

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1166

Thursday, July 6, 2023

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New Canadian residents celebrate Canada Day



Over the past year, St. Marys has welcomed many families from Ukraine into our community. Pictured L to R, Alona Zabihailo, Alona Vasylieva and Vita Vasylieva celebrate their first Canada Day at Cadzow Park and give thanks to the community for their support. (Murray Grant photo)

Get ready, get set for Stonetown Heritage Festival

Fun for everyone July 14 - July 16

The wait is almost over! The 26th edition of the annual Stonetown Heritage Festival takes to the streets and parks of St. Marys in just over a weeks' time.

Local duo "Now and Then" kicks off the Heritage Festival on Friday, July 14 covering an array of your favourite oldies. The free concert takes place at the Cadzow Park amphitheater from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. A free outdoor movie

will follow at dusk, presented by The Friends of the St. Marys Public Library.

Saturday begins with delicious seasonal goodies at the Farmers' Market at Milt Dunnell Field, just a short stroll from all the action on Queen Street!

The street fair is chockablock with fun for all ages! In addition to inflatables,

Continued on page 2

GO train experiment reaches end of the line

By Stewart Grant

St. Marys Mayor Al Strathdee received word on Friday that the two-year pilot of GO train service to London, Stratford, and St. Marys will come to an end this fall. The final day of service will be October 13, 2023.

Erin Duffy, Community Engagement Advisor for Metrolinx, wrote, "Metrolinx's arrangement to operate service between London and Toronto was established with CN and VIA Rail Canada to operate with the existing infrastructure, including tracks and stations. The arrangement with CN and VIA ends this fall and Metrolinx will no longer have access to the infrastructure."

Duffy added, "We remain committed to serving commuters and will look to redeploy those assets where appropriate to meet demand."

Although the arrival of GO train service into the local area was exciting when it was first announced, the logistical constraints of the rail lines were quickly found to limit the desirability of GO train service for commuters. Those commuting from London to Toronto would have to plan for roughly a four-hour journey as the train slowly detoured to stops in St. Marys and Stratford.

Former Thames Centre Councillor Kelly Elliott expressed the frustration of many in a tweet she authored on Friday, saying, "I mean, the Province put together a shitty half-assed plan and is now throwing their hands in the air saying 'well, we tried - no one rides it' and that is why we cannot have anything nice."

Visit our website to have the Independent emailed to you every week! Simply enter your email in the 'Subscribe' box and receive an electronic copy of the paper every Wednesday afternoon.

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COMMUNITY —

Town provides update on Milt Dunnell Field revitalization project

When it comes to proposed changes to Milt Dunnell Field, nothing is set in stone.

That's what the Town of St. Marys is telling residents following a lively public engagement campaign about plans to revitalize the popular park. The Town recently conducted a survey about the project that received over 1,300 responses, a new record for the municipality.

The survey included questions about two proposed design concepts for the park. The concepts were developed by a landscape architect following consultation with local user groups. Survey respondents had an opportunity to select a concept they preferred to help the Town decide which amenities should be included in a future master plan for the park.

"The concepts are just that – concepts. They were included in the survey to generate discussion and help us determine the community's wants and needs," says André Morin, Director of Corporate Services. "Neither concept should be considered 'final' at this stage."

Town staff are now consolidating the feedback that was received through the survey, emails, phone calls and other sources. The data will be presented to Council at its Strategic Priorities Committee meeting on July 18, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. During that meeting, Council will continue its discussion about the long-term vision for the park and what further steps should be taken to develop a master plan for the site.

Part of Council's discussion will be focused on the ring road at Milt Dunnell Field. The two concepts provided

in the survey suggest that part of the ring road be used for pedestrian traffic only. The concepts also include a two-way road that would allow cars in and out of the park, with ample parking. Potential changes to the ring road have generated a considerable amount of feedback from the community.

"We appreciate the time people have taken to share their thoughts, particularly with respect to the ring road," says Morin. "We want residents to know that we're listening and that their feedback will be considered as we develop the final vision for the park."

Residents who missed the opportunity to complete the survey or have additional input to provide are encouraged to email amorin@town.stmarys.on.ca or deliver written comments to the Municipal Operations Centre (408

James St. S) prior to the July 18 Council meeting. The public can also view the meeting in person or virtually on the Town's YouTube channel.

In the meantime, staff are working to make short-term enhancements to the park using grant funding that expires March 31, 2024. These could include upgrades to the washrooms and lawn bowling building, playground accessibility upgrades, improvements to support the Farmers' Market, and the addition of a soccer field.

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

Get ready, get set for Stonetown Heritage Festival

Continued from page 1

face painting, and an array of vendors be sure to check out the demonstrations and performances at Queen St. and Wellington St. throughout the day. Downtown restaurants and eateries will also be open for delicious dining and takeaway.

It wouldn't be a heritage festival without an opportunity to learn more about the histories of the town. Those looking to immerse themselves in heritage, arts, and culture have several options. Sign up at the festival information tent to partake in a heritage bus tour, leaving hourly from Town Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Local historian Larry Pfaff is offering two heritage walking tours, beginning at Town Hall at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Architecture aficionados can also check out 14 Church St. N (formerly the Mercury Theatre) from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Attendees can explore parts of the building and share memories of the building with volunteers.

Ten incredible artists of all ages will be featured on the first ever Riverview Walkway Art Walk. In collaboration

with the Art Walk, the recently restored Riverwalk Commons building (84 Water St. S.) is open for discovery and as a cooling station from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Iced tea and scones are available from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Following the street fair, head down to Milt Dunnell Field to enjoy music and food truck offerings beginning at 5:00 p.m. Three fantastic bands will take to the stage: indie-folk duo York Street Thought Process (5:00 p.m.), indie-rock duo The Bone Radlers (6:30 p.m.) and self-proclaimed "dad-rock" band, Roy's Garage (8:30 p.m.). Cap off the day with the fabulous Rotary Fireworks beginning at approximately 10:00 p.m.

On Sunday, July 16, the weekend closes out with the St. Marys Horticultural Society's Garden Tour from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.


Organizers remind those attending the event to bring a reusable water bottle and that the festival is a rain or shine event. Queen St. will be closed between Church St. and Thomas St. from 7:00 a.m. to approximately 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, as will Water St. N. to the








parking lot, and Water St. S. to Jones St. E. A small section of Wellington Street N. and Wellington St. S. will also be closed.

Milt Dunnell Field will be closed to vehicular traffic from 3:00 to 11:00 p.m. on Saturday, so that the concert and fabulous Rotary Fireworks can be safely enjoyed. Motorists using Milt Dunnell Field on Saturday morning are

also asked to be mindful of increased foot traffic for the new activities taking place there.

The trestle (Sarnia bridge) will be closed to pedestrian traffic on Saturday from 12:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. for the fireworks show. Those viewing the show are reminded to watch from a safe distance of at least 200 metres, including from water.

7 Day Forecast - Weather Sponsored by  The **HITCHING POST** 

Wednesday July-5th	Thursday July-6th	Friday July-7th	Saturday July-8th	Sunday July-9th	Monday July-10th	Tuesday July-11th
Sunny	Thunderstorms	Mainly sunny	Sun/cloud	Potential showers	Thunderstorms	Mainly sunny
						
30°C	28°C	23°C	24°C	25°C	26°C	24°C
Feels Like 36	Feels Like 36	Feels Like 25	Feels Like 27	Feels Like 28	Feels Like 31	Feels Like 29



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COMMUNITY —

Award winning St. Marys couple take pride in serving the area building and hardware business

By Gary West

Sam's Home Hardware, a family owned business, has seen exponential growth since Jenny and Brad Roth took over in January of 2007.

Along with selling many hardware items at the downtown St. Marys store, they also market large quantities of lumber and materials at their St. Marys Home Building Centre on the east end of town.

They carry everything required to build a home, shop, or barn. They aspire to be the market leader in the lumber and hardware retail sector, as well as a leader in the community itself, supporting many sports and fund raising activities for those groups who are connected in the community.

Four years ago, they grew their business and expanded to include the Langford Lumber store in Lucan.

Their company was recognized in 2018 with the Stratford Chamber of Commerce "Business Excellence



Jenny and Brad Roth welcomed shoppers recently to their downtown St. Marys Sams Home Hardware location, as they hosted their annual summer sidewalk sale of goods at prices that local residents were able to take advantage of. (Contributed photo)

Award" for being the top retailer in the areas of both Stratford and St. Marys.

Both Jenny and Brad say the vision of their business is to provide customer valued solutions with the most com-

petitive prices and best quality products.

They have set themselves apart from their competition by having a superior staff with a wealth of knowledge in plumbing, electrical, and all aspects of the building industry.

Not only do the Roths keep busy with their stores in both St. Marys and Lucan, but also are involved with many sports activities that their growing family of four children participate in. They are ages 16, 14, 12 and 9.

The couple says wherever possible, they support their fellow local businesses as they recognize that when one of their fellow entrepreneurs succeeds, they all succeed.

Jenny and Brad both say "that although far from perfect, they do strive for continuous improvement to keep their company relevant and competitive and be willing to give back to the community they live and work in, for many years into the future".

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EDITORIAL —

Play stupid games, win stupid prizes

By Stewart Grant

As a board member of the Ontario Community Newspapers Association, it's been well over a year ago since I first heard of the lobbying taking place to force Facebook and Google to pay Canadian publishers for the news stories that are shared on their platforms.

While "sure, it would be nice" to have some of the extra dollars that these mega companies have lying around, I couldn't get over the fact that the idea of them paying us was... stupid.

Sitting in on this conference call, I remember being the lone person saying to the group, "This doesn't make any sense to me."

"Each week, we share our online newspaper on Facebook, and we also share our top stories. This is our choice. Facebook didn't make us share our news stories here, in fact it's nice for us that Facebook provides this platform for us to connect with a wider audience. Why should they have to pay me for that?"

As you may have heard, this whole issue came up in a big way last week, with the Government of Canada's Bill C-18 being passed into law. The bill, dubbed the Online News Act, required Facebook and Google to pay Canadian publishers for showing links to news. And not surprisingly, Facebook and Google don't want to do this. And why

should they?

Instead, they both came out with strong statements against the Canadian legislation, saying that if they are forced to pay for the links to Canadian news sites... well then, they won't provide those links at all.

Therefore, in roughly six months' time, unless something changes, we will no longer be able to post articles or links to the PDF version of our newspaper on Facebook, nor will our articles be shared through Google News. As a company who is mainly focused on our print product, this really isn't that big of a deal for the St. Marys Independent, but for many other news companies, it is a devastating development.

Again, I don't blame Facebook or Google for this. Instead, I blame lobbyists with unrealistic goals, and I mostly blame the Liberal government for pushing through bad legislation that they didn't realize the ramifications of.

The best thing that could happen from here is that the Liberals back down, admit that they overstepped, and reverse the law. However, I don't think many politicians have a habit of admitting when they're wrong.

So, what'll happen is that, in a country where news organizations are already struggling, a short-sighted government bill managed to make things much worse.

Bravo

We have two Bravos this week

- 1) Congrats to all of the students who not only worked hard academically but also chose to be kind and inclusive to others. Also, well done to the parents that support these kids and instill these values. Together you are shaping others for a kinder world.
- 2) Bravos to Don and Margaret Pike for another superb effort in organizing the Canada Day parade this year.

Boo

We have four Boos this week.

- 1) Boo to the dog walkers that let their dogs urinate on the flower beds killing the hostas which the Horticultural Society tried to keep nice for your enjoyment.
- 2) Boo to the Town of St. Marys for putting a curb and grass out in center field of Teddy's Field. It was a great spot to watch a ball game for over 50 years but now that is not an option.
- 3) Boo to the people who removed a number of plants from the Horticultural Society daylily beds leaving behind a big mess.
- 4) Boo to people for not following the courtesy of letting one car at a time go over the one lane Water Street bridge.

*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

"In response to the outbreak, we are reminding everyone to clean their hands upon entering and exiting the hospital, patient care areas and patient rooms. Hand washing is key to stopping the spread of bacteria."

Erica Jensen, Manager Quality, Patient Safety and Infection Control, commenting on the gastrointestinal (gastro) outbreak at the Hospital.

St. Marys Independent

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The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS
OF THE WEEK

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Call me a traditionalist, but I like Canada Day cupcakes better than dill pickle chips.

Don't take away the ring road from Milt Dunnell Field

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 —

Firefighter Lucas Jeffrey named Firefighter of the Month for July



This July the St. Marys Fire Department is pleased to announce Lucas Jeffrey as its "Firefighter of the Month".

"Firefighter Lucas Jeffrey was selected for his 8 years of dedicated service to the department," said Fire Chief Richard "Andy" Anderson. "He demonstrates a high level of technical competence when performing a broad range of assignments. He has always been noted for handling situations in a calm objective manner."

Jeffrey joined the St. Marys Fire Department (SMFD) as a firefighter in 2015. Prior to joining SMFD he had obtained his Firefighter Level I & II, Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations certifications. Through continuous education programs he has acquired Ice Water Awareness, Advance Auto Extrication, Fire Service Level I Instructor and Fire Officer Level I certificates.

"Volunteer firefighters often have the opportunity to help people during the most difficult times of their lives," said Jeffrey. "Firefighters have a unique and challenging job and train hard to earn their positions. This often creates a sense of camaraderie among firefighters and other emergency personnel. If anyone is looking for a work environment that provides strong friendships, it may be benefi-

cial to pursue a volunteer firefighter position at your local fire department."

"Lucas is a firefighter that strives to grow professionally through continuous study and participation," said Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Edwards. "We are lucky to have Lucas as part of our team as he is an important contributor to the success of the department."

Lucas was born and raised in St. Marys. He became interested in firefighting while attending high school. When asked if there were any influences that helped steered him towards a career in firefighting, Lucas replied, "My mom was a paramedic for many years, and I wanted the opportunity to serve my community like she had."

When Lucas was asked what is one of his favourite memories about being a part of the fire department he responded, "One of my favourite memories is getting the opportunity to interact with the community we serve. I especially find it rewarding to be able to show children the trucks and equipment we use."

When he is not busy with firefighting calls or continuing his firefighting education, Lucas is employed at PBR Fur Farms.

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



STONETOWN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

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.

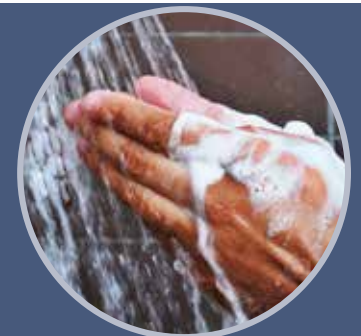
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MOVIES IN THE PARK

Friday, July 14 @ Dusk | Cadzow Park

Join the Friends of the St. Marys Public Library for a FREE outdoor movie at Cadzow Park. Bring your own lawn chair or blanket. Movie starts at dusk!

townofstmarys.com/library or 519-284-3346



SUMMER SWIM LESSONS REGISTRATION

Registration for summer swimming lessons is now open! Visit our website for details on dates and times.

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Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Marie Hiuser who celebrated her 91st birthday on Monday, July 3. Marie was born in Marwich Township Essa County and has lived in St. Marys for many years and prior to that lived in Alberta.

In her younger days she worked at the Campbell's plant. She has 8 children, and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Happy Birthday Marie!

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

COMMUNITY —

New location for Stonetown Barber



Scott Jackson, owner of The Stonetown Barber, moved into his new premises at 25 Church Street South on Monday, July 3. Regarding the move, he told the Independent that with close friend, Jesse Brockman, now owning the Bowling Alley building, it was a great opportunity to help each other out. Jackson said that there is a strong history of hairstyling at this location, as it was the original home of Mike Mattiussi's barber shop. Scott, recalling that he first opened his barber shop in 2017 at the corner of Church and Queen and has since been slowly moving southward down Church, joked that "I figure by the time I retire, I'll either be in one of the churches or across the street in the retirement community." (Jake Grant photo)

Weekend Quiz

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- 1) Who was the "Captain" of the Ark?
- 2) Who was the host of "The Muppet Show"?
- 3) What is a "goatee"?
- 4) What is the name of the rat in the cartoon version of Charlotte's Web?
- 5) What hospital did Dr Kildare work at?
- 6) Before going solo, what was the name of the group that Michael Jackson performed with?
- 7) What was the name of the rock opera written by The Who?
- 8) What is the national language in Ecuador?
- 9) Which superhero said the word Shazam to get his powers?
- 10) The Chunnel runs between Britain and which country?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

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COMMUNITY —

St. Marys Fire Department using vacant home for training



Firefighter Neil Lippert performs a head-first ladder bailout procedure as part of a training session at a vacant home. The maneuver is used when a firefighter is placed in a situation where a head-first exit onto a ladder is the only option to escape.

The St. Marys Fire Department has a new way to take part in some practical, real-world training, thanks to the generosity of Perth South resident Ken Smale.

Smale's former family home is currently vacant and set to be demolished later this month. The fire department has been using the empty space to conduct a range of exercises designed to augment the training firefighters receive at fire colleges or through on-the-job experiences.

The vacant home provides a realistic environment where firefighters can safely practice command and control, strategic prioritizing, search and rescue, hose deployment and management, ladder deployment, forcible entry, and ventilation.

The house has also provided an ideal space for the department to run through its self-rescue techniques. Self-rescues are required when firefighters get trapped or entangled

during an emergency.

During a recent training session, firefighters set up stations around the house to practice self-rescue maneuvers, including a head-first ladder bailout from a second story window and a window hang. They also practiced emergency exit procedures from narrow or small spaces using full personal protective equipment and self-contained breathing apparatus. They also conducted training on firefighter carries and drags.

"This is a really incredible opportunity for our firefighters," said Fire Chief Richard "Andy" Anderson. "Having access to this vacant house means our firefighters can receive training they never would have been able to have otherwise."

For more information about the training sessions, please contact Chief Anderson at 519-274-3939 or rander@town.stmarys.on.ca.

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COMMUNITY —

St. Marys DCVI Commencement



The recipients of the Human Synergistics Ring and Cane Awards - Ellen Thorup & Chase Carter.



Valedictorians, from left, Gwen Taylor and Becky Walsh.

Commencement ceremonies were held on June 29, 2023, for the "Class of 2023" of St. Marys District Collegiate & Vocational Institute (D.C.V.I.).

This year's Valedictorian address was given by Becky Walsh and Gwen Taylor, while the Ring and Cane Awards this year were presented to Chase Carter and Ellen Thorup.

In total, there were 97 graduating students plus 5 previous graduates were recognized during the ceremony.

Making the Honour Roll this year were: Isabella Aarts, Michael Boonstra, Abbie Boyd, Ian Boyd, Owen Boyd, Amy Bradley, Niamh Brennan, Ethan Brine, James Buckland, Jessica Burlingham, Chase Carter, Toby Crawford, Abigail Cunningham, Kaitlyn DeBoer, Alexis Fares, Mackenzie Fierling, Neave Goris, Jake Grant, Belle Greig, Anne Griffith-Jones, Marissa Hawkins, Jordan Hunter, Natalie Johnston, Anaya Larmer, Sebastian Linares, Sarah Lynch, Erin Massie, Aiden McBride-Lander, Olivia McClelland, Emily McCurdy, Lucas McCurdy, Kirsten Pabillano, Jordan Partridge, Shane Persaud, Mason Pickering, Cate Poulton, Kelsi Ristau, Nicole Rock, Charlie Ryan, Jimmy Schiedel, Reagan Silcox, Alex Slade, Chandler Smith, Anna Standaevan, Jill Sterkenburg, Jack Switzer, Kaitlyn te Grotenhuis, Ellen Thorup, and Brandon Winchester.

Other awards and scholarships presented during Commencement were as follows:

Academic Proficiency Award – College: James Buckland, Kelsi Ristau

Academic Proficiency Award – University: Anne Griffith-Jones, Anna Standaevan

Academic Proficiency Award – Workplace: Justin Martin, Hudson Seaton

Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home Scholarship: Natalie Johnston

Bank of Montreal Bursary: Neave Goris

Brent McRoberts Memorial Scholarship: Chase Carter

Cade Family Scholarship: Michael Boonstra

Charles and Vera Courtnage Memorial Scholarship: Jordan Partridge

Community Living St. Marys Scholarship: Kaylee Fowler

Community Spirit Award – St. Marys Insurance Group: Anne Griffith-Jones

Compass Group Scholarship: Jill Sterkenburg

Cooper-Standard Automotive Award: Jack Switzer, Brandon Winchester

Cormick Wheeler Memorial Award sponsored by Tradition Mutual Insurance Company: Kelsi Ristau

Crime Stoppers of Huron Perth County Scholarship: Tia Gloucher

CTMA High School Award: Emmett Doupe

Dan Rankin Memorial Scholarship: Kirsten Pabillano

Deep Waters Music Scholarship: Dylan White

DELf: Marissa Hawkins

Delmar Foods Award for Family Studies: Reagan Silcox

Elsie Meyer Memorial Scholarship: Belle Greig

Festival Hydro Award: Matthias Luyten

Festival School of Hairstyling Award: Katy Kittmer

Finnie Distributing Technical Proficiency Award: Ian Boyd

Governor General's Medal: Anne Griffith-Jones

Happy Valley Family Health Team Scholarship: Kaylee Fowler, Reagan Silcox

Hillcrest Rebekah Lodge Award: Anaya Larmer

Hubbard Pharmacy Scholarship: Anna Standaevan

Huron-Perth Real Estate Scholarship: Abigail Cunningham

Janice Mitchell Culinary Bursary: Abbie Boyd

Joan Bushfield Memorial Award: Emily McCurdy

Kathy McPhail Memorial Co-operative Education Award: Madison Ristau

Kinette Award of Merit: Matthew Gratton

Kinsmen Club of St. Marys Scholarship: Sarah Lynch

Kintore Optimist Scholarship: Charlie Ryan

Larry Bannerman Foundation Scholarship: Ezra Bender, Reagan Silcox, Gwen Taylor

Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer Service Award: Tucker van Bolhuis

Marion Warder Bain Language Scholarship: Reagan Silcox

McConnell Club of St. Marys Award: Kaitlyn te Grotenhuis

OSSTF District 8 Student Bursary: Cate Poulton

Principal's Award for Student Leadership: Nicole Rock
Richard Hawkins & Family Memorial Scholarship sponsored by INOAC Interior Systems: Will Boreham, Matthias Luyten

Robert Weston Jr. Award: Chase Carter

Ruthann Waldick Peer Helper Scholarship: Jack Bul-

len, Becky Walsh

Sheila Greason Scholarship: Sarah Lynch

SHSM Manufacturing: Isabella Aarts, Ian Boyd, Owen Boyd, Ethan Brine, James Buckland, Chase Carter, Kaitlyn DeBoer, Emmett Doupe, Gavin Muir, Mason Pickering, Ryan Sheldon, Jaden Shiell, Jack Switzer

SHSM Construction: Charlie Bertrand, Matthias Luyten, Tucker van Bolhuis, Brandon Winchester

SHSM Environment: Abbie Boyd, Niamh Brennan, Alexis Fares, Jordan Hunter, Sebastian Linares, Sarah Lynch, Erin Massie, Lucas McCurdy, Nicole Rock, Joseph Sharrow, Chandler Smith, Gwen Taylor

St. James #73 Masonic Lodge Bursary: Amy Bradley

St. Marys Cement Construction Technology Award: Brandon Winchester

St. Marys Community Players Drama Award: Kaylee Fowler

St. Marys DCVI Retiring Student Council Award: Anne Griffith-Jones

St. Marys Firefighters Award: Jessica Burlingham, Tucker van Bolhuis

St. Marys Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship: Ava Ansley

St. Marys Independent Award in English: Marissa Hawkins

St. Marys Lions Larry McClelland Memorial Scholarship: Arthur Douglas

St. Marys Optometry's Awesome Award: Toby Crawford

St. Marys Presbyterian Church Legacy Award: Charlie Bertrand

St. Marys Rotary Club Scholarship: Emily McCurdy

St. Marys Rotary Club Service Above Self Award: Ellen Thorup

Stratford & Area Builders' Association Construction Skilled Trades Award: Jaden Shiell

Teachers-Festival Liaison Council Drama Award: Kaylee Fowler

Teahen Construction Ltd. Plumbing & Design Group Skilled Trades Award: Isabella Aarts

Town of St. Marys Scholarship: Amy Bradley, Rourke McEwan

Trouw Nutrition/Shur-Gain Manufacturing Technology Award: Ethan Brine

Wellburn Agromart Agriculture Bursary: Lucas McCurdy

Wendy Richarson Memorial Award: Reagan Silcox

COMMUNITY —

Happenings at Art of Ideas Gallery

Celebrating the Universal Day of IA - Romanian Blouse



The Universal Day of IA (ee-ah) - the Romanian Blouse - has become a global event celebrated all over the world on June 24th, an event that contributed to the rebirth and a renewed interest in traditional Romanian culture.

This year on June 24th Art of Ideas Gallery in St. Marys and its two Romanian owners marked this special day together with members of the Romanian community from Oakville, Hamilton, Burlington, Toronto and Vaughan, as well as representatives from the St. Marys community and the General Consul of Romania.

What is IA and why do we celebrate it on June 24th?

The Romanian blouse, known by the name of IA, has roots in immemorial times and has always been the central piece of the Romanian feminine traditional costume.

The blouse is a symbol of the Romanian identity and very special as an anthropological artifact, distinctive for its embroidered sleeves, with most IA featuring a block of decoration on the shoulder, followed by a contrasting horizontal stripe, then decorative "rivers" that run down to the sleeve.

The blouses are made of natural fibers (flax, cotton, hemp or floss silk), and the complex stitch combines horizontal, vertical and diagonal seams that result in a specific pattern and texture. The styles and techniques vary according to the region and the wearer's age, as well as to the skills of the

women who create the blouses. The motifs and ornamentation are also varied: from geometric and stylised registers to organic shapes, and from somber to vivid colours.

Until the beginning of this century, the fabric was handmade in village households, plants and flowers were used for thread dyeing and in late autumn, when agricultural work was completed, the sittings began. Women and girls of the village gathered together in the evenings and began the needlework. The same rough and hardened hands that did the physical work in the fields, would nimbly create, often under candlelight, real works of art.

In the past the blouses were part of dowry chests but over time, the Romanian blouse became a source of inspiration for painters, photographers and designers. French painter Henri Matisse created in 1940 his series "La Blouse Roumaine" inspired by a collection of Romanian blouses received from the painter Theodor Palladi. Matisse's paintings will be later on the inspiration for the fashion house Yves Saint Laurent, who integrated the Romanian blouse into a 1981 collection of haute couture.

From 2013 a community established through Facebook (named "La Blouse Roumaine"), managed to create a special event on June 24, marked as "The Universal Day of the Romanian Blouse". On this day Romanian women were invited to wear the "IA", no matter in what corner of the world



they were. The day was not chosen at random, but it connected with "Day of Sânziene", a celebration associated with a cult of vegetation and fertility, with roots in an ancient solar cult. The Romanian legend says that "Sânzienele" are good fairies, who gather on the day the sun reaches its peak (summer solstice), dressed in white long shirts, and wearing crowns of yellow flowers. They dance in a circle giving special powers to flowers and herbs, turning them into "medicinal herbs".

Nowadays we are seeing a rediscovery of the IA, with the famous shirt having been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, with June 24th as the official international celebration day.

Celebrating the International Day of IA at Art of Ideas Gallery, St. Marys

For most of the gallery guests coming from outside St Marys, June 24th marked their first ever visit to our beautiful town so we ensured they've had a chance to check our local stores, pick up some special gifts, even do the Grand Trunk Trail and have lunch at one of our local eateries, ending it all with a tour of Art of Ideas Gallery and storytelling on the Romanian Blouse and the costumes on display in the gallery.

The gallery is very grateful to members of the Romanian community for providing some of the blouses and costumes on display as well as the stories of those beautiful artifacts. Some costumes, we were told, have been made in 1916 -1920s, while others go

as far back as the 1890s. All unique, all lovingly and painstakingly made, all carrying a story of a people, a time and a place...

And here is what some of our St. Marys locals said of the day:

"Thank you for inviting us to the wonderful International Day of the Romanian IA!! It was an interesting and inspiring afternoon. You opened a door for us to learn about Romanian history, culture, art and village life. Thank you for such an enriching event."

"Huge thanks for inviting us to this special celebration! What beautiful costumes and workmanship! We've learned so much about IA, from its history, to how it is made and what the colours and patterns symbolize. So wonderful that those beautiful works of art have been preserved since the 1890s and how lucky that we were able to see them!"

Thank you all who joined us and made June 24th a special day at the gallery! Please note the costumes will stay on display the whole summer.

Art of Ideas Gallery is located at 236 Jones St. East and offers guided tours of the house and art gallery on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. For exact days and times as well as admission details check www.artofideasgallery.com.

Fun fact: In 2015 June 24 was officially recognized by the Mayor of Washington as the "Universal Day of the Romanian Blouse IA" in the US capital.

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COMMUNITY —

Western Ontario's newest "Hot Rod"



Pictured above, seated are John and Mary McIntosh of R.R.7 St. Marys, in their latest Hot Rod, built from the bottom up by John himself. Hosts for the Canada Day celebration were Verna and Alex Strathdee along with the farm's matriarch dog, Diesel. (Contributed photo)

By Gary West

Pictured is John McIntosh's 'Hot Rod' built in his farm shop over the winter. It's a Ford model "A" with a few other models added to it.

John and his wife Mary built the Moy-Hall herd of Purebred Holsteins over the years north of St. Marys. The next generation, Rob and Amy also decided to take up the new venture of building "Hot Rods".

Friends and neighbours gathered for the annual "Canada Day" neighbourhood brunch at the farm of Alex and Verna Strathdee, in the suburbs of Avonton.

John was able to show off his newest

homemade addition of one of Henry Ford's better ideas, and as the marketing goes, "Built Ford and McIntosh Tough!"

Most of the neighbours that gathered to admire the convertible were reminded of the Johnny Cash hit from decades ago - "I got it one piece at a time and it didn't cost me a dime, but you'll know it's me when I roll through your town".

With a 283 cu. inch motor, dual exhausts, and not much in the line of mufflers, if you don't see the McIntoshs coming, you will surely hear them "when they roll through your town".

AllWheelsPark donation of the week



The Rotary All Wheels Park is so grateful to Partners in Employment here in St Marys for their donation to the park revamp and expansion. Please check our website for a listing of all donors. This is proving to be a wonderful grass roots community effort. Please consider participating at www.townofstmarys.com/all-wheelspark. Pictured are Deb Hotchkiss and Bryan Rumble. (Contributed photo)



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COMMUNITY —

Canada Day festivities



Cadzow Park had much to offer at the Canada Day celebrations - musical performances, the flag raising, children's arts and crafts, inflatables, food trucks, Hall of Fame BBQ, and the artisans' market.



John Nater, MP was a busy man on Canada Day. He was in the Stonetown parade and also attended Canada Day celebrations in Atwood, Mitchell and Stratford.



The Kinsmen float in the Canada Day parade.



Three generations of the Swarhout family: Bonnie, Chris and Nolan enjoyed the Canada Day celebrations at Cadzow Park. (Nancy Bickell photos)



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SPORTS —

DCVI's Ian Moore wins Pete Beach Award

By Spencer Seymour

Ian Moore, a Teacher-Coach and Athletic Director at St. Marys DCVI, has received the Pete Beach Award for his coaching and director work at the local high school.

The Pete Beach Award is presented annually to one person in each association who exemplifies the qualities of Pete Beach, a former Executive Director of OFSAA. Pete dedicated his life to sport and to helping others achieve their full potential, not just as an athlete, but as a person.

Moore, although bashful when speaking about himself, spoke to the Independent about the award and called it "an honour."

"Getting the Pete Beach Award is an honour because it was my colleagues at DCVI that nominated me and then it was the other Athletic Directors from WOSSAA that voted," said Moore. "WOSSAA has an incredible group of educators that give a lot of their time to ensure that athletes get some amazing experiences and opportunities."

The award was presented to Moore by fellow DCVI teacher and coach Annette Wrigley, who described some of the criteria that a Pete Beach Award winner should meet and that Moore possesses in spades.

"That educator [who receives the Pete Beach Award] is one who consistently provides an impression of stability and optimism," Wrigley explained. "That educator enjoys the company and the respect of young people. They embody and initiate by example the highest traditions of the sportsperson. They best typify the true function of the teacher-coach, a source of discipline, a mentor, and a friend."

Moore's contributions as a teacher-coach are plentiful, including his passion for every sport that he is involved with, especially volleyball, and is able to get the athletes to share his passion. He uses that passion to help his athletes maintain sportsmanship and love of the game as a higher priority than winning or losing.

As the school's Athletic Director, Moore looked after the sports teams' busses, uniforms, schedules, and equipment, as well as attending all Huron-Perth and WOSSAA meetings. According to the man himself, his passion comes from a strong belief in the value of a school's extracurricular programs, such as sports.

"I strongly believe in the positive impact that sport can have in a student's life. Participating in sports helps athletes do better academically, they enjoy school more, the health benefits are endless, and it gets them ready for life. They are better people socially, emotionally, psychologically, and mentally. As the athletic director at the school, I want to ensure that we always have coaches to coach the



various teams at school and if there isn't a staff member, I will try and find a community member.

"I love all sports and want to ensure that every team is set up for success. Success doesn't mean winning, success means having a program in which students have fun, get better, and perhaps win some games. If they get the opportunity to win a championship, that is a bonus but never the focus."

A big reason for his success as a coach is Moore's ability to listen and consult with his students and learn about them on an individual basis.

"A student's life doesn't revolve around their classes and high school athletics," Moore said. "They have very busy lives outside of their time at DCVI. Understanding them as more than just a student or athlete helps me appreciate what they can get or need with being on a school team."

"We have athletes that see success in all areas of their lives, at home, on club or town teams, and in the classroom. We have other athletes for whom a DCVI team is the only sport that they get to do and might be struggling in school, have issues at home, or just lack confidence. Knowing about their lives outside of school teams helps me understand what they need and want from a school team."

Moore helps student-athletes become great people as well as develop their skills. Moore has pri-

oritized the stability of DCVI's athletic program, stepping up to coach Volleyball, Basketball, Ultimate Frisbee, Badminton, Baseball, Curling, Track and Field, and, for one year, Nordic Skiing. Moore has also made significant contributions to the wider area, having convened Huron-Perth and WOSSAA regional volleyball events for both boys and girls for several years.

As mentioned, Moore puts an emphasis on keeping high school sports fun for every team he coaches. At the same time, he has an incredible ability to walk the razor-thin line of keeping things fun whilst also holding athletes accountable and disciplined when needed. Moore said the balance of "fun and purpose" allows his students to fully enjoy the process of improving.

"Being on a school team should be fun," Moore emphasized. "It is never the outcome of a game or a meet that is the priority. Winning championships is nice but it is always at the expense of certain athletes that get less playing time. Having a balance between fun and purpose helps athletes to enjoy being on their teams but also helps them get better."

"There is a 70 percent dropout rate from kids in youth sport. This is because too many parents and coaches are focussing on winning. I think you can push athletes and teams to get better and to try and reach their potential while creating an atmosphere of fun. By balancing these two things, hopefully, athletes will want to stay in sport until they graduate."

All of that weaves together in Moore's coaching philosophy, which he said adapts to every team he coaches. That ability to adapt is one of the biggest lessons that Moore has learned during his tenure as a teacher-coach.

"I think I am much better at understanding what my team and athletes want out of a season and providing a program based on this. Last year, I had a team that wanted to practice a lot and seemed very keen on wanting to learn and get better. Based on that, we practiced four days a week and the practices were longer and very clearly laid out. I had another team that was simply looking to have fun. With this team, we practiced two days a week and were less intense. Every practice was planned but they just liked playing and were less interested in wanting to get a lot better and simply wanted to have fun."

"I will always want my practices to be fun and I want my athletes to improve at the sport I am coaching but if their priority is simply to have fun then how intense I make the practices and how hard I push them will vary. Regardless, I simply love coaching and really believe in the difference high school sports can make in a student's life."



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SPORTS —

Lincs add Perdue as GOJHL off-season continues

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys Lincolns have completed their goaltending tandem with which they will begin the 2023-24 GOJHL season after acquiring 20-year-old goaltender Matthew Perdue from the French River Rapids of the Northern Ontario Junior Hockey League (NOJHL).

Perdue spent last season split between the OJHL's St. Michael's Buzzers before going to the Rapids, posting an 0.883 save percentage in 18 games with the Rapids. Back in the 2021-22 season, Perdue posted six wins and a 0.934 save percentage in 10 games with the Buzzers.

The Brampton native will turn 20 years old this coming August and joins rookie netminder Colby Booth-Hoousego as the two goalkeepers who will occupy the Lincolns' crease next season. Lincolns' General Manager Pat Powers said that he believes Perdue will be a good mentor to his younger counterpart.

"Matt is a quick athletic goalie that plays with a calmness to his game. He puts himself in good positions to challenge the shooter. He is a true competitor that has university hockey goals beyond this season so we are getting a very motivated goalie. [Colby and Matt] play a similar style and Matt is a very mature young man that is driven so we're very optimistic about the influence he can be on Colby."

The Lincolns are reported to be in "very good shape" with the current state of their roster heading into next season with plenty of skilled young additions joining a sizable returning core.



Around the GOJHL:

Six former GOJHL players were selected in the 2023 NHL Entry Draft, including two first-round picks. The Philadelphia Flyers drafted Oliver Bonk with the 22nd overall pick, who spent the 2021-22 season with the Stars of St. Thomas. With the 28th overall pick, the Toronto Maple Leafs chose former Komoka King Easton Cowan.

With the fifth pick in the fourth round, Florian Xhekaj was taken by the Montreal Canadiens, joining his older brother Arber. In the fifth round, the Winnipeg Jets nabbed former London National Jacob Julien. In the sixth round, the Philadelphia Flyers took Ryan MacPherson who helped lead the Leamington Flyers to the Sutherland Cup. Just seven picks later, former Chatham Maroons' defender Warren Clark was drafted by the Tampa Bay Lightning.

London Nationals' owner Paul Duarte has been suspended for two years after an investigation into reported violations of the OHF's harassment, abuse, bullying, and misconduct, stemming from a claim that Duarte put a bounty on a Komoka Kings' player with a London player being asked to target that player during a game.

The GOJHL is accepting applications from new ownership groups as part of a new expansion opportunity being explored by the league. The expansion announcement came shortly before it was announced that Niagara Falls Canucks were making an unexpected jump to the OJHL for the start of the 2023-24 season.

Two GOJHL players were recipients of \$6,000 bursaries from the Dairy Farmers of Ontario. The bursaries go towards the post-secondary education of the recipients and "recognize young athletes who show leadership in building strong and healthy communities, demonstrate high academic achievement, are dedicated to and have a passion for hockey." Nicholas Graneiro of the LaSalle Vipers and Jace McGrail of the Sarnia Legionnaires received the bursaries.

Trainer Doug White of the Komoka Kings, who has been a trainer for 45 years and worked for the Kings since 2019, was recognized with the OHA's Trainer of the Year award at the OHA's Annual General Meeting and Awards Celebration. Additionally, Will Nicholl of the St. Thomas Stars, Callum Cheynowski of the Thorold Blackhawks (now the Port Colborne Sailors), and David Egorov of the Hamilton Kilty B's were named OHA Top Prospects.

Chargers overcome short bench, tie with Taxandria

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys Chargers had two players score their first goal of the season as part of their game last Monday against Taxandria FC, which ended in a 2-2 draw.

Olivia Beckett filled in admirably in the Chargers' net and the team was

playing with no substitutes available. According to Player-Coach Laura Van De Walle, this required the Chargers to dig deep and grit their way through the match.

"We worked really well as a team," Van De Walle raved. "Having no substitutes on the bench forced us to

really communicate well and work on our passing skills. I was very impressed with our ability to play the entire game with a good energy and compete level and put so much pressure on the other team from start to finish. It was a really fun game to play and something I think we can really build on."

With the whole team stepping up to meet the challenge, two in particular were able to get on the scoreboard, both for the first time this season. Myah Vingerhoeds made a great rush from the Chargers' defensive zone while Emily Drake potted her first of the year after being out of action due to an injury.

Local pullers find success in Aylmer show

By Spencer Seymour

Last Friday, the sixth annual Aylmer Truck and Tractor Pull was held and several local area residents competed and picked up strong results in the competition.

The slate of local results goes as follows:

Ken McLellan finished in first place in 12,500-lb. Farm Stock, second in 14,500-lb Farm Stock, and second in 10,500 Hot Farm over 8 miles-per-hour (mph)

Karl Armstrong finished first in 8,500-lb. Farm Stock and first in 6,500 Hot Farm over 8mph

Jon Nairn finished second in 10,500-lb. Farm Stock and fifth in 12,500-lb Farm Stock

Brian Harris finished second in 6,500-lb. Farm Stock

Brent Nairn finished fourth in 12,500-lb Farm Stock

Tanner Harris finished fourth in 8,500-lb. Farm Stock

Many local pullers will be back in action this weekend from July 7th to 9th at the Tri-County Heritage Club's annual Tractor Show.

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SPORTS —

Minor Ball action in St. Marys



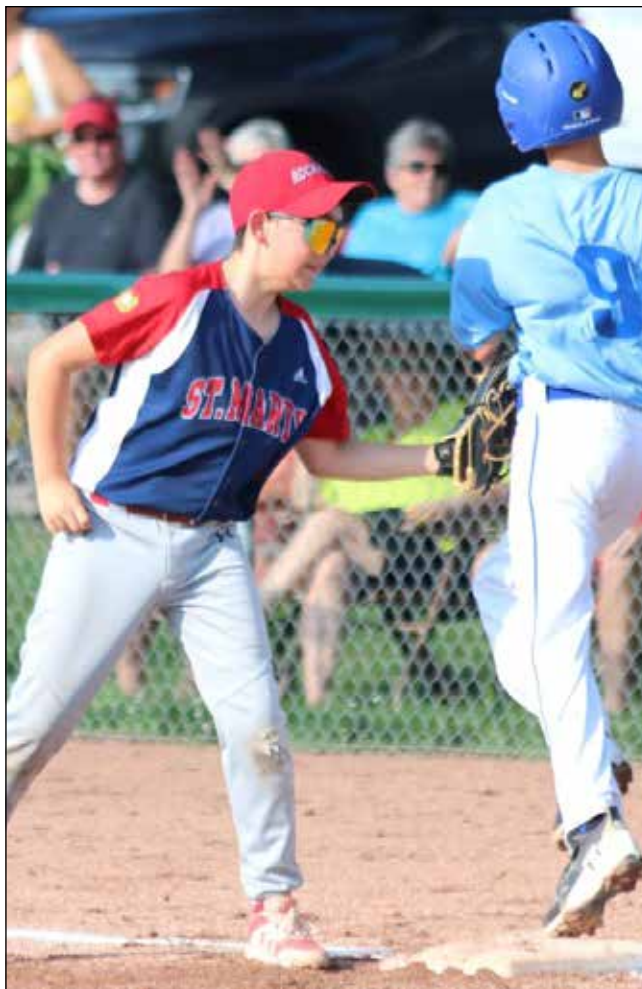
On the left, Gracy Schlotzhauer whips a pitch at the Innerkip hitter during the McLean-Taylor Construction U15 HP Girls' game last Wednesday. On the right, Andrea Dingman throws it back to the mound from the outfield.



Grayson Boreham and Braeden Roth each get their bat on the ball during last Thursday's U18 WOBA game against Mitchell.



Luke Savile tosses the ball to first base during the St. Marys Firefighters U11 OBA game against the London Talons this past Monday.



Elliott Wilhelm tags a member of the Talons out at first base during the St. Marys Firefighters U11 OBA game this past Monday.



Attley Ehgoetz lobs the ball back in the direction of the pitcher's mound during the St. Marys Firefighters U11 OBA game against the Talons.

**FOR SPORTS TIPS CONTACT SPENCER SEYMOUR
CALL OR TEXT 519-859-1049 OR EMAIL SPENCER.SEYMOUR88@GMAIL.COM**

SPORTS —

Runs aplenty in U13 Blue win over Listowel

By Spencer Seymour

There was no shortage of offence at King Field last Wednesday when the Veterinary Purchasing Ltd. U13 Blue WOBA St. Marys Rockies downed the Listowel Legionnaires by a score of 20-17.

According to Head Coach Paul Jacobs,

Josh Gerber threw three good innings as the starter, followed by quality middle-inning relief by Seth Brown. Of course, as the score indicates, the team was incredible on the offensive side of the ball. Highlights inside the batter's box included Brown, Seth Mountain, and Zach Tubman each going four-for-four at the plate and

Danny Dittmer bagging a two-run triple.

Jacobs told the Independent that the team's offensive prowess is consistently making positive strides, as evidenced by the close-to-two-dozen runs the team posted against Listowel.

"I am very happy with our improvements at the plate. We are seeing a lot of very competitive at-bats, with lots of hard contact resulting in a lot of hits. Even our outs are competitive. We are striking out very little and we're putting the ball in play for productive outs."

U13 Red earn one-run victory over Mitchell

By Spencer Seymour

Head Coach of the Cubberley Plumbing and Heating U13 Red St. Marys Rockies squad Ken French told the Independent that the continued positive progression of his team's play on both sides of the plate allowed the team to come away with a 10-9 victory over the visiting Mitchell Astros last Wednesday

at King Field in St. Marys.

"They played a much improved full-team game," French commented. "The offence and defence are coming together nicely and we saw that on Wednesday. The entire lineup gave us solid contributions. I really like how competitive our team is and yet, the boys also display great sportsmanship."

French also noted that the team continues to work on "limiting our mental errors," which French believes will allow his group to sustain their success.

Among those who showed "strong plate discipline" were Landon McDonald, who went two-for-two at the plate and scored two runs, while Ben Graham added another two runs and went

two-for-three. Remko Wynands also chipped in a run while going two-for-two in the batter's box.

On the pitcher's mound, Jude Schlotzhauer had three very strong innings that saw him throw seven strikeouts. Will Richardson also turned in a solid effort, posting two strikeouts in two innings pitched.

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SPORTS —

Offensive explosion leads U14-GT2 to victory

By Spencer Seymour

An offensive outburst earned the 2009-U14 Girls' Tier-Two St. Marys Storm a 7-3 win over the visiting squad from Petrolia last Thursday.

Co-Head Coach Mark Muir praised the group for their resiliency and ability to adjust to the tenacious opposition.

"The team from Petrolia tested us on a number of occasions," Muir admitted. "They succeeded on a few opportunities before our girls made the necessary changes to close the game out and secure the win. Credit to our group for being able to adjust and do what they needed to do to get the job done."

Charlotte Richardson led the offensive charge, potting four goals for the Storm. Aubrey Cousineau, Ella Frayne, and Carlie Muir also found the back of the net. As a whole, the girls played with good speed and ball movement.

"Our offensive play was excellent, not just based on the goals scored, but also from the standpoint of the shots taken. We were getting a ton of chances and the girls were finding ways to get quality opportunities."



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COMMUNITY —

Wellspring Cancer Support Group receives \$12,000 from Dave and Lenora Mountain's Annual BBQ

By Gary West

There are families in Perth County that never give up helping other families living with, or have been living with, medical issues that continue to need a “hand up” in one way or another.

An organization known as “Wellspring Stratford” is one of those organizations who help men, women and children diagnosed with cancer of one form or another.

Bring on David and Lenora Mountain from the Avonbank area of Perth South who host a Wellspring BBQ every summer on their picturesque rural property to raise money for this well managed local cancer support organization.

Volunteers prepare the meal of Perth County smoked pork chops with all the fixings. This year’s BBQ was their 14th anniversary, feeding over 220 again for the yearly sold out fundraiser.

David Mountain says it all started when his sisters, Marilyn Herman and Bonnie Hueston, were actively involved with Wellspring Stratford, which is a branch of the London Cancer organization.

They continue to help and provide funding for cancer support, which can come in many forms in the quest to offer those in the battle fighting



Pictured, from left, Tracey Jones, Executive Director of Wellspring Cancer support of London and Stratford region, Lisa Stacey, office manager of Wellspring Stratford, along with David and Lenora Mountain, hosts of the annual Wellspring fundraising BBQ, on their rural property north of St. Marys.

this terrible disease.

He states that “Bonnie is still a very active volunteer, having gone through breast cancer herself”, while he is also a prostate cancer survivor.

Both are still living active lives and as David says, “unlike some of their neighbours and friends who have not been as fortunate”.

He goes on to say that most everyone has been touched by cancer in its

nancial support and says she is proud of prior attendees who are always willing to give much needed funds to operate the caring organization.

She says they are very appreciative of the BBQ hosted by the Mountain family every year that brings in much needed funds. Many who cannot attend every year still send tax deductible donations to Wellspring since those givers know the money goes to a very worthwhile cause.

The BBQ, including donations, brings in close to \$12,000 per year.

Lenora and David say they see lots of old friends every year, along with many new ones, who come from Niagara, Hamilton, London as well as Stratford, St. Marys and surrounding areas.

The couple say they enjoy seeing everyone in their lawn chairs relaxing and chatting, knowing they are helping someone who might be battling cancer, while also knowing there is help through an organization like “Wellspring Stratford”.

More info is available by calling Lisa at 519-271-2232 or lisa@wellspring-stratford.ca

many different forms and all that attend the BBQ every year like to support the Wellspring Stratford group who provide funding for various activities that assist the person with their fight against cancer, as well as support for the family members.

Lisa Stacey, Wellspring Stratford Manager, sends out requests for fi-

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COMMUNITY —

Newspaper website up-and-running (mostly)

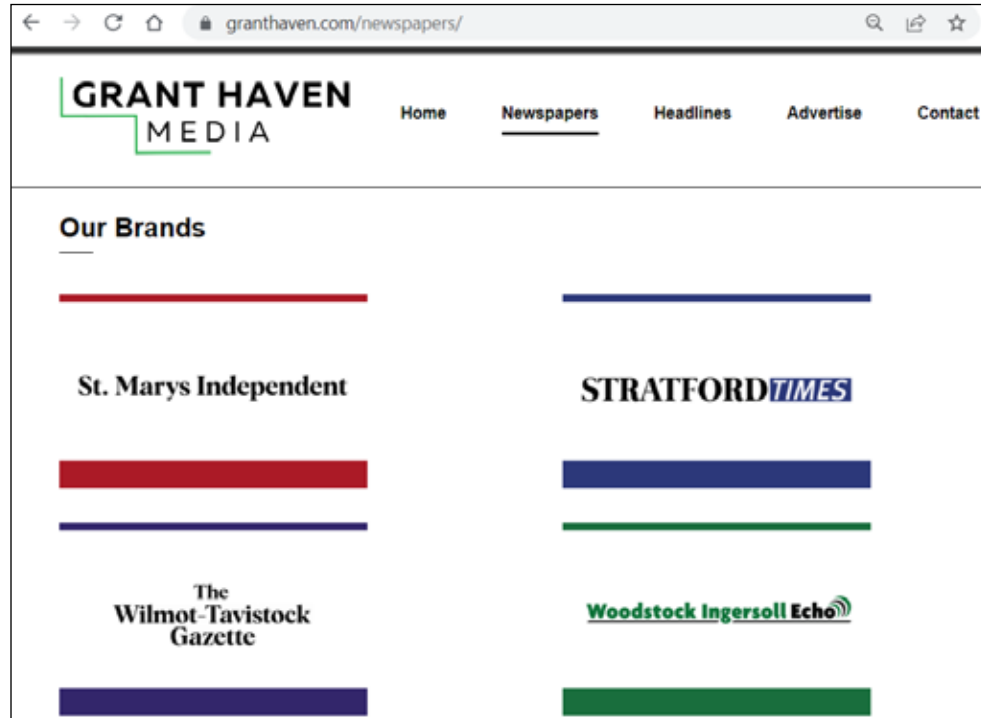
By Stewart Grant

Our longtime readers of the St. Marys Independent might recall that the circumstance that led me to purchase the newspaper from Frank Doyle in 2014 was that Tyler Carruthers and I worked on the Independent's website back in the days of my former web design company, Evolution Web Management.

Within a couple years of owning the newspaper, I knew that I wanted to exit the web design business. The technology was constantly changing, and it required a fully dedicated team to keep up. It was time to leave the web design industry to the true experts.

Over the years, we've had a couple of different providers build websites for the newspapers. The website that we've had for the Independent the past few years has served us well, however the person who set up our site had gone AWOL and had left us unable to make changes and had been unresponsive when I had hoped to set up a site for our latest newspaper, the Woodstock Ingersoll Echo.

Fortunately, I've gotten to know Natalie Moore, who is proprietor of Moore Creative Consulting in Stratford. She's been nominated several times for Stratford & District Chamber of Commerce Awards and is also



a great friend.

Together, we brainstormed – and found that what we needed wasn't another completely different website for the Woodstock Ingersoll paper, but a one-stop-shop where people could access either the news for their specific community, or for the broader region if desired.

"Moore Creative Consulting's goal was to create a clean and crisp website for

Grant Haven (at www.granhaven.com) so that we could ensure local news is at the forefront," said Natalie. "Each decision we made considered not only ease of use for Grant Haven team members, but above all, ease of use for readers. Bringing all Grant Haven papers together in one hub did just that. Now, you have access to all local news from reporters in one place instead of jumping sites on the web. Readers can also see important

headlines that impact not just one area but Stratford, St. Marys, Tavistock, Woodstock and Ingersoll all in one place right from the home page."

One of the things that I appreciated the most about Natalie's involvement with the project was, because she took the time to understand our business so well, she didn't have to wait for me to write up a detailed plan for the site. Based on our planning conversation over a cup of coffee, she was able to move forward straight-away because she knew what I wanted the website to do... even if I didn't have the time to actually type out the words.

"Our team had a fantastic time working on this new website and we're excited to have helped make finding and reading local news even easier!" Natalie added.

I started this article by sharing my background in websites because I know that sometimes, things are difficult and sites don't always work as intended. Some of our users have experienced issues with www.stmarysindy.com correctly forwarding to the new website. If you are in this small group, hopefully GoDaddy (where our site is hosted) will have it fixed by the time you read this. But if not, simply visit www.granhaven.com and you'll be able to click on the St. Marys Independent link.

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DELMAR FOODS
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Another week of Pickleball at St. Marys courts



Jody and Dwayne Henderson teamed up against Tony Vandenheuvel and Merlin Leis in a close, exciting match during one of the St. Marys Pickleball Association's jam-packed nights last week. Team Henderson won by a score of 11-9. The Hendersons will be playing mixed doubles at the Ontario Provincial Championships in Collingwood on September 21-24. (Contributed photo)

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COMMUNITY —

Canada Day at Happy Hills Campground



On Friday, June 30th, Happy Hills Resort near Embro held their annual fireworks display in celebration of Canada Day. Well over one thousand people were in attendance, many of whom drove up in golf carts that were decorated in red and white for the occasion. (Nancy Bickell photos)



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COMMUNITY —

'Explore 4-H' club starts in Kirkton Area

By Stewart Grant

A new 4-H Club has recently started up in the greater Kirkton area, led by April Barker and Catherine-Wallis Liscumb.

"When younger, we were both long time 4-H members, so we have been grateful to give back to this amazing

program!" Barker told the Independent.

The duo decided to start with a club called 'Explore 4-H', where each meeting covers a different topic.

Barker described, "not only are the members learning about baking, cooking, crafting, engineering, etc.,

we are also teaching parliamentary procedure, how to run an effective meeting, and roles within a board/organization."

One of the positions filled by the young members is that of "Press Reporter". The member holding this role writes a fun and interesting summary

of each meeting, and this year's Press Report is Zachary Zwambag. His summary of the first three 4-H meetings can be found below.

For more information on 4-H opportunities locally, contact April Barker at thebarkers@quadro.net or call 519-878-6070.

4-H Press Report

By Zachary Zwambag

A new 4-H club has started in Perth South, called Explore 4-H. 4-H is an organization for youth aged 9-21, where members can take part in clubs that teach them about things like raising animals, cooking, baking, field crops, art, sports and so much more. Explore 4-H is the club that introduces members to everything that 4-H can be and it has been a lot of fun so far.

Meeting 1:

On May 15 we held our first meeting. There were 11 members present, including 10 who were brand new to 4-H. There are two leaders of the club, April Barker and Catherine Liscumb. After reciting the 4-H pledge, everyone got to know each other. We partnered up and asked each other questions such as what we do in our spare time, or what our favourite foods were. Next came a team building challenge. One person was blindfolded and had to build a structure out of marshmallows and toothpicks, while their partner told them what to do. Finally, we moved on to the topic of meeting - making healthy snacks. On the menu were pinwheels, which were tortilla wraps with a mix of vegetables, cream cheese, turkey and cheese. There were also 2 different types of popcorn, one with taco seasoning, and one with herb and garlic spice. As a drink, we made strawberry and banana smoothies. Finally, for dessert, homemade protein balls were made using oats, coconuts, peanut butter, and honey.

After everyone was done baking, and the kitchen was cleaned up, it was time to taste our snacks. In my opinion, the protein balls tasted the best, with the popcorn at a close second. There were a few different types of pinwheels to choose from, but I decided on one with turkey, cheese, carrots, and spinach, and the smoothie washed it down nicely.



Meeting 2:

After our first meeting, it was decided by the leaders of the club, April and Catherine, that the club needed members in executive positions. We needed a president, vice-president, secretary, and a press reporter. After a quick election, it was decided that our executives would be Avery as president, Jack as vice-president, Hayden as secretary, and Zach as press reporter.

We then did a roll call, where we pulled a kitchen tool out of a bag, and had to guess its use and name. There were a number of items that club members were not aware of the name or what they did, like an egg separator.

We then headed inside to focus on our meeting topic of baking desserts and treats. On the menu were chocolate covered haystacks, brownies, peanut butter marshmallow squares and cinnamon buns. Since we were split into groups, I can't tell you how the making of each treat went, but I do know that Liam added

brown sugar instead of white when making the cinnamon buns. We all learned or were reminded that when a recipe calls for "sugar" or "granulated sugar" it means white sugar. The chocolate haystacks that I made required chocolate chips, butterscotch chips, and chow mein noodles. After the chips were melted into a sauce, we spread them on the noodles to make crunchy and sweet treats. The peanut butter and marshmallow squares were made after, using butterscotch chips, peanut butter, and frozen marshmallows.

Although all of the recipes were started, we only got to eat the haystacks, as they were the only ones ready. After the baking, we learned about judging, which is another activity that 4-H does routinely. We filled out a practice judging form for spoons. We needed to determine which of the 4 spoons was best for eating soup, and to do this, we had to look at the spoon's attributes, such as its size, and if it had holes in it.

Meeting 3:

During our third meeting, we focused on the subject of card making. We recited the pledge, and did a roll call of, "What's your favourite holiday?". A few common answers were Christmas, Halloween, and Groundhog Day. We reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting, which were recorded by our secretary, Hayden. When we were finished outside, we got to our main subject of card making. We welcomed our special guest, Maria Urquhart, and started making cards.

Our first card was a birthday card, which used strips of colourful paper - cut using a paper cutter - glued to the card. We then used the leftover paper to make candles, which we glued on and added flames punched out of gold paper. To give our card a 3D look, we used pop dots to stick out the flames. We then completed our card with a stamp that read, "Happy Birthday."

Next, we moved on to our second card, which had a tractor on it, and could be used as a birthday card, or a Mother or Father's Day card. We started with a coloured piece of paper, then added a frame with a black piece and a white piece on top. Next, we punched out the shapes that we needed to make our tractor, and assembled them according to a diagram. We could then write a message such as, "Happy Father's Day," or use the stamp that read, "Happy Birthday."

Finally, we began making our final card, which again used stamps, and could be used for a variety of different occasions. For example, one stamp read, "Holiday Wishes," with a snowman on it, and another was a thank you card with a picture of a squirrel. For this card, we used markers to colour in the stamp, and added strips of paper like in our birthday card. We again used pop dots to make our message stand out, and before long, we were finished with our cards.

Jack, our vice president, thanked Maria Urquhart for coming to teach us about card making on behalf of the club, and we moved outside to finish eating the treats from last week. During our next meeting, we will learn about engineering.



COMMUNITY —

Gastrointestinal Outbreak Declared at St. Marys Memorial Hospital

The Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA) – St. Marys Memorial Hospital has declared a gastrointestinal (gastro) outbreak on the Inpatient Unit.

“In response to the outbreak, we are reminding everyone to clean their hands upon entering and exiting the hospital, patient care areas and patient rooms,” says Erica Jensen, Manager Quality, Patient Safety and Infection Control.

“Hand washing is key to stopping the spread of bacteria.” Gastro, also

known as the stomach flu, causes an infection in the stomach and intestines called gastroenteritis.

This infection is not caused by the influenza virus. “Most individuals with gastro infection will experience one to three days of nausea, vomiting, and watery diarrhea,” adds Jensen.

“Other symptoms may include fever, headache, and stomach cramps.” Gastro infections have been linked to outbreaks of vomiting and/or diarrhea in schools, long term care homes, cruise ships, camps, dormitories, restau-

rants, households and other places where people gather in groups.

A person who is ill with a gastro infection is most often able to spread the virus up to 48 hours after the symptoms subside. Those visiting patients at the hospital are required to follow any posted instructions and are asked to limit their interaction to one patient per visit. Patients may only have one family caregiver/visitor per day.

Those visiting infected patients will be required to wear gloves and gowns and must use the hand sanitizer pro-

vided to wash their hands upon leaving the patient’s room. Patients with symptoms are being isolated and common areas have been restricted.

“We are working with the Huron Perth Public Health to take all possible steps to stop the transmission of the virus, prevent any further infection, maintain bed availability and provide the best care to our patients,” concludes Jensen. Visitors are also reminded that if they aren’t feeling well, they should postpone their visit to at least 48 hours after symptoms clear.

United Way Perth-Huron Youth in Action Grant

United Way Perth-Huron (UW-PH)’s work engages people across Perth-Huron, tackling pressing local issues affecting the communities where they live. As part of this mission, the organization is building the next generation of engaged residents through the Youth in Action Grants (YIAG) program; providing opportunities for youth to come up with creative solutions to challenges facing people their own age and develop skills that can transfer to other areas of life.

“Every year, Perth-Huron youth come up with amazing ways to address issues in their communities,” said UWPH Director of Governance and Community Impact Megan Partridge. “We’re hoping this year’s YIAG recipients inspire other young people to think of ways to help in their communities and apply this coming September.”

“I’ve learned that it’s important not to worry what others will think about,” added two-time YIAG recipient Evan Johnson, who led last year’s Art Cart initiative along with this year’s Wellness Wednesdays project at Stratford District Secondary School. “I know a lot of my peers are nervous about that and getting out there and being a leader really gives you the perspective to see what’s going on and what people really feel. More youth should apply for the grants because the experience is very valuable, especially as you get older and go into the real world.”

This year’s YIAG projects covered a wide range of pressing local issues including mental health and building connections in the community across Perth and Huron.

Youth Week at the Municipality of West Perth allowed the West Perth Youth Advisory Committee to put on special events and programs for

youth in West Perth celebrating National Youth Week and creating deeper community bonds.

Wellness Wednesdays at Stratford District Secondary School allowed youth to host four after-school workshops throughout the winter and spring to introduce students to visual art and drumming with the aim of expanding ways to cope with mental health challenges.

The Clubhouse at Stratford District Secondary School allowed youth to create a one-day school-wide scavenger hunt to promote social connection, plus social connection kits for teachers to sign out and use with their classes.

Connecting Girls Through Sport at St. Marys DCVI allowed the youth to host a basketball workshop for girls, Grade 6 to Grade 11, building a sense of community and giving girls a chance to step outside their comfort zone. The workshop featured the head coach and three players from the University of Guelph women’s team.

A mental health assembly at St. Marys DCVI allowed youth to reach their whole school featuring motivational speakers focused on anxiety and depression, breaking down stigma and offering coping strategies and resources.

Hockey fun at St. Marys DCVI allowed youth to run a ball hockey tournament for Grade 9 to Grade 12 students so they could get outside and be active.

Building picnic tables at St. Marys DCVI allowed youth to build several new picnic tables for their school after the old ones were vandalized. The project offered youth a chance to feel ownership and pride in their school.

A comedy show hosted by Mental Health Matters Wingham featured a Canadian comedian sharing their experience with mental health challeng-

es, letting youth struggling with their own mental health issues know they are not alone.

The eight grant recipients each received up to \$1,000 for their project.

YIAGs are open to youth aged 14–25 to plan and implement projects ad-

ressing youth concerns in their community, must clearly engage their peers in Perth and/or Huron Counties and have an adult trustee over the age of 25. Grants up to \$1,000 are available. Applications for 2023/2024 open in September. For more details, visit perthhuron.unitedway.ca/funding.

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HISTORY —

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Life in St. Marys in 1931, Part One

By Mary Smith

When the results of the 1931 census were tabulated by the Dominion of Canada statisticians, the population of the town of St. Marys was found to be 3,802. The population had only increased by about 400 people since the first federal census, taken in 1871, when the town was recorded as having 3,415 residents. In comparison, the population of Stratford had more than doubled during the same time period, increasing from 8,239 in 1871 to 17,742 in 1931. These statistics suggest that growth had stagnated in St. Marys. Still, when personal data contained in the census were recently released after the mandatory 92-year protection period, examination shows a community riding out the depressed economy reasonably well. Many heads of household were employed in diverse local industries, although it is possible to find examples of families that were obviously struggling. A significant number of people had been laid off for several weeks or months in the previous year. Some, particularly young men, were unable to find employment at all.

The census enumeration divided St. Marys into four districts, according to ward. The west ward – in 1931 as it still is today – comprised the part of town west of the Thames River. This area contained mostly residences, either owned or rented. Only a few businesses operated in that portion of the town. Immediately west of the Queen Street Bridge, William Graham and his uncle, Robert Graham, had established a service station with gasoline pumps and repair bay. GraHam fuel remains at this location today. An implement dealership and a coal and fuel delivery service were on the north side of Queen Street, also right beside the bridge. These businesses have completely disappeared, replaced by parkland.

Many people who lived in the west ward worked at one of the three major industries: the cement plant, C. Richardson & Co. foundry or Maxwell Ltd., at that time concentrating on the production of household appliances, particularly washing machines and wringers. Times of shift changes at these industries would have seen many workers making their way across the Park Street Bridge, either going to work or returning to their west ward homes. Others had employment in downtown stores or businesses and several men worked for one of the two railways: the CNR or the CPR, both providing passenger and freight service to St. Marys. A number of trained professional people lived in the west ward including two accountants, several nurses, a



Wood Specialty employed a number of local residents, including some very young boys, at the time of the 1931 census. They made, among other products, hockey sticks and baseball bats. However, in 1933, because of the Depression, Wood Specialty was sold to a Hespeler business and the St. Marys factory closed.

doctor, a lawyer, a veterinarian, and a minister. Trades included carpenter, butter maker, seamstress, milliner, embalmer, a horse trainer and three printers. An intriguing census entry: Jennie Henderson of Ontario Street was a corsetiere, unique in her neighbourhood. Because housing development had not yet reached the western boundary, there were still a number of families actively farming property within town limits.

In 1931, as today, many retirement-age people made their homes in St. Marys. Some had been farmers; others had lived in town all their lives and had been locally employed. Esther Mitchell, in her late 60s, had retired to a comfortable six-room, frame house on Jones Street after many years as an elementary school teacher. A block or so away on Queen Street West, her contemporary, Alice Wilson, was still teaching. She was the only income earner in her household, shared with her two sisters, ages 60 and 70. None of the three had ever married. In the days before government pension plans, company pensions, or old age security payments, it was necessary for many older people to work as long as they possibly could.

The 1931 census includes a group of questions concerning employment and income: In headings across the top of each page, they read: "OCCUPATION: Trade, profession or particular kind of work. (Give as definite and precise information as possible.) INDUSTRY: Industry or business in which engaged or employed. CLASS OF WORKER: (Employer, paid worker or own account.) TOTAL EARNINGS in the past twelve months (since June 1, 1930.)" Many local families were managing on less than \$750 a year

although those with responsible positions in an industry were generally paid better. Even retired heads of households were required to provide this information. Many men who were no longer working, along with widows and older single women, gave the answer "Income" under the "Total earnings" heading. For most, this probably meant they were living on money previously earned when they, or a husband or father, had been employed.

A close look at some of these names shows that "Income" meant widely different levels of financial comfort for different people. Julia Ford, age 71, lived on income in a house left to her by her father. But the house was the only asset that Dr. Adam Enoch Ford left his daughter in 1879 when he abandoned St. Marys after a scandal to start a new life in Denver, Colorado. Julia struggled in poverty for the rest of her life and the depression years must have been particularly tough. Meanwhile, her friend, Mina McKay, age 70, lived on income in a ten-room, stone house on a property valued at \$12,000. Mina's maiden name was Hutton and she was the beneficiary of the estate of her two uncles, William Veal Hutton and Joseph Osmond Hutton. Mina's very comfortable home was Westover Park.

Census results for the north ward of St. Marys cover all the households east of the Thames River and north of Queen Street East, including the homes on the north side of Queen Street itself. This large area extended all the way east to the farm that is now the golf course and north to town limits on James Streets. Because in the downtown core there were many commercial blocks of two or three storeys, this part of the census shows a num-

ber of people living in apartments over the ground-floor businesses. There were also boarding houses. William McNeil, an auctioneer, and his wife, Sarah, provided room and board to three people in their home on Wellington Street North. William Oddy, a hotel-keeper, employed a domestic servant, Mary Finnie, and a hostler, William Blackburn, to help serve the needs of his guests, including three single men who were long-term residents at the Oddy (or Garnett) House at 18 Church Street North.

Some people worked at industries located in the north ward. Delong Hook & Eye, usually called the "Pin Factory," employed both men and women, but many of these employees had experienced periods of lay-off during the previous year. A more reliable employer was the Canadian National Railway and a number of men in the north ward had railway-related work, some at the Junction Station. Other men worked at the Parkview Creamery or at the planing and saw mills along Station Street. Institutions in the north ward – the Presbyterian and Catholic churches, St. Marys Collegiate Institute, the Catholic Separate School – all generated employment: a minister, a priest and teachers, of course, as well as caretakers and office staff. The teaching nuns at the convent on King Street North were also recorded.

Some households included in this area were very prosperous. John Knox Richardson, a widower, age 70, lived in a 12-room house on Wellington Street North with his 32-year-old daughter, Kate. As manager of the J. D. Moore Co., his yearly income was \$2,500 – substantial for 1931. In contrast, Joseph Iredale, a retired miller, and his wife, Mary Ann, both in their 70s, lived on Queen Street East in a modest, four-room, frame house – probably quite adequate accommodation for the two of them. But the family apparently suffered a misfortune which the census records, of course, do not explain. These records show only that on census day, June 1, 1931, the Iredales were making space in their small home for their son-in-law, a widower, and five grandchildren – two girls and three boys, ranging in age from 13 to five years old. Their son-in-law was a farm ditcher and his seasonal earnings of \$480 could not have sustained his young family without the help of his in-laws.

The town's main industries were located in the east and south wards. Next week's column will consider what the 1931 census shows about the households in those areas and the economic and social conditions of the time.

THORNDALE WEEKLY NEWS

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Thorndale Animal Hospital... a family affair

By Nancy Abra

There has been a long tradition of medical care at the large, yellow-brick house at 233 King Street, Thorndale. From 1903 to 1988 doctors have practiced medicine here. The last doctor was Dr. Ross Green who retired in 1988 but still lived here until his death a few years ago.

When the house came up for sale in 2019, Dr. Helen Wilson, a veterinarian who graduated in 1978, thought it would make a great animal hospital for the community. She and her husband, Dr. Paul Francis, a veterinarian since 1983, have lived on a hobby farm west of Thorndale since 2011 and knew the community was welcoming and thought an animal hospital could be an asset here.

After renovations, the Thorndale Animal Hospital opened their doors on June 1st. Dr. Kathleen Francis who graduated in 2021 from the University College, Dublin School of Veterinary Medicine is the full-time vet at this

facility, with Mom, Dr. Wilson, as the clinic's manager and Dad, Dr. Francis with his speciality in orthopaedic and soft tissue surgery, on a part-time basis. Between these doctors, they have intergenerational knowledge and expertise of over 80 years. There are also veterinarian technicians at the clinic for a total of six staff of both full and part-time.

The hospital is set up with a reception area, two examination rooms, treatment areas, ultrasound and X-ray room with the latest diagnostic equipment, a surgery room, pharmacy, recovery, and kennel area for their patients. The Thorndale Animal Hospital offers a wide range of elective, emergency and diagnostic surgical procedures, including spay and neuters.

The Thorndale Animal Hospital will be hosting an open house on Sunday July 9th from 1 to 3pm for the community to come to see their facility and meet some of the staff.



Pictured, from left, Dr. Helen Wilson and Dr. Kathleen Francis.

Mt. Olivet 300 celebrates 150 years



Front row from left to right - Heather Ivins, Kelly Ireland, Tracy Lord, Dor Deller & Hanna Ivins. (Contributed photo)

By Nancy Abra

Mount Olivet 300 officially celebrated their 150th anniversary with a banquet at the Thorndale Lions Community on Saturday, June 17th. There were 125 masonic members, family, and community friends including Thames Centre mayor, Sharron McMillan, who brought congratulations on behalf of the municipality, along with other dignitaries from the Grand Lodge who attended this special evening. The meal was catered by Village Catering of Thorndale and entertainment was provided by local talent, singer Don Bentum and friends. Jamie Ireland of Strathroy, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario was the keynote speaker.

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

150 years later and with a current membership of 48 men, Mount Olivet Lodge still plays a significant and active role in the community of Thorndale. Besides supporting Masonic foundations in Ontario and across Canada such as post-secondary education, medical research and childhood diseases, this Lodge also supports various Thorndale community groups.

Green Thumb Garden Tour a success



Pictured is Barb Krasnicki, a Thorndale & Area Horticultural Society member in one of the gardens on the 2023 Green Thumb Garden Tour held on Sunday, June 25th. There were six private gardens on the tour in Thorndale and in the rural area south of the village. Green Thumb Tour committee chair, Shirley Hacon said, "we were delighted the weather was good and that 96 people came out for our garden tour. We are also grateful for our sponsors and the support of the local businesses and for the host gardeners who opened up their gardens for our fundraiser event. Proceeds of this event will go towards new hardscaping in our Rose Garden on King Street, Thorndale." (Nancy Abra photo)

COMMUNITY —

Lions Club Classic Car Show



Milt Dunnell Field was the place to be Saturday morning to view the 110 entries in the Lions Club classic car show. (Murray Grant photo)



This 1928 Ford A Coupe made the trip to St. Marys from Exeter. (Nancy Bickell photo)



Looking after the barbecue at the Car Show. From left, Luke Debrabandere, Ron Annett, Larry Ford. (Nancy Bickell photo)



This 1941 Chevy Coupe was lovingly restored over a 5 year period by Janice & Brian Glanville of St. Marys. (Murray Grant photo)

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COLUMN —

HOSTING UKRAINE: Work In Progress



Pictured is a creation by Ukrainian artist Kostia Kutyk representing how we Canadians are helping Ukraine.

By VJ Knutson

Four Ukrainian families moved out of host homes this weekend. A first step towards independence. For many, also a first taste of the reality they are facing. The safety net is gone. It can be an emotional time.

By my count, that means that there are only a handful of Ukrainians still being hosted in our area. I have lost track of numbers, but I do know that we can be proud of all that we have accomplished to date – giving so many a safe place to land, and a hand up during difficult times.

I can't stress enough, that other than a big heart, and a willingness to help others, I had no background knowledge or preparedness for what would unfold. I just knew I needed to do something, and Ric concurred. As I now find myself deeply immersed, I depend on the experience and concern of others. Without you, our community, none of this could happen.

I met over the past two weeks with representatives from first, our Ukrainian population, and then individuals from the community wishing to be of help. We brainstormed what is needed going forward and possible solutions. While I have nothing to report at the moment, please know that our work continues.

While this column's topic has been hosting Ukrainians, our efforts are not exclusive. There is a recognition that by supporting and aiding any new immigrants, we are making an investment in the growth and prosperity of our town going forward.

According to the website Immigration Matters (Government of Canada):

"Canadians are living longer and having fewer children. More people are retiring, and there are fewer students in schools. As a result, the pool of Canadian-born existing and potential workers is limited.

Immigrants contribute to our economy, not only by filling in gaps in our labour force and paying taxes, but

also by spending money on goods, housing and transportation."

The trick is in keeping immigrants engaged and hopeful that their efforts will ensure betterment of their own lives. As I grow more and more attached to our many newcomers, I wish for them all the success and rewards they can achieve.

My friend Nancy sent me an email Saturday morning with three songs performed by Peter, Paul, and Mary. Boy that took me back! More than that she gifted me with renewed inspiration. I'll share with you here the lyrics of *Blowing in the Wind*, originally composed by Bob Dylan:

How many roads must a man walk down

Before you call him a man?

How many seas must a white dove sail

Before she sleeps in the sand?

Yes, and how many times must the cannonballs fly

Before they're forever banned?

The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind

The answer is blowin' in the wind

Yes, and how many years must a mountain exist

Before it is washed to the sea?

And how many years can some people exist

Before they're allowed to be free?

Yes, and how many times can a man turn his head

And pretend that he just doesn't see?

The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind

The answer is blowin' in the wind

Yes, and how many times must a man look up

Before he can see the sky?

And how many ears must one man have

Before he can hear people cry?

Yes, and how many deaths will it take 'til he knows

That too many people have died?

The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind

The answer is blowin' in the wind

Till next time.

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

FARM AUCTION

Saturday July 8th, 2023 at 9:30am

For Double A Acres – Alvin and Anna Graber

136390 13th Line RR#4 St. Marys N4X 1C7

Horses

Several well broke young teams of Belgian mares and geldings, 2-year-old mare, 1 year old gelding

Farm Equipment

Robert Bell 28"x45" thrash-machine with straw cutter and grain thrower, Grain thrower with hopper, C4.4 Cat diesel power unit on gears (like new, less than 500 hrs), 1HC 7' grain binder with new knife and guards, 2-binder trucks, 1HC corn binder (excellent condition), corn loader and trolley, 1HC #9 silage cutter, 2-1HC 15 run grain drills with grass seeders, J.D. 290 2 row corn planter, Pioneer 8' cultumulcher, Pioneer 2 furrow plow with 14" KV bottoms, Pioneer fore cart with steering, Pioneer blade with wings and attachments, Pioneer potato plow (For same attach), 8' and 6' cultivators, 8' and 7' tandem discs, 6 section diamond harrows, 8' sprocket packer, 1HC 1 row corn scuffler, Lancaster 85 bu. 4 wheel manure spreader (like new), 1HC #9 hay mower with 6' bar, Massey 4 bar side rake, Kicker hay tedder, 55' tubular bale elevator with under carriage, bale stoker, Flat rack hay wagons, sleigh (like new), Gehl 15" hammer mill, Potato plow

Farm Misc. Tools Etc.

Approximately 2 wagon loads of miscellaneous items, Large bale hay feeder, 12' cattle fence line bunk feeder, HD shoeing stocks, Team harness, collars, oat roller, belt lacer, endless belts, T posts, fuel tanks, rope and pulley hitch set, hay fork and car, neck-yokes, whippetrees, 3 complete milker units (good condition), New pulsator, SS milk pails, SS double sink, claw washer, tri-wheeled deluxe horse lawn mower, push mowers, pony cart, Stihl chain saw, buggy running gear, 12' aluminum boat, purple martin bird houses (new), some harness shop tools and supplies, torch set with tanks, power washer, air compressor.

Household Items

5 burner tabletop oil stove, 2 burner oil stove, stove top baker, beds, dressers, tables, chairs, desk, SS cookware, treadle sewing cabinets, folding tables, sausage stuffer, meat grinder on stand, SS water heaters, lamps and lanterns, 10'x12' steel insulated icehouse (good shape), School textbooks, teacher answer keys, library books, lunch box shelves, assorted school charts, arts and smaller miscellaneous.

Consignments

1411 New Holland disc bind 11' cut (mint condition), MF 24 plate disc, 1HC #7 hay mower, 1HC 8' double packer, 1HC 13 run grain drill, 1HC #407 walking plow, Flat rack wagon on rubber, bee keeping supplies including hives, SS extractors etc., Quick hitch steel wheel road cart.

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Riddles

- What's the best way to talk to a monster?
- Long distance
- How do fisherman make their nets?
- They just take a lot of holes and sew them together
- What's wet and says "how do you do?" sixteen times?
- Two octopuses shaking hands
- What's the same size as an elephant but doesn't weigh anything?
- An elephant's shadow
- What lies on the ground, a hundred feet in the air?
- A centipede sleeping on his back
- On which side of a chicken are the most feathers?
- The outside
- What do you call an elephant with wings?
- A Jumbo Jet
- What has no beginning and no end?
- A Circle
- What Rooms can't you enter?
- Mushrooms
- What ten letter word starts with G-A-S?
- Automobile

- Word Search -

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

Word List

- Pride month
- Canadian wildfires
- PGA LIV deal
- Trump indicted
- Messi to Miami
- Wagner Group
- CBHOF Induction
- Fathers Day
- Brews and Food Fest
- Titanic sub
- DS Downham
- School graduation
- Quarry opens



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What has four wings, but cannot fly?



A windmill!

Hudson Petrie (2)

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This is Ari, a 7 year old Anatolian Shepherd/Mastiff mix. Ari is a rescue dog who has been through a lot in her early life but has come out the other side in her happy, forever home with the Broadworths. Ari is a big dog with an even bigger heart. She loves cheese and only enjoys car rides that end in a pup cup.



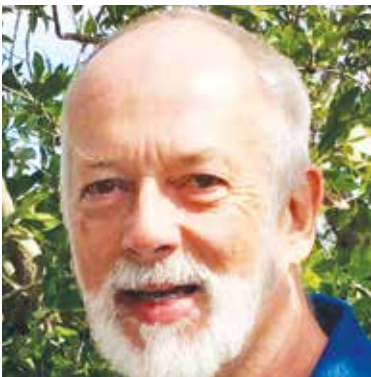
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Avoid walking on hot pavement, sand etc. Burnt paws are a common summertime injury. Severe burns can be hard to heal and very painful for our furry friends.

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COLUMN —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: A lot of history on "a rock in the middle of nowhere"



By Paul Knowles

Travelling by car through the Florida Keys on Highway 1, the "Overseas Highway" is probably my favourite drive anywhere in the world. You pass through interesting towns with tropical ambience – Key Largo, Islamorada, Marathon, and many more island communities and you encounter innumerable bridges, including the famed "Seven Mile Bridge" that stretches over seven miles of ocean.

It is stunningly beautiful.

Being caught up in that beauty is probably why I never really noticed a tiny coral "key" adjacent to the Seven Mile Bridge. Pigeon Key is not worth noticing if you are looking for sheer, dramatic beauty. But it turns out, this small island is a rich repository of history that lies at the heart of what the Florida Keys are today.

Paying visitors arrive via the cute little Pigeon Key train which takes you to the island. There, you will be welcomed for a lengthy but enthralling tour of the island where you learn the story of Hen-

ry Flagler and his railway to Key West.

Because during construction of that ill-fated railway, Pigeon Key was a key (pun intended) staging point for the railroad construction project. And this island, which you can cross from side to side in a four-minute walk, was home to 400 workers. Our guide – "Just call me C.T., everybody does" – admitted that, "We're a rock in the middle of nowhere but there is a surprising amount of history on this island."

So – about this railway. The name "Henry Flagler" pops up everywhere in the history of Florida. Flagler, born to a poor family in 1830, became a rich American industrialist. He was a partner with John D. Rockefeller in Standard Oil. C.T. told us that Flagler had a contradictory reputation: "Vicious in business – he'd squash you like a bug – but the very opposite in his personal life where he was kind and generous and empathetic."

This vicious, kind man first came to Florida in the 1880s and he saw the potential in a state that was then, mostly mosquito-infested swampland. His story is deserving of a book but the quick version is that Flagler built a railway to St. Augustine and then continued south to Daytona and eventually Miami. He built hotels (great facilities still in use today as schools, as well as historic hotels).

When the Panama Canal

opened in 1914, Flagler saw the potential for a deep-water port to serve the United States and the closest one was in Key West. The problem was that Key West is an island at the end of a series of islands with no land transportation connecting it to the continental United States. That constitutes about 194 kilometers without land transportation. And except for Key West, then a boomtown of about 20,000, the population of the Keys was about 1,000 in total.

The solution? C.T. described it this way: "Henry Flagler reached into his pocket and pulled out a railroad."

It was an astonishing feat – building a railroad over the ocean, anchoring the line on the islands of the keys but stretching over many lengths of sea including the seven-mile stretch that includes Pigeon Key.

The project employed thousands and 400 of them were based on Pigeon Key. The buildings still standing (many have been demolished) date back to that era when hundreds of men ate, slept and worked from this home base.

When Flagler first envisioned the project, the experts he consulted told him he was crazy. His answer? "We're going to Key West."

And he did. While Pigeon Key was perhaps the biggest camp, there were actually 82 work camps all along the Keys, all building their sec-



The Pigeon Key train – a smaller version than the ones that travelled Henry Flagler's railway to Key West. (Photo by Paul Knowles)

tion of the project.

Flagler stated his vision in 1905; on January 22, 1912, the first train to reach Key West pulled into the station with an aging Henry Flagler on board. C.T. stated it dramatically: "For the first time ever, Key West heard the scream of steam." Flagler was greeted by ten thousand cheering residents including bands and choirs, school kids and dignitaries galore. Henry was a hero.

He was also ill. Henry Flagler passed away on May 20, 1913 just over a year after his final entrepreneurial triumph. His impact on Key West is honoured today by a life-sized statue of Flagler seated on a bench in front of the former railway station. His Key West hotel, Casa Marina, continues to be a popular and pricey home away from home for visitors today.

The railroad did not stand the

test of time or tempest. About 65 kilometers of track around Islamorada were destroyed in a tragic 1935 hurricane that also caused the death of over 400 people, many riding on a north-bound train racing to escape the storm.

The railway was in dire straits. The death blow that sent it into receivership came when the company could not pay a large bill, ironically to Standard Oil, where Flagler was once a part-owner.

But the precedent had been set. No railway was ever to run again through the Keys, but a highway was built using many of the same bridges. That highway today is perhaps my favourite drive anywhere.

Thank you, Henry Flagler.

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



One of the buildings that remain from the railroad work camp that housed 400 men on this tiny island.



A section of the railroad that remains – with Highway 1, which sometimes used the railway bridges, shown to the left.

COLUMN —

FROM THE GARDEN: Another Challenge for Gardener



By Nancy Abra

Gardeners are usually faced with a challenge or issue during the growing season. Whether it is invasive insects, plant disease or weeds, it can be very frustrating. One issue I have noticed the last couple of years, is that our weather is changing.

I recently attended the International Master Gardener conference in Kansas City which was a great learning experience. Dr. Charles Rice of Kansas State University was one of the keynote speakers. His presentation was on 'Challenges of Gardening in a Changing Climate.'

Dr. Rice specializes in soil microbiology, carbon cycling and climate change. His extensive research has gained him important knowledge which he shared with us at the conference. You wouldn't think the global issue of cli-

mate change would affect our gardens, but it does and will be an increasing challenge in the years to come.

Dr. Rice stated it is not just the increase in temperature but also our precipitation is changing. In some areas in North America, it is 20-30% drier. Whereas, in other regions, there is an increase in rainfall. Dr. Rice explained the future will see more intense rain events, followed by longer extended droughts. He also stated there will be more erratic temperature swings occurring in the spring and in the fall. This spring in our area, we witnessed an abnormally warm April, then rain, followed by a very dry May.

In his presentation, Dr. Rice said increasing summer heat in some regions is stressing plants. He mentioned with intense heat, pollen of plants will go sterile. This certainly could be an issue in some plant crops.

According to some statistics I found, the summer of 2022 was officially the third warmest in Canada's history with the summer of 2021 and 1998 hotter. Temperatures across Canada were 1.6 degrees Celsius above normal. As for this summer, the fore-



cast is for the summer sizzle to return. www.todocanada.ca/farmers-almanac-releases-2023-long-range-summer-weather-forecast/

Climate change also affects pests and diseases. As temperatures increase in Canada, invasive insects migrate up from the south. The change in wind direction, especially warm winds from the south can contribute to an increase in plant viruses and diseases moving into our region.

So how do gardeners deal with the challenges of climate change?

It starts with good soil health, Dr. Rice said. Building up our

soil with compost and manure helps restore soil carbon and its structure. And by adding organic mulch to our gardens this cools the soil, retains the moisture during dry periods, suppresses weeds as well as it will improve infiltration.

In Dr. Rice's presentation, he listed some 'climate smart gardening' tips. Besides the soil health, he said plant selection is also another key component in our gardens. Using perennials that have deep root systems is important for erosion control but also provides fertility and stable carbon storage in soils. The diversity of our plant choices for our gardens

should include native plants for their adaptability and pollinators they attract. As for annuals, they should be heat and drought tolerant.

The practice of 'smart watering' should be an essential component of our gardening ritual. The use of rainwater collection, water reuse as well as limiting our watering to early morning when temperatures are cooler, gives the plants time to absorb the water before the heat of the day.

The only constant is change. But how we adapt to that in our gardens will help to overcome some of the horticultural challenges.

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COLUMN —

Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

Karen is retiring! Drop in between 1:00pm and 4:00pm on July 7th (tomorrow afternoon) to celebrate her 26 years of hard work and dedication, and to wish her well as she embarks on her next chapter. We are thankful for her contributions to our community over the years and wish her the best.

This Week's Recommendation

A book that multiple staff members (including Karen) have on their Staff Picks list is "The Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah. We've recommended this title before, but it deserves to be mentioned again. The book follows two sisters and the roles forced upon them as the Nazis occupy France during WWII. Vianne Mauriac and her daughter must play host to a German captain in their home. Meanwhile, Vianne's younger sister, Isabelle, is part of the Resistance. Both sisters risk their lives as they

do what they can to survive in a tumultuous time. "The Nightingale" can be found in both regular and large print as well as in audiobook and digital formats.

Up This Week

Friday, Jul. 7th: Funday Friday – Fire Safety with St. Marys Fire Department (1:00pm)

Saturday, Jul. 8th: Open 10:00am-4:00pm

Monday, Jul. 10th: Crafty Kids (10:30am-12:00pm), Club SMPL (1:30pm-3:00pm), Mahjong Intro (6:00pm-6:30pm), Mahjong! (6:30pm-8:00pm)

Tuesday, Jul. 11th: Reading Help (10:30am-12:00pm), Wonder Workshop (1:30pm-3:00pm)

Wednesday, Jul. 12th: EarlyON – Play and Read (9:30am), STEAM League (10:30am-12:00pm), Reading Help (1:30pm-3:00pm), Scrabble (6:00pm-8:00pm), After Hours at the Library: Diamond Painting Make and Take (8:00pm)

Thursday, Jul. 13th: Cooking Club (11:00am), FOL Newcomers' Social (7:00pm)

LOOKING BACK



By AMY CUBBERLEY

Squirrely situation

25 years ago (1998)

Ownership of Richardson Foods in St. Marys has changed hands again, and the company has been purchased by a Dutch co-operative. The new owners, Unifine, are a wholly-owned subsidiary of a larger Dutch company called Cosun. The St. Marys company will now be known as Unifine Richardson BV.

On Sunday afternoon, the Stone Willow Inn officially opened its doors and more than 1,500 people enjoyed the open house. This land was first purchased in 1961 and Stone Willow was incorporated in 1994.

At the end of the school year, the students and staff at DCVI said good bye to a number of excellent teachers. Head of Business, Dave Bonis, and Head of Science, Bruce Symons, are both retiring after 35 years each with the Perth County Board of Education.

50 years ago (1973)

Bill Murphy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Murphy, Church St S, qualified in Oshawa on Saturday in the two-mile event. Bill came second and will go to Vancouver to take part in the Canada Games in August.

Ed Schmidt and family became the first occupants of a home in the new Ethel Court subdivision last week. Mr. Schmidt is the latest Constable to join the local police department.

Paul Betteridge, in conjunction with town forces, has a beautification program underway along the front of the new water pollution control plant on Thomas Street.

The abundance of squirrels around town has caused some residents to wonder if an "open season" of some type is not warranted to thin out the local squirrel population.

75 years ago (1948)

When a 7-year-old boy was playing on the roof of the Journal Argus press room on Monday afternoon, he saw a three-wire electrical service leading into the building, and not knowing the danger, touched one of the wires at a spot where the insulated covering was off the copper. Luckily a bystander saw the young lad with what appeared to be smoke rising from his hand on the wire. He rushed to the roof and pulled the boy's unconscious body free. The boy's mom, who is a nurse, called on Dr. Latimer who treated him for shock and burns to his hand and stomach.

The Parks Board employees have located the temporary band stand on the lawn alongside Trout Creek near the Parkview Creamery stables. Here it is hoped the weekly band concerts by the St. Marys Citizens' Band will be more effectively heard than has been at Cadzow Park in the past two years.

100 years ago (1923)

Sunday, July 1 will be long remembered by Presbyterians in St. Marys. This marked the 75th anniversary of the foundation laid on the hill upon which ministers such as Proudfoot, Caven, Waters, McAlpine, Turnbull, Cosgrove, Moreden, Miller, and Duggan have built a structure glorious and lasting.

Mr. and Mrs. P. White and four sons of Glasgow, Scotland arrived in St. Marys this week, where they will now make their home. It is ten years since Mr. and Mrs. White and family, who are former Stone Town residents, returned to their native land.

The ravages of prowling house cats are again perturbing the minds of many St. Marys citizens who would raise a few additional fowl this summer. One West Ward resident lost as many as thirteen chickens within the space of a few days by the raids of these hungry household pets.



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

Solutions on page 31

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 29

Friday, July 7

Royal Canadian Legion hot dog/sausage lunch at Noon

Cascades Retiree BBQ - 4 to 7 pm

A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 pm

St. Marys YMCA family movie night - 6 to 8 pm

Saturday, July 8

Celebrating Pride in Thorndale

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

St. Marys YMCA MOSSA Group Power launch party - 8:30 am

Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm

Sunday, July 9

Thorndale Animal Hospital Open House - 1 to 3 pm

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QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Noah | 6) The Jackson Five |
| 2) Kermit the Frog | 7) Tommy |
| 3) A beard | 8) Spanish |
| 4) Templeton | 9) Captain Marvel |
| 5) Blaire General | 10) France |

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

OBITUARY

Wisternoff



Dorothy Wisternoff

Beloved wife of Harold Wisternoff for 67 years.

Dorothy was born April 30, 1936 in Bulwell, Notts, England. She emigrated to Canada in 1957 with her husband Harold. Together they built a life and raised

their family in Canada. Since 1964 they have been residents of Perth County, living in the communities of Listowel, St Mary's, Mitchell and Stratford.

She is survived by her sons Mark (Marianne), and John (Kerry), daughter Elaine (Danny), sister Margaret (Spencer), and granddaughters Kaylee (Tom) and Heather (Daniel).

Dorothy was a lifelong volunteer with many organizations, including the Canadian Cancer Society, Meals on Wheels, and Girl Guides. For her service, Dorothy received an Ontario Bicentennial Medal honouring Ontario's volunteer.

Many thanks to Dr Anderson, Wendy Dunn and all the wonderful staff at Knollcrest Lodge in Milverton for their care over the past months.

Cremation has taken place and services will be private. Memorial donations may be made to Knollcrest Lodge or the Canadian Cancer Society. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the W. G. Young Funeral Home, 430 Huron St, Stratford, ON www.wgyoungfuneralhome.com



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The St. Marys Lions Club would like to thank all of the businesses and people who sponsored and donated to the car show this year after a 3 year absence. It turned out to be a fantastic day and we had around 110 cars, and we had a great breakfast and lunch provided by the Queens Inn, thank you!

We handed out 4 trophies this year:

Best in Show - 1966 Chevy Pick up - Gary Noble

Farthest Distance - Fort Erie, XJ12 Jaguar - Glen Crawford

Best Model 1970 or earlier - 1957 Chev - Frank Green

Best Model 1971 or later - 1971 Dodge Demon - unknown

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