

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1162

Thursday, June 8, 2023

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Watt a clutch shot!



At the annual Ryder Cup event held at St. Marys Golf & Country Club, Jake Watt celebrates a chip-in on the par-3 18th hole on Saturday morning that secured a match win in the better ball format. See full story on page 10. (Stewart Grant photo)

HPHA updates masking guidelines

The following press release was received Monday from Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance:

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA) has worked closely with our partners in Infection Prevention and Control to ensure patients, staff, physicians and families/caregivers are safe and protected while in our hospitals. Along with our partner hospitals throughout the South West Region, and based

upon the most recent Public Health Ontario guidance, updates will be made to our Universal Masking Policy to reflect current health and safety risks.

Effective Monday, June 5, 2023 masking will be welcomed, but no longer required in many clinical areas of the hospital.

The exception to this is any of HPHA's Emergency Departments where masking will be required.

Continued on page 2

Town seeking feedback on Milt Dunnell Field revitalization project

Survey available until June 16

One of the Stonetown's most beloved outdoor spaces is set for a refresh.

The Town of St. Marys is currently developing a long-term master plan to enhance Milt Dunnell Field. The goal is to improve accessibility, increase usability and attract more people to the park.

Two conceptual designs have been proposed for the space based on feedback from local user groups. The designs are now being turned over to the public for further input through a survey, available at www.discoverstmarys.ca/miltdunnell-survey and Town facilities.

"The design concepts are a way to start the discussion," says André Morin, Director of Corporate Services. "We want to understand the types of amenities people would like to see in the park," he says.

Input from the public will be used to create a master plan for the park. That plan will be shared with experts like the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, who will help to ensure that the design is feasible, sustainable, and achievable, given that the park is in a floodplain.

"The final design may look very different or very similar to the concepts, depending on the feedback we receive and the recommendations we get from our external partners," says Morin.

The master plan for Milt Dunnell Field will go to Town Council for approval and will be implemented in a phased approach over the next several years, pending grant funding.

The survey is open until June 16, 2023. Paper copies are available at Town facilities; completed sur-

Continued on page 2

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

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COMMUNITY —

Town seeking feedback on Milt Dunnell Field revitalization project

Continued from page 1

veys can be submitted in person or by mail (Town of St. Marys, P.O. Box

998, St. Marys, ON, N4X 1B6).

For more information about the Milt Dunnell Field Revitalization Project,

visit www.discoverstmarys.ca/milt-dunnell. Questions about the project can be directed to André Morin, Di-

rector of Corporate Services at 519-284-2340, ext. 217 or amorin@town.stmarys.on.ca.

Masking to Remain Mandatory in Emergency Departments at HPHA

Continued from page 1

Masking will also be required throughout the hospital sites for individuals who are experiencing symptoms of respiratory infection such as cough, fever and sore throat, and for those who are accompanying or visiting a patient with these symptoms.

Hospital-provided medical grade

masks will continue to be provided with masking stations set up throughout HPHA hospital sites, not just at entrances.

Anyone entering the hospital is welcome to wear a mask.

"Masks continue to be a key tool for infection prevention and control," says Erica Jensen, Manager Quality, Patient Safety and Infection Con-

trol. "We encourage anyone who wishes to wear a mask to do so to help protect themselves and their loved ones."

What This Means for Our Patients, Families/Caregivers and Visitors

Masking is Required:

- If you are a patient or caregiver in the Emergency Department
- You have symptoms of a respiratory infection (such as cough, fever, sore throat)
- You are caring for someone with a respiratory infection
- You may want to wear a mask if: You have an underlying medical condition, are immunocompromised or are an older adult
- Your close contacts are more likely to get very sick if they contract COVID-19

- You are in a crowded space
- You had a high-risk exposure and may become sick

"Our staff and physicians in the Emergency Department will be required to wear masks when providing care to patients," adds Jensen. "Staff and physicians will also continue to wear masks when providing care to patients in isolation precautions or with symptoms of respiratory illness. And of course, staff and physicians will be required to wear a mask if they are experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness."

It is also important to note that Universal Masking may be reintroduced based on disease activity, during respiratory season and for outbreak management.

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Jeff Swan BRE, CFP	Julie Swan Office Manager	Cheryl Campbell, CFP Life Insurance Specialist
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7 Day Forecast - Weather Sponsored by The HITCHING POST

Wednesday June-7th	Thursday June-8th	Friday June-9th	Saturday June-10th	Sunday June-11th	Monday June-12th	Tuesday June-13th
Sunny	Sun/cloud	Sun/cloud	Sun/cloud	Cloudy showers	Showers	Mainly sunny
22°C Feels Like 22	19°C Feels Like 19	20°C Feels Like 20	24°C Feels Like 24	23°C Feels Like 25	20°C Feels Like 21	23°C Feels Like 25

COMMUNITY —



St. Marys 2nd Annual
Pride Day

Sunday, June 11 | 12pm-5pm
at Milt Dunnell Park "The Flats"

Kids' Play Area

Bouncy Castle • Lawn Games
• Bubbles • Balloons •
Colouring Station • Popcorn
• Face Painting • And More!

Drag Storytime at 2pm!

Live Music

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EDITORIAL —

PGA Tour / LIV deal sees money prevail over principle

By Stewart Grant

In the end, money wins over principle. And that's sad.

Even casual golf fans will be familiar with the fact that several elite golfers left the PGA Tour last year to join the new Saudi-funded LIV Golf Tour.

With hundreds of millions paid out to top players, and no material revenue stream, there really was no "business model" behind the LIV Golf Tour... rather it was a high-profile example of "sportswashing", a term used to describe the practice of using sports to improve reputations tarnished by wrongdoing. In this case, Saudi Arabia was looking to become known for "golf" as opposed to say, torturing and murdering journalist Jamal Khashoggi, or funding the terrorists of 9/11.

There are no golf fans who can legitimately say that the LIV Golf Tour has been good for golf. It has fractured the game over the past year as it has divided golfers amongst the PGA and LIV Tours.

Each player who left for the LIV Tour has their own reasons for doing so, and full credit to guys like Harold Varner III and Pat Perez who were at least honest about the fact that they were doing it "for the money" rather than bullcrap about "growing the game".

Enormous sums of money were offered to top PGA Tour players such as Rory McIlroy, Tiger Woods, Collin Morikawa, and many others. They chose not to take the extra money... heck, they've got lots of it already. They've been loyal to the PGA Tour; to build on their own legacies, to continue playing against most of the world's top players, to support the tour that does so much in terms of supporting local charities while grow-

ing the game of golf, and because many didn't want to be part of the Saudi sportswashing exercise.

In the past year, viewership of PGA Tour events has remained exceptionally strong, while viewing interest in the LIV Golf Tour has been dismal. Even though LIV player Brooks Koepka marched to an impressive victory at golf's most recent major, most golf fans surveyed indicated that Koepka's win wouldn't make them more interested in tuning into LIV Golf events.

Jay Monahan, PGA Tour Commissioner, correctly said last year, "If this is an arms race and if the only weapons here are dollar bills, the PGA Tour can't compete. The PGA Tour, an American institution, can't compete with a foreign monarchy that is spending billions of dollars in attempt to buy the game of golf. We welcome good, healthy competition. The LIV Saudi golf league is not that. It's an irrational threat; one not concerned with the return on investment or true growth of the game."

Monahan has fought hard against the threat of LIV, and despite losing some top players early on, the PGA Tour has stood strong. The PGA Tour was indeed going to survive and thrive in the face of competition from the endless Saudi dollars. Loyalty and principles were going to win out, it appeared.

Then, this morning, just before press time, we (along with PGA Tour players) received the stunning news that Commissioner Monahan had struck a deal with LIV.

We don't have the full details at the time, but it appears that Monahan and PGA Tour executives decided that in the end, there was enough money offered so that their principles didn't really matter anymore.

Bravo

We have two Bravos this week.

1) Bravo to Randy Parkinson who helped me out early one morning and was able to get me up and running long before the store opened. Thanks again Randy.

2) Grateful to the staff at The Independent Grocer for quickly shutting down a gift card scam.



Boo

We have one Boo this week.

1) For the second year in a row I find myself placing a "Boo" regarding seemingly irreverent narrow minded thieves who trespassed onto my property and ripped my pride flag off my garden arbor. You can steal our flag but don't for a moment think you can steal our Pride!



*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

"I've grown up being a fan of the 4 Aces. Maybe one day I get to play for them on the PGA Tour!"

- Joel Dahmen after the merger of the PGA Tour and the LIV Tour Tuesday morning.

St. Marys Independent

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The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS
OF THE WEEK

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Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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Having Wellington
Street closed recently
sure brought back a
lot of memories from
last summer.

The Sunday
"treasure hunt"
following the
Saturday garage
sales is a great idea!

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 —

Smile Cookie Campaign raises over \$24,000



Paul Whaling and Shari McHardy from St. Marys Tim Hortons are standing with Bernice De Decker (Communications and Fundraising Coordinator) and Cindy Bilyea (Foundation Board Chair) from the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation to present the Smile Cookie cheque. A big thanks to staff, volunteers and the community that made this happen. The money raised is going towards a Cast Saw for the St. Marys Memorial Hospital Emergency Department. (Contributed photo)

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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.

townofstmarys.com/skating or 519-284-2160

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





566 Queen St. E. • 519.284.4348

Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Bill McKay of Medina who is celebrating his 90th birthday on June 16. Bill has 5 children, 16 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great.

The family would like to invite you out to #922957 Road 92 in Medina from 1pm-4pm for cake to celebrate this special day. The family wishes Dad a great day.

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

COMMUNITY —

Sanitary sewer lining installation June 5 - June 16

Crews will be installing Cured-in-Place Pipe (CIPP) Sewer Liners in several areas between June 5 and 16. Intermittent traffic impacts will be encountered during these times while liners are being installed which may include partial lane closures, road closures, detours, etc.

The installations will be happening in the following areas:

Robinson St.
Queen St. W
Thomas St.

Queen St. E
Jones St.
Elgin St.
Elizabeth St.

Property Owners in areas who will be directly affected by this work will receive an advanced notice of impending work from the Town as well will be issued a 24 to 48-hour notice of pending work by the Contractor.

Thank you for your patience.

St. Marys Pride Day this Sunday

The 2nd Annual St. Marys Pride Day will be held this Sunday June 11 at Milt Dunnell Park "The Flats". The Family Pride Celebration will have something for everyone. There will be live music, vendors, food trucks and a Kid's Play area which will include lawn games, Bubbles, Balloons, a colouring station, face painting and popcorn. Also included will be a Drag Storytime at 2 p.m. The event will run from 12

p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday and all are welcome to attend. Sponsors for the event include the Town of St. Marys, Meridian, Friends of the Library, St. Marys Optometry, Ann Slater, Alliance Wellness Centre, The Wine Lab, Hubbard Pharmacy, The Flower Shop, TD Bank, and O'Grady's among others.



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Weekend Quiz

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- 1) What was the first country to give women the right to vote?
- 2) Who was the first human to journey into space?
- 3) Mount Kilimanjaro is located in which country?
- 4) How many keys are there on a standard piano?
- 5) How many members are there in the United Nations?
- 6) Who was the first Black president of South Africa?
- 7) What is the world's largest democracy?
- 8) What year did America declare its independence from England?
- 9) What are baby kangaroos called?
- 10) What was the name of the ship that transported the Pilgrims to New England in 1620?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27



**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
PERTH REGIMENT VETERANS
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HOURS

TUE – THU 3PM - ???
FRI NOON TILL ???
SAT – NOON TILL CLOSING

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COMMUNITY —

3rd annual Brews & Food Fest Returns on Father's Day



Get ready to Fest this Father's Day! The Rotary Club of St. Marys is proud to present Brews & Food Fest 2023 on Sunday, June 18th from 12 - 6 p.m. at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum. (JMRD Field)

The Brews and Food Fest brings together the best craft beer, food trucks and live music that Ontario has to offer! Distillers and cider producers are also on hand for those attendees who aren't beer fans, and we have Designated Driver tickets for non-drinkers.

York Street Thought Process returns by popular demand to provide live music. The band, fronted by local musicians Jaron Camp and Rachael Frankruyter, creates a playful mix of indie-folk and improvisation from a wide range of original music to classic covers. They will be performing 3 sets throughout the afternoon.

Advance ticket purchase is required to access the craft beer area and the live music, at www.brewsandfood.ca. Food truck access is free to the public - no ticket required. The festival runs rain or shine, and we have a 300-seat marquee tent set up for inclement weather.

Funds raised at the festival support Rotary projects in St. Marys and surrounding communities.

As this article went to press, the participating drink vendors are as follows:

- Anderson Craft Ales (London)
- Black Donnelly's Brewing (Lucan)
- Black Swan Brewing (Stratford)
- Broadhead Brewing (Ottawa)

- Broken Rail Brewing (St. Marys)
 - Heeman's Cider (Thorndale)
 - Heritage Hops Brew Co (Stratford)
 - MVP Brewing (Stratford)
 - Paradigm Spirits (London)
 - Powerhouse Brewing (London)
 - Rusty Wrench Brewing (Strathroy)
 - Sons of Kent Brewing (Chatham)
 - Stockyards Brewing (Kitchener)
 - Upper Thames Brewing (Woodstock)
- The participating food trucks are as follows:

- Brannigans Fish & Chips (London)
- Canteen Food Truck (St. Marys)
- el Milagro Mexican Food (Guelph)
- The Grilled Cheezery (London)
- Kono Pizza (Kitchener)
- My Big Fat Food Truck(London)
- Pabla's Street Food of India (Cambridge)
- Passado Brasil (Kitchener / Waterloo)
- Sunset Diner (St. Marys)

You can learn more and buy tickets through the festival website www.brewsandfood.ca

Advance online ticket purchase is strongly recommended. Last year, almost 800 people attended the festival! Ticket availability at the festival gate is not guaranteed. There was still ticket availability as this article went to press. Thanks to everyone who has already purchased tickets. See you on Father's Day!

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<p>IN STOCK WATER PROOF</p> <p>LUXURY VINYL PLANKS</p> <p>\$179</p> <p>FROM PER SQ FT REG 4.99</p>	<p>IN STOCK HOT NEW PRODUCT!</p> <p>LUXURY HIGH GLOSS VINYL TILES 12X24"</p> <p>\$199</p> <p>FROM PER SQ FT REG 6.99</p>
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<p>IN STOCK JUST ARRIVED</p> <p>13"X13" PORCELAIN TILE</p> <p>99¢</p> <p>FROM /SQ FT REG 4.99</p>	<p>IN STOCK HOT ITEM!</p> <p>12"X24" POLISHED PORCELAIN TILE</p> <p>\$199</p> <p>FROM PER SQ FT REG 4.99</p>
<p>IN STOCK MODERN STYLE</p> <p>SUBWAY WALL TILES</p> <p>\$199</p> <p>FROM PER SQ FT REG 5.99</p>	<p>IN STOCK TOP SELLER</p> <p>BLACK LEDGESTONE</p> <p>\$699</p> <p>FROM PER SQ FT REG 9.99</p>
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SUNDAY 10AM-5PM

COMMUNITY —

Horticultural Garden Fair held Saturday, June 3



The St. Marys Horticultural Society held their 23rd annual garden fair at Milt Dunnell Field on Saturday June 3rd. On display for purchase were many hanging baskets, perennials, annuals, vegetables, aquatic plants, bird houses, garden decor and metal sculptures. Seen here selling Horticultural memberships are Liz Webley, Chris Young, John Robinson and Joan Robinson. Also pictured are some of the many beautiful hanging plants ready to find a new home. (Contributed photos)

Optimist Club of Downie Fundraiser

Proceeds to Healthcare Foundation

The Optimist Club of Downie are holding a Smoked Pork Chop Drive Thru Dinner this Saturday June 10. The meal will be served from 5 – 7.30 at the Downie Optimist Com-

munity Centre in St. Pauls. The meal includes a smoked pork chop, baked beans, a baked potato, coleslaw, a fresh dinner roll and carrot cake. The pork chops are courtesy of the Perth

County Pork Producers. All proceeds are going to St. Marys Healthcare Foundation and tickets are \$25 each. The club would like to thank The Perth Pork Producers, Janice's Fine

Country Catering, Sassy's, The Black Angus and also Cascades for the boxes.



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To enter your school, business, organization or any other interested folks, contact Don or Margaret at 519-284-1548. Deadline is Friday June 23.



SCIENCE HILL Country Club

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

EFFECTIVE APRIL 28TH HOURS WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:
 SUNDAY THRU THURSDAY 11 AM – 8PM
 FRI AND SAT 11 – 10PM
CALL FOR RESERVATIONS

(519) 284-3621

COMMUNITY —

St. Marys Foodland helps Special Olympics Ontario



Local athletes Sean & Mike were representing & promoting for Special Olympics Ontario at the St. Marys Foodland on Saturday, June 3rd. Both are very involved with various sports with Special Olympics Stratford & Area. Thank you to all who donated and thank you to store owner Corey McKay & other employees for accommodating and being so kind to Special Olympics athletes Sean & Mike to have a display set up in the store. Pictured from left to right, Bridget Flanagan, Foodland employee; Sean Darling & Michael Hitchcock, Special Olympics athletes; and store owner of St. Marys Foodland, Corey McKay. (Contributed photo)

AllWheelsPark donation of the week



Thank you to Kathy and Ken Peel, one of their Toronto donors, for their support of the Rotary All Wheels Park. For the complete list of donors and to participate in this worthy community project please visit our website: www.townofstmarys.com/allwheelspark. (Contributed photo)

Join us for
Afternoon Tea
with Author
Jennifer Robson

Saturday, June 24, 1pm
Pyramid Recreation Centre Hall

FREE tickets available at the Library until June 17th or while supplies last. Ticket required for entry at the door.




The St. Marys Public Library is proud to present the first annual Afternoon Tea event with international best-selling author Jennifer Robson. Join us on June 24th for tea, treats, and the opportunity to hear about Robson's newest book *The Coronation Year*.

Books will be available for sale courtesy of Betty's Bookshelf



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SPORTS —

Old Guys retain Ryder Cup with 16-16 tie



With a 16-16 tie in points in this year's competition, the Old Guys retained the Ryder Cup at St. Marys G&CC that they won a year earlier. From left, front row: Jamie Hodgins, Greg Wolfkamp, Rich Parsons, Andy Cunningham, Marty Rutledge, Troy Carter, Dan Murrell. Back row: Jimmy Craigmile, Stefan MacNeil, Eddy Seok, Tom Westerveld, Stewart Grant, Rick Fifield, Brian Humphrey, Bob Hearn. Not pictured: Jason Firby. (Ian Grant photo)

Greg Wolfkamp urges his birdie putt on #7 to drop into the hole. (Stewart Grant photo)

By Stewart Grant

For only the second time ever in the nearly 30-year history of the St. Marys Golf & Country Club Ryder Cup, and for the first time since 2006, the competition ended in a tie.

Fortunately for captain Andy Cunningham and his team of "Old Guys", a 16-16 tie was just what they needed in order to retain the coveted Ryder Cup trophy that they had won in 2022.

"I knew my boys in the end were gonna come through," Cunningham said as he referred to "legends" Rick Fifield and Rich Parsons who secured the team's two final points on Sunday. Troy Carter, Jimmy Craigmile, Jamie Hodgins and Marty Rutledge also won their Sunday singles matches while Brian Humphrey secured a half-point.

When Sunday's matches began, it appeared likely that the Old Guys would cruise to victory, given that they had built a comfortable 9.5 to 6.5 lead during Saturday's play. However, the Young Guys team proved resilient, taking 9.5 of the 16 singles match points available on Sunday.

"I was proud of the team to battle back

today and get to a tie. Nobody gave up, and we brought it right down to the last match," said Young Guys captain Kyle Heinbuch.

With St. Marys' Road Hole (#9) still under construction, captains Cun-

ningham and Heinbuch collaborated with Director of Golf Brandon De Groot to allow hole #1 to perform double-duty as hole #18 for the matches, so that #9 with its temporary green could be skipped over. During Saturday's morning Better Ball

matches, each of the first six matches went the distance, with four matches ending in ties while two matches were won "1 Up" by the Young Guys. After 18 holes of play, the Young Guys led by an overall score of 5-3.

Historically, the Old Guys have dominated the Alternate Shot format, and this year was no exception, with the elder statesmen taking the Saturday afternoon matches 6.5 to 1.5. Since 2004, the Old Guys have won 57% of the available points in the Alternate Shot format while the Young Guys have won 53% of Better Ball points and 51% of Singles matches.

"Experience really shines through on the alternate shot... staying out of trouble goes a long way," reflected Heinbuch.

In such a closely contested set of matches with several ties, there were only two players during the weekend who compiled perfect 3-0-0 records: Marty Rutledge of the Old Guys (who was named tournament MVP) and Taylor Booth of the Young Guys.

Next year's captains will be Tom Westerveld (Old Guys) and Steve Hinz (Young Guys).



Ryder Cup captains Kyle Heinbuch (Young Guys) and Andy Cunningham (Old Guys) congratulate each other on a fantastic weekend of golf at St. Marys G&CC. (Stewart Grant photo)



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SPORTS —

Lincs sign six to start off-season



St. Marys Lincolns' General Manager Pat Powers welcomes St. Marys' own Ryan Hodkinson to the team as a full-time roster member for the 2023-24 season. Hodkinson was an Affiliate Player (AP) for the Lincolns last season and scored his first GOJHL goal. Hodkinson led the U18 Huron-Perth Lakers last season with 36 points in 38 games.

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys Lincolns have begun to supplement their returning core with six players signing to play Junior 'B' hockey in the Stonetown next season at a signing event last Thursday.

Among the six players signed was St. Marys native and 2022-23 Affiliate Player (AP) Ryan Hodkinson. After being chosen in the 13th round of the 2022 OHL Priority Selection, Hodkinson spent last season with the U18 Huron-Perth Lakers and led the team with 36 points in 38 games. Lincolns' General Manager Pat Powers told the Independent that Hodkinson's six-foot-three frame as well as his offensive abilities made the local talent an intriguing piece for his hometown team.

"I love Ryan's size and that's one thing about a player that you can't teach," said Hodkinson. "He's got a good offensive pedigree with him leading his

team in scoring last year. He's a local kid who is very deserving of the spot he's got on our team. The few times he played with us as an AP last year, the coaching staff was thrilled with him in those games and they're excited to have him on the roster next season."

Another AP signed to be a regular roster member next season is defenceman Luke Bogart. The native of Grand Bend posted two goals and 21 points in 39 games with U18 Elgin-Middlesex Canucks last year, as well as appearing in six regular season games and two playoff games with the Lincs. Powers echoed previous praise of Bogart by Head Coach Jeff Bradley for the defender's on-ice intelligence.

"We were familiar with Luke as he was an AP for us last season and we were really impressed with what he brought to the table. Luke is a very



Lincs' Head Coach Jeff Bradley stands alongside Grand Bend native Luke Bogart at last Thursday's signing event, during which six players were signed by the team. Bogart was an AP for the Lincolns last season and appeared in six regular season games, plus two playoff contests. (Photos by Spencer Seymour)

reliable defender who makes great decisions with the puck and has an extremely high IQ."

Also joining the Lincolns' blueline is another OHL-drafted player as well as a player who served a Junior 'B' AP last season, albeit for the London Nationals, Julian Stubgen of Thornedale. In 39 games with the U18 London Jr. Knights last year, Stubgen had six goals and 14 points, while adding a goal and two assists in eight games with the Nationals.

"Julian is a very strong-skating, positional defender, who has some grit in his game," Powers said of Stubgen, who was picked in the second round of the 2023 Under-18 OHL Draft by the Saginaw Spirit. "I think he's a really good 200-foot defenceman who can jump up in the rush. He makes a good first pass and I think he's going to be a solid all-around player for us."

Just two picks after Stubgen went to the Spirit, the London Knights selected Wellesley-based forward Colton Henderson, who also signed with St. Marys last Thursday. Henderson has two GOJHL games with the Listowel Cyclones as an AP under his belt and spent last season with the U18 Waterloo Wolves, where his 33 points led the team.

"Colton is a big forward with plenty of skill and a whole lot of sandpaper in his game," Powers praised. "He never stops working. He's hard in on the forecheck. He'll stick guys up, he'll check guys, and then he'll score the game-winning goal. I just think he's going to be a great presence in our forward group with his skill and physicality."

A familiar last name to Lincs fans will be that of forward Ryan Cornfield, whose older brother Josh is part of the Lincolns defence corps. The younger Cornfield posted 18 goals and 44

points in 39 games with the Kitchener Jr. Rangers, coming second in points on the team. Cornfield is also a 12th-round pick of the Barrie Colts and according to Powers, will bring a hybrid of skill and tenacity.

"Ryan is an offensive player who can play with some grit within his skill. On the ice, he's a burly guy who has a wicked shot, he's got a nose for the net, and he will definitely be a creative offensive player for us."

The Lincolns also filled a goaltending slot with the signing of netminder Colby Booth-Housego. The Kitchener native played 22 games with the Waterloo Wolves last season and posted a sparkling 1.58 goals-against average. The Lincs' GM called Booth-Housego a "top-notch competitor."

"Colby will do absolutely anything and everything to stop the puck. He may not get the best points stylistically but the reason we went with Colby is because we want the team in front of him to know that the guy holding the fort down in net is doing everything he can to get us wins. I think the compete that Colby brings will be infectious throughout the team and the community is going to love watching him."

Powers also commented on his vision for the 2023-24 version of the Lincolns.

"I want to make sure that this team is able to run out four lines and six defencemen at all times. The best teams in the championship rounds are the ones who are the most rested, the most prepared, and the most experienced throughout the lineup. So, if we're able to constantly give four lines and three defence pairs plenty of experience throughout the season, that should bode well for us in the playoffs."



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SPORTS —

Fresh-faced Chargers improving rapidly

By Spencer Seymour

After a few weeks of growing pains for the St. Marys Chargers to start the season, Player-Coach Laura Van De Walle is feeling optimistic about the improvements made by the squad.

"Above all else, I'm feeling really proud of our team," Van De Walle told the Independent following their game last Thursday, a 2-2 draw against the German Canadian FC Eagles. "They've been working very hard and we're really starting to see it pay off. They have already improved so much and with the group we have, I'm sure that will continue."

Prior to last Thursday, the team's first few weeks of action in the London and Area Women's Soccer League's third division saw tough results for the Chargers but it was all part of the new team's process of building their cohesiveness and chemistry. Many new players joined the Chargers this year or returned for the first time after the pandemic.

"Those first few losses were definitely tough but we have a great group

of women here," said Van De Walle. "We've managed to have fun and develop a bond as a team even though the results haven't been what we may have hoped for. It takes time to learn how to play on a new team with new players and I can see that we are all starting to come together and work cohesively which is making a huge difference."

In their 2-2 tie against the Eagles, the Chargers got goals from Kirsten De Jong, her second of the season, as well as the first of the campaign for Melanie Martin. However, the score didn't quite reflect just how well the Chargers performed.

We had a lot more control and possession during Thursday's game. We are starting to figure out how to play together as a group instead of as individuals. As a result, we started to create more scoring opportunities. We spent the majority of the game in their half and had several opportunities to take the lead. It's really exciting to see the progress and we are going to keep building on our teamwork and communication going forward."





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Three DCVI field athletes going to OFSAA in nation's capital

By Spencer Seymour

As you're reading this, three athletes from St. Marys DCVI are in Ottawa competing in the Provincial track and field OFSAA meet after placing in the top four of their events at last week's OFSAA West in Cambridge.

The three who will be in the nation's capital for OFSAA from June 8th to 10th include Colton Hawkins, who placed second in Junior Boys Pole Vault with a personal best jump of 3.35 metres. Payton Blight came up with a personal best of 27.15 metres on her sixth and final throw in Novice Girls Discus to move from fifth to second. And, with a personal best throw of 33.34 metres, Eden Sinnett took fourth in Junior Girls Javelin.

Other strong top-eight finishes included Blight taking sixth in Novice Girls Javelin, Kaleb Dingman placing seventh in Novice Boys 3000 metres, Bronwyn Hawkins finishing eighth in Novice Girls Pole Vault, and Trevor Richardson taking eighth in Junior Boys Javelin.

Co-Coach Ian Morton, who focuses on the throwing athletes and pole vaulters, told the Independent that seeing

three athletes from DCVI make it through the incredibly tough crop of competitors at OFSAA West was marvellous for the school.

Co-Coach Ian Morton, who focuses on the throwing athletes, told the Independent that seeing three athletes from DCVI make it through the incredibly tough crop of competitors at OFSAA West was marvellous for the school.

"OFSAA West is such a difficult region and to make it to that point really signifies you are one of the best in the province already," said Morton. "Getting a qualification spot for OFSAA itself is a huge accomplishment. I am so proud of our two throwers and our pole vaulter that have made it on to compete in Ottawa. But our whole team deserves recognition as well, it was a fantastic season."

"Ottawa will be a great competition and OFSAA West has set us up for some great success," Morton continued. "The hard work, dedication, and joy that our athletes put into track and field are evident in the great results. I don't think I could be prouder of them."

SPORTS —

Senior boys earn OFSAA birth, WOSSAA Silver

By Spencer Seymour

In perhaps their busiest week of the season so far, the St. Marys DCVI Senior Boys soccer team qualified for OFSAA and captured a Silver Medal at WOSSAA last week.

In their semi-final match of the Huron-Perth Playoffs, the DCVI Senior Boys took on South Huron and came away victorious with a 1-0 final score that secured their place in the H-P Finals as well as WOSSAA to be held the next day. Sebastian Linares finished a cross from the right wing, heading the ball into the back of the net for the lone goal of the contest. On the team's semi-final victory, Head Coach Richard Farmer credited his group with not looking ahead and staying focused on the task at hand.

"The boys played really hard which we needed to with how South Huron played," said Farmer. "I wasn't expecting South Huron to play as hard as they did but they came with the intent to win that game just as much as we did. We had to scrap, scratch, and claw the whole game, it was really tough. I played a really short bench and some guys played the whole game so I'm really happy with the endurance they showed."

Farmer added that the team's ability to not stray from their planned formation was vital to their semi-final success.

"The key for us was maintaining our shape. A few times, we started losing our positions and in those moments, South Huron started attacking. But when we maintained our shape, I thought we had good possession. Like we've seen many times this season, we worked the wings real-



Sebastian Linares heads a right-wing cross into the South Huron net during the St. Marys DCVI Senior Boys soccer team's Huron-Perth semi-final playoff game last Tuesday. The Senior Boys claimed the WOSSAA Silver Medal and a birth at OFSAA last week. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

ly well, and once again, that's where our goal came from."

In the H-P Championship game, the Salukis took on the juggernaut squad from St. Michael, who not only finished the H-P season with 37 goals-for but also managed to go the entire season without allowing a goal. St. Mike's came away with a 3-0 win over the exhausted DCVI boys.

Just 24 hours later, the Salukis were back on the road to compete at WOSSAA. In their first game, a tough match against Holy Cross saw the Salukis narrowly fall 2-1. Jaden Shiell pounced on a rebound after teammate Roger Sebben collided with the Holy Cross goalkeeper for the lone St. Marys goal.

grateful for Heather's presence, but to see Charles step up in such difficult circumstances was really positive."

In their second game against host Westminster, a couple of unfortunate and questionable calls resulted in two St. Marys goals being called back, leading to a scoreless affair in regulation. Five minutes into the first 10-minute half of extra time, Carson Brock fed Giuseppe Passarelli who blew by two defenders before rocketing a shot into the net. The next 15 minutes saw the St. Marys Senior Boys "play hard and smart" to secure the win as well as a spot at OFSAA. RJ Martin earned the shutout in the St. Marys net.

With their spot at OFSAA already guaranteed, Farmer spread the minutes around a bit more in the rematch with Holy Cross as they vied for WOSSAA Gold.

The Salukis played hard and were the better team in the first half but couldn't find any clear scoring chances. In the second half, Holy Cross found their footing and took advantage of a tired St. Marys team. Holy Cross used their larger reserve of substitutes to great effect to wear down the St. Marys side, scoring two late goals to steal the 2-0 win.

As a result, the DCVI Senior Boys are WOSSAA Silver Medalists, an improvement from last year's Bronze. While it does give St. Marys a lower seeding at OFSAA, Farmer said that the boys are excited for the top level of competition.

Heather Brock gets a special acknowledgment for putting her nursing skills to timely use when Andres Gomez was tackled hard, resulting in an unfortunate broken wrist. Brock took Gomez to the hospital and stayed with him until his parents arrived. Charles Black came in to replace Gomez and, according to Farmer, put in "one heck of a tournament."

"Charles was like a bulldog," Farmer praised. "He was going hard after every ball and winning most challenges. Obviously, I hated to see the injury to Andres and I'm really

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SPORTS —

Another week of strong pickleball action

It was a busy night of pickleball last Wednesday with 20 players participating in over 30 matches. The conditions were sunny and warm with wind not playing a factor on the evening.

One of the early matches saw Paul Payette and Barry Stone battle Cate Hishon and Dan Ferguson. This was a tight match with many overhead smashes for the winners. The players settled into slower play at the net and kitchen, favouring the team that plays disciplined positional play. Hishon and Ferguson outlasted their opponents and won 11 to 8.

Another match featured Elizabeth Hill and Bill Pickering playing Linda Pickering and Lynn Davis. Hill is a new player and is improving each week. The Pickerings were on opposite sides of the net for this match and neither were willing to give any ground. The play started slow as the teams were looking for weaknesses in their opponents. As the game progressed, numerous exchanges at the



Paul Payette and Barry Stone take on Cate Hishon and Dan Ferguson in one of 30 pickleball matches contested last Wednesday at the St. Marys courts. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

net led Hill and Pickering to take the lead. Davis and Linda Pickering made some strategic shots and closed the gap nicely. However, it was to no avail as Hill and Bill Pickering took the

match 11 to 7.

Lisa Evans and Brian McKinnon challenged Jantje Scheele and Matt Payette to a match that saw long rallies and some great defensive returns. Ev-

ans and McKinnon took the early lead but Scheele and Payette mounted an amazing comeback as they would not relent to their challengers. The final points of the match could have gone to either team but Evans and McKinnon prevailed and won 12 to 10.

Linda McFadden and Denis Dumont played Lynn Davis and Kevin Sivyer in a long match dominated by strong groundstrokes throughout the match. McFadden and Dumont capitalized on a number of soft defensive shots by their opponents creating an opening for power shots down the middle. This game was decided by a strong serve by McFadden and Dumont to win the match 11 to 7.

Jody Stone and Chris Evans took on Lisa Evans and Matt Payette in a game that saw a good mix of power and finesse as the teams tried to wear their opponents down. It was a close match which saw Stone and Evans come out on top with a score of 11 to 8.

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SPORTS —

Five SKC members qualify for Team Canada

By Spencer Seymour

The World Karate Championship taking place in Orlando, Florida this October will see Team Canada bring a handful of St. Marys representatives after five Stonetown Karate Centre (SKC) students qualified at the recent National Team Tryouts.

The top four competitors in any division make it on Team Canada. Competitors came from many provinces across Canada to earn their spot on this year's Canadian team. All competitors had to compete in two rounds with the highest combined scores taking the top four positions. Each round was spread over two days of competition.

Lisa Sheldon came away with four Gold Medals over two divisions, finishing with the top prize in Light Contact Continuous Fighting and Point Sparring in both the Veterans 42+ Womens under-65kg and Womens 35+ divisions.

Also in the Veterans 42+ Womens under-65kg, Shannon Campbell picked up a Silver in Light Contact Continuous Fighting as well as a Bronze in Point Sparring.

In the Girls 15-17 division, Jalyne Lorentz picked up a Silver in Freestyle

Forms, as well as two Bronze Medals in Classical Forms and Traditional Weapons.

Isabelle Lariviere also earned a medal in the Girls 15-17 division, picking up a Bronze while competing in Freestyle Forms.

Darren Campbell finished atop the Point Sparring competition in the Veterans Mens 42+ over-75kg and also captured Bronze in the division's Light Contact Continuous Fighting.

SKC Sensei Jeremy Lorentz told the Independent that he felt very proud of the achievements of the seven students who made it to the National tryout and the five who will represent Canada in Orlando this Fall.

"The level of competition was tough and our SKC members performed extremely well in all divisions. From Friday to Sunday, our Karate family attended, performed, and supported each other in every division. Their support for one another was absolutely amazing. After every tryout we learn, we correct, and the training intensifies as we get ready for the WKC World Event. Our students can't wait to compete against competitors from around the world. We are incredibly proud of all of our students who attended."



Five Stonetown Karate Centre students will represent Canada this October at the World Karate Championship. Pictured are the five who qualified for Team Canada, starting in the front with Jalyne Lorentz. In the middle row, from left to right, are Shannon Campbell and Isabelle Lariviere. In the back row, from left, are Lisa Sheldon and Darren Campbell. (Contributed photo)

Young DCVI Slo-Pitch squad grows as individuals and team



The St. Marys DCVI Slo-Pitch team had a young core which gained solid experience this season. Although not finding the strongest results, playing strong opponents in both league play and at WOSSAA allowed the team to develop their skills, with hopes of further improvement next year. The team also bonded well as a team and Coaches Kristin DeBrabandere and Lee-Anne Feeney believe the future is bright for the program. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Gracie Riordan, Avery Reid, Rory Brockman, Ryley Nethercott, Ella Boersma, Skylar Fabelle, Natalie Johnston, and Cammie Lobb. In the back row, from left, are Kristin DeBrabandere, Eden Robson, Payton Blight, Brooklyn Newman, Vicky Ibeas, Kylie Fifield, Keirsyn Wood, Charlee Pickering, Sarah Lynch, Jenna Pickering, and Leeanne Feeney. Absent are Billie Sedley, Ava Ansley, and Addyson White. (Contributed photo)

Bickell earns Gold in Winnipeg skilled trades competition



Last week in Winnipeg, Joe Bickell of St. Marys represented Team Ontario and won the Gold Medal for Autobody Repair at the Skills Canada Competition. Over 500 students from across the country competed for the title of national champion in 45 skill areas with approximately 250 medals awarded to the top competitors in six skilled trade and technology sectors including transportation, construction, manufacturing and engineering, information technology, services, and employment. A student of Fanshawe College and employee at Straight Line Collision, Bickell qualified for the event when he won Gold earlier in May at the provincial competition in Toronto. (Contributed photo)

SPORTS —

St. Marys Tennis offering variety of programs this Summer

By Spencer Seymour

If you're interested in getting into tennis, then the St. Marys Tennis Club may have exactly what you're looking for.

The St. Marys Tennis Club hosts two nights every week of social singles or doubles play from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Singles players of all ages can also participate in a "friendly competition" ladder running throughout the summer. The online ladder is free for club members and \$10 for non-members and can be used to set up matches with other singles players outside of the Tuesday and Thursday social play. Join the ladder by visiting bit.ly/st-marysladder.

Just as last year, club members are offering free "newbie night" instructions on Thursdays (weather permitting) from 6 to 7 p.m. Whether you would like a refresher on tennis basics, are new to the game, or just want to know enough to play with your family, these

free sessions are good opportunities to get acquainted or reacquainted with the game. Message the club on Facebook or contact 519-280-1240 if you plan on attending. Note that these nights are intended for teen and adult players.

The Tennis Club is also planning a five-week tennis course for youth aged eight to 18 this summer. Details are still being confirmed but the tentative plan is for these courses to begin in July and take place Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Improvements to the courts this year include replacing the north fence and reinstalling the tennis practice wall. These improvements are expected to be completed within the next two months.

The Tennis Club encourages anyone planning to use the courts to join the group to stay updated on their organized play, lessons, and special events. Players looking to join can check out the St. Marys Tennis Facebook page.



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Solutions on page 27



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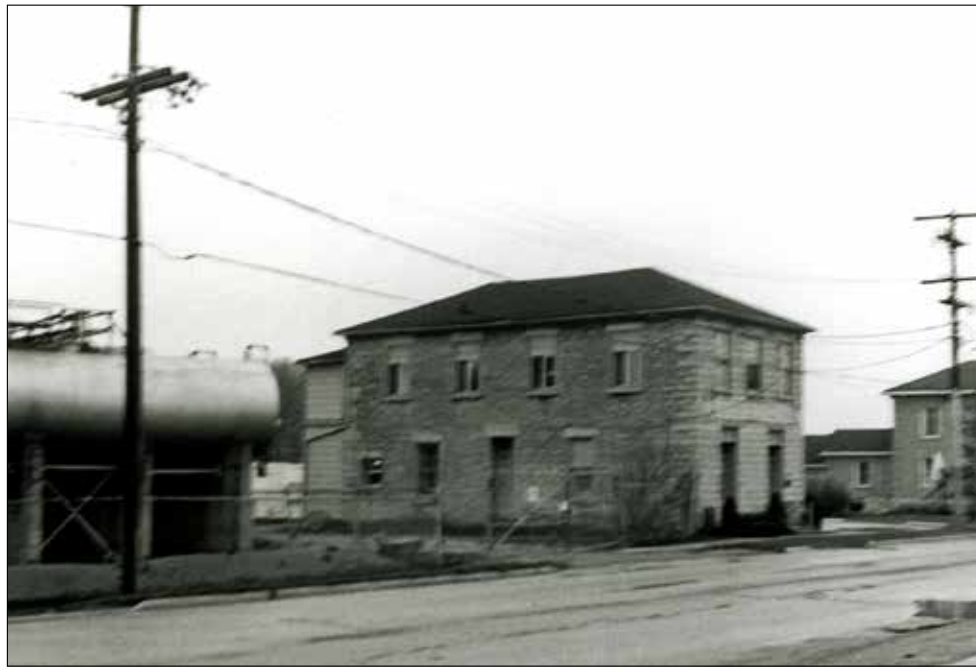
HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Restoration Projects, Part Two – The Armitage Building

By Mary Smith

At the St. Marys Museum's May seminar on heritage restorations, Melissa Barton presented the story of her project: the creation of Riverview Commons at 84 Water Street South. The venerable, two-storey commercial building has been called the Armitage Building because it was owned by the Armitage family from the mid-1930s until the early 1970s. When Melissa and her business partner, Marianne De Brabandere, acquired the property in the summer of 2019, the building had been for sale for several years and definitely had an abandoned appearance. Melissa, who grew up in St. Marys until she left for university, admits she had no memory or impression of this building at all until she considered buying it. And for most local residents, it was always "just there," barely noticed as they passed along Water Street or pulled out of the Canadian Tire parking lot.

The building is, in fact, almost as old as St. Marys itself. It was built in the mid-1850s as a commercial block. Its ground floor was a general store with living quarters for the store owner on the second level. It was in a good location, right beside the St. Marys village hall, an unpretentious, two-storey, limestone structure used for council meetings and a variety of other municipal purposes. The expectation in the early 1850s was that the business core would develop on Water Street South along the road going from St. Marys toward London. The expectation was short-lived. In 1864, St. Marys was elevated from village to town and a new town hall was built. It was a larger, two-storey, frame structure on the northeast corner of Queen and Church Streets, placed in the market square. From then on, Queen Street East was the commercial and administrative hub of the town.

There was still activity along Water Street with a number of industries on both the banks of the Thames River. The abandoned village hall provided overflow classroom space for the town's rapidly growing elementary school population. In 1862, 84 Water Street was purchased by the Bank of Montreal and thus became the first permanent site of a chartered bank in St. Marys. The information about this building's early use was cited in 1982 in the property's designation statements when town council agreed it was worthy of recognition for its cultural heritage value. Its appearance was also of interest: "Its plain, functional style, placed immediate-



84 Water Street, ca 1985. Note the tops of the windows on the second floor have been closed in to accommodate lowered ceilings in the apartments. The windows have now been restored to their original appearance.

ly on the road allowance, is typical of commercial functionalism of the period. Its limestone construction is also typical of the building materials used almost exclusively during the 1850s throughout the community."

The bank's employees made use of the living quarters on the second floor. It was a pleasant apartment with high ceilings and large windows on all four sides, providing views of the hustle and bustle of the growing town. But three decades later, the Bank of Montreal decided that Queen Street was a better location for business. In 1892, it moved to its current location at the southeast corner of Queen and Wellington Streets and cut all ties with 84 Water Street. The solid old building still stood, however, continuing to serve its purpose as commercial and living space.

In 1908, considerable attention again turned to Water Street South when work began on the St. Marys and Western Ontario Railway, soon taken over as a spur of the Canadian Pacific Railway. As the CPR line entered St. Marys from the south, it ran along the east bank of the Thames, terminating at the flour mill beside the Queen Street Bridge. That placed busy railway tracks between 84 Water Street and the river. Railway officials chose the area at the foot of Elgin Street for the new passenger and freight depot. The CPR acquired land including the old village hall/school, the brick house at 68 Water Street to the north and 84 Water Street to the south. The old village hall was demolished and the CPR station was built between the other two properties.

While 68 Water became the CPR stationmaster's house, the railway did not have any particular use for 84 Water Street and continued to rent it out to various businesses. In 1936, the property was acquired by Albert Armitage, a printer. He purchased an existing printing business located in a smaller building on Water Street, moved the machinery into the ground floor of 84 Water. He moved himself, his wife and son into the second floor apartment. For 25 years, Armitage & Son Printers operated from this building and for many years more, it was called the Armitage Building.

By the 1980s, there were changes to this part of Water Street. The CPR had discontinued passenger service in 1957 although freight service continued for another 35 years. John Tomlinson, an electrician, purchased the stationmaster's house as a family home and the old CPR station as his workshop. When the last of the Armitage family died, Tomlinson added the Armitage building to the parcel, continuing to rent it out. Across the street, C. E. Richardson Co. had been sold to Mueller's, an American manufacturer of stainless steel products. That business left St. Marys in 1972 but the abandoned factory was left standing. The area to the south of 84 Water was closed off with high secure fencing and became the storage yards for Bruce Graham's fuel business. One of these tanks can be seen, behind the fence but very close to the building in this week's photograph, showing the Armitage block still standing in this very industrial environment.

Changes came again! The old C. E. Richardson complex was sold to a developer and demolished for a plaza. Today, Canadian Tire, Quadro Communications, and Foodland are major tenants. When the tracks were taken up for the old CPR spur line, the town acquired the land and created the Riverview Walkway, now a popular portion of the Loop Trail. The CPR station was demolished in the 1980s and there is now an open area just behind and to the north of 84 Water Street providing access to the walkway and the Thames River. Most of the previous fuel storage area is occupied today by the new McLean Taylor building. All these developments increased the potential of the Armitage building as a worthwhile renovation project, taking its place in this revitalized area.

When Melissa Barton and her little daughter, Maggie, moved from Toronto to St. Marys in 2018 to be closer to family, she wanted to find a limestone cottage for their new home. Instead they found a lovely, old brick house that suited them perfectly. But still attracted to limestone, Melissa then looked for a downtown building to renovate and to use for business purposes. She purchased 84 Water, aware that work was needed, but assuming it was doable within a reasonable period of time. In her own words, what started as: "Refresh the space and restore the original height of ceilings and windows" ... escalated to the complete gutting of the building. With Covid delays, work did not get underway until 2021. John Bolton of JSB Construction was the contractor and worked through many challenges as multiple layers of walls and ceilings were removed to strip the interior to its bare bones. New plumbing, wiring and HVAC systems were installed as well as new interior framing and wall and floor finishes. When all was done, there were two modern apartments on the second floor, one with a small balcony overlooking the river.

With the main floor opened up and light flooding through the tall windows, Melissa knew that it was a space that should be shared with other people. Riverwalk Commons' mission is "to create memorable experiences for our guests by offering a beautiful space and curated events for people to come together to work, to learn and to celebrate." Currently, an increasing number of events take place at 84 Water Street South. The building has not only been restored, it has been revitalized, offering a new creative space within our community.

COLUMN —

FROM THE GARDEN: My Carolinian Gem



By Nancy Abra

There are many beautiful spring and summer flowering shrubs, trees and vines growing in our gardens, yards and parks in this region of Ontario. From the colourful azalea to the exotic wisteria, each one of us probably has a favourite for one reason or another. It could be for a delicate scent, a unique shape or even possibly your favourite evokes a wonderful memory. For me, my favourite is a Car-

olinian gem in our front yard. What I am referring to the *Liriodendron tulipifera* or commonly known as the Tulip Tree. It is sometimes called a 'tulip poplar' or 'yellow poplar' even though the *Liriodendron* is not closely related to the true poplars but is a member of the magnolia family.

The Tulip Tree is native to southern Ontario and eastern North America and can be found in the Carolinian deciduous forests of these regions. This stately tree can grow to an impressive 30 metres and needs lots of room, requiring full sun or partial shade as well as average to rich, slightly acidic, moist soil. Seeing that this tree needs plenty of room for its roots, it is not recommended for small lots or gardens but usually planted

in public parks, golf courses and larger landscaped gardens. When my husband and I bought our acre lot west of Thorndale, the little Tulip Tree, which was planted by the previous owners, was just over 3 metres high. Five decades later, it is a beautiful huge tree well over 20m tall and more than 2m in diameter at its base.

We have many varieties of trees in the garden, from native to ornamental, but our Tulip Tree is my favourite for more than one reason. In late May or early June, it has a unique bloom. The six petals of this flower are yellow-green with an orange flare at the base, very similar to a tulip in shape, hence the tree's nickname. After the flower is past, the cone-shape centre is revealed which usu-



ally stays on the tree until late fall, when it dries and releases several wing-like spiky seeds that get distributed by the wind.

But I think the most wonderful part of this stately tree is on a summer day when I take a break from gardening and

rest in its shade. The arching shape of its branches is like an umbrella and on a hot humid day, the large thick lobed leaves catch any breeze and gently fan the air around me. It is the perfect place to be on a hot afternoon amongst the arms of my Carolinian gem!

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THORNDALE WEEKLY NEWS

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Huge Community Support for Thorndale Firefighters Breakfast



By Nancy Abra

The Thorndale Firefighters held their annual firemen's breakfast a couple of weeks ago, serving up 622 breakfasts of eggs, ham, sausages, pancakes, hashbrowns, with all the trimmings. Thorndale Station House chief, Ken Armstrong said, "As always, we get a great turnout from our community in our support. We also appreciate the area businesses that contributed to our breakfast – Gerber Meats; Middlesex Egg Farmers; Triple D Farms,

Thorndale; Armitage Maple Syrup, Arva; Dowler Karn, St. Marys; Real Canadian SuperStore, London; and Brent & Jennies No Frills, London."

Chief Armstrong added, "Many thanks to the community for their continued support and everyone who donated to our firefighter's breakfast. The proceeds of this fundraiser will be going to Muscular Dystrophy Canada, which is the charity that firefighters in this county and across Canada support."

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Delicious, Juicy and Ready to Enjoy



By Nancy Abra

The signs of summer are prominent. The days are hotter and longer. The flowers gardens are displaying a bountiful array of colour and those red, delicious local strawberries are ready.

Will Heeman shows off a flat of freshly picked strawberries. "Heeman, 3rd generation grower stated, "It looks like it will be another great crop this year."

Heemans have been growing strawberries since 1963 when Susan Heeman, Will's grandmother, started with a small ½ acre patch of one variety. Today, the family grows over 70 acres of four different varieties for their

strawberry season, from June to mid October with weather permitting.

Strawberries are certainly welcomed in just about everyone's home. They make a great snack, delicious in a green salad, served on cereal in the morning to over ice cream for dessert in the evening. They are juicy, delicious, full of fibre and just eight medium sized strawberries contain an entire day's Vitamin C, which is more than what is in a Florida orange. Strawberries are easy to pick, quick to clean, and simple to freeze or make into jam for preserving for the winter ahead.

For more information, go to www.heeman.ca/produce/strawberries.

Preventing the 'Silent Killer'

By Nancy Abra

Stating hypertension or high blood pressure is a 'silent killer' may be a dramatic statement, but it can be true.

High blood pressure is referred to as the 'silent killer' as there are no visible or physical symptoms. If you don't realize you have it or ignore the fact you do, it will catch up with you and can cause major health issues. There-

fore, regular blood pressure checks are important.

Elevated blood pressure over a period can cause heart attacks, strokes, and other serious health problems, including cognitive decline. The risk factors increase with age and are most common in men 30 to 64 and in women over 65 years of age. People over age 40 or individuals younger with an increased risk for high blood

pressure especially if it runs in their family, should be checked more often, at least 2 to 3 times a year.

On the other side of the scale, low blood pressure may have no noticeable symptoms either but may cause dizziness or fainting. Sometimes low pressure can be life-threatening also.

The VON has been holding Blood Pressure Clinics at the Thorndale Li-

brary for over 13 years. Qualified VON volunteers take the blood pressure, record it for the client and suggest they see their doctor if needed. These clinics are held the fourth Thursday morning of each month from 10:30am to 12:30pm. And starting Tuesday June 13th, the VON are adding the second Tuesday of each month, from 1:30pm to 3:30pm to their blood pressure clinic at the Thorndale Library.

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COLUMN —

HOSTING UKRAINE: A Tribute

By VJ Knutson

“Have you called Gwen yet?”

It had been a couple of months since I threw myself into this adventure of helping displaced Ukrainians, and I was trying to keep my head above water. The family we had committed to were held up by paperwork, and in the meantime, we had invited a different family of five to stay with us. I promised my husband that we wouldn't have ten people living in our basement, but I was not sure where to turn.

My friend assured me that Gwen is very knowledgeable when it comes to helping refugees. I'd find her by calling the Presbyterian Church, she advised. I left a message.

Ric and I moved to St Marys in 2018, just before COVID changed everyone's lives, so apart from the neighbours in our senior's community, we didn't know many others.

Gwen called me back and I was immediately reassured by her kind voice,



Pictured are local hosts at the Thanksgiving appreciation dinner, hosted by Ukrainian guests. Gwen Ament is pictured far right. Photo by Bonnie Forron.

and clarity of thought. I had been shooting in the dark when it came to helping, I realized. Gwen radiated experience and wisdom. “Amen with a cross,” is how she explained her last night name, and I appreciated her

open wit.

Gwen and her congregation were pivotal in solving the housing situation, and she fast became an essential part of the ‘team’. She opened the church doors to gatherings, English lessons, and beyond. More than that, she is always just a phone call away. When I can be reactive, she is the calm steady that reminds me “to sleep on it before responding.” She has taught me to

stay focused on the vision, and that we do what we can, without needing to save the world.

Before Gwen, I had stopped attending church, disillusioned by the leadership. Gwen has restored my faith that leaders can be humble and accepting, while at the same time holding a higher ground. Her sermons are holistic, empathic, and intuitive. She exudes a light that speaks to my soul. I am grateful to her on so many levels.

Gwen Ament is retiring. My heart sank a little when I heard those words, but of course, it is time. “I'm not going anywhere” she promises.

How do you thank someone, who in only a matter of months, has helped you be a better person? Whose presence has inspired and strengthened faith? I know I am not alone in feeling this way. Gwen Ament has been a rock for many.

Gwen, you deserve all the time and space that you need. You are a wonder and a gift to all. I only hope we can all live up to your example and carry on the good work.

All the best to you.

Till next time.

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Community Liaison Committee

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

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

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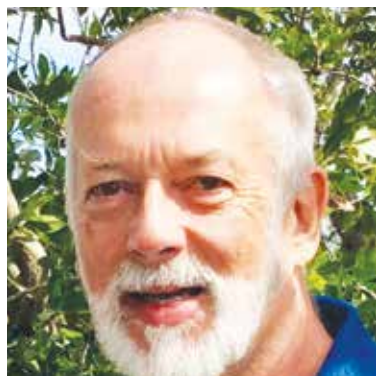
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COLUMN —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: A love letter to a great British garden



By Paul Knowles

I'm clearly stating the blatantly obvious when I say England is a country replete with great gardens. Nowhere else in the world, I believe, will you find as many wonderful gardens, each well worth visiting, whether you are a gardener or simply a lover of creativity, beauty, or heritage.

We saw a few stand-out gardens on our trip through the south of England last month from enormous landscape gardens to crammed, bountiful borders. It was a privilege to lead this group of 22 companions on a two-week trek arranged through the good folks at Stonetown Travel.

I will write about other gardens, great houses, quirky inns and other interesting sites in the coming months, but having just returned from the U.K., the place closest to my heart is Sissinghurst Castle Garden.

Why? Three reasons, I sup-

pose. First, it's a garden that set some trends that are with us to this day. Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson, the extraordinary, bohemian couple who founded it, began their labours in 1930. They created or perfected some unique gardening concepts, chief among them the idea of garden "rooms". We have this with us today... different sections of gardens planted in quite different styles. Outstanding at Sissinghurst is the "white garden" where everything is white or pale silver or lightest green. The exception was one red flower a member of our group spotted – clearly an invader.

Second, it's a place with a deep history, existing long before Vita and Harold decided to resurrect a ruin as their home and history-making gardening project. The place was once a pig farm; it was "home", actually a travesty of the word, to 3,000 ill-treated French prisoners of war between 1756 and 1763. So for someone not passionate about gardens, there is a tower, and a stable block and the remnants of a moat.

But for me personally, it's the place where I, an adamant non-gardener, was converted into someone who loves gardening to this day. It's a story I often tell when I speak to

gardening groups. In short form, it's where my wife Mary took me in the 1990s, a few years before she passed away, – under pretense of visiting a castle, and where, after I got over the annoyance of being conned, I fell in love with the place.

As I do all over again, every time I get to walk through the archway into the first of several magnificent gardens.

And once again, they did not disappoint. We climbed the tower and watched the other members of our group as they marveled their way through the rose garden, the kitchen garden, the meadow, the herb garden, the white garden and more.

They, and we, also visited the garden traditionally known as "Delos" which I have always known as a spring, woodland garden. But today, it's been transformed into a rather sparse, dry Mediterranean style garden. I came home with no pictures of it because I didn't like it much.

Later in the day, chatting with a guide in Vita and Harold's preserved living area (in what were once the stables), I mentioned the changes in Delos.

"Do you think Vita would have liked it?" I asked the guide. She smiled, shook her head and said, "I think Vita would have hated it".



The author, in Vita Sackville-West's "white garden". (All photos by Paul Knowles)

But there's no doubt Vita would have loved everything else. The rich profusion of plants in the rose garden – which does have roses, but so much more. The rainbow of colour in the first garden you enter, with borders planted to match the sweep of colour in a rainbow, from violet to deep red. The walk under a canopy of nut trees which reminded me of a solo visit I made to Sissinghurst years ago. There was a shower and I took shelter, only to have a guide join me and comment, "Is there anything more pleasant that standing under a nut tree in the rain?" At that moment, I had to agree. It's pretty clear that while

this is a travel article, the first written since our return from England, it's also a love letter, a love letter to an eccentric couple of gardeners, a love letter to the woman who tricked me into my first Sissinghurst visit and a love letter to a place that inspires, delights, comforts and soothes every time.

Thanks, Harold and Vita. And to you, my reader – if you have not visited Sissinghurst Castle Garden, next week would not be too soon.

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



Foxgloves and allium in the rose garden – which also contains roses.

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Riddles

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Evaporated milk.
- What is black & white & pink all over?
An embarrassed zebra
- What do you call a fairy that hasn't taken a bath?
Stinkerbell.
- Which word in the dictionary is spelled incorrectly?
Incorrectly.
- What did the chewing gum say to the shoe?
I'm stuck on you.
- Why was the belt arrested?
For holding up the pants.
- What do you call a funny book about eggs?
A yolk book.
- What does the Invisible Man drink at snack time?
Because he wasn't peeling well.
- What did the skeleton say to the other skeleton at the restaurant?
Bone appetite
- Why was the piano sitting out on the porch?
Because it forgot its keys.
- Why didn't the hotdog star in the movies?
The rolls weren't good enough.
- What is the cannibals' favourite game?
Swallow the leader.
- Why did the banana go to the doctor?
Because he wasn't peeling well.

- Word Search -

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Word List

- Address
- Organize
- Treasures
- Vintage
- Signs
- Traffic
- Books
- Clothing
- Dishes
- Furniture
- Linens
- Glassware
- Tools
- Toys



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What is the difference between a Maple Leafs fan and a baby?



The baby will stop whining after awhile!

Brooks Near (1)

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

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR —

With so much discussion around school boards and municipalities flying the Pride Flag, I wanted to share my thoughts on this important discussion.

I applaud the decision of the town and the Avon-Maitland District School Board to fly the Pride Flag this coming June. While the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board did recently revise their flag policy, the process is very drawn out and unfortunately, the flag will not be flown this June.

This disappoints me.

The conversations that we are seeing in our local community reflect some disturbing conversations that appear to be happening in many settings. We are all aware of the series of discriminatory laws moved forward by Florida governor DeSantis and perhaps some have seen the embarrassing conduct of a group of parents harassing teachers and 2SLGBTQ+ students at the York Catholic District School Board. I find the trajectory of these efforts to be very disturbing and embarrassing. Speak-

ing up for 2SLGBTQ+ rights has never been more important in my opinion; and this is one simple effort to do that.

There are many layers to these conversations (the rise of hate speech on social media, the importance of protecting human rights, etc) but I want to address the concerted efforts to pit the celebration of Pride against religious values. This effort was front and center at a recent meeting of the Huron-Perth Catholic Board where a mobilized group of traditional Catholics voiced their opposition to the flag policy being discussed.

It is their right to do so, but I left the meeting feeling very concerned about the one-sided nature of the conversation I witnessed. It was yet another conversation about 2SLGBTQ+ rights that did not involve the participation of 2SLGBTQ+ individuals. Their absence from these conversations is a serious problem that this board (and other communities) absolutely need to address.

While many of the comments that eve-

ning were tempered and respectful, there were also some very demeaning and insensitive comments shared and I feel compelled to respond. (Full Disclosure – I am a member of the Equity Antiracism advisory committee that brought forward the motion). I take exception to the narrative that celebrating the spirit of inclusion embodied in Pride somehow flies in the face of Christian values. Many speakers essentially cherry-picked bible passages that fit their narrative and lacked any context. Scripture passages that celebrated inclusion and condemned the judgement of others (there are many) were conveniently omitted from their presentations.

These people do not speak for me.

For me, the beauty of religion – all religions – lies in the importance of inclusion and the opportunity to celebrate the goodness of people. I believe that Pride is absolutely consistent with those values.

I think often of a good friend of mine

who passed away some time ago. He was a very religious man who did some outstanding work with St. Cecilia's Parish in Detroit, Michigan. Later in his life, he purchased his own personal license plate which he felt captured the essence of Jesus' teaching.

It read simply – INCLUDE

These are troubling times for 2SLGBTQ+ individuals and communities. Rights that were hard fought for are being questioned and in some spaces, they are being denied. The increase in hateful online rhetoric is deeply troubling. The need for solidarity has never been greater in my opinion. I look forward to attending upcoming Pride celebrations and expressing solidarity with 2SLGBTQ+ communities here and around the world – not because I want to be disrespectful of anyone's faith; but because I believe that my faith compels me to do so.

Wishing everyone a HAPPY PRIDE MONTH.

Tim O'Connor, St. Marys, Ontario

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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.

Willing to start immediately, or for the right person within two weeks.

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No phone calls please.

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COLUMN —

Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

Join us in the Pyramid Recreation Centre Hall on Saturday, June 24 at 1:00pm for an Afternoon Tea with international best-selling author Jennifer Robson! Come for tea, treats, and the opportunity to hear about Robson's newest book, "The Coronation Year". Free tickets are available at the Library until June 17th, or while supplies last. A ticket is required for entry at the door. Books by Jennifer Robson will be available for sale at the event courtesy of Betty's Bookshelf.

This Week's Recommendation

What do 1947 London, England and 2016 Toronto, Canada have in common? A priceless piece of embroidery with motifs near identical to those found on Queen Elizabeth's wedding gown. Unravel the connection of British embroiderers Miriam Dassin

and Ann Hughes to Canadian Heather Mackenzie as you step into the workrooms of Norman Hartnell's Mayfair fashion house with "The Gown", the smash-hit historical fiction novel by Jennifer Robson. You can find "The Gown" on our shelves and on Libby.

Up This Week

Friday, Jun. 9th: Crafty Tales (9:30am)

Saturday, Jun. 10th: Open 10:00am-4:00pm

Monday, Jun. 12th: Open 10:30am-8:00pm

Tuesday, Jun. 13th: Crafternoon (2:00pm-4:00pm)

Wednesday, Jun. 14th: EarlyON - Play and Read (9:30am), Mahjong Intro Session (1:00pm), Mahjong! (2:00pm-4:00pm)

Thursday, Jun. 15th: Open 10:30am-8:00pm

LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

Stone Town Ponies

25 years ago (1998)

Norampac Inc. St. Marys Division employees donated money last week to three groups. A cheque for \$582 was presented to United Way, \$201 presented to St. Marys Children for Chernobyl, and \$430 was presented to the Salvation Army. The money was raised from weekly staff 50-50 draws.

Stratford resident John Wilkinson has indicated his intention to seek the nomination as the provincial candidate for the Perth-Middlesex Liberal Riding Association. He is to greet the public and media at a kickoff reception tonight in Stratford.

On August 22, 1988, the Brian Dundas-coached Creamery Juniors baseball team arrived home from Lloydminster, Alberta with gold medals hanging around their necks. They had posted a perfect 7-0 record in that city and were the only club in the 11-team playoff to go undefeated. They are hosting a 10-year reunion on June 12 at Teddy's Field.

50 years ago (1973)

Allan Somers should score an easy victory for the Best Dressed Plumber of the Year award locally. Allan recently won his second suit in as many months on the Kinsmen suit draw. Barbara Blair at TD Bank drew this second winning ticket.

The regular test "whoop" of the fire siren atop Town Hall was missing last Saturday at noon. Firefighters investigating found the power line had been snipped during renovations at Town Hall, so repairs were necessary.

While all has been quiet on prospects for a Senior Citizen apartment block in St. Marys recently, we noticed the Ontario Housing Commission representatives in town this week so perhaps some news will be forthcoming in the near future.

Claude Marcaccio and George Cifa of the St. Marys Travel Agency returned this week from a trip to Europe where they secured many new travel ideas as well as visiting tour operators in various centres. They were most impressed by the new European tour buses.

75 years ago (1948)

Jack Fulcher has been winning prizes for his ponies at recent shows. In Clinton on Tuesday and at the Perth County show in Stratford yesterday the Fulcher entries, "Stone Town Barney" and "Stone Town Vic" were a real credit to the owner. They were entered as red roans, 12 hands and under.

At the recent convocation exercises at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Shirley Haynes, who has been enrolled in the Medical Course of that university received her degree in Medicine and is now qualified to practice medicine. Miss Haynes is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Nelson Haynes, former residents of Fullarton.

Fire has destroyed the barn of George Taylor, Thomas Street, and caused an estimated two to three thousand dollars in damage. A calf and nine pigs died in the blaze and a truck parked in the barn is reckoned to be a total loss. Mr. Taylor, trainer of Jack Billings, St. Marys boxer, was in Montreal at the time of the fire in connection to Billings' participation in the Olympic boxing trials.

100 years ago (1923)

Mr. George Fournier of London purchased from W.D. Bayne the house on Queen Street West and has moved his family here. He has engaged in sanitary work including the collection of garbage, the cleaning of cesspools, etc.

The Adolescent School Attendance Act has been changed to read: "The obligation to attend school under section three shall not apply to any adolescent whose parents or guardians reside in a rural school section and whose services are required in the household or on the farm of his parents or guardians..."

Night of music with

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

THANK YOU

Oliphant

My family and I would like to express our gratitude for the amazing care that both my parents, Keith and Mary Oliphant, received during their stay at Kingsway Lodge. They went above and beyond many times especially in their last days. A huge thank you to the staff, volunteers and the people of St Marys who would donate items to make the residents' days brighter. Also thank you to the staff at Happy Valley Medical team, especially Dr Wilson. I can never express in words how truly grateful I am. Thank you.

Nancy Williams

OBITUARY

Jewson



Madeline Ann "Midge" Jewson passed away suddenly at home in her 75th year after a brief illness. She is survived and loved by Fred, her husband of 52 years, and her children Heather (Greg Peres), Sara (Mitch Guerin), and Brad (Amanda), who are the pride of her life. Sorely missed by

grandchildren Jonathan, Steven, Thomas, Winnie, Norah, Julie and Nathan.

Midge dearly loved family gatherings; especially at the Haliburton cottage. She revelled in the prized art work and loud, joyful games with her grand kids. Midge was a revered teacher of secondary school students. A strong advocate for women in professional and political life, she served as Chair of the Perth County Board of Education and on St. Marys town council. Hosting bridge parties, playing golf, swimming at the Pyramid Centre, and cooking gourmet meals for friends and family gave her joy. Midge had a big voice and an even bigger heart. She will be missed by every life she touched.

Cremation has taken place. On June 10, 2023, family and friends are invited to the St. Marys United Church, 85 Church St. S. St. Marys, for a Memorial Service at 11 am.

An Open House Celebration of Life will take place at the St. Marys Golf & Country Club, 769 Queen St E, St. Marys, from 1 - 4 pm. As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Optimism Place in Stratford. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) New Zealand
- 2) Yuri Gagarin, (Russian cosmonaut)
- 3) Tanzania
- 4) 88
- 5) 193
- 6) Nelson Mandela
- 7) India
- 8) 1776
- 9) Joey
- 10) The Mayflower

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

St. Marys PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
147 Widder Street East
Everyone welcome

Rev. Gwen Ament

OBITUARY

Bieber

It is with great sadness, that we as a family announce the passing of Gord Bieber Sr. on June 1, 2023 at Victoria Hospital.

After a long illness and a courageous battle, Gord is at peace.

**Love you always,
Your family.**

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 25

Friday, June 9

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

Saturday, June 10

- Town wide Yard Sales - See addresses on Page 28
- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 am to Noon
- Lions Club drive through bottle drive at Action Medical parking lot - 9 am to Noon
- Celebration of Life for Sandra Bannick at the Army & Navy - 1 to 5 pm
- Optimist Club of Downie smoked pork chop drive thru dinner at the Community Centre, St. Pauls 5 to 7:30 pm
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm

Sunday, June 11

- Treasure Hunt Day of unsold yard sale items (free)
- St. Marys Pride Day Celebration at Milt Dunnell Field - 12 to 5 pm
- Retirement Open House for Gwen Ament at the Presbyterian Church - 3 to 4 pm

YARD SALE

Saturday, June 10

114 William St 8 to 3
Multi family sale with antiques and collectibles, glassware, children's picnic tables, table saw and much more.

St. Marys TOWN WIDE



SATURDAY JUNE 10

NORTH

- 140 Emily St.
- 325 Emily St.
- 99 Edison Ave.
- 95 Millson Crescent
- 120 Millson Crescent
- 71 Guest Court
- 402 Widder St. E

EAST

- 261 Elgin St. E
- 464 Rogers Ave.
- 188 Elizabeth St.
- 395 Elizabeth St.
- 91 Waterloo St. S

- 163 Waterloo St. S
- 4 Elgin Court

SOUTH

- 82 Homefield Court
- 123 Southvale Road
- 202 Southvale Road
- 118 Meadowridge Drive
- 4 Valleyview Lane
- 29 Parkhaven Crescent
- 70 Stoneridge Blvd.
- 198 Water St. S
- 157 Tracy St.
- 310 Tracy St.
- 236 St. Maria St.

- 136 Wellington St. S
- 138 Church St. S
- 286 Church St. S
- 1670 Perth Rd 123
- 1680 Perth Rd 124

WEST

- 88 Queen St. W
- 184 Thomas St.
- 114 William St.
- 109 Ingersoll St.
- 30-30 Ann St.
- 73-30 Ann St.
- 121 Carrall St.
- 40 Pelissier St.

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