

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1160

Thursday, May 25, 2023

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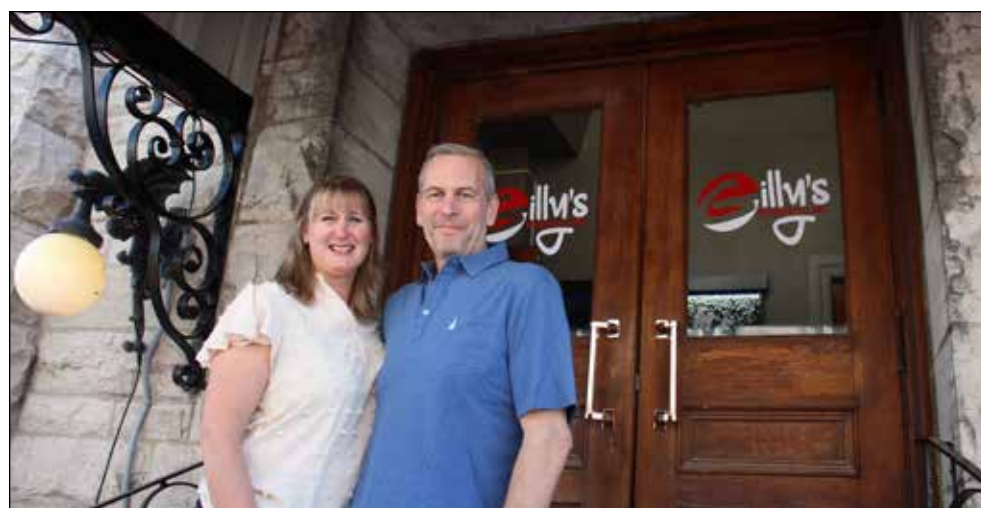
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Gilly's Pubhouse is open for business!



Owners Cathy and Mike Bayer opened their much-anticipated Gilly's Pubhouse on Water Street on Wednesday, May 17th. Crowds were steady all weekend long showing great community support for the new St. Marys business. Owner Mike Bayer said that it has been a whirlwind since they opened. He also said "The welcome we have received from the community is just heartwarming and humbling. Everyone on our team has been nothing short of amazing, putting in long hours and dealing with the unforeseen hiccups with incredible passion and care". (Wendy Lamond photo)

Stonetown Artisan Cheese wins Grand Champion at the International Cheese competition at SIAL Canada

St Marys cheesemaker, Stonetown Artisan Cheese has won the top prize for Wildwood in the recent cheese competition at SIAL Canada. Wildwood was named Grand Champion in the international competition that included over 230 cheese entries from 10 countries worldwide. Wildwood was also named the Category Champion in the Firm Cheese Category.

win, it was completely unexpected. We are very grateful for our team and the talents and skills of our cheesemaker and business partner, Ramon Eberle, a Master Cheesemaker from Switzerland. We are proud to share this cheese with the world." says Hans Weber, owner of Stonetown Artisan Cheese.

"I am overwhelmed with joy at this

Continued on page 2

Pride Flags "Yes", Christian Flags "No"

June is Pride Month

By Frank Doyle

In a lengthy report to the Strategic Priorities Committee, CAO Brent Kittmer outlined the Town's criteria as to what should be acceptable to hang in the downtown core.

The controversy started last June when Rev. John Goodwin, from the Stonetown Worship Centre on Water Street, appeared at Council and sent them a letter asking for consideration to hang an equal number of Christian Flags to equal the number of Pride Flags.

The correspondence received from Rev. John Goodwin (July 2022) requesting:

For the Town to install an equal number of banners in the Downtown representing the Christian faith as there is Pride banners.

If a budget line exists or if there is access to donated funds, for the Town to make these available for the purchase of the banners as the Town has done for other 'interest groups'. He also noted that around the world Christianity remains the most persecuted religion with over 900,000 people martyred for their Christian faith in the ten years up to 2017. The Town also received correspondence from Rev. Dr. Mark G. McKim (September 2022). In summary, Rev. Dr. McKim raises the following points: "It is not the role of government to advocate or promote any worldview, partisan opinion, philosophical or ethical system. Commemorating any one group and refusing to do so for another group leaves the Town vulnerable to legal challenges and human rights complaints.

The Town is in a position where it must decide to approve all commemoration requests, or none, with the latter being preferred except for flying flags of

Continued on page 3

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COMMUNITY —

Stonetown Artisan Cheese wins Grand Champion at the International Cheese competition at SIAL Canada

"Wildwood is unique in that the curds are washed in the make process, which results in a creamier cheese, and the rind is carefully nurtured just over a year, by washing and brushing it with wine yeasts. Wildwood not only has an impressive flavour; it also has a very rustic and appealing appearance. The aromatic rind gives the cheese a contrasting texture to the interior and typical aromas associated with washed rind cheeses. Wildwood is rich and creamy on the palate with an even balance of salt. Wildwood is named after the Wildwood Dam in St. Marys."

Over the years, Stonetown Artisan Cheese has placed as a

finalist in 14 awards. In 2020, Wildwood placed second at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair; however this is the first Grand Champion win for Wildwood.

About Stonetown Cheese

Stonetown Artisan Cheese is an on-farm cheese plant located at 5021 Perth Line 8, St. Marys. The award-winning hand-crafted alpine style cheese is made with fresh whole cow's milk from their family farm. The milk is unpasteurized and has no additives. This ensures that the cheese is pure and natural. The cheese making process is very similar to how cheese has been made for centuries in the mountain dairies in the Swiss Alps.



Museum announces summer weekend hours

Summer weekend hours begin in June!

The Museum will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. in June, July, and August for drop-in self-guided Museum tours. The Archives will continue to be open

for pre-booked research appointments only.

New Exhibits

Museum staff have been busy installing a number of new exhibits to get ready for the summer season.

Painting St. Marys: Throughout the

years, St. Marys has seen many talented artists come and go. One of our newest exhibits, Painting St. Marys, looks at local artists who have worked to capture St. Marys on canvas. This exhibit features a number of historical works of art from our collection.

Timothy Eaton: Did you know St. Marys has a connection to the iconic Canadian retailer Eaton's? In 1856, Timothy Eaton settled in Kirkton, Ontario with his brother James and

opened a general store. Four years later, the brothers moved to St. Marys to sell dry goods, boots, farm tools, and kitchenware. This exhibit explores the history and legacy of this famous family.

St. Marys Has Pride: This display outlines the history of LGBTQ2+ rights in Canada and their impact on the St. Marys community. You can learn more about local Pride Month initiatives here: www.townofstmarys.com/pride



19th Annual 5km Walk for Create a Smile

in association with Community Living St. Marys and Area

Sunday, May 28th 2-4pm

at Milt Dunnell Field (the "Flats")

SILENT AUCTION • CREATE YOUR OWN TEAM

Donate online through our website, choose the Create A Smile Fund

For a pledge kit or more information call 519-284-1400 or visit www.communitylivingstmarys.ca



STONETOWN

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Wednesday May-24th	Thursday May-25th	Friday May-26th	Saturday May-27th	Sunday May-28th	Monday May-29th	Tuesday May-30th
Mainly sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Mainly sunny	Sun/cloud	Sun/cloud
 17°C	 17°C	 20°C	 23°C	 25°C	 24°C	 24°C
Feels Like 16	Feels Like 16	Feels Like 20	Feels Like 23	Feels Like 25	Feels Like 26	Feels Like 26

COMMUNITY —

Pride Flags “Yes”, Christian Flags “No”

Continued from page 1

official government flags, those related to a statutory holiday, and Remembrance Day”.

The following is from Kittmer’s report. “Council and the Corporation of the Town of St. Marys have adopted an overarching vision for St. Marys to embrace and promote diversity, equity and inclusion. Council’s objective is to create a community and a Town corporation where there are no impediments to full and free participation in the economic, social, political and cultural life of the Town. The goal is to promote a climate of understanding and mutual respect.

As a first initiative, in the fall of 2021, Council requested that staff present a range of Pride recognition options for the community. Council’s goals were twofold: first, to celebrate and promote St. Marys as a welcoming, accepting and inclusive community; and secondly, to bring attention to the historical disadvantage, discrimination, and barriers to equal social rights, equal access to services, and equal treatment suffered by the

2SLGBTQIA+ community.”

Kittmer cites many legal challenges including the question of whether the Pride Flag is “religious” and the courts have said “No”, and that it has become well established that the Pride flag is an internationally recognized symbol of inclusivity. The Court has broadly defined freedom of religions as having the right to entertain such religious beliefs as a person chooses, the right to declare religious beliefs openly and without fear of hindrance or reprisal, and the right to manifest religious belief by worship and practice or by teaching and dissemination. Nothing in the Town’s decision to corporately commemorate Pride would prevent a person from having the right of practicing or expressing their religion as described above. Similarly, if the Town chooses to deny the request to install Christian banners on its flag poles to maintain its duty of religious neutrality, that decision does not prevent a person from having the right of practicing or expressing their religion as described above.

In summary, the Report concluded: The request received from Rev. John

Goodwin for the Town to install Christian banners in the downtown be respectfully declined. The correspondence received from Rev. Dr. Mark McKim be received and filed. Council adopts the draft Commemoration Policy to clearly articulate the Town’s commemoration practices rather than choosing to commemorate nothing. The Town’s downtown banner pro-

gram remain for Town purposes only and not be opened to commemoration requests from the public. Council approve Stratford-Perth Pride’s request for proclamation and the request for the Pride flag to be raised because the requests meet the goals and objectives of the Town to create a community that embraces and promotes diversity, equity and inclusion.



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EDITORIAL —

Parallels between St. Marys and Ingersoll

By Stewart Grant

This week's St. Marys newspaper will again contain 32 pages of local content. I think it's pretty awesome how our town of 8,000 continues to support the local paper and thus makes it a useful source of community news and information.

Meanwhile, a half-hour drive down Highway 119 in the Town of Ingersoll (population 13,000), their newspaper will again have ZERO pages this week, because there is no community paper there.

I met recently with Scott Gillies, Museum Curator at the Ingersoll Cheese & Agricultural Museum. When I introduced myself as a St. Marys native, he was quick to point out that Ingersoll and St. Marys share a few similarities. Most notably, the Ingersoll family was instrumental in the founding of both places: with the town once known as "Oxford-on-the-Thames" now bearing the family's name, while the town once known as "Little Falls" now having a street in the west ward named after the area's first permanent resident.

Ingersoll and St. Marys are also familiar in a geographic sense. Not only are they similar-sized towns, each with a river running through, they are also each located 15-20 minutes southwest of small cities (St. Marys from Stratford; and Ingersoll from Woodstock). Also, both towns are located roughly a half-hour from the large city of London.

So, why is it that one town has a thriving 32-page local newspaper, while the other, slightly larger town, has no newspaper at all?

Well, one other tie between the two towns is that both towns had their long-time newspaper closed by a media conglomerate. The St. Marys Journal-Argus was abruptly closed in November 2017 following the Metroland/Postmedia anti-competition deal, while eight months later, the Ingersoll Times published its

final issue so that Postmedia could save costs.

Both towns are communities that share an interest in local news. But while the Stonetown had the St. Marys Independent to fill the void when the Journal-Argus was closed, Ingersoll had no such luck.

Long story short, we're going to rectify this situation on Friday, June 16th with the first issue of the Woodstock Ingersoll Echo. This publication will start as a monthly newspaper, with local news divided roughly 50/50 between Woodstock and Ingersoll (Woodstock's current newspaper situation is only slightly less bleak than Ingersoll's).

Why do I write about this expansion in the St. Marys paper? Why should you care?

Something that has stood out to me over the past three years when spending more time in places like New Hamburg, Stratford, Baden and Tavistock is each of these communities has "hidden treasures" that outsiders might not know about, just as St. Marys does. I think "shop local" extends to nearby towns. A day trip from St. Marys to Ingersoll, and vice versa, is a good thing; and keeps more money in each local community better than say, if those dollars went to London, or Toronto, or spent online.

Another observation that I've made is that it's amazing how many St. Marys people have "connections" with these neighbouring communities. Maybe you work in these places, or are from there, or have family there, etc.

If you are someone who has connections in Woodstock and/or Ingersoll, please share the news that local journalism is returning to the area, with the hiring of our first editor (Ingersoll resident Hannah MacLeod) and the June 16th launch of the Woodstock Ingersoll Echo.

Bravo

We have two Bravos this week.

1) Bravo to Derek Byrne, a multi-talented pianist/entertainer who gave a magnificent outdoor concert at Kingsway and he played all the "old favourites".

2) Bravo to the gentleman for changing a flat tire on a car at a grocery store parking lot for a lady with a young baby. The car was then taken to a local dealer who fixed the tire at no charge.



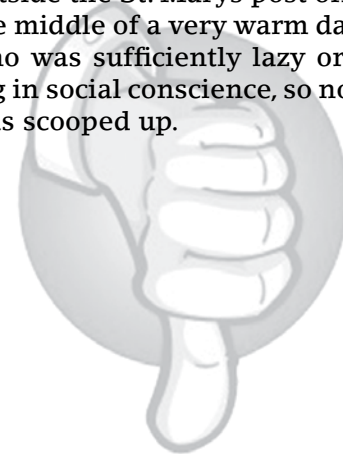
*Please note all Boos and Bravos must be signed in order to be considered.

Boo

We have two Boos this week.

1) Boo goes to drivers of cars who pass those who are trying to park and to those who pull out of parking spots and do not yield to regular traffic.

2) The second Boo goes to the dog owner whose pet, presumably on a lead, deposited a large pile of excrement on the sidewalk right outside the St. Marys post office in the middle of a very warm day, and who was sufficiently lazy or lacking in social conscience, so nothing was scooped up.



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

Quote of the Week

"It is important to first clarify that there was no request from Stratford-Perth Pride for the Town to install banners (last year). This was an initiative conceived and driven by Council."

- Brent Kittmer, in his flag study report.

St. Marys Independent

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The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS
OF THE WEEK

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Put off for one
day and ten days
will pass.

A kitchen knife
cannot carve its
own handle.

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wouldn't get into
trouble if it kept
its mouth shut.

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the well that
gives you water.

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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When people ask me
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say "Why, what did you
hear?"

"It feels good to be
back to work after a
long weekend!" said
no one ever

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

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.

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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

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



PUBLIC ROLLER SKATE

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

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Seniors of the Week



On May 25th, Marvin and Orrie Hartwick are celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary with six decades of memories with each other and their loving family. They are proud parents to four children, twelve grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.
Congratulations!

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

COMMUNITY —

Camp Bimini welcomes hundreds of youth for another summer camp experience in Perth County

By Gary West

With summer time quickly approaching, so is camp time for area youth who would like to attend and one of them could be "Camp Bimini" south of Stratford on the Embro Road in Perth County.

Camp Bimini was established in 1947 and is one of the approximately 55 United Church of Canada camps across Canada. It has a unique history and following World War II, there was a new interest in doing something for the youth of the country. The United Church was caught up in this interest and Perth Presbytery embraced the idea.

Each spring the camp welcomes over 1,000 students through the school program and each summer there will be over 650 campers in the summer program. Bimini Camp employs 60 teenagers as counsellors in training, counsellors, program leaders and much more.

Camp begins July 2-7 for 9-12 year olds and runs through many age groups throughout the summer and ends with 11-13 year olds from August 20-25. Youth leadership is held September 22-23 for youth born in the years 2009 and 2010.

The camp has projects over the next few years that will include replacing the siding on the mess hall, renovating washrooms to be more inclusive, bridge repair, and tree management.

According to Bimini camp coordinator, Carol Young, their goal is to give every child and youth a camping experience, where they feel loved and valued



for who they are. She said they strive to be welcoming and inclusive of each individual and provide a safe and nurturing place where campers may experience nature, grow spiritually, and create lifelong friendships.

The camp will be hosting a 5 km walk, ride or run in late June and they will be having an online auction in the fall to help raise funds for the camp.

For more information on registration, fundraising events and ways to be involved. Please visit www.campbimini.ca or call 519-271-4129.

Weekend Quiz

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- 1) How many lines are in a limerick?
- 2) What was the name of the world's first nuclear submarine?
- 3) The restrictive medical condition epicondylitis is commonly known as what?
- 4) Aside from Russia what is the largest country in Europe?
- 5) American explorer Robert Peary is generally regarded as the first to reach where in 1909?
- 6) Which planet has the Great Red Spot in its atmosphere?
- 7) A gift of china is traditionally given to celebrate how many years of marriage?
- 8) Amsterdam lies on which river?
- 9) How many bones are in the human hand?
- 10) What animal is Friar Tuck in the Disney animated version of Robin Hood?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

V POOLS & MORE

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

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COMMUNITY —

Growing the game



For the last several years, St. Marys resident Ted Fuller has been growing the game of crokinole worldwide by distributing thousands of crokinole boards sold through his website, www.crokinole.ca.

Recently, Mr. Fuller was recognized for “growing the game” in a different way – he is now recognized as the Guinness World Record Holder for owning the World’s Largest Crokinole Board.

To get your Crokinole fix, stop by Ted’s Crokinole Canada store at 5 Industrial Road in St. Marys, or go see the world’s best compete in Tavistock on Saturday, June 3rd when the village hosts the annual World Crokinole Championships at Tavistock Arena. (Stewart Grant photo)

AllWheelsPark donation of the week



The Rotary All Wheels Park on James Street is very grateful to Luckhardt Landscaping for their donation! The community response has been wonderful. Help us reach the steering committee goal of \$150,000 by visiting www.townofstmarys.com/allwheelspark to read our story and donate. All donations are listed on our website

BY DONATION COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

MAY 27, 2023 | 8AM - 12PM

St. Marys Farmers Market
Milt Dunnell Field ("the Flats")

Get to know the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation board members and staff from Happy Valley Family Health Team as they make, prepare and serve the community breakfast!

ACTIVITIES

- **8 - 12:** Check up & fix up for your stuffies
- **9 - 11:** Kate the balloon artist
- **9 - 11:** Face painting by Fancy Expressions



We hope to see you there!

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COMMUNITY —

Wishes & Dreams: An Exhibition of Fashion in Glass and Paper at the St. Marys Station Gallery



Wishes and Dreams features the exceptional work by acclaimed St. Thomas artist, Mary Louise White.

Each glass garment in Wishes and Dreams holds a story. The fibers and weaves of the fabric, the style and manner of execution, the trim, the fastenings, the frugal or generous use of materials, the intention held in every decision that goes into the creation, selection, care and wearing of the garment holds deep significance. Whether it is handmade or chosen

from a manufactured selection, each dress has a history of careful and conscious actions.

Glass is intrinsically beautiful. It can transmit light, and can act as a lens, directing light, also amplifying details, and illuminating features. Once formed, glass is always glass. It can never return to the physical and chemical components from which it is made; silently serving as an awareness about what we create. Although, after being formed, it has an inherent

fragility and it can be shattered in an instant.

Mary Louise states that "Wishes and Dreams honours the promise of children. We and they have wishes and dreams about how their futures unfold. I wanted to capture the physicality as well as the context, purpose and emotional charge of each garment. These garments remind me that, like all of us, each child is a very distinct individual, each one blessed with unique gifts and abilities. These gar-

ments, among other things, remind me of Carl Sagan's thoughts: Every one of us is, in the cosmic perspective, precious.....in a hundred billion galaxies you will not find another."

Wishes and Dreams previews at the St. Marys Station Gallery on Friday, June 2, 2023 with a opening reception on Saturday, June 3 at 1:30 pm to 4pm. Station Gallery is open Wednesday to Saturday 11 am to 4:30 pm.

SCIENCE HILL Country Club

Taps on the Thames at Science Hill Country Club IS NOW OPEN!

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 SUNDAY THRU THURSDAY
 11 AM - 8PM
 FRI AND SAT 11 - 10PM
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Canada Day

CANADA DAY PARADE

Saturday July 1, 2023 11am
St. Marys ON

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IG WEALTH MANAGEMENT

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Alzheimer Society
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MAY 27, 2023
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COMMUNITY —

Plans underway for Stonetown Heritage Festival fireworks display



The Rotary Club of St. Marys will host their annual firework show on Saturday, July 15 during Stonetown Heritage Festival. Attendees can look forward to this spectacular show that will kick off at dusk! Pictured is Alanna Bowes (Town of St. Marys Events Coordinator) and Charlie Hammond (President, Rotary Club of St. Marys).

A Gold medal winner



Last week in Toronto, Joe Bickell representing Fanshawe College won the gold medal for Autobody Repair at the Skills Canada Ontario Competition. He's headed to Winnipeg at the end of May to compete as part of Team Ontario. Joe is a graduate of St Marys DCVI and South Perth Centennial Schools. A DCVI co-op placement gave Joe the opportunity to first learn about autobody paint and repair at Straight Line Collision in Centralia where Joe continues to work today. Pictured are Joe Bickell (left) with his Gold medal and Fanshawe team mate Jordan Driedger of Chatham-Kent who won bronze. (Contributed photo)

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COMMUNITY —

Opening day at Gilly's Pubhouse



Staff of Gilly's Pubhouse St. Marys were all smiles on opening day as they waited for the sign to be switched to OPEN.




General Manager Sparky (Rob Sparks).




Pictured are Elyssa Carman, Mercedes Richard, Cosmo Posch, Rob (Sparky) Sparks, Erin Mayberry, Mike Raposo, Angela Posch, Marianne Crawford, Crystal Vanoverbeke, Mike and Cathy Bayer. (Wendy Lamond photos)



The first customers on Wednesday were Marg and Gary Cumming.



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COMMUNITY —

Happy birthday Dick!



The "Table of Knowledge" social group enjoyed some fellowship at O'Leary's Creamery last Wednesday, May 17th, with the occasion being particularly special as it marked the 90th birthday of long-time St. Marys resident and former Mayor Dick MacPherson, who is pictured above. The Table of Knowledge surprised Dick with a chicken wing with a candle stuck in it along with a joyous rendition of "Happy Birthday". (Bear Mossey photo)

Patio Progress



Patio season is definitely upon us, and proprietor Chris Campbell of Campbell's Catering tells the Independent that his patio at 36 Water Street South could be ready for business as early as "the end of this week". Though work continues on the canteen food truck and on the building interior, he'll be able to cook up some tasty meals to serve on the patio by utilizing the on-site smoker, flattop grill and charcoal grill. (Stewart Grant photo)

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SPORTS —

Tractor Pulling special as it is competitive for father-son duo

By Spencer Seymour

As Brian and Tanner Harris get set to compete in the Ontario Vintage Tractor Pulling Association's (OVTPA) slate of pulls, they took time to reflect with the Independent about the sport that has offered a passion for the father-son duo to pursue together.

"It's a pretty intense sport when you get into it," father Brian Harris told the Independent. "It's fun to have that much power and speed and especially fun coming from a farming background where tractors are such a big part of your life."

Tanner called the experience of tractor pulling "exhilarating", while his father echoed the sentiment, describing it as "a rush."

"You're sitting up there and you're revving the tractor up, you've got the smoke pouring out, and next thing you know, you're flying down the line," Tanner illustrated. "For however much time you're going, there's nothing else in the world except for you, the tractor, and the best time of your life."

"It's something for Tanner and I to do together, enjoy each other's company, and occasionally argue about," joked Brian. "It's a fun sport and a great way for us to spend time together. I started years ago in the 80s and now Tanner is pulling. After he got into it, we bought an old tractor at a farm



sale and fixed it up."

"Of course, eventually, we needed more speed and power and found our current tractor just outside of Quebec. It was pretty beat up and rusted so we brought it home and right away started fixing that one up."

With the duo entering the ring to compete around Southwestern Ontario as part of the OVTPA, Brian explained this year's improvements to their tractor.

"Every year, you add more to it. This year, we've added more power to it with a bigger fuel pump and fuel

lines. Last year, we added a bigger turbo but it wouldn't keep up as it wasn't getting enough fuel so we've added more fuel to it. We've also shaved the tire to get more traction."

Both Harris' made sure to express how grateful they are for the support of local sponsors and their mechanic and "crew chief", Dave Armstrong of Science Hill Farms.

"The sponsors and Dave [Armstrong] have been key for us. Without Dave, we wouldn't be able to do any of this. He's been great with our engine, Wheelley bars, and welding work. He understands these tractors, when

Dave says it's going to run, it's going to run. On top of that, he's a great friend of ours. Dave is a massive help and the support of him and all of our sponsors allows us to continue following this passion."

Along with Armstrong and Science Hill Farms, the sponsors that have helped the duo reach the point they have include St. Marys Ford, Robson Scrap Metals Ltd., G-Tech Electrical, Mr. Amish, Stonetown Door Tech, Dan McAuslan Hoof Trimming, Cherry Hill Carpentry, Strongarm Designs, and MacPherson's Barbershop.

For all the fun and competitive spirit that comes with the sport, Tanner echoed the father-son connectivity aspect of the sport that his dad had also talked about, saying that the sport allows the two to enjoy a special bond.

"Just like my dad said, it's something for us to do together and something I will always be able to look at as something my dad and I did together," said Tanner. "It's special to me and something I hope to carry forward for a long time."

Brian and Tanner will be showcasing their tractor along with other local pulling tractors at an Open House being held on May 27th at Armstrong Motors, located at 4969 Line 10 in St. Marys.

Votorantim Cimentos **St Marys Cement**
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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SPORTS —

Pickleball season continues with plenty of action

May 15th saw a jam-packed slate of games at the St. Marys Courts with 24 St. Marys Pickleball Association (SMPA) members playing a total of 32 games.

Some notable games saw Denis Dumont and young Andrew Bradley win over Hans Scheele and Patty Brine by a score of 11-8. Dumont and Bradley bring experience and youth to the courts as they were able to wear down Scheele and Brine with power and placement. Scheele and Brine made it a close game as they capitalized on their opponents' misguided shots wherever possible.

Chris Evans and Jantje Steele outlasted Mike Brine and Brian McKinnon and came away with a win of 11-8. Stellar placement of the ball by Evans and superior court coverage by Scheele were too much for Brine and McKinnon to overcome. A good time was had by all but it appears a rematch is in the making.

Dan Ferguson and Paul Payette took to the courts against Barb Nicholson and Dwayne Henderson and came away with a victory of 11-7. Nicholson and Henderson dug in their heels and came back from an 8-0 deficit to make it a close match. Their determination was on full display but it was too late to overtake Ferguson and Payette.



Linda McFadden and Merlin Leis took on Dan Ferguson and Mike Richardson in a hard-fought match with Ferguson and Richardson winning 11-6. Ferguson and Richardson used powerful overhead shots to claim numerous exchanges. Leis and McFadden exhibited astonishing court coverage to defend against the attack but came up short.

Pablo Lopez and Carol Venn won over Matt Payette and Mike Ferguson by a score of 11-7. Pablo used spin shots to confuse the opponents while Venn played a soft game to handcuff the other team. Scheele and Ferguson put up a good fight but their lack of playing together became evident.

The action continued on May 17th with 22 matches, including the debut for new members Nancy Mueller and Tammy Thibert, who joined up with Barb Nicholson and Patty


Brine for their first game. Brine and Thibert took the contest by a score of 11-6.

Jantje Scheele and Barry Stone were victorious over Hans Scheele and Brian McKinnon by a score of 11-6. Scheele and Stone were behind but buckled down and made a dramatic comeback to claim the victory.

Matt Payette and Mike Brine claimed victory over Jody Stone and Mike McKinnon by a close score of

11-9 in a game that saw windy conditions affect both sides.

The highlight of the evening was the highly-anticipated best two out of three games between Lisa Evans and Nikki Martin versus Cate Hishon and Jody Stone. Evans and Martin were victorious with two wins and one loss with scores of 11-4, 11-8, and 5-11. This match saw strategic shots by both teams with soft shots at the kitchen followed by winning drives down the middle.



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SPORTS —

DCVI athletes shine at Huron-Perth Track and Field Championship

By Spencer Seymour

Although St. Marys DCVI is one of the smallest schools in the Huron-Perth circuit, the Salukis had a great set of results at the H-P Track and Field Championships last week, picking up a top-three finish in five of six age categories as well as in the overall standings.

The week of events began last Monday with the pole vault event in which the Novice Girls event was won by St. Marys' Bronwyn Hawkins. A total of 36 athletes qualified for WOSSAA in 75 individual events and eight relays.

The Senior Girls team of Lila Corby, Anna Ropp, Marissa Hawkins, Becca Stevens, Lydia Taylor, and Bailey Ross were H-P Champions. DCVI won four of eight relay events including Junior Girls 4x100, Senior Girls 4x100m, Novice Boys 4x100m, and Open Girls 4x400m.

Two of the highlights of the meet included Trevor Richardson crashing into the second-last hurdle in the 300-metre race, getting back up, and storming back for a come-from-behind win, sprinting past teammate Trevor Aarts to win the race. Richardson, Aarts, and Colton Henderson were first, second, and third in



Pictured from left to right are Marissa Hawkins, Lydia Taylor, Lila Corby, Bailey Ross, Anna Ropp, and Becca Stevens, the St. Marys DCVI Senior Girls' Track and Field team who came away from last week's Huron-Perth meet as H-P Champions. DCVI also had a number of athletes win individual events as well as four of the eight relay events being won by the St. Marys team. (Contributed photo)

the race. The trio also earned the top three spots in the Junior Boys Javelin, with Richardson also finishing atop the event.

In the Novice Girls division, Payton Blight took first in both the Javelin

and Discus events. On the Boys' side of the Novice category, Myles Clinton finished first in the 100-metre Hurdles while Danny Switzer took the top spot in both the 100-metre Dash and the 200-metre Sprint.

On the Girls' side of the Junior division, Eden Sinnett finished first in the Javelin event. On the Boys' side, Griffin McGregor took the top spot in the 100-metre Hurdles.

Charles Black earned the top spot in the Senior Boys' 400-metre Hurdles. In the Senior Girls category, Lila Corby finished first in the 100-metre Dash while Bailey Ross claimed the top spot in the 3000-metre run.

In the Open Girls' Steeplechase, Lydia Taylor added another first-place finish to DCVI's list of accolades.

Coach Nathan Good said that he and the other coaches were thrilled with last week's results.

"Megan Bryan, Brad McGhie, Ian Morton, and I are very proud of everyone's achievements," Good told the Independent. "We're excited for WOSSAA next Thursday and Friday at Western Alumni Stadium. The number of top-three results and first-place finishes we had last week were amazing. Another highlight was seeing all 10 throwers having personal best throws on Thursday. Finally, and most importantly, the whole team was great about getting to each other's events to cheer and support them."

St. Marys Bowling Lanes hold Awards Night

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys Bowling Lanes put a bow on their season by holding their annual Awards Night last Wednesday.

The list of special awards handed out to the Lanes' high achievers included the. The Highest Average Award in the Senior category went to Sophie Brockman, who posted a 177. Nathan McKeen took the Junior Highest Average Award with a 172. Leia Slaney earned the Bantam Highest Average with a 124.

The Most Improved Bowler award went to Madelyn Keller who increased her average by 49 points. Tyler Sims joined the 300 Club and was awarded his pin after he bowled a 353 game earlier this year. Attendance pins went to Leia Slaney and Erin Slaney who attended all 35 bowling sessions for a total of 105 games.

During the ceremony, Jesse Brockman recapped the year and highlighted the accomplishments of the young bowlers. The most memorable moments of this season for the lo-

cal Lanes included the Triple's team winning Gold at the Provincials, the Family Twosome taking Bronze at the Provincials, and the High-Low Doubles team finishing fifth at Provincials.

Brockman also described how the YBC doubled their enrollment this year, hosted the first-ever Provincials at the St. Marys Lanes, and trained coaches for YBC. He then thanked all the coaches, including Sabrina Billings, Helen Brockman, Kelvin Chambers, Chris Collins, and Aaron Fisher. He also acknowledged the Master bowlers, including Collins, Derek King, Shane King, Brendan Rinn, and Scott Rinn.

This year, 20 bowlers earned spots at Tournaments and St. Marys bowlers entered a total of 51 tournaments. The YBC bowlers also thanked Quadro Communications for supporting the YBC by paying for some of their tournament lineage fees.

If your child is interested in joining YBC for the 2023-24 year, please contact Jesse Brockman at stone-townbowlinglanes@gmail.com.



Pictured above is Madelyn Keller, who won the Most Improved Bowler Award at last Wednesday's St. Marys Bowling Lanes' Awards Night. (Contributed photo)

SPORTS —

SKC members enjoy success at Kitchener tournament

By Spencer Seymour

Six students of the Stonetown Karate Centre (SKC) posted strong results at the 44th Annual Canadian Open Martial Arts Championships in Kitchener as they continue preparing for their National Team tryouts.

Lisa Sheldon finished in first place in 35+ Adult Black Belt Ladies Point Sparring, while the top spot of 35+ Adult Men Advance Belt Point Sparring was earned by Darren Campbell.

Several younger members of the local Karate program also was involved in the tournament, including Jalyne Lorentz, who took the top spot in both 15-17 Black Belt Open Forms and Traditional Weapons. Lorentz also picked up a second-place finish in 15-17 Black Belt Traditional Forms as well as a third in 15-17 Black Belt Creative Weapons.

Isabelle Lariviere finished second in 15-17 Black Belt Point Sparring and third in 15-17 Black Belt Open

Forms. Fox Houston took second in 11-12 Black Belt Open Forms. Nathan Campbell finished second in 11-12 Black Belt Point Sparring.

According to Sensei Jeremy Lorentz, the tournament offered a good tune-up opportunity for the St. Marys students.

"This tournament gave our students extra mat time in front of judges and other competitors as they prepare for the World Karate Championships Canadian Team National tryouts," Lorentz explained. "We have been super impressed with these students as they put in extra training time and attend tournaments like this one to get ready."

"The sport side of karate has a lot to offer and pushes students to their greatest potential," added Lorentz. "The new friendships made from across the country and the world are also something to look forward to at each tournament."



Six Stonetown Karate Centre students earned great results at the recent 44th Annual Canadian Open Martial Arts Championships in Kitchener. Pictured in the front row from left to right are Jalyne Lorentz, Fox Houston, Nathan Campbell, and Isabelle Lariviere. In the back row, from left, are Lisa Sheldon and Darren Campbell. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

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U13 WOBA Blue with plenty to build on after season opener



Although the result wasn't what he'd hoped, Head Coach Paul Jacobs felt there were plenty of reasons for optimism for the U13 WOBA Blue. Jacobs said that a wet spring and hockey tryouts only gave the team one practice before the season opener. The strong Mitchell squad picked up a 14-6 win. Jacobs also added that, for many parts of the contest, the team's defensive play was strong led by catcher Nolan Stewart. Will Jacobs and Seth Mountain each earned a double while Evan Wolfkamp (pictured above) had a two-run triple. Mountain and Dylan Chateauvert also turned in good showings on the mound, giving the indication that there is plenty for the group to build on. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

SPORTS —

Win over South Huron puts Senior Boys on brink of WOSSAA birth

By Spencer Seymour

In their second-last week of regular season action, the St. Marys DCVI Senior Boys soccer team scored a huge victory over South Huron in their quest to qualify for WOSSAA.

The first of two games in Stratford last Tuesday saw the Salukis take a 2-0 win over South Huron, who has emerged as the direct rivals for the final WOSSAA spot in the Huron-Perth standings. Head Coach Richard Farmer said the game's massive implications had both teams storming out of the gate.

"With all that was at stake and it being our first game of the day, the boys were fired up," said Farmer. "South Huron was also clearly fired up as

they proved to be quite a challenge. South Huron was very strong on defence and didn't give us much space to work with. The breakthrough for us came about midway through the first half when Owen [Littlejohn] tapped in a corner kick that landed at his feet."

While South Huron was tough defensively, they didn't have enough offensive firepower to break through DCVI's defensive line of Andres Gomez, Ryan Hodkinson, Dan Zulu, and Giuseppe Passarelli.

In the second half, Arthur Douglas sealed the win with what Farmer said "had to be the best goal scored this season." Douglas dribbled past two defenders on the South Huron goal line before rocketing the ball

over the keeper's head into the top corner.

DCVI's second game of the day was against St. Anne's and despite dominating the ball possession early, St. Anne's managed to bury a somewhat soft goal on St. Marys. The boys continued to dominate possession but the St. Anne's defence was well organized and made it hard to get a shot on net. On the last play of the game, a cross by Gomez was met by Hodkinson, who headed the ball home to salvage a 1-1 draw.

With the team on the verge of potentially qualifying for WOSSAA, Farmer told the Independent that the group's combination and skill and cohesiveness make them uniquely poised to go on a strong post-season

run.

"There is a lot of skill on this team, more than I have seen at DCVI in my time here," remarked Farmer. "I've seen a large chunk of this team grow up together and play together. The boys really understand each other and because of this, they really play as a team."

The Salukis' final league game was this past Tuesday against Mitchell with a win guaranteeing a playoff spot and second place. Heading into this week, South Huron sat in third place. If this is how the season finishes, DCVI will have to beat South Huron in the playoffs to qualify for WOSSAA.

Snake-bit Senior Girls narrowly fall in second-last game

By Spencer Seymour

A game in which they were consistently the better team and another in which they maintained a hard-working effort wasn't quite enough for the St. Marys DCVI Senior Girls soccer team, who came up winless on their second-last day of the regular season action.

In the first game, the Salukis faced the Huron-Perth league-leading South Huron Senior Girls. Despite being lower in the standings than their opponent, DCVI controlled the game with a high work ethic leading to plenty of solid chances. However, St. Marys couldn't connect with the net and the game ended scoreless.

Co-Head Coach Rachele Pearson told the Independent that the Senior Girls were able to dominate the higher-ranked South Huron squad thanks to their ability to play as a cohesive unit, but when it came to burying on their offensive opportunities, St. Marys was snake-bit.

"We were in [South Huron] end a lot more throughout the game. The team was passing well, communicating, and getting the ball in front of the net often. Our strikers had difficulty getting a quick touch of the ball aimed towards the net. The opportunities were sometimes missed completely, went in the wrong direction, or their defensive player took

possession after we tried to get the perfect shot on net."

The Salukis' second game of the day, this time against St. Anne's, was even more important as it featured the two teams in the battle for fourth place in the Huron-Perth standings squaring off. Although they maintained many of the positive things they'd done in the first game, an early goal by the opposition coupled with fatigue from their heavy recent schedule caused the Salukis to fall 1-0 to St. Anne's.

Pearson said that the only goal of the game, scored around 15 minutes into the match, deflated the team's energy even more.

"A lot of them were still recovering

from the four games they played [at a tournament on May 12]. In addition, we had a practice Monday morning, some of them played ultimate frisbee at WOSSAA on Monday, and a lot of our team had a practice Monday night for their St. Marys soccer team. Much of this team has been playing a ton of competitive sports in a very short period and while we still showed lots of character and battled as hard as we could, we just didn't have quite enough gas in the tank."

The loss means that, to finish in fourth place, the Salukis needed to win this past Tuesday in their final game of the season while St. Anne's needed to lose their two remaining contests.



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SPORTS —

Juggernauts score first win of season in Woodstock

By Spencer Seymour

The fourth division St. Marys Juggernauts travelled to Woodstock last Tuesday and picked up their first victory of the season with a 2-0 shutout over the Stallions.

Player-Coach Braiden Weston recorded the shutout in the St. Marys net and told the Independent that the team displayed their strong character level in the victory.

"As a team, we are extremely happy with how we played Tuesday night in our first away game," Weston commented. "It is never easy playing a game with the scheduling difficulty of this one, a road game on a Tuesday at nine o'clock at night but the guys showed up in a big way and really gave a fantastic effort."

While Weston made several import-

ant stops to help the team secure the win, the Juggernauts' defensive play was at a high level, which, combined with their much-improved transition game, provided the critical tenants to the win.

"Our ball movement and support up and down the field were much better than our season opener [on May 12th]. The guys had much more confidence with the ball at their feet.

Both goals came in the first half with Paulo Linares and Adrian Kalafut both finding the back of the Woodstock net before halftime. Weston said the positive feelings coming out of the victory were enhanced by their opponent traditionally being near the top of the pack.

"Obviously, we were very happy to get the first win of the season against a strong Stallions team. Historically,

Woodstock always has talented teams so it gives us some confidence early on in the season to take three points from them on their home field."

It was also the first outing for both Alfonso Coto and Korey Graham for the B squad and both had very strong games in the midfield. Weston described both as "veteran players who did a great job at taking command and leading the team." Additionally, the team's steady defensive play was credited to the efforts of Jonny Thompson, Evan Bennett, Nick Van Lierop, Duncan Massie, and Jonathan Sanchez.

Being able to defeat a strong squad such as Woodstock takes a very solid effort no matter what day of the week, but getting a 2-0 shutout on a Tuesday night at 9:00 p.m. showed a glimpse of what could be an excep-

tional compete level that Weston believes could be a critical ingredient to propelling this year's fourth division Juggernauts to success.

"Our work ethic and desire to win is extremely valuable to the overall success of the season. It is still very early on in the year but if we can bring that compete level throughout the next three months, I am confident that at the end of the year, we will come away with a winning record. It's always easier to get up for games when you know your squad has a good chance of winning."

"Coming to the field in the dog days of summer is easier when your team is having fun winning matches," Weston continued. "Our squad is full of competitive guys that want to have team success which starts with a strong work ethic up and down the lineup."

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COMMUNITY —

St. Marys Kinettes present Les Smith live in concert



On Wednesday, May 17th the St. Marys Kinettes presented Les Smith in concert with an evening of live music at the United Church in St. Marys. He performed a musical tribute to Garth Brooks and Elton John. It was a great evening enjoying the talents of this local man who has been entertaining audiences for over 15 years. There were over 250 people in attendance. (Nancy Bickell photos)

Perth County Council awards contract for Courthouse Campus Project

Last week, Perth County Council awarded the contract for the 5 Huron Renovation and Connecting Link Addition project to Dakon Construction for just over \$5 million. This decision marks an important step toward a renewed Courthouse Campus for the County's Administration.

Over the past 16 months, staff and the project design team have been working on the 5 Huron Reno & Connecting Link project. The construction tender was issued in April 2023 to eight pre-qualified contractors and

closed in early May 2023. A total of six bids were received on the project. This project will renovate both floors of the 5 Huron Street building (former home of Service Ontario) for the purposes of housing the County's administrative staff along with a new connecting link addition which will provide the main entrance and central reception for both the Courthouse and 5 Huron facilities.

In a report to County Council Director of Public Works, John McClelland, reviewed the progress on the project to

date and shared his excitement about reaching this important milestone. "I am pleased to receive Council's continued support for this project," said McClelland "It has been a long journey to reach this point and it is exciting to see this project move forward."


"This is a historic project for the future home of the County of Perth," said Warden Rhonda Ehgoetz. "Council has shown great leadership in moving the project forward. A tremendous amount of preparation and hard work has gone into bringing the

project to this stage and I am eager to see the plans come to life."

"I am delighted with the support of Council to expand the County's central administration facilities," said Lori Wolfe, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). "County staff are committed to excellence in service delivery and this renewed facility will further support the exceptional work we do for our community."

The project is expected to break ground in Summer 2023 with an anticipated completion date of Fall 2024.

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Solutions on page 31



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COMMUNITY —

Tent caterpillar season has begun



This nest of tent caterpillars was sighted on Rogers Ave on Monday, May 22. Although they seldom kill the infested tree, these caterpillars can cause severe damage, often nearly defoliating the entire tree. If damage is minor and the tree is healthy, the tree can bud again later in the summer. However, repeated defoliation can weaken trees and make them more susceptible to other types of stress. (Murray Grant photo)



PROPERTY TAX REMINDER

All Interim Tax Bills have been mailed.
The Second Interim Tax Instalment is due on

MAY 30, 2023

You can make payments through Telephone Banking/Online Banking (allow 3-5 business days for processing), ATM, at most financial institutions, or by mail. We also offer payment by cash, cheque or debit card at the Municipal Office. Post-dated cheques are accepted. **NEW Online Credit Card Payment option.** Please visit Thames Centre website for more information. Our office is open to receive payments, from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. After 4:30 p.m., a payment slot is located to the left of the office door.

Failure to receive a bill does not exempt you from paying on time. If you have not yet received your tax notice, please call the Municipal Office at 519-268-7334.

Please make sure your payment is received at our office by 4:30 p.m. on May 30, 2023.

Penalty/Interest of 1.25% will be charged on the first day of default and the first day of each month thereafter, per the Municipal Act, 2001 s. 345 (2).

Would you like to receive your property taxes / water billings electronically?

The Municipality of Thames Centre offers the option of receiving your property tax bills and water bills by e-mail. Please contact the tax department for more information at (519) 268-7334 or inquiries@thamescentre.on.ca or download the form at www.thamescentre.on.ca

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COLUMN —

WHAT'S FOR DINNER: Early Summer Flavours



By Lauren Eedy

The first official long weekend of the year is behind us which kicks off the unofficial start of summer. Warmer days are ahead with more daylight, and this calls for relaxing al fresco meals with vibrant flavours, lighter meals, and lots of colour! The following recipes are easily executed and encompass those early summer flavours we've been waiting for.

Grilled Lime Salmon with Avocado-Mango Salsa and Coconut Rice

Serves: 4 Total time: 1 hr

Lime Salmon:

4 salmon fillets (skin on or skinless - your preference)

3 tbsp olive oil plus more for grill

2 tsp lime zest

3 tbsp lime juice

3 cloves garlic, crushed

Salt & freshly ground pepper to taste

Coconut Rice:

1 ½ c coconut water

1 ¼ c canned coconut milk

1 ½ c jasmine rice

½ tsp salt

Avocado-Mango Salsa:

1 large mango, peeled and diced

¾ c chopped red bell pepper (1/2 large)

¼ c chopped cilantro

1/3 c chopped red onion, rinsed under water and drained

1 tbsp fresh lime juice

1 tbsp olive oil

1 tbsp coconut water

Salt and pepper to taste

Method:

For the salmon:

-In an 11x7 baking dish, whisk together olive oil, lime zest, lime juice, garlic and season with salt and pepper (a fair amount of each).

-Place salmon in baking dish, cover and allow to marinate in the refrigerator for 15-30m., then flip and allow to marinate a further 15-30m. Preheat grill over medium heat during last 10m of marinating.

-Brush grill grates with oil. Place salmon on grill and grill about 3m per side until cooked through (turn carefully as salmon will be fragile).

For the coconut rice:

-While the salmon is marinating, prepare the coconut rice. In a medium saucepan bring coconut water, coconut milk, rinsed jasmine rice and salt to a full boil.

-Cover and simmer until liquid has been absorbed (there might be a little excess liquid which can be drained off) about 20m, fluff with fork, then rest 5m.

For the mango-avocado salsa:

-While salmon is grilling, prepare the salsa. In a medium bowl, toss together mango, bell pepper, cilantro, red onion, avocado, lime juice, olive oil and coconut water. Season with salt and pepper

to taste. *Here I added a bit of hot sauce too.

-Serve the salmon warm with coconut rice and top with salsa.

Lemon Blueberry Muffins

Yield: 12 Total time: 1hr

1 ¾ c all purpose flour

1 tsp baking soda

1 tsp baking powder

½ tsp salt

6 tbsp butter, softened at room temperature

¾ c granulated sugar

1 tbsp lemon zest

2 large eggs, room temperature

½ c plain Greek yogurt or sour cream, at room temperature

1 ½ tsp pure vanilla extract

3 tbsp milk, dairy or alternative

3 tbsp lemon juice

1 ½ c fresh or frozen blueberries, if using frozen do not thaw

Crumb topping:

1/3 c all purpose flour

2 tbsp packed light or dark brown sugar

1 tsp lemon zest

2 tbsp unsalted butter

Method:

-Preheat oven to 425°F. Spray a 12-count muffin pan with non-stick cooking spray or line with cupcake liners.

-Whisk flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt together in a medium bowl. Set aside.

-In a large bowl using a handheld or stand mixer, beat the butter and sugar together on high speed until smooth and



creamy. Scrape down sides and add lemon zest, beat for another minute. Add eggs, yogurt, vanilla and mix until combined. It's okay if it appears somewhat curdled. Scrape bowl down again and with mixer running on low speed, begin to slowly add dry ingredients, milk, lemon juice and beat until no flour pockets remain. Gently fold in blueberries and try not to overmix.

-Spoon batter into prepared muffin tins, filling all the way

to the top.

-Make crumb topping by mixing all the ingredients in a small bowl with a fork. Spoon topping evenly on top of each muffin cup, gently pressing down. Bake for 5m at 425°F, then reduce heat to 350°F and bake for an additional 18-19m. Check with a toothpick in the middle to ensure it comes out clean. Total time is 23-24m. Let rest for 5m. Muffins stay fresh, covered for up to 1 week.

Enjoy!!

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A Thorndale girl's compassion to help others

By Nancy Abra

A couple of weeks ago, Sharyl Vandendries organized the 'Spring Boutique Market' event at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre. Along with this very successful vendor market, she held a raffle to raise money for Sara's Highfive.

Sara McClean is an amazing 12-year-old from Thorndale who loves to help people. She works closely with a non-profit group called 'Advocate Connections' which empowers the homeless and marginalized individuals in London to achieve self-efficacy and social justice.

Sharyl Vandendries along with her daughter, Victoria presented Sara with \$450.00 raised at the 'Spring Boutique Market'. After her initial surprise about the amount of money being donated to her cause, Sara finally said, "This is amazing. I can buy so many things for the people I am trying to help. Thank you so much."



Pictured, from left to right, Victoria Vandendries, Sharyl Vandendries, Sara McClean

This spring, Sara who is a grade 6 student at West Nissouri Public School in Thorndale put out a challenge to the

classes at the school to collect items for her Sara's Highfive cause. Several bins filled with non-perishable items

such as snacks, energy bars, toiletries, rain gear and ground covers, etc were collected from the school classes. These items will be given out to people who are living on the streets in London. Mr McNamara's grade 7/8 class won the challenge and a pizza party sponsored by Sassy's of Thorndale.

Sara stated that she is grateful for the support from friends, neighbors, and family. "In two years, I have been able to hand out items to help people celebrate holidays, paid the first month's rent on an apartment, purchased many skids of water in the summer, paid to get someone's dog back, provided bus tickets and gift cards, and bought lots of food and other items for the people who are living on the streets and struggling."

"It feels good to help people who need my support, and I couldn't do it without all the support I have received. Thank you to everyone that has helped me."

Busy garden season ahead for the Thorndale Horticultural Society

By Nancy Abra

For over twenty-five years, the Thorndale and Area Horticultural Society has been significant to the beautification of the village of Thorndale. These dedicated hard-working society volunteers plant, weed, water and maintain the large cement planters and various public gardens in the village, including the gardens at the east end and west end stone gateway signs.

Many of the members have gardens of their own they are busy working in, but they make time to help in the gardens of Thorndale. Every Wednesday evening with weather permitting, usually around ten members gather at the Cenotaph in the heart of Thorndale with weeding tools in hand, then spread out to the various gardens that need their attention. 'Weedy Wednesday' isn't limited to just Society mem-

bers. Residents are encouraged to come out and join in the weeding fun, get a little exercise, meet fellow gardeners, all the while helping to beautify the Village of Thorndale.

The Thorndale & Area Horticultural Society is also busy putting the finishing touches on their annual fundraiser, 'Green Thumb' Garden Tour set for Sunday June 25th, 11am to 4pm. This year's garden tour will feature five gardens consisting of rural gardens south of Thorndale and in the village too, along with the public gardens in Thorndale that the Society maintains. Garden tour passports can be purchased at Thorndale Ace Hardware leading up to that day and on June 25th, the day of the garden tour at the Cenotaph Garden on King Street, Thorndale. For more information about the 'Green Thumb' Garden tour, contact Shirley at 519-461-0855.



Pictured, from left to right, Thorndale & Ara Horticulture Society members Shirley Hacon, Carolyn Noble and Barb Cress at the Rose Garden in Thorndale.

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HISTORY —

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Changes on Queen Street

By Mary Smith

Anyone who has a Rotary Club Historic St. Marys calendar for 2023 will recognize the photograph with this week's column. It was the choice for May, the current month. It wasn't an automatic choice. The original – from the Museum's image collection – is a small snapshot, probably taken with a box camera. When enlarged, its limitations are apparent. The buildings in the distance are blurry and over-exposed. However, the picture contains so much detail about the St. Marys streetscape that it was decided to crop out most of the blurry portion and use it for the calendar.

The photograph was taken in 1954 to record the group of painters at work on the façade of the Grand Central Hotel. Those were the days before safety regulations required secure scaffolding for work on multi-storey buildings, and boardings erected around work sites to protect pedestrians. Although this site has some scaffolding with several single planks, the four painters are working from three extension ladders – sort of. One man has his left foot on a ladder rung and his right foot on a third-storey window sill. Another man appears to be scrambling from his ladder onto the second-storey balcony. A third man is balancing behind the ladders on the narrow ledge of the storefront cornice, stepping around the paint cans set on this ledge. No wonder people on the sidewalk are staring up at these manoeuvres.

While the painters catch the attention of anyone looking at this photograph, others may like the 1950s car, heading eastward on Queen Street. The particularly knowledgeable will identify it as a 1952 Chevrolet four-door sedan. The buildings along the street are of more general interest, however, along with the names on the signboards above the storefronts. For property identification purposes, they occupy Lot 6 (east part) to Lot 10, south side, Queen Street East. There are ten or so storefronts on these five lots. All of these buildings still line the sidewalk in this section of the downtown. Structurally, with the exception of some upgrades and modifications, they look the same as they did 70 years ago.

Only a portion of the building at the right is visible in the photograph but it is easy to identify the solid stone block and red brick façade of 144 Queen Street, currently Hyggeligt Fabrics. This handsome building was constructed in 1904 for Molson's Bank, replacing a late 1860s, three-storey, limestone commercial building in that location. It has had a variety of occupants through its history. In 1954, it was owned by Wilfred March, a tobacco wholesaler.

Next door at 150 Queen Street is the Grand Central Hotel. It is a 1850s frame



The south side of Queen Street East, between Wellington Street and Church Street, 1954.

building, built for Thomas B. Guest, the first mayor of St. Marys. A brick facade and the ornate cornices were added in 1874 by the owner at that time. The name Grand Central Hotel was placed on the band below the upper cornice in the 1880s. It is still there today although the building has not been used as a hotel for more than a century. In 1954, the owner was Catherine Norris, the widow of the last hotel keeper, George Norris. Catherine's granddaughter, Valerie Marshall, had a gift shop in the west side of the retail space. Alex Sparling's grocery store occupied the east side. Valerie later extended her business into the entire street level and had a ladies' clothing store as well as the gift shop. Three generations of the Norris/Marshall family lived in a spacious apartment above the stores. The appearance of this building was greatly improved in the mid-1980s when the owner at that time, Lorne Eedy, had the layers of grey paint stripped away, revealing the original brick. The recessed entrance today leads to Coldwell Banker on one side and to Stonetown Travel on the other.

Brown's Electric was in the small shop east of Sparling's grocery store. As the photograph shows, this shop is part of the Grand Central Hotel (or Norris Block.) It was originally an open archway leading from Queen Street to the back of the hotel where the livery stables were located. When horse-and-buggy travel was replaced by the automobile, this passageway was closed in and converted to additional retail space. Today, in this space, is Simply Sewing, an adjunct to Hyggeligt Fabrics, a comfortable and accessible space for quilting workshops. The Grand Central Hotel is one of the oldest commercial buildings on the main street and its long history is filled with stories. Lorne Eedy's recent book, *Rocks with a Story*, tells many of them.

Next in line on this streetscape are two

elegant brick buildings with elaborate cornices. In 1954, the two-storey one was owned by Walter Clark who had a hardware business. This building, designed by J. A. Humphris, was built in 1897 as downtown display rooms for Maxwells Ltd., the large farm implement manufacturer on James Street South. It later became John M. Adam's hardware store. Walter Clark was a subsequent owner. Today it is the popular Dunny's Source for Sports. Its three-storey neighbour, called the Brandon Block, was the location of an early funeral service in St. Marys, operated by Norman Brandon. Brandon was also interested in municipal politics and served as mayor of St. Marys in 1920-1921. In 1954, it was S. Ross Marriott's furniture store. Stone Home Creatives is currently in this location.

The next section of two-storey limestone buildings (162-166 Queen) is the oldest commercial block on this section of the street. It was built ca 1855 by Milner Harrison, an early entrepreneur in St. Marys. He had a gener-

al store and was also involved in the production and shipping of potash. His stone block originally extended right to Church Street with other contemporary businesses as tenants. In 1954, the storefront business at 162 Queen was a barber shop. Today it is Shackleton's Real Estate. For many years, the store to the east was a pharmacy. In 1954, it was owned by William and Lloyd Somerville. These two brothers had sold the business to Douglas Ashley but they still owned the building. Today, 166 Queen Street is the ever-tempting Chocolate Factory. This storefront also has the distinction of being the location of Timothy Eaton's St. Marys store in the early 1860s before he left to make his fortune in Toronto. Eaton was one of Milner Harrison's tenants.

In 1954, there were two businesses at street level in the three-storey brick building at 172 Queen Street: Frank Robinson's photography studio and Thomas Scott's butcher shop. Today it is the GC Boyle Law office. The two three-storey brick buildings that make up the east portion of this streetscape were built ca 1900, replacing a portion of Milner Harrison's limestone block. Samuel Bartlett, whose family had a bakery and also owned considerable property in St. Marys, was the original owner of 174 Queen Street. In 1954, it was John Murphy's Men's Clothing Store. Stephen McCotter's law office occupies the corner now.

Assessment records show that in the 1950s almost all of these stores had apartments above them, occupied by single, retired people or by young couples starting out. This portion of the downtown – the south side of Queen Street between Wellington and Church Streets – remains quite remarkable. Vacancies are rare, the buildings are well-maintained, and many storefronts have been carefully restored – all contributing to the appeal of the St. Marys business area.

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COLUMN —

HOSTING UKRAINE: Following a Good Example

By VJ Knutson

My mother was one of seven children and birthed six of her own. By the time I was nine years old, I was already an aunt. My sister and her daughter often lived with us, as did my father's youngest sister. "Alice's Restaurant", my Aunt Dee dubbed our house after the 60's pop song and film, by Arlo Guthrie. The line that best described our home was: "You can get anything you want at Alice's Restaurant." Mom never did know who was showing up for dinner, nor how many. It didn't matter. She always cooked for an army.

Mom was a farm girl. There were chores to do, and farmhands to be fed. She learned her cooking skills early. "We always set an extra place for anyone down on their luck, needing a hot meal", she once told me. It was The Great Depression, and many were looking for help.

I think about Mom now as I try to meal plan for our constantly fluctuating household. She made it all look so easy, yet now I appreciate how much planning goes into those 'simple' meals; how carefully she had to time her process and how graciously she demonstrated flexibility. She'd dance around the kitchen, belt out songs, and deliver piping hot meals with a smile on her face. Oh, that I'd ever be so coordinated.

Still, I am coming to appreciate the joy in communal dinners - how many



hands make light work - and that full bellies make for happier souls. I don't think I could have opened my home to so many this past year without Mom's example.

It's the long weekend as I write this. We're preparing for an afternoon BBQ with five of our Ukrainian guests and

some of our own family. The weather is happily cooperating. Tomorrow, we'll have our first community picnic of the season. I am excited for our new family to meet the other Ukrainians here, so that they know they are not alone. Our communal events are such a great way to integrate newcomers into our local life, and spread

a little culture. If you missed the event, watch St Marys Life Facebook page for upcoming picnics. We try to get together monthly, and everyone is always welcome.

Following Mom's funeral, my sister and I both came down with a stomach bug. Luckily, it hasn't spread, but emails and texts pile up waiting for my reply, as well as estate matters that need to be followed up on. I'm feeling overwhelmed. I need some help.

Mostly, I need a coordinator to communicate with and organize volunteer drivers. Some have found jobs out of town and need rides for odd shifts. Some need to go to London for appointments, or Stratford. Our ESL teacher on Saturdays, sponsored by the Rotary Club, can get a bus into town, but does not have transportation home. All of these things prove to be a nightmare when I am the sole point of contact. Did I mention my organizational skills are also sorely lacking? If this sounds like something you might be willing to handle, please contact me.

If you've messaged me about wanting to volunteer as a driver, please don't give up on me. Hopefully, help is on the way.

Till next time.

(Reach me at english.knutson@gmail.com. I'd love to hear from you, especially if you have questions or suggestions for upcoming articles.)

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COLUMN —

FROM THE GARDEN: Live the Garden Life



By Nancy Abra

Live the Garden Life is a program developed by Gardens Canada to educate and inspire people about the vital impact gardens and the act of gardening have on our quality of life.

Last year, the horticultural sector along with garden clubs, societies and avid gardeners celebrated the Year of the Canadian Garden. It was a year of festivities, special activities to honour the Canadian horticulture, our rich garden heritage, today's vibrant growing garden culture as well as establishing important legacies for a sustainable future.

This year, Gardens Canada is embracing the momentum of horticulture awareness and has developed a public campaign to continue to celebrate Canada's garden culture. Garden Days 2023 sponsored by Scotts Canada runs from May 19th to June 18th with contests, activities, and inspiring

beautiful gardens to visit and discover.

As we 'Live the Garden Life', we can also make a difference. Gardeners love to share. We share plants, excess produce, or a bouquet of flowers to cheer up someone from our garden. We can also share our passion for gardening and our knowledge with someone new to gardening. We can encourage them to plant a little veggie garden. It can be as simple as adding a tomato plant or some herbs to their landscape.

As gardeners, we can make a difference in our community for our environment. Plant a tree. Trees help to absorb carbon dioxide while releasing oxygen back into the air. Our summers are getting warmer, trees provide shade. Native trees, such as oak, are keystone species in our ecosystem. Create a rain garden which is a cost effective and beautiful way to reduce runoff and filter out water pollutants from your property. We can also add some native plants to our landscape to attract pollinators which aids in a more productive garden and a better ecosystem. Every action we take to better our gardening practices is a positive action that will make a difference.

Plant purple for 2023. Purple



is a colour that symbolizes nobility, wisdom, pride, and magic. It has a variety of effects on the mind and body, including uplifting spirits, calming the mind, enhanced feelings of spiritually and encourages the imagination and creativity. There are many stunning plants to choose from.... alyssum, coneflower, petunias to unique purple foliage. And there is an array of purple edibles you can add to your garden, from beans, broccoli to peppers and blackberries which are rich

in anthocyanin for a healthier diet.

Personally, I enjoy visiting and experiencing different gardens. Across Canada there are many public gardens as well as historic and ornamental gardens that are administered by Parks Canada to visit. So, include a garden or two to your travels this summer. Locally, garden clubs and horticultural societies have garden tours of both public and private gardens in their area. It is always inspiring to visit other gardens and to dis-

cover why Canada is known as a nation of gardens and gardeners. For a listing, check out <https://gardenontario.org/events/category/garden-tour/>

This year 'Live the Garden Life' and make a difference. There is always something wonderful to discover, to contribute to our community, and to enjoy as we experience and celebrate Canada's unique garden culture.

Source: <https://livethegardenlife.gardenscanada.ca/>

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SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT
SUNDAY, MAY 28 STARTS AT 2 PM
 ST. MARYS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 147 WIDDER ST E, ST. MARYS
 WITH **TOM & ROSE MERRIGAN**
(and friends)
 Pay by donation

Garden Fair
 23rd Annual
 Saturday June 3rd 2023
 8:30am to 1pm

MILT DUNNELL
 FIELD [THE FLATS]
 WATER ST. N. ST. MARYS, ON

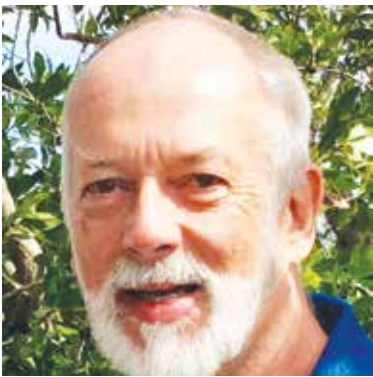

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 VEGETABLES ANNUALS
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 BIRD HOUSES
 GARDEN DÉCOR
 METAL SCULPTURES
 HEIRLOOM TOMATOES
 REFRESHMENT BOOTH
 FREE ADMISSION -- LOTS OF FREE PARKING

St. Marys Horticultural Society

COLUMN —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: AGO art that hits the head and invades the heart



By Paul Knowles

In recent weeks, this space has carried my articles about a sculpture garden in Myrtle Beach and art galleries in Philadelphia both arising from our epic road trip in March and April.

My visits to these treasure troves of artistic creations were truly inspiring. And one of the results of that inspiration was a determination to experience an artistic treasure trove much closer to home.

It's almost a cliché – the observation that we never visit the attractions that are in our back yards.

I decided to take some personal steps to rectify that. I headed off to downtown Toronto (I know, not exactly in my back yard but close enough if the traffic cooperates) to spend an afternoon at the Art Gallery of Ontario which I have long neglected. And I am very glad I did.

It rather felt that I was doing two completely different things at the same time. One, I was enjoying the time-honoured masterpieces from the great European painters to

my beloved Group of Seven artists. I will never, ever get tired of seeing the work of Lawren Harris, Frederick Varley and their Canadian colleagues.

But two, the AGO has clearly made a decision to expose visitors to the latest in art. Some of it is, honestly, rather incomprehensible to me but there was a lot of new stuff that was also truly inspiring. Works by Indigenous artists; thought-provoking art by contemporary female artists; and a temporary exhibit (at the AGO until October 1) of dozens and dozens of photos by Wolfgang Tillmans. The exhibition is called "To look without fear" and it alone demands your attention for a lengthy period of time.

Tillmans is a German photographer born in 1968. The AGO show is described as "a major retrospective of artist Wolfgang Tillmans." This is the first Canadian showing of the multi-room, multi-media exhibition.

There are a few rather graphic photographs. I would think carefully before taking children to see the works but other than that, I would recommend a slow, thoughtful stroll through the expansive exhibition.

It's easy to spend several hours at the AGO. There are a number of galleries featuring Canadian artists. And I have to say, as much as I enjoyed galleries I have visited in the past year in Dublin, Philadelphia, and Myrtle Beach, I always feel the absence of

Canadian works. And our own artists, like the members of the Group of Seven or Emily Carr or Norval Morrisseau or Kent Monkman certainly deserve wider attention.

They get it at the AGO. And that makes it a must-see destination for Canadian art lovers.

The AGO was founded in 1900, then known as the Art Museum of Toronto. Today, the gallery's collection includes more than 120,000 works of art; only about 4,000 can be exhibited at any one time. So it's worth annual pilgrimages to the place to see what has been changed about.

This time around, I especially enjoyed strolling around the massive Henry Moore sculptures in the gallery dedicated to Moore's work. Most of them were actually donated by the artist to the AGO.

I also appreciate the AGO's extensive collection of paintings by David Milne, a Canadian artist (1882-1953) who followed his own muse, developed a unique style and created paintings that are unmistakably his.

One of the pleasures of visiting an excellent art gallery is that you will, inevitably, be introduced to artists you have not met before. One such this time is the Indigenous artist, David Ruben Piqtoukun, whose intriguing sculptures currently occupy several rooms of the gallery.

You will also find yourself walking through a hallway gallery currently showing an



"witness", by Rebecca Belmore, a work that evokes a powerful, emotional response. (All photos by Paul Knowles)

exhibit called "Her Space", "works spanning nearly a century of representing the interior lives of women." Especially striking was a wall-sized photographic piece entitled "Rhythm of a True Space #2" by Suzy Lake.

And speaking of wall sized: the six-panel painting, "Man Changing into Thunderbird, 1977" by the incredible Canadian Indigenous artist Norval Morrisseau (1932-2007) is worth the trip to Toronto. Traffic jams and all. It's just that good.

One thing that consistently draws me through the doors of art galleries anywhere in the world is the very real possibility that I will experience a breath-taking moment, an emotional gut-punch that simply stops me cold in front of a special work.

It happened three times. One was the Morrisseau. And then, the work "The Deluge",

by Kent Monkman carried all the emotional freight I have come to associate with this terrific, bold, contemporary artist.

And while I am not usually a fan of photography as an art form considered equivalent to painting or sculpture, I may have to change my mind based on the sheer, overwhelming impact of a work called "witness" by Rebecca Belmore.

It may not be these same works that grab your attention and your heart as you tour the AGO, but if you take your time at this Toronto treasure house... those moments will happen. You will come away with a head full of new ideas and a heart filled with empathy.

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



"Rhythm of a True Space #2" by American artist Suzy Lake.



"Draped Seated Woman" by the famed British sculptor Henry Moore, who donated many works to the AGO.

Riddles

How much is a skunk worth?

One Scent

What did the laundryman say to the impatient customer?

Keep your shirt on

What's the difference between a TV and a newspaper?

Ever tried swatting a fly with a TV?

Why can't your nose be 12 inches long?

Because then it would be a foot

What did one elevator say to the other elevator?

I think I'm coming down with something

Which hand is it better to write with?

Neither, it's best to write with a pen

What makes the calendar seem so popular?

Because it has a lot of dates

What goes up but never goes down?

Your age

Why do sharks only swim in salt water?

Because pepper water makes them sneeze

- Word Search -

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SUMMER ACTIVITIES

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

Word List

- Tennis
- Pickleball
- Golf
- Boating
- Patio dining
- Baseball
- Fishing
- Farmers market
- Gardening
- Walking
- Quarry swim
- Summer camp
- Kayak rental
- Cycling



The **Riddle Kid** OF THE WEEK

You GO at red and you STOP at green. What am I?



A Watermelon

Melany Smith (10)

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

TONS OF FUN FOR KIDS EVERY WEEK!

PET OF THE WEEK

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



Our Pet of the Week is Reggie, a one year old rescue cat. Reggie can often be seen looking out the window at the passersby, really likes catnip and has ocd when it comes to his litter box. Reggie is a member of the Goad household.



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

PET OF THE WEEK

Did you know??

The most common tapeworm found in dogs is actually spread by fleas!

500 Water Street South St. Marys
www.stmarysvetclinic.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR —

Keep Kids Safe During Lawn Mower Season

Dear Editor,

When I was two years old, I ran into the path of a riding lawn mower and lost my right leg below the knee. It all happened so fast: one moment I was playing outside, and the next I was too close to the mower.

Having grown up as part of The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program, I am now committed to spreading the Association's PLAYSAFE message. With lawn cutting season upon us, I want everyone to know that kids should not ride, operate or play near lawn mowers.

Though I've learned to accept and appreciate who I am today, I want to use my experience to help prevent others from going through what I did. Please make sure children are always at a safe distance from lawn mowers. And don't underestimate the importance of safety when operating any machinery. I urge you to take the necessary precautions to protect yourself and those around you.

If you would like to learn more about how to play safely and hear stories from other young amputees like me who have lost limbs in accidents, visit waramps.ca/playsafe.

Jarod Murray, 21

THE WEEK AHEAD

SPONSORED BY:



McDonald's St. Marys

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Founding and Forever partner of
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PRC & Friendship Centre events - See the Stonetown Crier on Page 5

Friday, May 26

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

Saturday, May 27

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 am to Noon
- Community Breakfast (by donation) at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 am to Noon
- St. Marys Lions Club toll bridge - 8 am to Noon
- Walk for Alzheimer's - Meet at Solis Park, 317 James St S at 10 am
- Armstrong Motors customer appreciation day featuring 3 shows of the Great Canadian Lumberjacks - 10 am to 3 pm
- Ernie Little Celebration of Life open house at the PRC - 1 to 4 pm
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm
- First Baptist Church gospel jazz concert, 34 Church St S - 7 pm

Sunday, May 28

- Wildwood Dragon Boat Challenge at Wildwood Conservation Area - 9 am to 4:30 pm
- A.N.A.F. General meeting - 12:45 pm
- Marvin & Orrie Hartwick 60th Anniversary celebration at St. James Masonic Hall - 1:30 pm
- Create a Smile 5km walk at Milt Dunnell Field - 2 to 4 pm
- St. Marys Presbyterian Church Sunday afternoon concert with Tom & Rose Merrigan - 2 pm

Monday, May 29

- St. Marys Lincolns annual general meeting at the Legion hall - 7 pm

OBITUARY

Lang



Ronald William Lang died peacefully on Monday, May 15, 2023 surrounded by family, while listening to his favourite country music. Predeceased by his beloved "Danish Princess" Birthe less than a year ago after more than 68 years of marriage, as well as sister Shirley (Page), brothers-in-law Douglas Page, Erik Simonsen, Aage Simonsen, and nephew Richard Janes. Dad is survived by his sister Donna Jean (Janes) (Steve), and brothers Wilson (Claudia) and William (Velma). Also leaving to mourn him are: his children Harold (Cindy), Heather, Stephen (Jeannette), John (Bev), and Christopher; his grandchildren Tanya, Curtis (Lorne), Andrew (Alicia), Alison, Harrison, Dylan (Rachel), and Aaron; and his great grandchildren Athena, Emma, Milla, Samuel, and Meka. Dad will also be missed by many nieces, nephews, and dear friends. Dad was born on April 26, 1933, in St. Mary's to the late Judge Harold DeFoe and Marion Christine (Grieve) and had three great loves in his life: farming, worker's rights, and Mom. Taking over the family farm in 1953, Dad and Mom worked it until the land was expropriated by the government in the early 1960s. It was during this period that Dad found his passion for the labour movement, when he became a member of the United Cement Lime and Gypsum Workers, eventually becoming President of the Woodstock and District Labour Council (Honourary Life Member). Dad, with a grade 10 education, was sent by the labour council to study at the Labour College of Canada while he was still farming and working at the Woodstock cement plant (graduating with "great distinction"). After the farm expropriation, and Dad entered the University of Waterloo as an adult student, where he obtained his B.A. (Honours) and M.A. in Political Science, culminating in a PhD from the London School of Economics where he attended on a Canadian Council Scholarship. Dad's thesis "The Politics of Drugs" is much cited in the field to this day.

After a brief stint as an Assistant Professor at York University's Glendon College, Dad became the Director of Research, then Director of Research and Legislation, with the Canadian Labour Congress, where he worked for over fifteen years before retiring. Among Dad's many distinctions, he was a member of both the Advisory Council to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and the Advisory Council to the Minister of Agriculture, was a labour representative on the Metric Commission, the Committee on Bankruptcy and Insolvency, the Board of Directors for the Canada Post Corporation, as well as a member of multiple task forces. Dad also was one of the founders of the Canadian Labour Market and Productivity Centre, and served as Honourary Chairman of the fundraising committee to establish the Stanley Knowles Visiting Professorship in the Canadian Studies Program at the University of Waterloo. Dad received the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal for his contributions to public policy and the trade union movement, was entered in the Canadian Who's Who, and was the recipient of an Honourary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Waterloo.

Dad was also a prolific (and self-taught) restorer of antique boats and canvas canoes. He was famous for saying one of his favourite quotes: "If God wanted us to have fiberglass boats, he would have made fiberglass trees." Known for his acerbic tongue and wicked sense of humour, Dad was always quick off the mark, making Mom and everyone around him laugh. Dad would be embarrassed by all of the accolades referenced in his obituary, and although having attended meetings with the likes of Pierre Trudeau and Margaret Thatcher, Dad was never more comfortable, or at home, than socializing with, and advocating for, the everyday worker. He hated the thought of his obituary reading like a resume (sorry Dad). Dad also became more and more despondent with the state of the world, particularly the disparity in income. It is therefore appropriate and fitting that the family leave everyone reading this with the following quote from our dear father when speaking to graduates upon receiving his honorary doctorate: "I also ask, in the every day actions of your new graduate life, to do what small things you can to reverse the present trend in society." Well done Dad. If only more people took to heart your words. You will be dearly missed and please say hi to Mom. A special thank you to the loving and caring staff at Groves Park Lodge in Renfrew who provided exemplary care to Dad and treated him like family. Like Mom, Dad would simply ask, in honour of his memory, that you help the less fortunate in society. If, however, you are so inclined to make a donation, please consider the Arnprior Food Bank, the Stanley Knowles Professorship at (<https://imodules.uwaterloo.ca/s/1802/21/form.aspx?sid=1802&gid=2&pgid=702&cid=1684>) (select, "Other Fund" and include in the comments, "Stanley Knowles Professorship" and select "In memory or honor of someone special: Ronald Lang") or the Groves Park Lodge Auxiliary. Private viewing for the immediate family occurred on Friday, May 19, 2023 followed by cremation. Public visitation took place at the Boyce Funeral Home, 138 Daniel Street North, Arnprior, on Saturday, May 20, 2023 between noon and 2:00 p.m. A memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m., followed by a reception at the Boyce Reception Centre. The service was live streamed and is available on Ronald's tribute page on the funeral home website. Condolences/Tributes/Live Webcast at www.boycefuneralhome.ca

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- Step 2. Click play on the online player



OBITUARY

Bonis

David Alexander Bonis (86) of Daytona Beach, Florida, passed away peacefully on May 10th, 2023, with his family by his side, after valiantly fighting various cancers for 3 years.

David was born October 10th, 1936, in Stratford, Ontario, Canada, to Nelson Bonis and Dorothy Jamieson.

David is survived by his wife Linda Johnson Bonis, son Martin Bonis (Molly) and daughter Carol Przepi-ora (Marty), and granddaughter, Madison Ann Bonis. He was predeceased by his first wife, Beverly Martin Bonis (1976).

David graduated from Huron College at The University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario in 1959 with a business degree. After briefly working as an accountant, he obtained a certificate in education and taught secondary school for 35 years. He resided in St. Marys, Ontario for his entire working life. Following retirement, David moved to Ormond Beach, FL in 2003, and then to Daytona Beach, FL in 2013.

David enjoyed the outdoors, playing tennis and golf, riding his bicycle, and maintaining a garden that often won horticultural awards. His indoor activities included a passion for studying the global economy and being well-versed in financial market news and politics. David also enjoyed country music, sharing his knowledge, and being actively involved in the church. He loved dogs and seldom passed on an opportunity to provide treats and affection to any canine in his path. He had an enormous heart that will be remembered by family and friends.

A memorial service will be held at St. James Episcopal Church, in Ormond Beach, at a date to be determined.

Interment will take place in St. Marys, Ontario at a future date.

ANNOUNCEMENT

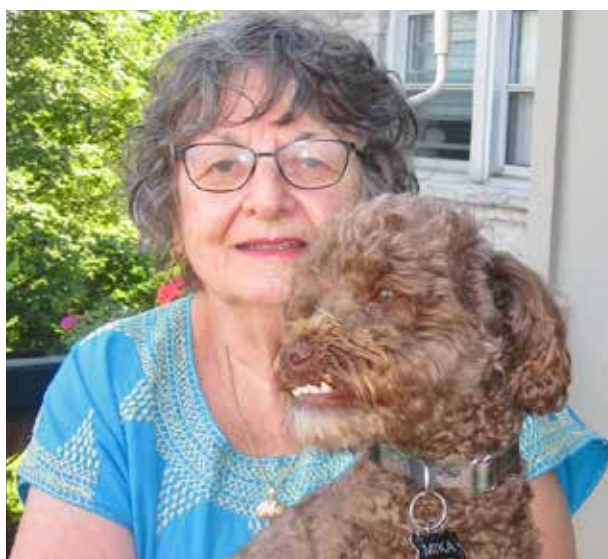
60th Wedding Anniversary



Please join us in celebrating with Marvin and Orrie Hartwick

for their 60th Wedding Anniversary
on May 28, 2023 at 1.30 PM
 at St. James Masonic Hall,
 48 Thames Rd. North in St. Marys Ontario

CELEBRATION



Please join us!

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

IN MEMORIAM

Barclay



**In memory of Wilfred Rae Barclay
 1931 – 1998**

*It broke our hearts when you left us
 It happened so suddenly
 You didn't get a chance to say good-bye
 Through the years we find it hard to get over your loss
 Your personality was huge and difficult to forget
 Your presence expanded and filled the whole room
 No one spread more love in a lifetime
 You had a heart of gold
 Christmas is not Christmas without you there.*

**Forever loved and sadly missed
 Gone but never forgotten
 Brian Kelly and family
 Gary and Ann Kelly and family
 Brenda and Karl Douglas and family.**

OBITUARY

Wright



One hundred plus, what an amazing number!

The family of Elizabeth "Libby" Wright are saddened to report Libby's passing on May 17th, 2023 at St. Marys Memorial Hospital. Libby, who grew up in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, fell in love with a sailor, Gordon

Wright, and moved to his hometown of Toronto after the war. They enjoyed their retirement in Coboconk and summers in Muskoka until Gordon's death, when Libby moved to St. Marys. She enjoyed an active life with her WI friends, events at the Friendship Centre, and puttering in her garden.

Libby raised three daughters, Nancy Milano, Carole Swetman, and Susan Ashley, and was Granny to 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, many of whom joined her in October to celebrate her 100th birthday.

Thank you to the supportive staff at Fairhill, her valued PSW team, and to the thoughtful Diana. Cremation has taken place, and the family will gather to celebrate her life at a later date. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

IN MEMORIAM

Bannick

**In memory of Sandra E. Bannick
 May 31, 2020**

*Not a day goes by that we don't think of you.
 So many reminders in everything we do.
 All the moments that we miss, your laughter and smile.
 You were the strength in our family who went the extra mile.
 They say that time heals all, but the pain is still so strong.
 We hope you found your peace, to us you'll never be gone.*

**Missing you dearly
 Sara-Jane, Jason, Gord, Porter, Rowan and family**

St. Marys Independent

**SUBMIT YOUR
 MEMORIAM, THANK
 YOU, OBITUARY, OR
 ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Email us at
info@stmarysindependent.com
 or call 519-284-0041**

**Have you been affected by
 someone else's drinking?**

**Al-Anon Family Groups can help
 YOU! Monday, Friday & Saturday. Call
 for time and place.**

1- 800- 706- 9833 or App Available

OPEN HOUSE

Little



Ernie Little, who passed away on March 2, 2023 at the age of 85, will have a Celebration of Life Open House in the Community Hall at the St. Marys Pyramid Recreation Centre, 317 James St. S., St. Marys, on May 27th from 1 to 4 pm. Words of Remembrance at 2:30 p.m. Remember to wear a jersey! Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneral-home.ca.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Bannick



Sandra Bannick (Nee Porter) After three long years and many setbacks, we invite you to celebrate the life of an amazing woman who touched the lives of many throughout her 80 years.

Please join us :

St. Marys Army and Navy (Downstairs)
23 Wellington Street North
Saturday, June 10th
1:00pm - 5:00pm (Drop In)

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Thomson



Celebration of Life for Barry and Murray Thomson
Please join us at the St. Marys Legion,
66 Church Street North, St. Marys
Sunday June 4th - 1-4 pm

Are You A Newcomer To The St. Marys Area?

The friends of the library has a FREE Welcome Package for you to pick up at the library!

- Phone Book
- Recreation Info
- Health & Wellness
- Gifts + MORE
- Maps
- Local Services
- Coupons

St. Marys Public Library, 15 Church St. 519-284-3346

THANK YOU

Burgin



May 10, 2023 marked our 60th wedding anniversary.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all our family, neighbours and friends for the cards, messages, and treats.

Many things have changed since 1963: Mt Pleasant United Church no longer exists nor does the green '57 Volkswagen (the honeymoon vehicle) placed snugly between two maple trees on the brides' fathers' farm lawn.

And brother George's '59 Mercedes (the substitute honeymoon vehicle) isn't stuck in the mud just off the edge of the farm lane. Most things have been for the better, though not for the worse.

Thanks to all for good times.

Harold and Aileen Burgin

THANK YOU

Kittmer

A big thanks to all my family, friends. Uniondale Firefighters and goodies from the grand kids. Thank you for the cards, visits, phone calls and gifts at my recent birthday party.

Ken Kittmer

The St. Marys Farmers' Market

This week's featured items:

Rhubarb and Asparagus

Vendors wanted! Email us to learn more: stmarysfarmersmarket92@gmail.com



Saturdays 8 am to noon at Milt Dunnell Field



Connect with us for updates!

AUXILIARY BINGO

CASH PRIZES

WED. JUN 7
PYRAMID REC CENTRE

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM,
START TIME IS 7:00 PM

34

80

LOOKING BACK



By AMY CUBBERLEY

The Happy Rovers

25 years ago (1998)

Some St. Marys residents and visitors are concerned following an article in Thursday's Globe and Mail. The story was about a liquid paper mill waste product which is being used by rural townships in Ontario to control dust on gravel roads. The producer, Norampac, calls the product Dombind, and gives it free (municipalities pay the trucking fee) to about 70 municipalities in Ontario.

The St. Marys DCVI girls rugby team is holding a car wash this Saturday at GOCO.

St. Marys Tennis Club members were out getting the courts ready on Saturday afternoon. Several members were out painting benches, cleaning, sweeping, and painting the court surface.

50 years ago (1973)

Spring is definitely here. The Weir Fountain at Queen and Wellington is back in business!

Journal-Argus readers planning a trip overseas this year may be relieved somewhat to learn that it is no longer necessary to obtain a smallpox vaccination and accompanying certificate for re-entry into Canada.

We are informed by P.U.C. that they have definite plans to move the utility poles which presently sprout from the east sidewalk of the Peel Street South hill.

A second grant under the Opportunities for Youth program for St. Marys has been received. Named the "Happy Rovers", a group of six young people will receive \$6,310 to provide companionship, social activities, and do odd chores for senior citizens and shut-ins in five area communities.

75 years ago (1948)

Though the town by-laws strictly prohibit the running at large of dogs within the town limits from the first of May onwards, there are still a considerable number of canines straying onto garden properties. One such animal was struck by a passing car on Queen Street on Wednesday morning and was taken under treatment by assistant constable George Aldis.

A new firing device for blasting has been introduced at the St. Marys Cement Co. quarries. This machine energizes each shot-hole in succession, causing the blast to ripple along the face of the rock, thus reducing the blast and tremor to force of a single shot hole charge. Previously many holes were fired at one time.

After several years of inactivity, tennis playing is getting a start again in St. Marys. One court, suitable for singles or doubles, has been completed at the St. Marys Collegiate Institute, and two other courts are in the planning stage. The completed smooth gravel court was raked and laid out by the boys of the school under the supervision of Mr. Charles Courtneage, physical training instructor.

100 years ago (1923)

The Harrington chopping mill, owned by Mr. Robert Duncan, was destroyed by fire of unknown origin on Tuesday morning. Mr. Duncan, who lives with his brother near Harrington, was unaware of the fire until a neighbor who lives in the mill residence arrived and notified him that the building was all but destroyed. Nothing could be done to save the mill. The loss will be a heavy one, although partly covered by insurance.

The Chief of Police is warning owners to keep their dogs tied up. Complaints have been received from farmers that they are chasing their sheep and instruction has been given to shoot any dogs on their premises.

Although they were only three masons and builders in St. Marys at the present time, they are now practically idle and unless further building operations speedily commence, will be forced to look elsewhere for work. This will mean that St. Marys will be practically without skilled workers for this class of work and citizens who wish to do minor repairing will be forced to pay exorbitant charges to outsiders.

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- 3) Tennis elbow
- 4) Ukraine
- 5) The North Pole
- 6) Jupiter
- 7) Twenty
- 8) Amstel
- 9) 27
- 10) Badger

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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