

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1161

Thursday, June 1, 2023

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It's ALL back THIS WEEK!

Thursday - Wing Night
Friday - 9 & Dine for \$39
Sat - Music in Valley

with Roy's Garage who will also be headlining Heritage Festival this summer! Come join the fun

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A Community Breakfast



There was an amazing turnout for Saturday's By-Donation Community Breakfast at Milt Dunnell Field, sponsored by Happy Valley Family Health Team and the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation. Pictured above, from left to right, are St. Marys Healthcare Foundation Chair Cindy Bilyea, Dr. Tania Wilson, and Dr. Jon Schiedel. Local businesses such as Delmar Foods, Stonetown Supply Services, Lactalis Canada, Devizes Cheese Shop, Perth County Dairy, McCormick Canada, Grahm Farms, Jackson's Pharmacy, Tremblett's Independent Grocer, and St. Marys Tim Hortons also contributed to make the event possible. (Contributed photo)

Heritage Festival full of fabulous live entertainment

A solid Saturday from morning until... Rotary Fireworks

The Saturday of this year's Stonetown Heritage Festival will be chockablock with a variety of live entertainment, much of it new to the festival!

"The festival is just over a month away on July 14 to 16," says Town of St. Marys Events Coordinator Alanna Bowes. "Saturday's programming will definitely be a highlight!"

The intersection of Queen and Wellington Streets will feature demonstrations and performances throughout the day from Dragon Breath Entertainment hula hoop and fire artist, plus Nick Nets, a basketball net stilt walker, thanks to the generosity of McLean Taylor Construction.

Continued on page 2

Bike Rodeo to be held this Saturday

Starts at 10 am at the PRC

Time for all the Moms and Dads out there to mark their calendars. On Saturday, June 3rd the Optimist Club of Downie Annual Bike Rodeo is going to be at the Pyramid Center in St. Marys.

From 10:00 am to at least 12 noon kids will be encouraged to learn some of the rules of the road while riding the specially designed course.

In conjunction with the St. Marys contingent of the Stratford Police, every rider will learn intersection etiquette, obstacle avoidance, balancing technique and get the opportunity to find out how fast they are in the radar challenge.

For participating, every child will have their helmet inspected for worthiness and fit by the great people from Brain and Mind Matters Community Foundation. As well, all riders will have the opportunity to register their bicycles with Project 529. Read more about this great initiative at www.project529.com>stratford-policeservice. Every single rider will have their bike checked over for maintenance and receive hot dogs, snacks, gift cards and ice cream cards.

All of this is due to the continued sponsorship received from the following companies: Ashton Tire, Cascade Cleaners, Easy Lift Doors, Fraser Paving, Graham Energy, Harris-Greig Automotive, Hearn's Ice Cream, Ideal Supply-St. Marys, Neumeister Motors, Paul Mathieson Insulation, Snapping Turtle Coffee Roasters, St. Marys Building Centre, St. Marys Independent, Stratford Farm Equipment, Stratford Motor Products, Tim Hortons-St. Marys, Tradition Mutual Insurance, Tremblett's Independent Grocery, and Tremcar Inc.. Some are long time sponsors and some are brand new but the Optimist Club appreciates every single one of them and encourage you to patronize these establishments if you can.

Because of this great support the Optimist Club are pleased to have the ability to offer a draw at the end of the event for four \$200 gift cards. The winners are split evenly between younger and older riders. Last year, there were a record 139 participants and they would like nothing more than to see that record broken. Thank you from the Optimist Club of Downie!

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



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COMMUNITY —

Heritage Festival full of fabulous live entertainment

Continued from page 1

There will also be skateboard demonstration courtesy of Square One Skate Shop and the Rotary All Wheels Park, plus local musicians performing throughout the day, including young musicians from The World's Coolest Music Store.

In addition to these feature performers, youngsters can enjoy a downtown Kids Zone, presented by Trow Nutrition. This area will include inflatables, face painting, ac-

tivities from the Town of St. Marys EarlyON Centre, the St. Marys Museum, the St. Marys Public Library and the Museum of Ontario Archeology.

Meeting at the Lion's Pavilion in Milt Dunnell Field, the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority will lead a workshop exploring river life at 10:00 a.m. The 45-minute workshop is geared toward children and pre-registration is not required. While at Milt Dunnell, be sure to

stop by the St. Marys Farmers' Market between 8:00 a.m. and noon.

Milt Dunnell Field will be the place to be the Saturday evening of the festival, as a concert featuring wonderful local acts takes the stage, presented by Armstrong Paving and Materials Group Ltd. York Street Thought Process (indie folk duo) open the show, followed by The Bone Radlers (folk duo); Roy's Garage (classic rock band) will perform as the sun sets.

As per tradition, the Rotary Fireworks will light up the sky come dusk (approximately 10:00 p.m.). Similar to New Year's Eve, the fireworks will be set off from the Grand Trunk trestle, and St. Marys Rotarians will be roaming the area with donation buckets to help offset the cost of the display.

The full festival schedule is available at www.discoverstmarys.ca/festival; watch for more details as the dates approach!

St. Marys Imagination Library making incredible strides

Eighteen months after starting the St. Marys Imagination Library, a free book gifting program for young children, Dennis DesRosier and Chantal Lynch recently provided an update on the fantastic progress made to date. The update reads as follows: "We have all good news, indeed great news.

First, we are coming up on distributing our first 2,000 free books to children under five years old who live in the N4X postal code.

Second, our initial goal was 300 children registered and the Dolly Parton movement (the imagination library movement was started by her) told us it would take about five years to reach our goal. This community did it in five weeks. What a great community.

Third, we have had close to 100 children "graduate" from the program which happens after a child turns five years old.

Fourth, despite those graduating, we still have close to 300 children registered. Chantal and I carry around bookmarks and give them to anyone we see with a young child and about two out of three have never heard about our program. So, we have work to do.

We have a few requests:

First, we would like to ask this group to help us find children in N4X who

are not registered. According to the census we believe there are about 400 children eligible in our area. If you have a friend, neighbour, relative or like the two of us, see someone pushing a pram tell them to go to our website and read about the program and to register their child.

Just google St. Marys Imagination Library and all the relevant information is there.

Second, we would like to hear your stories if you have a child on the program. Just post them on our website (www.stmarysimaginationlibrary.com). For instance, what is your child's favourite book? Has the program got them interested in reading? Do you now read to your child more often?

Dolly Parton's parents were illiterate and that is why she started this program which now supplies millions of free books to children internationally. She would love to know your child's story.

And finally, although the program is free, we would like you to consider a tax-deductible donation. We set it up as an Endowment which will fund the program in perpetuity once we reach our goal. I (Dennis) started the endowment with a \$100,000 contribution, and Chantal and I have raised about another \$50,000 so we are halfway to our \$300,000 goal. In addition, to let the endow-

ment grow, rather than use money from the Endowment, the two of us just pay for the books each month which is about \$1,200 a month.

And we will continue to do this until the endowment is self sustainable, but we need help to reach our goal. If you think about it, \$1,200 a month for 300 books is a pretty good deal.

It costs about \$500 to provide a child with books for the full five years, so you could sponsor a child!! Or if you feel very generous, you could pay for a month! If you work in St. Marys, ask your employer to make a contribution: \$5,000 for a company should be very doable for them and any contribution (corporate or personal) can be made monthly un-

til you reach the amount you want to donate.

And we have made it very simple. Just go to the donation page on our website, www.stmarysimaginationlibrary.com/donate-online. Or just google St. Marys Imagination Library and all the relevant information is there.

But first and foremost, help Chantal and I find those children in St. Marys who are NOT on the program.

By the way Chantal has free bookmarks at her store downtown. Stop in and say hello and pick some up to give to anyone who wants to register a child and/or to your employer and fellow employees. We can do this!"



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Sunny	Sunny	Sun/cloud	Potential showers	Mainly sunny	Sun/cloud	Potential showers
 30°C	 32°C	 32°C	 27°C	 26°C	 26°C	 21°C
Feels Like 32	Feels Like 32	Feels Like 34	Feels Like 31	Feels Like 28	Feels Like 28	Feels Like 21

COMMUNITY —

A Strong Foundation



These members of the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation were among the many who donated their time in making Saturday's Community Breakfast at Milt Dunnell Field a great success. Pictured from left to right: Bernice De Decker (Communications), Amanda McCurdy (Vice Chair), Erin Reynolds (Director) and Pat Craigmile (Director). (Contributed photo)



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EDITORIAL —

Pride Month well supported locally

By Stewart Grant

Pride Month has officially been around for a long time (originating after the Stonewall riots of 1969), but certainly in recent years, recognition of Pride Month has grown considerably in scope and in scale. This is a positive sign that our society is becoming more inclusive, and its pretty obvious to most that we have come a long way compared to where we used to be.

Stratford-Perth Pride is a local organization that, since 2017, has done much to support attitudes of inclusion and acceptance, including many events that are taking place this month. Per their website, www.stratfordperthpride.com, they are a "non-profit organization that provides 2SLGBTQIA+ programming, resources and education to make Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County a more welcoming, accepting and inclusive community."

Education is part of Pride Month – so if you're like me, you might have known what LGBTQ stood for, but haven't kept up to know 2SLGBTQIA+. So, I've Googled it for you: it is an acronym for Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and the plus sign reflects the countless affirmative ways in which people choose to self-identify.

In general, just be accepting of people regardless of how they choose to identify. Seems easy enough!

Back to local events... the first thing you will notice as we enter Pride Month is the nice added touch of colour in the community. Last week in Stratford, thanks to the efforts of Stratford-Perth Pride, Sirkel Foods, and to many other

community members and businesses, the Rainbow Crosswalk near City Hall was redone and looks better than ever. In St. Marys, the Town will again install various banner flags throughout the downtown core to emphasize that the Stonetown is a welcoming community. The banners look fantastic as well.

This Sunday, June 4th, the Perth County Pride March (formerly the Stratford Pride Parade) will take place at 1 p.m., with the 1.5km walking route going from Tom Patterson Theatre to Upper Queen's Park.

The following Sunday, June 11th, the 2nd Annual St. Marys Pride Day will take place at Milt Dunnell Park. There will be live music, vendors, food trucks, a kids' play area, and a Drag Storytime taking place at 2:00 p.m.

In summary, there's many ways locally to participate in Pride Month in whatever capacity you choose to. I think we should be thankful that our community continues to evolve in a positive, accepting way.

Unfortunately, this is not the case everywhere... again, in the spirit of "education", I encourage you to take note of what is currently happening in the State of Florida where GOP Presidential candidate Ron DeSantis is currently governor and where significant anti-LGBTQ legislation has been recently passed. As we generally move forward here in Canada, Florida is among the states travelling backwards in a very troubling way and hopefully things don't deteriorate further south of border. This is all the more reason to appreciate and to celebrate the inclusiveness that we have here in our local community.

Bravo

We have one Bravo this week.

Bravo to the Town Council for making the correct decision re:Pride Flags and religious flags. The arguments made by Kittmer in the report submitted to Council were clear and cogent. The Town's adoption of the draft Commemoration Policy should make it clear that St Marys is a town that embraces and promotes diversity, equity and inclusion.



Boo

We have one Boo this week.

Boo to the Town for not including Huron Street to be included in the recent Community Safety Zone. Both Huron Street and James Street are equally close to both schools, the difference being James Street is a Community Safety Zone and Huron Street is not. Wellington Street and Thomas Street have Community Safety Zones but no schools.



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

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

Quote of the Week

"On behalf of the Government of Canada, I congratulate Danielle Smith and the United Conservative Party of Alberta on their re-election. I look forward to continuing to work with Premier Smith and the provincial government to deliver results for Albertans – including growing the economy, creating good jobs for the middle class."

- Justin Trudeau congratulating Danielle Smith after her election victory this week.

St. Marys Independent

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The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK

Sponsored by:



395 Queen Street West

Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground

Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.

The only exercise some people get is jumping to conclusions, running down their friends, side-stepping responsibility, and pushing their luck.

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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

COMMUNITY —

19th annual 'Create a Smile' 5km walk



The 19th annual 5km walk for 'Create A Smile' in association with Community Living St. Marys and area was held on Sunday, May 28th 2-4pm at Milt Dunnell Field. There was a silent auction and you could create your own team. Donations to the Create a Smile Fund were done through their website. Over 100 people were in attendance along with employees of the Community Living and many volunteers. Altogether over \$21,000 was raised. Thank you to everyone who made this year's event a huge success once again. (Nancy Bickell photo)

WHAT A SUCCESS!

Little Falls Public School Says

THANK YOU!

We would like to acknowledge the many businesses that donated to the Carnival. Thank you for supporting the students and for your community spirit!

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 168 Spa • Avon Foster Family Services • Betty's Bookshelf • Campbell's Canteen Food Truck • Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame • Chocolate Factory • Custom Covers • Delmar Foods • Dunny's • Famly • Finnie Distributing • Foodland St. Marys • Four Happy Restaurant • Green Haven Bakery • Hairitage • Harris Greig Automotive • Hearn's Ice Cream • Hitching Post • Hubbard Pharmacy • Into The Wild • Jackson's Pharmacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacobs Liquidation • Little Caesars • Little Falls Car Wash • Lyric Flowers • MacPhearson Barber • Marine Land • McDonald's • New Orleans Pizza • Nina Polidoro Photography • O'Grady's • Paint & Palette • Pet Value • Porsche of London • Revive • Sam's Home Hardware • Savile Construction • Sensations • SMMHA 7U Program • Snapping Turtle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Square One Skate Shop • St. Marys Golf & Country Club • St. Marys Lincolns • St. Marys Minor Soccer • St. Marys Ringette • St. Marys Bowling • Stone Home Creatives • Stonetown Cheese • Subway • Sunset Diner • The Flower Shop & More • The Stonetown Barber • Thomson Martial Arts & Fitness • Tim Horton's • Tito's Pizza • Town & Country Cheese Shop • Troyer's Spices • Tupperware - Denise Spense • Vitality Health & Fitness • Your Independent Grocer St. Marys • Zenfire Pottery
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Illustrations of kids designed by Freepik.com

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2023

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

discoverstmarys.ca/festival

SHOWER PROGRAM

Tuesdays, 9 AM - 1 PM | Pyramid Centre

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

519-284-2160



YOUTH PAINT NIGHT

Wednesday, June 14 | 4 - 5:30 PM

Enjoy a night of artistic creativity at the Pyramid Recreation Centre with local business Stone Home Creatives!

townofstmarys.com/activenet 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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 2. Click play on the online player



Contact us

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Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Cora Mitchell who is celebrating her 91st birthday on June 8. Cora was born June 8, 1932, the youngest of six children, on the family farm in Blanshard township to parents Bristol and Elsie Holden. Cora attended the Transvaal one room school house in Blanshard and then moved with her parents into St Marys when her parents sold the farm. She worked in the office doing accounting at Maxwells until it closed. She later worked at the Hospital in the office. In 1952 she married St Marys resident Lawrence Mitchell at St Marys United Church and they lived in the same house as her parents until Lawrence and Cora moved to Parkview Rotary condos more than 10 years ago. Lawrence passed in 2013. Cora and Lawrence were / are faithful members of St Marys United Church. She was very active in the McConnell Club and is still one of the members.. Cora and Lawrence have 2 children, daughter Corina and son Phil and one granddaughter Katelyn. Happy Birthday Cora!

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

Weekend Quiz

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16 Water Street South
519-284-3288

- 1) What is the only domesticated animal not mentioned in the Bible?
- 2) Okinawa is a volcano in which country?
- 3) When facing forward on a ship, which direction is starboard?
- 4) In the 60s what was the first name of John F. Kennedy's wife?
- 5) What is the largest country in South America?
- 6) Who was the first country artist to sell over 10 million copies of an album?
- 7) How many flowers are in the design stamped on each side of an Oreo cookie?
- 8) Black-eyed peas are not peas. What are they?
- 9) What was the first city to be levelled by a plutonium based atomic bomb?
- 10) What sport did Herve Filion top with a record of 14,084 wins?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27

COMMUNITY —

Popular St. Marys Kinsmen Summerfest Returns for 2023

Submitted by Chris Swarhout, St. Marys Kinsmen Club President

This year, St. Marys Kinsmen Summerfest is back, rain or shine on Thursday, July 20 - Saturday, July 22. The family-oriented carnival is geared towards smaller children. Cope Amusements is back with many of the rides they featured last year. Pre-sale bracelets will be available at the Farmer's Market on Saturday, July 8th and at the Heritage Festival on Saturday, July 15th only. Look for the Red Kinsmen tent. Cash only.

New this year we will be having food trucks on Saturday, July 22nd starting at noon. We will be featuring a wide variety of foods with something for everyone.

We've teamed up with the United Way and given them a platform for their 2nd Annual Bed Race. St. Marys Home Building Centre will be defending their first place title. Bed races start at 1pm on the west side of Milt Dunell Field. Please note: Milt Dunell Field will be two-way traffic to accommodate the bed races from 1pm-3pm with very limited parking.

Be sure to sign up for our 1st Annual Corn Hole tournament from 3pm-5pm located in the refreshment tent. Spots are limited so be sure to sign up now. Teams of two. Three grand prizes to be won. \$20 per team to sign up. Visit the "contact us" portion on our website to sign up.

The licensed refreshment tent will feature DJ Shawn Holroyd filling your ear holes with some great jams all three nights - Top 40 on Thursday night from 9pm-1am, Country night on Friday night 9pm-1am and on Saturday, Steph Martin will be hosting open mic in the afternoon from 1pm-5pm. Be sure to contact Steph to book your spot. Steph and the Roadhounds will be performing live 7pm-11pm. They're a great band playing everything you know and love. DJ Shawn will finish off the night with a 90s theme under the tent.

The cover charge for Thursday, Friday and Saturday is \$10 per person. You must be of legal drinking age to enter the refreshment tent. Please enjoy responsibly. All money raised stays in St. Marys for local initiatives.

Celebrate cycling in June

June is Bike Month, a celebration of cycling. It is an opportunity to try riding a bike for the first time, or to build cycling into your routine. "Building cycling into your routine could mean riding just for fun, or leaving the car at home and taking a bike to school, work, the store, or an event," says Adrienne Adas, Public Health Promoter at Huron Perth Public Health. "As a form of active transportation, cycling has many benefits including promoting healthier lifestyles, cutting air and noise pollution, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

To kick off Bike Month, Huron Perth Public Health and members of the City of Stratford's Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) are organizing an event on Saturday, June 3 in Upper Queen's Park, Stratford. The event takes place from 9:00 to 11:30am. Residents are invited to bring their bikes to the park where Richard Monette Way (the road that circles the park) will be closed to cars and open to cyclists. Activities will take place throughout the morning, including:

- Helmet fitting,
- Bike registration,
- Try-Us-Out Ride for adults at 9:30 AM, hosted by Cycle Stratford (helmets required; arrive at 9:15am to sign a waiver if not a Cycle Stratford member),
- Safety Super Hero Kids Ride with Stratford Police (kids are encouraged to dress up as a super hero for the event; helmets required), and
- For kids, a photo opportunity with a police officer.

There will be a prize for every child who attends, and a draw for a bicycle prize pack. In addition, free copies of the new Stratford, St. Marys & Perth County Cycle Map will be available.

Looking for other ways to enjoy bike riding this June and throughout the summer? There are various cycling amenities in Huron and Perth counties, including dedicated bike lanes and multi-use trails, bike racks, and repair stations.



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.



A.N.A.F. Unit 265
23 Wellington St. N.
519-284-4390

FOR UPSTAIRS HALL RENTAL PLEASE CALL

MEAT DRAWS EVERY FRIDAY 6PM

COMMUNITY —

Town Wide Garage Sale (and Treasure Hunt) coming up

June 10-11 the first of two weekends this year

By Stewart Grant

St. Marys residents will have four official dates across two weekends this year to declutter their homes.

Organizers of the traditional Town Wide Garage Sale event have established two dates in 2023, which represents a doubling-up over previous years. Next Saturday, June 10th, will be the first of these events, while another is scheduled for Saturday, August 12th. Both dates are published on the Town Wide Yard Sales in Ontario page found at www.facebook.com/townwideyardsale/.

Percy Ehnes, one of the organizers of this year's events, informed the Independent that each of the Town Wide Garage Sale dates will be followed by Sunday "Treasure Hunt Days" to help reuse some unwanted items and hopefully divert them from landfill.

To participate in the first Treasure

Hunt day, on Sunday, June 11th, place any unwanted items to the curb to give others the opportunity to claim those goods at no cost. Homeowners are reminded that all unclaimed items are to be removed from the curb by the end of the day. The St. Marys Landfill site, located at 1221 Water Street South, will be open for its regular hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, or from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

For those who wish to have their street addresses included in the Town Wide Garage Sale listing published next week at no cost, contact ads@st-marysindependent.com no later than 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 6. If you wish to include more information about what you have for sale, Garage Sale advertisements are also available for purchase by contacting the above email address.

Stonetown Coffee Closed



By St. Marys Independent Staff

Sunday night brought sad news for the downtown when Stonetown Coffee Co. announced on social media that they would not be reopening for business. The business, located at the corner of Water and Queen since January 2017, was a popular and attractive venue for residents to enjoy a coffee, meal, and fellowship.

The company Facebook post read, "To all our guests, as you have likely noticed, we have been closed for the past week. This was completely un-

planned and unexpected. However, with that being said, we have made the very difficult decision to not reopen. This is not a decision we took lightly, and we are incredibly disappointed we have had to make it. We want to sincerely thank everyone for supporting us over the years. It has been our pleasure to serve you all. We have become great friends with many of you and we appreciate you all. We could not have made it as long as we did without you. Thank you. We wish you and your families all the best."



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COMMUNITY —

AllWheelsPark donation of the week



Thank you to Tradition Mutual Insurance Group for their very generous donation of \$5,000 to support the Rotary All Wheels park project in St Marys. Community support has been wonderful and together we will make the repairs and expansion of the park a reality. Visit our website to see the complete list of donors and to participate! www.townofstmarys.com/allwheelspark. Pictured above are Stephanie Cahill, Karen Neely, Chris Dietz. (Contributed photo)

Kids Zone benefits from Trouw Nutrition sponsorship



Trouw Nutrition/Shur-Gain is proud to provide a \$2,500 sponsorship to the Kids Zone at Stonetown Heritage Festival. On Saturday, July 15, children will enjoy inflatables, activities, and face painting. Pictured is Trouw Nutrition/Shur-Gain representatives and Town of St. Marys Events Coordinator, Alanna Bowes.

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COMMUNITY —

Double Fatal Collision in EZT Comes Weeks Before Intersection Improvements

Police Officer One of the Victims

By Lee Griffi

A two-vehicle collision at the dangerous intersection of Highway 59 and Oxford County Road 33 has claimed the lives of two drivers. The collision happened shortly before 7:00 a.m. on Monday. Provincial Police say an unmarked Ontario Provincial Police vehicle and a school bus collided in the intersection. Both drivers died as a result of their injuries. There were no students on the bus and no passengers in either vehicle.

Detective Constable Steven Tourangeau was with the Huron-Perth Community Street Crime Unit, part of the Perth County OPP Detachment. He was just 35 years old. The OPP will not be releasing the identity of the other driver, out of respect for the family's privacy. "We are deeply saddened over this tragic incident, as two families mourn the loss of their loved ones. I offer my deepest condolences to the families, friends and colleagues affected," said OPP Commissioner Thomas Carrique. An OPP news release stated the London Police Service were taking over the investigation, but a spokesperson says the London force is assisting.

The intersection has been the scene



of a number of collisions in the last few years, some fatal, and one last Thursday where two pick-up trucks collided. Injuries to the drivers were minor. Area residents have called for safety improvements over the last few years and to date, red flashing beacons have been installed on top of stop signs at the east and west sides. The next phase of construction begins late next month, and a county spokesperson said some of the preparatory work required is now underway.

The biggest of those improvements is a 4-way stop with flashing red lights both on the ground and above, which means a speed reduction to 60 km/h along with speed feedback signs at all four approaches. Overhead flashing red lights will also be activated once power connections to the new infrastructure are complete.

Frank Gross is the manager of transportation and waste management with the county and said in a recent interview that several safety measures are coming. "With the all-way stop, traffic will have to stop before proceeding which will hopefully mitigate what is happening there now. We should be able to get all the con-

struction done at once and if the capital budget gets approved, we would proceed in the second quarter of the year so April to June." Rumble strips will also be installed as part of the intersection upgrades.

Many residents on area Facebook pages are pushing the county to speed up construction so there are no more fatalities. One concerned resident is Alexandra McKay who lives on 59 near Hickson. "I am pleased that finally these changes will be implemented. I wish it could have been taken more seriously before more fatalities occurred." McKay travels the stretch of road daily and said her main concern is the amount of people running the east and west stop signs. Many times, I have had to slam on the breaks after seeing people running the stop signs." She added Hickson's stop sign on 59 has been very successful, to her knowledge, at reducing accidents and she would like to see an increased police presence in the area until the construction is completed. "Its heartbreaking, I guess I would just say that time and time again we are taking too long to adapt to population and traffic increases and it's costing local lives."

Any further media inquiries should be directed to the London Police Service at 519-854-8576 or mediaofficer@londonpolice.ca



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COMMUNITY —

Your Seasonal Reading List is Here

Five Must-Read Books for Summer



Book Buzz
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By Jan Scott

Now is the time to stock up on the freshest most delicious books of the summer season. This list we've compiled includes, among other things, unforgettable sagas that will sweep you away, thrillers that haunt and chill, and smart and sexy romcoms that don't disappoint. Read them in your backyard or on your back deck, at the cottage or in the trailer, by the lake or under the covers when you need a break from the gardening. It's the season of sunshine, relaxation, and perhaps most importantly, reading.

The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese (Grove/Atlantic)

The acclaimed author of *Cutting for Stone* brings us the story of three generations of a family in South India in the 1900s who have gone through their share of grief. This one is being billed as unputdownable, epic, and transportive. Available now.

The Ferryman, by Justin Cronin (Doubleday Canada)

Prospera is an island paradise safe from the outside world. When residents are ready to retire from this utopia, they take a ferry ride to the Nursery where they become reborn. When the man who drives the ferry sees his own father fighting to stay in Prospera only to be forced on to the ferry, leaving his son with a cryptic message, the ferryman must uncover the truth.

Available now.

The Secret Life of Flora Lee, by Patti Callahan Henry (Simon & Schuster)

Sisters Hazel and Flora are sent to a rural town to escape war-torn London in 1939 only for Flora to disappear without a trace after arrival. Twenty years later, Hazel is working in a bookstore when she unwraps a book titled *Whisperwood and the River of Stars*, a place Hazel created for Flora that she shared with no one besides her missing sister. Available now.

Drowning by TJ Newman (Avid Reader Press)

An edge-of-your-seat thriller about a commercial jetliner that crashes into the ocean and sinks to the bottom with passengers trapped inside—and the extraordinary rescue operation to save them. Destined to become one of summer's buzziest books. Available now.

Same Time Next Summer by Annabel Monaghan (Penguin Publishing Group)

Author of last summer's smash hit *Nora Goes Off Script*, Monaghan's sophomore title is the ultimate summer nostalgia read. An engaged woman comes face to face with her first love who she hasn't seen in fourteen years, but who she spent every summer with from age five to seventeen when he broke her heart. It calls into question everything she thought she knew about their love story, and herself. Available June 6.

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HISTORY —

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Restoration Projects – Part One, Alexander McDonald House

By Mary Smith

The St. Marys Museum's last seminar of the season, held on May 18, was a sold-out evening because of the great interest in the topic. The presenters told three stories about historic limestone buildings that had all seen better days. These local residents took them on as projects and gave them new purposes. The seminar outlined the challenges of these projects – escalating costs, unforeseen structural problems, delays caused by Covid lockdowns. But they were triumphant stories, emphasizing the joy of seeing the end results. All the stories included admiration for the knowledge and skill of the contractors and tradesmen who worked with the owners. These three impressive projects are each worthy of a Historic St. Marys column.

Andy and Gail Forman presented first and so are the first in this short series. Their project was the limestone cottage at 481 Water Street South. Alexander McDonald, a stonemason who had worked for the Grand Trunk Railway on the Junction Station and the Sarnia Bridge, built the house in the mid-1850s. McDonald also farmed in the Thames Concession where he lived with his family. In 1858, this notice appeared in the St. Marys Argus: "For rent: commodious stone house, situated Water St. S., Eight well-figured rooms. Lot one-quarter acre of land, well-fenced and in good condition for gardening. Good stables, well & cistern on premises with a neat stone fence in front of house. Rent \$100. Apply owner Lot 47, Thames Conc. Blanshard. A. McDonald." The description of the property seems to indicate that it was an established residence by this time.

McDonald sold 481 Water Street in 1865. It remained a private residence until 1962 when the property was bought by the ever-expanding St. Marys Cement Company. For the next 30 years, it was rental housing for various cement plant employees. But in 1992, the company decided it was not worth the upkeep and decided to demolish it. The St. Marys Heritage Committee rallied to save the historic cottage. Company officials were persuaded to let it stand but with certain conditions: the company would no longer be responsible for its maintenance, and it must no longer be used as a residence.

For almost three decades, various groups and sponsors tried to keep the cottage stabilized and to find an alternate purpose for the site. In 1994, 481 Water Street was part of the parcel of land transferred from the St. Marys Cement Company as the new home of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. For a few years, the CBHFM considered using it as a gateway building to their site. But with their limited resources concentrated on their own



Work begins on the McDonald house in 2020. Photograph courtesy Gail Kenworthy-Forman.

historic house at 386 Church Street South, this was never a realistic plan. In 2008, the Town of St. Marys designated the McDonald house because of its cultural heritage significance. These reasons were cited: "Its history of ownership, the refinements of the exterior stonework, the scale and proportion of the house and the interior details that have survived for a century and a half all set this building apart. It is not only one of the earliest but also one of the most remarkable stone residences in St. Marys."

The designation meant some protection for the McDonald cottage's future, but because it was not in use, the property declined in spite of efforts to keep the weeds under control and to prevent both human and non-human intruders from entering the building. Some serious intervention was required. The property was legally severed from the rest of the CBHFM parcel and, in 2019, the town decided to offer it for sale on the condition that the new owner would respect the building's heritage features.

The Formans were excited when they saw the For Sale sign. Gail in particular had long admired the old cottage. She thought it was unfortunate that, right at one of the major entrances to St. Marys – the Stonetown – there was this vacant, shabby, limestone building. The Formans believed the cottage could be repurposed as an attractive commercial property, submitted their proposal to the town and became the owners of 481 Water Street South. They brought to the project a respect for the history of the building and, more important, an enthusiastic determination to bring it back to life. But first its serious structural problems had to be addressed. The west wall – the street-facing façade – had bowed outward and had to be pulled back into alignment. The interior of the east wing, the original back kitchen, had collapsed, the floor fallen into the basement. The roof of that wing clearly needed replacement but originally it had been hoped to

preserve the roof over the front part of the building.

One of the significant features of the cottage was the way the rafters had been notched to fit onto a projecting stone architrave on the front and back walls. This type of installation was, apparently, common at the time in Caithness, Scotland, where McDonald was from, but rarely used in Ontario. However, after supporting the roof for more than a century-and-a-half, this system was failing, pushing the walls outward. The Formans consulted the Heritage Committee who agreed that the old roof had to go. Modern roof trusses were installed but the old timbers were retained with some used to finish the interior. The original crawl space under the main part of the house was filled, packed and heavily insulated, and a concrete floor was poured and finished. The full basement under the kitchen wing was renovated as a space for utilities. Although the building inspector required insulation of the north and west walls of the building, the original limestone was left exposed on south and east walls, contributing to the beauty of the interior space.

All this was accomplished through 2020-21 while Covid restrictions were

in place but finally in July 2021, the Formans invited town council and Heritage Committee members to an open house to celebrate the completion of their project. Everyone who visited that day was amazed at the results of the months of hard work. The pride the Formans took in their accomplishment was understandable. The company, Forman Electric, has been well-established in this area for many years. As a result, not only is it well known but also Andy and Gail know many people in the construction and renovation business. Their company handled the electrical and heating/cooling installations and acted as general contractor. But even Forman Electric couldn't do everything alone. Others also working on the project included Craig Walsh, Contractor; Thorndale Roof Systems; MCC Contractors (steel roof installation); Justin Smith, masonry; Cubberley Plumbing; Forest City Caulking and Restoration; Ryan Ehgoetz, inside and outside concrete work; Garage Systems (inside floor finishing); Todd Plain of St. Marys Wood Products (trim, cabinets, front porch and railing); Marie Cortez (painting interior walls.)

With their own busy and prosperous business, the Formans really did not need to take on this restoration project. They did it because they love old buildings and the challenge appealed to them. Soon after the work was completed, the Formans sold the property to Christy Wallace, a naturopathic doctor. She has been seeing patients in the McDonald house for almost a year. The Formans' restoration work, however, is acknowledged on a bronze plaque that Cultural Resources Manager Amy Cubberley presented to them at the seminar on behalf of the Town of St. Marys. It will be installed on the exterior wall of 481 Water Street South, visible to passers-by who pause to appreciate the restored beauty of the McDonald house.

Next week: Riverwalk Commons



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SPORTS —

'Doing something worthwhile will never just benefit you'

By Spencer Seymour

With less than half of their fundraising goal left to be raised, the youth-led initiative to revamp the local skate park has gained tremendous steam since its inception. It's that momentum that they hope will lead to more local businesses and large-scale donors continuing to contribute to the project.

The Rotary All-Wheels Park project aims to repair and revamp the local skate park so that it is not only safe for people to use, but also offers a wider array of features for kids of different ages, skill levels, and types of equipment including but not limited to skateboards and scooters.

The driving forces behind the project have been two youngsters who themselves are frequent users of the park, Sully and Quin Bolton. Sully told the Independent that before there was a coordinated rebuilding initiative, he along with the help of his family was implementing homemade fixes to the skate park.

"I've always liked doing sports and in particular, scootering and skateboarding," said Sully. "It's a fun way to get exercise, and I just thought it would be good to have a bigger, better skate park. At one point, we brought skids to the park and put plywood on top to make the landing of the quarter pipe a bit safer because there was a drop to the grass."

The makeshift repair eventually came up in a conversation between Sully's mother Claire Bolton and their neighbour Jean Rowcliffe. Upon hearing the initiative that the boys had taken and the need for improvements to the skate park, Rowcliffe joined forces with the Boltons to turn their handiwork into a full-fledged community project.

"One day, while my mom and Jean were talking, they started talking about the skate park and what we had done with the skids," Sully explained. "Jean suggested that we go to Council and go into the community and try and make a better skate park."

Rowcliffe's son James was an avid skateboarder when they lived in San Francisco, but tragically, James passed away in 2009. Rowcliffe eventually moved from San Francisco to St. Marys, and when the discussion of the skate park's need for improvement came up with her neighbour, Rowcliffe found a way to honour her son in the St. Marys park, serendipitously located on James Street.

"Jean has been really helpful to us because she's a really good communicator and she was able to give us direction. She had spent a lot of time at skate parks and she knew how important it was to James, so she understood what it meant to us as well."

The Rotary All-Wheels Park Steering Committee's fundraising efforts are currently ongoing as they look for more business and corporate sponsors to contribute towards their goal of \$250,000. The project's total budget is \$400,000 and the Town has allocated \$50,000 in the budget as well as \$100,000 to



come from development charges.

As of the Independent's press time, the Steering Committee's amount raised sits at over \$130,000. A major reason for the amount raised is the incredible generosity of the Rotary Club of St. Marys.

In the early days of the project, Sully and Quin, backed by Rowcliffe, made a presentation to the Rotary Club of St. Marys about the need for a revamped skate park. Shortly thereafter, the Rotary Club committed \$100,000 to the project, which Sully said changed the feeling of the project from a matter of 'if' to a matter of 'when'.

"That was pretty crazy and exciting. When that happened, it became real and we knew it was happening. At that time, we didn't have our design picked out, so for the Rotary Club to donate that much to just the idea of a better skate park without seeing the specific plans made this feel like something we were really going to get done."

Along the way, the Bolton boys and Rowcliffe made a presentation to the St. Marys Town Council which drew support from the municipality, including Mayor Al Strathdee, who recently explained to the Independent why he supports the project and would encourage local businesses to consider donating to the project if they haven't already.

"It's vital that we continue to have things for kids to do that are free and that kids can use whenever they feel like it," said Strathdee. "For some kids, organized sports aren't necessarily for them. Even kids who are involved in other sports can use it whenever they want. Additionally, these sports that the park services have a tremendous amount of value socially and they have also really grown in popularity."

"Having options is also very important, especially as we try to attract more families to our town," the Mayor continued. "As a town, we have a lot of businesses looking for workers so you want the town to be attractive for young families. When I get calls from people thinking about moving to St. Marys, one of the first things they ask about are what recreational facilities we have."

"The Boltons explained to us how their parents would take them to other communities because the park here isn't as modernized as other parks. From the standpoint of trying to increase tourism, I think it would be great to get on that circuit of parks in our area that people come to because it means more people are coming into and exploring St. Marys."

Strathdee also outlined the current park's safety issues which are due in large part to the strong appetite for a local park.

"Some of the cement has deteriorated and some of the railings and other features have been worn down. It's not to the point of being too blatant currently but without attention, it definitely could become a severe issue. A lot of the wear and tear is down to how good the usage has been with the park which has been incredible to see how popular it's been so we have to make sure it stays a safe place for everyone."

The Mayor then applauded the efforts of the Rotary All-Wheels Park Steering Committee led by Bolton and Rowcliffe, the latter of whom, alongside the Bolton boys, is turning a heartbreaking tale into a heartwarming one.

"The Bolton kids have done an incredible job, from the video they made about the project that's on the project's page on the Town's website to the presentation they gave to Council. Obviously, the story of Jean losing her son James is incredibly sad but the partnership of Jean and the Bolton boys and their shared bond over making this part of the community better is a fascinating and beautiful story. They have done a great job and they're creating a legacy for themselves and in memory of James."

Sully, who turned 13 years old this past Monday, summed up why he is passionate about the Rotary All-Wheels Park and why he hopes more people and businesses will continue to donate to help make the new park a reality.

"When you're doing something for yourself, you should think about others at the same time," Sully said. "I feel like it's good to not only think about how what you want would help you, but also how it could help others. Doing something worthwhile is never going to just benefit you."

A list of donors is published on the Rotary All-Wheels Park project's page on the Town of St. Marys website, which is also where you can go to donate. To visit that page, go to www.townofstmarys.com/allwheelspark.



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SPORTS —

DCVI athletes qualify for regional OFSAA Track & Field meet

By Spencer Seymour

St. Marys DCVI will be well-represented at the OFSAA West Regional Track and Field meet this Friday and Saturday after 17 individual and three team top-five finishes at last week's WOSSAA Championship.

Payton Blight picked up two first-place finishes in the Novice Girls division, including in the Javelin and Discus events. Additionally, Blight also placed fourth in Shotput. Also in the Novice Girls category, Bronwyn Hawkins finished fifth in Pole Vault.

On the Boys side of the Novice division, Kaleb Dingman finished atop the field in the 3000-metre run. Danny Switzer placed fifth in the 100-metre dash.

The fourth and final first-place finish was earned by Charles Black, who won the Senior Boys' 400-metre Hurdles. On the Senior Girls side, Lila Corby picked up two fifth-place finishes in the 100-me-

tre and 200-metre runs.

Kiara McGregor and Eden Sinnett combined for five top-five finishes in the Junior Girls category. McGregor placed third in the 400-metre sprint and fifth in both the 100-metre and 200-metre, while Sinnett took second in Javelin and fourth in Shotput.

In the Junior Boys division, Colton Hawkins earned a third-place finish in the Pole Vault while Trevor Richardson took fourth in Javelin and Griffin McGregor came in fifth in 100-metre Hurdles.

DCVI also saw three relay teams qualify for OFSAA, including the Junior Girls 4x100m team consisting of McGregor, Harvest Elliot, Avery Jennings, and Becca Sleeper, who placed third. The team of Corby, Claudia Fernandez, Anna Ropp, and Lydia Taylor finished third in the Senior Girls 4x100m event. Finally, the squad made up of Elliott, McGregor, Ropp, and Taylor took fourth in the Open Girls 4x400m.



Payton Blight competing in the Shotput event during last week's WOSSAA Track and Field Championship, in which she placed fourth. Blight had two of DCVI's four first-place finishes at WOSSAA, claiming the top spot in both the Novice Girls' Javelin and Discus. DCVI athletes qualified to compete in 17 individual events and three relays at this week's OFSAA West Regional meet. (Contributed photo)

DCVI students organize Girls in Sports event with Guelph Gryphons



Senior students of St. Marys DCVI Anna Ropp and Paige Barr pictured from left to right in between Coach Megan Reid and players for the Guelph Gryphons basketball program at last week's Connecting Girls Through Sports event. Ropp and Barr received a grant from the United Way Perth Huron during their first-semester Leadership and Peer Support course and chose to use the funds to promote the retention of girls in sports to combat the sharp decline in participation after the age of 14. The Senior DCVI students fully organized the event. The event welcomed students from DCVI, Little Falls, and Perth South.



Teacher Monica Ryan praised Ropp and Barr for the organizing work they did and the event as a whole, calling it "one of my top 10 teaching moments" of Ryan's career. "Anna and Paige did an amazing job addressing a need in our community, that being the decline of girls' participation in sports after the age of 14," said Ryan. "The event went incredibly well and was beautiful to see the range of leadership from the Guelph coach and players to our Senior students and all the way down to the Little Falls students." The event featured a rotation of exercises led by the Gryphons. (Both photos by Monica Ryan)

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SPORTS —

Senior Boys build momentum ahead of H-P Playoffs

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys DCVI Senior Boys soccer team finished their regular season with a dominant victory over Mitchell, hammering their final league play opponent 5-0 last Tuesday.

With the win, DCVI finished in second place in the Huron-Perth standings, setting up a first-round playoff match-up against South Huron. The H-P Playoffs took place this past Tuesday after the Independent's

press time with a WOSSAA birth up for grabs.

Up and down the field, the Senior Boys were excellent in their final tune-up before the post-season, with Diego Franco-Farmer doing a great job defensively occupying the left-back position and connecting with forwards RJ Martin and Carson Brock on his side of the pitch. Brock led the Salukis on the scoresheet, posting a hat-trick to help lift St. Marys to a five-goal spread.

The middle of the field was controlled expertly by Arthur Douglas, Owen Littlejohn, and Roger Sebben, with the trio keeping the ball in the Mitchell end for the majority of the game. The other two goals were scored by Peyton Lobb and Guiseppe Passarelli. Although it wasn't the busiest workload thanks to the strong team play in front of him, Jack Switzer picked up the shutout victory in DCVI's net.

Head Coach Richard Farmer told the Independent that he was very pleased

with his entire team, who he believed were having as much fun as they have all year long.

"They have been focused on passing all year," said Farmer. "They were doing an excellent job of it against Mitchell, moving the ball quickly with tight, short passes and then hitting the wingers with very accurate long balls. They were really enjoying themselves, more than they have this season, which helped them play looser."

Senior Girls clinch playoff spot with improbable season finale

By Spencer Seymour

A bit of luck and a bunch of hunger propelled the St. Marys DCVI Senior Girls soccer team to a victory and a spot in the Huron-Perth Playoffs last Tuesday.

In order to secure a playoff spot and a chance at WOSSAA, the Senior Girls had to win their game while the two other teams in the mix for the final playoff spot, St. Anne's and Listowel, had to lose both of their games. Improbably, that's exactly what happened.

DCVI's single game was against Mitchell and the Salukis were hungry for the post-season birth. About 15 minutes into the first half, Ellen

Thorup crossed the ball off a free kick and Megan Morning got a piece of it to put the team ahead 1-0. In the second half, Eve Greig had a beautiful shot on the net from outside the box to make it 2-0, which held up as the final score.

Co-Head Coach Rachele Pearson told the Independent that the veteran squad was determined not to let the final day of the regular season be the last contest they played in their high school career.

"Everyone gave their all in the heat and made sure the game was not their last," remarked Pearson. "Our team consists of mostly grade 12 and fifth-year students and they did not want that to be their final high school

game. We found out the results of the St. Anne's versus Stratford District (SDSS) game on the bus ride to Stratford and that made everyone very hopeful and motivated. It was the game we were most unsure about."

Mitchell started very well with accurate and quick passing but soon enough, DCVI began anticipating and countering some of the passes and gaining control. As they began to settle in, the Salukis made more accurate passes, had effective crosses, and communicated well, helping them maintain possession most of the game.

Along with a great performance in goal by keeper Matt Luyten, Pearson said that a stellar, gutsy effort by the

team's defence and a team-wide desire to crack the playoffs were critical to the team's victory.

"Knowing we needed the win got the team talking and encouraging each other on and off the field a lot. They are usually good with this but the energy was definitely increased. Our defensive line was a force, supporting Matt [Luyten] in net. Three of them played the entire game without a sub and only one player had a sub near the end of the game to get another player on the field."

The H-P Playoffs took place this past Tuesday after the Independent went to press.

Teamwork building for U14 T2 Girls

By Spencer Seymour

The U14 T2 Girls St. Marys Storm picked up a 4-3 win last Thursday against Wingham thanks largely to their rapidly improving cohesiveness, according to Co-Head Coach John Hodkinson.

"Many of these girls have never played together as a team so they're still learning how to interact with each other on the field and what each other's capabilities are," Hodkinson explained. "So they were just starting to learn how to interact with each other and learn each other's capabilities. In our game [last Thursday], the girls continued to learn from each other and work together in a way that was really good to see."

Carlie Muir led the way offensively for the Storm, potting two goals, both of which came on penalty kicks. Aubrey Cousineau and Casey Graham also found the back of the net for St. Marys.

Hodkinson added that the team showed large steps forward from their first game of the season, which ended in defeat, to last Thursday's contest.

"Communication with each other and being supportive of each other is what helped these girls pull out the win. Our give-and-go passing was really good. As the season continues, we expect things to get better with each and every game. These girls are eager to learn and show that they have what it takes to complete at the Tier Two level."



SPORTS —

Well-rounded Juggernauts win second straight

By Spencer Seymour

According to Player-Coach Braiden Weston, the fourth division St. Marys Juggernauts' game last Friday night saw another example of the squad continue improving.

"Every time we've hit the pitch, we've gotten better," Weston told the Independent, who picked up the win in goal for the Juggernauts last Friday. "The guys are moving the ball really well and the support on the ball has been excellent. The guys are also playing with a lot of positivity, everyone is building each other up and picking their teammates up when they need it. From the backline to our midfield to our guys up front, everyone is doing their part and finding a way to contribute."

The Juggernauts came away with a 4-1 victory over the visiting AEL FC. St. Marys got the game's first goal late in the first half before a three-goal second half to cruise to a 4-1 win. As alluded to by Weston, it was a total team effort by St. Marys that secured the win. Alfonso Coto, Adrian Kalafut, David Palmer, and Dawid Moscicki scored for the Juggernauts. With Weston in goal, Thomas Red-



man ran the bench and he commented after Friday's game that the team's cohesiveness was a key factor in the strong outing.

"I really liked how quickly we were passing and communicating," said Redman. "There were a lot of options out there. Everyone was really moving around off the ball which is really important for us. It's huge to see so early in the season guys communicating so well with people they haven't played with before which hope-

fully is only going to get even better as the year goes along."

Redman went on to praise the group for their tenacity and mental resolve.

"We went up by one near the end of the first half and we really took control from then on. We've got a really resilient group which was evident after [AEL] scored to make it a one-goal game. We didn't let our heads drop or lose focus. We kept pushing and got a couple more goals to make

sure we got the job done."

"The guys really worked hard for that win. Everyone put their shifts in and made every moment they were on the pitch count. It was a tough game and we did a good job handling the physicality while also not losing our cool. We tried out a new formation and it really allowed us to clog up the midfield and not let much through."

Meanwhile, Weston appreciated the effort the team in front of him put in, which made his a bit easier.

"It's the third game in a row that we've switched up our formation as we felt like there was room to tighten up defensively in the last few games," Weston explained. "The guys were doing a great job winning those battles for the ball. It's always nice when you're the goalie to watch your teammates in front of you play with the ball as much as they did."

The Juggernauts played this past Tuesday after the Independent went to press. After that game, the team will have three weeks off before their next game, a stretch that Weston says will give the team its first real chance to get some consistent practice time in.

U11 WOBA Blue excellent in season opener

By Spencer Seymour

It would have been hard to envision a better start to the season than the outing that the U11 Blue WOBA Hardball St. Marys Rockies had last Thursday at Teddy's Field when they posted a 15-1 win over the Exeter Express.

Both on the mound and at the plate, the Rockies were consistently fantastic, led by Talan Ward and Mark Richardson. Ward got the start for the Rockies and in the first two innings pitched 18 consecutive strikes for six straight strikeouts. Richardson came in for the third and fourth innings and also got through with minimal pitches and three strikeouts.

To close out the game, Derek Vernooey earned five strikeouts over the fifth, sixth, and seventh innings. Offensive-

ly, Ward and Richardson each scored three runs and went three-for-three at the plate. Luke Savile also went three-for-three and batted in a three-run triple in the fifth inning. In the sixth, Elliot Wilhelm popped a two-run homer.

Co-Head Coach Trevor Ward told the Independent that the demeanour of the squad allowed them to thrive on both sides of the ball.

"It was a great start to our season," Ward said glowingly. "They showed great confidence at the plate, on the mound, and in the defensive fielding plays. We were really happy with the patience they were showing. They weren't swinging wildly, they were doing a great job of waiting for a pitch they liked to get some timely and effective chances at the plate."



Talan Ward throws one of 18 consecutive strikes during the first two innings of last Thursday's U11 WOBA Boys Hardball St. Marys Rockies 15-1 victory of the Exeter Express. In addition to his six strikeouts, Ward also scored three runs and went three-for-three at the plate. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

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SPORTS —

Third Tier Minor Soccer teams compete at Grassroots Festival

By Spencer Seymour

St. Marys Storm Minor Soccer sent their Tier Three squads to London's BMO Centre last weekend with many coming home with strong results to build off of.

Head Coach Andrew Zwambag said the weekend was a fun one for his U8 Boys One squad. The team picked up wins over Byron and the London Whitecaps. The St. Marys side was excellent at both ends, scoring at a torrid pace while only allowing two goals in as many games.

The U8 Boys Two showed the fruits of their hard work in practice over the last few weeks, according to Coach David Palmer. "The boys had strong ball movement in both games, they were finding their open teammates, and they were defending hard." The squad defeated Byron 3-1 before a hard-fought 2-2 draw against London. Goaltenders Caxton Stewart-Noeske and Landyn Harrigan both played very well in the Storm's net.

Palmer also coaches the U9 Boys and said they "have shown great commitment to improvement." Although not finding their desired results, the U9 boys turned in competitive efforts, showing promising defensive and ball-movement skills. Owen Corneil and Jude White each played a game in goal and both made excellent, timely saves.

The U10 Boys showed many positive attributes despite not finding victory.

The team showed gutsy resilience in their second game when they clawed back after London's hot start. The Storm created plenty of good chances but just couldn't find the back of the net. Coach Devin Arn called the tournament "a great experience for the kids' introduction into travel soccer."

The U12 Boys One earned two wins against Byron and Del-Ko Brydge, outscoring their opponents 9-1. Elliot Hudson exploded for five goals while Caleb Coghlin and Caleb McCauley each had a pair. Coach Jon McDonald praised the group for "working hard as a team," with good two-way play by the entire team.

The U12 Boys Two left London with two high-scoring victories, including a 7-0 win in their opener followed by a 5-1 victory in their second game of the Festival. Co-Coach Matthew Simons was really happy with how hard the team worked and their movement with and without the ball, which allowed the squad to find such excellent offensive success.

The U9 Girls One played "amazing" in their two outings, tying Byron 1-1 before beating London 4-1. Amelia Ward scored against Byron before Aubree Ford potted all four against London. Per Coach Michelle Laidlaw, the results were especially impressive as the group had a short bench with no substitutes available.

Despite adjusting to a new style of play, the U9 Girls Two had a great

weekend, coming away with a tie and a win. Coach Jessica Chateauvert said she was really pleased with the team's progression in being more aggressive on the ball which was key to their solid results.

After some team bonding at the food court, the U10 Girls put forward two excellent showings, winning both matches in decisive fashion. In both games, Coach Korey Graham said the squad controlled the play at both ends of the pitch, leaving the Festival with a 4-0 win over Baden and a 3-0 shutout over Strathroy.

The U12 Girls One showed strong

character, bouncing back after a tough loss to Grand Bend by winning their second game 3-2 over Del-Ko Brydge. Co-Coach Michelle McKeen was impressed with the team's versatility as "some players tried new positions and got out of their comfort zones," which helped the team find their offensive stride.

An incredible second half by the U12 Girls Two propelled them to a 4-1 victory in their first game at the Festival. Down 1-0 at halftime, the team roared back with four goals to take a 4-1 victory. Lily Forbes led the offensive push while Sophie Smith was great in the St. Marys net.



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Solutions on page 27

SPORTS —

DCVI Jr. Girls win Soccer Silver



Ella Carter is high-fived by her DCVI teammates during the medal presentation on Wednesday, May 24 at the Stratford District Secondary School soccer field. (Stewart Grant photo)

By Stewart Grant

Last Wednesday, May 24th, the St. Marys DCVI Junior Girls played a pair of playoff games to wrap up their soccer schedule. In the morning, they advanced to the finals thanks to a 1-0 win over Stratford District Secondary School.

"The girls played an awesome game against SDSS," said coach Shana-Lee Pereira. "They passed the ball well, communicated amongst themselves on the pitch, and were full of determination to win. We dominated the play

for most of the game. We had lots of crosses into the box but couldn't capitalize on many. Finally, a cross from Sydney Grant into Marin Chateaufvert, in the box, found the back of the net."

A strong St. Mike's team prevailed in the afternoon final by a score of 4-0, but the team was very proud of the silver medal won at Huron Perth. "We thank all the girls for their time and commitment to early morning practices, that were often freezing, and for their efforts on game days," added coach Pereira.

Two St. Marys teams win awards at Dragon Boat Challenge



The annual Wildwood Dragon Boat Challenge took place this past Sunday at Wildwood Conservation Area and two St. Marys teams picked up awards. In the 'B' Division Final, the St. Marys Fire Department team came away as Champions. Meanwhile, the team named 'Winging This' won the St. Marys Community Challenge Cup, which is contested between teams with at least 16 members who reside in St. Marys, Perth, or Oxford County, not including Stratford or Woodstock. Stratford's Schaeffler Bearing Arms' team won the 'A' Division title as well as the Industry Cup. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)



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SPORTS —

Johnston, Wood win Men's Pairs tourney



Dave Johnston and Rick Wood won the Men's Pairs Lawn Bowling tournament last Wednesday. The tournament was sponsored by Cathie Szmon. Pictured from left to right are Dave Johnston, Convenor Dawn Collins, Rick Wood, and Convenor Denis Kearney. (Contributed photo)

Parks Lawn Bowling holds Mixed Fours tournament



The Parks Lawn Bowling Club hosted their Mixed Fours tournament last Saturday sponsored by Kingsway Lodge, Action Health Care, and Coldwell Banker. The tournament was won by the team pictured above of, from left to right, Larry McLellan, Peter Mutter, Brian Fowler, and Jack Fowler. (Contributed photo)

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Drivers...start your engines

By Nancy Abra

The iconic statement 'drivers, start your engines' booms over the loud-speaker at the beginning of most race events. The crowds' roar to the deafening rumble of the engines in anticipation of an exhilarating event of the burning rubber and speeding cars.

Dave Graham of Thorndale is one of those race enthusiasts. He has never lost his 'need for speed' since he was introduced to the sport by his wife's father over 40 years ago, a racing buff himself. That initiation sparked Graham's interest in auto racing and especially NASCAR.

Some years later he began working with APC Late Model Racing Series in the sponsorship marketing position. He travelled with the 'Series' to the various tracks throughout Southern Ontario that hosted these 'Series' races, which also included Delaware Speedway. He, with his wife Kim joining him, sold APC Racing Series merchandise along with 'Series' drivers t-shirts. At the end of each of these races, Graham would hand out the trophies to the winners. He was also in charge of the year-end banquets.

Since 2020, Graham has worked for Delaware Speedway in marketing and sales. In April of this year, he took over the position of General Manager. His interest in NASCAR has waned as he is more in tune with the local racers at Delaware.

As General Manager, Graham wears many hats. He has a full-time staff of three and during the week helps with the maintenance chores, from grass cutting to painting. On race night, there are approximately 50 part-time employees including concession booth workers, race officials controlling cars, pit safety crew, flagman, announcers, and the scorer. Graham really doesn't see much of the races as he looks after the guests in the VIP room plus making sure everything is running smooth everywhere else.

This is the 71st year for Delaware Speedway. There is still growing interest of racing enthusiasts as this track hosts the racing 'Series' plus races of various classes throughout the summer season. That invigorating loud engine rumble and the need for speed has never faded from Dave Graham. He is definitely in his element at Delaware Speedway.



Happy June from the Thorndale Library!

Middlesex County Library's 2023 Reading Challenge for June is to use the NoveList genre Book Club Best Bets to pick a title. To start, visit bit.ly/MCLnovelist and log in with your library card number and PIN. To search by genre, click the "Advanced Search" link. Then, select "GN Genre" from the drop-down menu and search "book club best bets." Use the Refine Results options to limit re-

sults further—we limited by character (LGBTQIA), storyline (Intricately Plotted), and writing style (Lush) and found some great options. Give it a try!

Enjoy songs and stories at Storytime on Tuesdays at 10:30 am. Afterschool Hangout meets on Wednesdays at 4:00pm (Summer Hangout begins in July). Make an appointment for tech help on Tech Fridays. A friendly re-

minder that Tech Friday is cancelled on June 2.

June 1 at 5:30 pm enjoy a movie and popcorn at Thursday at the Theatre. June 2 is PA Day Mystery Party at 11:00 am. BeTween the Bookends will discuss books set abroad on June 15 at 4:00 pm. On June 17 at 10:30 am, build a wooden truck with someone you love at our Build a Truck program. Please note: Lego Party is cancelled on June 17.

June is Pride month—come in, grab a button, and check out our displays! For more information or to register, please visit the library or check out library.middlesex.ca/events. As always, feel free to drop in, call (519-461-1150), or email (thorndale_staff@middlesex.ca) with any questions. See you in the library!

St. Marys and Area MOBILITY SERVICE

St Marys and Area Mobility Service is pleased to welcome community members, staff and **Board Members to our Annual Meeting**

Date: Monday June 19, 2023
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COLUMN —

HOSTING UKRAINE: Success As a Remedy

By VJ Knutson

I could see from the eager faces that greeted me on holiday Monday that a community picnic was well overdue. What a day was had by all! Gwen Ament led us in a prayerful opening, commemorating a year since Ukrainians flocked into our area, mindful of the war that is ongoing, and grateful for all those in the community who lend a hand. Peace was the main focus. Thank you for a deeply moving start to our celebration, Gwen.

Feasting followed, and balloons and face-painting for children. There were lots of hugs and smiles all around, and absolute delight when our newest members came swaddled in mothers' arms. Such a heart-warming day for the handful of us that started on this mission last March.

I would like to say that the need for our services is waning, but that is not the case. The government has extended the invitation for Ukrainians to come as temporary citizens, with open work and study permits, until the middle of July. I am currently looking for hosts for three different family groupings, including a young man, a pregnant woman, and two



others. If you think you can help, please reach out. Hosting is easier now, with the help of Settlement Services through the YMCA, and other programs in place. All you need is a spare bed, and a heart ready to expand through the experience. Google

translate helps too. Ric and I are now hosting our fourth family, and are happy to guide anyone through the process. Actually, we have a strong community of hosts who are willing to answer any questions as well.

The devastation continues in

Ukraine, with constant rocket and missile attacks. Our current guests keep us up to date on the latest, and my own readings have made me aware of the unsettled nature of Europe as a whole, as this unwarranted attack threatens all democracies. As the bad news pours in, I try to keep focused on what can be done. Did you know that Canada has a history of helping Ukrainians displaced by war? As Ric likes to remind me, Canada had the third largest population of Ukrainians before the war started. From 1891 – 1924, it is said that 150,000 Ukrainians landed in Canada and integrated into our society. Today's newcomers are no different. They are hard-working, motivated, and socially responsible. Grateful for all Canadians do to support them, they want to give back and make a difference. Our joint success is something we can do to counter the tragedy happening overseas.

As always, thank you to those who take the time to extend kindness. The connections I see forming about town make us all richer.

Till next time.

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

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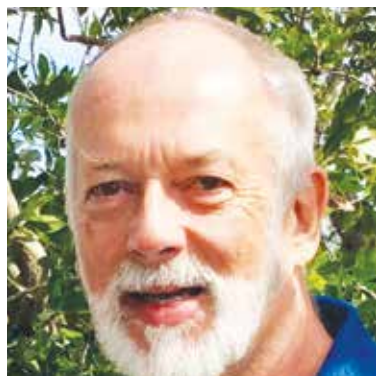
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COLUMN —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: The complete surprise of the Six Mile Cypress Slough



By Paul Knowles

The Six Mile Cypress Slough came as a complete surprise. Who would have imagined that there would be this astonishing nature preserve, right in the heart of Fort Myers, a Florida city known for beaches and resort hotels.

But there it was – and is. The highly unexpected “Six Mile Cypress Slough” is just waiting to show the wonders of natural Florida... and to do it for free at that (you will pay a small fee to park here, never more than \$5 for the day).

So, some basics first. A “slough”, which is pronounced “sloo”, is a long, narrow wetland with slowly flowing fresh water. Despite the number in its name (which has some historic origins), the slough is actually 11 miles or 17.7 kilometers long. The entire preserve includes over 3,500 acres.

The heart of the place for visitors is the 2 km boardwalk, a walk that you could probably do in less than half an hour, but which should really take several hours. There’s

just that much to experience. In fact, the Boardwalk Trail Guide (also free) specifically suggests that you “walk slowly”.

So we did. Accompanied by Program Specialist Adrienne Martin, we took a leisurely, often-interrupted stroll all along the boardwalk and enjoyed every minute.

There are two major categories of interesting things in the slough, the flora and the fauna. We saw plenty of both – unique vegetation, an incredible number of air plants (including many bromeliads), cypress trees and much more.

But I was most interested in the fauna category. There are alligators here, including two large beasts in the appropriately named “Gator Lake”. We didn’t see those gators this time but we did spot their trails and an alligator nest from last season, and farther along the boardwalk, we saw a smaller alligator in the “Wood duck pond”.

We also spotted a curled up cottonmouth snake, cleverly camouflaged, a couple of meters off the boardwalk.

I was especially entranced with the variety of birds we encountered. Adrienne explained that the wildlife has become quite accustomed to the presence of human visitors – as long as we stay on the boardwalk. She told us that if she or her colleagues ever have to leave the walkway to

go into the wetland, the animals and birds scatter in an instant. They have figured out that we’re okay if we stay inside our wooden boundaries!

That meant that, not only did we spot birds, we got to observe them close-up as they went about their lives. We saw woodpeckers – the slough is home to six of the eight species of woodpecker found in Florida.

We watched a little blue heron do its fishing dance, spreading its wings to create shade, and thus a sense of shelter for small fish... which the heron promptly ate.

The oddest moments involved an anhinga that had caught quite a large catfish. We wondered how it would eat it. It was too big to swallow whole and since the fish was still alive, too active for the bird to release it from the bird’s beak.

But the anhinga was smarter than I. It started beating that fish on a log; the percussive display lasted longer than a drum solo in a rock concert. Eventually, the fish was dead and the anhinga could proceed to eat it in a more leisurely fashion. Fascinating.

Even though the slough is in the heart of an urban area, it is a true sanctuary for many living things. There are otters and raccoons, and from time to time, larger creatures including whitetail deer, panthers, bobcats and even bears.

Fifty years ago, it wasn’t at all certain that



Adrienne Martin, program specialist – and enthusiastic fan of all things at the slough. (All photos by Paul Knowles)

this very precious ecosystem would survive. But a group of Fort Myers students created a petition calling for a referendum on a Lee County municipal ballot. And even though a “yes” vote to save the slough was going to add to their tax bill, the residents supported the students and the slough and this natural treasure was declared protected land.

The boardwalk was built in 2008 and is very popular. The slough features guided tours – yep, free of charge – at 9:30 a.m. every day in season. They are usually conducted by volunteers. The very dedicated and knowledgeable volunteer brigade at Six Mile Cypress Slough numbers 87. These volunteers, by the way, have to endure what Adrienne described as “a robust training program”, including writing an academic paper on some plant or animal related

to the slough. One recent bit of research discovered a new species of plant!

You could argue that most visitors to the Fort Myers area are unaware of the Six Mile Cypress Slough but those who know are instant fans. The slough attracts over 10,000 visitors a month in season, more than that in February and March. And yet for many, including friends I talked to who spend time in the area, it is a complete unknown.

Therefore, I decided to do my small part to correct that situation. If you are in the Fort Myers area, the Six Mile Cypress Slough is a “must-do”. Trust me. You’re going to love it.

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



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WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT - EDWARDS-SEALE



We tied the knot!

We're happy to announce our marriage on the 15th of April, 2023 at the Civic Gardens, London Ontario.

We were happily surrounded by our family and friends and thank all for the kind and loving thoughts sent our way.

Steven & Meagan Edwards

Riddles

- What's green and makes holes? **A drill pickle**
- What's big, black and eats rocks? **A big, black rock eater**
- What has long hair and purple feet? **A lion that makes his own wine**
- What's another name for a grandfather clock? **An old timer**
- What goes best with a white wall? **A hub cap**
- What do you call an ice cream truck operator? **A sundae drive**
- How do you stop a dog from barking in the back seat? **Put it in the front seat**
- How do you make a sausage roll? **Push it down a hill**
- What did the big phone say to the little phone? **You are too young to be engaged**
- Why did the cookie have to go to the hospital? **Because he was really feeling crumby**
- Why did the tap dancer retire? **Because he kept falling in the sink**

- Word Search -

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

Word List

- King coronation
- Smile Cookies
- Firefighter Breakfast
- Mothers Day
- The Frozen Spoon
- Gillys Pubhouse
- Alzheimers Walk
- Pickleball
- Florida Panthers
- Tina Turner
- US Debt Ceiling
- NVIDIA stock
- Danielle Smith



The **Riddle Kid** OF THE WEEK

What goes up but never comes back down?



Your age

Nolan Swarthout (2)

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 a 14 year old lab/border collie cross named Luv. She likes laying in the sun, walks, and hates veggies. Loves her dog cookies too much! Luv is owned by Tyler Taylor.



St. Marys Veterinary Clinic is pleased to be the sponsor of the **PET OF THE WEEK**

Did you know??

The most common life-threatening condition seen by Veterinarians, is when a pet swallows something it can't pass. E.g. NERF bullets, socks, underwear, peach pits, and small toys. This often requires surgical removal

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This position has generally flexible hours July through January (ie. less than full-time hours), and full-time February to June with extended hours throughout our busy season.

The successful candidate must be friendly and personable, professional, detail oriented, good with numbers, and have strong computer skills, good organization skills, and able to multi-task in fast-paced environments. The position requires someone who is self-motivated, and able to work both independently and as part of a team.

Outlook and Excel and Word knowledge is required. Working knowledge of Simply Accounting, Quickbooks, and basic accounting knowledge would be considered strong assets, although we are willing to train the right person.

Being able to maintain the absolute privacy and confidentiality of client matters is paramount.

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Mon. May 22 - David Eckert, Stratford	\$50.00
Tues. May 23 - Will Buckley, Stratford	\$50.00
Wed. May 24 - Sandy Kelly, Stratford	\$50.00
Thur. May 25 - Mike Kittmer, St. Marys	\$50.00
Fri. May 26 - Eric Rosen, London	\$50.00
Sat. May 27 - Debbie Hunter, Stratford	\$200.00

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OBITUARY

Chalkley



Douglas McIntosh "Mac" Chalkley, 85, of Embro passed away peacefully at St. Marys Memorial Hospital, St. Marys on Wednesday, May 24, 2023. He was a lifelong resident of Zorra Township having been born in Zorra Township on February 5, 1938, a son of the late John "Jack" Louis and Olive Gladys (Innes) Chalkley.

Mac had farmed for most of his lifetime. He was a member of Knox United Church in Embro; a member of Embro Branch #318 Royal Canadian Legion and was a member of the former Embro and West Zorra Optimist Club.

He is survived by his wife, Lorena Mae (Rounds) Chalkley; two children, Michelle Leduc (Don), John Chalkley (Ann); five grandchildren, Jessie Leduc (Steve Innes), Daniel Leduc, Jacqueline Leduc (Alex Tait), Jenna Chalkley, Amberley Chalkley (Cody Miller); great granddaughters, Addison Bankes, Baby Miller (coming soon); sisters-in-law, Donna Chalkley and Sharon Rounds; several nieces, nephews and their families.

Mac was predeceased by his sister and brother-in-law, Alma and Neil Muxworthy; brothers, Louis Chalkley and Fred Chalkley, brother-in-law, Clarence Rounds; nephew, John Muxworthy.

Relatives and friends were received in the Francis Funeral Home, 77 Woodstock Street North, Tavistock on Sunday from 2-5 pm where the funeral service was held on Monday May 29, 2023 at 11 am. The Rev. Douglas Peck officiated. Reception following the service. Interment in North Embro Cemetery following.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to Knox United Church, Embro would be appreciated and may be made through the Francis Funeral Home by calling 519-655-2431.

Personal condolences can be posted at www.francis-fh.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 women 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)

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OBITUARY

Tucker



Marian Helen Tucker (nee March), longtime resident of St. Marys and Lakeside, passed away at St. Marys Memorial Hospital on May 20, 2023 at the age of 90.

Beloved wife of the late Ernie Tucker (2009). Mother of Stephen Tucker and Laurie of St. Marys, Jeff Tucker and Betty of London, and Michael

Tucker and Loesje of St. Marys. Proud grandmother of Ashley (Justin), Evan (Angie), Melissa, Thalina and great-grandmother of Ayden and Hunter. Sister of Jack March (Jackie, deceased), Ann Cesarek (Jerry, deceased) and Joan Brogden (Mike).

Marian was happiest when her family was around, and enjoyed gardening, travel and the outdoors. She was creative and artistic, loved her stained glass and knitting. She was a member of St. James Anglican Church and involved in several projects to help those in need. Her positive outlook on life was inspirational and contagious. She had a kind and genuine heart. Cremation has taken place with a private family gathering at a later date.

We would like to thank all of those who cared for her, came to her home and reached out to her, especially over the last few years. A special thanks to the Doctors, Nurses and staff at St. Marys Memorial Hospital. Memorial donations may be made to St. James Anglican Church, St. Marys Friendship Centre or Shriners Hospital. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneral-home.ca.

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

CELEBRATION

Bradley

Sophia Bradley is turning 90!

Bring your lawn chair and best wishes to celebrate with us. Drop in between 2-4 pm on Saturday, June 3rd at the Kinsmen Pavilion (317 James St. S.)

OBITUARY

Wakem



It is with great love and sadness that we, as a family, announce the peaceful passing of Liz (Nagy) Wakem. Liz passed away on the evening of May 22, 2023, at Grand River Hospital Freeport Campus, Kitchener. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister in-law, aunt and friend. Liz passed away surrounded by her immediate family whom she loved deeply at the age of 73 years old.

Liz will be dearly missed by her beloved husband Jim Wakem, celebrating 55 years of marriage. Her Children, Kathy Finney (Ron Finney) of Wellesley, and Kevin Wakem (Diane Wakem) of Wellesley. Grandchildren, Justin, (Rachel), Dylan, Cara and Ashley. She will be lovingly remembered by her in-laws Paul Wakem (Richard), Judy Wakem (Dave), Steve Wakem (Dale), Howard Wakem (Theresa). Also, her many nieces and nephews. Survived by her mother Elisabeth Nagy and mother in-law Audrey (Wakem) Beadle. She is predeceased by her father, Frank Nagy and father in-law Leonard Wakem.

Liz immigrated to Canada from Germany as a young child. She spent much of her youth in London, Ontario where she met Jim, the love of her life, at a roller-skating arena. Liz loved her family and enjoyed celebrating special occasions together. Always looking her best with painted nails, jewelry and clothes she loved. She was a faithful member of First Baptist Church where she cheerfully served in many areas including youth leader. Liz loved singing and celebrating her Saviour Jesus Christ. Liz worked in secretarial roles for both Fielding Financial and Equitable Life. Liz battled through various health complications over the years but never questioned God as to why she suffered so much and didn't complain about her conditions. Instead, she continued to smile, praise God and love her family unconditionally.

A special thank you to the caring staff at Chartwell, Terrace on the Square Retirement Home and Grand River Hospital including the Freeport Campus.

Liz's family will receive relatives and friends at First Baptist Church, 306 Erb St. W. Waterloo, Thursday June 1, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Celebration of Life Friday June 2, 11:00 a.m. followed by time for fellowship and refreshment in the church hall. A private family interment will be held at St. Mary's Cemetery, St. Mary's ON.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to Grand River Hospital and Diabetes Canada would be appreciated and may be arranged through Erb & Good Funeral Home, 171 King St. S. Waterloo at www.erbgood.com



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mcginnyp photography@gmail.com

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OBITUARY

Kelly



Brian John Kelly passed away peacefully in his home on May 22nd 2023 in his 72nd year after a long illness of chronic lung disease.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife Ellen (Calder) who left us 9 years ago at the age of 73 and is the son of the late John Vernon Kelly and

the late Margaret Lillian Barclay. Loving stepfather to Rhonda (Fred) DeLong, Jim (Crystal) Sedley of St. Marys, and Jeff Sedley of St. Thomas. Beloved Papa to 8 grandchildren Meagan (Devon) Stewardson, Abbey (Christopher) Thistle, Travis (Allison), Sam, and Billie Jean Sedley, Holly (Brandon) Marriott, Payton and Colin (Audra) Sedley; and 10 great grandchildren: Ashlynn, Sophie, Madeline, Mayla, Tealya, Lachlann, Daxton, Hudson, Mya, and Kylee. He is survived by his siblings, Sharon, Edward, Gary (Ann) Kelly, and Brenda (Karl) Douglas and predeceased by his stepfather Wilfred Barclay and his sister Peggy Lou Ballantyne. He is also survived by (Uncle) Emerson Martin and his wife (Aunt) Nora, Susan McIntosh (Maurice), Anne Streicker (Joe) in addition to many loving nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Brian is known for his kind heart and gentle soul. He cherished his family and eagerly participated in sports, celebrations, and gatherings. He co-founded the Monday night Alcoholic Anonymous group in St. Marys which he attended for 49 years, as well as other local groups and was well respected in the community.

His work included but was not limited to sponsoring the 12 Steps of Recovery and service work at the district level; you had to look a long way before you could find a better worker. Brian attended zoom AA meetings in both Ireland and Arizona where he made many friends, memorial meetings are underway in Canada, Mexico, and Ireland.

Cremation has taken place. Family and Friends are invited to the ST. MARYS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 147 Widder St. E. St. Marys on June 3, 2023 for visiting from 1 p.m. until the time of the Memorial Service at 2 p.m. A private family interment will take place in Seaforth at a later date. If desired, donations can be made to the London Regional Cancer Program, the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation, or a charity of your choice. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

THANK YOU

Mansfield

To everyone who attended my 75th Birthday Party, Thank You.

A "Special Thanks" goes to my love and best friend, my wife Jean, and to all those who helped to organize it (especially my family members).

Thanks again and I hope to see you again at my "80th"

Vic Mansfield

IN MEMORIAM

Ballantyne



**In Loving Memory of
Peggy Lou (Kelly) Ballantyne
1943-1983**

*I still miss you
As the weeks and years go by.
I still miss you
Like the clouds would miss the sky.
I still miss you
Like a bird without its wings.
I still miss you
Like a flower without the joys of spring.
I still miss you
As I greet another day.
I still miss you and the love we shared
And the memories we both made.*

**With Love
Sharon Kelly
Edward Kelly and Family
Brian Kelly and Family
Brenda & Karl Douglas and Family
Gary & Ann Kelly and Family**

Gwen has worked in the community in many ways. We invite you to join us as we celebrate her contribution to our church and town.

HAPPY RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 3-4 PM

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LOOKING BACK



By AMY CUBBERLEY

Young arsonists

25 years ago (1998)

Town Operations Manager Bruce Grant is requesting that St. Marys residents please take time to water their trees, as well as the many trees on the boulevards in front of their homes. Young trees need water the most, but Grant says that the older ones are in danger as well from the continued drought. There are more than 1,000 trees on Town road allowances and Grant says it would be a mammoth task for public works departments to try to keep them watered.

To express their grief, Arthur Meighen students wrote messages to their principal on Monday, after hearing she had died suddenly on the weekend. Pat Latta, 46, a Prospect Hill resident, was killed after the car she was driving collided with another vehicle. Latta is remembered as a caring person with a true gift for connecting with both her students and fellow teachers.

At a meeting of the Grand Trunk Trail Committee last Thursday, Ken Maronets, Perth County Stewardship Network, presented the trail project team with a report on the inventory of vegetation along the Grand Trunk Trail, the banks of the Thames at the Flats, and the Riverview Walkway. Maronets identified 177 species of flora along the St. Marys walkways, with 103 of these being native species.

50 years ago (1973)

The fireworks display sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce was a visually spectacular success, but the number of people paying was not sufficient to cover expenses. The adjacent fire hall parking lot and nearby streets was the choice for parking for many who did not wish to pay.

Walter Cull of the Horticultural Society has attested to the fact that the crookedest tree in town is now situated in front of the Journal Argus office. We love it!

Dr. Mike Weber will be joining the practice of Dr. Glenn and Ken Schiedel of St. Marys.

75 years ago (1948)

Officials in charge of the x-ray survey being conducted this week are pleased with the progress so far. As of yesterday at 5 p.m., over 1,500 people of St. Marys and district were x-rayed by the complex machine which has been set up in the Council Chambers of Town Hall.

Wm. Finnegan, east ward angler, caught a 16-inch brown trout in a Downie Township brook this week.

Scores of very large carp have been sporting themselves in droves of as many as twenty fish in the algae beds of the Thames below the mill dam. These big fish are among the best scavengers to be found in Ontario rivers and they should be protected against attacks from boys who hunt them in the shallow water.

100 years ago (1923)

Thomas Ferguson's house was gutted by a fire, originated by two small boys. The local firemen made a very fast response to the fire alarm system on Friday afternoon. The fire originated from a small bonfire lit by two five-year-old boys behind the house.

For some time, the Town Council has been interested in the matter of providing a car for the use of the Public Health Nurse, Miss Hindley, on her visits to the schools and the sick beds throughout the town. A committee has met with several women's societies with a view to securing a suitable vehicle. Several organizations and Council have committed to devoting part of their funds to this endeavor, and the nurse is now supplied with a Ford coupe.

During the past two or three weeks, the St. Marys Tennis Association has improved the fine grounds on Water Street north, near the Flats, to such extent that games are of nightly occurrence now. Tennis as a healthy, clean, invigorating sport is difficult to equal; it develops all the muscles of the body as well as the brain. It strengthens the nervous system and is just the kind of exercise needed by those people engaged in inside work.

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\$ Cash Paid \$ for your RECORDS and LPs. Jazz, Blues, Rock, Pop, Folk, Soundtracks, and more. Selectively buying CDs, Cassettes, Turntables, and Stereo Equipment. For more information: Diamond Dogs Music 114 Ontario St. Stratford/ 226-972-5750

Wanted

A working camcorder that will play Hi-8 digital tapes. Phone 519-284-3774

Wanted to buy

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

For Rent

1 bedroom, beautifully renovated apartment in heritage building with balcony overlooking the Thames River. Exposed limestone walls and wooden beams. Includes high speed internet, in-unit laundry and dishwasher. \$1650 +utilities. Available July 1st. Email info@rwcommons.com

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2 pure bred Border Collies pups. 1 male, 1 female grandparents imported from Wales. Call 519-461-1797

For Rent

Duplex for rent in St. Marys, 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom. Private back yard, front porch, all appliances included, close to downtown. Parking for three vehicles. No smoking. \$1800.00 plus utilities. Please call 519-284-2844, leave your name and phone number.

For Sale

15 - 20 barn boards for sale 6' - 12' long Call 1-519-949-1064 for appt to view

RUN YOUR CLASSIFIED AD HERE FOR JUST \$10 PER WEEK

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

THE WEEK AHEAD

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PRC & Friendship Centre events - See the Stonetown Crier on Page 5
Thorndale Library June events - See Page 19

Friday, June 2

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

Saturday, June 3

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 am to Noon
- St. Marys Horticultural Society Garden Fair at Milt Dunnell Field - 8:30 am to 1 pm
- Optimist Club of Downie Annual Bike Rodeo at the PRC - 10 am to Noon
- Station Gallery opening reception of "Wishes & Dreams" - 1:30 to 4 pm
- Sophia Bradley 90th Birthday Celebration at the Kinsmen Pavilion (317 James St S) - 2 to 4 pm
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm
- River Valley presents "Music in the Valley" featuring Roy's Garage - \$10 admission

Sunday, June 4

- Perth County Pride March - 1 pm from Tom Patterson Theatre
- Celebration of Life for Barry & Murray Thomson at the Legion - 1 to 4 pm

Monday, June 5

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

Wednesday, June 7

- Auxiliary Bingo at the PRC - Doors open 6:30 pm, Bingo starts 7 pm

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1) A cat | 6) Garth Brooks |
| 2) Japan | 7) Twelve |
| 3) To the right | 8) Beans |
| 4) Jackie | 9) Nagasaki |
| 5) Brazil | 10) Harness racing |

ST. MARYS LIONS CLUB



DRIVE-THROUGH BOTTLE DRIVE

Saturday, June 10, 2023
From 9 AM until 12 Noon

Drop off your returnable bottles and cans at the Action Medical parking lot, 566 Queen Street E, St. Marys, between 9 AM and 12 Noon.



All proceeds go toward local community projects!

Thank you for your continued support!



AUXILIARY BINGO

CASH PRIZES

WED. JUN 7
PYRAMID REC CENTRE

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START TIME IS 7:00 PM

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PRICES IN EFFECT June 2 - 8, 2023
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WEDNESDAYS 9-4
 WEDNESDAYS 10-2

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AMDSB
CO-OP Corner



THANK YOU to the businesses and organizations who have employed a St. Marys DCVI co-op student this year. You have provided a wide variety of meaningful learning experiences for our students, which helps them build skills for success after high school. Your support of the program is appreciated.

The co-op department would especially like to recognize the following businesses for participating in the program this year:

- | | |
|--|--|
| AD Aesthetics & Medispa | McDonald's |
| AKoolFilm Company | McLean Taylor Construction |
| All Equip Repair & Service | Meridian Credit Union |
| Alliance Wellness Centre | Nail Effects |
| Apple Canada Inc. | Ontario Clean Water Agency |
| Atlin & Associates | Perth County Ingredients |
| Bickell Built Homes | Raezor's Edge Carpentry |
| Career Education Council | RDJ Bailey Metalworks |
| Cascades Inc. | RJF Diesel Inc. |
| Cubberley Electric | Roestenberg Welding |
| Cubberley Plumbing & Heating | Rothsay (Darling) Ingredients |
| Delta Power | Scenic Holsteins |
| Dunny's Source for Sports | Schaeffler Aerospace |
| East on Jones | Shamrock Masonry |
| Easy Lift Doors | Shopdog Vans Inc. |
| EchoTech Machine & Tool Ltd. | Snapping Turtle Coffee Roasters |
| Elms Aviation | Spoiled Petz |
| Exeter Family Dental | St Marys Buick GMC |
| Forman Electric | St Marys Cement |
| Fox's Auto Sound | St Marys Childcare Centre |
| Glo Salon | St Marys Dentistry |
| Goris Electric | St Marys Ford Sales & Service |
| Hairitage Salon | St Marys Home Building Centre |
| Harris-Greig Automotive | St Marys Landscaping |
| Hearn's Ice Cream | St Marys Radio |
| Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance | St Marys Vet Clinic |
| Integrated Mechanical Services Inc. | Stonetown Electric |
| Jackson's Pharmacy | Stonetown Physiotherapy |
| JSB Construction | Stonetown Travel Ltd. |
| Kalon Studio & Co. | Stratford Agri Analysis |
| Kingsway Lodge | Sue Taylor Painting |
| Lindsay Pickering - Remax Sales Representative | The Ensuite Bath & Kitchen Showroom - EMCO Stratford |
| Little Caesars | The Hitching Post |
| Little Falls Public School | Toews Power |
| Luckhardt Landworks | Toromont CAT Industries Ltd. |
| McCurdy Manufacturing | Wildwood Conservation Area |
| McDonald's Your Independent Grocer | |

Employers/organizations interested in partnering with the program can contact

Jessica Chateauvert, Co-operative Education Department Head
 519-284-1731 or jessica.chateauvert@ed.amdsb.ca

