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Issue #1159

Thursday, May 18, 2023

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Delicious frozen treats available at the Frozen Spoon



There is a new business at 528 Queen St. E. The Frozen Spoon, which is affiliated with Joe's Diner, will be a year-round business offering delicious options of ice cream, shakes, sodas and smoothies. Owner Rebecca Taylor said that they have been planning the Spoon since last March and are very excited to see it opening. Eventually, the Frozen Spoon menu options will be available at Joe's Diner. They are closed on Mondays but open 10 a.m. to 8 a.m. Tuesday until Sunday. Taylor has done all the work herself to get ready for the store opening and is looking forward to welcoming the community. Pictured above, from left, are employee Cierra Boyer and owner Rebecca Taylor. (Wendy Lamond photo)

Town of St. Marys making changes to Traffic and Parking By-law

The Town of St. Marys is aiming to improve road and trail safety with its new Traffic and Parking by-law. The by-law was approved by Town Council on May 9, 2023, and will take effect on August 1, 2023.

The new by-law will allow the use of off-road vehicles on local streets between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Those who choose to drive off-road vehicles on the street will be subject to regulations outlined in the Highway Traffic Act. The Act includes requirements

around driver and vehicle licensing, insurance, and helmets, as well as strict speed limits, which are set lower than those for regular vehicles.

"This change will improve pedestrian safety by reducing the use of off-road vehicles on our trails and in our parks," says Jed Kelly, Director of Public Works. "It will also create consistency in how off-road vehicles are used and regulated in St. Marys and

Continued on page 2

What's open or not on holiday Monday

Whether you refer to it as Victoria Day, Simcoe Day or the popular TwoFour holiday, for many this coming Monday is a holiday. Unlike other long weekends, this one is not as complicated as other long weekends because basically the only question is what is open or not on Monday. Stores that are open all weekend including Monday are Foodland, The Independent Grocer and Canadian Tire. Stores that are open Saturday and Sunday but closed Monday, include Delmar Foods, The Beer Store and the LCBO. The banks and the Post Office are closed Monday.

The Town provided the following about the Town's schedule.

Holiday hours for Town facilities - Victoria Day (May 22, 2023)

Please note the following hours will be in effect for Town of St. Marys facilities for Victoria Day (Monday, May 22, 2022).

Closed Monday, May 22:

- Administrative offices (Town Hall and Municipal Operations Centre)
- Adult Learning
- Before and After School Program
- Child Care Centre
- Town of St. Marys EarlyON Centre
- Fire Station
- Friendship Centre
- Landfill
- Library
- Mobility Services Offices (Rides must be booked by 12 p.m. on Friday, May 19)
- Museum and Archives
- Pyramid Recreation Centre (including the Aquat-

Continued on page 2

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COMMUNITY —

Town of St. Marys making changes to Traffic and Parking By-law

Continued from page 1
the surrounding area.”

The decision to allow off-road vehicles on St. Marys’ streets was made in consultation with Stratford Police Services, who will be responsible for enforcing the rules set out in the by-law.

The new by-law will also see an increase to fines for parking infractions in St. Marys. The current early voluntary payment rate of \$20 for most parking infractions will increase to \$50, while the set fine of \$30 will increase to \$70. The new amounts have been set to ensure fines cover the administrative costs of issuing and processing parking infractions.

Other significant changes in the new by-law include the creation of two new Community Safety Zones – one on James St. N near the Grand Trunk Trail crossing and the other on Water St. S near the St. Marys Quarry. Speeds in these areas will be reduced to 40 km per hour and fines for traffic infractions will be increased. Two new pedestrian crossovers will also

be installed in the same locations.

A copy of the new by-law and additional information about traffic and parking in St. Marys is available at www.townofstmarys.com/parking. Questions about the new by-law can be directed to Jed Kelly, Director of Public Works at 519-284-2340, ext. 244.

What’s open or not on holiday Monday

Continued from page 1
ics Centre)

- Service Ontario
- No Go Train Service

- Youth Centre
No change:

- Leaf and Yard Waste collection will proceed as scheduled for the North and West wards on Monday, May 22.

- The Train Station will be open; visit www.viarail.ca for train scheduling.

- Home Support Services such as Meals on Wheels and telephone reassurance will continue.

Any updates will be posted to the Town website (townofstmarys.com), Facebook page (facebook.com/stmarysontario) and Twitter account (twitter.com/townofstmarys) as soon as they are available.

Lace up your shoes and support people living with dementia in your community

The Alzheimer Society Huron Perth is once again hosting the annual IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer’s, which takes place on May 27, 2023.

The Walk raises crucial funds that allow the Alzheimer Society Huron Perth to offer programs and services to meet the needs of people living with dementia and their caregivers in Huron and Perth Counties. The number of people in Canada living with dementia is rising rapidly. By the year 2050, more than 1.7 million people will be living with dementia in Canada. As the number of people affected by dementia increases, so does the need for services.

“On May 27, we’re calling on you to make connections matter and show your support by walking or donating towards a walk event in a community near you,” says, Cathy Ritsema, Executive Director at the Alzheimer Society Huron Perth. “Each year, 25,000 more Canadians hear, ‘You have de-

mentia.’ The funds raised at the walk stay in Huron and Perth Counties and provide crucial funds for the Alzheimer Society to continue to allow accessibility to programs and services for people affected by the challenges of dementia.”

Here is how to get involved in the IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer’s and make a positive difference in the lives of people living with dementia and their families:

1. Register for your local Walk – sign up as a team captain, team member or as an individual at www.walkforalzheimers.ca. Choose Clinton, Exeter, Goderich, Listowel, St. Marys, Stratford, or Wingham.
2. Start fundraising - Share your fundraising page and your reasons for walking on social media using the official hashtag #IGWalkForAlz. Reach out to your friends, family, neighbours, and colleagues (in person and online) to ask for support.
3. Join us on Walk Day on May 27,

2023 – join dedicated people like you, who are committed to helping people living with dementia and caregivers. Get inspired and get moving!

Let’s rally for our brain health and make meaningful strides to ensure no one has to face Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias alone. Support a

walk in a community near you. Registration opens at 9:00 am and the walk starts at each location at 10:00 am.

The St. Marys walk will take place at Solis Park.

You can help Make Memories Matter by supporting the IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer’s today!



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COMMUNITY —

Heritage Festival entertainment and transportation funded by generous local donations



Alanna Bowes (front, left) Town of St. Marys Events Coordinator, is with the McLean Taylor Construction Limited and Stone Town Construction Limited team who generously donated \$2,500 to Stonetown Heritage Festival 2023. On Saturday, July 15, festival goers will enjoy entertainment downtown courtesy of McLean Taylor Construction Limited and Stone Town Construction Limited.



The St. Marys Downtown Business Association is proud to be a Gold level sponsor of Stonetown Heritage Festival 2023. The generous sponsorship of \$2,500 will fund transportation for the event, including a continuous shuttle service from the PRC into downtown and horse-and-wagon rides for attendees. Pictured is Alanna Bowes (Town of St. Marys Events Coordinator), Sue Griffiths (BIA Board Treasurer), Megan Feeny (BIA Board Chair) and Dan Troyer (BIA Board Member and Heritage Festival planning committee representative).

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EDITORIAL —

We're living in the future!

By Stewart Grant

This year's Stanley Cup will be won by either Las Vegas, Dallas, Carolina, or Florida. I'm not old enough to remember the days of the "Original 6" of the National Hockey League but my first years were those of the "Original 21" that lasted from 1979 to 1991. Back in these days, who could imagine that the Minnesota North Stars would move to Dallas, that the Hartford Whalers would end up in Carolina, and that professional hockey would make its way to Florida or Las Vegas!

Through the marvels of technology, I'm writing this article today from Copenhagen, Denmark, which I did after watching the highlights of last night's Dallas Stars vs. Seattle Kraken game 7 via YouTube (invented 2005). Upon finishing this, I'll "email" it to Tyler Carruthers who "works remotely" at his apartment in London who will then "upload" it to our printer in Mississauga as part of this week's newspaper. In this paragraph, practically the only word that is an old-fashioned outlier is "newspaper"!

I remember my early days of travel being so stressful; in particular, not knowing where I was going. Fiddling with our Rand McNally

atlas, Laurie and I would argue about whether we should turn left, right, or back around. Usually, the right answer was whatever way she wanted to go.

On Monday of this week, upon arriving via train in Hillerød, despite the lack of signage we knew exactly which way to walk coming out of the train station to get us to Frederiksborg Castle - thanks to the Apple Map guidance on my iPhone. We've had similar experiences throughout our trip, as the wonders of technology have made things go so smoothly. Not only have we always known where we are going, but the sights we've seen and the meals we've had have all been great as we've leaned towards places that have been favourably reviewed on TripAdvisor, yet another 21st century invention.

My grandparents' generation, whose lives began without electricity in the home or without a family car, and many of whom still continue living today in this modern society, have surely experienced a period of vast technological change that will be unmatched.

But at my relatively young age of 49, I still sometimes marvel at the changes seen so far, and think, "We're living in the future!"

Bravo

We have two Bravos this week.

1) Bravo to JK/SK staff at Little Falls Public School and the Toddler Room staff at St. Marys Child Care Centre for hosting a lovely meet and greet with refreshments in honour of Mother's Day this past Friday morning (May 12). Your care and kindness to the children and parents was evident to all and deeply appreciated by this grandmother. Keep up the great work!

2) Bravo to Bruce Andrews who took the time to honour the late Rev. Jason Richards with that beautiful very touching faith in Jesus Christ story. I only met Rev. Jason once, but followed his struggle with cancer which he fought so bravely. But heaven needed him more. Being a member of the Rotary Club of St. Marys, he gave it his all as well as his congregation of St. Marys United Church. He is certainly missed by so many.

Boo

We have one Boo this week.

1) Boo to the elderly lady that left her dog in her car at the clinic in town today for an extended amount of time. No matter what your excuses were, this is never okay when it is warm out. Shame on you.



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

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

Quote of the Week

"My intention is to be here. I think I've reciprocated that before, how much I enjoy playing here and what it means to me and the organization, my teammates and how much I just enjoy being here. The work we're putting in to continue to strive for that end result is extremely motivating."

- Auston Matthews, after the Leafs were eliminated.

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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Mosquitos are like family. They can be annoying but also carry your blood.

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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You are never fully dressed until you wear a smile.

If you aim at nothing, you'll hit it every time.

Vision is not seeing things as they are, but as they will be.

To err is human, to blame it on someone else is more human.

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2023

This year's Stonetown Heritage Festival takes place on July 14 to 16 and features family-friendly activities, diverse food options, vendor's market, live music and dance and a fireworks show.

discoverstmarys.ca/festival

SHOWER PROGRAM

Tuesdays, 9 AM - 1 PM | Pyramid Centre

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

519-284-2160



ICE RENTALS

There are plenty of ice rentals available in May at the Pyramid Recreation Centre. Visit our website for availability, then call Guest Services to book.

townofstmarys.com/skating or 519-284-2160

FAMILY MINDFULNESS EVENT

May 24, 11 AM | Pyramid Centre

Learn how to have a mindful family lifestyle with Melissa McIntosh, founder of Mindful Kids Stratford. Pre-registration is required; children welcome. keyon.ca



SUMMER CAMP PRC

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

townofstmarys.com/activenet or 519-284-2160

Contact us

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Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Osvaldo Marcaccio, who is a resident of Kingsway and is also known as "Bobo". Osvaldo will be celebrating his 92nd birthday on Saturday May 20th. And he tells us that his words of wisdom for the occasion is that he "loves golf because tennis is too hard on your darn knees." Happy Birthday Osvaldo!

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

COMMUNITY —

The Yak Shack is back for the 2023 season!

The innovative kayak-lending program offered through the St. Marys Public Library returns for 2023. From May 23 to September 2, borrowers have the opportunity to discover St. Marys' waterways through the free loan program.

New this year, a convenient online booking system allows borrowers to reserve their preferred kayak, date, and timeslot in advance.

There are six kayaks available, and each are named for notable St. Marys figures: Timothy, for famed merchant Timothy Eaton; Nora, for renowned violinist Nora Clench; Arthur, for Prime Minister Arthur Meighen; Kathleen, for pioneering prospector Kathleen Rice; Andrew, for influential philanthropist Andrew Carnegie and for supporter and recreationalist Andrew Hodges; and Agnes, for famous elocutionist Agnes Knox.

"The Yak Shack provides a great resource for residents and visitors to explore the Thames River and Trout Creek waterways," says Town of St. Marys Tourism and Economic Development Manager Kelly Deeks-Johnson. "We're anticipating another busy season for the program, and the new online booking system is a welcomed addition."

While at the library to check-in for their reservation, borrowers will receive a lifejacket, paddle, water safety kit and a key to unlock the kayak. Participants must arrive 15 minutes prior to their reservation to show I.D., review a safety FAQ, and sign a waiver, before receiving their kayaks.

Following check-in, the kayaks are available for pick up at the North end of Milt Dunnell Field in a shelter affectionately known as "The Yak Shack", alongside the Thames River.



Kayak loans are available during daytime operating hours at the St. Marys Public Library (15 Church St. N.) and are intended for individual users aged eight and older.

For more information on the program and to make a reservation, please visit www.discoverstmarys.ca/yakshack.

Weekend Quiz

SPONSORED BY



- 1) Where was the first McDonalds in Canada opened?
- 2) Name the Vice-President of the USA?
- 3) What company was initially known as "Blue Ribbon Sports"?
- 4) Who famously crossed the Alps with elephants on the way to war with the Romans?
- 5) Which email service is owned by Microsoft?
- 6) What was Superman's birth name?
- 7) When Michael Jordan played for the Chicago Bulls, how many NBA Championships did he win?
- 8) Which racer holds the record for the most Grand Prix wins?
- 9) What name does deer meat go by?
- 10) John F. Kennedy was assassinated in which city?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31



- POOL SALES AND INSTALLATION
- POOL OPENING/CLOSING AND REPAIRS
- HOT TUB REPAIRS
- SMALL CONCRETE JOBS

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COMMUNITY —

Perth County, Stratford, and St. Marys collaborate to grow, enhance, and promote Cycle Tourism across the region

Perth County Tourism, Destination Stratford, and the Town of St. Marys have joined forces to grow and promote cycle tourism across the region. These tourism entities recognized that cycle tourism is growing rapidly across the province and are actively collaborating to ensure their destinations can embrace this economic opportunity.

Keen to welcome cyclists, Perth County Tourism, Destination Stratford, and the Town of St. Marys have been working together to develop, enhance, and promote their cycle tourism assets to position their region as a premier cycle-friendly destination in Ontario. The latest exciting development from these efforts is a new and improved joint Cycle Route Map featuring City, Rural, and Gravel Signature Routes. The map showcases 13+ Signature Routes ranging anywhere from 7KM city rides, 75KM mixed gravel/paved rides, and 230KM multi-day rides. Also featuring information on cycle safety, local trails, and notable stops along the routes, the map is a great tool for both new and experienced cyclists.

"The benefits of cycle tourism – economic, environmental, health, and beyond – are far-reaching, and this strategic partnership is helping to ensure our rural region is equipped

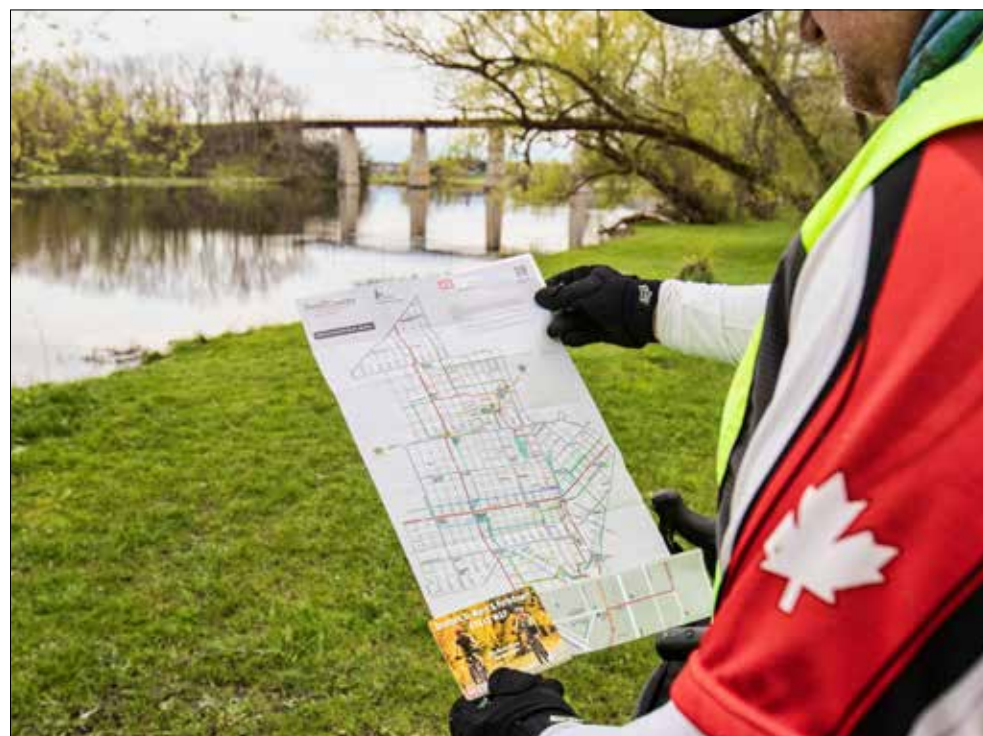
to embrace this opportunity. We are excited to see more cyclists choosing our area as a cycling destination, and look forward to building on this momentum into the future" said Ashley Lansink, Tourism Officer for Perth County.

"The collaboration to advance cycle tourism in our region continues to grow and bear fruit," said Zac Gribble, Executive Director of Destination Stratford. "Building on the success of the 2021 pocket cycle map, the latest 2023 version further refines the scenic and diverse cycle routes throughout our region while also highlighting our incredible cultural offerings."

"The collaborative effort in the creation of our Cycle Map has helped to make our region a welcoming destination for cyclists, and has resulted in a very positive response from our visitors," added Kelly Deeks-Johnson, Tourism and Economic Development Manager for the Town of St. Marys.

You can pick up a hard-copy map at several locations across Perth County, a few of which include:

- St. Marys Town Hall, 175 Queen St. S, St. Marys
- Any Municipal Office in Perth County (North Perth, Perth South, Perth East, West Perth)



- Destination Stratford, 47 Downie St, Stratford

trail information, and more, visit: discoverstmarys.ca/cycle

For more information on Perth County, Stratford, and St. Marys as a cycling destination and to explore the Signature Routes, local cycle events,

perthcounty.ca/cycle
visitstratford.ca/cycle



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COMMUNITY —

Sleeping Children Around the World benefiting from the volunteer efforts of Perth County's Sue Orr



Sue Orr in the Philippines earlier this year, with a child displaying the number 55,000, showing she was the 55,000th recipient of a bedkit in the Philippines, from "Sleeping Children Around the World".

By Gary West

There is a young woman who lives in Perth South who absolutely defies people who say that something can't be done.

Sue Orr, who not only works tirelessly for residents in her community through her Deputy Mayor's chair on Perth South council, also supports local organizations like the Stratford & Perth Community Foundation and Stratford Perth Museum. She is also a team leader for "Sleeping Children Around The World".

Sue Orr is the youngest of 10 children who grew up on a broiler chicken farm in Saskatchewan, and later moved to the Fraser Valley of British Columbia. She says with her Dutch heritage background, she's always strived to be a peacekeeper.

With her time as an elected official in her municipality, she continually works for a balance of ideas and opinions and certainly has a respect for others.

Orr now also sits on Perth County council as a representative from Perth South, and knows the need for affordable housing, supporting healthcare, attracting new businesses, best farming practices and responsible growth for all in the community. She always tries to keep in mind that strong communities rely on strong services and dedicated people, where balance is the key, and long term commitments are very important.

Besides showing leadership abilities at home, she has found time to work and travel with the organization- "Sleeping Children Around the World".

The organization is operated by volunteers who process donations and distribute bedkits to children around the world who are in need of essentials that we in Canada take for granted.

The distributed bedkits include basic supplies such as a wool carpet, a wool under blanket, a mat, a light and heavy blanket, a pillow and pil-



Above shows the last 10 recipients who received bedkits from overseas partners and the Canadian team of volunteers from "Sleeping Children Around the World".

low case, mosquito net (to help prevent Malaria), shirts, shorts, sweaters and dresses for the girls, flip flops, rain coat, nail clippers, back pack and packing bag, school supplies including pencils, crayons, pens, notebooks, clip board, eraser and math set. Bedkits are different in each country depending on the needs.

Sue Orr's 10 trips since 2007 have included travelling with bedkits to Kenya, India (4x), Bangladesh, Togo, and The Philippines (2x).

All items, if available, are purchased from the labourers in the country they are in to create jobs, and a quality control team ensures that no child labour is involved in making items in the kits.

Her commitment and dedication to the cause for helping sleeping children in poor countries is undeniably one that most people couldn't imagine doing. She pays her own way to countries she will be helping and says "the organization has one paid employee and 100% collected goes right

to the children they are providing the basic necessities for"

According to Orr, in the countries that the organization visits, the average wage is \$2/day, and the kids they are helping are 6-12 years of age. Generally, Principals of the schools they go to pick the kids that will be helped. She also says they rarely visit the same area twice, which spreads their bedkits to as many places as possible. They always work with overseas partners who also volunteer their time such as Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs.

With millions of bedkits distributed to children in many poor countries around the world, volunteers like Sue Orr will make thousands of children happy just knowing they have a bedkit they are so overly thankful for. To make a donation to SCAW the website is www.scaw.org. The cost of a bedkit is \$40.

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Community Liaison Committee

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

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



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COMMUNITY —

St. Marys welcomes visitors with new directional signage



The Town of St. Marys is making it easier to find local amenities with the installation of 70 new directional signs. It's all part of the municipality's Signage and Wayfinding Strategy, a multi-year project led by its Tourism and Economic Development department.

The strategy was developed by a consultant in 2017 following a public engagement campaign. Feedback from residents, visitors and municipal staff was used to identify several key destinations in town, like the St. Marys Quarry, Pyramid Recreation Centre,

and the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, among many others.

Those amenities were then ranked and plotted on large signs with consistent colours, fonts and styles, which will make them easy to spot around town. The signs will be installed in strategic locations throughout St. Marys this summer to help orient residents and visitors.

"This town has so much to offer," says Tourism and Economic Development Manager, Kelly Deeks-Johnson. "By highlighting all there is to do in St.

Marys, these signs will encourage visitors to extend their stay or return at a later date."

"The signs will also remind residents to explore the amenities in their own backyard," she continues. "All of this will benefit our local businesses, who already do an excellent job of welcoming visitors and serving our residents."

The directional signs will be complemented by new informational trail signs, a new electronic sign at the Pyramid Recreation Centre, and a new visitors' sign featuring an up-

dated map of the Town, which can be found in the Opera House parking lot just off Queen St. E before the Victoria Bridge.

The cost of the signs and the Wayfinding Strategy are being covered by a grant from the Federal Tourism Relief Fund and Regional Tourism Organization 4 Inc. (RTO4).

Questions about the new signs can be directed to Kelly Deeks-Johnson at 519-284-2340, ext. 272 or kdeeks@town.stmarys.on.ca.



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COMMUNITY —

Friends of the Library Book Sale



Friends of the Library Volunteers Diana McQuirk and Leonor Brockwell at the welcome table.

By Wendy Lamond

The Friends of the Library book sale took place from Wednesday, May 10th to Saturday, May 13th in the upstairs of the town hall auditorium. The sale takes place twice a year and all sales are done by donation. As per Lau-

ra McAsh from the Library, the sale started in the upstairs of the library itself, however, due to the weight of the books, and the age of the building, the sale was moved to the town hall. The bi-yearly sale started because of the many donations to the library and limited space as well as



Friends of the Library volunteer Elisabeth Martin showing one of the hundreds of books available at the sale.

new releases coming and the recycling of the current collection.

The sale has been taking place for many years and draws in many patrons looking to find their next interesting read.

All donations go back directly to the

library to benefit members of the community. An example of this is the new 3-D printer and programs such as the summer reading program.

Any donations for the library in good condition can be dropped off at the library during open hours.



Stephen Goad shopping around for titles that catch his eye at the Friends of Library book sale.



Upstairs auditorium at the Town Hall. (All photos by Wendy Lamond)

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COMMUNITY —

Kinsmen Wayne Barber honoured with a Life Membership



Councillor Brogan Aylward representing the Town of St. Marys, Newly installed Kin Life Member Wayne Barber, M.P.P. of Perth-Wellington Matthew Rae, and M.P. for Perth-Wellington John Nater

By Wendy Lamond

This past Saturday night, Kinsmen Wayne Barber was surprised by his fellow Kin members, family, friends, members of Town Council and members of Parliament as he received Kin Canada's highest honour of a Life Membership.

A Life Membership is bestowed on a volunteer who has given at least ten years of service to the Association and is an outstanding contributor to his club and community. Wayne has belonged to the club for 21 years and in that time has held many executive positions and volunteered countless hours of his time on the many projects that the club has participated in. Wayne is also a Life Member of the Downie Optimist Club, one of the

original members of the Living Life Project that was responsible for the building of the current PRC building, and also volunteers for the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame to name a few.

The night was a complete surprise as Barber walked into a room of at least 100 people standing and clapping. He thought he was going to a 75th birthday party. Barber said, "It's a bit overwhelming to say the least. To be elected the honour from our club leaves me with few words."

When asked if there was anything else to add, Barber commented, "It made it extra special that Chris and Becky came from Calgary, all my family and so many of my friends and fellow Kin were there for the night. Not to mention all the Kin Zone District



Barber Family: Kevin, Jeff, Sherri, Wayne, Chris and Nicole

and National dignitaries, our MP John Nater and MPP Matthew Rae and St. Marys Councillor Brogan Aylward as I know how busy their schedules are. Special thanks to all on the organizing committee from Kinsmen, Kinettes and especially my wife Sherri as I know how much work is involved and to do it all without me suspecting a thing."

The Kinsmen Club, which was chartered in 1957, is well known locally for hosting Summerfest in July, the Santa Claus parade, Christmas tree pick up, supporting minor sports, fruit sales and many other community projects.

The honouring of Wayne Barber is well-deserved after years of giving back to our community.



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SPORTS —

Senior Girls show plenty of character in Woodstock tourney

By Spencer Seymour

Last week saw the St. Marys DCVI Senior Girls soccer team have to dig deep into their reservoir of valiance and competitive spirit, playing two league games in Clinton before a tournament in Woodstock.

The heavy schedule began against Central Huron (CHSS) in the Senior Girls' first of two league matches of the day last Tuesday. Lydia Taylor put the Salukis ahead with the only goal of the first half on a nicely-placed penalty shot after CHSS was called for a handball in the box. In the first few minutes of the second half, CHSS caught a fortunate break when goalie Matt Luyten slipped on mud and couldn't stop the shot. Neither team was able to get on the board for a second time, with the contest ending in a 1-1 draw.

Co-Coach Rachele Pearson told the Independent that, even though they couldn't find a go-ahead goal, it was a positive start to the day.

"We fought hard and were able to create a few pretty good opportunities for ourselves but ultimately, we couldn't get another one," said Pearson. "But the battle of our first game helped us in our second game as it allowed us to get our legs moving."

As alluded to, the Salukis came out strong against Stratford District Sec-

ondary in their second game with many great opportunities once again. In the first half, Kendra Robertson made an excellent cross in front of the net with Bella Aarts getting a knee on it and directing the ball into the net to start the lead off. Later in the half, Eve Greig had a perfect corner kick and Emily Shrubsole made body contact with the ball to give DCVI a 2-0 advantage.

In the second half, Emily McCurdy sent a solid, deceptive shot on the net causing the goalie to fumble the ball. Audrey Littlejohn was there to tap it home for the final goal, sealing the 3-0 win.

"The team had solid passing in the second game and everyone contributed to the win," Pearson said. "We have recognized our team tends to have a stronger second game and moving forward, we hope we can have this type of momentum right from the start of the first game."

"Our team has excellent footwork but didn't always use it to its highest potential," Pearson continued. "At our last practice, we talked about using their footwork to get around an opponent instead of making a pressured pass and they started doing that effectively. In addition, they were able to make smart passes with less error and their switches on the field were

providing great opportunities."

The Senior Girls were then off to Woodstock on Friday for an all-day tournament in which they finished second in the round-robin.

In their opening game, the Salukis came out blazing against their opponent College Avenue Secondary School (CASS). Shrubsole started the scoring followed by her teammates Ellen Thorup, Megan Morning, and Avery Jones. Luyten held CASS scoreless for a 4-0 win.

Game Two against Saunders Secondary started strong for DCVI with another quick strike from Shrubsole on the Saunders netminder. The Saunders squad responded by testing the Salukis' patience by getting very aggressive both physically and verbally. Saunders squeaked out with a 2-1 win but didn't get any sportsmanship awards.

With the loss, the Senior Girls had to win to continue playing in the tournament. Jones found the back of the net again but it didn't last too long before Woodstock Collegiate Institute (WCI) tied it at one apiece, eventually forcing a shootout. Thorup and Riley Kittmer both found the back of the net while Luyten was able to stop one of their two shots from getting by.

That left it to Naeve Goris to close out the game but their goalie got

just enough of the ball to stop her. The pressure was shifted on Luyten to make one last save to seal to nab the victory. Despite having an injured knee, Luyten made a diving save to lift the Salukis to victory.

With a second-place finish in their pool, the Senior Girls had to face the first-place squad from Pool B, East Elgin, who came out strong with two quick goals in the first half. The Salukis managed to get the ball to Audrey Littlejohn where she unleashed a bullet into the net to make it a one-goal deficit. However, time ran out on the Salukis to complete the comeback, falling by a score of 2-1.

Co-Coach Christopher Huber expressed immense pride in how the team shouldered the workload that they did over the last week.

"Their performance throughout last week was really impressive, especially considering all they had to deal with," said Huber. "They fought the normal battles of high-intensity soccer so one can only imagine all the heat, headaches, bruises, and sore bones they had dealt with by the end. The two quick ones [by East Elgin in their final game] caught us off guard a bit and we were running on fumes but we never gave up. We're really proud of the heart and spirit they showed this week."



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SPORTS —

Strange bounces aplenty in Juggernauts' season opener

By Spencer Seymour

Three of the game's four goals were own-goals in the first game of the season for the second division St. Marys Juggernauts last Friday night, a plethora of unlucky bounces leading to a 3-1 win by PCL.

Player-Coach Braiden Weston told the Independent following the match that, although not the end result the team was after, there were plenty of positives for the squad to take from their performance and continue developing from.

"It was definitely a tough first game for us, especially not having the opportunity to get much practice time in due to such a wet start to April," said Weston. "Obviously, the result isn't what we had hoped for but there were plenty of positives for us to build on. We're moving the ball well and I like how well we're working as a team. Our guys are always picking each other up if something doesn't go right or giving them a pat on the back if things go well. We're doing well on the defensive side in terms of playing man-to-man and sticking to our as-



Matteo Graham wins one of many battles for the ball during last Friday's St. Marys Juggernauts second division season-opening match against PCL. Graham was credited with the Juggernauts' lone goal in a 3-1 defeat. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

signments."

One of the team's biggest bright spots was their impressive competitive level, with the entire squad routine-

ly engaging in every ball battle with speed, tenacity, and fearlessness.

"The guys aren't afraid of the 50-50 balls and the physicality that comes

along with them. We did a good job [against PCL] of not being afraid of contact and I think that's only going to grow and make us even stronger. I think the outcomes will start to go our way with the way we're able to win those battles."

Matteo Graham got credit for being the last Juggernaut to touch the ball before it was knocked into the PCL net on one of the game's three own-goals.

Weston explained that, as the team looks to make up for lost practice time, their focus will be on improving the quickness and accuracy of their passing.

"We just need to get our passes a bit more crisp and do a better job at getting into good, open positions to receive the ball. Moving up the field as a unit with our diamonds and our triangles executed as well as we're capable of is going to open up opportunities for us to score. I'm confident all of that will come as we get further into the season and have more opportunities to practice on the outdoor pitch."

Senior Boys' offence explodes for nine goals in two wins

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys DCVI Senior Boys had their offence firing on all cylinders last Tuesday when they went to Clinton for two league games and won both in decisive fashion.

In their first match against Central Huron, the boys started well with an early goal from Sebastien Linares. Later in the first half, the Salukis' play started to somewhat break down leading to a Central Huron goal after a series of blunders by the Senior Boys of St. Marys.

After regrouping at halftime, the Salukis roared back to life, scoring three unanswered tallies, including from Arthur Douglas, Jaden Shiell, and a second from Linares, en route to a 4-1 victory.

The second game saw DCVI take on the powerhouse Stratford District Secondary (SDSS) in what was expected to be a tough match-up. However, Carson Brock set the tone just four minutes into the game when he beat the keeper to the ball and headed it into the net. From there the floodgates opened and by half, the boys led 4-0 with goals from Giuseppe Passarelli, who scored off his corner kick, Douglas, and the second of the game by Brock.

Two minutes into the second half, Linares finished the game off with a towering header to go ahead 5-0. Rog-

er Sebben was the player of the game, dominating down the right wing. The Salukis went into their games this past Tuesday sitting comfortably in second place in Huron Perth, just one point back from St. Mike's.

Head Coach Richard Farmer admitted that picking up such a dominant win over such a strong opponent in SDSS caught him somewhat off guard.

"I was a bit surprised with the SDSS result as they should be a top-three team and are still likely to be so. We've been playing a 4-3-3 system so far this season, but at halftime of the first game, I switched to the slightly more defensive 4-2-3-1 system. I also moved Arthur [Douglas] to the centre of the middle three, which gave him more freedom to move around and make more effective use of his attack-minded creativity. This caused a lot of problems for the opposition in both games and his link-up with Owen Littlejohn was too much for the opposition to handle."

"The other change was to move Roger [Sebben] onto the right wing. Previously, he was playing more centrally. It turns out he is much better playing outside. He controlled the right side and sent in several excellent crosses. I believe he assisted one or two of the goals and should have scored during the SDSS game but was stopped by an incredible save by their keeper."

The Senior Boys' jam-packed schedule saw them play in a non-regular season tournament on Friday in Woodstock in which they faced some very stiff competition and more than held their own.

In their first game of pool play, a dominant performance allowed the Salukis to cruise to a 2-1 victory over Woodstock's College Avenue Secondary School (CASS). Farmer described the win as a "total team performance."

"The boys were moving the ball well and kept it in CASS' end for the majority of the game. I honestly can't tell you who our player of the game was or single anyone out because it was a complete team effort. Everyone was doing their job and doing it really well."

Their next game was against one of the tournament powerhouses, Catholic Central H.S. from London, and gave the Salukis a taste of what to expect if they make it to WOSSAA. However, the St. Marys squad played unphased, turning in another strong effort and ending regulation tied at two goals apiece. Unfortunately, Catholic Central squeaked out the victory in a shootout. Farmer said the team was brilliant at shutting down the high-flying opposition.

"Catholic Central was a really challenging game that gave us a good idea of what the level of play would

be at WOSSAA. This was one of the best teams in the tournament but we played them very well. We were exceptionally strong defensively. Ryan Hodkinson and Dan Zulu commanded the back line very well and Giuseppe Passarelli and Peyton Lobb controlled the midfield."

The momentum of their two strong games was lost during a two-hour break in the action which, combined with several players having played the night before, caused the team to stumble in the final game of the pool play. Woodstock Collegiate capitalized on the exhausted Salukis, narrowly escaping with a 1-0 victory. Despite DCVI not being able to muster the same intensity of the first two games, they still controlled much of the ball possession and had several good scoring opportunities but were shut out by a top-tier netminder in the Woodstock Collegiate net.

Farmer said that he's feeling very good about his squad as the regular season approaches its conclusion.

"Overall, I am very satisfied with the day as we proved that if we make WOSSAA, we can compete against the London schools. We had a hard lineup of opponents and a very busy schedule the last week and for the most part, we've done really well. We've been searching for a bit more consistency in our play and I think we started to see a bit more of that."

SPORTS —

Junior Boys finish season with gutsy effort against St. Mike's

By Spencer Seymour

Even though their playoff hopes had been dashed last Thursday, the St. Marys DCVI Junior Boys soccer team turned in an excellent effort against the powerhouse St. Michaels' squad this past Monday.

The Salukis fell 2-1 with St. Mike's getting the game-winner late in the contest, with the first half going by without either side getting on the board and the majority of the second half spent scoreless or tied at one apiece. Although not able to pull out the victory, Head Coach Scott Spillane was very happy with the team's scrappy effort and high compete level.

"Going in, we knew they had more firepower," Spillane admitted after the 2-1 loss to St. Mike's. "We knew this was going to be a really hard game but we were in it the whole way. Our guys made a game of it and it wasn't easy at all for St. Mike's. I loved how hard we fought and the fact that we never gave up."

Adam Turner had DCVI's lone goal against St. Mike's, a beautiful kick from outside the box that arched perfectly over the goalkeeper and dropped neatly into the corner of the net. Spillane also made a point to mention several others who spearheaded the team's solid end to the season.

"Diego [Franco-Farmer] was a beast defensively for us. Myles [Clinton] had seemingly a million chances to

score, all of which he worked hard to earn. Simon [Taylor] played really well up and down the pitch. The entire back four was great. At the end of the day, we just couldn't score enough, but I'm really pleased with how we battled right to the end."

In their first game of the day on Monday, played at the DCVI pitch, the Junior Boys ran into another powerhouse in the squad from Stratford District Secondary, with the visitors beating the Salukis 6-0.

Last Thursday, Turner along with Nicholas Campbell scored for the Junior Boys in a 3-2 loss to F.E. Madill, a result which eliminated the Salukis from playoff contention. The game was very close and saw a heartbreaking finale with the last goal being scored on a questionable free-kick call late in the game.

"We can't make playoffs but have shown real improvement all year," said Spillane. "Luke Richardson was strong at forward as was Lucas Binnng. Diego played at left-back for the first time and routinely showed poise as he was winning battles and making steals."

"They play as a unit better and they cover for each other better," Spillane remarked when asked how the team has improved. "When one player gets forward, they know to adjust positioning to cover the opening created. Obviously, we would have liked to get a taste of the playoffs but I definitely think the boys have taken positive strides this year."



Adam Turner lining up for a kick that would arch over the St. Mike's defence and keeper before dropping into the corner of the net during the St. Marys DCVI Junior Boys soccer team's second of two matches this past Monday. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)



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SPORTS —

Junior Girls end regular season with trio of ties



Sydney Grant battles for the ball during the St. Marys DCVI Senior Girls soccer team's second of two games this past Monday. Grant has scored a goal in each of their last three games. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

By Spencer Seymour

It would have been difficult for the St. Marys DCVI Junior Girls soccer team to end their season much closer than they did, ending their year with three consecutive draws.

The first tie was a 1-1 deadlock last Thursday when the Salukis were on the road to face F.E. Madill. The Junior Girls outplayed Madill but continued to seemingly be snake-bit offensively before a corner kick led to Madill taking a 1-0 lead. In the second half, Sydney Grant stepped up to pot the game-tying goal. Although the Salukis weren't able to bury a game-winner, Adrianna Holl-estelle-Black's steady, solid effort in goal backstopped the Junior Girls to a tie.

Head Coach Shana-Lee Pereira told the Independent that even though they weren't able to secure a victory, she was impressed with the team-wide effort given by the visiting Sa-

lukis.

"Our defence, consisting of Ella Boersma, Guin Jester, Kaylea Bains, and Libby McCurdy, all played a great game. Kiara McGregor and Marin Chateauvert had really strong performances in the midfield and Sydney [Grant], although not feeling 100 percent, played very well up front capped off by her getting our goal."

In their first of two games this past Monday, the Junior Girls once again battled to a 1-1 draw, this time against Stratford District Secondary, and like their previous game last Thursday, Grant had the team's only goal of the contest.

Their second game of the day saw the Salukis battle the St. Michael's Junior Girls, this time finishing with a 2-2 final. Grant once again found the back of the net along with Marin Chateauvert, the latter of whom tied the game in the second half.

U21 HP Girls start ball season with high-scoring win



Morgan Easton plays the ball from the outfield during the U21 HP Girls Fastball St. Marys Rockies' game this past Sunday. The high-scoring affair saw the Rockies defeat the visiting Fullarton A's 15-7 in the first regular season game of the St. Marys Minor Ball season. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

By Spencer Seymour

The U21 HP Girls Fastball St. Marys Rockies played the first regular season game of the St. Marys Minor Ball season and there was no shortage of offence, with the Rockies picking up a 15-7 win over the Fullarton A's.

Coach Stacie Frayne said that the opening game left her feeling very positive about the team's prospects for the season ahead.

"We are a new group of girls combined from various centres that weren't able to field a team so it was great to see all the girls work together," Frayne told the Independent. "We seemed to come together very quickly

and our girls seemed to enjoy playing with and for each other pretty much right from the get-go."

Frayne added that it was a positive night all throughout the lineup as well as on the mound.

"We had a good night with all our girls hitting and fielding well. We bobbled a few balls early but once we settled in, we looked really good. Our two pitchers Brooke VanderHeide and Tia Glousher both performed well from the mound. Overall, I think we have a really good group of girls and as we get more games under our belt and really find our stride, I think we could be very successful."

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SPORTS —

Pickleball Association begins season with over 30 matches

By Spencer Seymour

The first official club night of 2023 was well attended with 27 St. Marys Pickleball Association members coming out to play over 32 matches over their first two nights last week. The St. Marys Pickleball Association plays Mondays and Wednesdays at the outdoor courts on Water Street.

Brian McKinnon teamed up with Linda Pickering against Jantje Scheele and Hans Scheele. McKinnon and Pickering were up early by a score of 10-4, but the Scheele duo came back midway through the game and made it a nail-biter before the Scheeles fell by a final score of 11-8.

Mike Richardson and Steve Lawton played a solid game against Doug Holiday and Mike Brine with a final score of 11-6 in Richardson and Lawton's favour.

A tough match saw Tyler Grenda and Dwayne Henderson take the win over Dan Ferguson and Tracy Aldis. The

game was within one point all the way through with a final score of 15-13.

The match between Marty and Barb Klomp against Merlin Leis and Barry Stone was incredibly intense as the Klomps had a strong game early on. However, Leis and Stone didn't give up and came back to win the match by a score of 12-10.

Wednesday evening play continued with all the courts full again and a few members waiting to play. Cate Hishon and Paul Payette played a great game as a team against Esther Vander Hyden and Denis Dumont en route to earning an 11-7 victory.

Carol Venn and Mike Ferguson had a solid lead until Matt Payette and Jody Stone rallied for a great comeback to win the game 12-10.

Barry Stone and Bill Pickering played a strong complete game, cruising to an 11-4 win over Barb Nicholson and Patty Brine.



Barry Stone and Merlin Leis take on Barb and Marty Klomp in one of 32 matches during the St. Marys Pickleball Association's opening week of its 2023 club play. (Contributed photo)

Murrell, Richardson win Two-Man Scramble



Pictured above from left to right is the duo of Jeff Richardson and Dan Murrell, who came away victorious from the St. Marys Golf & Country Club's Two-Man Scramble on Saturday, May 13th. Richardson and Murrell fired a low round of 63 and took home the hardware in a playoff over Jamie Hodgins and Dave Lay. (Contributed photo)

Four medals for St. Marys bowlers in Kitchener tournament



At the Bowler of the Year Tournament Held on Saturday, May 12th at Victoria Lanes in Kitchener, St. Marys Bowling Lanes was represented strongly by a contingent that brought home four medals. Tyler Sims earned the Gold in the Junior Boys division with 205 points over his average. Nate Sims claimed Silver in the Bantam Boys division with 28 points over his average. The Bronze went to Erin Slaney in the Junior Girls division with 85 points over her average while Caelyne Truax also got Bronze in Senior Girls division, posting 79 points over her average. St. Marys Bowling Lanes are incredibly thankful for the generous support of Quadro Communications, who sponsored the Bowling Lanes' tournament fees this year. Pictured above, from left to right, are Tyler Sims, Nate Sims, Erin Slaney, and Caelyne Truax (Contributed photo)

COMMUNITY —

Consider the life changing act of becoming a volunteer firefighter

St. Marys Fire Department is holding a Firefighter Recruit Open House on June 13

The St. Marys Fire Department (SMFD) is currently recruiting new volunteer firefighters. Anyone interested in learning more is invited to an open house on June 13 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

“Our volunteers consist of everyday people, they could be carpenters, cement plant workers, factory workers, farmers, electricians, mechanics, or work at the local car dealership,” said Fire Chief and Director of Emergency Management, Richard “Andy” Anderson. “They are from all different age groups, backgrounds, and cultures. We pride ourselves on being a very diverse group coming

together to help our neighbours and community members in times of great need.”

The SMFD currently consists of one full time Fire Chief, one part time Chief Fire Prevention Officer and 24 volunteer firefighters.

“Our team is an extremely dedicated group of members who spend time away from their normal day-to-day tasks performing activities such as responding to fire calls, rescue calls, fire training, attending fire courses, attending community events, and maintaining apparatus and equipment,” said Fire Chief Anderson.

Anderson states that all the members have served for different lengths of time. “Our probationary firefighters have been with the department for one year while the long-term members, like Captains Ryan Taylor and Phil West, have served 28 years. I am proud to say all members show great dedication to the Fire Service and to the citizens of St. Marys and Perth South.”

Those who are interested in volunteering with the fire department are invited to attend the Firefighter Recruit Open House on June 13, 2023, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the St. Marys Fire Hall at 172 James Street

South. There they will have the opportunity to meet and interact with the firefighters, take a tour of the fire hall, view displays of fire apparatus and equipment and enjoy a briefing presented by Fire Chief Anderson to explain the application process of becoming a volunteer firefighter.

“We are truly blessed and so proud of the volunteers that risk and sacrifice so much in the service of others,” Anderson says. “We want to thank each one of them from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you for all that you do, and we look forward to seeing some new members join our team.”

Town reminding residents of rules about setting off fireworks

With Victoria Day weekend on the horizon, the Town of St. Marys is reminding residents of the rules around fireworks.

In St. Marys, the sale and use of consumer fireworks is governed by By-

law 57-2021, which states:

Consumer fireworks can be set off on Victoria Day, Canada Day and for two days before and after each

Consumer fireworks can be sold and purchased for 10 days prior to Victo-

ria Day and Canada Day

Consumer fireworks can only be set off between dusk and 11:00 p.m. on these days

Consumer fireworks can be set off on private property only; do not set fire-

works off in a building, vehicle, roadway, park, or other public place

A full version of the by-law is available on our website: www.townofstmarys.com/bylaws.

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COMMUNITY —

AllWheelsPark donation of the week



Thank you to Waghorn, Stephens, Sipos and Poulton for their generous donation to support the Rotary All Wheels Park expansion project here in town. Now that spring has sprung everyone is back on their scooters, skateboards and bikes. The planned repairs and expansion of the park will make St. Marys a destination for all these activities. Visit our website to see the story of the project and donate at www.townofstmarys.com/allwheelspark. Pictured, from left to right, are Ben Waghorn, Mark Poulton, and John Sipos. (Contributed photo)

Good reason to smile



Gord Pearson, at 88 years of age, aced #13 at River Valley last Monday, May 8. This brought his lifetime total of holes-in-one to 6; 3 at St. Marys Golf Club and 3 at River Valley. Always an optimist, Gord says there are still four Par 3's at River Valley that he has his eye on. (Murray Grant photo)

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COMMUNITY —

United Way announces impact funding for next three years

United Way Perth-Huron (UWPH) is committed to addressing important local issues including homelessness, mental health and access to services. As part of these ongoing efforts, the organization announced more than \$3.2 million in impact funding over the next three years.

“UWPH is proud to fund 20 local partners encompassing 25 programs and services,” said Megan Partridge, UWPH’s director of governance and community impact. “The needs in our community continue to grow, both in terms of dollars requested and the number of people who need support, which made for some difficult decisions on the part of our volunteer Community Impact and Allo-

cations committee. We thank all the organizations that applied and look forward to working with our partners to continue strengthening supports for vulnerable local people.”

Impact funding is multi-year support for ongoing programs that are part of the recipient organization’s overarching structure and mission. Multi-year funding provides increased financial stability for organizations and promotes sustainability of services for the community.

Recipients include Big Brothers Big Sisters of Listowel & District, Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Huron, Big Brothers Big Sisters South Bruce North Huron, CMHA Huron Perth, the Community Table, the

Emily Murphy Centre, Family Services Perth-Huron, Huron County, the Huron County Food Bank Distribution Centre, Huron Safe Homes for Youth, Huron Turning Point, the Huron Women’s Shelter, the John Howard Society of London & District, the Local Community Food Centre, The Salvation Army – Listowel, the Stratford Pride Community Centre, Stratford/Perth Shelterlink, the Town of St. Marys, YMCA of Three Rivers and the YMCAs of Southwestern Ontario.

Impact funding is just one part of UWPH’s work. The organization continues focusing on addressing chronic homelessness through initiatives including UWPH Connec-

tion Centres in Stratford, North Perth, Exeter and Wingham and attainable housing projects through the new UWPH Community Renewal Company. In addition, UWPH works to address short- and long-term needs in the community through initiatives such as the Urgent Needs Fund, providing individuals with funds in a time of crisis for necessities such as groceries, vehicle repairs and rent arrears. UWPH also works through its Social Research & Planning Council to advocate on important issues including living wage, basic income, food security and quality of life. For more information visit perthhuron.unitedway.ca.

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COMMUNITY —

St. Marys Clicks announces May contest winners



The St. Marys Clicks recently announced their May contest photos winners for 'Spring Flowers'. The winner was Tina Switzer with 'Wild Muscari' and the runner up was Jordan Buchan with 'Bloom'. The next meeting will be Thursday, June 1st with an informal social before the summer break. Location is the St. Marys Presbyterian Church basement boardroom (147 Widder St. East), anytime after 6:30 for a meet and greet and the meeting will start at 7pm.



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2023 Summer Camp Registration

Join in the fun during the weeks of July 10th, July 24th and Aug. 14th. Drop into the store to sign up.

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Thorndale celebrates Moms of the community



By Nancy Abra

To connect, collaborate and to engage is a mandate of 'I Love Thorndale' (ILT). This objective is achieved through social media, written articles and through various events they organize or team up with other community members.

One of ILT annual events is their 'Celebration of Moms' of the community which was held at Thorndale Farm Supplies last Saturday morning. The perfect spring weather was

a bonus as approximately 300 Moms and families came out to enjoy the fun activities, food, and live music. Many local businesses contributed to the event with special prizes, yummy treats, craft activities for children to make for Mom, as well as a floral activity for Mom to create. Besides local business, community groups also took part in this special day. The Thorndale & Area Horticultural Society held their annual plant sale, along with the Thorndale Optimists sold bags of compost. The Thorndale

Fire Department were on hand to BBQ hamburgers and hot dogs and chat with families on fire prevention and their upcoming breakfast. The Thorndale Women's Institute were also there to collect feminine products donations for the 'Women's Rural Resource Centre'.

Amy Morley, a volunteer with ILT, stated, "Many thanks to Peggy and her staff at Thorndale Farm Supplies who worked hard to help us co-host our Mother's Day event, and

to all our local business partners and community groups who contributed to this day. I would also like to extend a huge thank you to Sifton Properties and 'Visit Middlesex' for their generous monetary contribution and support."

For more information of Thorndale & area businesses, community groups, churches, organizations and upcoming events, visit www.ilovethorndale.ca



COMMUNITY —

THE WEEK AHEAD

SPONSORED BY:  **McDonald's St. Marys**
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PRC & Friendship Centre events - See the Stonetown Crier on Page 5

St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 29

Friday, May 19

- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog/sausage lunch at Noon
A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 pm

Saturday, May 20

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

Monday, May 22

- Victoria Day

Tuesday, May 23

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

Thursday, May 25

- South Perth Centennial School Funfest - 5 to 8 pm

Food Day in Canada Passes in Parliament

Sponsored by John Nater

Last week, Bill S-227 An Act to establish Food Day in Canada was passed at the third and final stage of debate in the House of Commons.

Bill S-227, An Act to establish Food Day in Canada, also known as the Food Day in Canada Act, was originally introduced by Senator Rob Black in November 2021 and was passed in the Senate in May 2022.

After passing in the Senate the Food Day in Canada Act was sponsored by M.P. John Nater in the House of Commons where it received unanimous support at every stage of the legislative process.

The Food Day in Canada Act gives Food Day Canada official recognition as a day of celebration by the Parliament of Canada. Most importantly the Food Day in Canada Act honours the legacy of the late Anita Stewart of Wellington County for her lifetime of agriculture and food advocacy in Canada.

This official recognition from the Government of Canada comes in time for the 20th anniversary of

Anita Stewart's first Food Day Canada event, then known as the World's Longest Barbecue, in support of beef farmers and ranches during the Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) also known as "Mad Cow Disease" crisis of 2003. Since 2003 Food Day Canada has grown into a national event in celebration and praise of our farmers and fishers, our chefs and researchers and everyone who contributes to agriculture, food, and cuisine in Canada.

"It is with great satisfaction that we finally reach the end of debate before passing Bill S-227, Food Day in Canada," said MP Nater in the House of Commons immediately before the bill was passed.

"On August 5th, 20 years after Anita Stewart organized the first Food Day in response to a national crisis that devastated our beef farmers, Food Day Canada will finally be officially recognized. This summer, and for every year to follow, we will together recognize the work of our farmers, fishers, processors, chefs, and everyone along the food supply chain who not only feeds us but also enriches our diverse national culture."

St. Marys Public Library to be temporarily closed

The St. Marys Public Library will be temporarily closed on Thursday, May 25, Friday, May 26 and Saturday, May 27 due to construction on the main floor. It will reopen on Monday May 29,

2023.

We apologize for this temporary inconvenience and thank you in advance for your patience during this closure.

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8			7			3		
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Solutions on page 31



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COMMUNITY —

Ontario increasing support for homelessness prevention in Oxford

The Ontario government is investing an additional \$202 million annually in the province's Homelessness Prevention Program and Indigenous Supporting Housing Program, bringing Ontario's total yearly investment in these programs to close to \$700 million. The additional funding will help those experiencing or at risk of homelessness and support community organizations delivering supportive housing.

This includes \$2,922,000 for Oxford, which is a funding increase of \$1,215,700 over the 2022-23 allocation.

"This much-needed funding increase will help Oxford provide more sup-

ports for the most vulnerable in our community," said Ernie Hardeman, MPP Oxford. "More supportive housing and homelessness prevention services can help those at risk live happier, healthier and more fulfilling lives."

The additional funding, announced in the 2023 Budget, represents a 40 per cent increase in funding by the government to support the most vulnerable by providing supportive housing and homelessness prevention services. Under the \$202 million, \$190.5 million each year will be allocated to the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP), which gives Ontario's 47 Service Managers greater flexibility to allocate funding and

make better use of existing resources to focus on delivering supports.

The remaining \$11.5 million each year will be invested in the Indigenous Supportive Housing Program (ISHP), which provides Indigenous-led, culturally appropriate long-term housing solutions and support services to Indigenous people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

"We know Ontario's housing supply crisis impacts all Ontarians, no matter their background or budget," said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "That's why we've increased funding for our homelessness prevention programs

by more than 40 per cent. These measures complement the bold and transformational change we are implementing to tackle the housing supply crisis and get more homes built faster across Ontario."

The increased funding is a result of a revised funding model that better reflects the current needs of individuals who are facing homelessness across Ontario. Funding dollars are being increased to address increased needs, particularly during a time of rising inflation, and to help ensure that no service manager receives a decrease in funding compared to 2022-23 as a result of the transition to the new model.

Drivers and motorcyclists please watch out for each other

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

Curbing last year's spike in motorcyclist fatalities on Ontario Provincial Police- (OPP)-patrolled roads is as simple as riders and drivers maintaining safe space and driving habits around each other at all times.

Last year marked a particularly tragic riding season and the highest number of motorcyclist deaths since 2017, with 44 riders losing their lives in collisions.

Failing to yield right of way, excessive speed and inattentive driving are among the leading contributing factors in OPP-investigated motorcyclist fatalities over the past 10 years. The data speaks to poor and careless behaviours on the part of riders and other drivers, with motorcyclists at fault in 61 per cent of the fatalities, and drivers of other vehicles at fault in 39 per cent of the

deaths.

With Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month underway in May, the OPP is reminding motorcyclists and other motorists to be responsible, defensive, attentive, and alcohol/drug-free drivers throughout the riding season. Motorcyclists are reminded to wear bright, protective equipment and clothing to increase their visibility to other motorists. Every driv-

er doing their part will help ensure Ontario citizens and visitors have the safe, enjoyable summer that awaits them!

Promoting motorcycle safety through public education and enforcement forms part of the OPP's commitment to saving lives on Ontario roads, waterways and trails.



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HISTORY —

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Joseph A. Humphris

By Mary Smith

Most of the beautiful limestone and brick buildings that give St. Marys a reputation for heritage architecture were constructed from the 1850s into the first two decades of the 20th century. Records exist explaining who was responsible for most of the significant buildings, such as the M & M block, the Opera House, and Central School, as well as for many residences in the older parts of the town. The designer/builders, such as Robert Barbour and William Williams, are remembered by their contributions to these fine structures. They did not work in isolation. Through these decades of construction, builders' careers overlapped and they were inevitably influenced by each other.

Joseph Aitken Humphris also learned his trade by experience. He began to work as a carpenter when he was still a very young man. Eventually, he became an architect, the stages of his career acquainting him with many different aspects of construction. He spent his entire life in St. Marys but his memorable building projects took place during a short span of about a dozen years at the beginning of the 20th century. Within this time period, he made his mark on the town. Perhaps most significantly, J. A. Humphris was the managing architect for the St. Marys public library, built in 1904. This Humphris-designed building has been a vital part of our community for 12 decades.

J. A. Humphris was born in 1860 on a farm in Blanshard Township, beyond the southwest boundary of St. Marys on the River Road. Very little information can be found about his father, James Humphris, except that he was born in England ca 1823. Census records list him as a farmer. Joseph's mother, Margaret Aitken, was born in Scotland in 1822, and came to Canada with her parents, James and Isabella Aiken, and several brothers. By the 1851 census, the Aikens were established in St. Marys. James Aitken worked as a watchmaker and assessment records show that he later owned property on Thomas Street backing onto the Thames River.

James Humphris and Margaret Aiken married in 1855. By the 1861 census, they had two children: a three-year-old daughter, Isabella, and a year-old son, Joseph Aiken. Margaret named her daughter after her mother and gave her oldest son Aiken as his second name. By the 1871 census, three more children had been added to the Humphris family: Charles, age eight, James, age six, and William who was



The owners and workers stand in front of the west façade of the Humphris, Richardson & Humphris Planing Mill. J. A. Humphris is second from the right. Today, this building is O'Leary's Bar and Grill.

two years old. And then something disrupted this young family. Their father, James Humphris, vanished. No further trace of him has been found in any records. In the 1881 census, Margaret was head of the household and described as a married woman, not a widow. But by the 1891 census, she was listed as a widow. James must have died sometime between 1881 and 1891 but we don't know where or precisely when. At any rate, Margaret was a single parent of the five Humphris children.

Her family, the Aikens, seem to have helped her out at this point. Her father was no longer living but her mother and her brother, Joseph, a carpenter, lived in St. Marys. Margaret acquired one of the family's lots on Thomas Street and by the 1881 census, she was living there with her children. Joseph, now 20 years old, and his younger brother, Charles, were working as carpenters. Margaret's mother, Isabella, age 84, was also a member of the household. The attractive red brick cottage with white brick accents, built in the early 1880s, still stands at 247 Thomas Street. Perhaps her carpenter brother and her two sons as his helpers were the builders. If so, this charming cottage is an early example of skills that would be used for larger projects later on.

In 1885, Joseph and Charles formed a partnership with another ambitious young man, Edward Richardson, a local builder. Richardson was a few years older than the Humphris brothers, married with a young family. In 1885, the partnership took over an established lumber yard and

steam-operated planing mill, east of Water Street on the north bank of Trout Creek. This two-storey brick building with the owners and workers standing in front is shown in this week's photograph. The two men on the right wearing suits are Joseph and Charles Humphris. The business had been owned and operated since the mid-1860s by business partners, James Craig and James Hamilton. It was a highly respected business, winning the contract, for example, to supply windows, doors, and all the trim for the opera house in 1879.

The new partners got off to a great start and were featured in an article in the St. Marys Argus in December 1886: "Their business is reaching large proportions and under its present very successful management promises to largely increase in the future. ... Mr. J. A. Humphris, whose experience and knowledge of the work is well known, manages the factory, and under his competent supervision all work can be depended upon. Mr. Ed Richardson and Mr. C. J. Humphris give their attention to the work of contracting and have a reputation that is excelled by no other builders in the country." However, the partnership did not last long. By 1888, both Richardson and Charles Humphris had decided to try their fortunes elsewhere. The business was purchased by local entrepreneur, J. D. Moore. Moore left J. A. Humphris in charge of the planing mill. Humphris stayed for several years and then moved to J. Johnson's sash and door company on Queen Street near the railway overpass.

In 1888, Joseph married Margaret

Gibb, the daughter of a local veterinarian, and they made their home in the Humphris' cottage on Thomas Street. By the 1891 census, they had a year-old son, William. Within the next ten years, three daughters: Olive, Margaret (or Marguerite) and Ethel, were added to the family. Joseph's mother lived with them until her death in 1896, age 74. In assessment and census records, J. A. Humphris consistently described himself as a carpenter. However, he had a flair for draftsmanship, had worked long enough to have an excellent understanding of construction. He began to draw up plans and specifications, not only for his own projects, but also for other builders in St. Marys. By 1900, he considered himself to be an architect. (At that time, formally trained architects were rare in Ontario. Most, like Humphris, learned on the job.)

In March 1898, eight-year-old Willie, the Humphris' only son, died. Joseph threw himself into his work and the following few years were his most productive. He designed the steel truss Water Street Bridge in 1899. In 1902, he was the architect of the First Baptist Church. In 1903, a new grocery and china store at 113 Queen Street and a hardware store at 154 Queen Street were also his projects, both with beautiful, ornate facades that are still admired today. The public library was his most memorable project. The 2010 library history book, "Within These Portals," explains how Humphris worked with the contractors through all stages of construction to bring the project to a successful conclusion. In 1907, he designed the St. James Anglican Church parish hall. He drafted plans for renovations for his neighbour, Mina Hutton McKay, at Westover Park. Residences at 199 Tracy Street and 163 Church Street South were also his work.

On November 21, 1915, J. A. Humphris died of pneumonia at the age of 55. A short obituary published in the St. Marys Journal reported that Humphris had been in ill health for some years and had more or less retired. He was survived by his wife, his three daughters, and his sister, Bella McNeill, in Fullarton. As for the younger Humphris brothers, according to the Journal, Charles was "one of the capitalists of Ogden, Utah," James was living in Durban, South Africa, and William, who had also gone to Africa, "had not been heard from since he left home 27 years ago."

COLUMN —

HOSTING UKRAINE: Cultural Differences

By VJ Knutson

Mom died the morning of May 10th. It wasn't unexpected and we'd all had the chance to spend time with her and say our goodbyes. There is comfort in knowing that after 66 years of living with relentless pain, Mom will now have relief. Mom was 96.

In preparation for the funeral, I was busy going through old photographs and putting my thoughts on paper. I could sense that our Ukrainian guests were uncertain about how to respond. "I'm preparing for the visitation and writing the eulogy", I explained. Blank faces.

"Do you know what a eulogy is?"

Head shakes. One offered that they had seen this on American movies. Of course, I realized. Funerals would be yet another oddity in this strange place. I put out a message on our host and guest group chat explaining visitations and funerals and what happens. I forgot to say that our funerals tend to be a celebration of life as well as a mourning.

Lesia accompanied us to the visitation. My brother's music played, while photographs of my mom throughout the ages flashed across a screen and posterboards held other treasured memories. The atmosphere was lively and downright fun, as old friends and neighbours poured in to pay their condolences and we shared stories and laughs. Mom was a character, and everyone had a humorous anecdote.

Back at home, Lesia excitedly conveyed the evening's happenings, in Ukrainian of course, but I



did catch references to people who knew me when I was 4 years old, and how much she enjoyed the photos and music, and meeting my family.

The funeral was more of the same, with a greater turnout of people, including our Ukrainian families. I delivered the eulogy, my brother played a song

he had written for the occasion, and the minister, a dear friend of my mom's, delivered a touching service. Afterwards we gathered at a reception with good food and more music.

"Funerals in Canada are very different than in Ukraine," my friend Svetlana confessed. "I really didn't know what to expect, but this was very warm and loving. I felt like part of the family."

"Exactly how Mom would have wanted it."

Back at the nursing home, as we cleaned out Mom's room, staff dropped by to express their condolences and share more stories. One man asked me if I was the one who helped Ukrainians.

"There are two things Ukrainians need to understand," he told me, having related his own story of immigrating to Canada 35 years before. "Slang and sarcasm." "For example, Canadians always say 'Hi' in greeting, but it doesn't always mean the same thing. Sometimes it's an invitation to stay and talk a moment, but it can also mean 'Don't bother me'. I've had to learn the difference. Your mother always had a friendly 'Hi' unless she wasn't feeling well. We had great talks up until recently. I will miss her."

She will certainly be missed, and I can't help but notice that even in her death, Mom's loving spirit touched so many. I can only hope it lives on in me.

Till next time.

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

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Riddles

Who always goes to bed with shoes on?

A horse

What is the first thing you do every morning?

Wake up

What do people make that nobody can ever see?

Noise

Why did Johnny toss a glass of water out the window?

He wanted to see a water fall

What do mechanics charge to fix tires?

A flat rate

What has fingers but can't type?

Gloves

What has ears but can't hear?

Corn

What has arms but can't hug?

A chair

What has a head and a foot but no body?

A bed

When is a car not a car?

When it turns into a driveway

What is the best time to have lunch?

After breakfast

- Word Search -

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The **Riddle Kid** OF THE WEEK

What did one wall say to the other?



See you in the corner

Pierce Bennett (7)

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



Our pet of the week is Rugar, a 2 year old Collie/Rottweiler mix. Rugar was a rescue dog from Kentucky. He loves his walks, people and hiding his bone in the couch. Mackenna Vanfleet is the proud owner of Rugar.



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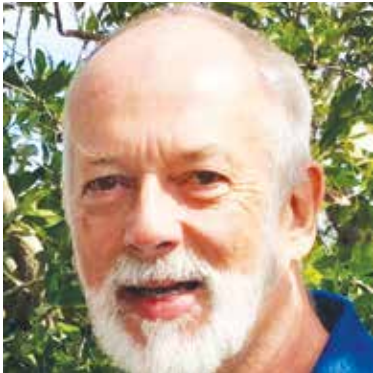
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COLUMN —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Hawk's Cay: a great Keys getaway



By Paul Knowles

"Now, hold your forefingers up in the air and twirl them" she said. So we did and we were promptly enthusiastically splashed by a dolphin who clearly enjoyed the moment.

It turns out the dolphin's trainer had instructed us to give the "splash them like the dickens" signal to Indie the dolphin. It was hilarious.

When I say, "dolphin's trainer," by the way, I suspect I have that completely backwards. It struck me that the dolphins were well aware of who was in charge and those "in charge" creatures did not have two legs.

The splash was just one, very wet element of our wonderful time spent with Indie. We also got to touch flippers – well, fingers and flippers – and to give Indie a careful, gentle hug.

All of this was just one part of our stay at Hawks' Cay, a resort in the Florida Keys that manages to offer laid-back luxury. It's a tough combination to achieve, but terrific

when it happens.

Getting to Hawk's Cay is a treat in itself because it's on Duck Key, one in a long string of keys, or islands, linked by the Overseas Highway. To get to Hawk's Cay, you drive over the ocean for kilometer after kilometer; just south of the resort is the renowned Seven Mile Bridge which spans, in American measurement, seven miles of nothing but ocean. It is spectacularly beautiful, probably my favorite drive anywhere in the world.

Hawks' Cay itself is a large, well-designed resort. We stayed in the hotel with a suite overlooking one of five pool areas – four entirely family friendly, the other for 21-year-olds and up. To be fair, it was the adults-only area, dubbed Oasis Cay, that bore the welcoming sign that read, "Must be 21 or Older (Maturity Optional)". The pools are located throughout the resort because in addition to the hotel accommodations, there are villas scattered around the spacious property.

There is also a saltwater lagoon available for swimmers who seek a bit of the briny sea.

When it comes to leisure, Hawk's Cay makes sure there is something for everyone. Each day at the Coral Cay Activities & Adventure Centre, there is something new every hour on the hour, ranging from a family scavenger hunt to a touch tank demo that lets kids and adults get up close and personal with denizens

of the sea.

There is a similar menu of activities and entertainment at poolside all day long, along with evening concerts at the poolside fire pit.

Hawk's Cay has the typical, tropical eating options like a Tiki bar and grill beside the kid-friendly pool and the Pilar Bar by the Oasis Cay.

But there are two higher-end dining spots – Sixty-One Prime, in the hotel itself, where the service was superb and the Angler and Ale, a more pub-style eatery by the docks, with great views of the water.

One activity got our immediate attention. There are many pickleball courts. It was easy to find others of similar intent and set up a game or two. There are tennis courts and a putting course for golfers... and non-golfers too.

Being on an island in the Florida Keys, it's not surprising that the resort also offers every kind of water adventure – fishing, snorkeling, scuba. It's probably illegal in the Keys not to have these choices!

Hawk's Cay offers so many leisure activities I would not be surprised if a family or a couple simply checked in and stayed. But it's also true that, within a twenty-minute drive or less, there is a full menu of interesting destinations.

Like Robbie's of Islamorada, a unique place that almost defies description. There is a very rustic restaurant and



Feeding tarpon at Robbie's of Islamorada. (All photos by Paul Knowles)

bar; booths filled with clothes and souvenirs ranging from the creative to the frankly tacky; and an opportunity to hand-feed enormous, ravenous tarpon. A must-visit.

Or the new Aquarium Encounter, where you can see just about every creature native to the area and more besides.

Or the Turtle Hospital, a wildlife rescue centre so special it will get its own feature in this space. As will Pigeon Key, an apparently uninteresting little island at the Seven Mile Bridge that is actually the site of some astonishing historical events.

All of these locales are minutes away from Hawk's Cay.

The resort is immaculate and service is superb. The staff at Hawk's Cay seem to really enjoy their jobs and make every effort to meet the needs, wants and whims of their

guests.

Now, back to the dolphin encounter. It would be easy for the folks at Hawk's Cay to advertise a chance to meet a dolphin, line up a bunch of folks on a submerged floating platform, and get the whole thing over as quickly as possible. Not here. We were in a group – one family and one couple. And each and every one of us got lots of personal time with Indie. The trainers were patient with nervous children, hospitable to all, clearly conscious of the welfare of the dolphins and determined that everyone involved, those with arms and legs and those with flippers, would have a great experience.

And we did.

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



Hawks Cay – family-friendly and luxurious at the same time.



The author with Indie the Dolphin

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COLUMN —

Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

Bards, and Clerics, and Halflings, oh my! Have you ever wanted to learn how to play Dungeons and Dragons? Well now is the perfect time! Join us in the media room any time after 10:30am on Game Day Saturdays to learn the ins and outs of the classic table-top game of creativity and critical hits. To keep up to date with the club, leave us your email address and we'll sign you up for the newsletter. The next meeting of the group is this Saturday. We hope to see you there!

This Week's Recommendation

One of the best parts of D&D is creating the character you're going to play as. In addition to being the character during game play, some people like

to bring their character to life by drawing them. A great way to build art technique is by checking out artistic how-to books, such as "Drawing & Painting Fantasy Figures: From the Imagination to the Page" by Finlay Cowan. Learn how to draw everything fantasy, from mystical characters and the weapons they wield to the dwelling they call home and the horse they rode in on. You can find "Drawing & Painting Fantasy Figures" in our adult non-fiction section.

Up This Week

- Friday, May 19th: Open 10:30am-5:00pm
- Saturday, May 20th: Dungeons and Dragons (10:30am), Game Days (1:00pm-4:00pm)
- Monday, May 22nd: CLOSED
- Tuesday, May 23rd: Crafternoon (2:00pm-4:00pm)
- Wednesday, May 24th: EarlyOn Play and Read (9:30am), Mahjong Intro Sessions (1:00pm), Mahjong! (2:00pm-4:00pm)
- Thursday, May 25th: Open 10:30am-8:00pm

The St. Marys Farmers' Market

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LOOKING BACK



By AMY CUBBERLEY

Field of dreams

25 years ago (1998)

Al McLean of St. Marys saw a summer tanager Friday morning from his kitchen table. The perching bird landed in a nearby walnut tree, so he had a good look at it. He immediately got out his bird book. "I've never seen one of them before. They are not supposed to come this far north, but its such a warm spring I'm not surprised it showed up." Summer tanagers, which are slightly smaller than a cardinal, are all red with yellow beaks.

Just after 4:00 on Saturday afternoon, Brag Gregus and a crew of workers lowered home plate into its permanent resting place at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's premier diamond. It might not be the most significant thing that's taken place at the 30-acre site in the past few weeks, but it definitely signals that St. Marys' field of dreams is taking shape.

Browns Women's Institute held its 60th anniversary celebration last week. There were displays set up in Browns School to help mark the occasion. Wedding dresses worn by WI members were displayed, along with a picture of the bride and groom.

50 years ago (1973)

At least three Collegiate distance runners, Bill Murphy, Gary Hudson and Jeff Culbert, will be taking part in the 9 1/2 mile Watford Road Race on Victoria Day.

Several sweaty sessions by local Kinsmen have resulted in most of the holes being ready for fence posts around the swim quarry. The new fence is the latest Kinsmen Club project. Pounding the holes out of quarry rock, using a heavy Jensen bar, made this a strenuous work project.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is supporting a research program of ruffed grouse to be carried out at the University of Guelph. To aid in this research the University needs ruffed grouse eggs and is willing to pay \$1 each for them.

75 years ago (1948)

A few citizens who can't do without tomatoes have been paying one dollar a pound for them this week.

Those tasty conical sponge-like fungus growth known as morels are making their appearance in many riverside pastures. Some connoisseurs say they are much superior as a dish than the common mushroom.

When the Perth Election Board sat one day the past week to put the stamp of approval on premises selected by Returning Officer Robert Hurst, for the holding of an advanced poll, the members were amused at a description given a local building. The premises, the only vacant store on Queen Street, was formerly "Smokey Joe's Pool Room", near Victoria Bridge. The premises will not be described by this name when election posters are issued.

Citizens who were on their way to the Post Office Tuesday afternoon were surprised to see a pigeon following along in the air above the head of Murray Mitchell. When Murray entered the Post Office the bird perched on the glass canopy over the doorway and kept expectant vigil. When Murray reached the vicinity of the Fire Hall, the bird, feeling tired, perched on his head and finished the journey home from that vantage point.

100 years ago (1923)

Accidents in St. Marys the past week have been unusually frequent. On Sunday afternoon two young St. Marys ladies, Misses Barbara Gibson and Anna Ferguson, were accidentally run over by a Ford Coupe driven by Mr. Jas. Maloney. Mr. Maloney was headed east on Queen Street and did not notice the girls had moved away from the curb and before he could apply the brakes the car had passed over them. Both girls were badly shaken up with Miss Gibson having a broken rib, being cut about the face, and her clothes badly torn.

In Chicago, with a population close to 3,000,000, there are two morning newspapers. Twenty-five years ago, with a population of 1,500,000, there were seven.

The district around Lakeside is fast becoming an exceedingly unhealthy locality for burglars and thieves. On Monday night, two men were captured by residents after they had entered the garage of Erastus Martin and stripped his car of tires, battery, lights, and accessories.

Patrons of St. Marys Theatre were delighted last week with the presentation of Monte Cristo. A few years ago, St. Marys people would have had to go to London or Toronto to see such a play and pay \$1.00 or \$1.50 for what was brought to their door Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night for only 37 cents. It was a rare treat, but there are a number of forthcoming shows of a similar character.

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Seeking newspaper boxes and stands

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All collectibles including sports cards, beanie babies, Funko pops and stamps. Highest prices paid. Free appraisals. Call or text Stan anytime 519-868-3814.

Wanted

Are you 65+? Book your spring COVID-19 booster now! Call Huron Perth Public Health at 1-833-753-2098.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations!



William J. Galloway and Sylvia (Boucher) Galloway are celebrating 50 years of marriage. The high school sweethearts eloped in a private ceremony at St. James Anglican Church on Friday, May 18, 1973.

Happy Anniversary and much love from your four awesome kids (Chris, Michelle, Brett and Ashley), your 3 amazing kids-in-law (Analia, Jeff and Mark), and your seven beautiful grandkids (Fiona, Jacob, Violet, Jude, Katie, Daisy and Lucas).

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QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1)Richmond, BC, 1967
- 2)Kamala Harris
- 3)Nike
- 4)Hannibal
- 5)Hotmail
- 6)Kal-El
- 7) Six
- 8)Michael Schumacher
- 9)Venison
- 10)Dallas

OBITUARY

Gracey



Frederick Vincent Gracey, of St. Marys, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on May 11, 2023 at the age of 78.

Loving husband of Julia (Brown) for 51 years. Proud father of Dan (Shona), Julianne (Chris Holloway), Kelly (Tim Schultz) and Meg (Ryan Hayes). Legendary Upa to Lauren, Ella and Julia Gracey, Patrick, Owen and Charles Holloway, Colin and Jake Schultz and Henry Hayes. Also remembered by his many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his parents Fred and Audrey (Tinlin) Gracey, sister Virginia Mitchell, brothers Robert and John Gracey and is survived by sister Joanne Hart, and brother Bill Gracey.

Born in London, Ont., Fred proudly worked at CFPL TV London for over 30 years where he enjoyed producing and directing coverage of many local sports. Later in his career he created Gracey Productions. Fred was a faithful parishioner of Holy Name of Mary Parish and will be remembered for his love of golf, coaching his kids in minor sports and the St. Marys Lincolns. GO HABS GO.

Cremation has taken place. A private family service will be held followed by a public interment service at St. Marys Cemetery, 150 Cain St. St. Marys, on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 2:15 pm. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society or Holy Name of Mary Parish. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

IN MEMORIAM

Pratt

In memory of Verna L. Pratt

*May the winds of Heaven blow softly
And whisper in your ear
How much we love and miss you
And wish that you were here.*

**Missing you dearly
Gerry, Brenda, Tony and family**

THANK YOU

Haves

I would like to thank all of those who helped me celebrate my 80th birthday. I enjoyed a visit with each of you.

Thank you for the cards and gifts. It was appreciated. The day was not without surprises. Several of my students from Wallaceburg (1963 – 65) surprised me with a visit to help celebrate my birthday. After 60 years I didn't recognize them. It was a great day.

Ruth Ann Haves



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Antarctica – January 2025

Vietnam/Cambodia – January 2025

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