

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1157

Thursday, May 4, 2023

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Smile Cookie Campaign returns



Pictured above, left to right, are Emma O'Grady and Deb Treanor from Happy Valley Family Health Team. During the first day of Tim Hortons' annual Smile Cookie campaign which runs from May 1-7, an amazing 2,597 cookies were sold. Funds raised throughout the campaign are donated to the St. Marys Hospital Foundation. All proceeds from the Smile Cookie Campaign will go towards a Cast Saw for the St. Marys Memorial Hospital Emergency Department.

Spring water flushing scheduled for May 1 to 26, 2023

The Town of St. Marys will be performing spring water main and hydrant flushing from May 1 to 26, 2023.

Flushing Schedule

May 1 to 5, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., area west of the Thames River

May 7, 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., Queen St. E. (downtown core)

May 8 to 12, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., area south of Trout Creek from the Thames River to James Street, including James Street South

May 15 to 19, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., area south of Trout Creek and east of

James Street

May 23 to 26, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., area north of Trout Creek and east of the Thames River

Potential Service Disruptions

You may observe some water discoloration during flushing. If you experience discoloration, run cold water until it becomes clear. If your water does not run clear after five minutes, turn off the tap and wait 30 minutes before trying again. You should refrain from doing laundry until any discoloration has cleared. See chart on page 3 for full breakdown.

United Way Perth-Huron New Initiative Grant recipients announced

United Way Perth-Huron (UWPH) is proud to announce its 2023 New Initiative Grant recipients.

"This year we were able to provide a total of over \$50,000 in funding to five important programs," said UWPH Director Governance and Community Impact Megan Partridge. "We are thrilled to be able to support these new approaches and innovations in community services across our region."

Recipients include:

Food Insecurity Initiative (CMHA Huron Perth). The CMHA aims to work with small businesses across Perth-Huron to provide hot meals to vulnerable individuals and families for free through tickets provided at the Heart to Home Shelter (Goderich), Connection Centres (Stratford, Listowel, Exeter and Wingham) and other service agencies across Perth-Huron. This initiative could provide roughly 40 meals per month or 10 meals per weekend when other services and food banks are not available.

Rapid Response Fund (Huron Perth Children's Aid Society). The cost of purchasing external or fee-for-service assessments, counselling, and other interventions for local children and youth can be prohibitive since most organizations do not receive funding to provide access. This program would ensure that in times of crisis children and youth in Perth-Huron have access to quality, person-centered care; enhancing the capacity of the family system, service providers, and the community to support children and youth.

Two Row Now - Indigenous-led Community Building - Huron Perth (c/o Huron Perth Public Health). Through a working group including 10-

Continued on page 2

29 Wellington St. St. Marys (Post-Office Building)

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COMMUNITY —

United Way Perth-Huron New Initiative Grant recipients announced

Continued from page 1

cal Indigenous educators, community connectors and developers, and student support workers, funding will help with planning and implementation of Indigenous-led cultural awareness and social connectedness events and activities for Indigenous children and youth and their families. The goal is to help create a sense of belonging and reduce isolation felt by Indigenous children and youth in Perth-Huron.

Vanastra Access Centre (c/o Municipality of Huron East). The Vanastra

Access Centre will offer space for human service agencies to connect with residents in the place they live as well as computer access for meetings with service providers if reliable internet or lack of a device is a barrier. The Access Centre may also provide a central area for information such as ride sharing, employment opportunities, educational access and other village events.

What Happened to You? Conversations on Trauma, Resilience and Healing (Rural Response for Healthy Children)

Based on the book of the same name, this facilitated book study program aims to engage professionals who work with children and parents to look differently at the challenges children face and learn new approaches in a safe, supportive space with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of vulnerable children.

New Initiative Grants provide an opportunity to create new and innovative approaches to community programs and services and may include testing and evaluating new models of service, assisting with the pilot of new programs and supporting collabora-

tive partnerships.

Along with New Initiative Grants UWPH offers two other funding streams to help support local human service agencies, Youth in Action Grants and Impact Funding. Youth in Action Grants focus on youth-led projects offering creative ideas to address community issues impacting youth in Perth County and/or Huron County. Impact Funding is multi-year funding for ongoing programs that are part of the recipient organization's overarching structure and mission. For more details on all three funding streams, visit perthhuron.unitedway.ca.

Wildwood, Fanshawe, and Pittock Conservation Areas Open for the Season

Wildwood (St. Marys), Pittock (Woodstock), and Fanshawe (London) Conservation Areas officially opened on Monday, May 1st at 8:00 am. The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority employs more than 70 full-time and seasonal staff at these beautiful parks with wonderful outdoor recreational opportunities close to home!

Conservation Areas are a great option for all of your outdoor adventures. Whether you enjoy backcountry hik-

ing or trailer camping, join us for a day, a week, or the whole season. Adventure close to home awaits you!

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Conservation Areas!

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www.wildwoodconservationarea.ca

www.fanshaweconservationarea.ca

www.pittockconservationarea.ca

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cilities

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Fat bike rentals

30 km of biking and hiking trails

Summer recreation programs

Peaceful day use area

Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters TackleShare program – fishing gear for everyone!

Meet Me in St. Marys event cancelled

Despite the best efforts of the "Celebrate St. Marys" team and many local vendors, the decision was made last Friday to cancel the "Meet Me in St. Marys" event that was scheduled for Saturday, May 6th due to insufficient ticket sales.

The committee had planned for a day's worth of activities to attract visitors to the Stonetown on May 6th at a ticket cost of \$60 per person. The package included a one-of-a-kind gift bag and coupon book with specials from over 35 St. Marys businesses to

explore; a catered luncheon, a fashion show featuring local retailers, and a choice of a St. Marys historical walking tour or kitchen-oriented discussion.

The Celebrate St. Marys team, comprised of Janis Fread, Kate Graham, Jan Mustard, Jan McClelland, Jane Graham, Vicky Vine, Carol Passmore, and Cathy Atwell, wish to sincerely thank all those in the community who had supported the event and contributed to its planning.



STONETOWN

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10°C	13°C	15°C	18°C	20°C	20°C	21°C
Feels Like 7	Feels Like 12	Feels Like 15	Feels Like 18	Feels Like 20	Feels Like 20	Feels Like 22

COMMUNITY —

SPRING WATER FLUSHING

MAY 1 - 26, 2023



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WEEKDAYS 9-6
WEEKENDS 10-5

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EDITORIAL —

Finally! Leafs' win a sigh of relief

By Stewart Grant

History has a way of repeating itself.

For Toronto Maple Leaf fans, the history of the last number of decades has been cruel.

Due to the dysfunctional, horrible regime of Harold Ballard that reigned until his death in 1990, the team's reputation declined over the 1970's and 1980's from a once-proud franchise to a club that all too often became a laughing stock... a punch-line.

In the thirty-plus years that have followed, there have been ups and downs for the Leafs, but the team's inability to advance to the Stanley Cup finals have failed to erase the stench of the Ballard days.

In recent times, under the leadership of club president Brendan Shanahan and general manager Kyle Dubas, the Toronto Maple Leafs have been one of the best and most consistent regular season hockey clubs in the NHL. Their current roster includes a bevy of stars, which include future Hall of Famers Auston Matthews, Mitch Marner, and John Tavares.

But, amazingly, every playoff season since 2004 has reverted to the same 'ole story. The Leafs fail to escape the first round of the playoffs.

Even though this past weekend's victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning was just a first-round series win, it was a BIG DEAL. I believe it was the most important victory that the club has had in the past 50 years, because

failing to win this year might undo a decade of progress made by Shanahan and Dubas.

I remember watching the Leafs beat Detroit in overtime of game 7 in 1993... the "unbelievable" goal by Nikolai Borchevsky. This goal has represented the high-water mark for Leaf fans in the past five decades. The emotions then were ones of pure elation. This Leaf team, perennially the losers, had up-ended the first-place Detroit Red Wings. With other upsets occurring throughout the league, such as the two-time defending Cup champ Pittsburgh Penguins falling to David Volek and the Islanders, Leafs fans dreamed of a possible Stanley Cup matchup against the Montreal Canadiens. If only it wasn't for that f**kin Kerry Fraser missing the high-sticking call against Wayne Gretzky in game 6 of the conference finals.

People, including myself, already recognize the historical parallels between 2023 and 1993. Upsets have happened throughout the first round, and the path to the Stanley Cup Finals is becoming clear. Instead of facing Montreal in the finals, we imagine a dream Canadian final between Toronto and Edmonton. Matthews against McDavid. And the first Stanley Cup to be won by a Canadian hockey team since 1993.

One way or another, history will likely repeat itself in some fashion this year. It'll be thrilling to see how it all plays out on the ice.

Bravo

We have three Bravos this week.

1) Bravo to the St. Marys Community Players for their production of 39 Steps. Well done!

2) I would like to submit a Bravo of the Week for Irene with St. Marys Mobility. Day to day, Irene goes above and beyond her position as a mobility bus driver. Her background as a paramedic adds a special quality to her work. She treats every rider with dignity and respect all while making sure they arrive to their destination safely. This week Irene was seen stopping traffic to intervene in a medical emergency taking place in the vehicle ahead of her bus. Her ability to notice something wasn't right and take action is admirable. Irene helped this individual stay calm until active paramedics could arrive on scene. She is a shining light in the community and deserves recognition for her willingness to help anyone, anywhere, anytime.

3) Bravo to the Piecemakers Quilt show - a wonderful, colourful, creative and magical show bringing so many people into town that it was hard to find a parking place and there were lineups outside the building.

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

Boo

We have one Boo this week.

1) This boo goes out to all the large vehicles (large transport trucks, dump trucks, large equipment vehicles and loud exhaust vehicles) that use Church Street South from the Main Street to Park Street as the town's newest truck bypass and personal race track.

There are way too much large trucks using side streets within town as a whole, but Church Street South is being used by many trucks and equipment vehicles as the town's newest truck route. This area is primarily a residential area and not a truck route for big rigs. There is a lot of pedestrian activity in the area with churches and seniors buildings and people using the area as a walkway to and from the downtown core.

Fully loaded transport trucks and diesel equipment on an uphill/downhill grade generate A LOT of unnecessary noise pollution in this residential area.

The town needs to implement weight and traffic restrictions on this street before someone gets seriously hurt.

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

Quote of the Week

"I can't think of any Gordon Lightfoot song I don't like. Every time I heard a song of his, it's like I wish it would last forever."

- Bob Dylan, commenting on the passing of Gordon Lightfoot, who died this week at age 84

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I'm not sure what's
more surprising: the
Leafs won a playoff
series or the Creamery
stayed open past 8?

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

St. Marys Independent

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The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS
OF THE WEEK

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Today I can complain
because the weather
is rainy or I can
be thankful that
the grass is getting
watered for free.

Feeling gratitude
and not expressing
it is like wrapping a
present and not giving
it.

If the only prayer you
said in your whole life
was, 'thank you,' that
would suffice.

There are 3 kinds of
people: those who can
count and those who
can't.

COMMUNITY —

AllWheelsPark donation of the week



Thank you to St Marys Insurance Group for their generous donation of \$1,000 to help us revamp and expand the Rotary All Wheels Park here in town. These community donations are helping the steering committee reach our goal of \$150,000. To donate and see a video telling our story please go to townofstmarys.com/allwheelspark. Your support is greatly appreciated! Pictured above are Greg Bettger & Erica Brine.



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STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



PD DAY PROGRAM

May 5, 8 AM - 5 PM | Pyramid Centre

Spend the day exploring nature, creating a masterpiece, and swimming in the pool!

townofstmarys.com/activenet or 519-284-2160

HOME ALONE COURSE

May 6, 9 AM - 3:30 PM | Pyramid Centre

This course is designed to equip kids with the skills and confidence they need to be on their own.

townofstmarys.com/activenet or 519-284-2160



BABYSITTING BASICS COURSE

May 7, 9 AM - 4 PM | Pyramid Centre

This course teaches youth aged 11 - 15 all they need to know to care for younger kids.

townofstmarys.com/activenet or 519-284-2160



FIREFIGHTERS' BREAKFAST

May 7, 8 AM - 12 PM | Fire Hall

Enjoy eggs, bacon, sausage and all the fixings. Meet firefighters and Sparky the Fire Dog, and view fire trucks and rescue equipment!

519-284-2340, ext. 201



MOTHER'S DAY PLANTERS

May 10, 4 - 5:30 PM, | Pyramid Centre

Youth in Grades 3 - 10 will make a Mother's Day planter during this program, which is being presented in partnership with Lyric Flowers.

townofstmarys.com/activenet or 519-284-2160



Contact us

519-284-2340
communications@town.stmarys.on.ca





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Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week will be 100 years young on May 10. Shirley (Holmes) Paul was born and raised in Stratford. She started her 37 year teaching career at an eight grade school in Kirkton. She then taught at St. Marys Central and Downie Central teaching grade one and kindergarten children. She married Leon Paul in August, 1946 and for many years was part of the "Paul Bros. and Shirley" musical and comedy act. Now enjoying retirement, Shirley likes to sleep in, have lunch with friends and loves to read an abundance of books. Happy Birthday Shirley.

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

COMMUNITY —

Food Insecurity Issue highlighted to Council

By Stewart Grant

The April 25th Regular Meeting of Council began with delegations from Huron Perth Public Health ("HPPH") and United Way Perth-Huron ("UWPH") regarding the growing food insecurity problem faced by members of our community.

Registered Dietitian Candace Cunningham of HPPH and Director of Social Research Kristin Crane of UWPH provided Council with results of a study compiled in November 2022 which analyzed results from 740 surveys.

The results drew considerable concern: of the 740 surveyed for the study, 27% of respondents said that there was "sometimes not enough food" for their household while 9% indicated there was "often not enough food".

The percentages referenced above correlated closely with the survey results indicating that 37% of respondents earned less than \$35,000 annually. The link is clear and logical: food insecurity is related to income.

In present times, the inflation that has been experienced in key sectors has made the problem worse. Increases in key expenditures such as housing, transportation and utilities have severely strained the budgets of low-income households, meaning there is less money to spend on food.

The study further indicated that many of those in need are not using community food programs to help their situation; this is either by choice (perceived social stigma?) or not being aware of the programs at all. Almost 50% of food-insecure re-



spondents had never used community food programs.

Cunningham and Crane noted that the current Living Wage is estimated to be \$20.70 per hour, based on a 35-hour work week. One of their recommendations towards the food insecurity issue is to advocate for adequate income for all Canadians, including the encouragement of businesses and organizations to become Certified Living Wage Employers. Guaranteed Basic Income programs and free sports and recreation activities are also possible contributors to solving the complex issue of food insecurity.

As Council moved to formally receive the report of the delegation, Councillor Marg Luna said aloud, "What are we going to do?" Reports are an excellent first step to understand problems, but they must be followed by action at all levels to achieve results.

Weekend Quiz

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- 1) Name the player whose name is on the Stanley Cup 5 times with 5 different spellings?
- 2) What is the capital of Sudan?
- 3) Which blood type is a universal donor?
- 4) Which globally-dreaded disease did the World Health Organization declare eradicated in 1980?
- 5) Who was the first American woman in space?
- 6) How many pounds are in a ton?
- 7) How many planets make up the solar system?
- 8) How many colors are in a rainbow?
- 9) Which astronomer is called out in "Bohemian Rhapsody"?
- 10) Who sang the song, "My Way"?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27



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COMMUNITY —

Community Conversations

With Rob Staffen: Entrepreneurship



By Kate Orland Bere

The entrepreneurial spirit thrives in St. Marys – and Rob Staffen has been leading that creative business mindset ever since he worked as an industrious teen in his father's St. Marys grocery store, Staffen Food Markets. Rob learned business from his Dad, loving the business, always learning, always thinking about how to improve service. His father's success in business gave Rob the confidence to major in Business at Western University's Ivey Business School and soon afterward he and his brother Dave expanded both their Mitchell and St. Marys stores to well over 20,000 sq. ft.. Later, in 1996, Rob won the "Canadian Independent Grocer of the Year" award. A visionary entrepreneur had been born.

To Rob, an entrepreneur is someone defined by the personal risk they take in pursuit of a new business, innovation, or idea. An entrepreneur possesses the creative drive to apply their skills, tenacity, and yearning for knowledge to go with their 'gut intuition' of success. They develop a solid business plan, believing that their plan will not only work – but also that they will be capable of working through any obstacles that may develop to ultimately attain success. For example, some entrepreneurs were able to thrive successfully through Covid. Granted, this was not an equal playing field, as in that case some businesses were up against tough conditions, while others sold more than ever because of the pandemic. Think Amazon.

Rob Staffen believes that once you become a successful entrepreneur, your path – and your passion – is chosen. He also believes that strong businesses are built on a long-term growth plan – a 50-100 year old plan, not a mere 5-year plan. Concerns for the future of Canada and St. Marys, Rob says, grow from thoughts of out-of-control government spending, and considering how governments manage taxation and laws around corporations and

greater support for entrepreneurship. He believes that government investment without careful consideration of desirable long-term gains is foolhardy. At this stage of his entrepreneurial journey, Rob is focused on helping his family, his children and their partners, mentoring them on their own entrepreneurial journeys, watching their own visions take shape. Mentorship is quite essential for business growth – and Rob enjoys paying those entrepreneurial skills forward. He and his family remain focused on building and protecting the SMGCC, an important asset and business driver in the town of St. Marys.

Rob Staffen understands that he was lucky himself to have had the guidance of his own Dad as a forward-thinking entrepreneur who gave valuable time to his son's business skill development, as well as the good fortune to have had exposure to a 2nd critical influence – Ted Courtnage, a retired chemical engineer who also held an MBA. Ted became a close friend and partner in the St. Marys Golf Course, generously sharing his vast business experience with his younger friend in their many conversations. Ted's #1 lesson was "it is always about the numbers" – and the 2nd business adage, "to always pay yourself first." He meant by this to save at least 10% of your income each year for whatever unforeseeable need or opportunity that might arise. Entrepreneurial mentors give back and pay it forward, and Rob's success and the success of his children's businesses are a testament of those business lessons paid forward.

Giving back has been a passion of Rob's. Two projects in the community showcase his entrepreneurial skills building value in this community. The first was his involvement with a construction project at his church – the St. Marys Presbyterian Church. When asked to become involved, Rob saw an opportunity to fundamentally change the way the church had been financially managing their projects. Based on the model of the St. Marys Hospital Foundation, he proposed that the Church create a foundation through their bank whereby donations would be held in perpetuity, with investment proceeds only used to fund projects at the Church, rather than each time raising money that would then be given directly to a contractor. This allowed the foundation to grow and parishioners to feel greater confidence in their donations being used more successfully over time. In the years since, not only has the church benefitted, but so also has the RBC bank, from the "Enduring Mission Fund." The foundation



fund continues to grow through excellent investment choices, now holding 1.25 million in investment assets, with debt at less than \$145,000. Not only can renovations and upgrades be easily managed to maintain a beautiful church, now the congregation can also donate money back to serve community needs, or, for example, to provide DVCI scholarships.

A second example of Rob using his ideas and influence to advance community assets was his involvement in 2004 to bring together partners, each with unique skills, to work together on local building projects. The story of the Pyramid Recreation Centre [PRC] in St. Marys was driven by a group of talented, committed local people – people such as Scott Taylor [construction/engineering], Rob Edney [human resources/Town Council perspectives], Dr. Rob Bell [who wrote a cogent business plan], and Kelly Deeks Johnson, with help from Reid Dundas,

who raised funds of over \$5M – which in a town of under 6,500 people was an undeniable miracle. Many others also contributed to this essential town resource, recognizing the importance represented by the needs of the town residents – and for generations to come. These projects were areas where Rob saw that critical need, and brought people together with his forward-thinking vision.

Giving back, says Rob, is something entrepreneurs just do.

He advises, if you have a sound business plan proving profitability, then this is a great time to launch your business – if you have full confidence in your ideas and research, and your ability to see your vision through the definitive stages of development. Relationships, careful planning, all the steps of implementation lie with the entrepreneur, as well as the quality of the people they bring onboard to realize the projects at hand.



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- Replace shrubs the dog destroyed
- Get garden seeds
- Pick out new trees for backyard
- Overseed & fertilize the lawn
- Open the pool

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ARTS —

The 39 Steps – A Review



By Lauren Eedy

Currently bursting onto the St. Marys Community Players stage is the comedic thriller, *The 39 Steps*, adapted by Patrick Barlow from John Buchan's novel and Alfred Hitchcock's movie by the same name. Directed by Liane Gregory-Sterritt, *The 39 Steps* offers a refreshing approach to the audience by including partic-

ipation throughout the show which inevitably yields an array of comedic scenarios. From sound effects, to running jokes, this play is all encompassing and intertwining when it comes to relationships between audience and performers. Noteworthy is the array of colourful characters (over 100) portrayed by the impressive yet smaller scale cast of 7 actors, ultimately keeping everyone captivated

and engaged through constantly re-inventing the stage, props and themselves.

As the play is set within 1935 era England and the Moors of Scotland, you can expect a plethora of accents, peppered with underlying espionage in a clever thriller which takes you across the United Kingdom in a quest to uncover the mastermind behind this attempted take down of the British Empire and exposure of top-secret military secrets. Our protagonist, Canadian, Richard Hannay (played by Jake Petrie) becomes entangled in this plot and with a few vague details to go on, he attempts to solve and save his country with a reluctant Dame Pamela (Jessica Ducharme). This is an intriguing story, met with an impressive cast that will often catch you by surprise with

clever quips, innuendo, impromptu reactions and possibly even a hint of romance. Certainly not presented as your usual community theatre project, I was left laughing long after the show had concluded and I'm sure you will too.

It is so restoring to see the return of live, community performances in our area again as we have such an array of talent in our community. This was no exception. *The 39 Steps* runs until May 7th at the Town Hall theatre. Dine & Play packages are also available May 6th at the Westover Inn post performance.

Tickets are selling fast and can be purchased through www.stmaryscommunityplayers.ca.

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COMMUNITY —

\$21,100 OTF Grant Helps SMCP With Theatre Improvements

On Friday night, April 28th, local MPP Matthew Rae was at the historic St. Marys Town Hall Theatre for the opening night of St. Marys Community Players' (SMCP) new production of 'The 39 Steps' adapted by Patrick Barlow and directed by Liane Gregory-Sterritt. MPP Rae and Bob Parker, an Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) volunteer, were there to congratulate the theatre company on work done with a \$21,100 Resilient Communities Fund grant, awarded by OTF in 2022.

"This is transformative funding that will improve the quality and safety of their performances," said Matthew Rae, MPP for Perth-Wellington. "The St. Marys Community Players is an integral part of the Town of St. Marys' culture. It is wonderful to see this funding being put to good use."

Funds from the grant were used by the theatre group to enhance the audience experience by purchasing a new lighting computer, a new sound computer, as well as cyclorama (cyc) lights, a pro audio box and Show Cue Systems software. The grant also helped with costs involved with improving ventilation in the sound and lighting booth.



On Friday night, April 28th, local MPP Matthew Rae was at the historic St. Marys Town Hall Theatre for the opening night of St. Marys Community Players' (SMCP) new production of 'The 39 Steps' adapted by Patrick Barlow and directed by Liane Gregory-Sterritt. MPP Rae and Bob Parker, an Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) volunteer, congratulated the theatre company on work done with a \$21,100 Resilient Communities Fund grant, awarded by OTF in 2022. From left to right: Bob Parker, Ontario Trillium Foundation, MPP Matthew Rae and Christen Bossenberry, SMCP President. (Photo by Bruce Zinger)

"Our organization is extremely grateful for the Ontario Trillium Foundation's generous grant," said Liane Gregory-Sterritt, SMCP Vice President. "We are an award-win-

ning theatre company because we stage the best shows we possibly can for our very deserving audiences. OTF has helped us to do just that by providing the funding for much

needed equipment."

The SMCP is committed to bring the community the opportunity to volunteer, learn and be part of a fun theatre group with the best technical equipment possible. And to bring quality productions and performances to enlighten, thrill and entertain our audiences.

The community theatre group continues to bring the local community and surrounding area quality productions and offer wonderful opportunities for volunteers. Whether they want to perform on stage, do technical jobs or be behind the scenes, SMCP will help them develop new skills, meet new friends, and have fun. If you wish to learn more visit their website at: www.stmaryscommunityplayers.ca.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations celebrates 40 years of grantmaking in Ontario and making a lasting impact in communities. Last year, OTF invested nearly \$110M into 1,034 community projects and partnerships, which included funding for the Government of Ontario's Community Building Fund. Visit otf.ca to learn more.

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COMMUNITY —

Captain Josh Becker named Firefighter of the Month for May

This May the St. Marys Fire Department is pleased to announce Josh Becker as its "Firefighter of the Month".

Captain Josh Becker was selected as Firefighter of the Month for his 10 years of dedicated service to the department," said Fire Chief Richard "Andy" Anderson. "Becker continues to come with high energy, a positive attitude and professional work ethic toward the volunteer job."

Captain Josh Becker joined the St. Marys Fire Department as a firefighter in 2013. Before that he was a firefighter and Acting Captain with the Dashwood Fire Department. Through the Fire Officer Program, he obtained Fire Service Instructor Level I and Fire Officer Level I accreditation. He was promoted to Lieutenant on September 1, 2019. Through further experience and dedication to the department he was promoted to Captain on February 1, 2023.

"Firefighters train to handle a seemingly endless variety of life-threatening incidents and scenarios," says Captain Josh Becker. "Expectations of St. Marys Fire Department members are starkly higher than in some other volunteer departments, due to the fact of where we are located. We have Highway 7 outside of town with a lot of vehicle traffic, a large rural area surrounding us which provides unique challenges and various water courses that can prove to be demanding as the weather changes."

The St. Marys firefighters provide 24-hour emergency services for incidents involving fire, motor vehicle collisions, ice and swift water rescue, out of control open air fires, medicals and lift assists to

our community and neighbouring municipalities when called upon.

Captain Josh Becker says, "I would love to see more motorists take heed and pull over when they see the green flashing light on the firefighter's dashboard on their way to a call. Timing is everything when it comes to a fire or an accident."

"A Fire Captain oversees a crew of firefighters on the fire ground," said Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Edwards. "Josh provides training, direction, supervision, and mentoring to help the firefighters stay safe while on the job. He possesses leadership skills that play an extremely important role at the scene of a fire."

Josh grew up in Dashwood and lived there all his life until moving to St. Marys. He comes from a family heavily invested in fire services including his father who is currently Captain of the Dashwood Fire Department and will celebrate his 50th year of service later this year. His mother was also part of the service as a dispatcher for 15 years with the Dashwood Fire Department. Josh's older brother is the Fire Chief of South Huron and his younger brother is a firefighter with the North Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department. He naturally became interested in becoming a firefighter at a young age as he admired the role and dedication of his father.

"My commitment for the job, not only comes from within but also with support from my wife, Sarah, and my two sons, Ben, and Jack. Everybody in the family must be on board with this lifestyle," says Josh.

Off duty, Josh dedicates his time to his family, is employed at the St. Marys Cement Plant as a Ce-



ment Packer and helps on the family farms. He is also involved with St. Marys Minor Hockey as a Head Coach for the U11 Rep Team.

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COMMUNITY —

Rotary Club thanks sponsors & supporters for Rural Urban Night



After a 3-year pandemic hiatus, Rural Urban Night returned on Thursday, April 27th at the Pyramid Recreation Centre to a sold-out crowd. The annual event, put on by the Rotary Club of St. Marys, was first held in 1926 and celebrates our area's rural and urban culture. Janice's Fine Country Catering fed the capacity crowd of 420.

The evening's presenter was playwright and humorist, Dan Needles. Awarded the Leacock Medal for Literary Humour in 2003, Dan Needles is best known as the playwright behind the popular "Letters from Wingfield Farm" series. His humorous presentation had everyone in stitches and resonated with the rural and urban



attendees.

The evening also featured a silent auction as well as an online auction hosted by Shackleton's Auctions. There was also a spirited round of bidding for 4 raspberry pies donated by Janice's Fine Country Catering. Near the end of the evening, Rotary

President Charlie Hammond presented the Hospital Building Foundation with a \$15,000 donation. Ken McCutcheon accepted the donation on behalf of the Foundation. Plans have already begun for the 98th annual Rural Urban Night in 2024! (Left photo contributed, right photo by Nancy Bickell)

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SPORTS —

DCVI Senior Boys earn first win of season



Owen Littlejohn scores a goal on a penalty kick during the St. Marys DCVI Senior Boys' soccer game against Listowel. The Salukis won the match 4-2 thanks to two goals in the final 10 minutes by Jaden Schiell set up by Carson Brock. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys DCVI Senior Boys soccer team got into the win column last Tuesday when they hosted the first two games of their regular season.

Even though they enjoyed home-field advantage to start their season, the Senior Boys got no easy start to their year with their first game against the highly skilled St. Mike's squad. The strong and physical team from St. Mike's put up a very tough defensive brigade that the Salukis had a tough time breaking through.

The match was an even, back-and-forth affair, but in the end, St. Mike's capitalized on their chances, scoring a goal on either side of halftime to earn a 2-0 victory over St. Marys.

In their second game of the day, the Senior Boys took advantage of a less physical team from Listowel. After their opponents jumped out to a 1-0 lead on a free kick, Giuseppe Passarelli tied the game up midway through the first half when he hit a strong low shot from outside the box to beat the Listowel keeper.

Later on in the first half, Julio Fontes was taken down in the box, and Owen Littlejohn scored on the penalty kick to give the Salukis a 2-1 lead.

In the second half, the boys came out flat, and Listowel took advantage and tied the game. However, the duo of Carson Brock and Jaden Schiell answered the call for a game-breaking play, with the first of two goals in the final 10 minutes fed to Schiell from

Brock. Head Coach Richard Farmer said that a switch in positioning allowed Brock to break the Listowel defence open and set up Schiell for a pair of tallies.

"I had Carson on the right side of the field for much of the second half and he was not getting any good service," Farmer told the Independent. "So, with about 10 minutes left in the game, I switched him to the left and immediately he was getting much more of the ball. Carson used his speed to beat the defender and cross the ball into the box where Jaden headed the ball in.

With about a minute left in the game, Brock and Schiell combined again to add an insurance goal when Carson's shot deflected off the crossbar and

the goalie right onto the latter's foot who calmly put the ball into the back of the net. The second of the duo's pair of late-game goals sealed the eventual 4-2 final score.

Farmer thinks that his team's ability to hang with the likes of St. Mike's and Listowel is a good sign of the Salukis' capacity for success this season.

"The boys are looking really good so far," said Farmer. "They are buying into the system, moving the ball around well, and finding space. We still need to work on our finishing as that was where we struggled against St. Mike's, but I am confident this will come. I believe that the two teams we have played will be title contenders this season which bodes well for us."

Solid start for Junior Boys goes unrewarded in Listowel

By Spencer Seymour

Head Coach Scott Spillane told the Independent that the St. Marys DCVI Junior Boys soccer team started their season with a very good effort despite dropping their first game of the season 2-1 in Listowel last Thursday.

"We had some stretches where we were pretty great and frankly the better team," said Spillane, pleased with his team's resiliency and competitiveness against the heavier opponent.

"Listowel was bigger than us and they used their size well to make the game really hard on us."

Adam Turner scored DCVI's lone goal of the match and was one of three players who stood out to the Head Coach, along with Nicholas Campbell and Ian Partridge.

"We had several guys who played really well for us," Spillane said. "Adam scored for us and he was using his speed to get wide and create open-

ings. Nicholas was excellent defensively. He was incredibly competitive. He played a gutsy game and saved a goal for us on a good play by Listowel.

"Ian was really good in the midfield and was winning a lot of one-on-one challenges for the ball. Ian knows how to make quick, crisp, effective passes. He was a big part of our attack in that he was doing a great job at moving the ball forward."

Spillane had a positive overall feeling

about the start of the Junior Boys' season and believes, with a few improvements, their compete level could lead them to a good year.

"We have room to grow as a team in terms of playing as a unit and using our wings more effectively. I was really happy with the effort of the team, though. They battled hard and didn't get scared by the bigger team."



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SPORTS —

Strong defence, goaltending gives Senior Girls first win

By Spencer Seymour

If their first two games last Tuesday were any indication, it's going to be very difficult for opposing teams to score on the St. Marys DCVI Senior Girls' soccer team this year.

The Senior Girls came up short in their first game against St. Mike's but held the previous Huron Perth champs to only one goal in a tight 1-0 season-opening match. DCVI dominated St. Mike's in the second half but couldn't find the back of the net.

Their second game of the day against Listowel saw a very different story play out as the Salukis continued the dominating play they had first found in the second half against St. Mike's. In the first minute of the game, Avery Jones buried the first goal of the match. Joining in on the offensive outburst were Alex Binning and Bella Aarts to guide the Salukis to a 3-0 shutout and collect their first win of the season.

Co-coach Rachelle Pearson told the Independent that the Senior Girls' first two games showed a glimpse at what could be a very strong campaign.

"The team worked well together during both games and demonstrated their potential for a very successful season ahead," said Pearson. "They are very good at communicating what they are noticing out on the field. At half-time, they discussed the need to cross the ball more instead of keeping it on the same side. They started doing this more in the second half against St. Mike's and continued in the second game against Listowel."

"We have a very strong defensive line and an incredible goalie with Matt Luyten which helped keep St. Mike's to the single goal and the shutout against Listowel as well," Pearson added. "In the second game, once they got the first goal they were excited to get more and played with a lot of hunger and determination."



Audrey Littlejohn looking to get by a Listowel defender during the St. Marys DCVI Senior Girls' soccer team's second of two games last Thursday. The Salukis beat Listowel 3-0 after falling in a tight 1-0 match against St. Mike's in their first game of the day. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

Young, scrappy junior girls take season-opener

By Spencer Seymour

Even though the St. Marys DCVI Junior Girls soccer team doesn't boast the most experienced lineup, they showed a strong work ethic complemented by impressive speed and skill in their season-opening match in Listowel last Thursday. DCVI came away with the 1-0 victory.

Head Coach Shana Pereira said that she was very impressed by the young squad's performance.

"Some of the girls have very little soccer experience and we began with a

few girls playing positions they were not used to," said Pereira. "They brought a lot of energy and clearly looked excited yet focused on the task at hand, which is exciting to see already just one game into the year."

After a somewhat tight first half in which both teams worked hard to find their footing, the Salukis managed to break the ice with what went on to be the game's lone goal by Harvest Elliott off of a corner kick. The St. Marys goal scorer was one of several players who Pereira credited with leading the charge in DCVI's win.

"Harvest had a great game, capped off by her getting our goal. Sydney Grant played excellently all game and had many good chances to score. Kiara McGregor, with her lightning speed, was awesome in the midfield and created many chances for the forwards as well. We also had solid team defence and Adrianna Hollestelle-Black was great in net."

Pereira added that she is excited about what this team might be able to

do with some relatively minor adjustments.

"Even with a few minor changes in the line up we were up to speed and played very well. Going forward, we need to work on positioning and quick, accurate passing so that we can move the ball effectively through the midfield. But for our first game of the season, I'm definitely very optimistic about where this team is at."



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SPORTS —

Hall of Fame announces open date, new artifacts

The Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is excited to announce that it will open for the season on Wednesday, May 3.

"On behalf of our board of directors and our staff, I'm looking forward to opening our doors once again to celebrate the rich history of baseball in this country," said Scott Crawford, the Hall's Director of Operations. "When the doors open, it will mark the start of our 26th season in St. Marys."

Visitors to the museum will notice several new artifacts on display, including:

A "Canadian All-Time Offensive Greats" display that includes game-used equipment from the careers of Canadian sluggers Larry Walker and Joey Votto;

The 1997 National League Cy Young Award won by Montreal Expos pitcher Pedro Martinez, the only Cy Young Award winner in Expos' history;

A display devoted to Philadelphia Phillies manager Rob Thomson who became the first full-time Canadian manager in the big leagues since George Gibson with the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1934. Thomson managed the Phillies to the National League pennant in 2022;

A Toronto Blue Jays locker display with artifacts from the 2022 season, including a jersey worn by Canadian closer Jordan Romano on Jackie Robinson Day, a base used in Game One of the Blue Jays' Wild Card Series against the Seattle Mariners, and the ball that Brampton's Zach Pop threw for his first playoff strikeout;

Game-used items from Canadian major leaguers who made their big league debuts in 2022, including Matt Brash, Charles Leblanc, Bo Naylor, and Jared Young;

An umpire indicator used by Shanna Kook, who became the first female Canadian umpire to work in the minor professional ranks when she did so in the Pioneer League in 2003;

A St. Louis Cardinals jersey worn by two-time Gold Glove Award-winning left fielder Tyler O'Neill in the 2019 season;

Artifacts from the careers of 2023 inductees Jesse Barfield, Rich Harden, Denis Boucher, and Joe Wiwchar, as well as 2020 inductees John Olerud and Jacques Doucet who will also be honoured this June.

"We're proud to share these new artifacts," said Crawford. "They help us continue to shine the spotlight on the great accomplishments by Canadians and Canadian teams to the game of baseball."



Lincs hosting annual golf tournament



Registration is now open for the annual St. Marys Lincolns' Golf Tournament hosted at the St. Marys Golf & Country Club! The nine-hole shotgun event also features post-golf celebrations in the SMGCC's Ballroom including a sausage dinner. The deadline to register is May 20th and the cost is \$99. To register, contact Lincs' President Brandon Boyd at bboyd@lincs.ca or 519-520-0799.



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SPORTS —

St. Marys Bowling Lanes' Men's, Mixed league awards



Pictured above, from left to right, are Sophie Brockman, Sabrina Billing, Jesse Brockman, Natalie Oesch, and Jillian Oesch. Absent was Gary Billing. The team was awarded the championship trophy for the St. Marys Bowling Lanes' weekly Mixed League at the league's year-end banquet last Tuesday. The Mixed League is looking for more members next year and to get more information on signing up, contact Chris Collins. The Men's League then presented its year-end awards last Friday, with the League Champions being the team of Jesse Brockman, Shawn Butler, Jason Cates, Jason Firby, Aaron Fisher, and Mike Gregory. The Men's Playoff Champions were the team made up of Kenny Hutton, Scott Kemp, Shane King, Mark Mohr, Brendan Rinn, and Scott Rinn. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)



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COMMUNITY —

Sunset Diner donates to St. Marys Healthcare Foundation



On April 27, 2023 the Sunset Diner donated \$10,000. to the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation. Pictured, L-R: Pat Craigmile, past Chair and Director, Cindy Bilyea (SMHF Board Chair) Hilary Hughes, General Manager of Sunset Diner, Dave Stewart, Owner of Sunset Diner, Shelley MacDonald, Honorary Chair Person (Photo by Nancy Bickell)

THE SPRING SEASON IN STYLE

St. Marys Community Ladies Welcome!

THURSDAY MAY 18TH, 2023

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Longevity of Mount Olivet Lodge, Thorndale

By Nancy Abra

Over the years many groups, clubs and organizations don't survive the test of time. The longevity of those groups and organizations are demonstrated through the dedication of its members and relationship within their community. Mount Olivet Lodge in Thorndale is a pride example of permanence over the course of many decades.

In 1873, distance to established Lodges in London and area towns was a travel issue for Thorndale area men who wanted to join and attend meetings. Therefore, an organization meeting was held at the home of Wm.

Dunlop on May 14, 1873, to propose a Masonic Lodge in Thorndale. The St. John's Lodge #209A in London sponsored their application to authorize a Lodge in Thorndale to operate 'under Dispensation' of special permission.

On June 10, 1873, the first meeting was held in a room over the driveway of Central Hotel, known as 'Garner's Hall' in Thorndale with seven applications received for membership. After the title and number was registered, Mount Olivet Lodge #300 was instituted on July 4, 1873 with ten charter members.

150 years later, with a current membership of 48 men, Mount Olivet

Lodge still plays a significant and active role in the community of Thorndale. Beside supporting Masonic foundations in Ontario and across Canada such as post-secondary education, medical research and childhood diseases, this Lodge supports Thorndale community groups such as the Thorndale Fair and Thorndale's Winter Carnival. A few years ago, they organized a Child Identification Program (CHIP) for area parents to create a kit of identifying material for their child(s), which they plan to do again this fall.

The Lodge members grow approximately 1000 pumpkins each summer

and sell them in October as a fundraiser. Also in October, they host an OctoberFest with an elimination draw raising money which goes directly back into the community of Thorndale.

As part of their 150th anniversary, the Mount Olivet Lodge is hosting an Open House, tour and information day on Saturday, May 13th from 10am to 4pm at the Lodge located on Harrison Street in Thorndale. They are also hosting a special banquet in honour of their anniversary on June 17th at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre. For more information and tickets, contact Geoff Clays 519-461-1065.

Local supporting Local

By Nancy Abra

An article by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) published last June, stated most consumers, 86%, believed supporting small businesses is important. They stated, "people care about their community, where their products come from and the impact they have on the economy." <https://www.cfib-fcei.ca/en/media/news-releases/majority-canadians-are-choosing-shop-small-businesses-support-their-communities>

es-support-their-communities

Sharyl Vandendries owner of 'Shake the Sugar Tree' knows how important small local businesses are to the local community. She has organized a 'Spring Boutique Market' on Saturday, May 6th from 9 am to 3 pm at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre. There will be 85 local small businesses, entrepreneurs, and artists along with additional vendors set up in tents outside selling their wares and creations. This event focused on local vendors and Vandendries has chosen a local charity to support. There is no admission fee but people are encouraged to buy raffle tickets with the proceeds going to

'Sara Highfive'.

Sara lives in Thorndale with her family, attends grade 6 at West Nissouri Public School and is an amazing 11-year-old who loves to help people. She has big dreams and goals which includes helping the homeless on the streets in London. She works with a non-profit called 'Advocate Connections'. They help Sara to reach people, identifying their needs and determine who need the support.

Local supporting local is a simple statement but the impact in the community is vast both economically and socially.

**STSTT
SPRING
BOUTIQUE
MARKET**

**May 6th from 9 am til 3 pm
Thorndale Community Centre
265 Queen St., Thorndale, Ontario**

Over 90 vendors inside and out!

FREE ENTRY - Tickets can be bought for raffles
Live music by Steph Martin, lunch counter by the St. George's Anglican Women

Money raised will be donated to "Sara's HighFive", an organization started by 11 year old Sara McLean, to help the homeless in London and Area.

Thorndale Library - May events

Happy May from the Thorndale Library! Middlesex County Library's 2023 Reading Challenge for May is to read a book featuring a main character who has a disability. NoveList, an online resource that is free to you through the library, can help you find your next book. Visit bit.ly/MCLnovelist and login with your library card number and PIN. Try searching by theme: in the NoveList search bar, type "DE Living with visible disability." Track your reading progress with our Middlesex County Library 2023 Reading Challenge bookmarks, and remember to enter the draw at the end of each four-month period.

Also in May: Pick up your own collection of seeds from our Seed Library before the end of the month (while supplies last). Storytime is on Tuesdays at

10:30am. Afterschool Hangout is on Wednesdays at 4:00pm. Need tech help? Tech Fridays are for you! Please make an appointment and let us know how we can help in advance. A friendly reminder that Tech Friday is cancelled on May 19. On May 18, Between the Bookends book club is at 4:00pm and Thursday at the Theatre is at 5:30pm. PA Day Mystery Party is on May 19, at 11:00am—come ready to get messy! Drop in to the Lego Party between 10:30am and 12:00pm on May 20.

For more information about our events, or to register, please visit the library or check out [library.middlesex.ca/events](https://www.middlesex.ca/events).

As always, feel free to drop in, call (519-461-1150), or email (thorndale_staff@middlesex.ca) with any questions. See you in the library!

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www.gardenontario.org/site.php/stmarys



Plant Auction and Spring Flower Show

MONDAY, MAY 8TH AT 7:00 PM

ST. MARYS LEGION HALL

Bring Any Perennials You Wish To Donate (or other gardening items) to Support the St. Marys Horticultural Society

If possible, please indicate the name of the plant and if it likes sun or shade Items may be dropped off after 6:30 p.m.

Membership not Required to Attend
Reminder to bring a mug if you'd like to enjoy a beverage at our meetings.

Bring A Friend To This Popular Event!!

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Thorndale Library events - Page 17

St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 25

Friday, May 5

- Graber Bros Auction Sale at 156681 15th Line - 9 am
- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog/sausage lunch at Noon
- Celebration of Life for Barbara Rigney at the Legion - 4 to 7 pm
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 pm
- Thamesview's Got Talent at Thamesview United Church, Fullarton - 7 pm
- SMCP Performance of "The 39 Steps" at the Town Hall Theatre - 8 pm

Saturday, May 6

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 am to Noon
- Graber Bros Auction Sale at 156681 15th Line - 9 am
- Heeman's 60 Anniversary Party - 9 am to 5 pm
- Spring Boutique Market at Thorndale Lions Community Centre - 9 am to 3 pm
- SMCP Matinee Performance of "The 39 Steps" at the Town Hall Theatre - 2 pm
- Ashley Giles Tribute Fest at Brodhagen Community Centre - 2 pm, Dinner 5 pm
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm
- Vic Mansfield Birthday Celebration at the Legion - 7 pm

Sunday, May 7

- St. Marys Firefighters breakfast at the Fire Hall - 8 am to Noon
- Heeman's 60 Anniversary Party - 9 am to 5 pm
- SMCP Matinee Performance of "The 39 Steps" at the Town Hall Theatre - 2 pm
- Ruth Ann Haves Birthday Open House at Browns United Church Schoolhouse - 2 to 4 pm
- Barn Dance Show at Purple Hill Country Opry - 2 pm

Monday, May 8

- Community Supper at the St. Marys United Church - 5 pm, Sponsored by the Presbyterian Church. Admission is free but donations are greatly appreciated
- St. Marys Horticulture plant auction & spring flower show at the Legion hall - 7 pm

COMMUNITY —

CJ Bear is back!



CJ Bear is back from a holiday in Cuba and he is getting ready to make a trip to Alberta but he will be back for the Teddy Bear Reunion in August.

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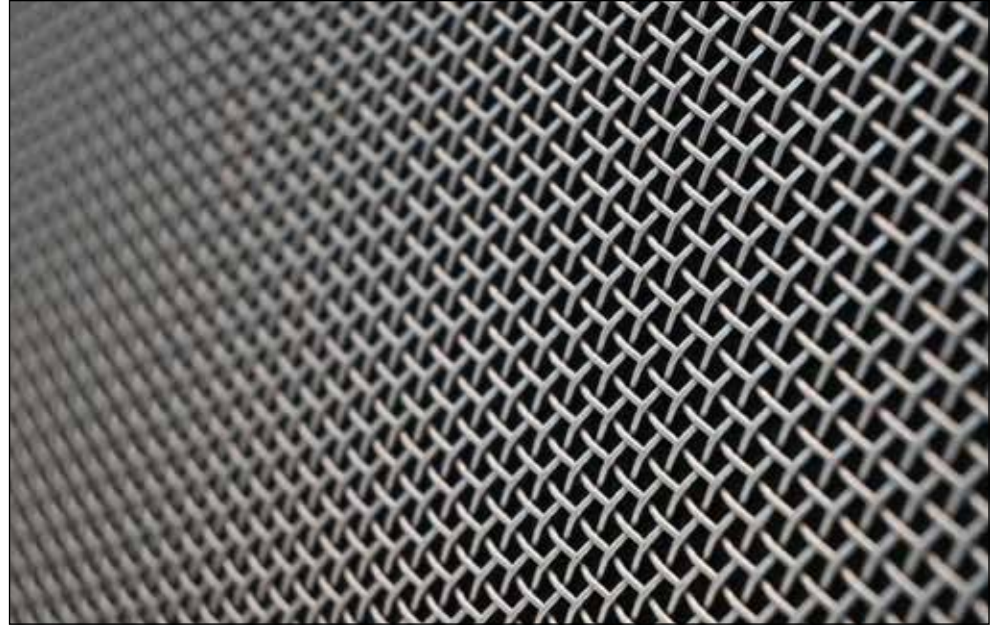
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Solutions on page 27

COMMUNITY —

St. Marys Clicks announce April contest winners



Pictured above is the winning photo (left) and runner up (right) for the St. Marys Clicks April contest 'Patterns'. Congratulations to Gary Broughton with Green Stone and the runner up Jordan Buchan with 'patterns'. The next Clicks meeting will be on Thursday, May 4 anytime after 6:30 for a meet and greet and the meeting will begin at 7. Guest speaker will be Julie Phillips on 'how to judge a photo'. Join them in the basement boardroom of the St. Marys Presbyterian Church, 147 Widder St. East.

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LOW KMS
 12,888 km

2019 Lexus UX 250h

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LOW KMS
 22,471 km

2021 Ram 1500 Sport

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LOW KMS
 58,784 km

2022 Ram 1500 Rebel

\$66,995 + HST & lic 4-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 906 km

2021 Toyota RAV4 XLE

\$43,995 + HST & lic All-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 30,970 km

2020 Acura RDX Platinum Elite

\$46,995 + HST & lic All-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 31,866 km

2021 Ford Edge Titanium

\$44,995 + HST & lic All-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 44,870 km

2020 Chevrolet Blazer True North

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HISTORY —

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: William Williams

By Mary Smith

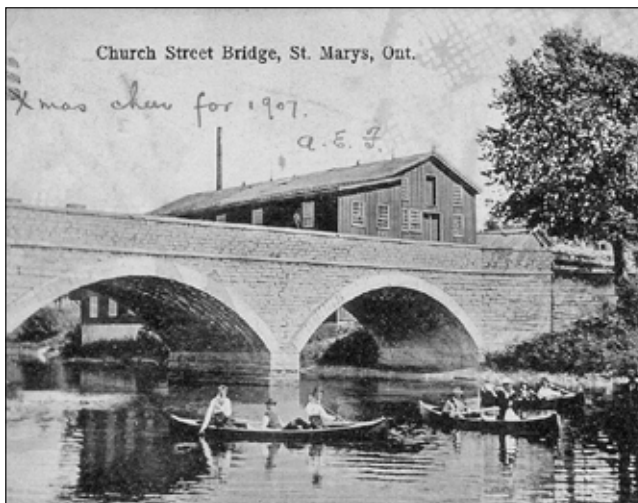
William Williams was born in London, England, in 1835 and died in Toronto in 1918. He lived two decades of his 83 years in St. Marys – between 1869 and 1890. During those years, particularly in the 1880s, he made significant contributions to the built heritage of the town as the architect of many of its landmark structures. Within the context of his entire life, that productive decade, of such benefit to St. Marys, was extraordinary.

William Williams was born on June 4, 1835, in Marylebone, a district in West End of London, England. Little is known about his parents, John Williams, and Elizabeth Watts, other than their birth years – both in 1804 – and the dates of their deaths. They belonged to the Church of England and had at least one child older than William. Emma Williams was born in 1826. In the nine years between Emma and William, John and Elizabeth may have had other children but no records have survived to confirm this. Records do exist for William's two younger brothers, Charles and Thomas, and a younger sister, Elizabeth, born before their mother, Elizabeth, died in 1844. William was nine years old at the time and his youngest brother was just three.

John Williams remarried. He and his second wife, Jemima Smith, had a son, George, born in 1847. But misfortunes continued for the family: John died in 1849, leaving behind at least six children. William, now 14 years of age, had to begin earning his own way. When he came to Canada, he first worked as a plasterer. In England, he may have been an apprentice in this trade. Emma, William's oldest sister, died in 1855, and Jemima, his step-mother, died in 1856. His half-brother, George, was listed in the 1861 English census as an orphan but then vanished from further records. In 1862, William's other sister, Elizabeth, died, age 23. Life would have been challenging for this working-class family in the heart of London.

But there were rewards. William must have done well at his trade and, in August 1863, was able to marry 20-year-old Sophia Nash. Their first daughter, Flora Elizabeth, was born in 1864 in Richmond-on-Thames, a borough in southwest London. Another little girl, Ada Emily, joined the family in 1867, also born in London. Following the birth of their second child, William and Sophia made the decision to leave England for Canada. William's parents and his two sisters were dead. His brothers, Charles and Thomas, were now adults with families of their own. It was time to seek greater opportunities in the newly created Dominion of Canada.

William, Sophia and their two small daughters arrived at the port of Quebec in mid-1869 and proceeded to Ontario. It is unknown why they chose to settle in St. Marys. In the late 1860s, there was considerable construction happening in the community. Perhaps there were advertisements in city newspapers recruiting tradesmen, including plasterers. In the days before drywall, all rooms were finished with plaster. The plasterer attached laths to studs or joists and applied coats of plaster to create smooth interior walls and ceilings. He knew how to prepare the right mix for the base layers and more refined mixes for the finishing coats. The plasterer also created crown moldings and other decorative elements such as ceiling medallions. By the 1871 census, taken in April of that year, William lived with his family on Queen Street West, and was



Postcard view of the Church Street Bridge, designed by William Williams in 1884. The photograph was taken in 1907 by Dr. Arthur Fraleigh, an amateur photographer.

working as a plasterer. Flora, now almost seven, had started school, probably in the primer class at West Ward School. The family attended St. James Anglican Church. William was musical – a fact not found in information about his life in England. He sang in the St. James Church choir and, for some years, served as choirmaster.

During his first years in St. Marys, Williams' trade put him in close contact with local contractors. He probably brought considerable knowledge with him from his training and work experience in England. He likely learned more on the job in this community from builders such as Robert Barbour. In any case, by the end of the 1870s, he could, with confidence, draft floor plans and elevations for new buildings and prepare specifications for contractors. In 1880, he abandoned plastering for another occupation when he was appointed clerk of the town of St. Marys. He replaced his west ward neighbour, Lauriston Cruttenden, who had held that position from 1862 to 1879 and, at 75 years of age, was ready to retire.

The role of town clerk must have had similarities in the 1880s to the responsible position it is today. Williams would have worked with the mayor and town council to keep all municipal functions operating smoothly – bylaws passed and taxes collected, for example, and infrastructure maintained in reasonable condition. But clearly it was not as time-consuming as the modern position. As clerk, Williams had an office in the town hall and could use it as a base for other activities. He placed a small notice in the St. Marys Argus in 1884, advising that he was the local agent for a number of "first-class

insurance companies." The notice also announced: "Plans and Specifications prepared for all kinds of buildings, public and private. Office – Town Hall, St. Marys." We don't know how Williams proportioned his time among these occupations. However, he was able to combine his municipal and architectural work in 1884 when he drew up the plans for the double-arched Church Street Bridge over Trout Creek, pictured with this week's column.

Other projects included two very impressive residences for the family of George Carter, a prosperous local mill owner: 67 Peel Street South for his son, James Carter, in 1883, and, two years later, 236 Jones Street East for his daughter, Charlotte Carter, and her husband, Henry Rice. In 1887, Williams also designed a residence for the Fraleigh family, today's Kingsway Lodge, at 310 Queen Street East. Downtown, the striking Andrews Jeweller building at 135 Queen Street East, and the equally impressive Hubbard Pharmacy, 155 Queen Street East, both credit Williams as the architect. Perhaps most remarkable was his transformation of his own church, St. James Anglican. In 1885, his plans for the renovation of the original, plain, rectangular building transformed it into the beautiful church with buttressed walls, steeply pitched roof and side tower that stands today.

Another activity that engaged Williams during his time in St. Marys was his membership in the Ancient Order of Foresters. This "Friendly Society" had its roots in early 19th century England. A benefit society, it did charitable work and provided support for members in need, and for the widows and children of members. The branches were originally called "courts" and in the 1880s and 1890s, there was a court in every small community in the St. Marys area. William belonged to the local "Court Dominion." Membership in the IOF had social elements – band concerts, dinners, anniversary celebrations. But Williams would certainly have remembered his family's challenges as he was growing up. Since membership in a Friendly Society was essentially an insurance policy, this component might have been its main appeal.

In 1890, Williams resigned as town clerk and accepted a position as permanent secretary of the Ancient Order of Foresters at the society's Canadian headquarters in Toronto. He remained in that position for almost 30 years and, apparently, never prepared building plans again. The family moved to Toronto where Williams died in June 1918. A short obituary notice in the St. Marys Journal mentions that he had once been town clerk. Not a word was written about his architectural accomplishments.



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St. Marys

Farmers' Market

Season Opening at Milt Dunnell Field

Saturday, May 6th

8am-noon - Featuring Fresh Rhubarb

COLUMN —

HOSTING UKRAINE: Ric's Fault

By VJ Knutson

"Not every problem is yours to solve, VJ." It's a conversation we have often, but when the message arrived about the two men living out of a car in Toronto, on a bitter cold night, I couldn't let it go.

I sent the messenger links to possible jobs, but realized that without an address, this was useless. I asked Nataly to reach out to her group in Toronto. "I can help here, but Toronto is beyond my capacity", I explained.

"They understand," she messaged back. "They'll accept any help. Vadym's wife and child arrive May 3rd."

I called Brett from St Marys Landscaping, who had emailed me earlier about possible employment. I left it with him, and within an hour, he called back to say they could start Monday.

A Ukrainian/English speaking man came on board to help the young men: Vadym, 27 and his brother-in-law, Ihor, 20. He and I messaged back and forth. "Where will they stay? For how long? How much will it cost?"

Ric agreed to let them come here, reminding me that I had promised we wouldn't host anyone else beyond Lesia. "I'll find a host", I assured him.

Vadym and Ihor arrived by Go Train Thursday night, a back pack and duffle bag each, hungry for the borscht Lesia had prepared, and reminding me of my own son at that age: eager to get ahead and slightly lost.

My friends, Carol and Greg Walker, offered to host Ihor. Vadym, Ric agreed, could sleep in his office until we found an alternative. Friday was full, chasing OHIP cards, work boots and basics for the job Monday. Saturday, we took the guys in to meet the work crew. Doug Betteridge dropped off a bike for



Vadym and Ukrainian moms showed up with food. The men were overwhelmed.

"I'm so embarrassed," Vadym shared through the translator at the grocery store Sunday. I assured him it's okay. His success is all we ask in return.

The brothers-in-law to had planned to get established – jobs, apartment, etc – before Vadym's wife and toddler arrived. Toronto seemed like the most likely place to find success for a foreigner who never thought they'd come to Canada. Without English, only one was able to find a minimum wage job, hardly enough to get by.

In Ukraine, Vadym was a chauffeur for executives. He was also a mechanic, and did digital marketing for a firm. Ihor was studying to be a mechanic. Although they haven't said much about their experience, Vadym has shared that he lost many friends. I have no words. Both men are happy to be working 12-hour days. They are grateful for the meals provided and the shelter of our homes. In a very short time, we have found ourselves bonding with these young men in a deep and meaningful way.

Ric has invited Vadym, Alina, and baby Andrii to stay with us. "They've had enough upheaval," he tells me.

So Lesia and I will be on Babuschka duty until Vadym and Ihor are able to secure a long term home for the family.

In the meantime, Nadia and her sister, who I wrote about back in the winter (Nadia works at Cascades and supports her own daughter plus sister and baby) are thinking of moving from London to St Marys. Losing the commute would make it easier on Nadia, who works all the overtime she can get, and Tanya would have more support within our community. So, if you know of any available rentals...

Reach me at english.knutson@gmail.com

Now to figure out where we're going to put everyone. Oh, and Anna is grateful to Rick Lyons for her new bike. Till next time.

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Riddles

What did the elephant do when he hurt his toe?

He called a toe truck.

What did the adding machine say to the cashier?

You can count on me.

What is the best way to keep dogs out of the street?

Put them in a barking lot.

Why did the cat sleep with a fan on?

He wanted to be a cool cat.

Why is baseball like a cake?

They both need

batters.

What did one dandelion say to the other dandelion?

Take me to your weeder.

What has a neck, but no head?

A bottle

What did the guitar say to the rock star?

Quit picking on me

Why did the clock get sick?

It got run down

Why did the tree see the dentist?

To get a root canal

- Word Search -

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APRIL 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

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

Word List

Easter

Poetry Month

OMHA Champs

Mercury Theatre

Finland in NATO

Jason Richards

Quilt Show

CRA strike

Community
Players

Volunteer Week

Rural Urban

NHL playoffs

Leafs advance



The **Riddle Kid**
OF THE WEEK

What driver doesn't have a license?



A screwdriver

Lucy Culliton (3)

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

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PET OF THE WEEK

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



Our pet of the week is Duke, an 8 year old golden retriever. He's a loving, gentle and quiet boy who loves his treats, and long walks in nature. Duke's proud owners are the Boakes family.



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PET OF THE WEEK

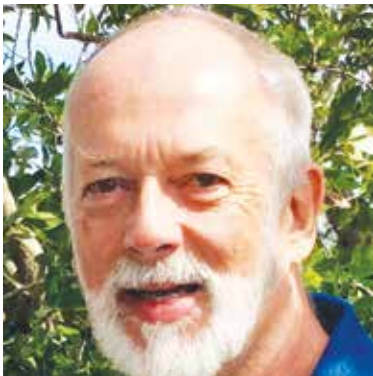
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COLUMN —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Great gardens, spectacular sculptures, and more



By Paul Knowles

“Have you come to see the Rodins or the azaleas?”

The good news was, we didn't have to choose. And the even better news, as wonderful as Rodin sculptures and exuberant azaleas might be, there was so much more to enjoy as well during our visit to the Brookgreen Gardens in Myrtle Beach.

When you think of Myrtle Beach you probably have one of two ideas in your mind – the beautiful, 96-kilometer-long beach known as the “Grand Strand” or the 90 or so golf courses in the area.

But there is more. One of the best of the “more” is Brookgreen Gardens.

Full disclosure – the Rodin exhibition, featuring 46 of the sculptor's amazing works, was a temporary feature at the garden. However, although the Rodins may have moved on, that only leaves 1,400 sculptures by 300 important sculptors that are part of the permanent collection at Brookgreen. Five hundred and fifty are currently on display throughout the extensive gardens.

So whether you are a garden

lover or an art aficionado, you will love it here. And probably emerge after many wonderful hours as a fan of both.

Brookgreen Gardens came into being in the 1930s, the project of Archer and Anna Hyatt Huntington. Archer had inherited significant wealth; Anna was a noted sculptor. Together they purchased four former plantations in the Myrtle Beach area and founded what has become the most significant sculpture garden in the world.

I know that “plantations” is a hot-button word and it should be. But I was impressed that the property includes an area that was in fact a slave village, with all the appropriate information about that horrendous period in history. There is no ducking reality here.

There are several elements to the gardens. The largest area open to the public is the garden. There are also exhibition spaces and the Lowcountry History and Wildlife Preserve where the true story of the property is told, and where you can see native animals and birds including a wonderful flock of Night Herons, one of my favourite southern birds. There are also excursions into the tidal creek wetland areas via boat or ATV-style vehicles.

The gardens themselves echo the concept of British landscape gardens. There are perennial and annual beds but the overall idea is big, really big, with large sculptures, trees, shrubs and panoramic views.

While art might be seen as

the primary focus here, the horticultural aspect is equally strong. Brookgreen has been named one of the Top 10 Botanical Gardens in the U.S.

Guided tours are offered. Our volunteer guide, Elaine Hakinson, was a wealth of information and an enthusiastic fan of the gardens.

She told us that the reason for her unflagging delight is that Brookgreen is “ever-changing and amazing”. In fact, over the next three years, the garden will add an enormous conservatory, yet one more reason to visit an already spectacular destination. On a smaller scale, the sculptures in the gardens change a bit, too. Between 5 and 15 new sculptures are added each year.

Overall, the place is wildly impressive. But it is the sum of many wonderful, unique parts – like the “Live Oak Allee”, a broad path under a canopy of those huge, quintessentially southern trees, well decorated with Spanish moss. Which, by the way, is neither Spanish nor moss – it's an air plant, a bromeliad. Tuck that fact away for your next trivia party.

In addition to so much art and such terrific gardens, there is also poetry throughout the garden. Archer Huntington was a poet, and works he wrote or chose are subtly displayed throughout the garden.

Some of the sculptures are beautifully decorative, but others flat-out demand that visitors stop and contemplate the message. My favourite is called “Man Carving His



Pegasus, by Laura Gardin Fraser – a work of art weighing 60 tons!
(All photos by Paul Knowles)

Own Destiny” by sculptor Albin Polasek. It depicts a man chiseling his own figure from a block of limestone – an image stating the need for us to carve out our own destiny. I was surprised to learn that the life-sized work was donated by the artist to Brookgreen.

One of the most impressive sculptures is entitled “Pegasus”, brought with considerably difficulty to Brookgreen in 1950. It's enormous. The granite sculpture had to be divided into three sections, each weighing 20 tons. It was created by artist Laura Gardin Fraser.

Elaine Hakinson is one of dozens of dedicated volunteers at Brookgreen which also has a staff of 15 full-time horticulturalists as well as professional art experts and curators.

There are a few intriguing twists when it comes to visiting Brookgreen Gardens. First, admission is relatively

inexpensive – \$20 adult, \$18 seniors, \$10 for kids 4-12. But here's the trick. Your ticket is good for seven days and if you are visiting Myrtle Beach with your family, one day in the sculpture garden and another in the wildlife area would make for two great days out.

Second, although this is a garden, which might indicate that winter would be the down time, the biggest nights of the year come during the Christmas/New Year's season. The event is “Nights of a Thousand Candles” and the nights sell out months ahead of time. That's even though it can get pretty chilly in South Carolina.

But people flock to the event because, whatever time of year it may be, Brookgreen Gardens is simply a magical place to be.

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.



“Man Carving His Own Destiny”, by sculptor Albin Polasek.



The Live Allee – Live Oaks and Spanish Moss.

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We are a mid-sized, well established general contractor/construction company looking to hire an Bookkeeper/Accounting Clerk that is a detail-oriented, an enthusiastic individual to help us manage our books. Responsibilities include: data entry, MS Office (Word/Excel-intermediate/advanced) required, you will be the first point of contact, assist in all accounting functions.

Our company is fast-paced, yet a comfortable family-style environment. This position will be in office, remote working when weather or other circumstances arise that a remote day may be needed. If you are a confident multi-tasker who thrives in a fast-paced, growth-focused environment, then this job would be a good fit for you.

Accuracy, confidentiality, and excellent organizational skills are essential qualifications for this position. The successful candidate will excel at customer relations and be able to communicate clearly with the team and customers.

Responsibilities

- Provide accounting/bookkeeping functions/services with accounting department
- Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable (invoicing and collection)
- Posting and entering data accurately
- Prepare and maintain accounting documents and records
- Prepare bank deposits, general ledger postings, statements and bank reconciliation
- Reconcile accounts in a timely manner
- Daily posting of key data of financial transactions in database
- Provide assistance and support to company personnel
- Reconcile/validate, track and restore accounting or documentation problems and discrepancies
- Inform management and compile reports/summaries on activity in all areas of accounting
- Other administration tasks that will arise from time to time/reception
- Regularly update job-related knowledge

Requirements

- Proven accounting experience, preferably as an Accounts Receivable or Accounts Payable/bookkeeper position
- Familiarity with bookkeeping and GAAP accounting principles/procedures
- Competency in MS Office, databases and JONAS
- Hands-on experience with spreadsheets (intermediate/advanced)
- Accuracy and attention to detail
- Possess analytical thinking/skills
- Ability to perform filing and record keeping tasks
- Data entry and word processing skills, well versed in English language (written/verbal)
- Well organized and fast learner

Qualifications:

- Post-secondary degree/diploma, accounting or adjacent field
- 3 years of experience is preferred, general contracting experience is a definite asset
- Knowledge of construction management software (Jonas) is an asset or equivalent
- Strong organizational, analytical, interpersonal, and communication skills (written & verbal)
- Ability to work independently
- Intermediate/advanced Excel experience (Adobe, Microsoft Outlook, Word/Excel experience)

Please send your resume to employment@nithvalley.com

We would like to thank all applicants for their interest; however, we will contact the most qualified applicants only.



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Local governments, like the Township of Perth South, are made up of professional staff that makes life happen in their communities. From taking care of necessities like waste, recycling, roads, and water to creating diverse tourism experiences, to finding innovative solutions to tomorrow's challenges, local government professionals are change-makers and community builders.

For those looking for variety, there is no "typical" day in the life of a local government professional. Local government professionals tackle the day-to-day issues that have an impact on virtually everyone in the community or rural area where you live. Government professionals take care of a long list of essential services, things we all rely on for a happy, safe, and productive lifestyle, from overseeing the community's law enforcement, fire, and emergency response operations to implementing a new recycling program, to ensuring that the tap water you drink and shower with when you wake up is safe and plentiful. If you are an innovator, a social entrepreneur, or someone who wants to make a difference, a career in local government may be the perfect opportunity for you!

The Township of Perth South seeks to fill a position in the Finance Department to assist primarily in Property tax billing, collection, financial reporting and analysis, and counter customer service. Further details are available on the website www.perthsouth.ca/employment or by emailing rclouthier@perthsouth.ca

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.

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

Rebecca Clothier
Township of Perth South
3191 Road 122
St. Pauls, ON N0K 1V0
Email - rclouthier@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.

COLUMN —

Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

The Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale is almost upon us! Join us in the Town Hall Auditorium from May 10th-13th to browse thousands of used books, DVDs, CDs, and more. All sales are by donation. We hope to see you there! The hours of the Book Sale are the following:

- Wednesday (May 10th): 10:00am-8:00pm
- Thursday (May 11th): 10:00am-8:00pm
- Friday (May 12th): 10:00am-5:00pm
- Saturday (May 13th): 10:00am-4:00pm

This Week's Recommendation

Books give us the opportunity to live a thousand different lives, but the Midnight Library lets you live thousands of ways your own life could have gone. Teetering between life and death, Nora Seed finds herself in such a Library and is faced with

an incredible choice: stay in any of the lives she checks out from the Library or return to her original life. Follow Nora's quest for closure and understanding in Matt Haig's "The Midnight Library", available in hard copy and on Libby as both an eBook and an eAudiobook.

Up This Week

- Friday, May 5th: Open 10:30am-5:00pm
- Saturday, May 6th: Game Days (1:00pm-4:00pm)
- Monday, May 8th: Open 10:30am-8:00pm
- Tuesday, May 9th: Crafternoons (2:00pm-4:00pm)
- Wednesday, May 10th: FOL Book Sale (10:00am-8:00pm), Mahjong Intro Session (1:00pm), Mahjong! (2:00pm)
- Thursday, May 11th: FOL Book Sale (10:00am-8:00pm), Cooking Club (11:00am), Newcomers' Social (7:00pm)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR —

To the Editor:

The Celebrate St. Marys Team had to make the difficult decision to cancel our Meet Me in St. Marys day on Saturday May 6, as we weren't able to generate sufficient ticket sales to make the event viable.

We thank the downtown businesses for their amazing support in offering a whole array of enticing offers in our coupon book. We also thank St

Marys United Church, McBryde's Rentals, our caterer Cherie Thompson, Julie Docker-Johnson our Ticket-Master, the St. Marys Museum and historian Paul King for their understanding. We're disappointed we could not take this event to fruition.

But stay tuned, we have a few other ideas up our sleeves for the future!

Sincerely,

The Celebrate St. Marys Team

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How to read the Bible



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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.

No previous knowledge of the Bible needed.

No one will be "put on the spot", asked questions or be asked to sign up for anything.

LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

JK returns to schools

25 years ago (1998)

The daily VIA passenger train to Toronto will leave St. Marys earlier, beginning next month. As of June 14, passenger service will leave St. Marys at 6:32 a.m., Monday to Friday, arriving at Toronto at 8:50 a.m. Currently the train leaves St. Marys at 8:20 a.m., arriving in Toronto at 10:35 a.m., making it challenging for anyone traveling for business.

Junior Kindergarten will be back at a number of Perth County schools again this fall. Avon Maitland District School Board trustees changed their minds on the issue at their meeting last week in Clinton, voting unanimously in favour of implementing the program in Perth County schools where space permits.

Members of St. Marys for Children of Chernobyl met recently at the Friendship Centre to acquaint new host families with what to expect when children arrive on Friday, July 10.

50 years ago (1973)

Many Ontario public libraries are to receive increased grants for this coming year. According to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities of Ontario, the grant to St. Marys Public Library is to be increased to \$6,152 from \$2,962.

A quantity of stone, some cut to length and size for steps and risers, is ready for resurfacing the Town Hall steps. The walkway in front of the Cenotaph is also slated for replacement in stone. Ralph Marziali will carry out the work on the project.

The annual camping season is underway at Wildwood Park. An additional forty sites have been added this season, bringing the total up to over 400.

Condensation problems at the local Arena will hopefully be solved with the installation of twelve five-foot span fans over the ice surface. Cost installed is said to be \$2,500 with a six-month performance testing guarantee.

75 years ago (1948)

The May flowers have appeared in profusion during April. The bloodroots are almost finished, and the violets, trilliums and other favourites are in abundance.

The Graduate Nurses Association is wasting no time in commencing to help furnish the St. Marys Memorial Hospital. They have several functions planned for the second week in May.

Several small boys who were observed fishing under the mill dam and along the riverbank are reported to have sold their strings of suckers at a good price to a local fish-fry fancier. We hope there were no black bass among the suckers.

The arguments pro and con for a flood retaining wall along Trout Creek are continuing daily. If you see a businessman looking wishfully at the banks of the creek these days, he is not contemplating the idea of casting a line into the waters, it is just that he is wondering what a flood wall would look like there.

100 years ago (1923)

A crowded house greeted Kathleen Alderson and her band of dancing fairies at St. James Parish Hall on Monday night, in what proved to be one of the prettiest, cleverest and most entertaining programs that has even been presented there. The stage, beautifully decorated in apple blossoms, was a fairyland, a fitting setting for the woodland nymphs who flitted do and fro. A much-appreciated novelty was a "Trepak", a difficult Russian dance skillfully rendered in appropriate costume by Miss Kathleen Alderson.

Mrs. John O'Connor, while working in the garden among her flower beds on Saturday morning, accidentally tripped and fell, fracturing her left hip. Mrs. O'Connor, being nearly 75 years of age, received severe shock from the unfortunate accident, but is now progressing as well as can be expected for a person of her age.

The St. Marys Catholic Tennis Club will hold a dance on Tuesday evening in Creighton's new hall.

The Waist Line Social held in the Baptist Church on Friday evening, was a success and enjoyed by all. The main feature was Dr. Smith on "How to Keep Well". This was very practical as well as interesting.

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MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE

15 Sparling Crescent

Saturday May 6 - 8:00 to Noon

Not early sales

This is a fundraiser for the Stratford Hospital Cancer Wing Renovations

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Jacques Plante won the Stanley Cup five consecutive years, his name is spelled differently each and every time. | 4) Smallpox |
| 2) Khartoum | 5) Sally Ride |
| 3) O Negative | 6) 2,000 |
| | 7) Eight |
| | 8) Seven |
| | 9) Galileo |
| | 10) Frank Sinatra |

ANNOUNCEMENT

80th Birthday Party Open House for Ruth Ann Haves!

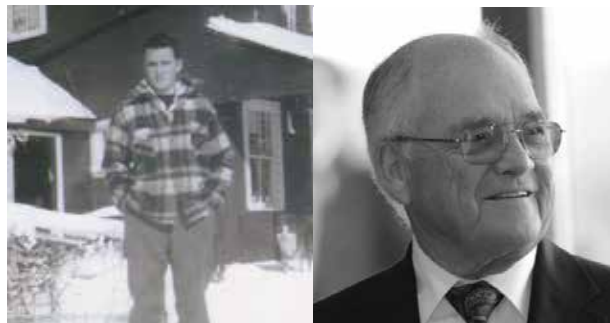


Come drop in and celebrate Ruth Ann's 80th Birthday with us on Sunday, May 7, 2023 from 2-4 p.m. at Browns United Church Schoolhouse

136545 13th Line, just west of Medina.
(Your presence is present enough. We'll be so happy to celebrate with you!)
~ The Haves Family

ANNOUNCEMENT

Hard to Believe! This young guy is turning 90



Join us for Ken Kittmer's 90th birthday Saturday May 13 from 2 to 4 540 Emily Street St. Marys
Best Wishes Only

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

OBITUARY

Feryn



Patrick Feryn

April 30th, 1956 - April 23rd, 2023

Patrick Feryn of Stratford, Ontario died peacefully surrounded by his loved ones on Sunday, April 23rd at the age of 66. Loving husband, partner and best friend to Jane, adoring Dad to Seana (Tyson) and Tessa (Corey) and dear Opie to Lily and Flynn.

Proud son of Monique Feryn (nee DeBrabandere) and Louis Feryn (passed away in 2015), cherished brother to Elisabeth (Stewart), Susan (Kim), Michael (Jacinta) and Caroline (Ron), uncle and a friend to many with his infectious smile and quiet humour.

A kind and compassionate individual, Pat lived fiercely, never taking a moment for granted even after his diagnosis of PSP (Progressive Supranuclear Palsy). He had a great love for adventure, travelling to many corners of the world with a particular fondness for travelling by paddle, bike, on skis or on foot. His family and friends were forever at the forefront of his mind and every choice or road taken was done so with them in his thoughts; even at the very end. It is worth noting that he was rare among people in that Pat was never heard to ever speak a bad word about anyone.

Pat enjoyed a productive 35-year career farming and supporting his clients as a consulting agronomist. He graduated from the University of Guelph (BSc.) He was active as a volunteer on many professional committees, including chair of the Soil and Water Sub Committee of the Soil and Water Management Research Corporation for several years, and a member of the Source Water Protection Committee since its inception in 2006 as the Agricultural Representative. Early on he participated in St.

Joseph's Church Mission Committee. He was an active member of Stratford Rotary Club and the recent recipient of a Paul Harris Award, especially for his work as chair of the International Committee. Pat always had a profound interest in international travel and concern for third world issues. He had a special interest in the work of COMMIT, working in Nicaragua with Dr. Doug Thompson and Janice Rauser.

In his younger years Pat was a BIG BROTHER, and taught Jack Rabbit's Cross Country Skiing at Wildwood. Pat took great pleasure coaching his daughters at Hoops for Fun and Summer Soccer throughout their youth. The family spent many canoe camping trips in the wilderness parks in Ontario and BC and Alberta. He loved his annual wilderness canoe trips with his best buddies every year for over 30 years, and kayak adventures in Mexico, Belize and Cuba with Jane.

Pat chose to use MAID (Medical Assistance In Dying) to end his struggle with PSP. He was surrounded by the love and support of his family and closest friends. He gave the greatest gift of all, by donating his liver, kidneys, lungs and eyes to organ recipients and his brain and pancreas for medical research.

His accomplishments and continued desire to better the planet is certain to carry on, an eternal fingerprint representing the impact he had on others.

Pat lived spectacularly and will be missed terribly by all who knew him.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, June 10th at the Feryn homestead with further details to come. If you are interested in joining us in this celebration, please RSVP to <https://pp.events/celebratingpaterferyn> and we will forward further details closer to the event.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to:

- The Parkinson's Society of Southwestern Ontario <https://psso.ca>
 - COMMIT through the Rotary Club of Stratford Foundation. <https://commitwithnphnicaragua.simplesite.com/417501794>
 - Huron Perth United Way <https://perthhuron.unitedway.ca>
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