care they need in the comfort of their long-term care home instead of a hospital," said Paul Calandra, Minister of Long-Term Care. "Initiatives like the Local Priorities Fund ensure Ontarians are being connected with the right care in the right place, close to their family and friends."

"The new Local Priorities Fund provides our long-term care homes with the flexibility to develop innovative solutions and identify ways to address the unique needs of their residents," Rae added.

The provincial government is fixing long-term care to ensure Ontario's seniors get the quality of care and quality of life they need and deserve both now

and in the future. This work is built on four pillars: staffing and care; quality and enforcement; building modern, safe, and comfortable homes; and providing seniors with faster, more convenient access to the services they need.

This is part of the province's commitment to invest \$4.9 billion over four years to increase the average daily direct care time provided by nurses and personal support workers to four hours per resident by March 31, 2025. This also includes increasing the system average direct care provided by allied health professionals to 36 minutes per resident per day by March 31, 2023. As part of this commitment, the Ontario government provided \$673 million to long-term care homes in 2022-23 and is providing \$1.25 billion

to long-term care homes in 2023-24 to hire and retain thousands of long-term care staff across the province.



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 10°C	 20°C	 16°C	 14°C	 4°C	 6°C	 9°C
Feels Like 8	Feels Like 20	Feels Like 15	Feels Like 12	Feels Like 0	Feels Like 2	Feels Like 7

COMMUNITY —

# St. Marys Fire Department receives substantial donation to purchase much needed equipment

The St. Marys Volunteer Fire Department has received a substantial donation from a local couple to purchase much needed equipment. Thanks to this donation they will be able to purchase two unique items to benefit the department operationally and use for public education.

Ron and Pat Wouters contacted the St. Marys Fire Department, wanting to donate to the volunteer firefighters to help them obtain equipment they might require.

The first item the department will purchase is a fire blanket which provides a fast, effective, and eco-friendly means of isolating and extinguishing car fires. The blanket is designed to isolate smoke immediately without spreading toxic fumes or substances, providing numerous benefits over traditional methods.

A fire blanket is also a very effective method when dealing with incidents involving electric vehicles. Electric vehicles add a new element as the sealed battery packs are often located on the undercarriage and are difficult to cool with traditional methods. Manufacturers recommend up to 3,000 gallons for extinguishment and warn of the risk of re-ignition after the initial fire is extinguished.



Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Edwards says, "As we continue to see an increased number of electric cars drive through our communities, we need to be better prepared to face this emerging hazard and control the risk of re-ignition."

The remainder of the money will go towards the purchase of an inflatable Fire Safety House which

will be an exciting addition to their fire education program. The house will provide an easy and fun way to talk about planning your escape during a fire, smoke alarms, candles, kitchen safety, space heaters and much more.

Chief Fire Prevention Officer Brian Leverton says, "This portable inflatable fire safety house is an interactive and most of all, fun fire safety learning experience for the whole community. It can be set up in as quick as 20-30 minutes and will be great for both outdoor events, as well as indoors in gymnasiums."

Like many people in this fine community, the Wouters are proud supporters of their volunteer firefighters who are dedicated to answering calls 24/7. "Donations like this help us move to that next level of proficiency and efficiency whether on the fire ground or in the classroom," said Fire Chief Richard "Andy" Anderson.

Other individuals or organizations wishing to donate to the Fire Department may send their contributions to: St. Marys Fire Department, PO Box 998, 172 James Street South, St. Marys, ON N4X 1B6 or contact Fire Chief Anderson at 519-284-2340 ext. 201.

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## COMMUNITY —

# Welcoming Cindy Boakes to the Independent Team

By Stewart Grant

I'm pleased to say that we've made a great move for now and for the future with the recent addition of Cindy Boakes to our St. Marys Independent team.

After more than 20 years working in the banking industry, most of that time with the St. Marys Branch of TD Canada Trust, Cindy was eager to take on a new challenge – coincidentally at a time when we've been thinking about our next hire.

Since my purchase of the St. Marys Independent nearly nine years ago, the billing function has been expertly handled by my mother, June Grant. However, acknowledging the constant marching forward of time, she has recently posed the question about who would handle this responsibility when she became ready to retire. Cindy was the perfect answer due to her financial services competency and superb customer service skills.

Since Cindy's first day on April 10th, she has been getting trained on our billing system and will gradually be assuming this role for the St. Marys Independent, Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette, and Stratford Times.



Cindy lives in St. Marys along with her husband Belford, boys Matthew and Brent, and dog Duke.

Please join us in welcoming Cindy to the St. Marys Independent team.

## Bravo

We have three Bravos this week.

- 1) Awesome to see our Community Resource Officer Aaron Mounfield sitting down and having lunch with the students at DCVI! What a great way to build relationships and make them feel comfortable.
- 2) Bravo to Bill Bourne for being a Super Fan at the Lincoln games this season by getting the crowd going and having fun.
- 3) Bravo to the St. Marys Lincolns organization for giving us fans great entertainment at a cheap price again this year. Cannot wait until next year.

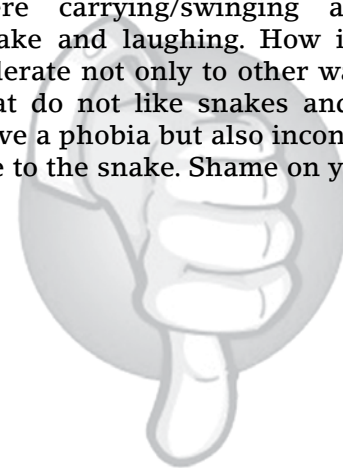


\*Please note all Boos and Bravos must be signed in order to be considered.

## Boo

We have two Boos this week.

- 1) I would like to send a whole-hearted Boo to the older lady in the SUV that drives 30 km/h everywhere in town. You're going to cause an accident. Drive the speed limit, or stop driving.
- 2) Boo to the two older men that were on the west side trestle on the walkway Friday morning that were carrying/swinging a live snake and laughing. How inconsiderate not only to other walkers that do not like snakes and may have a phobia but also inconsiderate to the snake. Shame on you!



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

## Quote of the Week

*"The by-law exists to strike a balance between public safety and improving customer service. It's nice for people who wish to have a small campfire for recreational use and for warmth. However, it's important to keep in mind neighbours that may have an increased sensitivity to smoke and smells in the air."*

- St. Marys Fire Chief Richard "Andy" Anderson commenting on the Open Air burning By-Law.

## Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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Is this the year the Leafs finally get out of the first round?

Has summer come and gone?

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

## St. Marys Independent

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Funded by the Government of Canada  
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



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## The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS  
OF THE WEEK

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Be thankful we're not getting all the government we're paying for.

Light travels faster than sound. That's why some people appear bright until you hear them speak

Being "over the hill" is much better than being under it

Wrinkled was not one of the things I wanted to be when I grew up.

# COMMUNITY —

## All Wheels Park donation of the week



Local children, Paige and Kyle Johnson, hosted a lemonade stand to help support the Rotary All Wheels Park and they raised \$118! We are so grateful, as every donation helps bring us closer to the Steering Committee goal of \$150,000. Please visit our website to learn more about this community project and make a donation. [www.townofstmarys.com/allwheelspark](http://www.townofstmarys.com/allwheelspark)

# Stonetown Crier



The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys

### Youth Birding Event

Keep your eyes on the skies!

Join us on April 24 from 4 - 5:30 PM for a FREE Youth Birding Event! This program is aimed at children and youth in Grades 3 to 10.

Participants will hike through Sparling Bush, looking for local bird species and learning how to use binoculars.

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



### PD Day Program

Swing into spring with our PD Day Program on May 5!

Spend the day:

- Exploring nature
- Creating a masterpiece
- Swimming in the pool

Spaces are limited - sign up today!

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



### Home Alone Course

Staying home alone can be a scary prospect - for kids AND parents!

The St. John Ambulance Home Alone course is designed to equip kids with the skills and confidence they need to be on their own.

This program is aimed at kids 10 and older and is happening on Saturday, May 6 from 9 AM - 3:30 PM.

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



### Babysitting Basics Course

Babysitting is a great way for youth to learn responsibility, gain confidence and earn a little spending cash!

The St. John Ambulance Babysitting Basics course teaches youth aged 11 - 15 all they need to know to care for younger kids.

Course content includes:

- Basic First Aid
- Diaper changing
- Healthy meal prep
- Handling emergencies
- And more!

The course is running on May 7 from 9 AM - 4 PM.

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## Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Connie Kittmer (nee Mitchell) who will be celebrating her 94th birthday on Wednesday, April 26. Connie previously lived in Lakeside, Ontario and now resides at Cedarcroft Place in Stratford. Connie has 2 sons, 5 grandchildren, many great grandchildren and friends. Connie enjoys music and did a lot of travelling even after retiring from her family business at "Circle K".  
Happy Birthday, Connie!

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

# COMMUNITY —

## Explore St. Marys with the 2023 Visitors' Guide

By Stewart Grant

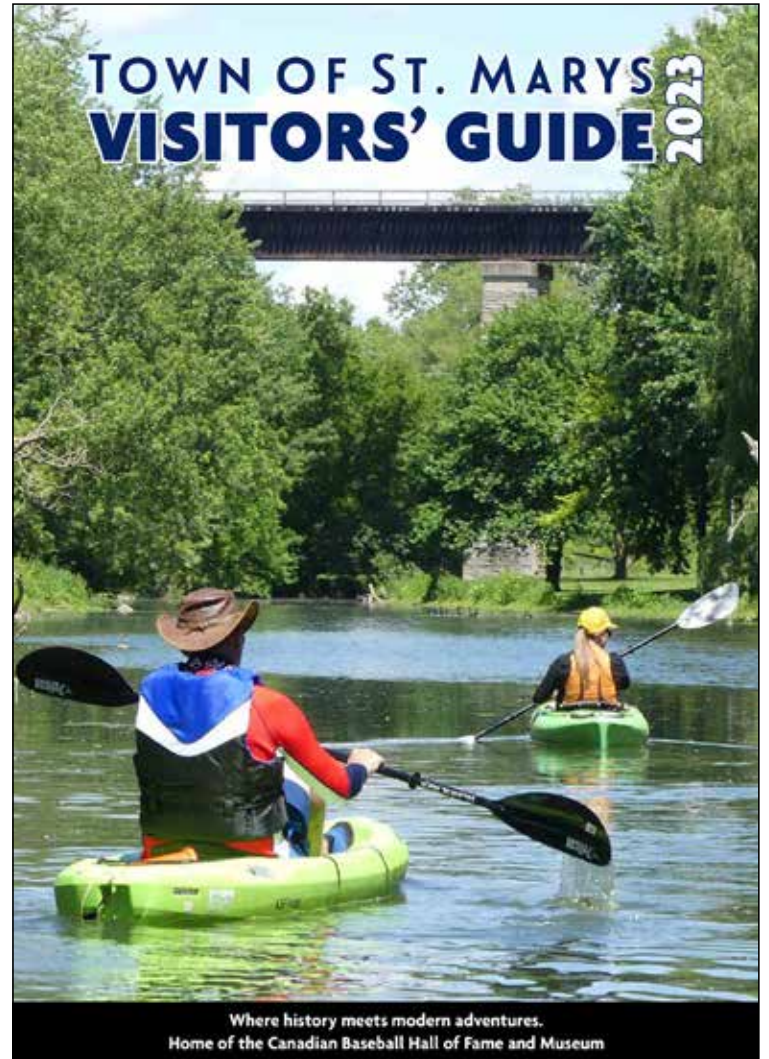
Starting this week, have a look around town and you'll be sure to find copies of the 2023 edition of our annual publication, the St. Marys Visitors' Guide. This product is a collaboration between the St. Marys Independent and the Town of St. Marys and I think that this year's edition is the best one yet.

The Visitors' Guide, which is distributed throughout Ontario and even into Michigan and New York, showcases the many highlights of the Stonetown and thus helps bring tourists and economic activity to our community.

We are grateful to the vast number of businesses and individuals whose support has made the Visitors' Guide possible. It's another example of how our small community is able to get amazing things done by people working together.

I hesitate to try and list everyone who helped with contributions to this year's guide because I will inevitably miss someone. First and foremost though, I'd like to give a shout out to our graphic designer Sarah Cairns whose skills are reflected on each of the Guide's 44 pages.

Even for those who live in town, chances are that you will discover something new in the Visitors' Guide, so I encourage you to grab a copy and then share it with those who visit you this year.



## Weekend Quiz

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- 1) Which Canadian astronaut, raised in Ailsa Craig and Ingersoll, was recently named to the Artemis crew that will orbit the moon next year?
- 2) Paul Newman ate fifty eggs in which film?
- 3) Who sang about being an eggman and a walrus?
- 4) What is manzanilla? .
- 5) Which Russian town suffered an infamous nuclear disaster in 1986?
- 6) Which planet shares its name with a dog?
- 7) In which city was the Titanic launched?
- 8) What are the names of the two old men Muppets in the balcony?
- 9) Who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize (1903)?
- 10) Name Disney's first film?

This week's answers are found on pg. 35



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COMMUNITY —

# St. Marys residents reminded to follow open-air burning rules

Continued from page 1

to Discontinue Activity and an Order to Extinguish.

The permit costs \$25, and can be applied for easily through the online Open Air Burn Permit Application Form at [townofstmarys.com/BurnPermit](http://townofstmarys.com/BurnPermit), or in person at the St. Marys Fire Department (172 James Street South) during regular business hours (Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Payment can be made online through the

form, or in person with cash or cheque after completing the online form.

Payment does not guarantee that your application will be approved. Approval can take up to two business days and you will receive an email to confirm that your application has been approved or denied.

You will be given a refund if your application is denied. Please save a copy of the email you receive on your device or print a copy for your records.

# History of Rotary Club of St. Marys Rural Urban

The Rotary Club of St. Marys was chartered in 1925 and the first Rural Urban event was held in the Town Hall, to foster good fellowship between Rural and Urban residents. In the early years travel was by horse and wagon thus Rotarians travelled to the communities of Kirkton, Thorndale etc. for the meetings. The venues were the local churches because they were the heart of the communities and the community ladies put on a great country meal to enhance the relationships.

In later years cars became common and Community Centers were built in Kirkton, Thorndale and St. Marys to accommodate the event. Caterers then provided food but the local

sourcing has always been maintained.

We have enjoyed many speakers over the years that provided information and many laughs, along with the fellowship, before the busy spring planting. We are pleased that for many years we have been able to have attendance between 350 and 400 people from Perth, Huron, Oxford, and Middlesex counties.

Rotary is proud that the Rural Urban event is celebrating its 97th year in 2023 thus it stood the "test of time" in this unique Town of St. Marys and rich diversified agricultural area.

The 2023 event will be held April 27 at the St. Marys Pyramid Centre with Dan Needles as entertainer. The event is sold out.

## FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Address: 6640 Cobble Hills Road, R. R. #4, St. Marys, Zorra Township



**Legal:** PT LT 27 CON 8 EAST NISSOURI AS IN 265200; ZORRA, County of Oxford  
**Lot Size:** 17.6 Acres

**Description:** Approximately 15 acres of workable, systematically tiled land. The balance of the land is a building site and a large vegetable garden. The site serviced with drilled well, and a septic (installed in 2011). Approximately 2200 Sq Ft home built in

2011 with 3 bedrooms, large country style kitchen/living area, 4pc bathroom, and large laundry/mudroom. No electricity to the house.

**Tender Deadline:** May 4th, 2023

**For a Tender Package and more info contact:**

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# ROTARY CLUB OF ST. MARYS PROUDLY PRESENTS 97<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL RURAL URBAN NIGHT

### AUCTION INFORMATION

**Name:** Rotary Club of St. Marys Rural Urban Online Auction

**Auctioneer:** Shackleton's Real Estate & Auction Co.

**Type:** Online-Only Auction

**Date(s):** April 20 - 28, 2023

Sale begins on Thursday April 20, 2023, at 12:00 a.m. The sale will begin to close on Friday, April 28, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. with a three-minute soft close in effect.

**Preview Date/Time:** There is no in-person preview.

**Checkout Date/Time:** The Rotary Club of St. Marys will contact successful bidders to make arrangements related to purchased items.

**Buyer Premium:** 0%

**Description:** All proceeds from this auction support the work of the Rotary Club of St. Marys. The club is a major sponsor of the new skateboard park. Previously the club sponsored the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Cadzow Park Splash Pad, weekly delivery of community meals during COVID, and recently supported displaced Ukrainian families in our area.

**Link for online auction:** <https://shackletons.hibid.com/catalog/443131/rotary-club-of-st-marys-rural-urban-online-auction>

**Scan to go to auction:**



### AUCTION ITEMS

**Lot 1:** Town of St Marys Facility Tour

**Lot 2:** The Healing Power of Singing

**Lot 3:** Explore the Bruce

**Lot 4:** Chef's Dinner

**Lot 5:** London Knights Prime Seating

**Lot 6:** Blue Jays Tickets

**Lot 7:** St Marys Votorantim Cement Plant VIP Tour

**Lot 8:** Brunswick Pool Table

**Lot 9:** St Marys From the Air

**Lot 10:** Our Nation's Capital

Full details of each auction item can be found on the online auction site or by scanning the QR code.



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## COMMUNITY —

# Rev. Jason Richards, Saint Telemachus and Teddy Roosevelt

By Bruce Andrews

Rev. Jason Richards has died. A great light has gone out. He was my friend, as he was to everyone who knew him. He was the same age as my son and indeed, in many ways, he was like a son. Everyone would be proud to have that relationship with him. He died too young and, as in every family, no child should ever die before their parents.

Jason's character reminds me of Saint Telemachus. Telemachus was a Christian monk from the eastern part of the Roman Empire who was appalled at the gladiatorial games that provided gory entertainment to the crowds in the coliseums throughout the Empire. In the year 391 AD, Telemachus felt God asking him to go to the coliseum to protest and stop the carnage. He obeyed. Historians are divided as to how he died, either by being stabbed by a gladiator or by being stoned to death by the crowd. It is said that when the crowd understood the martyrdom of this innocent ascetic, the people were grief-stricken, fell silent and shuffled quietly out of the coliseum. The Roman Emperor, Honorius, who himself was a Christian, was so moved on hearing the story, that he ordered an end to the barbaric gladiatorial contests in the arenas. One man then, following God's call, made a huge difference for God's kingdom. Telemachus gave no thought for himself and willingly risked and gave his life for the benefit of others.

In the same way, Rev. Jason and his wife, Rev. Young Seo followed God's call on their lives to come to St. Marys a few short years ago. Sometime after, Jason received the diagnosis of colorectal cancer. He endured radiation and chemotherapy with the expectation that he would return to health and to a long life with his family and in service to his pastoral charge and this community. Sadly, the cancer returned and spread. Jason underwent more chemotherapy. In spite of the pain, exhaustion and sometimes ago-



ny, he gave no thought for himself and continued to faithfully follow God's call to make a difference in St. Marys, which also included producing a long range strategic plan for the church's ministry.

Perhaps he could have taken long term disability and retired to enjoy however many years that God had allotted to him. Instead, he stayed in the arena, which further challenged his health, in order to be where God had invited him to be.

As a result of his ongoing service, in Jason's words, the people of the United Church have been transformed into "An Omelette of Compassion." Jason's willingness to endure, to be transparent and to serve in spite of his deteriorating health became an inspiration to the members of his congregation. Any stones of malice from the past that any of us might

ever have held have been set down so that we could quietly serve together in ministry to Jason, to each other and to the community.

In closing, consider this small part of US President Teddy Roosevelt's famous speech entitled "The Man in the Arena:"

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

Jason's life didn't go the way anyone wanted. Through it all, from the pulpit and in casual conversation, Jason made it clear that God was with him the whole way, loving and supporting him to the very end. Jason's faithful response to God, in spite of his health challenges, has had a galvanizing impact on his congregation and its ministry. We love him and we will miss him terribly. Jason has glorified God with his life and that will be part of his victory, his legacy and his reward. As his last act in every church service, he would shout, "God is good, All the time. All the time, God is good. Amen."

Pray now for his widow, Rev. Young Seo, their son Lincoln and the family.

Bruce Andrews is a retired optometrist and a member of the Worship and Membership Committee of the St. Marys United Church.

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# COMMUNITY —

## Snapping Turtle Expands Offerings with My Main Street Program

Snapping Turtle Coffee Roasters in downtown St. Marys is a recipient of a My Main Street non-repayable contribution of \$10,000 to support and grow its main street business.

Owner Sal Vaianisi has been able to introduce an entirely new line of available foods, including two daily soups, chili on weekends, breakfast bagels, four different daily sandwiches and soups for lunch, frozen soup for takeout and new sodas.

So far Snapping Turtle has found nothing but success with these new offerings, with positive reviews from customers.

Vaianisi is hoping to expand his menu in the near future to include a dinner menu, as well as a liquor license for the outdoor patio in the summer months.

Snapping Turtle Coffee Roasters is located at 145 Queen Street East and is open Tuesday through Friday 7-4 and Saturday/Sunday 10-3.

Look online at snappingturtlecoffee.com and on Instagram and Facebook @snappingturtlecoffee.

My Main Street is the result of a \$23.25-million Government of Canada investment through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) to support the recovery and revitalization of main streets and local businesses across southern Ontario.

The funding is being distributed in partnership with investStratford, the Stratford Perth Centre for Business and the Town of St. Marys.



Snapping Turtle Owner Sal Vaianisi (Stewart Grant photo).

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## SPORTS —

# DCVI's new ringette squad unbeaten in debut tourney

St. Marys DCVI's newly-formed Ringette Team travelled to Tillsonburg to play in the Gemini Classic Tournament, the first tournament for the new program, and they came away as champions.

Coaches Jeff McCurdy, Jim Burlingham, and Brenna Atthill weren't sure what to expect from their squad made up of players from grades 9-12, many of whom don't play together during the regular season, and only had three practices together to figure out lines and plays.

## DCVI opens with 3-1 win over Lord Dorchester

Abby Cunningham started between the pipes for DCVI in game one against Lord Dorchester Secondary. Olive Aarts fired in the first goal off a pass from Raella Brodhagen to start the scoring midway through the first period.

Dorchester responded with a goal of their own. A beautiful series of passes from Jordan Hunter to Avery Jennings and then Payton Blight saw the Salukis clear their zone and place the ring in the back of the net to end the first period. Goaltender Cunningham had the whole arena gasping when she charged from the net to intercept the pass headed to LDSS at the hash marks.

Looking to widen the lead, Regan Frayne called for the pass high in the neutral zone and then tipped it to Aarts who went glove side to score again. Happy with how the first game ended, coaches encouraged the players to communicate with each other and assess their angles before taking the shot.

## Barber blanks Goderich, St. Marys wins 6-0

The tournament continued for the St. Marys squad when they faced off against Goderich DCI. Aarts opened the scoring again assisted by Frayne within the first minute of play and then scored again from Brodhagen



In the first tournament for the newly-formed St. Marys DCVI Ringette team, the Salukis left last week's Gemini Classic Tournament in Tillsonburg as Champions. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Jill Sterkenberg, Abby Cunningham, Regan Frayne, Arielle Barber, Jordan Hunter, Cortney Linton, and Billie Sedley. In the back row, from left, are Jeff McCurdy, Brenna Atthill, Isla Unich, Payton Blight, Avery Jennings, Raelle Brodhagen, Emily McCurdy, Alia Linton, Adrianna Hollestelle-Black, Jorja Linton, Olive Aarts, Abby Martin, Jim Burlingham, and Lori Black. (Contributed photo)

and Frayne. Isla Unich sent a long pass to Frayne who drew the opposing goalie into moving before potting a goal of her own.

The second period saw new players adding their names to the score-sheet. The first to score was Alia Linton off a pass from Adrianna Hollestelle-Black. Following her lead, Hollestelle-Black, on a quick pass from Frayne, found the back of the net from her knees. Blight also scored in this game, bringing the score to 6-0. Arielle Barber earned the shutout for the Salukis.

## DCVI routs Mitchell 8 - 1

Scoring first became the new goal in the last round-robin game. Coach McCurdy called for increased communication and quick passes in anticipation of stiff competition from Mitchell. Jennings didn't disappoint, setting Jill Sterkenburg up with a well-placed drop pass 50 seconds into the game.

Aarts recorded the next two goals, fed from Jorja Linton, Frayne, and

Brodhagen. Blight and Frayne each scored followed by Emily McCurdy's first goal of the tournament.

The defensive duos worked well to minimize the shots on Cunningham's net and continued to create scoring opportunities for the offensive lines. Abby Martin sent the ring to Jennings who opened the scoring in the second period. Blight would score the last goal of the game for the Salukis who would then wait to see who they'd face in the semis.

## Salukis fend off East Elgin in 5-4 thriller

With the same strategy in place, McCurdy scored the first goal at 13:57 off a pass from Alia Linton before the opposition surged back and score the next three goals. Coach Brenna Atthill called a timeout to refocus the squad who trailed for the first time in the tournament. Her message was well received as the Salukis got the next three goals, first by Blight, followed by Alia Linton and Brodhagen to end the first period.

For the next 10 minutes, each team fired shots at the goalies who both stood tall in the nets. Finally, Sterkenberg went glove side to widen the lead to two. East Elgin refused to quit, sliding one past Cunningham who took over from Barber to get the win.

"The defence kept us in that game", Coach Burlingham shared. "Billie Sedley, Cortney Linton, Hunter, Unich, Martin, and Jorja Linton were quick to move the ring into the neutral zone and doubled back to establish a strong triangle as needed."

## DCVI wins Gemini Cup with 2-1 win over LDSS

With only a 15-minute break between the semis and the finals, everyone was in the zone.

Having faced LDSS in their first game, the girls knew what to expect from their opposition. The coaches encouraged the squad to keep playing their game and emphasized the importance of coming off to put fresh legs on.

Jorja Linton started with the ring at centre ice and quickly found McCurdy near the ringette line who passed to Hollestelle-Black who potted the game's first goal. Six minutes later, LDSS responded with a goal of their own. From then on, strong checking and clear communication minimized the shots headed to Cunningham while allowing DCVI to control through the neutral zone. With time winding down, Aarts set Hollestelle-Black up for the winning goal.

"Getting here was a two-year process", Lori Black exclaimed, teacher advisor and one of the team's organizers. "I couldn't be happier with how these players pulled together. The joy on their faces makes it all worth it. I'd like to thank Jeff, Jim, and Brenna for stepping forward to coach. Also, a big thank-you to St. Marys Ringette for the loan of their jerseys. We can't wait to do this again next year as defending champions."



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# SPORTS —

## Year of strong development ends at Provincials for U18 B Girls

By Spencer Seymour

The U18 B Girls certainly didn't enter the OWSA Provincial Championship as the favourites but by the end, they had made some noise and earned plenty of respect.

Entering Provincials, the Rock were ranked 20th out of the 20-team field. Despite the St. Marys squad not being the most likely to find success, the Rock managed to get to the quarter-finals where they were knocked off by the Hearst Ice Cats in a tight 1-0 battle.

Head Coach Don Scott told the Independent that his team was able to pull off the underdog run thanks to how hard each player worked.

"I think they did really well this weekend," said Scott. "They stuck to our gameplan and didn't try to play over their heads or do things that they weren't able to do. These girls know what they're good at and what they can contribute to our team's success and they did really well at it."

"Their work ethic is what did it for them. Our work ethic is right up there with anybody. Our team isn't necessarily going to win by having a lot more skill than everyone else, but we outwork a lot of teams. Our work ethic allows us to get goaltending, it allows our defence to keep the opposition to the outside. We don't give up very many high-danger chances."

Scott also gave credit to their opponent who eliminated them in the quarters, saying that there was no shame in losing to the high-octane Ice Cats.

"Hearst was a really strong opponent. They were a fast team and they were incredibly tenacious. As soon as we got the puck, they were right on us. They were using their speed to take

away our time and space. Our effort was really good but Hearst played us really tough."

According to Scott, the team displayed a great deal of maturity throughout the tournament, both on the ice and how quickly they shook off their rink rust, as well as off the ice and the entire team's respectful demeanour.

"I was really proud of the girls and how they carried themselves, both on and off the ice. There was no negativity inside the dressing room or directed toward any of the other teams. The atmosphere was really good and I was really pleased with everyone on our team."

"With us having two months off between the end of our season and the Provincials, we didn't have a ton of time to get tuned up and really experience the flow of a real game ahead of this weekend," Scott continued. "But, to the girls' credit, there wasn't as much rust to shake off as there could have been. The girls clearly stayed ready and to get the results we did with the layoff we had was really good for us."

The Head Coach also expressed how happy he was with how the largely young and inexperienced team developed over the course of the year, with the Provincial Championship being the exclamation mark.

"We had eight first-year players and quite a few players who hadn't played at the 'B' level yet, so development was going to be really important for us. They've learned how to elevate their game and their compete level to that higher level. From the start of the season to where we were at the end, I think there was a lot of positive progression both technically and physically."



Pictured are the Hubbard Pharmacy U18 B Girls St. Marys Rock's graduating players with Head Coach Don Scott. The U18 B Girls competed in the OWSA Provincial Championship this past weekend. In the front row, from left to right, are Natalie Johnston, Neive Goris, Ava Ainsley, and Anna Standeven. In the back row, from left, are Abbie Boyd, Hailey Scott, Don Scott, Matt Layton, Gracie Hillman, and Lucy Petrie. (Contributed photo)



### Annual General Meeting Tuesday, May 2, 2023

St. Marys Minor Hockey Association will hold its Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday May 2nd, 2023** at the Pyramid Recreation Centre, in the EndZone.

The meeting will be held immediately following the regular monthly board meeting, starting at 7pm. All members of the SMMHA Community are welcome, invited and encouraged to come.

Members are encouraged to attend both meetings, to gain insight and provide input on the future leadership and direction of the association.

For more information go to <https://smmha.ca>

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## SPORTS —

# 'No quit' - U15 C Girls win all but four games all season

By Spencer Seymour

A remarkable season for the Home Hardware Building Centre U15 C Girls St. Marys Rock came to an end at the OWHA Provincial Championship this past weekend.

The U15 C Girls lost a back-and-forth quarter-final contest against Kanata. Going into the tournament, the Rock were ranked second in the province in their age group.

In their 61 games in total, including tournaments, regular season, and playoff games, the team lost just four times. Goaltender Marta Rintoul had 25 shutouts and overall, the team earned a staggering 46 victories en route to their league championship.

Head Coach Nathan Brown told the Independent that the unwavering work ethic and desire of this team made him proud to coach them this season.

"This team just has no quit in them," said Brown. "These girls have been a well-oiled machine all year long because they never stop battling and playing for each other. They don't know the meaning of the word 'quit'. The success these girls were able to have is honestly mind-boggling."

Their quarter-final matchup saw Kanata score the game's first goal in the second period with a screen in front of Rintoul which allowed a point shot to find its way into the net. This would go down as the game-winner with Kanata narrowly escaping with a 2-0 victory. Kanata added a powerplay marker later in the period.

The lines were adjusted in the third



The Home Hardware Building Centre U15 C Girls St. Marys Rock embracing the "Dressing Room Mom" Melissa Rintoul during last weekend's OWHL Provincial Championship. Head Coach Nathan Brown said the season "totally sums up" the team's season from a standpoint of how close-knit the team has become. (Contributed photo)

as the Rock looked for a final-period comeback, but Kanata was able to withstand the late push for the final push in the third period. This included two fantastic saves by Kanata's goal, including a brilliant kick save on a Marin Chateauvert shot and a great pad save on a Maddie Brown chance.

"We had our opportunities and had all our girls back together for the final game of the tournament," Coach Brown remarked. "Cammie came

back from injury in game one and Abby came back from suspension for the final game. Everyone skated hard all tournament with 11 and 12 skaters but never got tired. They never gave up in any game all year and never gave up on each other."

Kanata's Head Coach Philip Samojlenko had high praise for the St. Marys squad after the quarter-final battle.

"The St. Marys girls were a class act,"

Samojlenko said. "They played hard but respectful at the same time. We thought we were going to grind them down with our three lines but those girls just kept coming and blowing by us. We couldn't believe that they didn't get tired."

The U15 C Girls finished second in their pool with their opponent in Game Three of their divisional play, the TCDGHA Rebels of Saugeen Shores. Regan Jones had the lone St. Marys goal in a 1-1 tie. The Rebels took first in the pool based on goal differential.

In the first game of the division play, the Rock defeated Nepean by a score of 4-1. Libby McCurdy opened the scoring in the second period with a point shot that got through the five-hole. Just under five minutes later, Sophie Richardson buried a rebound opportunity off of a shot by Jones to make it 2-0. Marin Chateauvert posted the Rock's third goal with 56 seconds left in the middle frame. The Rock added an empty netter late in the third to lock up the 4-1 final.

The team's second divisional game came against Lambeth and after a slow start for St. Marys that saw the Lancers jump out to a 1-0 lead, Jones once again created a rebound that ended up in the back of the net, this time finished off by Tegan Mace. Chateauvert scored on a breakaway to give the Rock a 2-1 lead before the end of the first. After a scoreless second period, the Rock got a goal from both Richardson and Jones en route to a 4-1 win.

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## SPORTS —

# 'Team of gamers' - U13 B Girls compete at Provincials

By Spencer Seymour

The U13 B Girls St. Marys Rock ended their season by competing at the OWSA Provincial Championship this past weekend.

The Rock were eliminated in the late stages of the divisional play when the second-place teams from each division battled for positioning. St. Marys lost out to a hot Coyotes team from Russell Castor River before they could reach the quarter-finals, but despite not going as far as they may have hoped, Head Coach Dan Gracey was very proud of his team's tournament and season as a whole.

"The work ethic that these girls have is great and it makes all of the girls on this team true gamers," Gracey told the Independent. "I have loved coaching this team this year. They never gave up, they were extremely confident in the way they played. Overall, it was an amazing weekend. We tied the team that lost in the Bronze Medal game so we could have been in the mix for a medal."

"Our defence did a really good job in this tournament and late in the season at really starting to be confident in holding the fort in front of our net, and our forwards played with a ton of speed and skill. It was great to see the confidence that our high-speed forwards were playing with as a result of the defence and the goaltending we were getting."

On a team full of great people and great stories, arguably the most incredible story was that of goaltender Gracie Ross. At the start of the year, Ross was actually cut by the U13 B Girls team, but when one of the squad's netminders left the team to pursue 'A' level hockey in London,



The U13 B Girls St. Marys Rock left all of their coaches and parents feeling immensely proud after their season concluded at the OWSA Provincial Championship. (Contributed photo)

Ross was approached about joining the team.

She not only rejoined the team but, by this past weekend's Provincial tournament, Ross was one of the team's pillars. In doing so, she not only helped the team earn a place in a competition involving the best the province has to offer but proved the incredible depth of her character and became a poster child for persevering with grace and overcoming adversity.

The Head Coach said that Ross' inspiring journey this season not only motivated him but also gave a boost to all of the players.

"This weekend, she was our most

valuable player," Coach Gracey raved. "Our team played better because of how Gracie performed in net for us. She gave everyone a ton of confidence which allowed them to play more freely. Teams play differently when they have confidence in who is behind us and Gracie allowed us to never feel worried about our goalie."

Gracey also explained that the way the young netminder and her family handled the entire journey of this season was really impressive.

"Gracie and her family handled the news of getting cut at the start of the season with grace, honour, and poise. And then, when I had to go back to

them to ask her to join us, they handled it the same way. I am really appreciative of the way they acted. We have a great network of parents and kids on this team and they definitely added to that."

"Her ability to persevere this season speaks to how high her character is. The journey of her initially not making the team and then being turned to later on and seizing that opportunity and the maturity with which she did that is a sign of an emotionally strong person. It also shows she picked the right position because goalies have to be especially tough emotionally since they never get a short shift or a break."

## Independent Sports Section honoured in BNC Awards

By Stewart Grant

The Stonetown has long had award-winning sports coverage, with legendary reporter Pat Payton earning many industry accolades during his 40-year career with the St. Marys Journal-Argus and St. Marys Independent. His coverage has inspired people of all ages to take an interest in their local newspaper, and countless clippings of his work have been preserved in family scrapbooks or proudly showcased on kitchen refrigerators and bulletin boards.

On Friday, April 14th, Payton's work was recognized once again, as the St. Marys Independent earned 2nd place in the Province of Ontario for "Best Sports Section" at the 2022 Better Newspaper Competition ("BNC") presented by the Ontario Community Newspapers Association.

First-place honours went to the Eganville Leader, a newspaper which is a perennial contender for journalism awards in all categories, including "Best Overall Newspaper".

Although Payton retired from the St. Marys Independent in December 2022, his lasting impact on local sports coverage continues. Spencer Seymour, who absorbed as much as he could from Pat before fully taking over the position in January 2023, certainly appears to be a strong contender for future awards in the areas of sports journalism and broadcasting.

Congratulations to Pat Payton on this honour, and a big thank you to Pat and Spencer for all of their contributions to our community through their first-rate sports coverage.

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# SPORTS —

## Lincolns hold annual awards banquet (Part One)

Part Two of Lincs' award winners coming next week



Last Friday, the St. Marys Lincolns held their annual Awards Banquet at River Valley Golf and Tube Slide. Michael Elliston and Matteo Lalama were co-winners of the Jacques Cousineau Award as Playoff MVPs, which was presented by the award's namesake Cousineau. Elliston was unable to attend so his father Rob accepted the award on his son's behalf.



Luca Spagnolo received the Earl Leslie Award as the Lincolns' Rookie of the Year, presented by Don Leslie. The Milton native had 17 goals and 40 points in 45 games in the regular season. Spagnolo was also a key part of the Lincolns' best line during their second-round series against the London Nationals, a line also including Ethan Lamoureux and Chase MacQueen-Spence.



Nathan Small and Adam Barkley were co-winners of the David Baynes Award as the team's best defencemen, presented by former GM Mike Brogden. Small led all Lincolns' skaters in points in the playoffs and led St. Marys defenders in the regular season with 47 points. Barkley came second in powerplay goals during the regular season. Both had 11 goals in the regular season.



Captain Ethan Lamoureux became a back-to-back winner of the Harold Maxwell Award as the Lincolns' leading scorer in the regular season for the second consecutive year. The award was presented to Lamoureux by Lincs' Assistant Coach and former scoring leader Michael Siddall. (All photos by Spencer Seymour)

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**SPORTS —**

# 48th annual PPA Draft takes place at SMGCC



In the photo on the left, Rob Staffen, the 2021 Playoff Payoff Association (PPA) winner, presents the Hockey Night in Canada blue jacket and the Harold Snepsts Trophy to 2022 winner Scott Furtney. The PPA held their 48th annual NHL playoff draft at the St. Marys Golf & Country Club (SMGCC) on Saturday, April 15th. In the photo on the right, pictured in the front row from left to right are Richard T. Kennedy, Scott Furtney, and Rob Staffen. In the back row, from left, are Steve Graham, Kevin Ellis, Paul Carter, Paul Marcaccio, Jeff Craigmile, Doug Newton, Tom Robson, Warren Wilson, and Bob Davis. Unable to attend were Lou Pagotto, Glenn Coghlin, and Charles Longeway. Each year, the winner donates \$1,000 to a local St. Marys charity. In 2022, Staffen donated his \$1,000 in winnings to the creation of the Sports Wall of Fame at the Pyramid Recreation Centre. (Contributed photos)




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**SPORTS —**

# Girls' Minor Basketball squad wins final game of season at DCVI



Sparrow Mund surveys the situation as she stops up on a drive to the basket in last Thursday's Girls' Minor Basketball game against the London Sixers. In their final game of the regular season on their home court at DCVI, St. Marys defeated London by a score of 33-22. Tim O'Connor has been really happy with how his team has been working throughout the season, with the Head Coach saying the win was "a shot in the arm" for the group. "This team beat us a week ago by one point so it was nice to see us bounce back and get the win. We had a couple of girls have some big offensive games and as a whole, our team worked hard and played really steadily defensively." O'Connor also told the Independent that he has seen the team improve in several key areas. "Our passing has improved and our defence has gotten much better from the start of the year. These are all really great kids who show up to practice wanting to improve and they've made this a really enjoyable year for me and hopefully themselves as well." (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

# St. Marys Bowling Lanes represented at Provincials



The team of Alexis Fares (left) and Rory Brockman right) placed fifth in the YBO High-Low Doubles at the Provincial Championship. The tournament was held at C and D Lanes in Woodstock on Sunday, April 16th. Chris Collins (middle) coached the duo. (Contributed photo)

## How to read the Bible



It's big and sometimes confusing. It's not even organized like any other book.

How did we get the Bible? Is everything in it supposed to be understood literally?

What's the difference among prose, poetry, history, allegory and parable? What about the "kind of weird" or scary bits of the Bible?

If you've ever wondered how to read it, here's your chance: a weekly lecture with time for questions and discussion.

**When:** Tuesdays in May, 6.30 – 7.45 p.m

**Where:** St. Marys Public Library. 2nd floor.

**Who:** Dr. Mark McKim, minister of First Baptist Church, holds degrees from the University of New Brunswick, Acadia University and a doctorate from Boston University. He has twice undertaken sabbatical study at Oxford University, England. In addition to dozens of journal articles and reviews, he has written several books and has taught in Canada, the United States and Asia.

For people of any faith or none, the curious, confused, conflicted, seekers, skeptics and every one in between.

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

Solutions on page 35



## SPORTS —

# U15 B Boys win OMHA Championship



As reported last week, the A.N.A.F. U15 B Boys St. Marys Rock won the OMHA Championship. The win capped off a year filled with major accomplishments, including the International Silver Stick title. Pictured above in the front row, from left to right, are Reid Taylor, Nathan Wolfkamp, Simon Taylor, Finn Wright, Grier Mahoney, Myles Clinton, Hayden Wright, and Isaac Cousineau. In the middle row, from left, are Kyle Spence (Coach), Zach Larmer, and André Mollet. In the back row, from left, are Ben Ewing, Donovan McGregor, Danny Switzer, Evan Ballantyne, Sam Johnson, Jared Ballantyne, Lucas Spence (Coach), Eric Burford (Trainer), Brendan Near (Coach), and Gord Cookson (Coach). (Photo credit: Mike Chenette/McGinnyPhotography)



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## THE WEEK AHEAD

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### Friday, April 21

- Piecemakers 2023 Quilt Show at the PRC - 10 am to 7 pm, \$10 admission
- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog/sausage lunch at Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 pm
- St. Marys Gospel Hall (632 Jones St E) children's meeting - 7:30 pm, runs for 10 weeks

### Saturday, April 22

- Piecemakers 2023 Quilt Show at the PRC - 10 am to 4 pm, \$10 admission
- St. Marys Poetry Circle poetry busking at the Library garden - 1:30 to 3:30 pm
- A.N.A.F. Fish Fry - 5 to 7 pm, Entertainment 7 to 10 pm
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm

### Sunday, April 23

- Open house celebration of George Taylor's 80 birthday at Purple Hill Country Music Hall - 1 to 4 pm

### Monday, April 24

- Community Dinner at the St. Marys United Church - 5 pm, Sponsored by the St. Marys Lions Club Admission is free but donations are greatly appreciated

### Thursday, April 27

- SMCP Preview Performance of "The 39 Steps" at the Town Hall Theatre - 8 pm



Veteran Affairs Canada defines a veteran as "any former member of the Canadian Armed Forces who successfully underwent basic training and is honorably released". This includes personnel who served as reservists. There is no minimum time required in service, and no need to have seen military action.

It is possible that service men and women who served for even short periods of time may be eligible for monetary awards in compensation for injuries that can be related to their time in uniform.

The Royal Canadian Legion is ready and willing to help all veterans, whether they are Legion members or not. If you believe there is even a small chance that you may be entitled to this assistance, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

The Provincial Service Officer, Britany Campbell, will be visiting the Perth Regiment Veterans Branch 236 St Marys during the week of May 17-19. Her job is to use a variety of resources to assist veterans in obtaining all awards they are eligible for. Anyone who would like to discuss a possible claim with her is urged to call the Branch Service Officer, Reg Rumble 519-661-7446 no later than May 1 2023 to set up an appointment.



# National Volunteer Week

April 16 - 22, 2023

*Thank you for all you do!*

What truly makes St. Marys special are the people that give back, every single day. The Town of St. Marys is grateful for our team of volunteers.

## Volunteer Stories

Events volunteers (top) support a variety of initiatives in our community. The Friendship Centre scrapbooking volunteers spend countless hours planning and running various events at the Friendship Centre.

Wellness volunteers (bottom) support and facilitate a variety of programs that encourage our community to be active and engaged.

## Volunteer for the Town of St. Marys

To learn about volunteer opportunities, visit [townofstmarys.com/volunteer](http://townofstmarys.com/volunteer), call 519-284-2340, ext. 629, or email [volunteer@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:volunteer@town.stmarys.on.ca).



## Nominate someone for "Strong as Stone" recognition



Do you know a volunteer who is "Strong as Stone"? Residents can nominate people who have done good deeds for official recognition by the Town.

Visit [townofstmarys.com/StrongAsStone](http://townofstmarys.com/StrongAsStone) or use the QR code below.





# Spring Cleaning?

## Be in the know about where waste should go!



### Leaf & Yard Waste Curbside Collection Dates



#### North and West Area

April 24; May 8 and 22; June 19; July 31; August 28; September 25; October 23; November 6 and 20

#### Southeast and Southwest Area

May 1, 15 and 29; June 26; July 24; August 21; September 18; October 30; November 13 and 27

Leaf and yard waste must be set at the curb by 7 AM on collection days. Only kraft-style brown paper leaf and yard waste bags or reusable containers (weighing less than 22 kg) will be accepted.

For a map and details visit: [townofstmarys.com/yardwaste](http://townofstmarys.com/yardwaste)

### Hazardous Waste Drop-off Events



Drop off hazardous materials at the Municipal Operations Centre (408 James St. S) on the following dates between 8 AM and 12 PM:

- Saturday, July 22
- Saturday, October 21

Details: [townofstmarys.com/hazardouswaste](http://townofstmarys.com/hazardouswaste)

### Green Cone Digesters For Sale



We have a limited supply of Green Cone food digesters for sale at half price (\$67.50; regular \$135).

Green cones use solar power to reduce food waste to its natural components. They can break down almost ALL cooked and uncooked food waste, including meat, fish, bones, dairy products, vegetable and fruits.

Green Cones can be purchased in person at the Municipal Operations Centre (408 James St. S) while supplies last.

Details: [bra.org/organic/digesters](http://bra.org/organic/digesters)

### Please Don't "Wish-cycle"



Just because something is paper, metal, plastic, or glass, does not mean it is recyclable! Placing the wrong items in recycling bins increases program costs and affects the safety of our staff.

#### Acceptable materials include:

Newspaper, magazines, office paper, envelopes, soft cover books, brochures, calendars, cardboard, boxboard, kraft paper, paper cores (e.g. toilet paper roll), moulded pulp (e.g. egg carton), PET plastic (bottles, jars, clamshells) and HDPE plastic (bottles, jars, tubs, lids, pails and bags)

If you are unsure, contact [info@bra.org](mailto:info@bra.org) or 1-800-265-9799, visit [www.bra.org](http://www.bra.org) or download the Recycle Coach App.



**COMMUNITY —**

# St. Marys Poetry Circle Celebrates Poetry Month



The audience at the Friendship Centre on Friday enjoyed a wonderful evening of poetry from The St. Marys Poetry Circle recently, with projected photos of "The Minimalist Eye," book, followed by a panel discussion of what inspires poetry. Refreshments were provided by the Friends of the Library. (Alizon Sharun photos)



lone Grover engages the audience with her poem.

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# Thames Centre Council meeting held in Thorndale

By Nancy Abra

At the December 2022 Thames Centre Council meeting, it was announced that two meetings of Council per year will be held in Thorndale. This is an unprecedented step to increase accessibility to the Thorndale Community and a positive step for the working population of Thames Centre to attend evening meetings.

Last Wednesday, April 12th, Thames Centre Council broke from tradition for their regular meetings. Mayor Sharron McMillan began by welcoming everyone to the Council's regular scheduled meeting for the first time being held at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre in Thorndale. She continued by stating, "I would like to extend Council's thanks to all the various staff members of Thames Centre and to the Middlesex County IT department for all of their hard work they went to, to make this [meeting] happen. It is not always the easiest task, and we are grateful for their assistance and perhaps we can do this again in the future."



There were 28 residents of Thorndale and area who attended this meeting. Connie Bontje, who was in the audience, stated, "It is important to come to show Council support if they make the effort to come to have their meeting in Thorndale."

This regular Council meeting consisting of various reports and the presentation was brief, under 30 minutes, before they went into their scheduled 'closed session'. Deputy Mayor Michelle Smibert made a motion stating, "before going into our closed session,

can we take a break to talk to some of the constituents who came out to this meeting." Motion was seconded by Ward 1 Councillor, Tom Heeman and Council broke for 15 minutes.

During this break many of the audience spoke to some of the Councillors. Deputy Mayor Smibert said, "I am thrilled to see so many people attend this meeting in Thorndale, a positive step of interest in our Thames Centre meetings. Normally we don't see any general public at our meetings in Dorchester."

Councillor Tom Heeman commented, "I am pleasantly surprised to see so many people who came tonight and were interested in the local issues."

The April 12th Thames Centre Council meeting and other past meetings can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/municipalityofthamescentre>. The schedule of upcoming meetings can be viewed at [www.thamescentre.on.ca/municipal-officemayor-and-council/agendas-and-minutes](http://www.thamescentre.on.ca/municipal-officemayor-and-council/agendas-and-minutes).

# Thorndale & Area Horticultural Society gearing up for a busy gardening season

By Annemarie Hollestelle

Summer has arrived all of a sudden and all the daffodils springing into bloom have lifted our spirits. But let's not forget that it is still early in the season and frost is still a possibility. But cleaning up your garden after all the storms we had is a necessary spring ritual. Our volunteers have cleaned out all our planters and the plants that we would like to plant later in May are ordered.

We had an interesting and well attended meeting in April. Our speaker was Leslye Glover from the Stratford Master Gardeners. She spoke on 'keystone' species and we learnt how everything is connected. Growing certain plants in our gardens supports different species and benefits other ecosystems as well.

We will have a plant sale on May 13 at Thorndale Farm Supplies from 10am-12 noon. This is a good opportunity to buy interesting plants and support our volunteer group. We are also gearing up for our yearly fundraiser (The

Green Thumb Celebration), a garden tour of 4-5 local gardens on June 25. Our volunteers will be busy in the upcoming weeks but we can always use more help.

Our next meeting will be on May 10 at 7:30 in the Thorndale Community Centre Rm. 3. Our speaker will be Fred Vaughn from Waterloo with the topic: How Safe Is Our Food? We are also planning to have an informal flower show in June, nothing too difficult. Just having a good time and a chance to show some of your own flowers from your garden. Keep this in mind when you are working in your flower beds. You can follow us at Facebook or email us at [thorndalehort@gmail.com](mailto:thorndalehort@gmail.com).

It is not too late to join us, new members are always welcome. We are a friendly organization and a great place to get to know people from your community. Membership fees are \$15 per person and the second person from the same household is \$10. Come and try us out at our next meeting.



Guest speaker, Leslye Glover from the Stratford Master Gardeners at April 12th meeting and on the right, Liz Iglesias of the Thorndale & Area Horticultural Society

**COMMUNITY —**

# The World's Coolest Music Store presents 'Cormick Wheeler Award'



The World's Coolest Music Store held their first student showcase since Covid shutdown took its toll on enrollment and the ability to teach in person.

"This show felt more like a celebration than a recital," claimed long-time instructor Joseph Flynn.

"For the first time in 20 years, the debut performances outnumbered the returning artists," said owner and instructor Rob Edney.

The showcase also gave the instructors a chance to present the store's 'Cormick Wheeler Award,' for the past two years.

This Award was developed with the Wheeler family after a tragic accident cut short the life of a son and

devoted music student, whose passion and perseverance was inspirational.

2022/23 recipients include Corrina Ropchan, Matthew Pearson, Rumley Snider and Draven MacLaughlin.

2021/22 recipients were Maddy Brown, Angus Mackintosh, and brothers Lucas and Ben Bloeman.

The store treated the performers to pizza from Titos after the show.

Many of the store's performers will be featured at events in town this summer, including The Pride Celebration, Heritage Festival and Evan's Touch the Truck.



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Tues. April 11 - Leo Merkel, Revelstoke B.C.	\$50.00
Wed. April 12 - Steve Hertel, Fullarton	\$50.00
Thur. April 13 - Paul Matheson, Embro	\$50.00
Fri. April 14 - Sanford Bender, New Hamburg	\$50.00
Sat. April 15 - Julie Dittmer, St. Marys	\$200.00

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## Fish Fry

### Sat April 22nd

Serving from 5 to 7 PM Cost \$30 per plate  
Entertainment : The Boneradlers 7 to 10 PM

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# LARGE 2-DAY AUCTION SALE

## Friday May 5th and Saturday May 6th

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Farm Equipment, Buggies, Household etc. on Friday May 5th, 2023

Construction Tools, Trailers, Hunting Supplies etc. on Saturday May 6th 2023

Terms: Cash or Cheque with Proper I.D.

Announcements made day of sale take precedence over any advertising.

Auctioneers & owners not responsible for any accidents or theft | Lunch Stand on Grounds

Auctioneers: Graber Brothers and Calvin Kuepfer | For questions call 519-349-2937

### Day 1 – Friday May 5th

#### FARM EQUIPMENT

Wooden Favorite thrashing machine, McCormick 7' grain binder, McCormick 6' grain binder with new knives and guards, 3 binder trucks, 2 Int. 13 run seed drills with grass seeder, Int. corn binder, JD 290 2-row corn planter, JD 3-row corn planter, 2 1-row corn scufflers, Int. #9 hay mower with 6' bar, 2 Int. #7 hay mowers with 5 bars, I&J hay mower with 7' bar (like new with extra set of knives), 2 New Holland 268 balers with motors, 5 Massey Harris side rakes, 3 bale stokers

2 50' Allied bale elevators (with undercarriage), 2 50' Forage King bale elevators (with undercarriage),

1 25' bale elevator, 1 Master 9' hay tedder (ground drive like new), 3 kicker hay tedders, 3 flat-rack wagons,

JD grain wagon on rubber, 5 section diamond harrows, 3 Int. 6' field cultivators, JD 8' cultivator with Power lift, 8' field cultivator, 8' sprocket packer, 3 6' one-way discs, 2 8' 32-plate disc,

1 Pioneer fore-cart (heavy duty), 2 fore-carts on steel,

1-furrow Pioneer foot-lift plow (with KV bottom)

1-furrow Pioneer Sulky plow (with KV bottom)

New Idea manure spreader, Int. 4-wheeled manure spreader, gravity wagon on steel,

JD ground drive L&M manure spreader, potato plow, multiple garden scufflers, harrow cart, Int. W6 tractor, pull-type lane grade

#### BUGGIES

Multiple top buggies, democrat, pony cart, quick-hitch jog cart with buggy wheels, 3 horse drawn cutters,

Mascott pony cart, 4 Mascott tri-wheel lawn mower, Mascott pony lawn mower (brand new),

Multiple reel push mowers, neck yokes, whipple-trees, horse harnesses and collars, small wagon Gear on rubber,

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Large selection of T-posts (like new), chicken crates, 3 – goat milk stand, 2 6-goat stands,

Marweld creep feeder for sheep (new), Roll over hoof-trimming crate for sheep, 2 small feed mixers, Champion oat roller, bale chopper with motor, selection of gates and panels, selection of sheep and goat feeders, 800-gal. ss milk tank, Toledo 500kg platform scale, F.W. water pump, belt lacers, sap supplies, 2 smaller sap pans, selection of steel wheels, new v-belts.

\*\* Approximately 6 wagon loads of miscellaneous items too numerous to mention\*\*

#### HOUSEHOLD

Sausage stuffers, Victoria strainers, weight-lifting set, beds, dressers, singer treadle sewing machine, 3 3-burner kerosene stoves, portable bake oven, small China cabinet.

### Day 2 – Saturday May 6

#### TRAILERS

20' Steel car hauler with loading ramps and beavertail with electric winch,

18' aluminum landscaping trailer with aluminum sides and tool box, with ramp (like new),

12' aluminum trailer excellent condition,

18' enclosed aluminum tool trailer with ramp and side door with shelving inside 2 years old,

8' enclosed aluminum cargo trailer 2 years old,

8' steel landscaping trailers with ramps in excellent condition,

Gooseneck Before Silver star 4-horse aluminum slant load trailer with ramp, good condition,

Bumper hitch 2-horse trailer

\*\* All trailers have been safetied on a regular basis\*\*

#### CONSTRUCTION TOOLS

Several sections of scaffolding with braces and wheels and aluminum platforms, Bakers scaffolding, Numerous aluminum extension ladders at various lengths,

Aluminum and fibreglass step ladders, selection of aluminum sawhorses, aluminum ladder horns,

2 Tapco pro19 aluminum 10' brakes with coil holder and cutters in excellent condition,

2 DeWalt sliding dual compound mitre saws with stand (1 electric only and 1 with battery or electric),

12" Rigid electric mitre saw with stand, DeWalt laser level and stand, Stihl concrete chain saw (like new),

Quantity of DeWalt battery drills, impacts, saws-all, skill saws.

Quantity of Max and Bostich air-roofing nailers.

Air hoses, shingle strippers, electric air compressors, roof jacks, Battery DeWalt, Metabo, Milwaukee Framing nailers, Battery DeWalt trim nailers. DeWalt battery tool, Battery caulking guns.

Selection of Makita battery drills & impacts. Milwaukee drills & impacts. 2 DeWalt SDS concrete drills.

DeWalt jigsaw & plainer. DeWalt grinder. Large selection of batteries & chargers. Bostich flooring nailer.

Rigid shop vac. 2500watt Ducar gen. 3500watt Powertech gen. 7500watt Generac gen. like new.

Walk behind battery forklift, electric fans & heaters, propane heater, air pegs, Bosch 10" table saw.

DeWalt blowers and fans. Echo back pack leaf blower, 2 Stihl leaf blowers. Safety harness etc.

Flack-Hill mechanical wood splitter, Selection of hand tools & shelving, DeWalt laser level, Brush mower with gas engine, DeWalt 60 volt battery powered table saw (like new), DeWalt table saw with wheeled stand, electric (like new),

2 DeWalt 20Volt 5000 Lumen work lights (new), DeWalt 1800 watt portable power station (new), DeWalt cordless roofing nailer,

2-DeWalt battery aircompressors (new), 2 Paslode cordless framing nailers (like new).

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Jaco-Lite 7'x9' allum. Green house (nice)

S.S. Dog kennel 8' x 10', 2-DS circulator coal stoves, DS Anthra Max XV16 coal stove, S.S. Ashland water kettle.

3 S.S. Kettles, S.S. Water heater, Allum. Ice-saw with 13HP Honda, Apple chopper and cider press,

2 A Frame chain hoists, Trash Pump, 6" edger, power hacksaw, 26 school desks, 2 office desks,

Filing cabinets

#### HUNTING

Selection of rifles, and shot guns, crossbows, hunt blinds, decoys, tree stands, 12' aluminum boat,

Wood gun cabinets, many items not mentioned.

#### ANTIQUES

No. 6 J. Fleurys & Sons two furrow walking plows, Maytag wringer & washer

Sausage stuffers, old cash register,

Hit & Miss Int. 1 ½ - 2 ½ HP (not running), Railroad lantern.

#### HORSES

Approximately 6-8 well Bred Standard Bred Buggy Horses. From Local consignments, 5 year old Shetland pony stallion, A few more Local pony consignments expected.

\*\* Approximately 2 wagon loads of miscellaneous construction items\*\*

## COMMUNITY —

## Perth South Council Tours Township Assets

Perth South Council and senior staff participated in a bus tour of Township assets on Thursday, April 13, 2023. The purpose of this tour was to provide both new and returning Councillors with an opportunity to tour the Township's facilities as a group to learn more about the various opportunities and challenges facing Perth South.

The tour, which lasted for five hours, made a number of stops including the water systems, landfills, public works shops, and Kirkton Woodham Community Complex. In addition, a number of transportation infrastructure projects were viewed and the sites of current and planned development were visited.

"It is important that Council gets a first-hand look at assets the Township owns and operates and the major investments that will be made in the coming years," said Rebecca Clothier, Chief Administrative Officer/Treasurer. "This tour is intended to complement information already presented to Council by staff and ensure that they are able to make informed decisions and respond to inquiries made by the public."



Perth South Council and staff members pictured with bus during tour of Township assets. From left to right: Councillor Mark Bell, Councillor Jim Van Nes, Deputy Mayor Sue Orr, Co-operative student Peter Keller, Director of Public Works Ken Bettles, Chief Building Official Martin Feeney, Mayor Jim Aitcheson, Councillor Sam Corriveau, Chief Administrative Officer/Treasurer Rebecca Clothier, and Clerk Lizet Scott. (Contributed photo)

## Book Publishing is Benefitting from the Shroom Boom



### Book Buzz

Betty's Bookshelf

6 Water Street South, St. Marys, ON

(226) 301-4391

www.bettysbookshelf.com

By Jan Scott

The Covid-19 pandemic saw a rise in wholesome hobbies like sourdough bread baking, outdoor bird watching, and delicious mushroom hunting. The increased interest in all things fungi has also created a bit of a mushroom-aissance in the world of book publishing. Not unlike other bookstores these days, we also now have a small section of the store dedicated to titles that support the recent shroom boom. Here are a few we're particularly fond of:

**Entangled Life by Merlin Sheldrake (Random House)**

In *Entangled Life*, the brilliant young biologist Merlin Sheldrake shows us the world from a fungal point of view, providing an exhilarating change of perspective. Sheldrake's vivid exploration takes us from yeast to psychedelics, to the fungi that range for miles underground and are the largest organisms on the planet, to those

that link plants together in complex networks known as the "Wood Wide Web," to those that infiltrate and manipulate insect bodies with devastating precision.

**Mushrooming by Diane Borsato (Douglas and McIntyre)**

Foraging for wild mushrooms is an increasingly popular pursuit and this beautifully produced volume—filled with insights, anecdotes, illustrations, and details about more than 120 common and charismatic fungi from across the northern hemisphere—will appeal to everyone from beginner mushroomers to advanced mycophiles.

**Mycocultural Revolution by Peter McCoy (Microcosm Publishing)**

Covering the essential information and skills for identifying, cultivating, and celebrating the uniqueness of fungi, this book enables anyone to engage in the art and science of mycology - the study of fungi - quickly

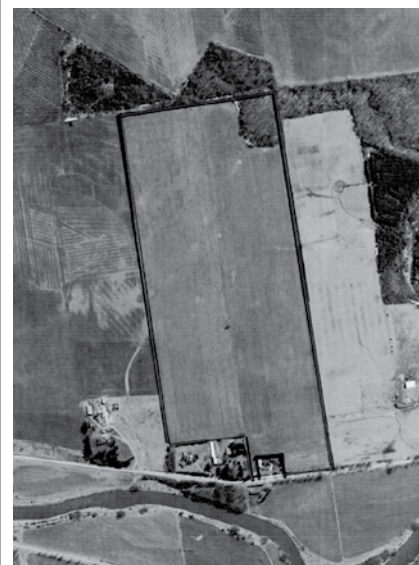
and easily. Mycology offers vast opportunities to enhance our lives, support our communities, and heal the environment. This first-of-its-kind introductory text is accessible for anyone just getting started in mycology, as well as for those seeking a fresh perspective on this important science.

**The Hidden Kingdom of Fungi by Keith Seifert (Greystone Books)**

Esteemed career mycologist Keith Seifert reveals the important role that microscopic fungi, including yeasts, molds, and slimes, play in our lives, all while remaining invisible to the na-

ked eye. Divided into sections, each one exploring a different environment where fungi thrive, *The Hidden Kingdom of Fungi* introduces readers to the fascinating world of mycology and explores how fungi add important vitamins to our diet and how they influence our health from our gut to our scalps. The book even looks at the essential role fungi are playing in innovative technologies, such as creating alternative energy sources, reducing plastic pollution, cleaning up toxins from oil spills, and even building architecture for a Mars colony.

### FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER IN PERTH SOUTH



**Address: 2189 Road 133, St. Marys ON**

**Legal:** PART LOT 10 CONCESSION 16 BLANSHARD AS IN R104550 SAVE AND EXCEPT R267983; PERTH SOUTH

**Description:** Approximately 92 workable acres of productive systematically tiled land and 3-acre woodlot. Sale is subject to proposed severance of dwelling and outbuilding on a 1.13 acre lot; Excellent opportunity to add to your existing farm base!

**Tender Deadline:** April 26th, 2023, at 6pm

**For a tender package,**

**Contact: Brent Shackleton**

**3715 Perth Road 113, R. R. #2, Stratford On**

**Phone: 519-271-2646**

**Email: brent@shackletons.ca**





April 2024

**GALAPAGOS**



May 2024

**ITALY**



June 2024

**IRELAND**



June 2024

**SCOTLAND**

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**Rocky Mountaineer – September 2024**

**Portugal – September 2024**

**Egypt – October 2024**

**Antarctica – January 2025**

**Vietnam/Cambodia – January 2025**

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# STONETOWN TRAVEL



August 2024

**NEWFOUNDLAND**



September 2024

**ROCKIES**



September 2024

**PORTUGAL**



October 2024

**EGYPT**

# HISTORY —

## HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Robert Fulton Barbour

By Mary Smith

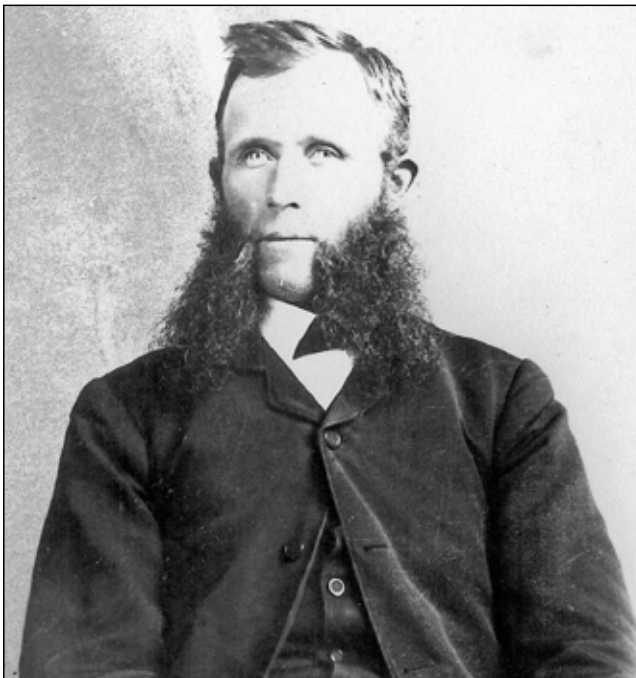
The spectacularly whiskered gentleman in this week's photograph is Robert Fulton Barbour, an influential designer/builder in St. Marys during the prosperous period of growth following the arrival of the Grand Trunk Railway in the late 1850s. Robert, the son of John Barbour and Jean Leckie, was born in 1822 in Coldstream-on-Tweed, a small town in Berwickshire on the border between Scotland and England. His father died in 1827 when Robert was five years old. After his primary education, he was apprenticed to a joiner (a finishing carpenter) in the nearby town of Swinton. That rigorous training gave him a skilled trade, a great advantage when he immigrated.

By the time of the 1851 Scottish census, Robert Barbour, age 29, was married to Agnes Robertson of Swinton. They were the parents of a baby girl named Jean after Robert's mother. Very soon after the census, the Barbours immigrated to North America, arriving in New York and then moving to Rochester, a thriving community in a rich agricultural area on the south shore of Lake Ontario. While they were living in Rochester, Robert and Agnes became the parents of two more children – a daughter, Agnes, and a son, Henry. Although there was work for Robert in Rochester, perhaps it was too settled for him, not offering enough scope for his ambition. The Barbours decided to venture across Lake Ontario into a less developed area—Canada West, now the Province of Ontario.

In 1854, George Tracy, one of the earliest residents of St. Marys, planned to build a grand, new house on his large property in the south ward and advertised in New York newspapers for skilled tradesmen to work on this project. Tradition has it that Robert Barbour came to St. Marys in response to this advertisement. He certainly worked on the construction of Tracy's house, today the St. Marys Museum. The interior of this historic building has been renovated a number of times and, during the work, it has been possible to see the actual studs and floor joists, set and nailed in place in 1854 either by Barbour himself or by someone working under his supervision. His fellow carpenter was Alexander Falconer and there were three experienced stonemasons – Andrew Knox, John Whimster and Frank Anderson. These five men gave the Tracy family a beautiful house and all five stayed in the St. Marys area, going on to build other fine residences as well as commercial and public buildings.

Having chosen St. Marys as his home, Robert Barbour set out to establish himself as a contractor. He was also an accomplished draftsman and could prepare project plans for his clients and advise them how to place their residence to the best advantage on a building site. By the 1861 census, Barbour was living in a one-storey frame house on property he had purchased from Joseph Osman Hutton on Thomas Street. By this time, three more daughters had been added to the family: Rubina, Margaret and Elizabeth. Robert and Agnes had two more children – William in 1863 and Peter in 1865 – to complete their family of five daughters and three sons. A larger house was needed and, in 1865, Robert built a lovely limestone cottage on a spacious corner lot, today 216 Thomas Street.

Through these early years, Robert Barbour continued to build his reputation as a skilled and reliable designer/builder. He also developed a long-stand-



Robert Fulton Barbour, ca 1870, at the height of his career as a builder.

ing interest in local education, understandable considering his large family. According to "Our St. Marys Schools," a history booklet written by Dr. J. R. Stanley in 1913, Barbour first became a member of the school board in 1864, the year that St. Marys became an incorporated town. The school population was growing and Central School, apparently so spacious when it opened in 1857, was already over-crowded. Barbour was one of the advocates for a school in the west ward to accommodate the families on that side of the Thames River. The school board acquired property not far from Barbour's home on Thomas Street and construction on the two-room West Ward School got underway. Barbour probably designed the school building. He was appointed Inspector of Work and reported to the board that "the contracts were completed in a workman-like manner and according to specifications." When two classrooms opened in West Ward School in 1866, three of the Barbours' younger children walked the short distance from their home to the new stone school their father had helped create.

Through the late 1860s and the 1870s, Barbour received his most important commissions – or, at least the ones where records of his involvement have survived. In 1867, the two prosperous Hutton brothers, William Veal and Joseph Osman, chose Robert Barbour to construct their beautiful retirement manor in Westover Park. In 1868, he constructed a three-storey, limestone commercial block for another Hutton brother, Theodore, at 26 Water Street South. Hutton had a grocery store at street level and offices for his private banking business above. Across the street, at 19-21 Water Street South, Barbour built a limestone store with living quarters on the second floor for Joseph Bartlett, a baker and confectioner. In 1869, Barbour began construction of four cottages in the north ward – two in brick and two in limestone – for Fanny Adam. In 1871, he was designer/builder for the Garnett House, a hotel at 18 Church Street North and in 1873, he was designer/builder for an impressive new brick residence for Dr. J. H. Mathieson at 109 Wellington Street North.

Robert continued his commitment to the pub-

lic school board, serving either as a trustee or as board secretary. In 1873, again in reaction to overcrowding, he was commissioned to prepare plans for an addition to West Ward School and also for a new, two-storey, four-room, brick school in the north ward. Although originally intended as a ward school, it soon became designated as the St. Marys Collegiate Institute. Again, during construction, Barbour was Inspector of Work. Unlike many fathers of the time, he encouraged his daughters to get an education, supporting their attendance at the new collegiate institute.

By the early 1880s, Robert Barbour was ready to retire from heavy contracting work. He owned two commercial blocks in downtown St. Marys and received a comfortable rent from the tenants. His children were almost all grown up. His oldest son, Henry, a carpenter like his father, had left to seek his fortune in the western United States. Four of his daughters had qualified as teachers and had taught in St. Marys schools. His last major project, undertaken in 1884 was his final residence, a storey-and-a-half limestone house, today 210 Thomas Street. He named it Swinton House after the town in Scotland where he had served his apprenticeship and where he had met and married Agnes.

Robert Barbour's death on March 12, 1898, at the age of 75, was a shock. Agnes found him in the basement of their home, dead from a gunshot wound in the head. The death was ruled accidental although the circumstances were equivocal. His only unmarried daughter, Margaret, was the executor of his will which left Agnes well provided for. Agnes lived on in Swinton House until her death in 1913, age 90. Miss Margaret Barbour taught, mainly at West Ward School, until she retired in 1932, age 74. The three Barbour sons moved away from St. Marys and so the surname is gone from the community. The family is remembered, however, because of Robert Barbour's fine buildings and the Barbour sisters as teachers, influencing two generations of students. There will be more about these remarkable women in a future column.

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## COLUMN —

## HOSTING UKRAINE: We Are Better Than This (Part II)

By VJ Knutson

(Warning: content may be disturbing. Names have been changed to protect the innocent.)

Ava, 19, saw the comments on her Facebook post asking for help with housing: the ones warning her to be careful. She appreciated that so many people were concerned for her well-being, but felt confident that she was smart enough to avoid bad situations. Besides, Canadians are so nice.

Still, she weeded through the responses, and decided it would be safer to go to a family than with a single person. She chose a couple with teenage children in a mid-sized town.

"Plenty of work," the host offered. "We will help in any way we can."

'Margy', Ava's contact, seemed so motherly and warm. "You look like a model," Margy wrote in one exchange. It was flattering. Margy was a beautiful woman herself.

On her journey to Canada, Ava met Dima. It happened they were both travelling to the same city. By the time they arrived, Ava and Dima made a vow to look out for one another. Ava had no idea how important that connection would be.

One week into her stay, Ava called Dima crying. "Get me out of here," she whispered into the phone. Dima told his host and they reached out to the volunteer who had helped connect

them. By the time I became aware of the situation, Ava was safe. At least, temporarily.

You see, these things are complicated. It is not illegal, what Margy and her husband do, when adults are involved. The police declared that their actions were not criminal. They had merely made a 'job offer' to the young woman, who at 19 is of consenting age. They drove Ava home.

"Not good enough!" our volunteer team decided. We found Ava a safe home, and when the dust settled the story emerged – she was being pressured into sex work.

Ava was not the first to be hosted by this 'family', whose Facebook account shows beaming images of their children, and gushes about all the beautiful Ukrainians they have hosted. 10 that we know of. Two abruptly returned to Ukraine. The others are starting to talk.

"Wild, illegal, and a violation of their work permit...classic grooming for human trafficking," a contact with ties to immigration told me.

According to Ontario.ca: "Sex trafficking is a form of sexual exploitation that can include recruiting...it refers to forced, coercive, fraudulent or deceptive exchange of sex for something of value (for example money, food,...transportation, shelter.)"

Ava felt manipulated. She felt like she had no recourse or right to pro-

test under the increasing pressure. Luckily, she had Dima, whom she trusted. I don't know what her hosts told her about talking to the police, but it is clear that she was frightened into silence.

"Sex trafficking is different from consensual sex work engaged in by adults," the Ontario.ca site explains in the section on Sex Trafficking. "...no one can consent to being trafficked."

Ava is safe now and looking for a job permitted under her work visa. Hers might have been a very different story.

If you suspect that someone might be at risk of Human Trafficking, or are in danger yourself, call 9-1-1 or Canada's Human Trafficking hotline at 1-833-900-1010. It is free, confidential, and active 24/7.

## FARM FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION



**Address:** 2944 Road 115, St. Pauls, Perth South

**Legal:** PT LOT 6 CONCESSION WEST OXFORD ROAD DOWNIE GORE AS IN R97893; PERTH SOUTH

**Description:** 49.9-acre farm with approximately 38 workable acres; Older 1 1/2 storey brick farmhouse, orchard and approximately 10-acre woodlot.

**Sale Date:** April 22nd, 2023, at 11:00am. Onsite at 2944 Road 115, Perth South.

Terms of Sale: Property to be sold to the highest bidder, subject to seller approval; \$50,000 deposit required; Property being sold "AS IS"; Closing Date: May 26, 2023. Selling on behalf of the estate of Maizie Jacobs. Full terms of sale and viewing by appointment only.

**For full terms of sale and viewing by appointment only Contact:**

**3715 Perth Road 113, R. R. #2, Stratford On**

**Phone: 519-271-2646**

**Email: brent@shackletons.ca**



## Preserve of the Month

10% off McCully's Sugar Free Jams & Jellies

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## Local Apples

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**COMMUNITY —**

# Peacemakers Quilt Show April 20-22 at the PRC

Each year the Canadian Quilters Association hosts Quilt Canada. The location changes from year to year across Canada. The National Juried Show is held during this event. There are many categories of quilts. Several months prior to the event, quilters from Canada and around the world submit photos and information about their quilt. A team of qualified quilt judges pick the quilts to enter the National Juried Show. It is very exciting to get the email that your quilt has been chosen for the National Juried Show. The quilts are then shipped to the location of Quilt Canada and a team of judges looks at all of the qualifying quilts and decide which ones are the winners in their respective categories.

The winners are announced at the opening ceremonies of Quilt Canada. Last year, Quilt Canada was held in Vancouver. A quilt made by two local quilters was in the National Juried Show. "Feathered Stars" was pieced by Joan Robinson and machine quilted

by Darlene Roger who are both from the Kirkton area. It won first place in the Patterns/Books/Magazines or Social Media - Wall Hanging and Bed Quilts category.

After Quilt Canada 2022, a jury committee selected 43 quilts from the winning quilts from the past 2 years of the National Juried Show to hang in a special exhibit at the New England Quilt Museum in Lowell Massachusetts. The Best of Quilting in Canada is on display from January 17 until May 9th. Joan and Darlene's quilt Feathered Stars was chosen to hang in this exhibit. Unfortunately this quilt will not be available for the Peacemakers Quilt Show, but there are many other beautiful quilts to see, by Joan and Darlene as well as other Huron Perth and Stonetowne Guild members who have had quilts in the National Juried Show.

Piecemakers Quilt show will be held Thursday April 20 to Saturday April 22 at the Pyramid Recreation Centre.



"Halo Medallion" pieced by Joan Robinson on the right and quilted by Darlene Roger on the left was in the 2018 National Juried Show where it won a second prize in its category.

## A labor of love



Submitted by Bev Fox, Stonetowne guild member

I've found a way to spend my time doing something that I love and hopefully giving comfort to others who are going through the trauma of an illness, tragedy, loss of a loved one or leaving their homeland to immigrate to Canada. Through donations of fabrics and my own stash, I have been able to create and donate countless quilts since joining the Stonetowne Quilters' Guild. The process of choosing the fabrics to be made into quilts is most enjoyable and the final step of binding the quilts is very therapeutic. I always try to quilt the word "Love" somewhere on the quilts in the hope that it may bring some warmth and comfort to the recipient. My fabric stash is huge and when I finish a quilt, I can hardly wait to start the next one. It is definitely an addiction!

### IN MEMORIAM



**Leigh Youse**

May 31, 1968 ~ April 23, 2021

*Remembering you is easy  
I do it every day.  
Missing you is heartache  
that never goes away.*

Love Roger, Carol, Patti/Doug,  
Tim/Karyn and the  
Youse and Quinn families.

# Don't miss out on the sounds that you love. Check your hearing.

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**Kenny Soobrayen**  
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**Jordan Ritsma**  
Sales Consultant



**Litto Tom**  
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**Shyam Sasidharan**  
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# Riddles

- What sound does a space turkey make?  
**Hubble, hubble, hubble**
- What are unhappy cranberries called?  
**Blueberries**
- What's blue and covered with feathers?  
**A turkey holding its breath**
- What did the mom corn ask baby corn?  
**"Where is pop corn?"**
- Why did the kid put the mail in the oven?  
**Because he wanted to have hotmail**
- What kind of mail does a superstar vampire get?  
**Fang mail**
- What did Dracula's teacher say when he failed his math test?  
**"Can't you count, Dracula?"**
- What did one math book say to the other?  
**"Don't bother me, I have my own problem"**
- What's green and makes holes?  
**A drill pickle**
- What's big, black and eats rocks?  
**A big, black rock eater**
- What's another name for a grandfather clock?  
**An old timer**
- What do you call an ice cream truck operator?  
**A sundae drive**

## - Word Search -

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Website: [www.adultlearningperth.ca](http://www.adultlearningperth.ca)  
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### APRIL IS POETRY MONTH

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

### Word List

- Structure
- Rhyme
- Alliteration
- Rhythm
- Stanza
- Line break
- Pattern
- Elements
- Verse
- Repetition
- Theme
- Symbolism
- Limerick
- Couplet



The **Riddle Kid**  
OF THE WEEK

How do you know a snake is a baby?



It has a rattle

**Matthew Lecompte (3 mths)**

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

## TONS OF FUN FOR KIDS EVERY WEEK!

### PET OF THE WEEK

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



Our Pet of the Week is Ruby, a 9 year old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. She is a sweet, gentle, and quiet little lady who loves to go on walks around the block. Ruby's proud owners are the Mills family.



St. Marys Veterinary Clinic is pleased to be the sponsor of the

### PET OF THE WEEK

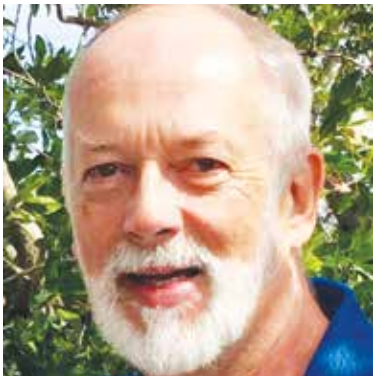
Fleas are prolific breeders. A serious infestation in your home could happen very quickly!

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## COLUMN —

## OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Fort Myers: "surprised at how far we have come"



**By Paul Knowles**

We have just returned from an ambitious, 34-day road trip through much of the southeastern United States. We visited a lot of fascinating places, but when I tell folks about our itinerary, the first question is usually about the Fort Myers area – how bad was it, and what's happening now?

It was bad. Everyone seems to know that Fort Myers Beach and Sanibel Island were devastated last September by Hurricane Ian. The disastrous storm hit Fort Myers and area on September 28, lingering over the place and wreaking death and destruction to this popular tourist area. Buildings were levelled or suffered severe damage; the bridge to Sanibel Island was breached in five places, cutting off all land transportation to the island.

Today, over six months later, it's getting better in many ways. But there is still a lot of work to be done. Blue tarps are much in evidence, covering damages awaiting repair.

Some of the challenge in-

volves locating the cars and boats, perhaps numbered in the hundreds, that are still submerged in canals and the Gulf of Mexico, carried there in the 14-foot storm surge.

What people are really asking though is "Should we go back as tourists?" My answer is a qualified "Yes". Yes, because there are lots of things to do there already. Qualified, because if your goal is to stay in a resort hotel on Fort Myers Beach or Sanibel Island, that is unlikely to happen.

But there are many things that you can do.

In one of the most remarkable responses to the horrific storm, the bridge to Sanibel was repaired, albeit with some temporary fixes, in a month. Traffic to the island resumed that quickly.

It is taking longer for the beautiful island to get back to anything close to normal, but that is unfolding. My favourite place on the island, the Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, home to a huge variety of seabirds and other fascinating fauna and flora, re-opened on April 6, days after our visit. This unique destination is worth a visit any time.

And speaking of fascinating fauna – we were able to enjoy a dolphin cruise, out of Fort Myers, hosted by Adventures in Paradise. And yes, we saw plenty of playful dolphins.

But what about accommodations? True, Fort Myers Beach is not currently an option al-

though Jackie Parker, communications manager with Fort Myers Islands, Beaches and Neighbourhoods says that some resort companies, including Margaritaville, are treating the crisis as an opportunity and determined to build back even better. Jackie describes the Margarita project as "our phoenix," rising from the ashes to new life.

But in the meantime, Jackie points out, there are still lots of choices. We stayed at the Trianon Bonita Bay hotel, a fine facility in Bonita Springs. Jackie told me that tourism is probably at 50% compared to pre-hurricane (and pre-Covid) times. But there is room for more visitors. "Here in Lee County," she told me, "we have 68.6% of hotel rooms open." That's 9825 rooms. Plus other options like Bed-and-Breakfast homes. Adds Jackie, "Visitors can stay at an inland property and enjoy all of the amenities."

"The resiliency of this area has been remarkable," she says. Jackie has watched the recovery, moment by moment, and is quick to suggest that Fort Myers and area is now actually past "recovery phase" and getting close to "business as usual.... I'm surprised how far we are in just six months."

We certainly had the chance to visit attractions and restaurants where business is, indeed, back to normal. The dolphin cruise was one such example. And right after spending time with dolphins, we shared lunch with Jackie



**A friendly Macaw at the Wonder Gardens. (All photos by Paul Knowles)**

at the Bimini Bait Shack, an eatery in full working order, with a close-up view of the restored bridge to Sanibel.

Our stay in the area also included a visit to an attraction called the "Wonder Gardens" in Bonita Springs. Here, we found beautiful gardens, and a myriad of rescued animals and birds – from cheeky Macaws to creepy (my perspective, I admit) alligators and lots more.

We also visited the Six Mile Cypress Slough, an unexpected natural delight in the middle of Fort Myers that was so special it gets its own feature article sometime soon in this space.

Jackie told us that, "the beaches are opening up," and noted an added benefit. Lower numbers of tourists has meant that the shelling (a very popular Fort Myers and Sanibel pas-

time) is the best it has ever been!

In the evening, we saw a musical play at the spacious Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre – in this case, a good production of "Jersey Boys", the musical story of the Four Seasons.

That is a small sampling of the activities now on offer in the Fort Myers area. So while it will be some time before all the resorts have re-opened, or have been replaced, or before all the homes and buildings have lost their blue tarps, it is still a desirable destination for visitors.

And yes, visitors are showing up. Jackie told me, "I see a lot of Canadian license plates."

*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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We thank all candidates for their interest, however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

Interested candidates are invited to submit a detailed resume expressing their interest to the undersigned clearly marked as "Finance/Tax Clerk" by Monday, May 8th, 2023.

Rebecca Clothier  
Township of Perth South  
3191 Road 122  
St. Pauls, ON N0K 1V0  
Email - [rclothier@perthsouth.ca](mailto:rclothier@perthsouth.ca)

Information gathered is under the authority of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and shall only be used for candidate selection purposes.

## LOOKING BACK



By AMY CUBBERLEY

### Boo to the late churchgoers

25 years ago (1998)

Mike Richardson was one of several St. Marys Kinsmen cleaning up the abutment areas around Sarnia Bridge this past Saturday. Members of the Grand Trunk Trail committee also helped clean up debris.

Doug Betteridge admits that he doesn't work particularly well under pressure. So when he was asked to represent the Town Works department at a Truck Safety "Rodeo" in Drayton last Wednesday, Betteridge said he spent little time preparing for the competition. It may have just worked as he topped 53 other competitors from municipalities in Perth and Wellington Counties in the all-day event, placing first overall.

As an organization, Ontario Special Olympics has been around for 15 years. Now, thanks to the efforts of a St. Marys resident, there may be a chapter beginning in town soon. Wayne Hoare, a constable with St. Marys OPP, is in the process of organizing the required volunteers to begin a local chapter. Hoare's daughter, Callie, is among the athletes and one of the reasons he is organizing the club in town.

50 years ago (1973)

At the Science Fair in Stratford, several projects were entered from St. Marys. Louise Ridley and Lorraine Batch received 2nd for their Rabbit Cross Breeding project in the Junior Division of the Biology class.

St. Marys firefighters were called to the Wildwood cottage area at 7:15pm Saturday to fight three separate grass fires. One was reported dangerously close to the cottages. They were called out again Sunday afternoon when a fourth grass fire was discovered.

Perth County Council recently dropped the \$25 bounty on wolves, rescinding a motion to this effect passed in March.

The overseas trip for the local Marching Band was scrubbed at a meeting held in the Recreation Centre last Friday evening. Cheques for money deposited by band members and chaperones were distributed. There is an indication an alternative trip for the Band, within Canada, may still be considered. The Calgary Stampede was mentioned as one possibility.

75 years ago (1948)

The Great Star Flour Mill masons have been building up the retaining wall alongside the mill race from the sluice gates south for some yards, this week. A great deal of earth fill will be necessary to close the hole washed in Island Park by recent floods.

Many roads are still badly affected by the breakup and disappearance of the frost. Even provincial pavements in some areas are heaved and broken. Road expenses will be heavy this year as a result.

C.P.R. work crews have been busy for two weeks dumping car-loads of stone and gravel onto the track bed in the railway yards which were badly washed out by recent floods. This is the second time in a year that this filling has had to be carried out at great expense.

When the Parks Board goes to erect the backstop wire and uprights for the opening of the baseball season on the Flats this year, they will have to get the workmen to retrieve the tangled mass of wire and poles from the rock pile in the middle of the Thames, west of the C.P.R. station.

100 years ago (1923)

An operator of a motor vehicle should not forget to carry both certificate of registration and license or operator's card (if any) on his person. In cases of a violation, the possession of these may save humiliation and embarrassment. In some jurisdictions, failure to have them is an offense.

A single merchant acting alone cannot do very much in fighting mail-order houses or in boosting his hometown, but the organized merchants of a town can do much. A single snowflake means nothing, but let enough snowflakes fall and all traffic is suspended. In union there is strength.

A letter written to the Listowel Banner and signed "Presbyterian" rakes over the coals some of the members who regularly are late in arriving at a certain named church in the town. Moreover, the letter writer lodges the charge that those coming in late only do so to be seen.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### George Taylor is Turning 80!



Join Us For an Open House to  
Celebrate George's 80th Birthday!  
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5	9	7	6	4	8	3	2	1
4	2	3	1	9	7	5	6	8
3	1	4	8	6	2	7	5	9
7	5	9	4	3	1	6	8	2
6	8	2	9	7	5	1	4	3

## OBITUARY

### Thomson



Murray Thomson, passed away suddenly at his home on April 7, 2023 in his 81st year.

Brother of Anne Mikel (Glen). Uncle of Kim Jordan (Mark), Michelle Neeb (Kent) and great uncle of Quin Jordan, Eric Jordan, Emily Healey (Ryan), Mikayla Hu (Bing), Carter Neeb, and great great

uncle of Rylee Healey. Also survived by special friend Lynne. Predeceased by his parents Lloyd (2001) and Roxie (1994) and his brother Barry (2021).

Murray loved music; playing several instruments, playing cards and followed all sports especially the Toronto Maple Leafs. Cremation has taken place, a private family burial and public celebration of life will take place at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to a charity of one's choice. Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

## OBITUARY

### Bolton

Ron Bolton passed away peacefully at his home in St. Marys on April 14, 2023 at the age of 75.

Beloved husband of Mary Jo (nee O'Donnell) of 52 years. Father of Scot (Bridget), John (Nancy), Michael (Claire), and Gregg (Colleen). Grandfather of Annie (Cole), Ian, Sam (Jaci), Madelyn, Charlotte, Quinlin, Sullivan, Hannah, Evelyn, and Malcolm. Brother of Stewart (deceased) and his wife Joyce, David (deceased) and his wife Brenda, Marion Fitzgerald and her husband Ron, and George and his wife Audrey. Brother-in-law of John O'Donnell (deceased), Peter O'Donnell and his wife Jennifer, and Patrick O'Donnell and his wife Myrna.

Also remembered by many nieces and nephews. In addition to his family and friends, Ron enjoyed travel and his time spent in agricultural and health care governance. As per Ron's wishes, his body was bequeathed to the Medical School at Western University. Ron's "last hurrah" will take place at River Valley Golf Course (4725 1 Line, St. Marys ON) on Saturday, April 22, from 2pm - 4pm.

Memorial donations may be made to the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation. Arrangements with the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home (519-284-2820). Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

## QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) Jeremy Hansen
- 2) Cool Hand Luke
- 3) The Beatles
- 4) A dry white wine
- 5) Chernobyl
- 6) Pluto
- 7) Belfast
- 8) Statler and Waldorf
- 9) Marie Curie
- 10) Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

## OBITUARY

### Richards



Rev. Jason Richards passed away peacefully after a valiant battle with cancer at the age of 41 on April 13, 2023 in St. Marys, Ontario with his family at his side and the prayers of people in communities near and far.

Beloved husband of Rev. Young Seo, married July 2015

in South Korea. Loving father of his "Little Buddy" Lincoln. Son of Bruce and Margaret and son-in-law of JongHyun Seo and YoungSook Lim (deceased). Brother of Tracy and her husband Johnathan Roy and their family Elsie and Asher and brother-in-law of YoungGeun Seo, and YoungWoon Seo, his wife Dessire Parcon Seo and their son DongWook Seo. Also remembered by many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Jason was born in Saskatoon, after completing his basic education, he found his calling at St. Andrew's College, Saskatoon, receiving his Masters of Divinity Degree with the United Church of Canada in 2016. Spending a semester Soul Korea, he completed an internship at Kangnam. His first call to ministry was St. Paul's United Church, 2016, in Estevan, Saskatoon. His second call to ministry brought him to St. Marys United Church, St. Marys, Ontario from 2019 until his passing.

Visitation at the ST. MARYS UNITED CHURCH, 85 Church St. S. St. Marys, on April 27, 2023 from 6 – 9 p.m. The Memorial Service will be held at the St. MARYS UNITED CHURCH on April 28, 2023 at 11 am. Officiated by Rev. Ron McConnell. The Service will be streamed live on the St. Marys United Church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StMarysUC> Private interment in St. Marys Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to an Education Fund for Lincoln Richards (cheque donations can be made payable to Young Seo). Jason also asked that you do something nice for someone unexpectedly and without explanation. Arrangements with the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home (519-284-2820). Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

## IN MEMORIAM

### Ball

Martin Thomas  
March 10, 1981 –  
April 19, 2020

In loving memory of our precious Martin who left us suddenly 3 years ago, on April 19, 2020.

In life we loved you dearly  
In death we love you still,  
In our hearts you hold a special place  
That no one else can fill.  
It broke our hearts to lose you  
But you did not go alone,  
Part of us went with you  
The day you were called home.

**Always loved.. forever missed.. and never forgotten  
Mom and Dad, sister Lisa and family, brother Murray and family, your daughter Abbigale and your fiancée Amber.**





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