

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1168

Thursday, July 20, 2023

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G's eats & treats is open!



More exciting things are happening on Water Street with the opening of G's eats & treats. Owners Cathy and Mike Bayer have created a casual eat-in or take out menu of delicious food which includes poutine, burgers, sausages, loaded potatoes, ice cream and lots of other goodies. Their hours are 11:30am to 9:00pm and the new eatery has a beautiful patio for all to enjoy. "We have always felt that restaurants, cafés and eateries are a great way to build and expand the sense of community. We really enjoy being part of the downtown and hope to get more involved as we get settled." Mike said. Pictured above, from left, staff Ashley Hodgson and Tayler Currie. (Contributed photo)

Town of St. Marys making changes to Animal By-law

The Town of St. Marys is introducing a new Animal Control By-law to protect the well-being of its residents and their furry friends. The by-law was approved by Town Council on May 23, 2023, and will take effect on August 1, 2023.

Under the new by-law, residents will be allowed to keep up to three dogs and three cats in their home. They will not be allowed to keep livestock, farm animals, or any animals used for agricultural purposes.

Continued on page 2

St. Marys Kinsmen Summerfest Returns

With info from Chris Swarhout

This year, St. Marys Kinsmen Summerfest is back, rain or shine, Thursday, July 20 - Saturday, July 22. The family oriented carnival, which is geared towards smaller children, will again feature Cope Amusements, with many of its rides they featured last year.

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

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

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

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

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

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COMMUNITY —

Town of St. Marys making changes to Animal By-law

Continued from page 1

Those who currently house these animals have until May 22, 2025, to comply with the new by-law; however, this compliance period could be shortened or cancelled if the Town receives complaints about the animals.

The Town is also reminding residents about local animal control services.

Animal Control

The Stratford Perth Humane Society provides animal control services for St. Marys. Residents are encouraged

to contact the Humane Society at 519-273-6600 to report:

- Violations of the Town's Animal Control By-law

- A dog running at large

- A dog bite or aggressive dog

- A sick or injured dog, cat or small wild animal

- A lost or found pet

- A stray dog, cat or small domestic animal

The Stratford Perth Humane Soci-

ety also offers emergency after hours services for sick or injured dogs, cats and small wildlife, and vicious dogs. To access emergency after hours services, call 519-273-6600 and follow the prompts.

Additional information about animal control services in St. Marys is available at www.townofstmarys.com/animalcontrol.

Pet Licenses

Pet owners in St. Marys are required to register their dogs and cats each year. Licenses can be purchased on-

line (www.townofstmarys.com/petlicences) or in person at Town Hall or the Municipal Operations Centre.

Carcass Removal

For assistance with animal carcass removal, contact the Town at 519-284-2340, ext. 221.

Animal Cruelty

To report cases of animal cruelty, abandonment or neglect, call the Province of Ontario's 24/7 Hotline at 1-833-9ANIMAL (1-833-926-4625). In an emergency, contact Stratford Police at 9-1-1.

O'Grady's Clothing and Accessories has been sold

By Wendy Lamond

As of August 31st, new ownership will take over O'Grady's Clothing and Accessories on Queen Street. Heather and Ed Parkinson have owned the business for 12 years and are excited to announce that new owners Jennifer and Chris Dungo will be taking over. Jennifer is the daughter of long-time employee Jan Westman. Jan will be staying on to continue to give the community the great service they have experienced under Heather's ownership.

Heather plans to support Jennifer and Jan for as long as she can to get through this season and the start of the next.

When asked what she is looking forward to the most, Jennifer says "It's a new adventure for sure and I have watched my mom do retail my entire life and now being able to do it together is definitely exciting."

The Dungos plan to keep the O'Grady's name and all of the same lines. They love the brands that are currently offered and may plan to bring in more pieces according to Jennifer's demographic.

Jennifer has a pastoral background, working in London for 15 years.

She and Chris moved to St. Marys and this opportunity became available and will allow Jennifer to be able to combine family and work and spend more time with their three girls.

The Fall line has been ordered but due to the change in ownership, the clothes may not be in place as early as usual so the ladies are asking the community for patience during this transition. Gift certificates will be honoured; however, if you are able to use them within a year, it will also help with the business change over.

Heather plans to support Jennifer as long as needed but afterwards plans to spend more time with family and friends. She also hopes to golf and travel more and delve into some hobbies she enjoys.

What made the sale for Heather full circle is seeing a mother-daughter duo working in the store together which is reminiscent of Heather's mom and grandmother.

Heather and Ed are happy that the business will remain open and to know that the service and quality that shoppers experience when they visit will remain with the new ownership.



Above right, Jennifer Dungo and Heather Parkinson are pictured outside of O'Grady's Clothing and Accessories. On August 31st ownership will change hands from Heather Parkinson to Jennifer Dungo.



STONETOWN

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St. Marys, ON.
ph: 519.284.4448

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1 yr - 5.70%	1 yr - 5.60%	1 yr - 5.46%
3 yr - 5.57%	3 yr - 5.55%	3 yr - 5.40%
5 yr - 5.50%	5 yr - 5.50%	5 yr - 5.05%

*Rates subject to change without notice *Minimum may apply

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Wednesday July-19th	Thursday July-20th	Friday July-21st	Saturday July-22nd	Sunday July-23rd	Monday July-24th	Tuesday July-25th
Mainly sunny	Showers	Potential showers	Mainly sunny	Mainly sunny	Few showers	Sun/cloud
						
26°C	26°C	22°C	23°C	26°C	25°C	26°C
Feels Like 29	Feels Like 32	Feels Like 25	Feels Like 26	Feels Like 29	Feels Like 31	Feels Like 32

COMMUNITY —

North end playground



On Monday, July 17, the brand-new playground set within the Trailside/Hooper development was largely put together. Some additional installation remains, but it won't be long before neighbourhood children are able to enjoy this new structure. (Stewart Grant photo)

Hubbard Pharmacy Limited
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COMMUNITY —

St. Marys Rotary Club Heritage Festival fireworks



After waiting to see if the weather was going to cooperate, the decision was made to go ahead with the fireworks at the Stonetown Heritage Festival and what a wonderful display it was. (Nancy Bickell photo)

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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Don't take away the
ring road at Milt
Dunnell Field!

Thank God it rained
again. My mud was
getting dehydrated!

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!

Bravo

We have two Bravos this week.

- 1) Bravo for another magnificent fireworks display despite the threat of rainy weather.
- 2) It was good to see the local papers reminding readers that the concept drawings in the Milt Dunnell Field survey were just that, concept drawings and ideas, to help generate debate and submissions to their survey. Nothing is carved in stone.

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

Boo

We have two Boos this week.

- 1) Boo to everyone who uses the private property of Parkview West as a street. It is not. We have elderly people living here, some of whom have hearing, eyesight and mobility problems. Our private property connects St. Andrew N to St. John N. Cooperation would be appreciated.
- 2) Our town has completed a new parking area and installed a new light activated crosswalk for pedestrians crossing to and from the Quarry. However, some people are not using it at all and are still crossing wherever they feel.

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

Quote of the Week

"Tim Hortons is a Canadian institution, and their coffee and donuts are a daily staple for many Canadians."

- Shania Twain

St. Marys Independent

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The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS
OF THE WEEK

Sponsored by:

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395 Queen Street West

Going to church
doesn't make you a
Christian anymore
than standing in a
garage makes you a
car.

Artificial intelligence
is no match for
natural stupidity

For every action,
there is an equal and
opposite government
program.

If you look like your
passport picture, you
probably need the
trip



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PUBLIC AUCTION

Saturday, July 22, 2023

10 A.M. MARK YOUR CALENDERS!

Shop Machinery, Tools, Guns, Household, Antiques, Steam Boiler And Parts For John And Catherine Stutzman And Southern Machinery (Moving)

Tug 40 Engine Lathe Model 2200, 17"X78", Metric & Imperial Threading, C/W Two Chucks, (Reasonable Reserve Bid), Monarch 14"X56" Threading Lathe, Lincoln 200 Amp Welder Portable On Tires. Lincoln 200 Amp Shop Welder On Casters, Partly Dismantled. Reciprocating Metal Hack Saw, Clark 4000 Lb. Forklift, Electric Chainsaw Sharpener, H.d. Cast Iron Table Saw, Buzz Saw, Saw Makers' Anvil, General Model 350 T.a. Saw, General 15" Drill Press, General 15" Band Saw, General 4" Jointer, Small Jig Saw. All Lineshaft Drive, Non Electric. Small Electric Table Saw And Drill Press. 6" Bullet Vise, 115 Volt Ac/Dc Oxy/Acetylene Flame Cutting Machine. Top- Saw For Sawmill, Several Large Sawmill Blades, Cement Mixer, Small Rubber Tired Wagon, Hay Feeder, Steel Wheel Running Gears (Geo. White), 11ft High A-Frame, New 3 Ton Trolley. 3 Ton Chain Falls, Spool Of New 3/4" Cable, For Hoisting, 2 Cycl. Wisconsin Motors, Some Honda Parts Motors, Volkswagen Rabbit Diesel Not Running, Some Sawmill And Steam Related Parts, New Sand Blasting Unit, Air Support Helmet, Arc Welding Helmet, 2 Powder Torches, Welding Rods, Gear Boxes, Up To Several Hundred H.p.2 Harvestor Gear Boxes, H.d. Winch, Pump Jack, Litter Carrier, Bucket & Track, Mascot 3 Gang Horse Mower, 5'X6' Greenhouse, 8x10' Mini Barn, Push Mowers, Air Receiver, 4 H.d. Steel Stacking Bins, Parts Rack, Tarp Shed, Scaffolding, Lots Of Pullies, V & Flat Belts, Acetylene Gas Generator, Hydraulic Components, Log Tongs, Small Portable Chicken House, Chicken Crates, Cross-Cut Saw & Sharpening Tools, Pile Of 1" Lumber, Goodison Steam Boiler & Engine, Wheels Etc. Household & Antiques: Press Back Chairs W/Table, Buffet W/Fancy Mirror, Rope Bed, Adz, Broad-Axe, Machette, Wooden Nail Kegs, Tonka Trucks, Wool Winder, Wood Cigar Boxes, Misc Furniture & Household Goods, Lots Of Books, Technical Books & Manuals, Office & Tool Room Goods, Gauges, Leveling Table, Antique Taylor Forbes Lawn Mower, Old Sleigh, 35 Remington Cal. Browning Semi-Auto Rifle (Old). Also 12 Ga. Shotgun (Buyer Needs Fac.), Wagon Load Of Small Items Too Many To List, List Subject To Additions And Deletions, Goodison Engine Reserve Bid. Come See The Case 110 H.p. Steam Engine Before It Goes To Michigan! (Not Fired Up)

Selling For John & Catherine Stutzman, 962945 Rd. 96, R.R.1 Lakeside, On Located: 1st Place West Of Uniondale, 1 Road S. Of Hwy 7, 1 St Place W. Or Approx 12 Miles N. Of Thamesford To Rd 96.

We Expect Someone To Cater With Food.

Selling Smalls 1st, Guns & Antiques About 1 p.m., Larger Items Last

Local & Guest Auctioneers Sale Site

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Pay By Cash Or Cheque, No Credit Cards.

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



YOUTH TENNIS LESSONS

We are serving up Youth Tennis Lessons with the help of St. Marys Tennis Club! Lessons are geared to help youth ages 8 to 16 years ace their tennis skills and get introduced to the game!

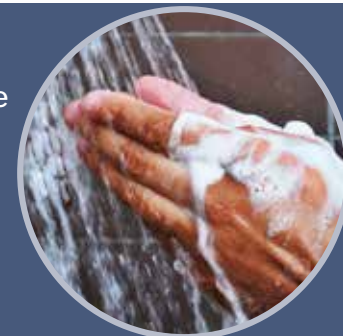
townofstmarys.com/activenet

SHOWER PROGRAM

Tuesdays, 9 AM - 1 PM | Friendship Centre

The shower program has moved to the St. Marys Friendship Centre! This program provides free showers to those in need.

519-284-3272



SUMMER SWIM CLUB

Summer Swim Club is a great way for youth to improve their current swim ability while having fun! Youth must be able to swim a minimum of one length of the pool (25 meters).

townofstmarys.com/activenet or 519-284-2160

MOVIES IN THE PARK

Friday, July 28 @ 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



NOW BOOKING AUGUST ICE RENTALS

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

townofstmarys.com/skating or 519-284-2160

Contact us

519-284-2340

communications@town.stmarys.on.ca



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Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Jean Robinson who celebrated her 90th birthday on Tuesday, July 18. Born in London Township, Jean has 4 children, 11 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Happy Birthday Jean!

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

COMMUNITY —

St. Marys' Tanner Harris wins 3rd place trophy at Listowel Tractor Pull



Local resident Tanner Harris competed in the 6500lb class tractor pull at the Listowel Agricultural Fair and took home a 3rd place trophy. Along with Tanner, other local residents participating were Brian Harris, Alan Sheldon, Jonny Nairn, Brent Nairn and Kurtis Armstrong. Pictured above left, Tanner Harris with his trophy from the tractor pull and his 180 Allis Chalmers tractor. Above right, waiting for his turn in the tractor pull is St. Marys resident Brian Harris. (Contributed photos)

Weekend Quiz

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16 Water Street South
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- 1) In the CFL, who won the first Grey Cup?
- 2) Who recognized Ulysses first when he came home after twenty years?
- 3) What is an earl's wife's title?
- 4) How many siblings did Napoleon Bonaparte have?
- 5) Who is Edson Arantes do Nascimento more famously known as?
- 6) Who used 'Sebastian Melmoth' as a pseudonym?
- 7) What is lycanthropy?
- 8) Who starred in the movie 'Gentlemen Prefer Blondes'?
- 9) True or false - more bacteria and germs can be transmitted through shaking hands than through kissing.
- 10) When elected for parliament, Sir Isaac Newton spoke on how many occasions?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27



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COMMUNITY —

The International Cafe pop-up food tent



The old saying that you can't control the weather was very true this past weekend as many events for the Heritage Festival were either cancelled or moved. One of these events was The International Cafe which showcased food from the Philippines and Ukraine made by two local families. John and Marie Stevens, knowing how much hard work was put into preparing the food, offered to host a pop-up International Cafe at their home on Robinson street so that the food could still be sold and enjoyed. Over 200 people attended showing how the community can still be supportive even when last minute changes have to be made. As John Stevens says "It turned out to be one of those 'when life gives you lemons' moments." (Contributed photo)

All Wheels Park donation of the week



The Rotary All Wheels Park is so grateful for Charlotte and Danya Russell's donation to the project. This Burlington family was one of our first supporters and that helped give us momentum with our fundraising efforts. Please visit our website to see the complete list of donors and consider participating. All donations receive a tax receipt. www.townofstmarys.com/allwheelspark (Contributed photo)



SOURCE FLOORING

<p>IN STOCK CLEAR OUT!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LUXURY VINYL PLANKS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$129</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>FROM PER SQ FT REG 4.99</small></p>	<p>IN STOCK 7MM THICK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LUXURY VINYL PLANKS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$299</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>FROM PER SQ FT REG 5.99</small></p>
<p>IN STOCK SWISS MADE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7" WIDE EUROPEAN AC4 COMMERCIAL GRADE LAMINATE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">99¢</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>FROM /SF 5.99</small></p>	<p>IN STOCK PAD ATTACHED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LUXURY LAMINATE + PAD ATTACHED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$299</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>FROM PER SQ FT REG 5.99</small></p>
<p>IN STOCK CLICK ENG.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4" WIDE X 5/8" THICK CORK BACK HARDWOOD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$399</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>FROM PER SQ FT REG 8.99</small></p>	<p>IN STOCK NEW PRICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6" WIDE - 3/4" THICK HARDWOOD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$399</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>FROM PER SQ FT REG 8.99</small></p>
<p>IN STOCK JUST ARRIVED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">13"X13" PORCELAIN TILE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">99¢</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>FROM /SQ FT 4.99</small></p>	<p>IN STOCK HOT ITEM!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12"X24" POLISHED PORCELAIN TILE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$199</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>FROM PER SQ FT REG 4.99</small></p>
<p>IN STOCK MODERN STYLE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUBWAY WALL TILES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$199</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>FROM PER SQ FT REG 5.99</small></p>	<p>IN STOCK TOP SELLER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BLACK LEDGESTONE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$699</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>FROM PER SQ FT REG 9.99</small></p>
<p>FROM \$099 <small>PER LIN FT REG 3.29</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">3/7" WIDE COLONIAL</p> <p>FROM \$199 <small>PER LIN FT REG 3.29</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">5.5" WIDE STEP-BASE</p> <p>FROM \$259 <small>PER LIN FT REG 3.99</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">6" WIDE SQUARE</p>	<p>IN STOCK STEP & RISER INCLUDED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">47" WIDE VINYL STAIR TREADS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$6999</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>FROM EACH</small></p>

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SUNDAY 10AM-5PM





COMMUNITY —

Amish community gradually relocating after nearly 65 years in the area

By Stew Slater,

On July 8, an auction sale was held at “the Graber place” on the 13th Line of Zorra Township, south of Brown’s Church. It was actually the latest in a series of auctions over the past year-and-a-half at farms currently being vacated by members of the local Amish community (and there is still one auction yet to come), but the Graber sale was unofficially recognized – both by the Amish and by members of the wider farming community – as the point of no return for this out-migration.

On July 8, many handshakes and kind words were shared by neighbours, friends and farming colleagues who knew they may never see each other again.

“I was surprised to see so many people come and offer their well wishes,” said David Graber – patriarch of the Graber family (a few of his sons, who have already relocated with their families to an Amish community in Michigan, served as the auctioneers) and “bishop” of the now-dissolving East Nissouri church. In attendance were people, some driving considerable distances, who he and other area Amish knew over the years from the dairy industry and other agricultural sectors.

For non-Amish residents of the neighbourhood, changes in the landscape have been slow but steady since the auction sales began last year. Perhaps it’s in the form of powerlines being extended to a house where previously the residents went without electricity; or in the form of fencelines delineating horse or goat pastures bulldozed to create larger fields; or in the form of huge maples on the edges of bushes or in treelines downed to make way for a type of agricultural progress that the Amish typically don’t pursue.

In short, the neighbourhood has begun looking, little by little, like the surrounding farming communities where no Amish ever settled.

“It won’t be the same without them,” has been a commonly-spoken refrain of late in the Uniondale/Wellburn neighbourhood.

It wasn’t always this way, however. It’s likely that, before 1959, nobody in East or West Nissouri knew much about the Amish – a Christian-based culture with shared history with Mennonites but who had split, under the leadership of Jakob Amman, from their more well-known and numerous brethren way back in 1693. Fleeing religious persecution (as opposed to the economic factors which largely inform



Photo by Sean Camp/Lucid Musings Photo at www.lucidmusings.com

their community-based decisions now), they followed a generationally-repeated path of migration starting in Germany and passing through places like Poland, Russia, France and Switzerland and eventually landing in North America.

Along the way, their German language picked up local influences and eventually became something only partially recognizable to modern German speakers. Graber explains that other Mennonite cultures in North America speak dialects known as Low German and Plautdietsch but for the local Amish, it’s “Pennsylvania Dutch” that is learned first in the home, followed by English as a second language as the children begin attending school.

What a strange time of in-migration it must have been for the farming families – the Pickels, the Adams, the Greasons, the Wakems, the Conns, the Tates, the Urens and others (including my family, the Slaters) – who had been established in the neighbourhood already by 1959, some for generations.

John Henry Coblenz, seated on his 15th Line verandah last week for an interview alongside his son Henry and long-time neighbour David Graber, recalled the seemingly depressed nature of the local agricultural economy when the Amish first arrived.

“When we came here in 1961, there were eight different farms that we could have looked at to buy, all at a reasonable price, all within a four-mile radius,” he recalled. In short, although the cycle of farm finances currently makes it prohibitively difficult for the Amish to transfer farms to the next generation and/or welcome new bloodlines into their farming community, at the time they arrived a finan-

cial analysis revealed it made perfect sense to establish a new Amish church in the area.

The late Rufus Yoder detailed his family’s journey to Canada in his submission to a 2012 book compiled by the East Nissouri History Committee. Eight girls and six boys – the eldest aged 21; the youngest age 1 (Rufus was six) – arrived in Uniondale on March 6, 1959 in a blizzard with their parents Elmer and Anna. “An older sister, Mabel aged 23, had already married and remained in Delaware.”

“Our family had left a day earlier where it was warm and sunny, with our belongings packed in a semi-trailer,” Yoder recalled. “When we reached Uniondale, Dad stopped and went into Hutton Transport to inquire if the road to the west was passable. This is where he met his new neighbour, Jack Lamond, who had us follow him across the sideroad in the storm. We eventually got stuck in the snow near the railroad track. I remember seeing the huge headlights of a Hutton Transport tow truck coming from behind and hitching on to our station wagon and pulling us out of the snow-bank.”

“Our family stayed that night at the home of Henry Hertzler. Three brothers Henry, Sam and Jake Hertzler and their families had arrived four days earlier from Pennsylvania and Maryland. Thus our settlement of the Amish community was established.”

The farm the Yoders moved to on the Uniondale sideroad ultimately became what remains arguably the most recognizable signal to the outside world that the area is home to a community living outside rural Ontario’s conventional norms. Beautifully

scenic with a small creek meandering through the front field and always seemingly buzzing with horse-and-buggy activity (it was home, at various times, to on-farm businesses that included poultry processing run by Rufus’s sister Amanda and building design and construction crews operated by two of his brothers), it eventually became the site of the community’s schoolhouse in 1970.

To those within the Amish community as well as their non-Amish neighbours, the property became known as “the Yoder place.”

John Henry Coblenz didn’t arrive with his family until 1961 but the story of the early arriving families lives on as kind of a legend for the local Amish.

“All they could see was snow when they arrived,” Coblenz smiles. “It wasn’t until the snow finally melted in the spring that they realized there was a creek running underneath the lane.”

(Humour, often understated, definitely has a place in Amish society. In 1995, I wrote in the Journal Argus about my experience participating for a day in a barn-raising bee at the Coblenz farm. A local octogenarian helping that day recounted a long-distant about which the local constabulary seemed to take a keen interest. After yet another police drive-by, the barn-builders hatched a plan to fashion a life-like, black-hat-wearing stuffed dummy, perch it atop a roof truss, and use a hidden two-by-four to push it to its sure demise as the cop car drove past the next time. Sure enough, sirens blaring, the officers quickly arrived on the scene – but not quickly enough, alas, to see the dummy spirited underneath a pile of plywood and replaced by a real, live Amish man, dusting off his trousers and pronouncing he was “just fine” after his 40-foot fall to the ground.)

Prior to the construction of that first Amish school, however, the children attended first the one-roomed S.S. No. 4 school, still standing as a private home within sight of the Yoder farm. Then in January 1965, students – including the Amish – from several surrounding one-roomed schools moved into the brand new Wildwood Park Public School on Highway 19 (now Sunova Equipment). Rufus Yoder recalls attending Wildwood for Grades 6-8.

Following construction of the Amish schoolhouse, Catherine Stutzman was the first teacher in 1970.

(Article to be continued in next week’s edition of the St. Marys Independent)

COMMUNITY —

U17 Boys Soccer Team holds fundraiser car wash



It really was a group effort and the boys worked hard at the event



Willem Dewit and Peyton Lobb collect donations at the start of the drive-thru car wash

By Wendy Lamond

On Sunday the U17 Boys Storm soccer team held a fundraising car wash at the high school.

This is the 2nd annual fundraiser that the boys have done. The funds raised this year are being donated to the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth in memory of Don Corby.

The team hopes to keep this going as

an annual event. It started last year to support Remco Dewit who had been badly injured in a farm accident. Willem, Remco's son who plays on the team, commented that the whole team wanted to do something and all came together to support the family in their time of need. The team decided that they wanted to keep this going and wanted to help the Corby family this year who had to recently

be at the hospice. It is amazing to see young people take initiatives like this to help out in the community.

The U17 boys are coached by Alex Zulu and Sam Triemstra and currently have a roster of 21 players.

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COMMUNITY —

Five Slow and Steady Reads for Summer



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By Jan Scott

Beach reads abound this time of year. These escapes from reality are easy to read, propulsive, captivating, and perhaps most importantly, accessible. While not specific to one genre – they can be romances, psychological thrillers, cozy murder mysteries, and more – they are usually easy to spot in the bookstore or library and run around 300 pages.

This summer we are also very intrigued by the idea of a slow and steady read for the season. One that's more literary in nature, and something with substance you can sink your teeth into. These are the kind of books you might want to read a few chapters of each week over the course of the summer, or consume in

long sittings on the deck, by the pool, at the trailer, or in a cottage. Each of the suggested titles below is over 500 pages in length, selling in unprecedented quantities, and sure to satisfy your soul this season.

Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver: Winner of the 2023 Pulitzer Prize and the Women's Prize for Fiction, this equally heartbreaking and hilarious brilliant novel enthralls, compels, and captures the heart as it evokes a young hero's unforgettable journey to maturity. 560 pages. Available now.

The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese: From the bestselling author of Cutting for Stone comes a stunning and magisterial epic of love, faith, and medicine, set in Kerala, South India,

following three generations of a family seeking the answers to a strange secret. 716 pages. Available now (depending on stock supplies).

Homecoming by Kate Morton: From the bestselling author of The Clockmaker's Daughter, a sweeping saga that begins with a shocking crime that echoes across continents and generations. 516 pages. Available now.

Greenwood by Michael Christie: A 2023 Canada Reads finalist, this magnificent generational saga charts a family's rise and fall, its secrets and

inherited crimes, and the conflicted relationship with the source of its fortune--trees. 512 pages. Available now.

Fourth Wing by Rebecca Yarros: Easily the buzziest book of the summer that's nearly impossible to keep in stock. A young scribe is thrust into an elite war college for dragon riders where the only rule is graduate or perish. An addictive fantasy with epic levels of spice. 528 pages. Available now (depending on stock supplies).



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COMMUNITY —

St. Marys Horticultural Society's 32 Annual Garden Tour



Despite the threat of inclement weather, the St. Marys Horticultural Society's 32nd Annual Garden Tour went ahead as planned on Sunday, July 16th. Seven homes were listed on the tour map that was available for a purchase price of \$10. In total, 118 tour maps were purchased. Pictured on the left is Kathy Switzer. Her and Mark Cuthbert's garden began in 1997 and has seen a lot of changes over the years. Kathy is pictured in front of her lovely scarlet bee balm. At right, Donna and Don Stephens are pictured standing beside their climbing black-eyed susan. In the background is a climbing chocolate vine on the gazebo. (Nancy Bickell photos)

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SPORTS —

Hinz and Heinbuch claim men's Gowanbrae title



Matt Murray launches a huge drive during the first playoff hole of the Battle of Gowanbrae shootout on Saturday.

By Stewart Grant

The "Battle of Gowanbrae" is one of the premier events in the St. Marys Golf & Country Club season. This year's drama began even before the first tee shot was struck, as Director of Golf Brandon De Groote and his team weighed scores of meteorological data to determine whether the two-day tournament could be successfully held. Rain earlier in the week had significantly dampened the course, and additional rainfall was in the forecast. But the call was made on Friday morning – the event was on, and a total of 84 golfers (72 men, 12 ladies) teed off at 2 p.m. that afternoon.

The Gowanbrae tournament has proved popular with players since it allows for a two-person team to play four different nine-hole matches against competing teams during the two-day event, held Friday and Saturday afternoons. The matches are played in a "best ball" format.

The men's portion of the tournament was split into six pools of six teams each, grouped by combined handicap. Following the conclusion of pool play on Saturday afternoon, the following six divisional winners advanced to the three-hole playoff "shootout": Kyle Heinbuch and Steve Hinz; Matt Murray and Kevin Gardner; Brandon De Groote and Paul Shackleton; Rick Fifield and Ed Parkinson; Pierre Chateauvert and Steve Chateauvert; and Murray Richardson and Ian Grant.

Rick Fifield provided the first thrill of the shootout by rolling in a birdie putt on #1 to guarantee their team's spot in the 2nd hole of the playoff. Other teams, who tied the hole with net pars, were forced into a closest to the hole chip-off to determine who

would move on and who would be eliminated. After partner Steve Hinz dropped his approach into the greenside bunker, Kyle Heinbuch lofted a clutch pitch shot over that same bunker and secured their team's place in the next playoff hole. Also advancing were the teams of De Groote and Shackleton, and the Chateauvert father-son team.

Steve Hinz and Steve Chateauvert were the only players to par the difficult par-3 2nd hole, thus advancing their teams to the final shootout hole.

On the par-5 3rd hole, Kyle Heinbuch hit a beautiful wedge shot to within 8 feet of the hole, giving him



Steve Hinz and Kyle Heinbuch celebrate after Hinz's 25-foot birdie putt on the final playoff hole clinches the Battle of Gowanbrae title.

a great look at birdie. However, partner Steve Hinz had a birdie putt as well, and smoothly rolled in his 25-footer to clinch victory in dramatic fashion.

On the ladies' side, Janis Kapp and Melanie Fisher prevailed in a playoff over Kelly Hennigar and Linda Cooke. After tying the first playoff hole, the title was determined by a 'closest to the pin' chip-off.

Continuing with tradition, the winning teams on both the men's and ladies sides earned personalized golf bags as mementos of the enjoyable weekend.



Steve and Pierre Chateauvert, runners-up in this year's event, congratulate Kyle Heinbuch and Steve Hinz on the victory.



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SPORTS —

Men's Slo Pitch League action in St. Marys



Pictured on the left is John Cubberley rounding third base on his way home for the Autobots. On the right, Levi Coleman cracks the ball for the Bomberadoes. The Bomberadoes defeated the Autobots last Thursday in an exciting 19-17 contest. Last week's slate of games also included the Tribe and the Merchants on Tuesday night with a final score of 7-4 in favour of the Tribe. Other action last week saw the Royals down the Merchants 15-6 on Wednesday.



On the left, Chris Bond fires the ball back to the infield for the Pats, while the Thunder's Les McGregor dives to make a play to second base on the right. Last Thursday, the Thunder came away with a 7-3 victory. Thursday's game lineup also saw a one-run battle between the Ducks and Booze Brothers which the Ducks won 13-12. One other highlight game featured the Jets defeat the Macindrivers 20-14 on Wednesday night. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

Fares wins Provincial Lawn Bowling Championship



St. Marys native Alexis Fares won the U18 Provincial Lawn Bowling Championship this past weekend. Fares claimed the Gold at the Ontario-wide tournament held on July 15th and 16th in Woodstock after winning a best-two-out-of-three match against Rebecca Coon representing the Oakville Lawn Bowling Club. Fares is pictured above in between Tournament Convenor Derek McVie (left) and Ontario Lawn Bowling Association Vice-Chair Laurie Roth. (Photo credit: Hannah MacLeod)

Stars' Peverley chooses St. Marys Buick-GMC



St. Marys Buick-GMC had a special guest picking up a new Range Rover recently when retired NHL player Rich Peverley stopped by. Peverley played 442 games in the NHL and won a Stanley Cup with the Boston Bruins in 2011. Peverley is currently the Director of Player Personnel for the Dallas Stars. Pictured are Sales Manager Mark Sharrat (left) and Sales Consultant Sylvie Schryer (right) with Peverley in front of his new vehicle. (Contributed photo)

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SPORTS —

U15 Blue battles for two victories

By Spencer Seymour

Overcoming adversity was key to victory for the Canadian Tire U15 Blue St. Marys Rockies in their two games last week.

Starting with a home game against a struggling squad from Grand Bend, the visitors managed to put together some good at-bats, drawing four walks and connecting on a few hits to take a 4-0 lead in the fourth inning.

When the Rockies got an opportunity to swing the bat, they responded in a big way. Ty Camden, Rhett Chessell, and Brody Cox each chipped in an RBI single as part of a five-run half-inning to make it 5-4 in favour of St. Marys. Cox later added another single while Camden tallied a double. Cox went two for four in the batter's

box while Camden went two for three Jared Ballantyne and Simon Greig shared mop-up duties on the pitcher's mound, combining to hold Grand Bend to just three runs over the final four innings. Ballantyne went one for three at the plate. In the end, St. Marys won the game by a final score of 17-7.

The U15 Blue team then hit the road last Wednesday to take on the Listowel Legionnaires which Co-Coach Chris Chessell described as "another tough battle." On the pitcher's mound, Ballantyne got the ball to start and turned in a strong performance, giving up just two runs over four innings.

Meanwhile, the Rockies also struggled early to strike offensively, early just one run in each of their first two

half innings. The dam broke in the third inning with Cox putting up a single before being driven home by a Ballantyne double.

On the mound, Ben Ewing closed the door effectively, throwing three strong innings in which he struck out six and pushed through a last-minute rally by Listowel, helping St. Marys hold on for an 8-6 win.

For the second straight game, Cox went two for four at the plate and put up two singles. Michael Ewing went two for three and chipped in a pair of doubles. Coach Chessell told the Independent that the team's well-rounded lineup is central to the group's success.

"The boys showed a lot of focus with good defensive plays to limit extra

bases, patience at the plate, and really solid pitching. The pitchers and catchers are likely OBA players so the expectation is for them to come out and keep things close to give our bats a chance to get going."

"That is exactly what happened in Listowel," continued Chessell. "Jared maybe didn't have his best stuff but he battled hard and was able to keep them from having a big inning. Tyler [Rooney] did a great job of keeping the bad pitches from getting to the backstop and holding off runners. That well-rounded lineup is key. Spreading out the OBA players in the batting order keeps the opposing pitchers on their toes and hopefully wears them down as the game goes on."

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SPORTS —

U15 OBA Rockies make finals of Mitchell tournament

By Spencer Seymour

The U15 OBA St. Marys Rockies made it to the finals of the Mitchell Invitational Tournament this past weekend.

Leading up to the tournament finals, the Rockies' bats were white-hot against Exeter in a game that St. Marys won 22-7. The offensive outburst was led by Finn Newton who put up a pair of runs and hits, Kyler Rooney who had three hits and runs, and Evan Ballantyne who scored four runs and recorded two hits. On the mound, Chase McDougall pitched a complete game including three strikeouts and surrendered just eight hits and two walks.

Head Coach Scott McCutcheon had rave reviews for the group's all-around performance against Exeter, saying "everyone in the lineup contributed" to the big win and added that it was "very nice to see the bats get hot."

Saturday's slate of games saw St. Marys come away with an exciting one-run victory over Saugeen Shores, taking the game 15-14. In a preview of the eventual tournament finals, the Rockies came up just short in a round-robin battle against the host team, falling 13-10 to Mitchell. Griener Mahoney earned two hits while Evan and Jared Ballantyne, Newton, Michael Ewing, Brody Higham, and Owen Dittmer each put up a single

hit.

In the finals, Higham, Ben and Michael Ewing, Evan Ballantyne, and Ty Wheeler collected hits while Jared Ballantyne and Ben Ewing took the pitcher's mound. Mitchell continued the strong offensive output that they enjoyed all weekend en route to downing the Rockies 13-5. McCutcheon credited the opponent for having a great offensive weekend, while also praising his team for what he believed was a very productive weekend.

"Mitchell had hot bats all weekend long as they went undefeated through the weekend," said McCutcheon. "We played consistent baseball through the four games on the weekend. Hopefully, this will be a nice building block for us as we have a big part of regular season games coming up in the next few weeks."

McCutcheon also said he was happy with the way the group was developing as a unit.

"I'm pleased with how the team is coming together," McCutcheon said. "Everyone in the lineup is contributing either offensively or defensively. Still have some things to work on but we have plenty of positive things to continue through the remainder of our season. Hopefully, this year will end with a Provincial tournament qualification for us."

Lincs lock up Ladds, Elzinga

By Spencer Seymour

One of the St. Marys Lincolns' 16-year-old slots has been filled for the upcoming GOJHL season with the signing of defenceman Liam Ladds.

Ladds is familiar to Lincolns' fans after serving as an Affiliate Player (AP) for the team last season, appearing in five regular-season games and seven playoff games in which he impressed with his poise and decision-making. In this past Spring's OHL Priority Selection, Ladds was drafted in the fifth round by the Peterborough Petes.

Lincs' General Manager Pat Powers told the Independent that the team sees a high ceiling for the young defender.

"Liam is a player that we have high expectations for after the experience he gained last year with us," said Powers. "He's skilled at both ends of the rink and also brings a sneaky physical element to our back end. A team is driven by its back end and we have a very deep defence core that will set the tone defensively and offensively. Liam also comes with familiarity of our systems and is able to pick up on

things like a veteran."

A common theme with many of the Lincolns' signings up front has been their combination of skill and tenacity, which Powers believes is also possessed by the team's most recent forward addition, Blake Elzinga.

From Walkerton, Ontario, Elzinga spent last season with the U18 Huron-Perth Lakers and posted 19 goals and 26 points. He also appeared in one game as an AP with the Kitchener-Waterloo Siskins in which he scored a hat-trick.

"Blake is a very gifted skater with loads of skill," Powers raved. "We feel his game is suited for junior hockey and he's yet to reach his potential. He can play up the lineup with his skill and skating ability and he can play down the lineup with his physicality and chippiness. Blake gives us great depth up front and the ability to roll 12 forwards at all times."

On the league front, the GOJHL announced last week that their annual Showcase Tournament will be hosted by the Elmira Sugar Kings at the Woolwich Memorial Centre.



Evan Ballantyne slides his way into getting safely on base during one of the U15 OBA St. Marys Rockies' games during this past weekend's Mitchell Invitational Tournament. (Photo credit: Mike Chennette/McGinny Photography)

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SPORTS —

Strong defending, possession guides U12 Storm to victory

By Spencer Seymour

Everyone was doing their jobs very well this past Monday night when the U12 Girls Tier Three One St. Marys Storm earned an impressive 4-0 victory over the visiting squad from Ilderton.

On the offensive side, Lauren Pfaff and Avery Fifield led the charge, each potting a pair of goals to propel the team to victory. Just as importantly, the midfield and defensive lines were providing the necessary support to not only give the strikers the opportunities they needed but also to take pressure off the goalkeeper.

"I think they played fantastic as a team," said Michelle McKeen after the game, one of the team's Co-Coaches, wearing a glowing smile. "There was a bit of an adjustment as we borrowed a couple of players from the other U10 and U12 teams and I'm not usually the one running the gameplan, that's normally Demari [Brown, the team's other Coach]. With all that going on, it was a great job team-wide."

McKeen noted that their keeper only had to face two shots all game long, indicating a very well-rounded effort by everyone all the way up the pitch.

"Everyone was doing their job really well tonight. We also saw girls covering for one another which allows our offensive players to take chances in an effort to score."

According to McKeen, the team's passing and communication has been a major focus this season and if Monday's game was any indication, that practice is paying off.

"We focus a lot on our ball movement. Making meaningful passes and not just kicking the ball away. Stop, look around, think about it, use your words, and then make the pass. That makes a big difference in play as it keeps the other team from getting the ball. In this game, they talked a lot more than usual, and that was with two new players and a bit more unfamiliarity than everyone was used to."



On the left is Lauren Pfaff who scored two goals for the U12 Girls Tier Three One St. Marys Storm in their 4-0 win on Monday night. The other two goals were scored by Avery Fifield. On the right is Kyla Graham, one of several players from other teams who stepped up and played admirably on Monday night for the U12-GT3 One squad. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

U15 Red squeaks out one-run win over Mitchell

By Spencer Seymour

Things went right down to the wire last Monday when the Social Thirty-One U15 Red St. Marys Rockies narrowly defeated Mitchell Red 14-13.

The exciting game saw two highly skilled teams on both sides of the ball squaring off, according to Co-Head Coach Chris Chessell.

"Both teams were stacked with strong line-ups and had their top pitchers toeing the rubber to start," Chessell told the Independent. "Things didn't go as well as planned early as Mitchell's batters were very patient and disciplined and got a handful of walks

and big hits, but our guys showed plenty of grit in getting through the early frustration of the game not going their way. The conversation in the dugout was positive and focused on having good at-bats, especially with runners on base."

Mitchell's poise at the plate resulted in St. Marys falling behind by a trio of runs after the first half-inning. Their early dominance continued in the second inning with the visiting squad piling up seven more runs while stifling the Rockies' batters early, allowing just one run in each of the first two innings.

The turning point for the home side came in the fourth inning when Mi-

chael Ewing and Chase MacDougall each cracked two-run doubles as part of a five-run inning for the Rockies.

With the two-hour time limit drawing ever nigh, St. Marys trailed by six. The rally started with the first three batters getting on base followed by Ewing driving them home. Ben Kittmer then got on base and was driven home by another double by MacDougall, who then was able to find home plate and secure a walk-off victory thanks to a triple by Ty Wheeler.

With the team made up of a mixture of OBA and WOBA players, Chessell said that the team's enjoyment of watching each other succeed fuels their success and, in the case of their

game against Mitchell, also fueled their comeback.

"Some [of the WOBA players] haven't played since pre-COVID and are just getting back into the game. What I really enjoy is seeing the OBA players rooting on and supporting the WOBA players each game. The WOBA boys feed off the energy and passion from the OBA players who are expected to lead by example."

"That is exactly what happened during this comeback. Some WOBA boys had great at-bats late in that game to get on base, whether it was a single or a walk, and this got the big bats fired up. It was such a great chemistry moment for this team."

Lincs' Alumni golf tournament, reunion Sept. 23 at River Valley

Submitted to the Independent by Pat Payton

The St. Marys Lincolns' Alumni Group is holding a fundraising golf tournament on Saturday, September 23rd at River Valley Golf and Country Club.

The cost is \$150 per golfer but four-person teams in the Texas Scramble format registering before

September 1st will be charged just \$550. It's \$50 for those wanting to just attend the steak dinner following the 18-hole tourney.

Golfers looking for more information can contact Scott Graham (519-282-3872), Rick Fifield (rickfifield@rogers.com), or Brian Hughes (519-284-1593).

The tournament will feature a prize

table. It will be a 10:30 a.m. shotgun, with registration starting an hour before at 9:30. Singles are also welcome and will be assigned to a team, as noted by Hughes.

E-transfer your tournament fees to treasurer Rob Mossey (rwbear1221@hotmail.com).

Committee member Jacques Cousineau reports that he will have a Lincs'

Memorabilia display at the tournament.

Registration forms for the tournament will soon be distributed around town and at River Valley. The Alumni committee hopes to have a guest speaker or hold a question-and-answer session following dinner. The new Lincolns' Alumni Recognition Trophy will also be presented that day.

SPORTS —

George to represent Canada at Hlinka-Gretzky Cup



Carter George (pictured) was announced last week as one of three goaltenders to make Team Canada for this year's Hlinka-Gretzky Cup. The National U18 Summer tournament is being co-hosted in Trencin, Slovakia and Breclav, Czechia and runs from July 31st to August 5th. George spent the bulk of last season with the St. Marys Lincolns and was the only player not from the CHL to make the team. In 17 games with the Lincolns, George recorded 13 wins and a 0.910 save percentage. George also suited up for 10 games in the OHL with the Owen Sound Attack in which he earned seven victories and posted a sparkling 0.924 save percentage. (Photo credit: Mike Chennette/McGinny Photography)

Robinson, Dittmer impress at Top Prospects tournament



Pictured from left to right are Dan Dittmer of St. Marys and Owen Robinson from Thamesford, both of whom participated in the Sports Illustrated Top Prospects All-Star Tournament held in Toronto this past weekend. Dittmer was on Team Canada Black in the 2010 age group. While his team bowed out in the semi-finals against Team Red, Dittmer still was fabulous individually in the tournament, getting ranked fifth out of 150 players in his age bracket. Robinson was part of Team Canada Gold, a squad that went undefeated until the finals, coming away from the tournament with a Silver Medal. Individually, Robinson had a stellar performance, finishing the tournament ranked 12th out of all 118 players in his age group. The tournament invited some of the best youth players from Canada and the United States and scouts from both Canadian and American development leagues. (Contributed photos)



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HISTORY —

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: The History of the Flats

By Mary Smith

The Flats (officially named Milt Dunnell Field in 2005) has recently been the subject of considerable discussion and speculation among St. Marys residents. In early May, this announcement appeared: "One of the Stonetown's most beloved outdoor spaces is set for a refresh. The Town of St. Marys is currently developing a long-term master plan to enhance Milt Dunnell Field. The goal is to improve accessibility, increase usability and attract more people to the park." The announcement explained that a consulting firm had developed two conceptual designs proposing various changes. Residents' and users' feedback was sought via a short survey – questions about current usage and reaction to the proposed concepts. More than 1300 people responded to the questionnaire; most were generous in offering opinions in the comment section. Councillors discussed the results of the survey at a Strategic Planning Committee meeting earlier this week and are considering how to proceed with the long-range planning.

What is immediately apparent from the survey is that many, many people feel a personal connection to the Flats. Decisions concerning this park really matter! But it is probably worth remembering that there have been a number of significant changes to the Flats since it became part of St. Marys in the early 1840s. These changes have happened – and will continue to happen – in response to the interests and requirements of the community. This grassy, relatively level piece of ground beside the river was claimed by the earliest settlers as commons – property available for all to use. It was flood plain – and still is – and no permanent homes or substantial businesses could be erected there. But in good weather, it was a natural place for people to gather. In the earliest days of settlement when every adult man was required to be part of the Sedentary Militia, a muster was held on the Flats every Victoria Day. Men made their way to this assembly place where officers put them through a series of drills intended to prepare them to defend against foreign invasion. According to contemporary accounts, the militia men toasted the Queen's health as often as possible throughout the day and a good time was had by all.

The Flats is also part of the industri-



Cars and spectators circle the field to watch a lacrosse game on the Flats in the 1920s.

al history of the town. Registry office records show that ownership of this floodplain, as well as the bed of the Thames River, was established in the early 1840s by business partnerships intending to construct mills. The area was altered in ways to increase water power to the most important mill beside the Queen Street Bridge. An early mill dam was built across the river, just north of the Sarnia Bridge. A millrace was created along the east side of the Flats, supplying water to the mill pond created at the mouth of Trout Creek behind another dam. The dams lowered the water level in the river and the millrace turned the Flats into an island. As long as the millrace was in existence, it was necessary to cross a small bridge off Water Street to get onto the Flats – or wade or swim through the water in the race!

A photograph in the St. Marys Museum's collection taken in 1873 shows another industry in a shed-like building, close to the river at the south end of the Flats. Patrick Henderson operated an ashery there. Asheries produced potash, sold in 100-pound barrels, from the purified ashes of burned hardwood. It was an important fertilizer and a necessary ingredient in soap. When further refined, it became pearl ash, a versatile and profitable product, used for purposes that included clarifying glass and fixing dye colours in fabrics. In the earliest days of settlement, potash had been a major commodity and there had been a number of potash producers in St. Marys. By the 1860s, it had become less important to the local

economy and Henderson's ashery in 1873 was the last full-scale operation in town.

The ashery, even in full production, left enough space at the north end of the Flats for games of baseball and cricket, the earliest sporting events played on these grounds. As St. Marys grew, interest in recreational activities increased and so did the use of the Flats. In 1908, the St. Marys Milling Company built the dam that still crosses the Thames, creating a millpond on the river, a small lake that was suitable for boating in the summer. The dam across the mouth of Trout Creek was removed allowing water craft to travel upstream under the three bridges crossing the creek – part of the route of the heritage kayak tours today. The millrace on the east side of the Flats dried up and the park was no longer an island. A group of enthusiasts organized a canoe and boat club and raised funds to build a boathouse at the south end of the Flats, just west of the Water Street Bridge.

About the time of World War I, tension developed between town council and Henry Lincoln Rice, the owner of the mill and, therefore, of the Flats and the riverbed. Claiming that he was not being paid reasonable rent for the use of the parkland and the lake, he fenced off the area. To their dismay, St. Marys residents were denied access to the Flats. This dispute was resolved in 1919 when the milling company sold the Flats to the town and it officially became public property. The years following the war saw an increased interest in parks

and recreation and, in St. Marys, this interest had a big supporter in John Grieve Lind of the St. Marys Cement Company. By the early 1920s, the Flats had been improved and enlarged, thanks to Lind's donation of five lots at the north end. In response to Lind's urging, council agreed to establish a board to oversee the development and maintenance of local parks. John G. Lind became chairman of the town's first Parks Board.

In the 1920s and 30s, a variety of sports were enjoyed on the Flats. In 1934, an article in the Journal Argus described tennis courts and a lawn bowling club thriving at the northeast corner of the park. The St. Marys Collegiate Institute held track and field events there and it was home field for the school's football team. Baseball was played there, of course, and it was the venue for the town's first girls' and women's ball teams. Holiday celebrations, such as Victoria Day at the beginning of the summer and Labour Day at the end of the season, often included races, contests for children and more serious adult competitions such as tug-of-war.

But throughout the first part of the 20th century, by far the most popular summer sport in St. Marys was lacrosse, both for players and for spectators. The community gathered at the Flats to watch fiercely competitive games between the St. Marys Alerts and rival teams from other southwestern Ontario communities. These games were crowd-pleasers, filled with action, and, if contemporary reports are to be believed, with enough violence to rival the roughest professional hockey game. As this week's photograph shows, spectators' automobiles circled the field – mostly on the grass; a ring road had yet to be built. The St. Marys Alerts reached league finals on several occasions and won a much-celebrated provincial championship in 1921.

However, by 1929 and the beginning of the depression years, the Alerts Lacrosse Club was disbanded and by 1939 and the start of World War II, the glory years of lacrosse on the Flats were only a memory. The boathouse was neglected and damaged by years of spring flooding. It was demolished. But there were many more events of great local significance yet to happen on the Flats, like Kinsmen Summerfest this weekend. The second eight decades of its history will be considered next week.

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Thorndale Farm Supplies celebrate 20 years

By Nancy Abra

On Friday, July 14th, Wilf Saarloos, owner of Thorndale Farm Supplies welcomed 225 invited guests of family, friends, customers, suppliers, past employees, and former owners to a special luncheon to celebrate their 20th anniversary.

Thorndale Farm Supplies, located in the center of Thorndale at the railroad tracks on King Street, has been a familiar landmark for many decades. There has been a grain elevator has been on this site since 1900. Over the years this site has seen many changes, a couple of fires and as times and customers' needs changed, it has served and sold various commodities from coal to grain, and animal feed to farm chemicals and seed.

In his welcome, Saarloos thanked people for coming to celebrate this milestone with them. But he said, "we also want to celebrate our multi-generational employees, both past and present and our loyal customers. In twenty years, there has been many changes. We are an extension of our farm customers" Saarloos explained, "as they adapt, grow, and develop, we did also to better serve and provide them to meet their needs. We value our customers; without them we would not be here."

In Saarloos address to the gathering he also paid a tribute to Dan Monteith



Pictured, from left to right, Thorndale Farm Supplies controller, Peggy Segeren, MaryEllen Williamson who was the office manager for all three owners of Thorndale Farm Supplies, Ron Johnson, owner 1969 to 1978, Wilf Saarloos present owner (2003 to 2023) and on left Dick Nieuwland, 1978 to 2003.

who has worked at Thorndale Farm Supplies for 40 years. "Very rare do you have an employee for this many years", Saarloos remarked. "Dan is the face of Thorndale Farm Supplies and has held many positions from delivering feed to making it. He also has been involved in many changes and decisions here."

Dave Crossan, ShurGain's territory manager, in his congratulations said,

"Thorndale Farm Supplies continues to thrive because they have adapted to the challenges of their customers in order to serve them better. We forward to many more years of continued partnership with them."

Ron Johnson, who originally changed the name to Thorndale Farm Supply when he and Murray Hill purchased 'Paul's Feed Mill' in 1969, said "as a former owner, it is a pleasure to be

here to celebrate with Wilf and his staff this milestone and wish them continued success."

Dick Nieuwland who purchased Thorndale Farm Supplies from Johnson and Hill in 1978, also brought congratulations to Saarloos. "Over the decades there has been many changes," Nieuwland remarked, "but you have expanded to supply and serve your customers. And as we see today, we are here to support and celebrate with you".

Today, Thorndale Farm Supplies has a staff of 20 in both full and part time positions from truck drivers, feed processors to office and retail store clerks. They have recently added a large warehouse storage facility. Besides supplying area farmers, they also supply other feed stores in southwestern Ontario. Over the years, Saarloos have modernized and developed their facility with innovative and efficient advancements to better serve area and regional customers. They also have a unique retail store carrying local food products, pet food and farm toys, books, and other products.

As Thorndale Farm Supplies serves their many customers, they also play an active role in the community of Thorndale and is a supporting member of 'I Love Thorndale' and active in many local events.

Thorndale Youth 'Back 40 Bash'

By Nancy Abra

The Thorndale 'Back 40 Bash' hosted by the Thorndale Agricultural Society and 'I Love Thorndale' is less than two weeks away. The community's enthusiasm is mounting for this adult only evening event for Saturday July 29th with tickets selling well. But what about a 'bash' for the area youth? The Boys & Girls Club Lon-

don along with the support of 'I Love Thorndale' have an event just for the youth in Thorndale and area.

The 'Back 40 Youth Bash' is for Grades 7 to 12 ~ ages 12 to 18 years. This fun event will be held on Friday, July 28th from 6pm to 10pm at the Thorndale Fairgrounds, featuring live music performed by local youth bands along with games to participate in, such as

human foosball, washer toss, bean bag toss for chances to win prizes.

The Thorndale Optimist Club will be on site selling candies, popcorn, burgers, hot dogs, and fries. This youth only event in Thorndale is a great way for friends to meet up and have some good, organized fun. And it is also a place for youth across the region to come and join in and make more

friends.

For those talented youth musicians there is a 'Battle of the Bands' with great prizes provided by Digital Creative Arts, Ingersoll Music Academy and Middlesex County. For more information, and to register and for tickets, go to www.bgclondon.ca/get-involved/special-events/back-40-youth-bash.

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COLUMN —

HOSTING UKRAINE: English

By VJ Knutson

The dietary aide who delivers meals to the elderly in a local nursing home is actually a neurologist, but her level of English and inability to access the funds necessary to upgrade her education to Canadian standards means this is the best job she can do right now.

The neighbour, who struggles to exchange a few words of greeting and works a production job, was once a regional manager, a corporate banker, a lawyer, or even a skilled tradesperson. Without language skills, they take what they can in order to survive.

We hear these stories all the time, and it's easy to shrug them off when it's not happening on one's own doorstep. Language is the number one barrier to achieving success in Canada for new immigrants. Access to transportation and difficulty transferring job experience and skills are the other two obstacles.

When Barb Reinwald so kindly volunteered to set up English classes for our newcomers last May, the goal was to offer basic conversational skills so Ukrainians could integrate and get jobs. Adding Sonia Waind's Conversation Circle offered an opportunity to practice those skills. Then the Rotary came on board, and we were able to hire an English-speaking Ukrainian teacher who could explain some of the more intricate nuances of our language. All beneficial, and yet,



still the wall remains.

My friend, Viki Scott, whose expertise extends to working with refugees and especially those traumatized by war, explains the pitfalls of newcomers becoming stuck in 'survival' jobs. She describes how it erodes their self-esteem, and puts them at risk for self-medicating through addictions. Depression and mental health issues occur at higher rates, as unfortunately does domestic violence.

I've been thinking a lot lately about how we can best address this issue. Now hosting our fifth Ukrainian fam-

ily, Ric and I have come to appreciate the strength and character of Ukrainians who make the sojourn to Canada under these brutal circumstances. We admire their resilience and tenacity. We want to see them succeed.

I just want to learn enough English so that people will realize I am smart, is a sentiment I hear often. I just want to feel understood, is another.

Western University has addressed their need for more food service workers by creating a program which employs 20 Ukrainians and includes on-the-job language training.

The initial program was successful enough that they are offering it again this Fall.

"What you are talking about is customizing traditional ESL training," an advisor from Fanshawe College tells me during a recent meeting. Fanshawe offers ESL courses and is working on a program for entrepreneurs – all free to Ukrainians – but applicants need a higher level of English than most of our locals have. Still, the idea of geared to employment ESL appeals to me. I envision the potential to open more doors. I think about the many employers struggling to fill positions. Maybe there is a way to bridge needs...?

Studies show that it takes 480 hours to learn a language. As a former educator, I'm going to suggest that number is based on daily study, as we lose information between classes if the material is not reviewed and/or applied. So, if one is to commit themselves to an hour of study a day, it would take a little over a year and 3 months to gain proficiency.

Ric and I have witnessed firsthand how daily English study and practice makes a difference. We have also watched others flounder – work and other responsibilities taking precedence. Maybe we need an English boot camp...

Till next time

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

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COLUMN —

FROM THE GARDEN: It's not too late



By Nancy Abra

It is either the weather or high prices for fuel and food that have dominated media reports and many of our conversations lately. On each trip to the grocery store, we see firsthand the increase in food prices. We can, however, stretch our food dollar by growing a few items ourselves. Anytime we can supplement store bought goods with home grown products, we supply our family table with good nutrition and stretch our food dollar.

As we harvest early summer crops from our veggie gardens, we can do some succession planting or fill in vacant spots in our flower beds or

plant a few items in containers. It is not too late to seed some vegetables and herbs in July and August that can be harvested and enjoyed well into the fall.

There are many short season crops that will tolerate cooler temperatures. For instance, I have never had much luck with spinach when I plant it in May. As it grows and the weather heats up, it usually bolts into seed. But planting spinach in August, when it is usually cooler, I get a longer season of spinach to harvest.

Lettuce can be grown from early spring to fall. The loose-leaf varieties are best to sow in late July and August and can be harvested within a few weeks and throughout the coming months, until frost. They can also be planted in containers such as window boxes which is easy and convenient to harvest and maintain.

Other nutritious leafy vegetables that can be sown in the summer months is arugula, and Asian greens. Chicory

and endive are other hardy leafy greens that can be grown in August and enjoyed throughout the fall, well into late October or a hard frost. Radishes is another fast-growing crop that can be sown in late July and August.

Beets are easy to grow and are directly sown. Usually beets are seeded in May, but they also can be sown in July. As you thin the row, you can use the tops in salads or as cooked greens mixed with spinach. They are tolerant of cooler temperatures and hard frosts so therefore are mature for an October harvest. Turnips also can be sown in July for a late fall crop.

Peas are a cool-weather spring vegetable and usually one of the first things we plant in late April or early May. By mid to late July, they are ready to harvest and the plants are then pulled to put in our compost bin. You can use this space to plant some other short season crops or resow for another crop of peas to be harvested in later



in September.

Kohlrabi is one of our favourite vegetables. We set out little seedlings in mid May and as they mature in June and early July we harvest them to enjoy raw or cooked. A couple of weeks ago, we started more kohlrabi seeds. After I harvest our garlic, I will transplant the kohlrabi seedlings in this space. They thrive in

cooler temperatures, and we will enjoy the leaves of this brassica as cooked greens and golf-ball size veggies that forms well into the late fall.

So, it is not too late to sow some seeds or plant out seedlings of short season cool crops to harvest well into the fall and beyond to help stretch our food dollar.



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Riddles

Which way did the outlaw go when he stole the computer?

He went data way

Why wasn't the outlaw allowed to be buried in the town cemetery?

He wasn't dead

What kind of horse eats and drinks with its tail?

They all do. They do not take their tails off to eat or drink

Where do race cars go swimming?

In a car pool

What kind of egg travels to unknown places?

An eggs-plorer

Why can't you play basketball with pigs?

Because they hog the ball

Backward I am heavy, but forward I am not. What am I?

The word "not"

What can be swallowed, but can also swallow you?

Water

What can burn the eyes, sting the mouth, yet be eaten?

Salt

What can go up a chimney down, but can't go down a chimney up?

An umbrella

- Word Search -

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Word List

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Milt Dunnell Field

Food trucks

Bed race

Corn hole tourney

Cope Amusements

Entertainment

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Nineties Night

Country Night

Steph Martin

Open Mic

The Roadhounds



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What do you call a fish with no eye?



A fsh!

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We have a dynamic duo this week, both members of the Mountain family. On the left is Jasper, a 1 yr old Nova Scotia Duck Retriever who loves his sticks. On the right is Jack, a 7 yr old Golden Retriever who likes to "Chill in the Sun". They both insist on sharing a morning banana and an evening piece of apple as an apple a day keeps Dr Larry away!!



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PET OF THE WEEK

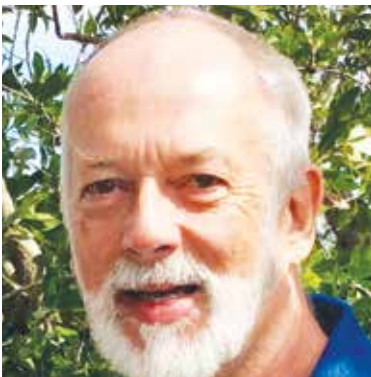
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COLUMN —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: The ghostly history of the Mermaid Inn



By Paul Knowles

I have stayed at some very interesting hotels and inns during my years as a travel writer. But I have to admit, this was the first time I booked in at an establishment that boasts that it was rebuilt... in 1420.

We were on the last leg of our 22-person tour of southern England and I had opted to stay in the ancient town of Rye.

I love Rye for a number of reasons. It is replete with historic buildings; it has a storied past of smuggling and other seaside shenanigans; its cobblestone streets are authentic and original; its pubs are the real deal.

I have stayed in Rye a number of times but always at a bed and breakfast, but with a group of this size, we needed something bigger. I had often walked past the Mermaid Inn and had even ducked in for a look around but had never stayed there.

We decided to take the chance on a hotel that brags that it was rebuilt over 600 years ago

although bits were added two hundred years later, making those parts practically modern.

And our stay at the Mermaid was entirely wonderful, from the unique rooms to the great food to the terrific service.

There was one hitch. Our full-sized coach could not get anywhere near the Inn. But the folks at the Mermaid offered to meet us at a parking lot a couple of blocks away and transport our luggage up the cobblestone streets to the Inn. Turned out, they also offered rides to anyone in the group who opted not to walk. One of the drivers was a friendly woman named Judith.

As we were checking in, Judith called me aside and asked if the group would like an introduction and a bit of a tour of our new – well, very old – home away from home. It soon became apparent why she knew all this stuff. Our “driver” was Judith Blincow, who has worked at the Mermaid since she was 18 years old, and who now owns the place.

All the rooms in the Mermaid are unique, all are historic (although with state of the art updates like wifi) and many come with apparently authenticated ghost stories!

According to a “fact” sheet handed out to guests, Mermaid’s Room 16 was the location of duels by sword, resulting in the death of one of the combatants, who was thrown down the stairs to the area that is now the bar. Modern-day guests have reported

ghostly duels right in their bedroom. Guests in Room 5 report a “Lady in White” visiting them. In Room 10, a family of three was seen to walk through a wall. Judith delights in recounting these and many more stories. It seems that many of the hotel’s 31 rooms come with spectral roommates.

Then Judith took us to the basement – a series of vaults with Norman arches, dating back as least as far as the 1100’s, and today used for storage and as a wine cellar. But, Rye being a smugglers’ haven, there is clear evidence of tunnels under the basement floor and archaeologists continue to study this, the most ancient part of the Inn. Judith says there are rumours of treasure and she is confident it will be found.

Our group had booked a lounge for a convivial “happy hour”. The walls were decorated with dark wood, including one panel that appeared different from the rest. Its decorations turned out to be subtly carved symbols and icons representing the Roman Catholic faith because Catholics fleeing the ardent Protestants of the Henry VIII era stayed at the Inn and could worship in this temporary “chapel” or, as Judith said, a church hidden in plain sight.

I had chosen Rye as our final home base on our visit to the south of England because it is an easy drive from there to wonderful sites including Do-



Judith Blincow, owner and exuberant host at the Mermaid Inn in Rye, East Sussex, on the south coast of England. (Photos by Paul Knowles)

ver Castle, Sissinghurst Castle Gardens, Winston Churchill’s Chartwell, Canterbury and more.

But the truth is, our stay in the Mermaid Inn was as interesting as visiting any of those interesting destinations. I don’t believe I saw any ghosts, although we did spot an elderly man dressed in period clothes having a pint in the Giant’s Fireplace Bar. Having never talked to a ghost in person, I struck up a conversation with him, and I’m pretty sure he was a present day resident of Rye portraying a fictional smuggler known as Dr. Syn. At least, I’m fairly sure he was real. Although he did disappear eventually.

The Mermaid Inn has had connections with figures like William Shakespeare, a friend of a one-time landlord and a visitor and performer in Rye

in his day, as well as Queen Elizabeth I and the more modern author, Henry James, whose house, now a National Trust site, is just around the corner.

Rye is full of unique shops and eateries including Simon the Pieman, a two minute walk from the Mermaid Inn, occasionally frequented by Paul McCartney. Who is definitely not a ghost, despite the “Paul is dead” rumours that abounded – even without social media – in 1969.

I know that reference dates me. But even I felt young, staying in an Inn renovated as recently as 1420!

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and President of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.

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OBITUARY

Corby



Don Corby passed away peacefully after a short battle with cancer, at the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth on July 2, 2023 at the age of 51.

Loving husband of Jackie (Pickering). Proud dad of Josie and Lila. He will be missed by his sisters Chrissy

Corby and Cheryl Corby, sister-in-law Marcia Nakashima (Greg), brother-in-law Dan Pickering (Lindsay), his nieces and nephews: Ashley Corby, Alicia Nakashima, Kurtis Nakashima, Mason Pickering, Jenna Pickering and great-nephew of Jayden Thomson-Corby. Son-in-law of Joanne Pickering (Pat, deceased). Predeceased by his mother Maryann.

Don will be remembered for his dedication to his daughters; being their super fan with whatever they were doing. He enjoyed camping, golfing, fishing, coaching and talking to anyone.

A Celebration of Life Open House was held in the Community Hall at the St. Marys Pyramid Recreation Centre on July 7, 2023. Memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

Don's family wish to sincerely thank all of the friends and family who supported them through this difficult time. "We are extremely grateful to be surrounded by so many selfless people. You will forever be in our hearts." Another note of gratitude to the staff at the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth for their wonderful care, family and friends for their expressions of sympathy and for those who made memorial donations. Thank you to all who came out to Don's Celebration of Life.

THANK YOU

Chalkley

The family of the late Douglas M. "Mac" Chalkley wish to thank everyone for all expressions of sympathy, phone calls, cards, visits, food, flowers and donations.

We have been comforted by the care and support from friends, neighbours and family.

Special thanks to Peter Francis and the Francis Funeral Home, Rev. Doug Peck and Bev Neeb for the lovely service. Also the Lutheran Church Women for the nice lunch.

Lorena, Michelle & Don, John & Ann and families.

THANK YOU

Megens

In memory of a loving Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather John J. Megens who passed away July 14, 1998

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THANK YOU

Furtney

Thank you to my family who planned the event, friends and neighbours who travelled to be there and those who provided food, flowers and gifts. I am truly blessed and grateful. It was certainly a day that will hold great memories for many years.

Diane Furtney

THANK YOU

Hunter

We would like to thank our family, friends and neighbours for their visits, flowers, gifts, cards, phone calls, E-mails, balloons and food. Our 60th Anniversary celebration has been one to remember for a long time.

Love Bernice and Ron

THANK YOU

MacKay

The family of Bob MacKay wish to thank everyone for their kind messages of sympathy, donations, flowers and food.

Special thanks to the Stratford Kidney Dialysis team, Dr. Gatfield, University Hospital and Andrew Hodges. Your support has been greatly appreciated.

Laural, Rob, Amy and Kathy.

CELEBRATION

Dick

Celebration of Life for Jack Dick

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- 4) Seven
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- 7) Believing you are a werewolf
- 8) Marilyn Monroe
- 9) True
- 10) Once

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6	5	2	3	7	9	4	8	1
9	8	7	2	5	3	1	4	6
5	6	3	8	4	1	7	9	2
4	2	1	9	6	7	3	5	8
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- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 pm

Saturday, July 22

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field 8 am to Noon
- Hazardous & Special Waste Disposal at the MOC, 408 James St S - 8 am to Noon
- Kinsmen Summerfest at Milt Dunnell Field
- United Way Bed Race at Milt Dunnell Field - 1 to 3 pm
- Jack Dick Celebration of Life at the Legion - 2 to 4 pm
- Corn Hole Tournament at Milt Dunnell Field - 3 pm start
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm

Sunday, July 23

- Purple Hill Summer Country Garden Party - Show starts 2 pm

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