

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1170

Thursday, August 3, 2023

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Generous donations result in Grand Trunk Trail upgrades



This easterly stretch of the Grand Trunk Trail will be paved and lighted this autumn as a result of generous donations received from the community. (Stewart Grant photo)

By Stewart Grant

Infrastructure Services Manager Jeff Wolfe had some good news to share during the July 25th Town of St. Marys Council meeting.

"We've had quite a few significant donations this year, where the donors have specifically asked that their funds go towards improving the Grand Trunk trail, and specifically between Wellington Street and Glass Street," reported Wolfe. "That section is gravel and unlit, so the donors have requested that the money go towards paving a hard surface and installing lighting."

Wolfe noted that the public, as indicated through prior surveys, have wanted to see improvements to this section of the trail for quite some time. Town staff were approached several years ago by the Kinsmen Club who were interested in helping introduce lighting on the trail from Wellington Street to James Street North, however the COVID-19 pandemic hampered their fundraising efforts.

The \$300,000 cost of the capital improvement (asphalt paving and light fixture installation) is fully funded

Continued on page 2

What's open on Civic Holiday

With regards to the upcoming Civic Holiday on Monday, August 7th, the Independent Newspaper has reached out to our two local grocery stores, St. Marys Foodland and Tremblett's Your Independent Grocer. Both have confirmed that they will be open on the holiday Monday but with shortened hours. Canadian Tire and Delmar Foods will also be open.

The LCBO and Beer Store are both closed for the holiday Monday.

The Town of St. Marys has provided the following update relating to its facilities:

Closed Monday, August 7:

- Administrative offices (Town Hall and Municipal Operations Centre)
- Adult Learning
- Child Care Centre
- EarlyON
- Fire Station
- Landfill
- Library (Closed August 7, but open Saturday, August 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
- Mobility Services offices (Rides must be booked by 12:00 p.m. on Friday, August 4)
- Museum (Closed August 7, but open Saturday, August 5 and Sunday, August 6 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.)
- Pyramid Recreation Centre (Aquatics Centre indoor pool and Friendship Centre)
- Service Ontario
- Summer Camp at Holy Name of Mary School
- Camp PRC

Home Support Services

- Home support services such as Meals on Wheels and Telephone Reassurance will continue.

Continued on page 2

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COMMUNITY —

Generous donations result in Grand Trunk Trail upgrades

Continued from page 1

through donations. Two anonymous donors plus an estate bequest combined for \$275,000 in funds earmarked for the project, while the Kinsmen Club will donate \$25,000 in-kind relating to the installation of the electrical conduit.

“We’re recommending that the capi-

tal plan for 2023 be amended to include this improvement project,” said Wolfe. “We’ve talked to some contractors and our understanding is that there is still time available for paving and this can still be done in the fall of 2023.”

His report suggested that the lighting installation would take approximate-

ly 10 days where a section of trail is closed, while the surface preparation and paving could require a further 5 days.

The report to Council added that “the enhancements to the trail represent an increased level of service provided by the Town’s trail network. Safety would be improved with lighting

and the hard surface would allow for proper winter maintenance with the ability to apply de-icing material.”

Although the capital cost of the project is fully funded by donations, Wolfe indicated that depreciation and ongoing annual operating costs associated with the trail upgrade would amount to approximately \$11,000 per year.

St. Marys is in full bloom!



The entrances to St. Marys are even more inviting with the flower gardens in bloom. (Photo by Murray Grant)

Checking in with CJ Bear ahead of Teddy Bear Reunion



CJ Bear is back from Alberta in time for the Teddy Bear Reunion on August 20th. (Contributed photo)

Holiday hours for Town facilities – Civic Holiday

Continued from page 1

Garbage and Recycling Collection

- Will continue as scheduled. Details: <http://www.bra.org/my-services/st-marys-town/>.

Quarry

- Open daily (including August 7) from 11:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Pre-register at townofstmarys.com/quarry or pay using debit or cash in

person.

PRC Splash Pad and Rotary Splash Pad at Cadzow Park

- Open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

St. Marys Train Station

- VIA Rail Station will be open; however, there will be no Go Train service. Visit www.viarail.ca for train schedule.

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25°C Feels Like 29	28°C Feels Like 34	34°C Feels Like 28	24°C Feels Like 26	27°C Feels Like 31	25°C Feels Like 31	23°C Feels Like 27

COMMUNITY —

Melodies at the Museum returns for a tenth season

Summer concert series features local favourites and new talent

The St. Marys Museum is hosting its tenth Melodies at the Museum summer concert series this August. A different musical performance will take place outdoors at the performance stage in Cadzow Park on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m.

First-time Melodies performer Jesse Webber will kick the concert series off on August 2. Jesse Webber has been playing, producing, writing, performing and releasing music for the last 27 years. His latest song "Brand New Day" was released on June 20, 2021, during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a song of hope and optimism and features a cast of Kitchener - Waterloo's elite musicians. Since its release, he has been sharing the profits with the Six Nations Community Food Bank and a Ukrainian Relief Fund.

On August 9, join Meg and Brady of La Grove. Meg and Brady are a dynamic musical duo from St. Marys that per-

form a blend of oldies, classic rock and pop tunes from the decades. Meg's soulful powerhouse vocals, Brady's guitar/bass/cajon expertise, along with some vocal harmonies, are a perfect fit for all occasions.

On August 16, St. Marys duo Aimee Jesso and Chet Greason of The Bone Radlers will take the stage. Both performers are Melodies at the Museum regulars, having played with their previous bands, The Shenanigans and Corduroy Gordon. This will be their Melodies debut as a duo.

August 23 brings former Museum employee, Jaron Camp, who will take the stage with Rachael Frankruyter. After years of playing together, Jaron and Rachael created the duo project York Street Thought Process. They have collectively performed at a variety of venues throughout Southern Ontario, from restaurants to festivals. The duo creates a playful mixture of indie-folk

and improvisation; from a wide range of original music to classic covers. Their debut album was released in August 2022.

The series finale will take place on August 30 with the Kintore-based jazz septet known as Jazzm@x (pronounced Jazzmatics). They were born because of big band charts received by a member of the band from Andy Hoe, a venerated bandleader and sax player from St. Marys. More of these charts were also purloined or borrowed from high schools, and the idea that they could perform this music came to be. Carol Shaw (tenor sax), Wade Whitaker (bass), the Four Irvines (Dan [drums], Barb [keyboards], D'Arcy [alto sax/flute] and Judy [trumpet]), and an import from Mitchell, Brad Carew (trombone) combined to form Jazzm@x in 2002. Since then, the group has performed in many venues, playing a range of styles from jazz stan-

dards to Bossa Nova to Funk. Music lovers may have stumbled upon them playing on the Avon River in Stratford on a barge, or in Bancroft at the annual Arts Festival, or perhaps on a patio in Tobermory.

All concerts will take place on the performance stage in Cadzow Park and will be moved to the Town Hall auditorium in inclement weather. If the weather looks questionable on the concert day, visit the Museum's Facebook page by 5 p.m. for a decision regarding the concert location.

Admission to the concerts is by donation, with all proceeds going to the St. Marys Museum. Thank you to McCormick Canada, Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, and the Friends of the St. Marys Museum for sponsoring the performers.

For more information, please contact the St. Marys Museum at 519-284-3356 or museum@town.stmarys.on.ca.

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COMMUNITY —

PC Connect ridership up but future uncertain

Route B to be cancelled at month end



By Stewart Grant

Route B (Perth County South) of the PC Connect transit service will be cancelled at the end of the month. At the Town of St. Marys Council Meeting last Tuesday, it was shared that the County of Perth had provided formal notice that the service will end on August 31, 2023. This route, which currently operates Monday to Friday, begins at the Stratford Transit Terminal, makes stops in St. Marys at the Town Hall and the Hospital, then to Kirkton-Woodham Community Centre and the West Perth Mitchell Arena before returning to Stratford Transit Terminal.

In June 2023, Route B had a total of 168 riders, which was actually an all-time high – up from the previous best of 163 riders in May 2023. Over

the past 12 months, Route B has averaged 107 riders per month.

St. Marys will continue to be serviced by Route 2, which connects the Stonetown with Stratford, Shakespeare, New Hamburg, Waterloo, and Kitchener. For full details on timing and stops, visit <https://www.perthcounty.ca/en/pc-connect-transit-system.aspx>.

Route 2 also enjoyed record ridership during the month of June 2023, with 509 people utilizing the service, up from the previous best month which was 460 in March 2023. Over the last 12 months, Route 2 has averaged 356 riders per month.

Funding for the Local Partnership Agreement supporting PC Connect continues to March 31, 2025.

Bravo

We have two Bravos this week.

- 1) Bravo to George Foley who still finds time to pull weeds from under the trestle even after dealing with many health issues over the years. Great job!
- 2) Bravo to the staffs at St. Marys Memorial Hospital, Kingsway Lodge and St. Marys Bus Mobility Service for their compassionate efforts that enabled our parents to be together one last time. Your collective care was so extraordinarily special and will forever be remembered by our family.

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

Boo

We have two Boos this week.

- 1) A boo to the misuse of the porta potties at the tennis courts. The urinals are for #1 not #2
- 2) After attending a ball game at the Baseball Hall of Fame last night I would like to report how filthy and disgustingly smelly the porta potty was. I heard several negative comments from the out of town visitors. Their words were "How can such a beautiful complex offer such terrible washroom facilities?"

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

Quote of the Week

"The era of global warming has ended; the era of global boiling has arrived."

- United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said during July 2023, which was reported to be the hottest month ever recorded globally

St. Marys Independent

36 Water St. St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2
Info@stmarys-independent.com
Phone: 519.284.0041

Publisher

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Editor in Chief

Frank Doyle • info@stmarys-independent.com

Graphic Design / Layout

Tyler Carruthers • info@stmarys-independent.com

Sales Representative

Stewart Grant • ads@stmarys-independent.com

Billing Administrator

Cindy Boakes • boakescindy1576@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant

Wendy Lamond • wendylamond74@gmail.com

Contributors

June Grant, Nancy Bickell, Mary Smith, Nancy Abra, Lauren Eedy, Spencer Seymour, Sarah Cairns, Paul Knowles



Funded by the Government of Canada
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The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK

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The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows

A closed mouth gathers no feet.

As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it.

The reason grandchildren and grandparents get along so well is because they have a common enemy.

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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How did it get to be August already?

Thankfully no one has used the tube slide at the Town Hall.

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 —

A tribute to Don Corby



By Jackie Corby

The St. Marys Storm U17 boys soccer team held a car wash fundraiser earlier this month and have donated the money to Stratford Rotary Hospice in memory of Don Corby. These young men will be our future leaders, the next generation of volunteer Kinsmen, parent coaches in minor sports and I'm sure they will continue donat-

ing their time to support good causes. I am excited to continue to watch them grow and give back to their communities.

Thank you St. Marys Storm for your time and energy and big hearts! Pictured above, from left, Lucie Stuart, director of fund development and stewardship, Carson Brock, Ryan Hodkinson, Peyton Lobb, Jackie Corby.

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



EARLYON BABY TIME

Thursday, August 17 @ 9 - 11 AM | Kin Park

Join the EarlyON Centre and Claire Dolmage, IBCLC, for guidance and support on infant feeding. No pre-registration required.

townofstmarys.com/earlyon or 226-374-6544

MOVIES IN THE PARK

Friday, August 11 @ 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

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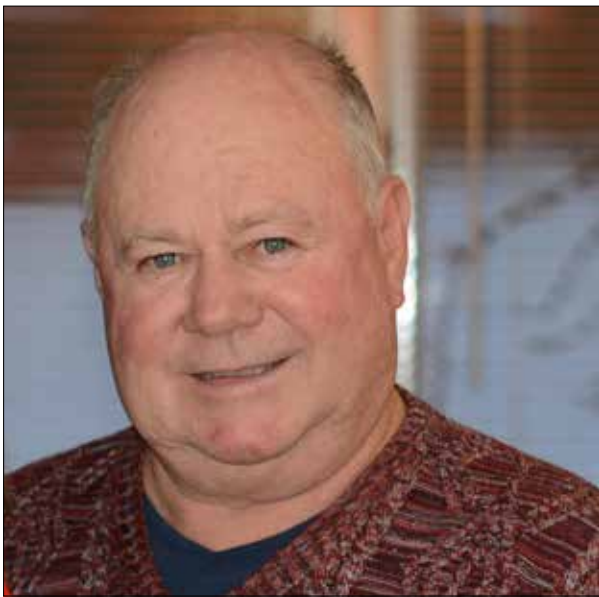
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Senior of the Week



Our Senior of the Week is Rod Betteridge who will celebrate his 77th birthday on August 8. Rod is the eldest of 9 children of Ralph & Eleanor Betteridge and spent most of his working life with Stratford Farm Equipment. Rod enjoys golf and is an aspiring pickleball champion. He has 5 children and 9 grandchildren. Happy Birthday Rod!

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

COMMUNITY —

Barley's Broken Rail Relay



Nearly 100 runners earned some well-deserved refreshment at Broken Rail Brewery on Saturday afternoon after completing an approximate 35km relay event from London to St. Marys, all with the goal of raising money for Ronald McDonald House Charities Southwestern Ontario.

A total of 23 four-person teams met at 7:00 a.m. at Mother Teresa Catholic Secondary School in London to begin their trek to Broken Rail, utilizing the many scenic trails that exist between the two communities.

Donations for the event closed on Monday with over \$20,600 raised. This money will go towards supporting families in southwestern Ontario during difficult times. In addition to the money raised by each team, the event was made possible thanks to the sponsorship of Broken Rail Brewing, Backroads Brews + Shoes, and Lulu-lemon. (Contributed photo)

Weekend Quiz

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- 1) What is the study or collection of postage stamps called?
- 2) What is the street address of the White House?
- 3) What is a group of frogs called?
- 4) What do you call a tailless cat?
- 5) Whose nose grows when he told a lie?
- 6) What type of creature is a painted lady?
- 7) What is a baby kangaroo called?
- 8) What is the first letter of the Greek alphabet?
- 9) What is the first book of the Bible?
- 10) In which country will you find a city called Adelaide?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27

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COMMUNITY —

All Wheels Park donation of the week



Thanks goes to St. Marys "Libary Ladies" who have been so instrumental in the social media awareness campaign for the Rotary All Wheels Park, as well as helping out in countless ways behind the scenes. Pictured, from left, Rebecca Webb and Sarah Andrews. Check out the town website to make your own donation: www.townofstmarys.com/en/recreation-and-culture/skatepark.aspx

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COMMUNITY —

Certifying and celebrating local food

TuttCo Queen Street receives special designation

By Andrea Macko

Special to the Independent

Local, sustainable, delicious... and now TuttCo Queen Street can add certified to its descriptors.

Since opening a year ago this week, the downtown restaurant has committed to creating food that has sustainability and environmental stewardship as key ingredients. Now, a year in, owner and executive chef Andrew Tutt has achieved a "Feast On®" designation that proves the restaurant's commitment to local food.

The Feast On® program is North America's largest and longest running local food certification program that recognizes businesses committed to sourcing Ontario grown food and drink. TuttCo is the only restaurant in St. Marys and one of a small handful in the immediate area to be Feast On® certified.

To qualify for Feast On® designation, restaurant operators must prove via audit that they use at least 25 per cent Ontario grown or produced ingredients, including any alcoholic beverages. TuttCo's audit revealed an impressive 91 per cent use of Ontario ingredients in the food menu and 69 per cent use of Ontario ingredients/suppliers in the alcohol menu.

"Sustainable food has always been my ethos," says Tutt of the restaurant's philosophy. "I've made the choice to source local ingredients to reduce our environmental impact; that's why, for example, our lettuce is driven in from the Niagara region rather than being flown in from California, which has been in a drought for 25 years – our planet can't sustain this kind of abuse."

Gastronomically, Tutt says, locally sourced foods benefit from not having to endure the long distribution process and can be eaten close to their peak flavour. "It's about local production for local con-



sumption," he explains. "If you use the best quality you can, these ingredients will shine on a plate, even when treated simply."

For Tutt, however, sustainability also goes beyond what's on the plate. "Sustainability is also about the work environment. That's why we're only open four days a week, to not push our staff past their 40-hour-a-week limits, as the restaurant industry has a high burnout rate. When I was younger, we worked 85 hours per week. There's a reason why there's a stereotype of the raging chef – he or she was exhausted, depressed and burnt out."

The Stratford Chef School alumnus has seen much in his 35 years in the restaurant industry. An early posting was at the landmark Woolfy's on Highway 7; Chris and Mary Woolf, who ran Woolfy's as well

as Little Red's Pub in the same location at TuttCo, still serve as mentors. After spending time in a number of top restaurants in Toronto, Tutt moved westward to similar restaurants in Calgary, Canmore and Banff.

After a year under his namesake banner, Tutt says he's "extremely thankful for the initial response and continued support of this restaurant, as well as staff who have largely been with him since Day One.

"I believe we're filling a niche market that's been non-existent in downtown St. Marys for quite some time," Tutt says of his intimate space and elevated casual menu he develops and prepares fresh on-site.

"I just love to cook – it's as simple as that," Tutt says, smiling. The love shows in the depth and breadth of the restaurant's offerings, from two weekly lunch sandwich specials, a "Five for \$5" appetizer event on Fridays, international three-course dinner menus and the ever-popular "burger bar" featuring four fresh-never-frozen styles of burger for \$10 each on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

To mark the restaurant's one-year anniversary, celebrate the Feast On® certification and commemorate Food Day Canada on August 5, Tutt will put his culinary talents to use showcasing the surprising range of Canadian cuisine and drink throughout August.

"Canadian food is much, much more than Hawaiian pizza, tautiere and maple syrup," he says. "We'll also have some 'local drink' specials featuring our friends at Broken Rail Brewing and celebrate the Caesar, which was invented in Canada."

To stay in the loop of all the deliciousness, follow @tuttco on Facebook and @tuttco_stmarys on Instagram. Reservations can be made online at www.tuttco.ca or calling 226-301-4919. TuttCo is open Wednesday to Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 8:30 pm.

SCIENCE HILL Country Club

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

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COMMUNITY —

Firefighter Ryan Hartsell named “Firefighter of the Month” for August

This August the St. Marys Fire Department is pleased to announce Ryan Hartsell as its “Firefighter of the Month”.

Hartsell joined the St. Marys Fire Department as a firefighter in 2020. Although relatively new in the trade he has demonstrated the ability to learn quickly as he completed his Firefighter Initial Training Program (FITP) well under the predetermined two-year time frame.

Firefighter Ryan Hartsell was selected as Firefighter of the Month as he displays an ability to learn rapidly and adapt quickly to changing situations,” said Fire Chief Richard “Andy” Anderson. “He continually strives to strengthen and refine professional effectiveness through education. Ryan is one of six members of the department’s swift water/ice rescue Go Team. This combined with the experience he gains through training and on the fire ground will make him an effective leader.

Fire emergencies make up a small fraction of the calls fire departments respond to. “When that call comes in, you could have a vehicle accident on the highway that has littered debris you need to clear, or you could have hazardous materials to handle — you never know what that call is going to bring,” Hartsell said.

“Hartsell is a firefighter who can be counted on to achieve results during emergency situations,” said Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Edwards.

When asked how he became interested in becoming a firefighter, he stated, “I have always been interested in the emergency services, out of high school I furthered my education to become a paramedic. After moving to St. Marys

from Woodstock in 2018, I was able to make some friendships with some of the individuals on the fire department. That is when I realized the amount of comradery they had amongst the group, that along with the satisfaction of being able to help the community of St. Marys is what I owe my drive to become a firefighter.”

With the long hours and high-pressure situations, it doesn’t take long for a firefighting team to form tight bonds. When you become part of the fire department, those people become an extension of your family. “If someone is getting married or having a kid — typically when something is going on with the life of a firefighter — the rest of the fire department gets involved,” Hartsell said. “These friendships last a lifetime.”

“Some advice I would give to someone looking to join the department is that the fire service is continuously evolving as there are so many advancements in technology as well as avenues an individual can take to have a rewarding career in fire service” said Hartsell. “I suggest anyone new to firefighting should take as many extra courses as possible to increase their knowledge and experience with the vast array of calls that we encounter. The amount of information available is never ending and that’s what makes it the best decision I ever made to have a lifelong rewarding career.”

Off duty, Hartsell dedicates his time to his lovely wife Alex and their newborn son Haynes. Ryan is employed at Federal White Cement as a Central Control Room Operator Trained employee.



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SPORTS —

Barkley: Lincs Captaincy 'a great honour'

By Spencer Seymour

Ahead of his second season with the St. Marys Lincolns and his final year of junior hockey eligibility, newly-minted Lincs' Captain Adam Barkley told the Independent that he "can't wait" to take the ice this Fall.

"My excitement is through the roof," said Barkley. "I love playing in St. Marys so to not only play my last year here but also get to finish as the Captain, it's a great honour and makes me even more excited to get the season started. It means a lot that they picked me and I hope I can live up to their expectations."

The announcement of Barkley's Captaincy was made official by the team on July 24th on social media. Barkley stated that St. Marys was the only place for him to conclude his junior career.

"I loved [playing in St. Marys] last year. From the moment I got here and walked into the dressing room, the boys all welcomed me with open arms. Everyone has been nothing but amazing to me and the fans are awesome. It's fun to play in a rink where the fans are so amped up and supportive so I can't think of a better place to finish my junior career."

When asked to describe the moment he received the news that he would be wearing the 'C' on his jersey, Barkley described the multiple waves of emotion that he felt.

"Happiness, excitement, and just so many different emotions are flowing through your body. There is still a month before the season but getting that phone call took my excitement to another level and now I just can't wait to get into the room, get to know all the new guys, and get playing."

Barkley was a linchpin on the Lincolns' blue-line last year, scoring 11 goals and 41 points in 47 games. The Inkerman, Ontario native is also a 2020 Under-18 third-round pick of the Mississauga Steelheads.

According to Barkley when speaking on the role of the Captain, he wants to serve as a role model for his younger teammates.

"For me, being the Captain means that you're a guy who everyone in the room can look up to and respect. That letter means that I represent all the boys in the room to talk to the coaches and the staff members. I want to be someone that the younger guys can look up to and be someone who makes everyone feel positive and good about coming to the rink."

When discussing his new Captain last week, Lincolns' Head Coach Jeff Bradley mentioned the defender's positivity as a key attribute, which Barkley believes is important to helping himself



Adam Barkley makes a pass from the point during a St. Marys Lincolns' game last season. Barkley had 11 goals and 41 points in 47 games and this coming season, will serve as the team's Captain. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

and his teammates perform at their best.

"Every time I go to the rink, I'm excited. I want to be there. I'm happy to be there. I like being around the boys and being part of the team. And then, when you're on the ice, if you do make a

mistake, you talk to the coach, figure out what happened, and you learn from it. Over the years, I've learned to stay positive and not get frustrated with myself. If everyone is positive and not getting down on themselves, it helps everyone play better."

It wasn't hard to see that Bradley had significant trust in Barkley last season, which, according to the new Captain, is reciprocal.

"I love playing for Jeff, he is an awesome coach. Right away last year, he was so great. Jeff and I talked all the time last year with me asking him questions and he genuinely cares about his players. He's probably the first coach I've met that actually cares about his players on such a deep, human level. He does what he says he's going to do, he keeps his promises, and he's ambitious. Jeff is definitely my favourite coach that I've ever had."

After being a key cog in the Lincolns' squad that advanced to the Western Conference Final, Barkley said that the goal of this year's team is to reach even greater heights.

"The goal is to win it all this year. Obviously, getting to the conference final last year was great and I think a big part of that was everyone bought in to the systems and the culture. Everyone was together and striving for the same thing. I think this year, I want everyone to have that same level of buy-in and this year, our goal is to do better than we did last year."

"I think our chances are really good right now," Barkley continued. "We've got a lot of the boys from last year who are eligible coming back so that helps in the room with everyone knowing what to expect. I think we're going to be ready right away to help the new guys pick up on everything. I think the new guys coming in all look really good and I'm excited to bring them in and get rolling. I think we're going to do really well."

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SPORTS —

Wolfkamps win scramble; Nathan competes in international singles tourney

By Spencer Seymour

Father Greg and son Nathan Wolfkamp recently won the Parent-Child Two-Man Scramble, which followed the Optimists International Junior Golf Championship, held at the Trump Doral Golf Course in Miami, Florida, in which Nathan also took part.

Both father and son spoke to the Independent about the recent competitions, with Nathan calling his individual tournament a great learning endeavour, despite not making the top 70 needed to advance further.

"It was a pretty cool experience," said Nathan. "I was really there for the experience and to learn from the other kids what it takes to reach the highest level. I think I need to play more. The kids at the top of the leaderboard are practicing all the time and so I think, if I want to reach that calibre, it's all about repetition."

Watching from the sidelines was his father Greg, who said he enjoyed seeing his son have the chance to compete in the major tournament.

"Usually, in any of the tournaments Nathan has played in, they don't allow parents on the course. So this was a unique experience to be able to walk along the sides from a distance and watch him. He handled himself really well and was able to shake off a bad hole pretty quickly."

Both Nathan and Greg also mentioned that seeing people from all different countries and getting to talk to other people about their stories made the experience of the tournament even more special.



Pictured from left to right are Nathan and Greg Wolfkamp, who recently won the Parent-Child Two-Man Scramble held at the Trump Doral Golf Course in Miami, Florida. This tournament followed the Optimists International Junior Golf Championship in which Nathan competed. Nathan called this tournament a "great learning experience" as he competed against elite Junior golfers from around the world. (Contributed photo)

After the Junior Tournament was done, Greg and Nathan teamed up for a Two-Man Parent-Child Scramble on the famous Doral Blue Monster Course, in which they were victorious shooting a six-below-par 66. According to the pair, the chance to play together was something that meant a lot to both father and son.

"We viewed it as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play together in a tournament like this," both Wolfkamps agreed. "We went into it wanting to do well of course but more importantly, we just wanted to have

some fun and cherish the experience. As it turned out, we both played well that day. We made some good putts and when one of us had a poor shot, the other would have a great shot."

"We did a good job staying out of trouble and we were both able to be very consistent overall. When one of us didn't have our best shot, the other would make a safe shot to get us back on track."

At the conclusion of the Scramble, Nathan asked Greg how he thought they fared. According to the eldest Wolfkamp, he didn't foresee their eventual first-place finish.

"We finished the round and Nathan asked me how I thought we did because you don't know when you're out there. I said that I thought we would be near the top, I didn't think too many teams were going to beat our score. It was definitely a pleasant surprise when we were announced as the winners at the [post-tournament] banquet."

Nathan qualified for the Optimist Junior International Tournament by winning the Midwestern Ontario Qualifier last year at St. Marys Golf and Country Club. In a field of 131 golfers in his age group, Nathan finished just outside of qualification for the Championship round. Many of the participants have personal coaches and come from warm climates where they golf year-round.



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SPORTS —

U14 OBA wins big in Mitchell

By Spencer Seymour

The Red Rock Construction U14 OBA St. Marys Rockies were firing on all cylinders last Thursday when they travelled to Mitchell and earned a five-inning mercy victory with a 12-2 final score.

Early on in the contest, it didn't ap-

pear the Rockies' win would be so dominant with the score holding at 1-0 through the first three innings. However, the doors were blown off in the last three innings, starting with three St. Marys runs in the third followed by four more runs in each of the fourth and fifth.

Coach Dale Levy credited the entire team for finding ways to contribute, including the offensive heavy-hitters and sparkling pitching displays.

"We had a rock solid pitching performance from Ben Ewing who gave us four innings of dominance on the mound with Zach Larmer closing out

the final inning," Levy told the Independent. "Most of the offence came off the bats of Hayden Wright, Ben Ewing, Zach Larmer, and Vaughn Barr, as well as a monster 350-foot stand-up triple by Donovan McGregor. The rest of the team played great, solid defence to keep a strong Mitchell team at bay."

Callups from U17 team help Juggernauts earn road win

By Spencer Seymour

The fourth division St. Marys Juggernauts had three call-ups from the U17 Boys St. Marys Storm in their lineup last Saturday against AEL FC in a game that the Juggernauts won 5-3.

Player-Coach Braiden Weston said the young additions made good contributions while the team's older core did a great job supporting them.

"Our three U17 call-ups were Carson Brock, Grant Hallman, and Grayson Ropchan and they all played great," Weston told the Independent. "Each of them brought a great deal of speed and intensity to the game. It forced

the other team to work harder to keep up and our regular guys were very supportive by talking to them and offering support on the ball. They gave them outlets while also giving them a long leash to be creative and confident with the ball at their feet."

The Juggernauts' offense got going very quickly with Phouthachan Saiyasen scoring his first of two goals in the game within the first minute of the match. However, AEL responded in short order, capitalizing on a defensive lapse to tie the game at one apiece.

One of the U17 call-ups joined in on

the offense when Brock sent a corner kick in front of the AEL goal, an opportunity that was seized by Yekini Mills to make it a 2-1 game. Before the end of the first half, Mills and Saiyasen both found the back of the net for the second time in the game to make it 4-1 in favour of St. Marys heading into the break.

Coming out of the half, AEL got the jump on the Juggernauts with a very good start, eventually potting a goal off of a well-placed kick to cut the Juggernauts' lead to two. AEL found one more goal later in the second half.

Late in the contest with approximate-

ly five minutes remaining, another U17 call-up came up big with Ropchan firing a terrific shot over the opposing goalkeeper's head from outside the 18-yard box to seal the deal and secure the 5-3 victory.

Weston also praised the team's back end for doing a solid job defensively.

"[AEL] definitely gave us a tough game. Their front line had plenty of speed and worked really hard. I was really happy with Gerry Koot who had a great outing in goal and all of our defensive backs, Evan Bennett, Jonny Thompson, David Palmer, and Nick Van Lierop."

U15 Blue withstands early struggles to defeat Goderich

By Spencer Seymour

The Canadian Tire U15 Blue WOBA St. Marys Rockies may not have enjoyed a flawless start to their game in Goderich last Thursday, but their resilience and hunger to win proved enough to pull the game back into their control by the end, taking the contest 14-10.

"Another great team effort where every single player made contributions to our success," remarked Co-Coach Chris Chessell. "Recently, we've struggled early on in games and needed guys to step in mid-game to get things back on track and that was exactly what happened. Blake [McIntosh] was called upon early to stop the bleeding and he did that for three huge innings."

The early struggles Chessell spoke of included seven walks in the first inning alone, leading to a five-run deficit at the end of the first. In the second inning, a walk for Grier Mahoney followed by a triple from Simon Greig gave the Rockies a much-needed spark. That was followed by Ben Kittmer, whose RBI single helped St. Marys cut the score

to a two-run Goderich lead.

In the top of the fourth, with the game deadlocked at five apiece, the Rockies pounded four straight hits including a lead-off double by Greig and a double by Blake McIntosh, contributing to four more runs for St. Marys. However, Goderich's bats came back to life and recorded four more runs of their own.

Goderich then took a one-run lead in the fifth, putting the Rockies on the brink of defeat heading into the sixth and their final chance at the plate. With Chase McDougall starting the inning with a walk and subsequently stealing second and third, Rhett Chessell perfectly executed a sacrifice bunt to bring McDougall over home plate and tie the game.

The Rockies then exploded for four more runs, including RBI singles from Kittmer, Nathan McKeen, and Sullivan Brown. McDougall sealed the victory in the bottom of the sixth on the mound. Finley Newton also had a strong offensive game, going two for four at the plate with two singles.

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SPORTS —

Minor Ball and Soccer Scrapbook



Brayden Rumble fights through some traffic to kick the ball to an open teammate during last Saturday's U8 Boys Tier Three One St. Marys Storm game.



On the left, Kassy Van Erk advances the ball up the field, and on the right, Jacklyn Kittmer takes a corner kick during the U9 Girls Tier Three Two St. Marys Storm game last Sunday.



Lincoln Jennings makes contact with the ball during the Kinsmen Club of St. Marys U9 Blue St. Marys Rockies game last Thursday.



Ainsley King takes the ball through the midfield en route to scoring a goal during the U10 Girls Tier Three Two game this past Sunday.



Landyn Harrigan turns and fires a shot on goal during last Saturday's U8 Boys Tier Three Two St. Marys Storm game. (All photos by Spencer Seymour)

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SPORTS —

U14 Tier Two Girls off to in-season League Cup Final

By Spencer Seymour

This past Monday night saw the U14 Girls Tier Two St. Marys Storm punch their ticket to the finals of the in-season League Cup tournament on August 20th with an exciting 4-3 win over the high-powered St. Thomas squad.

Co-Head Coach John Hodkinson called the performance of his team “awesome” following the match.

“They had a really strong performance,” Hodkinson told the Independent. “Our offense did a great job keeping the pressure on when we had the lead with our passing and teamwork. When we had the lead late, everyone on the team stepped up and played hard to hang on to it.”

Going into the game, St. Thomas was undefeated in regular-season play, and early on, it was clear that the visitors had come to play once again, burying a quick goal. The Storm dug in and promptly found a pair of goals, first by Charlotte Richardson, then by Carlie Muir. A penalty kick allowed St. Thomas to tie the game at two apiece but Richardson tallied her second of the game before the end of the first

half to put St. Marys ahead 3-2.

After the halftime break, the hard-fought battle continued, eventually seeing St. Thomas bring it back to even with their third goal of the contest with approximately 16 minutes remaining in regulation time.

Feeling the heat of the battle and fighting hard to take the lead, St. Thomas pressed hard but was held at bay by the Storm’s defensive line of Kacey Graham, Charlotte Johnson, Regan Jones, Leighton Lichti, and Abby Russel, as well as an outstanding effort in goal by keeper Kirsten McKichan who made her fair share of difficult saves.

Finally, with under five minutes left in the second half, Richardson became the hat-trick hero for the Storm, potting her third goal of the evening to give St. Marys another one-goal lead. With the Storm staving off the frantic search for an equalizer by St. Thomas, the St. Marys side held on to a 4-3 victory.

With the win, they have now earned their spot in the League Cup Finals which will take place on August 20th in London.



Laura King takes a shot during a recent U14 Girls Tier Two St. Marys Storm’s game. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

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NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC MEETING CONCERNING PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

TAKE NOTICE a Statutory Public Meeting is scheduled for **August 15, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.** This meeting **will be held in-person and available remotely** to discuss a proposed Amendment to the Perth South Zoning By-law.

PURPOSE:

The proposed amendment to the Perth South Zoning By-law No. 4-1999 has been initiated by the Municipality to consider changes to the Zoning By-Law that will include a definition for Second Dwelling Units and adding one single detached dwelling as a permitted use in the Agriculture (A) Zone.

If you would like to be included virtually in the meeting on **Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.** please email the Clerk at lscott@perthsouth.ca by **Monday, August 14, 2023.** More information regarding this process will be made available to those who register.

Those interested in viewing the meeting but not directly participating are asked to view the webcast via Township of Perth South Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PerthSouthTwp/

ANY PERSON may attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION relating to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment is available upon request and will be shared virtually where possible. If required, arrangements can be made to have a package prepared and available for pick up at the Township office.

DATED AT THE TOWNSHIP OF PERTH SOUTH THIS 25th DAY OF JULY, 2023
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Telephone: 519-271-0619 x224 | Email: LScott@perthsouth.ca

SPORTS —

Great pitching, defence leads U11 Blue to victory

By Spencer Seymour

The Forman Electric U11 Blue WOBA St. Marys Rockies were excellent at preventing the visiting Exeter Express Blue batters from getting into a consistent groove last Thursday in a 6-3 win for the St. Marys squad at Teddy's Field.

Co-Head Coach Kathryn Fifield described the game as "a very close game," telling the Independent that the team's pitching and defensive play was the difference maker.

"All three of our pitchers had strong performances and kept Exeter to minimal runs," said Fifield. "The rest of the lineup also helped by giving a really good defensive effort to keep the Express' offence to only three runs."

Talan Ward pitched the first four

innings, while Ryder Boemer took the mound for the fifth and sixth and Keaton Ward closed the game in the seventh. Fifield also praised the group for their ability to get on base in the game, even if they didn't cash in on as many of those potential runs as they may have liked.

"Overall, a strong pitching and defensive game from the boys got us the win, and our offence did what it had to do for us. Trevor [Ward, the team's other Co-Coach] and I are super pleased with how the team is developing. They have all shown great improvement both on the hitting and defensive side since the beginning of the season. They all come with a positive attitude, they want to learn, grow and develop further. This is such a wonderful group to coach."



Above right, Briland Cunningham fires the ball back towards home plate from the outfield during last Thursday's Forman Electric U11 Blue WOBA St. Marys Rockies game. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)



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COMMUNITY —

Reports from the Kirkton Explore 4-H Club

Press Report by Zach Zwambag

Meeting 4 - Our fourth meeting took place on June 5, where we covered the topic of engineering. As usual, we recited the pledge, and reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Before we started, we finished up our judging of spoons, and then got started. As this meeting was on the topic of engineering, it was led by Catherine, who is an engineer. She taught us about the process of engineering and the iron ring, which is a ring worn by engineers. After we learned the basics, she introduced us to our main topic.

We were tasked with creating a device that would be able to keep an egg from breaking when we dropped it from a tree house. There were a variety of materials that we could use, but then we were introduced to an important factor. There were "prices" for objects that we used, and while the winner would be the contestant that dropped their egg successfully the most amount of times, the tiebreaker was the price. The cheaper design would beat the more expensive design if it came down to that. Objects like string popsicle sticks, and napkins cost \$1. Cups and bottles, which many people used for the base of their device, were \$3. Any cushioning, like foam or bubble wrap, was \$5. We all got to work on our designs, with the first step being drawing them out. We were then allowed to grab our materials one at a time, and record the cost of them. We then got to the building of the devices. You could see that there were many different designs, including parachutes, cushioning, and combining it all together. Once our time period was up, we shared our designs with the group, and the price that they cost. The lowest price turned out to be \$8, while the highest price was \$49. After everyone had shared, we went outside to test our devices. One by one, we dropped them from a height of about 2 metres. Surprisingly, only three designs survived the first round, Styn's, which was a fruit basket with a lot of cushioning inside, Aliyah's, which was a paper cup with a parachute made out of a paper plate, and Zach's, which was also a parachute, but made out of napkins instead of paper plates. We moved onto the second round, and this time, Styn was the only one to survive. Styn's design was \$19, Aliyah's was \$10, and Zach's was \$12. After the meeting, we had freezies and rice krispie squares to celebrate. Our next meeting will be on June 19, where we will join the Dairy Club.

Meeting 5 - For this meeting, we joined the Kirkton Dairy Club, who host their meetings at the Weber's dairy farm. Their leader was Becky DeWit, who was coordinating the meeting. We were going to be learning more about judging, and there were many things provided to judge. There was haylage, crochet, boots, birdhouses, beef market heifers, and dairy calves. Judging is where you rank a category of objects from best to worst. After each round of judging, the leader in charge of the station would give the group their opinion on the category. An important thing about judging is to never say anything negative about an entry, even if it is the worst one. We learned about good haylage, which has to be evenly chopped, with a good texture and an appealing smell. We also learned about beef heifers. The good ones have a wide midsection and hind-quarters, but are still strong. We looked at crochet and birdhouses as well. During the session, we were required to take a test. This test included knowledge of the president of 4-H Ontario and the 4-H motto, as well as questions on cooking, animals, and more. After the test, we went to the dairy calves. Good



dairy calves have a straight spine and straight legs. You don't want to judge a calf by its size, because the calves might be different ages, but the bigger calves are generally better. After all of the judging was done, we had a snack of hotdogs and chocolate milk. Our final meeting will take place on June 26, where we will focus on pizza making.

Meeting 6 - At our final meeting on June 26, we focused on making pizza. But before the meeting started, we were asked what clubs we would like April and Catherine to consider starting in the fall. Some common answers were video games, board games, engineering, and cooking/baking.

We had two recipes for pizza. One used handmade dough with flour, water, salt, and yeast. Once we had finished making the dough, we let it sit and rise while we made our second recipe, which were English muffin pizzas. We used English muffins for the crust, added our toppings, and waited for it to cook while we topped our original pizzas.

We then ate our English muffin pizzas and cooked our thin crust pizzas. While we waited for them to cook, we learned a new card game, called 31. The game involved adding up the cards in your hand to 31, and trying not to have the lowest total when everyone revealed their cards. When the pizzas were finished, we headed outside to eat them. We discussed the Optimist Club meeting that we were going to in September, and the judging competition of July 4, which 6 members of the club were participating in.

After 6 weeks, the Explore 4-H Club has ended. Thank you to the members of the club for showing up and participating in the meetings. A reminder to make your cards to enter in the Kirkton Fall Fair, and to write your speeches for the Optimist club meeting this September. Thank you to the Kirkton Optimist Club for sponsoring the club, and a big thank you to the leaders, April Barker and Catherine Liscumb for leading the club. Without you, this club would not have been possible



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COMMUNITY —

Fellowship, Food & Entertainment at Happy Hills Campground



On Saturday, July 29 campers at Happy Hills were treated to an entertaining afternoon. The Broken Rail Brewery and the Sunset Diner Shack from St. Marys were at the orchard to provide food and beverages to the many people in attendance. Above right, Aimee Jesso and Chet Greason of The Bone Radlers provided the musical entertainment for the Happy Hills campers. (Nancy Bickell photos)

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HISTORY —

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: The Irvine-Spearin Houses

By Mary Smith

St. Marys is noted for its grand Victorian homes, the highlight for visitors on many a heritage walking tour. But there are many less pretentious – but equally historic – houses in town that also have a great deal to tell about local history. St. Marys Museum volunteer, Ken Telfer, researches and prepares property reports for various local homeowners who are curious about the history of their houses. Ken is a terrific researcher and unearths some fascinating stories. Because I work with him as a fact-checker and editor, I learn these stories as well. And so I know first-hand that the histories of the smaller houses are just as intriguing as the ones for the large mansions.

The two houses in this week's photograph are side-by-side at 156 and 164 Church Street North. (The new owner of 156 commissioned a property report which is almost ready to deliver.) The house at 156 Church Street is frame, while 164 Church Street is brick but the two properties are closely tied by their history. The lots that they sit on were purchased by William Irvine, a labourer, and registered in his wife's name soon after they came to St. Marys in the 1860s. Records show that through the 1870s, the Irvines lived in a modest house on the property – possibly an early version of 156 Church Street North. The brick house was built a few years later, after the Irvines' daughter, Eliza, married James Spearin, a carpenter. It became the family home while the frame house was rented out for many years as a source of income.

The land registry records show that there were transactions involving this property before the Irvines owned it. The property comprises three town lots and can be identified on early maps as lots 15, 16 and 17, on the west side of Church Street North. Although it was surveyed early, for several decades after settlement began, this part of the north ward was only partially developed. Up the steep Church Street hill, it was somewhat isolated from downtown St. Marys. But the town anticipated growth and very early, there were significant buildings in the north ward. Even before 1864 when the village became a town, the "Scotch Church" (Presbyterian) had been granted lots just north of Widder Street between Wellington and Church Streets. First there was a small frame church on the site that



The two houses at 156 and 164 Church Street North are connected by the histories of their first owners. The house at 156 Church is partially hidden by one of the leafy trees, a feature of this pleasant neighbourhood.

soon needed additions to accommodate a growing congregation. The Irvines and the Spearins attended this church, only a short walk away. Two blocks to the east, the Roman Catholic Church with a small parochial school had become well established and in 1874, the first St. Marys Collegiate Institute on Water Street also became part of the north ward.

It was a common practice at that time for people with a bit of spare capital to buy undeveloped property within town limits, assuming that as the population increased and development spread outward, their investment would increase in value. One of the early owners of the lots on the west side of Church Street was Alexander Belch, the first publisher of the St. Mary Argus. He owned it for a year, buying the property for \$100 in May 1865. Belch had a large brick house in the west ward but may have considered building a new house on this north ward property. Instead he and his family found a recently built limestone house on the other side of town – 100 Church Street South, just across from the Methodist (United) Church. In May 1866, Belch sold his lots on the west side of Church Street North to the Irvines for \$229. Belch more than doubled his investment and the Irvines got almost an acre of land within the town. The Belch family later moved to Manitoba where Alexander made a name for himself as a businessman and then as a Dominion Land Agent. He retired to California where he died in 1906.

William and Esther Irvine were both

from Ireland although William was born in 1831 in County Monaghan in the north while Esther was born a year later in County Clare in the west of the country. Esther was the daughter of Francis George King and Dorcas (Hall) King. She left her parents behind when she immigrated to Canada in 1855 – a courageous act for a young woman. Esther King was living in Thorold, perhaps with a married sister who had also immigrated, when she met William Irvine. He may have been working on the Welland Canal, a source of employment for many recently arrived immigrants to Canada. They were married in 1856 and soon after relocated to Goderich where their two children were born – Charles in 1857 and Eliza in 1859. By the 1871 census, this family of four had moved to St. Marys. Assessment records show a modest value placed on their house but their property was large enough to keep a cow. William is listed as a labourer but records don't reveal where he worked. There were many possibilities in the 1870s in the growing community for anyone willing and able to work.

In 1878, when she was 19 years old, Eliza Irvine married James Spearin, age 26, another immigrant from Ireland. Perhaps he found favour with Eliza's mother, Esther, because he had been born in Limerick, not far from her own Irish birthplace. James was a carpenter and undoubtedly had a part in the construction of the new brick house at 164 Church Street North. This handsome storey-and-a-half house was buff brick, marked by red lintels and quoins. It had a lovely

arched window in the dormer above the central entrance. Unfortunately, William Irvine did not live to enjoy it. He died in November 1880 from pneumonia at the age of 49. His death certificate required giving his "rank or profession." His son, Charles, the informant, stated that William Irvine was a "Gentleman."

Esther Irvine lived with James and Eliza Spearin after William's death and she probably was very helpful when the Spearins' children were young. In 1889, Esther married James Hughes of Toronto and moved to that city. When he died in 1904, she returned to live with the Spearins in St. Marys. She died there in 1910 at the age of 78. Esther had already transferred the property at 164 Church to her daughter, Eliza, and when Esther died, Eliza also inherited the frame house next door. It had a succession of tenants through the years.

By this time, the Spearins were a well-established St. Marys family. James worked as a carpenter all his life although no records have been found mentioning specific building projects. He appears in a 1880s photograph as one of a number of workers at the planing mill beside Trout Creek. He became involved in municipal politics and represented the north ward for many years on council. He was long-serving chair of the Market, Fire and Police Committee and was urged to run for mayor on several occasions but declined. The Spearins enjoyed following local sports, especially the St. Marys Alerts Lacrosse Team. Norman Spearin, a star player on the junior team in the early 1900s, was one of James and Eliza's five children – they had two sons and three daughters, born between 1879 and 1889. The family all were active members of First Presbyterian Church.

Eliza Irvine Spearin died in 1934 at the age of 75. Her executors sold 156 Church Street North to Verna Edye, a widow. James Spearin, however, continued to live in the house at 164 Church with his daughter, Nellie, who remained in town. Miss Spearin taught for many years at Central School. James Spearin died in March 1940 at the age of 88. His contributions to St. Marys were not forgotten. His photograph was on the front page of the Journal Argus on March 7, 1940, with an article titled: "Jas. Spearin Served the Town Long and Well." On the day of his funeral, the town flag was lowered to half-mast.

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The 'Good Neighbour Project'

By Nancy Abra

The 'Good Neighbour Project' is a community project that far reaches beyond the local community, county, province and even Canada. It is part of the 'Canadian Foodgrains Bank', which is a Christian-based charitable organization that facilitates the collection and distribution of cash, grain and other agricultural commodities to the world's hungry through its member agencies.

This project was started in 1994, involving a few farmers together with churches in the Thorndale area. Over the years, they have have planted wheat, corn and soya beans. This year, the Good Neighbour Project committee has planted 35 acres of corn on the property of the Stubgens, east of Thorndale. There are six churches involved in this local project, one from London and the rest from Thames Centre.

John Elliott, a committee member of this Good Neighbour Project said, "In the past we normally absorb the expenses which cuts into the profits but this year, Joan Stubgen and her son Geoff are share crop-

ping the expenses of planting, fertilizers, spraying and harvesting with us." Elliott added, "We were delighted that Pioneer donated all the seed for this project."

After this field of corn is harvested in the fall it will be sold locally. Elliott said, "we hope with an excellent yield we will be sending another healthy donation to the Canadian Food Grains Bank and this money will be matched by the Canadian Federal Government 4 to 1 for this charity."

As the 'Good Neighbour Project' committee does every year, there will be a Pork BBQ and corn roast on August 12th at Brown's United Church, (west of Hwy 19, on Plover Mills Road) with entertainment at 5:30pm and supper at 6pm. Everyone is invited. There is no admission charge, but people are asked to bring a salad or dessert to share along with their own dishes and a lawn chair. There will also be a donation jar for contributions for this 'Good Neighbour Project' with receipts given for their donations.



The Back Forty Bash

By Arden McClean

Thorndale is a special place, a community that has strong roots, a long history, and lots of exciting events and programs including the chance for residents of all ages to enjoy a social event in July. The Back Forty Bash has been hosted by the Thorndale Agricultural Society and I Love Thorndale for more than five years now, and every year it gets bigger and better. This past weekend more than 250 people enjoyed a night of backyard games including Human Foosball, Giant Pong,

Corn Hole, Washer Toss as well as Axe Throwing by THRO, live music including a large screen with videos, wings and fries sold by the Thorndale Lions Club, and cold drinks. It was a great night that saw friends reconnecting, neighbours meeting, and lots of community building!

The Back Forty Bash takes months to plan and many hours to setup and run, and so since the community of Thorndale sees value in investing in opportunities for their younger residents, it only made sense to the

Thorndale Agricultural Society and I Love Thorndale to partner with a local youth leadership group, the Thorndale Youth Action Team and BGC London to use the games and equipment that is available for the Back Forty Bash to host a Back 40 Youth Bash on the Friday night! The municipality of Thames Centre supported the idea of hosting two different Bashes for different age groups by providing access to the Fairgrounds and Thorndale Lions Community Centre. All of this support meant that this past Friday over 70 local youth enjoyed a night of

games, candy and food, and they were entertained by three local youth bands including Full Throttle, the Thunder Queens, and Carrot Cake Milkshake. It was a great night out for local youth, and BGC London anticipates continuing to work with local youth leaders and community groups to continue to host this event in the future.

Thorndale is a special community, and this is evident when you consider that so many different groups have come together to create a weekend of celebrations for residents of all ages.

August events at Thorndale Library

The summer fun at Thorndale Library continues with our Summer Learning program, which encourages you to read for learning, joy, and prize ballots! To earn ballots, track each day that you read 20 minutes or more on your Summer Learning passport or bookmark; complete passport activities (ages 2-12); and win Summer Learning Bingo. Drop by to register and pick up supplies. Grab some veggies from our garden while you're

here!

Special Summer Learning programs include: Spa Day Bath Bombs and These Shoes Were Made for Walking. Space is limited and registration opens two weeks before the program date. Register online at <https://library.middlesex.ca/> or call us at 519-461-1150.

Our regular drop-in programs including Storytime and Summer Hangout

will be offered all summer long.

The 2023 Reading Challenge also continues throughout the summer. August's challenge is to read a book that features an unreliable or unnamed narrator. Try using NovelList, an online resource that is free to you through the library, to find this month's book. Visit bit.ly/MCLnovelist and log in with your library card number and PIN. Search "unreliable narrators" and select the "Lists & Ar-

ticles" tab for info about unreliable narrators and books that feature them. And remember, the library is a great place to read as it's nice and cool inside and has lovely benches in the front garden, too.

As always, feel free to drop in, call us at 519-461-1150, or email us at thorndale_staff@middlesex.ca with any questions. We hope to see you at the library this summer!

COLUMN —

HOSTING UKRAINE: Marking a Milestone

By VJ Knutson

Luda suggested she could bake a cake, and maybe make ‘pancakes’ filled with apples, or cottage cheese, or other tasty treats. I couldn’t imagine why we would need all that food.

“My birthday falls on a Tuesday,” I reminded her. “Everyone will be working.”

She shrugged and let it drop.

“Mom,” Natasha messaged. “I can do your hair.”

“Really, I don’t have the energy right now. Maybe next week?”

“What time do you wake up in the morning. I will come to you.”

I couldn’t imagine what all the fuss was about. If they were thinking my family would come to celebrate me, they would be disappointed. My children work, and have kids in sports. They will not be dropping by. Besides, I just recovered from a bad case of food poisoning. Haven’t eaten much in twelve days. I’d be happy with a chill day.

The doorbell waking me from a sound sleep signaled otherwise. Eyes barely open, still sporting my nightgown, I wandered out to discover Alina and little André. Alina handed me a large bouquet of chocolates, strawberries, and marshmallows. “Gluten free!” she proudly announced. On the counter beside her was a box tied with a ribbon. More chocolates, all carefully made to consider my food allergies.

I was deeply moved, and also aware that I needed to put some clothes on. Not long after, Natasha arrived, with family in tow, and...more flowers, presents, and a homemade, also gluten free, lasagna, still hot. She pulled out a chair and set to work on



my hair.

Iryna returned from driving her son to camp, also laden down with presents, including a handmade bouquet of chocolates, birds, butterflies, and art supplies. I was feeling overwhelmed.

The day continued this way, with surprise visitors (all Ukrainians) and many gifts. Luda smiled in the background, knowing I had not expected such an outpouring of love. At one point, there were twelve of us sitting around the living room, reminiscing

about how in the beginning there were less than a handful of families. Now there are thirty-three families

we count as our community – 88 individuals.

“You have no idea, VJ, of what a difference you have made,” one of our newer arrivals told me. “For months we waited in Europe for our visas to come through. All the time we worried about where we would go and what would happen when we arrived in Canada. We knew no one. And then someone gave me your name and contact, and you answered my message telling me you had found a host!”

“Ric and I could never have imagined all this would come of offering to host one family.”

“Three people,” Ric added. “I only ever agreed to one mom and two kids.”

We all laughed, and it felt so good to know that we are forever bonded by this one, small act.

At the end of the day, Lesia counted nine bouquets of flowers, 2 chocolate bouquets, and more visitors than I could have ever imagined.

On Tuesday last, I turned 65. What a milestone!

Till next time.

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

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COLUMN —

FROM THE GARDEN: Edible flowers



By Nancy Abra

A flower garden is very pleasing to our senses – sight, smell, touch, but what about taste! Edible flowers can add a culinary purpose to your flower garden.

Chefs have always used various garnishes to their plated creations but eating flowers has become increasingly fashionable in fine cuisine. Edible flowers offer gourmets a new range of colours, forms, textures, scents and even flavours. Long before it was trendy or fashionable to serve flowers as edible garnishes or part of the gourmet dish, the consumption of flowers dates back thousands of years.

Bitter herbs, such as dandelions

and chicory, are referred to in the Old Testament. Also, the Romans used mallow and violets. Roses occupied an important place on the tables of kings during the Middle Ages. Edible flowers were especially popular in the Victorian era during Queen Victoria's reign.

Many different cultures have incorporated flowers into their traditional foods. For instance, oriental dishes make use of daylily buds. Italian, Hispanic, and Asian cultures utilize the stamens from crocus, squash blossoms and petals from roses.

There are perhaps 100 types of common garden flowers that are both edible and palatable. But I must caution you - Do not eat flowers obtained from a florist, greenhouse, or nursery. In many cases these flowers have been treated with pesticides not labelled for food crops. Your best bet is to grow them yourself, and then you know they are completely chemical free. They are also available at local

farmers markets so you can check that out too.

For some people, eating pollen can trigger allergies or even asthma, so to be safe remove the pollen-bearing parts of each edible flower (the pistils and stamens). It is also important to do some research because not all flowers are edible. Some can cause serious stomach problems, and some are quite poisonous, such as lily of the valley.

Flowers are rich in nectar and pollen, and some are high in vitamins and minerals. For instance, roses—especially rose hips—are very high in vitamin C, while dandelion blossoms contain vitamins A and C. The tastes are different too, from bitter to sweet and savoury to spicy. The best part is, edible flowers are nearly calorie-free.

Pick your flowers in the early morning when the blooms are the freshest and the water content is high. Be sure to wash flowers thoroughly in lightly salted water to get rid of any insects. Perk them



up by dropping into a bowl of cold water for 30 seconds, then drain on paper towels. Carefully remove petals and you may want to trim off the whitish part of the petal where it connects to the stem, as it can often be bitter. You can store petals for a day in a plastic bag in the refrigerator, but your optimum goal

should be to use them within a few hours.

Edible flowers can be used in drinks, jellies, desserts, soups, main dishes and salads. Besides adding taste, colour and texture to your special luncheon or dinner, they are a great conversation starter. Give them a try!

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Riddles

What is silver and has a head and tail but no legs or arms?

A coin

What is a bunny's favourite music?

Hip Hop

What is a kangaroo's favorite year?

Leap year

What's the best way to paint the ocean?

In watercolours

What a cow's favourite past time?

Going to the MOOvies

How do pigs get to the hospital?

By HAMbulance

What is a racer's favourite sauce?

Ketch-up

How do you fix a broken pizza?

With tomato paste

What happened when 500 hares got loose on the main street?

The police had to comb the area

Why did the girl throw the clock out the window?

Because she wanted to see time fly

There are many castles in the world, but who is strong enough to move one?

Any chess player

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Word List

Canada Day

Ice cream cart

Threads app

Twitter becomes X

Heritage festival

Amish departing

OGradys sold

Barbie

Oppenheimer

Eats and Treats

Womens World Cup

Summerfest

Rainy July



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What does baseball and pancakes have in common?



They both rely on the batter!

Aiden Smith (4)

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Our first-ever fish featured as Pet of the Week is Adonis Bender! He's a 7-month-old male dragon scale beta fish and a Chicago Blackhawks fan eagerly anticipating their upcoming season with Connor Bedard. Adonis enjoys music from Drake and Bon Jovi, and his favorite movies are Rocky 4 and Cars 2. While he dislikes taps on the glass from his owner, he understands the concern. Wishing Adonis a healthy and prosperous life with his yellow submarine!



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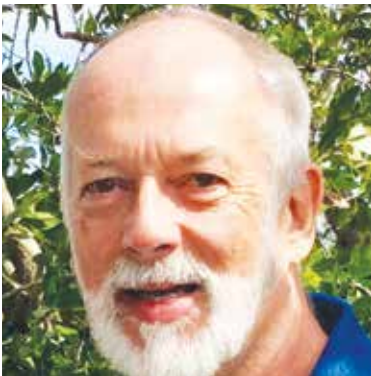
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Please remember that leaving pets in an unattended vehicle (even for just a few minutes) can have life threatening consequences. If you see a pet left in a hot car, please call 911.

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COLUMN —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Kermit the king of Key Lime Pie



By Paul Knowles

Some people think he's a statue. Others, that he is a cartoon character brought to life. Me? I think he's a genius. And a terrific chef.

I'm talking about Kermit Carpenter, owner and founder of Kermit's Key West Key Lime Pie Shoppe.

If you have been to Key West, odds are good that you've seen Kermit decked out in what he calls Key Lime yellow, posing with a pie in front of his main Key Lime Pie shop. I got the chance to photograph him and then spend some quality time with Kermit in the crowded office next door to his shop and restaurant.

And he gave me the recipe for success in the Key Lime Pie business.

Actually, he gave me two recipes – one, the story of how he became the leading figure in the Key Lime Pie world; the second, the actual recipe for his pie. Because it isn't a secret. It's right on any bottle of Kermit's Key Lime juice you might wish to purchase.

But that doesn't mean his pies aren't special. They are. In fact, when the bicentennial of the Florida Keys was celebrated last month, the centerpiece was a 4-meter in diameter Key Lime pie created by Kermit and a colleague.

He says that the open secret is, "My juice is double strength... it adds a little firmness to the pie".

Kermit came to Key West 31 years ago after living in West Virginia and then in Maryland. Why? One word – "cold". His grandmother lived in the Keys and visits to her inspired Kermit to move as far south as you can in the United States. They also inspired something that would establish his career for the next decades. "My grandmother taught me how to make Key Lime pie" he told me.

He found an available location in Key West at the corner of Greene and Elizabeth and opened a store. To which nobody came. The first months were a challenge.

But then two things changed. First, Key West built the boardwalk that is now crowded with visitors and locals strolling along the waterfront, visiting the shops and restaurants. And second, Kermit threatened a trolley driver.

Well, that's sort of true. Kermit had decided to be his own trademark so he had taken to standing in front of his store, decked out in his colourful chef's costume, pie in hand.

The tourist trolleys and

Conch Train routes run right past his shop but the drivers were always pointing out the music studio then owned by Jimmy Buffett on the other side of the street. Passengers were always looking the other way! Until one day when Kermit caught the eye of a trolley driver and pretended to throw his Key Lime pie at the chap.

The driver loved it and directed his passengers' attention to the crazy pie-throwing chef. It caught on with other drivers and Kermit's marketing problem was solved.

To this day, you can usually spot Kermit in front of the store. "In season, I try to get out there," he says. "It's fun".

But he also has a big business to run. There are now two Kermit Key Lime Pie Shoppes in Key West, the second on iconic Duval Street. And Kermit ships thousands of Key Lime pies throughout the US from a 30,000 square foot warehouse farther north located elsewhere in Florida. He has a total staff of 35.

And the guy will turn 80 years of age in October. So I asked about his succession plan. He gave me a quizzical look. There is no succession plan because there is no plan for Kermit to stop working!

Besides, in addition to making a living for himself and his staff, Kermit makes a huge difference in his community. He donates to dozens, perhaps hundreds, of charities.

When Kermit came to Key



Kermit, the king of Key Lime Pies. (Photos by Paul Knowles)

West and started making his pies from his grandmother's recipe, there was only one other Key Lime pie business in the city. Today, every restaurant worth its salt has Key Lime pie on the menu including a breakfast joint called Blue Heaven where you can top off an excellent breakfast with a unique slice of their pie.

Does the competition bother Kermit? He laughs. "Try 'em all," he says. "It makes for a fun thing to do".

Kermit gives this suggestion with the confidence that, when all is ordered and eaten, folks will return to Kermit's shop – including celebrities who drop by from time to time. He laughs that country-rock star Zac Brown ordered a blueberry Key Lime pie and "he ate the whole

thing".

I didn't eat a whole pie but I scarfed down a nice slice of Kermit's original Key Lime pie – yum! And I then shared a slice of Coconut Key Lime pie with Kermit – also yum!. Kermit admits that he eats at least a few bites of his pie "almost every day".

He claims that he is trying to adjust his working schedule a bit to allow him to travel farther afield than the sidewalk in front of his shop. But it's hard to believe he'll ever leave for very long because, as Kermit told me, "It's fun. It's been fun from day one".

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.



Blue Heaven, which serves Key Lime pie for breakfast.



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Experience:

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THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Thorndale Library August events - See Page 17

St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 25

Friday, August 4

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

Saturday, August 5

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 am to Noon
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm

Sunday, August 6

- Windmill Family Campground Classic & Antique Car Show - Noon to 4 pm

Monday, August 7

- Civic Holiday

Wednesday, August 9

- Melodies at the Museum featuring La Grove at Cadzow Park - 7 to 8 pm

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COLUMN —

Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

This week's Funday Friday event is Nature Nearby with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. Participants will join Hannah from the UTRCA at the Lion's Pavilion at Milt Dunnell Field (The Flats) at 10:00am tomorrow (Friday, August 4th) for a morning of outdoor fun. You will learn how to discover and appreciate nature in our community. To sign up for this special event, please visit tinyurl.com/SMPL-Summer-Program. Please note that caregiver supervision is required for Funday Friday events.

This Week's Recommendation

Nature truly is all around us, and thus something we often take for granted. A great way to explore nature in our own backyards is by borrowing one of our Birdwatching Kits. Each kit comes with a pair of binoculars and bird identification guides. Place a

hold on one of these cool kits today!

Up This Week

Friday, Aug. 4th: Funday Friday – Nature Nearby with UTRCA @ the Flats (10:00am)

Saturday, Aug. 5th: Open 10:00am-4:00pm

Monday, Aug. 7th: CLOSED

Tuesday, Aug. 8th: Reading Help (10:30am-12:00pm), Wonder Workshop (1:30pm-3:00pm)

Wednesday, Aug. 9th: EarlyON – Play and Read (9:30am-10:30am), STEAM League (10:30am-12:00pm), Reading Help (1:30pm-3:00pm), Mahjong Intro (1:00pm-2:00pm), Mahjong! (2:00pm-4:00pm), Scrabble (6:00pm-8:00pm)

Thursday, Aug. 10th: Mahjong Intro (6:00pm-6:30pm), Mahjong! (6:30pm-8:00pm), FOL Newcomers' Social (7:00pm)

LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

Going to Disney World

25 years ago (1998)

The new Grand Trunk Trail seemed to be in constant use over the holiday weekend by walkers, joggers and cyclists. Kinsmen completed the installation of the bridge decking last Wednesday evening. The 70ft high viaduct, built in 1858, offers a panoramic view of St. Marys and the Thames River.

The 1st annual Prospect Hill Classic car show last Saturday attracted about 180 vehicles. About 600lbs of food was also collected for the St. Marys Salvation Army foodbank. After the show, there was a parade of cars around the campground.

Lanny Hoare of St. Marys is already familiar with Disney World, but a year from now he'll be an expert. This month he'll begin a year-long work term at the Canadian pavilion at Epcot Centre, what he describes as a "dream job". The 21-year-old is taking a break from university in order to work in Florida. He just finished his second year at the University of Western Ontario, majoring in music.

50 years ago (1973)

A St. Marys lawn bowling team has advanced to the all-Ontario finals. The team of Doug Fenn, Len Boreham, and skip Larry McLellan defeated London, Ridgetown, and Woodstock. They now travel to Kingston for the finals.

Ed Carr is making good and careful progress on the rebuilding of the wall on Widder Street at St. Marys Presbyterian church.

The concrete silos on King Street South were smashed to rubble yesterday, thus removing a long-standing eyesore from that neighbourhood. The silos were originally built by the late W.C. Kidd for coal storage, but have not been used in the past several decades.

75 years ago (1948)

The P.U.C. men have been trimming the big willows opposite Louis Martin's garage, whose branches have been interfering with power lines and cutting off the power during recent storms.

According to several observant citizens a safety check-up could well be made on many of the cars using our local streets and highways. Other night cruising vehicles which travel without a muffler could also be investigated by police.

Robert Lince has commenced the building of a double dwelling opposite Cadzow Park on Park Street, on a vacant lot purchased by Bert Bage. Mr. Lince plans to occupy one half of the house and his son Ivan Lince the other portion, when the structure is completed.

The Great Star Mill is operating again in the making of flour, after a two-month shutdown due to extensive changes in machinery. Several new sifters were installed during the interval, new chutes were built, and much repair work completed by a staff of millwrights and the regular employees.

100 years ago (1923)

For the first time this summer, St. Marys citizens were entertained by the music of the Cement Company Kiltie Band on Island Park. The band has been disorganized since last season owing to financial difficulties and a rift in the ranks. Prof. Bishop, with the aid of the Board of Trade, twice attempted to bring the two factions together, but without results. To get the band again into being, the Cement Company employees, who are members of the unit, got together last week and elected Mr. Frank Allen Sr. as leader, and on Thursday night they appeared on Island Park and gave a fine concert to the assembled audience.

The church leagues are putting up a splendid brand of lacrosse each Tuesday evening and citizens would do well to attend these games, not only to witness a good game, but to encourage youngsters in the sport.

The much-needed improvements in the Park Street drain were commenced by the Board of Works employees this morning.

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Solutions on page 27

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OBITUARY

Thibodeau



Wanda Mae Thibodeau (Burnard) of St. Marys passed away peacefully at the Wildwood Care Centre on July 24, 2023 at the age of 85 years after spending her lifetime in the St. Marys area.

Predeceased by her parents Milton and Velma (Hepburn) Burnard. Predeceased by her former husband Bill Thibodeau of London (2009). Survived by her daughter Sharon Berling (Todd) of Calgary, and son Wayne Thibodeau (Jodi) of London and grandchildren John Thibodeau, Megan Berling (Malcolm), and Chad Berling.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the Happy Valley Family Health Team, and a special thanks to the wonderful staff at Wildwood Care Centre where Wanda spent the last 4 years.

The Funeral Service was held at the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home on July 28, 2023. Interment took place in St. Marys Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to St. Marys Veterinary Clinic. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca. Now, or while thinking of Wanda, please perform a random act of kindness for someone else!

OBITUARY

Broers



Jerry Broers, in his 90th year, passed away peacefully on Saturday July 29, 2023 surrounded by family. Survived by his loving wife, Kathy, of 57 years, proud father of Jack, Teresa (Daniel), Anita (Warren), Rudy (Sacha), and loving grandfather of Matthew, Jacob, Natalie, Liev and Arie. Also survived by his sister, Trien, in Holland.

Jerry was born in 1934, the second youngest of 11 children on a farm in Benningbroek, North Holland. He married Kathy and immigrated to Canada in 1965, and settled on a dairy farm outside of St. Marys. Jerry loved gardening, woodworking and entertaining guests.

With his wife, he often travelled back to Holland as well as to many other parts of the world. He was a proud Canadian, a loving husband, a devoted father and a cherished Opa. Special thanks to the staff of McGarrell Place for their care and kindness.

Visitation will be held at Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, 47 Wellington St. S. St. Marys, on Thursday August 3rd from 2-4 and 7-9pm. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Holy Name Of Mary Parish, Northwest corner of Widder St. E. and Peel St. N., St. Marys, on August 4th at 11am.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

OBITUARY

Mahar

Frederick Patrick Mahar passed away peacefully at Hillside Manor on July 28, 2023. Born in Charlottetown P.E.I. February 5th, 1934, he was predeceased by his father and mother and sister Jean.

Beloved husband of Genevieve (Petersen), Loving father of Eric, Katherine (Mike) and Diane (Brad). Four grandchildren, Tanya, Alexander, Kaden and Parker and great grandchildren Aivree, Logan and Katelyn.

Fred loved his harmonica and after retiring from the Beacon Herald Stratford, he became a member of the Happy Harmonicas in Kitchener and later play with the Jamboree in St. Marys.

Many thanks to the caring staff at Hillside Manor, Stratford General Hospital and St. Marys Memorial staff. Our children were so very helpful and made a wonderful, caring team. Thank you my darlings.

In keeping a promise to Fred's wishes, cremation has taken place. A family gathering will be held at a later date. Donations can be made to a charity of your choice.

IN MEMORIAM

Ball



Matthew Walter James
December 17, 1979 –
August 6, 2004

In loving memory of our precious Matthew who left us 19 years ago on August 6, 2004

In life we loved you dearly
In death we love you still,
In our hearts you hold special place
That no one else can fill.
It broke our hearts to lose you
But you did not go alone,
Part of us went with you
The day you were called home.

You are always loved, forever missed and never forgotten. Mom and dad, your son Justin, sister Lisa and family, brother Murray and family.

Nairn

In loving memory of a special husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, who left us suddenly, August 3rd 2005.

This month comes with deep regret
It brings back a day, we can't forget
They say memories are golden
Well, maybe that is true
But, we never wanted memories
We only wanted you by our side

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Your wife Marilyn, sons, Jamie & Gwen,
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