

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1171

Thursday, August 10, 2023

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Frank Doyle retires after 23 years at the Independent



Like this difficult hole at River Valley where Frank was pictured above, the newspaper industry over the past couple decades has been an uphill battle - yet through perseverance he made it to the top. (Stewart Grant, 2019 photo)

By Stewart Grant

This week marks the end of an era at the St. Marys Independent as we pay tribute to founder and editor-in-chief Frank Doyle, who has resigned from the newspaper to be closer to his family while he battles health issues.

Within this week's paper, I've included Frank's August 3, 2023 letter to the Independent (and to its readers) in which he reflected on his experience while making the difficult decision to step down. This can be found on page 4.

We know that Frank will be faithfully reading this week's Independent online, and it is my hope that he enjoys reading letters to him, beginning on page 8, from some of the many people he's developed relationships with over the past several years.

Just over three years ago, we celebrated the milestone of 1,000th edition of the St. Marys Independent, dating back to the first paper on June 1, 2000. Within that issue #1000, Frank had written an excellent piece reflecting on the journey. We've re-printed that collection of memories on page 11.

Kids steal first base and Hall of Fame would like it back

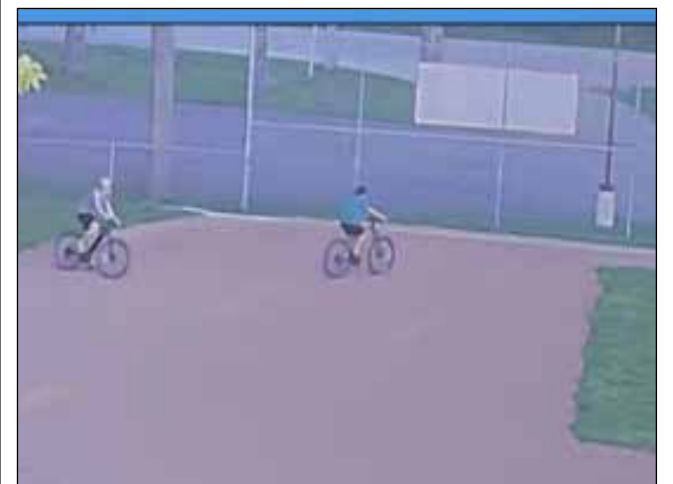
By Stewart Grant

On July 8th, Elly De La Cruz of the Cincinnati Reds accomplished a rare feat in Major League Baseball history when he became just the 55th player ever to steal second base, third base, and home plate all in the same inning.

No one in MLB history has ever successfully stolen first base (it's impossible to reach first base by stealing it), but sadly, first base at the JMRD Field at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame literally was literally stolen just before 8:00 p.m. on Friday night.

Scott Crawford, Director of Operations at the Hall of Fame, posted security footage online during the weekend in the hopes of tracking down the stolen base which was lifted by two youngsters who entered the field on bicycles at 7:51 p.m.

As of Tuesday morning, first base had not been recovered. Crawford is simply asking for the base to be returned to the Hall of Fame so that the organization doesn't have to incur the costs of buying a new one.



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COMMUNITY —

Fire Department conducts “Push-In” ceremony for new fire engine

The St. Marys Fire Department conducted a fire truck “Push-In” ceremony on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, to recognize the arrival of the brand-new engine, a 2023 Freightliner Top Mount Enclosed Cab Pumper.

A time-honoured tradition among fire stations, a “Push-In” ceremony occurs when the fire department pushes a new fire truck into the station.

Dating back to the 17th century, “Push-In” ceremonies originated when early hand-drawn fire engines and other apparatuses required hand pushing into the station after every call.

In the 18th century, horse-drawn steam engines were used to help extinguish fires, but they could not be backed up into the station. The horses were disconnected, and the firefighters manually pushed the engine into the station.

In the 19th century, motorized fire engines became popular and didn’t need to be pushed in. Firefighters have continued the tradition of pushing in new trucks to honour the “Push-In” ceremony.

The Fire Department’s new engine has a 700-gallon water tank that can pump 1,050 Imperial gallons of water



Members of the St. Marys Fire Department perform a “Push-in” ceremony to celebrate the arrival for their new fire engine.

per minute and 30 gallons of A Class foam. The truck also features three different sized ladders, and over 2,400 feet of fire hose.

The new fire engine is replacing a Freightliner fire engine that was built in 1999. The old pumper served the community well but will be placed up for auction in the coming months.

“The services that the fire department provides have changed significant-

ly over the last 20 years” said Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Edwards. “The engine has become a multi-purpose vehicle capable of mitigating a variety of emergencies besides fires. Fire engines are equipped with medical equipment, rescue tools, water rescue gear, power saws, and large fans to exhaust smoke and toxic gases.”

“Our firefighters bravely face danger when entering a burning structure without hesitation,” said Fire Chief Richard “Andy” Anderson. “This new fire truck will help our St. Marys fire-

fighters continue to provide safe fire protection for everyone.”

About the new engine

The new engine is equipped with several enhancements over the model it is retiring including:

- Enclosed cab with air conditioner/heater so the pump operator is protected from extreme weather elements
- Ergonomic hose deployment and equipment storage
- Added vehicle extrication tools for faster motor vehicle extrication
- Lower emissions from battery-operated hand tools
- Telescopic monitor nozzle with a handheld controller
- Rear view camera system
- Command light system with a handheld controller
- Upgraded emergency flashing red and blue LED lights and sirens

The St. Marys Fire Department thanks the community and Council for their support and are proud to be equipped with the new truck to continue to keep residents safe.

Questions about the St. Marys Fire Department can be directed to randerson@town.stmarys.on.ca or 519-284-1752.



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COMMUNITY —

PC Connect to increase rural route frequency

Effective Tuesday, September 5, 2023, PC Connect will be offering increased frequency on the Rural Route (previously Route A), by adding four new trip options Monday - Friday. Perth County is extremely excited to improve their public transit service by offering more ride options on one of the most travelled PC Connect routes. The new Rural Route schedule will provide riders with more opportunities to travel to and from Stratford, Mitchell, Listowel, Milverton, and many communities in between. Increasing frequency on the Rural Route will make it easier for riders to get to work, appointments, social activities, and so much more. An updated Rural Route Saturday schedule will also be implemented on September 5, 2023.

"In the world of public transit, frequency is freedom," said Maggie Kerr, Transit Project Coordinator. "Offering increased frequency means that riders will spend less time waiting for the bus, and will have the liberty to better align their travel with their own schedule and commitments. We

are pleased to be able to offer more frequency where there is public transit demand, ultimately creating a faster, more reliable, and more efficient service."

In order to further the efficiencies of the service, PC Connect Route B will no longer be in operation. Following the last day of Route B service on Friday, September 1, 2023, riders will continue to be served through the PC Connect Rural, 1, 2 and 3 Routes. For more information on the new schedules, please visit perthcounty.ca/pconnect.

Launched in November of 2020, PC Connect is funded by the Government of Ontario's Community Transportation Grant Program. Since launch, the service has welcomed over 23,000 riders aboard its fleet of 5 buses. PC Connect operates 5 routes Monday to Saturday, serving Perth County, Stratford, St. Marys, Kitchener/Waterloo and London. For route maps, schedules and more information about PC Connect, please visit: perthcounty.ca/pconnect



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EDITORIAL —

Reflections from Frank

Dear Stewart:

When I started the St. Marys Independent newspaper, the philosophy was to have a paper that would be educational, informative, and entertaining.

Looking back on the adventure of starting up a newspaper, there were many ups and downs. One of the highlights in the early days which gave us some credibility was when we published a Boo for the police. People could not understand how we could be so bold so as to do this, but it showed we would not shy away from the truth and would keep everyone honest.

Following this, we always tried to cover every story in a fair and meaningful manner.

We had great success with the Bravos and Boos each week, as well as highlighting people in the community like the Senior of the Week, Teen of the Week, Riddle Kid, and even Pet of the Week. I smile when I think about how many homes in town have photos of family members on their refrigerators cut out of the Independent.

Our April Fool's Day front pages always managed to trick at least a few readers, and the homecoming edition and our one-thousandth edition are highlights to me. My only true regret is that I was not around long enough to become the senior of the week - for some unknown reason, Stewart, you never took my picture!

Probably what put us over the top was when you, Stewart, took over as owner of the newspaper. This provided a very professional look which continues today. I would have liked very much to contribute to the Independent for many years into the future.

However, all good things must come to an end. Under the present circumstances which are out of my control, I must submit my resignation effective immediately. I do not take the decision lightly, but have concluded I can no longer give at the standard the newspaper deserves.

I want to thank you, Stewart, as well as June and Murray Grant for always having my back and giving me every assistance needed to produce a world-class newspaper every week. Beyond this, the friendship of your family and your many kindnesses along with Wendy, Tyler, and the rest of the staff remains with me today.

To conclude, I congratulate you, Stewart, not only on what the Independent has become but also on the various new publications that continue to spring up in the area. I have no doubt that each and every one of them will be a great success. Having played my part in this will always be for me a point of pride.

I Remain,

Yours Sincerely,

Frank Doyle

Bravo

We have 2 Bravos this week

- 1) Bravo to Frank Doyle for giving the town of St. Marys free access to the news for the past 23 years.
- 2) A big Bravo goes to the amazing ladies who quickly came to the aid of my boyfriend and I after our car accident on August 1st. I wish I could have thanked you ladies in person. I truly cannot thank you enough!

Boo

We have 1 Boo this week

- 1) Boo to kids on bikes and scooters that do not adhere to the rules of the road. Travelling down Huron Street on Monday morning, we stopped at the 4 way stop on Elgin. We were about to proceed when a bicycle, not making any stop on Elgin, crossed Huron Street. This is not the first time we have witnessed this. Someone is going to get seriously hurt because of incidents like this.

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

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

Quote of the Week

"Today, an indictment was unsealed charging Donald J. Trump with conspiring to defraud the United States, conspiring to disenfranchise voters, and conspiring and attempting to obstruct an official proceeding."

- Special Counsel Jack Smith on August 1, 2023

St. Marys Independent

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

Publisher / Editor

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.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, Jake Grant



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The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS
OF THE WEEK

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I guess Sophie was
tired of Justin not
answering any of her
questions.

The biggest problem
with that Church &
Jones intersection is
people's bad driving.

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 —

Best Beer meets Best Ribs



Ryan Leaman of Broken Rail Brewing (St. Marys, ON) and Tex Robert Jr. of Texas Jack's Famous BBQ Pit (Texarkana, TX) became fast friends this past weekend at the annual London Ribfest. While Tex added another "Best Ribs" award to his legendary status in the industry, Leaman was thrilled to have Broken Rail's Tesla's Revenge IPA named "Best Beer" at this year's Ribfest.



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STONETOWN

CRIER The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



ST. MARYS LIBRARY PANTRY

The Library Pantry and Friends Fridge are in need of items like granola bars, yogurt, and other individually wrapped snacks. All donations are greatly appreciated and accepted during library opening hours.

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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



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museum@town.stmarys.on.ca or 519-284-3356

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Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Helena Turner who will be celebrating her 89th birthday on August 10th. Helena has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandsons. Helena was born in Walkerton. She lived in London before coming to St. Marys in 1966. While living in St. Marys, Helena worked for Dr. Bruce Andrews for 25 years. Happy birthday Helena.

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

Weekend Quiz

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- 1) What is the formula for the chemical compound known as "carbon dioxide"?
- 2) In which country would you find the ancient city of Machu Picchu, often referred to as the "Lost City of the Incas"?
- 3) During which years did WWI occur?
- 4) Which animal is capable of rotating its head up to 270 degrees in both directions?
- 5) Who was the first woman to become the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom?
- 6) What are the names of the Titanic's two sister ships?
- 7) Who sculpted the famous statue of "David"?
- 8) In the 2000 horror/thriller film "American Psycho", which actor plays the leading role of Patrick Bateman?
- 9) In the nursery rhyme "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," what is the object that the star is compared to?
- 10) Fissures, vents, and plugs are all associated with which geological feature?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

COMMUNITY —

Fun Night at Kirkton-Woodham Pool



Kirkton and Woodham hosted their annual Fun Night on Wednesday August 2. The event included a free barbecue, silent auction, swimming demonstration, and free swim. Pictured above left, Chelsey and Taylor Passmore were in charge of the buttered popcorn. Above right are lifeguards Ella Brodhagan, Claire Ankers, Molly Battam, Kyrie Bergsma, and Owen Ingram. (Nancy Bickell photos)



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COMMUNITY —

Expand your International Experience and welcome young students to Canada

Sarah Riley, Red-Leaf Host Family Recruiter, is seeking families who would enjoy hosting an international student for a portion of the school year or the entire school year [there is remuneration]. A host family can live anywhere in those two counties to participate. Sarah herself had hosted with Red-Leaf for a full decade before taking her position as host family recruiter, and found the experience over that time vastly enriched her family homelife. Students bring with them unique cultural knowledge, wonderful cuisine, and amazing personalities who offer each host family member a deeper understanding of the world.

The Canadian Red-Leaf company:

With over 35 years of experience forging the leaders of the future, Red-Leaf specializes in internationalization and educational mobility with Canada as an exclusive destination. Red-Leaf advises parents, students, schools, institutions and governments in the design, planning and execution of educational mobility plans which contribute to the development of skills that improve the personal capacities and future professional competencies of our young people.

Sarah Riley was featured as a guest on Community Conversations [St. Marys Radio bi-weekly, Tuesdays @ 1 PM and repeated @ 8 PM bi-weekly Tuesdays] this spring 2023 speaking about her great work with Red-Leaf and the incoming international students who are studying in Huron or Perth counties, staying with host families. Red-Leaf promotes Canadian education, obviously, and students from across the globe highly value an opportunity to travel to Canada, study here, and experience life in our country within a family setting. Most international students coming through this program are between ages 14 and 17, hailing from all over the world. Part of the screening process for families is that all members of the family 18 and over must do a police check to ensure the safety of incoming students. Once families indicate an interest to know more on the website [see below con-

tact info for online interest form], filling out the online form, they are contacted by Sarah for a home visit and a discussion of their interest. Host families are matched with a student suitable to your family. Factors such as the student's age, gender, diet, pets and interests are considered when making a match. This could well be an experience of a lifetime to host a student and show them what Canada has to offer!

Testimonial from a St. Marys' family:

Carla and Mike Brodhagen (of St. Marys, ON):

Our family has hosted 2 students this year from Red leaf. It has been an amazing experience. We have loved sharing our traditions with the girls as well as [enjoying] their traditions.... The lifelong friendships we have made could not be bought for any price. We learned so much from our two girls from Spain...This has been the best experience of our life!

Testimonial from a Barrie family:

Cherrybel and James Allan Tomas

Our whole family is very grateful for being able to bring the world into our 4 corners to experience different cultures from around the globe, interact with young people, and learn something new every single day... the joy of giving them a home away from home and seeing them mature in various forms is priceless ... they have touched our hearts and have imprinted an indelible mark in us. ...After some months of being under one roof and experiencing precious moments with them... it is undeniable that we have indeed forged a beautiful friendship that will last a lifetime.

The URL's below will help any interested family to connect swiftly with Red-Leaf:

<https://red-leaf.com/download-red-leaf-programs/>

<https://red-leaf.com/contact-red-leaf/>

Sarah Riley: Red-Leaf Huron-Perth Host Family Recruiter

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COMMUNITY —

Letters to Frank Doyle

Dear Frank,

I looked back at some old information this weekend and saw that it was January of 2013 when you contacted me about setting up the first-ever website for the St. Marys Independent. Who would have ever guessed where the next 10+ years would take us?

In your typical humble fashion, your letter in this week's Independent gives me too much credit for the success of the paper and gives yourself not enough.

It's really quite amazing at the foresight that you had so many years ago when you started this newspaper. The core values that were behind the paper in 2000 are still the same as today. These values are the reason why the Independent has thrived during a time when so many others have not survived.

From the beginning, you understood that a newspaper should be free for all to enjoy, and it should be easily accessible throughout the town. You also knew that the paper should engage with people of all ages. And you knew that ad rates needed to be reasonable so to give local businesses a good return for their investment.

Not only did you have a wise vision for the Independent, but you worked so hard to make it a reality. Aside from graphic design, you did it all. And when you didn't have time to do everything, you always took care of everyone else first, leaving admin tasks like invoicing your clients for another day.

I know that when I offered to buy the newspaper from you in June 2014, you were surely happy to be done with the administrative tasks so that you could focus on the parts of the business that you really enjoyed.

Like you, I have had a love of newspapers since my childhood days. While you and your brothers created news and sports stories as kids, I similarly wrote sports stories and logged detailed statistics about playing baseball, hockey, and golf.

When you accepted my offer to let me join you at the Independent, it was a dream come true for me to help shape this hometown newspaper.

We've always enjoyed making predictions at the Independent, but something that I've never told you is what my own predictions were for the Independent itself. Honestly, I put the "over-under" at how long you'd want to put up with me at 18 months. I know that it's never easy for a former business owner to stick around when things change, but we've managed quite well, I'd say. I learned early on to just leave you alone when you weren't happy with one of my decisions because I knew you'd feel better the next day.

Another over-under prediction that I had was how long the Independent would survive, given that this "internet" invention seemed to be sticking around.



Frank has 14 grandchildren in total, the oldest being Clara (18) and the youngest 4 months (Joseph). Known as "Papa" to his grandchildren who all look up to him, he is present for every single special occasion, including Baptisms, First Communion, Confirmations and more, always with a special Hearn Dairy ice cream cake brought to them all the way from St. Marys.

As you know, it's never been easy, and I thought we'd maybe make it another five years before having to shut down. In other words, I wasn't thinking back then that I'd quit my day job as a Chartered Accountant.

Again, who could have guessed where 10 years would take us. The community of St. Marys has continued to support our newspaper in a way that is very unique in this day and age, and this is because you had the right philosophy from the very beginning, and that philosophy has endured.

Frank, during the last 23 years, you have provided an incredible service to the people of St. Marys through the pages of the Independent. And for me, you are one on a short list of people who have made a monumental positive difference in my life. I'll be forever grateful for our time together.

In closing, I know that it wasn't easy all these years battling for market share with the Journal-Argus, but in the end, you were proven right that St. Marys needed an independent paper. Ultimately, we found out the conglomerates based in Toronto don't give a damn about small towns like St. Marys.

I hope it gives you great comfort and satisfaction to see that the vision that you had for the Independent is now popping up in nearby towns and cities - most recently Stratford, Woodstock, Ingersoll, and Goderich. We are starting to make a difference in these communities by bringing local news coverage back to the way it should be. Of course, we are far from perfect, but we've always tried to get a little better each day.

Who knows where the next 10 years will take us, but one possibility is that your launch of a newspaper in St. Marys in 2000 began a chain reaction that ultimately saved the entire newspaper industry in Canada (or at least southwestern Ontario). In the often-used words of Frank Doyle, it's "something to think about..."

Sincerely,
Stewart Grant

Frank,

I remember the day Stew came to me in 2014 and told me he wanted to buy the Independent. He told me I could step in as the graphic designer for the paper and it would basically be me, you and him running the ship. I'm not sure we even knew what we were doing at first, but with your guidance and experience we somehow printed a quality newspaper every week. As time went on I think I speak for everyone when I say we learned a hell of a lot from you.

For the longest time it was just you and I in the office everyday. The best was watching a Calgary Flames game the night before coming into work and watching them lose and thinking "damn, I'm going to hear it from Frank tomorrow". Sure enough at about 9:01am I'd get the classic "how about them Flames last night?" comment the second I opened the office door. Nothing was worse than when the Leafs also won the same night. I'll also never forget the time when I took over dropping off the papers from you for a brief period of time and you and I drove around St. Marys showing me all the stops and you told me endless stories about "back in the day". Most of them certainly can't be repeated!

Once we moved to remote working during the pandemic I remember thinking "I wonder how this is going to work every week", after a couple "Tyler I need you to walk me through this over the phone" calls later we always made it work. By 12pm Tuesday we seemed to always have the paper full! Another favourite is the dreaded "did you seriously delete that email?" phone call. Nothing beat the classic argument of me thinking an email was useless and you knowing it wasn't. Always in good fun though!

Thanks for everything Frank, I'll definitely never forget the last 9 years.

"See ya Tuesday!"

Tyler Carruthers

Frank,

The first person I ever spoke to at the Independent was you when I dropped off a resumé looking to complete a co-op placement during my high school days. I wasn't sure how this grizzled, quiet man would take to some random high school punk showing up and writing stuff poorly for his paper. But, to your credit, you welcomed me wholeheartedly.

Since day one, you have been the constant. You've become part of the furniture at the Independent. You are a glimpse into a bygone era of journalism that our society is sorely lacking these days. The idea to not charge for the paper, but make it so accessible and beneficial to the community that businesses want to invest in it in the form of advertising because of what it adds to the community, it's truly brilliant to the point that, when there is a renaissance of print journalism in North America, it will not surprise me whatsoever if it's your model that saves the industry.

Getting to discuss and debate the problems of the universe with you was always a great learning experience. Not necessarily because of any one thing you said or did, but because, no matter what was going on, you always talked about it with interest but never with panic. It's easy for someone like me to get riled up about something some politician did or said, but then I'd talk to you and, while you would discuss it intently, you didn't get animated. You have a remarkable ability to recognize craziness without allowing it to make him crazy.

Not seeing you in the office is going to be very strange for a long time, but in a way, you are always going to be in the office. Your fingerprints are literally all over the place. The rustic feel of the office matches your identity and the brand of journalism that you've been stooped in your whole life. Every newspaper that we publish is textured by your vision. You put all of yourself into the Independent since its first issue, and even though your career has come to an end, everyone is still going to feel your spirit in every issue going forward.

Thank you, Frank.

Spencer Seymour

Mr. Frank (as I affectionately call you)

It has been a pleasure working with you over the last couple of years.

When Stewart said we were moving out of the Tavistock office and running the papers out of St. Marys, I wasn't sure what to think. I learned quickly that

Continued on page 9

COMMUNITY —

Letters to Frank Doyle

Continued from page 8

if I bought you a coffee, we would be friends for life.

You always had a quiet way about you but you made me feel comfortable from the minute I stepped into the office to your final day when you stepped out.

What many people in town don't get to see is your quick sense of humor, your adoration for your kids and grandkids and your commitment to the town of St. Marys.

I appreciate our talks we have shared and will miss hearing you and Spencer bantering back and forth on world events and trivia, hearing you tell Tyler every week what a good job he did on the paper and telling people that the number they want for the grocery store is 519-284-1426.

Everytime I go out golfing I will hear you telling me to "hit 'em long and straight"

The time and dedication you invested in the newspaper is something you can be proud of and we will do our best to carry on the high standards that you have set.

Sincerely

Wendy Lamond

A few things come to mind when we think of Frank.

Occasionally, particularly during holiday time, we would bring Frank a special dinner or treats. He thoroughly appreciated the effort and thanked us many times over. A couple of days later, the container would be returned full of chocolates or candy. Frank has a rule. You never return an empty container.

In his letter of resignation, Frank referred to the fact that he had never been the Senior of the Week. Well, it wasn't for lack of trying. It was suggested a number of times but Frank didn't want to be the centre of attention and shied away from getting his picture taken. He preferred to quietly observe from the sidelines.

Over the years, we have developed a great friendship with Frank. Murray always enjoyed the bantering back and forth on political issues and I was always amazed at his collection of past issues of The Independent at easy reach.

We will miss you at the office Frank.

June & Murray Grant

The paper worth reading

When my Dad started the Independent newspaper, I remember being impressed with his creative ideas on how it would stand out and make an impact.

His overriding principle was that it be a fun and informative read. It would have the latest news, some unique perspectives on local and current events, but it



Company golf outing: Stewart Grant, Tyler Carruthers, Frank Doyle, and Pat Payton.

would also have a bit of an evergreen, coffee table feel to it, with jokes, riddles, puzzles, trivia, and a kids page. And, it would be free to all.

In addition to the regular fare, weekly features would focus on highlighting your friendly neighbours in town - Riddle Kid of the Week, Senior of the Week, Teen of the Week were staples. I think that really won people over - it was about them.

I thought one of the more clever features was the "Celebrity of the Week," combining the names of two randomly paired residents to make a celebrity name, both smiling from ear to ear for the camera. It was guaranteed to bring a smile, but one week I remember Dad looking for ideas - it wasn't always the easiest one to come up with!

One of the most talked about things in the newspaper are the "Boos" and "Bravos." At times, people wondered who was writing them, but they were 100% submitted by readers to the editor. I thought that was brilliant.

One time, a reader submitted that they thought the advertising sponsor of the feature was the one drafting the Boos! Of course, that was never the case.

I may have a journalism degree, but Dad knows more about the newspaper business than I ever will. He ran it, he did it, he created it. He was dedicated to serving the residents, and making sure St. Marys had a local news source, by the people and for the people.

It's been a tough time recently for the media in Canada, with consolidation, cutbacks and job losses, and local news has suffered. The Independent stands out as a reminder of what local news can be when the paper truly reflects the town it serves.

Congratulations Dad on your accomplishments! Thanks for giving the town worth living in, a newspaper worth reading.

Christopher Doyle

We at Downtown Pontiac and now All-

Roads Dodge admire and love Frank. We nicknamed him Franklin Delano Doyle, in a fitting tribute to the grit and determination shown by US WWII President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Like "FDR" and his unwavering support of the Commonwealth and Canada, "our Frank" loves his country with a passion. Frank loves its people, loves its sport teams, loves anything Canada. In fact, when the Leafs win, Frank asks the staff at Barista's to give him an L, E, A, F, S in celebration when he walks in every morning for his java and one of Tammy's delicious treats.

Frank loves his Town of St. Marys and shows it in his dependable and heartfelt reporting in the paper he founded, the St. Marys Independent, aptly provided the iconic name "Indy".

Frank saves the best part of his love, admiration, kindness for Indy's customers and of course he gives his heart and complete love each and every day to his family. Frank's greatest contribution to Canada is the wonderful family he has raised.

Bravo Delano for giving us your time, your counsel, your friendship, your hand up.

The Team at AllRoads Dodge

"Thank you Frank"

From your beginning for all the great ads you produced on the back page for St. Marys Ford.

I wrote them and you created them on the back page.

You questioned me on what I wrote lots of times. One time I remember when you didn't know whether to print it or not. But after a discussion between you and I, you said "Hell, let's print it!!!"

Into the Valley of Taxes

Go the People of St. Marys

Into the Valley of Taxes

Downward Downward

You go!!

Based on Lord Tennyson's poem and

the new St. Marys Complex and Pool and Arena.

I wrote them and you developed and printed them. Great Ads!

Thanks, Crazy Joe

Dear Frank,

Thank you for all of your efforts to keep small town news alive and thriving over the years in St. Marys. More importantly, thanks for keeping the politicians honest and continuously focusing on the issues that were important to St. Marys. At a time when journalism seems under attack on many fronts, our community has been able to enjoy local stories with local focus. This has helped build a unique sense of community in the Stonetown.

I have always enjoyed our discussions on political issues and your insights into what was important for St. Marys. As a past member of Council, you always have had a unique perspective of not only both sides of an issue, but what was important for the community.

I have taken great pride in being ahead in our ongoing coffee bet series. Whether it is Trudeau or Trump, you have great insight, but I have managed to squeak ahead when the numbers were tallied. Baristas has profited greatly from your losses.

In difficult times words become difficult to express tough situations. Thank you for your friendship and Godspeed.

Al Strathdee

Frank and I immediately hit it off when I started working for the Town in 2016. Since then, we've spoken weekly, whether by phone or email. Every conversation includes a hint of his wry humour and unique brand of gruff kindness.

Frank has been a mentor for me in my role as Communications Manager. He encourages me at times, challenges me at others. His willingness to ask tough questions inspires me to think critically, improve continuously, and always put residents first.

My relationship with Frank extends beyond the office. He's a loyal friend, never failing to remember work anniversaries and the names and birthdays of my children. In fact, he inspired the name of my son, Cillian, and even sent him a personalized bib and blanket when he was born. Cillian now sleeps with that blanket every single night.

Everyone in my household is pulling for Frank right now. We are thinking of him and his family as they walk down this challenging road.

From one Irish soul to another, sláinte mhaith.

Brett O'Reilly

Continued on page 10

COMMUNITY —

Letters to Frank Doyle

Continued from page 9

I hear that you retired. You started the paper 23 years ago and what a great job you have done. I'm going to miss my routine of seeing you every Wednesday and the chats we shared. All the best to you.

Sergio Boscarato

Dear Frank,

When you own a business in a small town your customers become so much more and you most certainly did.

Getting to know you these past 14 years has given us some truly incredible memories.

You were always up for some town gossip or to celebrate or commiserate over a Leafs game.

We can't even begin to tell you how much your support has meant to us through the years.

We want you to know that we are thinking about you and all that you must be going through. We send you our love and hope that you can find some comfort during this difficult time.

You are such a beautiful person and an inspiration to many.

You have made such an impact on our lives and that will carry on forever.

"Have a good day Frank"

Love Al, Tammy & the rest of the Barista's team

I remember how Frank brought the paper to life in the early days, mostly by himself. His creativity and work ethic made it happen. He told me his favourite columns of mine were the funny ones, and the ones that made predictions about sports. There were great reactions from readers. He wanted to bring joy to people each week and I'm proud to have been a small part of it. Wishing Frank congratulations and hope you are proud of what you built.

Regards, Ben Curran

Frank was the best editor. I will remember his dedication to the paper and how he was able to grow it over the years to now be the voice of St. Marys. I will also remember the gentle and kind reminders from him when I was behind deadline. He also encouraged me to have an authentic voice in my columns. I appreciated that as an editor, he gave me free creative reign to chime in on any topic that was worth talking about that week. He loved the idea of a fresh perspective on a weekly basis. Congrats and thank you Frank.

Renee Stuart

Hey there, my longtime friend.

Just thinking today about standing in



Frank Doyle at his desk surrounded by post it notes and newspapers.

your front window dancing in the flurries at the first snow. Later when we would be out shovelling everyday you would blame me and say Marlene this is all your fault. It was great fun on the street.

We could always chat back and forth discussing what was wrong with everything, don't know if we solved much, but it was always fun.

Marlene Forman

With many small Town's losing their local papers over the last number of years, the Town has always been extremely fortunate to have excellent local coverage. I've had the good fortune to work in a number of small communities throughout my career, and I can say without a doubt the St. Marys Independent is one of the best to provide relevant and faithful coverage of local issues. It goes without saying that Frank Doyle has been instrumental to the Indy's product every week for many many years.

Often times in my job I'm asked "how do things get done?" Yes, we have our formal systems and structures to get things onto the agenda and dealt with. But what many people forget is that there is a practical side to local government, the basic social sciences of group dynamics still apply, just at a community wide level. If something is important, we'll find a way to deal with it both inside and outside of our formal systems.

What many people probably aren't aware of is the impact Frank has on the community besides a great weekly paper. Let me preface this by first saying, I don't think Frank can ever be accused of being partial to the Town. He understands his role to make people aware of what the Town is up to. If he doesn't agree with a decision or a path we are taking, he lets us know. And that's exactly the impact he has on the community: he let's us know.

I've learned over my eight years at the Town that Frank's office tends to be a regular stopping point when somebody wants to know what's going on with the

and let me know what he thinks about an issue. Even those times when we have to agree to disagree, we are always able to find some common ground on the topic of family.

Frank, from my family to yours, we wish you all the best! Keep being that stubborn, strong Irishman that we've all come to know!

Brent, Karen, Dylan, Jakob, Elly and Ethan Kittmer

"zero zero four one!!" "zero zero four one!" This is the message I would have on my voicemail. The last four digits of the Independent newspapers' phone number. Nothing else, just that. It meant that Frank had information on a story or was looking for information! He was never NOT the intrepid reporter. He reported on everything and anything without fear or favour. Honest reporting from an honest man.

I have known Frank for just about 8 years and enjoyed his intellect, his wit and his supportive nature. He was always willing to listen, give sound advice or just share a laugh. His visits always mark the best part of my working day. My storefront window won't be the same without his crazy, frenetic, wild-armed waving every morning.

Thanks Frank for all that you do!

Lisa Fewster, The Wine Lab

Dear Frank,

Through the decades, we have enjoyed your sincere nature, unique personality and true care for your craft.

We thank you for being an exceptional business partner, valued customer and cherished friend which has enriched us, our business, and the entire community.

You'll be talked about for generations with smiles on our faces.

Thanks for all you have done,

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COMMUNITY —

The Independent's first 1,000 issues

Frank recalled the history of the Independent in our April 30, 2020 edition

By Frank Doyle

Wow! 1,000 issues. Even I am impressed! If anyone had told you twenty years ago that in the year 2020 the St. Marys Independent would be the lone local newspaper, you would have had few believers.

So how did we get here? Here is some background and facts to help explain this achievement.

Growing up in Dublin, Ireland with my parents and six brothers, newspapers were always a big part of our lives. We had morning and evening newspapers delivered to our house and there would be a scramble to read them. Of course, dad had first dibs on them and the rest of us would have to wait our turn. In those days newspapers covered a wide variety of current topics such as news and sports, but they also had financial sections plus cartoons, comics and contests. As kids we were so influenced by newspapers we would create our own newspapers and make up news and sports. These newspapers would be four pagers usually but the competition to outdo each other was fierce.

My first job (and last) in Ireland before I came to Canada, was with the Irish Independent Newspaper. This was a daily and I was amazed at how a newspaper was created every day. That may give you some clue as to where the name came from for the paper in St. Marys, but it was also a reference to the fact that this was a one person operation and not one having to answer to a higher power. We would be independent in all ways. So, with the newspaper business in my blood I continually thought about having my own newspaper. The opportunity came about when take-over of newspapers began to happen. I noticed that newspapers like the Beacon Herald, the London Free Press and to a lesser degree the Journal, began to have more national news than local news. This was to a greater degree a financial decision because they could use the same stories in various newspapers at no extra cost.

So, I decided to take the plunge.

Before I started, I talked to many businesses and asked them, if there was a second newspaper in town, would you advertise in it? Almost 100% said they would, so when I was about to print the first issue, I went back to them for an ad, and the majority said that they wanted to see what the first issue looked like. However, people like Chris West and Joe Taylor said "yes" right off the bat and soon thereafter the real estate people



The photo above was taken on July 2, 2015, when the media operations consisted of the St. Marys Independent, the Exeter Examiner, and Evolution Web Management. From left to right: Derek MacDonald, Dan Rankin, Tyler Carruthers, Kyle Harkes, June Grant, Stewart Grant, Frank Doyle, and Randall Sauer.

jumped on board.

The philosophy of the paper from day one was based on three words: we would be "informative, educational and entertaining". This philosophy still applies to this day.

From day one, the goal was to have a local family newspaper. In order to get the entire community involved, we had "Senior of the Week", "Family of the Week", "Teen of the Week", "Riddle Kid" and "Pet of the Week", and of course "Celebrity of the Week". The idea to cover all these groups was to involve all age groups locally. Add local news and views with interesting articles to this and that was the road to achieving success.

The paper in June 2000 was created by just two people: me and a graphic designer. I covered the news and sales, and the graphic designer did the rest. It was time consuming taking pictures when I had to set up things like celebrity, etc. But somehow, we managed every week. Some of the more notable designers were Matt Elpern, Mike Dertinger, Sarah Rath, Kyle Harkes, Sarah Boersen, who was with the paper over seven years and did a great job and of course our present expert, Tyler Carruthers.

I also had really good columnists like Chris Blackman, who wrote "The Red Tory" column and he so impressed Gary Schellenberger that he hired Chris for his constituency office in Ottawa. We also had other colum-

nists like Ralph Pearce, Rene Stuart, Ben Curran, Stephen McCotter with his 'Legal Briefs', Dave Redinger, the 'Neighbourhood Mechanic', Jennifer Bannon from 'Mollets Designer Desserts', Sally Says, and the Friendship Centre had their 'Centre News' column for many years. Other noted scribes included the very popular column by Bill Cubberley and Rob Edney not only had a column but covered Town Council for the paper, and Roger Fuhr, who was covering Perth South politics. Also I had great family support, with my late wife Margaret, our proof reader every week, and the three boys, Christopher, Eamonn and Francis, helping out whenever they could.

The first issues were printed by Oxford Web in Woodstock and the system was that the copy had to be delivered to them by 6 a.m. on Friday morning and cash had to be paid before they would print the paper. They would then deliver the completed paper back to St. Marys later the same day. I would then deliver the paper to the carriers, hit all the grocery and variety stores and all the apartments in town. I would also deliver to the out-of-town spots including Kirkton and area, Thorndale, and Stratford. There is no longer the requirement to take the copy to the printer because it is all done electronically now. As a matter of interest, Oxford Web went bankrupt and we then had the paper printed by Richter Web in

Brantford, who also went bankrupt. We now have the paper printed at Master Web in Mississauga.

From the beginning, the paper was well received by the public, in spite of our flaws and imperfections. As part of our business ethics, we always tried to give advertisers the best value that we could. This was particularly true for new businesses as we knew that it was not easy starting out. A turning point early on was when we put in a Boo for the police, and people could not believe that we would publish that. But we always did try to "tell it like it is" with local issues. One of the most "contentious" issues early on was our battle with the Mayor and Council. If there were things we did not believe in, we would write about it. The elected officials did not appreciate our points, but the public loved it. We so upset the officials that the Town did not advertise with us for close to two years. We survived! However, in the next election, we saw Steve Grose win in a landslide and only one of the incumbents, Don van Galen, was re-elected.

Another contentious issue in those days was the major battle whether to build a second ice pad and pool. We had letters week after week on this subject from those who said we had to have it to stop people from going out of town and who also said this would bring new business to town. The other half said we could never afford it, that taxes would skyrocket and it would hurt the donations for the new Friendship Centre.

The other big issue from the past was the closing of Arthur Meighen and Central Schools. The big debate was where to build the new school and what name it would have. There were many who argued that the Town gave the school board too good of a deal on the land where the school was eventually built.

The major turning point in our success was when Stewart Grant purchased the paper. He and his ideas took the paper to a whole new level which was needed. We went to all colour editions and gave the paper a very professional look. And we have to mention June Grant for her input to all the weekly editions.

Of course, the low point was when we lost Dan Rankin. Words cannot describe our loss of not only a great journalist and writer but a great human being.

Finally, thank you to all for the support over the past 1,000 editions.

SPORTS —

Overholt to represent Canada at World Championships

By Spencer Seymour

St. Marys native Brooke Overholt has been named to the Canadian National Track Team by Athletics Canada and will compete in the 400-metre Hurdles at the World Track and Field Championships to be held in Budapest, Hungary later this month.

Overholt told the Independent that she's "very excited" for the opportunity to compete on a stage that she's been striving to reach her entire athletic career.

"Ever since I started track and field, I've thought about this opportunity and dreamt of one day being on a national team and specifically the national team for the World Championships," said Overholt. "It's something I've watched on TV for many years and worked towards for years so now to finally be going to compete in it, it's definitely a great feeling of accomplishment knowing that the hard work pays off."

While it isn't the first time Overholt will wear a Canadian National Team crest having competed with the U20 Junior squad at the 2019 Pan-Am Games, cracking the national program for the top global track and field meet offers a new level of pride for Overholt in representing her country.

"Being on a national team and representing your country is something that makes you feel really grateful. I had a



(Photo credit: Vanderbilt University Track & Field/Twitter)

taste of it with the Junior team at the Pan-Ams but this is my first Senior team and I feel really thankful that I have the chance to represent Canada again."

The final big test before the World Championships for Overholt was last Sunday, July 30th, when she competed in the Canadian National Championship in Langley, British Columbia. Overholt finished second in the 400-metre Hurdles and was just 0.03

seconds behind Saskatoon's Savannah Sutherland.

"It's always great to compete at Canadian Nationals and it was a really close race, which is nice when you have a good test like that ahead of such a big event like the Worlds," Overholt said. "This was also the last chance for me to improve my rankings before the Worlds so I definitely was leaving everything I had out there."

Overholt said that she felt confident her body of work would be enough to make the National team, but still, she waited with nervous excitement for the official confirmation.

"I raced [last Sunday] at Canadian nationals and was pretty confident that I had a good shot at making the Worlds team, but you never truly know. In the days after, I was just waiting to get the email. Always refreshing my phone, making sure the internet was working."

Finally, the announcement of the team was made last Wednesday and Overholt got the confirmation that she would be heading to Budapest, prompting multiple different feelings as she realized she would indeed be competing on the global stage.

"First, I felt a sense of relief, and then, it was just this overwhelming joy and excitement that I've made it to this level, show the world what I can do, and line up against a great group of women from around the world."

According to Overholt, she began to believe her chances at making Team Canada were really strong after her collegiate finale.

"After the NCAAs was when I really started feeling like I had a good shot at getting to this point. The NCAA Championships set me up really well in terms of my ranking and the race in Edmonton also helped. Certainly in the last few months, I really began believing that if I ran a similar time to what I had been, that making the national team was not just possible, but I likely had a serious chance at making it."

That level of belief, said Overholt, is a vital component to succeeding in an individual sport like hers.

"Confidence is huge. You have to be able to believe in yourself because it's just you out there. You don't have anyone else to rely on. You have to be confident in yourself and your abilities and believe that you deserve that spot, you deserve that lane, and that you can do anything you set your mind to."

Overholt and the rest of the Canadian National Team will be in Budapest from August 19th to 27th for the global competition.



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SPORTS —

Wednesday night Pickleball action

By Spencer Seymour

Another week brought more exciting Pickleball action at the St. Marys Courts. With the sport's popularity growing rapidly every week, 27 members came out to play last Wednesday, resulting in the games being shortened to nine-point wins instead of the usual 11. In any game, the winning team must win by two points.

In one of the feature matches from Wednesday night, Dave Baxter and Matt Payette defeated Chris Evans and Linda McFadden by a score of 9-4. Baxter and Payette used lobs and accurate serves to win this match. Payette is also one of several younger members of the community who have begun playing the sport, which welcomes players of all ages.

Jenn Cronsberry and Brian McKinnon defeated Christian Kerekes and Tracy Marshment by a score of 9-5. This game was entertaining with some good rallies.

Later in the evening one of the notable games was between Cate Hishon and Denis Dumont against Elizabeth



Annette Wrigley and Merlin Leis met Rob Wrigley and Ian Moore during last Wednesday's full night of Pickleball action. The Wrigleys were on opposite sides of the net for this match which saw excellent movement by all contestants as well as fast exchanges at the kitchen line. The Wrigley-Leis pairing won this close match by a score of 10-8. The Wrigleys are also among many family contingents who frequent the Pickleball courts. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

Hill and Jerry Terhaerd. This game went to extra points with Hill and Terhaerd winning 12-10. Hishon and Dumont tried to make a comeback but could not capitalize.

Another game featured Mike McKinnon and Kevin September against Christina Kerekes and Nicki Martin. McKinnon and September made a slow start but turned things around to win 9-6.

Elizabeth Hill and Ian Cronsberry challenged Paul Payette and Jerry Terhaerd in an entertaining game that saw Payette and Terhaerd win

9-6. Hill and Cronsberry mounted a comeback late in the match but to no avail.

Barb Nicholson and Pablo Lopez took on Jenn Cronsberry and Francis Brekelmans. This was a close contest featuring exciting rallies and friendly banter. Nicholson and Lopez took the win by a score of 9-7.

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ST. MARYS, ONTARIO

SPORTS —

New opponents, Sept. 15 start on 23-24 Lincs schedule

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys Lincolns will begin their 2023-24 regular season on home ice on September 15th when they host the St. Thomas Stars.

As part of the GOJHL Showcase Tournament being held in Elmira, the Lincolns will take on the Listowel Cyclones on September 22nd followed by the Port Colbourne Sailors on September 23rd. The final home game of the season for St. Marys will be against their first-round playoff opponent from this past season, the Strathroy Rockets, on March 1st. The Lincs' last game of the season is a visit to St. Thomas on March 3rd.

A new initiative will see the Lincolns face opponents from the two other GOJHL conferences as part of this upcoming season's schedule. Earlier this Summer, the league approved a new schedule modification that will see each team play six interconference games.

The Lincs' series of interconference matchups starts with the defending Golden Horseshoe Champion-Hamilton Kilty B's coming to town on November 10th. The next day, November 11th, will see the Lincs travel to Brantford to take on the Bandits. The Lincs host the Fort Erie Meteors on

December 15th before visiting the Welland Jr. Canadiens on December 17th. The final pair of interconference games starts on February 2nd with the Lincs hosting the Elmira Sugar Kings, followed by a visit to Pelham to battle the Panthers on February 4th.

Lincs facing Warriors, Stars in exhibition games

Later this month, the Lincs will play two home-and-home series as part of their exhibition schedule. On August 25th, the Lincolns will face the Stratford Warriors at the Stratford Rotary Complex. The following day on August 26th, the two teams will face off at the PRC.

Ahead of their season-opening clash, the Lincolns and Stars will play two exhibition games against one another. First, on August 31st, the two teams will face off at the Joe Thornton Community Centre in St. Thomas. Then, the Lincolns will conclude their exhibition schedule against the Stars on September 8th.

For the second consecutive year, Ayr will host the GOJHL Top Prospects and Future Stars games on December 27th. The GOJHL Playoffs will begin on March 6th and the Sutherland Cup Finals will begin on April 17th.

September:

Friday, September 15th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Stars - Pyramid Recreation Centre
Friday, September 22nd, 10:30 a.m. - Lincolns vs Cyclones - Woolwich Memorial Centre (Elmira)

Saturday, September 23rd, 4:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Sailors - Woolwich Memorial Centre (Elmira)

Friday, September 29th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Vipers - Pyramid Recreation Centre

Saturday, September 30th, 7:10 p.m. - Lincolns @ Legionnaires - Pat Stapleton Arena

October:

Friday, October 6th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Kings - Pyramid Recreation Centre

Saturday, October 7th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns @ Rockets - West Middlesex Memorial Centre

Wednesday, October 11th, 7:00 p.m. - Lincolns @ Vipers - Vollmer Recreation Complex

Friday, October 13th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Maroons - Pyramid Recreation Centre

Wednesday, October 18th, 7:15 p.m. - Lincolns @ Nationals - Western Fair Sports Centre

Friday, October 20th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Rockets - Pyramid Recreation Centre

Friday, October 27th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Nationals - Pyramid Recreation Centre

Saturday, October 28th, 7:15 p.m. - Lincolns @ Kings - Komoka Wellness Centre

November:

Friday, November 3rd, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Legionnaires - Pyramid Recreation Centre

Sunday, November 5th, 7:00 p.m. - Lincolns @ Maroons - Chatham Memorial Arena

Friday, November 10th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Kilty B's - Pyramid Recreation Centre

Saturday, November 11th, 4:30 p.m. - Lincolns @ Bandits - Brantford District Civic Centre

Saturday, November 18th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns @ Rockets - West Middlesex Memorial Centre

Sunday, November 19th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns @ Stars - Joe Thornton Community Centre

Thursday, November 23rd, 7:10 p.m. - Lincolns @ Legionnaires - Pat Stapleton Arena

Friday, November 24th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Vipers - Pyramid Recreation Centre

Sunday, November 26th, 7:00 p.m. - Lincolns @ Maroons - Chatham Memorial Arena

Wednesday, November 29th, 7:15 p.m. - Lincolns @ Nationals - Western Fair Sports Centre

December:

Friday, December 1st, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Stars - Pyramid Recreation Centre

Friday, December 8th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns @ Stars - Joe Thornton Community Centre

Saturday, December 9th, 7:15 p.m. - Lincolns @ Kings - Komoka Wellness Centre

Friday, December 15th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Meteors - Pyramid Recreation Centre

Sunday, December 17th, 7:00 p.m. - Lincolns @ Jr. Canadiens - Welland Main Arena

Thursday, December 21st, 7:10 p.m. - Lincolns @ Legionnaires - Pat Stapleton Arena

Friday, December 22nd, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Maroons - Pyramid Recreation Centre

January:

Wednesday, January 3rd, 7:15 p.m. - Lincolns @ Nationals - Western Fair Sports Centre

Friday, January 5th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Kings - Pyramid Recreation Centre

Saturday, January 6th, 7:15 p.m. - Lincolns @ Kings - Komoka Wellness Centre

Wednesday, January 10th, 7:00 p.m. - Lincolns @ Vipers - Vollmer Recreation Complex

Friday, January 12th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Rockets - Pyramid Recreation Centre

Tuesday, January 16th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns @ Rockets - West Middlesex Memorial Centre

Friday, January 19th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Legionnaires - Pyramid Recreation Centre

Saturday, January 20th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Stars - Pyramid Recreation Centre

Friday, January 26th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Maroons - Pyramid Recreation Centre

February:

Friday, February 2nd, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Sugar Kings - Pyramid Recreation Centre

Sunday, February 4th, 2:45 p.m. - Lincolns @ Panthers - Meridian Community Centre

Wednesday, February 7th, 7:00 p.m. - Lincolns @ Vipers - Vollmer Recreation Complex

Friday, February 9th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Nationals - Pyramid Recreation Centre

Friday, February 16th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Kings - Pyramid Recreation Centre

Saturday, February 17th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Nationals - Pyramid Recreation Centre

Monday, February 19th, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Legionnaires - Pyramid Recreation Centre

Friday, February 23rd, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Vipers - Pyramid Recreation Centre

Sunday, February 25th, 7:00 p.m. - Lincolns @ Maroons - Chatham Memorial Arena

March:

Friday, March 1st, 7:30 p.m. - Lincolns vs Rockets - Pyramid Recreation Centre

Sunday, March 3rd, 8:00 p.m. - Lincolns @ Stars - Joe Thornton Community Centre

Youth Tennis lessons hosted at St. Marys Courts



Nine youths ranging from seven to 18 years old participated in the first week of Youth Tennis Lessons at the Don Fletcher Tennis Courts in St. Marys last week. Ross Barnwell, a certified Tennis instructor, has been leading the instructional clinics on Wednesday and Friday mornings, ending this Friday. The teachings include the game's fundamentals including rules and some finer points of the game. Barnwell told the Independent that the program's first week "went very well" and added that the group is filled with "some really good athletes who are eager to learn." Barnwell also mentioned that the goal of the lessons is to introduce the game to the young participants and encourage them to continue playing it for the rest of their lives. (Contributed photo)

SPORTS —

St. Marys area official wins Alliance referee of the year

By Lee Griffi

Perth South resident Ian Waugh is a Level 3 referee who has been officiating since he was 15 years old and is a member of the Stratford Referees Association. His dedication and professionalism have resulted in him winning the 2022-23 Minor Hockey Alliance Referee of the Year.

Waugh transitioned from playing the game to working his way up through the officiating ranks, eventually working games in the Ontario Hockey Association. He is regarded by his peers as being not only a great referee but a friend on and off the ice. He is also well respected by players and coaches, a sign of being an excellent official.

Waugh works full-time as a millwright at Integrated Mechanical Services, and has his own herd of beef cattle, but still finds time to referee. "For the love of the game. To say in the game. For me, it's still a night out at the arena working with the guys and the girls. The camaraderie you just can't get anywhere else. Being a part of the team." When asked if he had one

memory that stuck out, Waugh said it happened close to home at the Allman Arena as the Stratford Warriors battled the Kitchener-Waterloo Siskins. "It would be doing a Cherry Cup game in the lines in Stratford doing the lines for the Ontario Hockey Association. Being back in the Allman, one of the home barns I learned to ref in when I was growing up. There were about 2000 people there and the atmosphere was just wild."

As for his future goals wearing the stripes and the bands, Waugh said he wants to go as far as he can. "I'll just keep working the games I have for now and always try to improve to get to the next level." He added his role in helping younger officials improve their skills is something he will always support. "I look at it the way everyone mentored me growing up with the senior guys in Stratford. They showed me the ropes and it's up to my generation to show these next kids the ropes. Waugh actually stopped playing hockey after his first year of midget in the St. Marys Rock system to take up refereeing full-time. "I just

enjoyed it way too much."

Jake Gansevles is President of the Stratford Referees Association (SRA) and said Waugh's award doesn't come as a surprise. "This season Ian has shown all the characteristics I believe it takes to receive an award of this magnitude. He skates every game with integrity, effort, and determination to be better. He also works with our newer officials in a mentoring capacity." He added the effort the 22-year-old puts in is commendable, to say the least. "He balances officiating in multiple Leagues, a full-time job, and farming while still finding the time to skate with newer officials providing essential and quality mentorship. This past summer, the SRA held a free skate for all ages to help recruit people interested in officiating minor hockey. Waugh not only helped the SRA in organizing the skate but could also be found on the ice teaching and assisting those new to the job." Gansevles said apart from his skill and leadership, Ian is the referee who always has a coffee waiting for a fellow official. "He never asks for

reimbursement or forgets your order. It may seem like a simple gesture, but it goes a long way in bringing the referees together as that third team on the ice."

In Stratford, similar to other areas, there is a need for more officials. On multiple occasions, the lack of available officials meant that games were in jeopardy of being cancelled but Waugh often stepped up in these instances to ensure that the games would be played. He has also been recognized as the Stratford Referees Association's Most Promising Official and Most Improved Official over his career.

The Alliance Hockey Referee of the Year Award recognizes outstanding contributions, involvement, and service to Alliance Hockey in the area of officiating. Recipients have displayed a commitment to the ideals of the association, have worked tirelessly for the improvement of the game at their local association level, and have made a notable impact on both the game and the players involved.

Fowlers win Lawn Bowling tournament



Pictured from left to right are Jack Fowler, Convenor Denis Kearney, and Brian Fowler. The Fowlers were victorious in the most recent Parks Lawn Bowling tournament held at the St. Marys pitch. Jack and Brian went undefeated in the tournament, going a perfect three for three to claim victory. The tournament was generously sponsored by Little Caesars Pizza and Hubbard Pharmacy. (Contributed photo)

Locals earn strong results in recent Tractor Pull events



Pictured is Ken McLellan, one of several local residents who competed at last Friday's Embro Truck and Tractor Pull. McLellan placed fourth in the 15,500-lb Hot Farm Over Six Miles-Per-Hour (6mph). Tanner Harris came in third in both 9,000-lb Stock Farm and 10,500-lb Stock Farm, both Under 6mph. Jon Nairn took third in 12,500-lb Hot Farm Over 6mph. Brent Nairn captured third in 12,500 Farm Stock Under 6mph. Karl Armstrong placed third in 9,000-lb Hot Farm Over 6mph. Kurtis Armstrong finished fourth in 10,500 Hot Farm Over 6mph and also competed in the Southwest Ontario Tractor Pulling Associating meet last Saturday in which he placed second in both 6,500-lb Modified Farm and 7,500-lb Modified Farm. (Contributed photo)

COMMUNITY —

U15 HP Girls take second half of back-to-back

By Spencer Seymour

After a disappointing loss by just two runs last Tuesday, the McLean-Taylor Construction U15 HP Girls St. Marys Rockies displayed strong resilience in a bounce-back performance last Wednesday when they defeated the Wilmot Thunder 16-6.

Head Coach Carly McEwan raved about the team's showing on Wednesday, crediting the group for making each other better with a great full-team attitude.

"They came back [after Tuesday's loss] really wanting to win on Wednesday," McEwan told the Independent. "The girls stayed positive and kept each other on their toes. They never gave up even when they had a significant lead and made the effort to catch all of the fly balls and make the outs, which kept us in control of the game." Addy White turned in a strike-



out-filled performance from the pitcher's mound with Billie Sedley in the catcher's position. Grace Riordan was credited as making some defen-

sive plays key to securing the victory. Overall, McEwan found little to take issue with in Wednesday's contest. "All the girls knew that they had to be

on when at the plate and they all did their part. Everyone knew they had to make good plays in the field if they wanted to win, which they did as well. Seeing Addy [White] pitch the game that she did was amazing. Billie [Sedley] did a great job as the catcher and Grace [Riordan] made some excellent plays at second base.

Above all else, McEwan lauded the team for their consistently-positive attitude.

"It was very valuable to see the girls not get down after the close loss on Tuesday night. It's really easy for a team to get down on themselves after a tough loss but the girls came back out on Wednesday night and were ready to play. The girls kept a positive attitude throughout and gave it their best effort every inning which allowed us to keep a lead throughout the whole game."

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SPORTS —

U15 OBA Boys beat Clinton, London, Wyoming ahead of playoffs

By Spencer Seymour

The bats were on fire while the pitchers were lights-out for the U15 OBA Boys St. Marys Rockies in their 19-1 thumping of the Clinton Mustangs last Wednesday.

Starting pitcher Jared Ballantyne led the charge, earning four strikeouts in three innings pitched. Offensively, Ballantyne posted one hit and scored three runs. Head Coach Scott McCutcheon praised Ballantyne and the entire roster for their team-wide contributions.

"Jared kept Clinton on their heels throughout the whole game," said McCutcheon. "I really liked the good mix of fastball location and off-speed pitches that he was bringing and it made it really tough on [Clinton's] hitters to drive in runs."

Other significant offensive contributions came from Michael Ewing, who had two hits, one of which was a big triple, and four runs batted in (RBI). Hayden Wright also had a pair of hits and scored twice. In total, the Rockies tallied 10 hits and 10 walks.

McCutcheon raved about the team's incredible offensive output, crediting their willingness to wait for the right pitch to swing at as a key factor in their high-scoring perfor-

mance.

"Getting so much offense is obviously great and we were getting it from up and down the lineup. Everyone was finding ways to contribute and be productive. The boys were very patient at the plate which was a big part of the gameplan going into the game."

The boys had a jam-packed schedule after their game against Clinton, including a Friday night clash against the London West Tincaps, followed by a Sunday doubleheader against the Wyoming Wranglers.

The Rockies defeated the visitors from London in an exciting 13-12 nailbiter. St. Marys then won both games against the Wranglers, first by a score of 11-8 and then 21-12 in the second game.

Heading into the playoffs, McCutcheon believes the team's all-around play reaching another level will be critical to their success.

"Moving into the playoffs, we need to keep playing as a team. From top to bottom, we need contributions from everyone in our lineup. Offensively, we have been strong and can dig ourselves out of some early holes we may go into. On the other side of the ball, we need to continue to improve our defence because that's what wins championships."



Jared Ballantyne eyes the runner at third base as he gets set for his next pitch during last Wednesday's U15 OBA Boys St. Marys Rockies 19-1 win over Clinton. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

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HISTORY —

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: The Irish Palatines

By Mary Smith

Many readers of the Independent will be familiar with the monument shown with this week's column. Others, however, may have driven past it many times without realizing its significance. The photograph shows the Switzer Cairn, located north of Rannoch at the intersection of Road 163 (the Mitchell Road) and Line 8 (the Kirkton Road.) This fieldstone memorial sits on a neatly maintained triangular plot of grass, fields of corn in the background. It was erected in 1961 by the descendants of John and Agnes Switzer, two of the earliest settlers in Blanshard Township. They were also members of a special group of immigrants to Ontario – the Irish Palatines. The Switzers came to Canada from County Limerick, Ireland. But the Palatinate is an area in south-western Germany. What was the Palatinate connection to Ireland and then to Blanshard Township?

The story is essentially one of migrants in search of a better, safer place to raise their families. In 1709, approximately 13,000 Palatines left their homes, travelling together in large groups. Their descendents were taught that this exodus from Germany was to escape religious persecution and, for many of the Protestant Palatines, this was probably a factor. But there were other complex reasons for leaving the Palatinate. In fact, some of the migrant Palatines were Catholics. But all of them – Catholic and Protestant – were fleeing the devastation caused by decades of warfare in the region. Farmlands and villages had been destroyed while taxes to finance these wars were exorbitant. The agriculture-based population was under considerable economic distress.

The Palatines were encouraged to go to England in 1709 by agents promising resettlement on free lands in America. Expeditions of migrants travelled down the Rhine to Rotterdam where they found ships to take them across the North Sea to England. But when they arrived, they discovered that the promises to relocate them in America had been greatly exaggerated. The migrant families were accommodated in vacant sheds and in tents outside London, while English officials struggled to deal with this influx. Some of the Palatines – mostly the Catholics who were not made at all welcome – returned to the Palatinate. About two-thirds of the others were relocated to other parts of England or were eventually shipped to the colonies, New York and North Carolina, where most became successful settlers. Those who stayed in England were gradually assimilated.

About 800 families – the remaining one-third – were sent to Ireland to bolster the Protestant population in the south of that country. Many were unhappy there and went back to England



The Switzer Cairn commemorates John and Agnes Switzer, Irish Palatine settlers in Blanshard Township.

or even returned to Germany. But settlements of Palatines did flourish in some locations, specifically in Limerick where about one hundred Palatine families were settled around several villages. Family names in Limerick that are still familiar in the St. Marys/Blanshard area include not only Switzer but also Doupe, Shier and Sparling. The English overlord in Limerick allowed the Palatines to rent land at reasonable rates and they soon established small farms – generally eight acres per family. They kept many of their Germanic traditions and frequently intermarried. There was little integration, partly because of language, and also because, as Protestants, they given more favourable treatment than their Catholic neighbours and therefore resented. For the most part, the Palatines themselves were content to remain separate. They showed little interest in interacting with native Irish.

One source of information about the Palatines' life in Ireland comes from John Wesley, the great Methodist preacher, who kept a journal documenting his many visits to Ireland. Wesley was fluent in German, a language he had studied during an earlier attraction to the Moravians, and so when he visited Limerick in the 1750s, he interacted easily with the Palatines. They had been mostly Lutherans in Germany but in Ireland it was to their advantage to be, at least nominally, adherents of the Established Church of Ireland – essentially the Irish version of the Church of England. Wesley found "much life among this plain, artless, serious people." He described some of their German customs, their small farms and good farming methods, but felt that the new generation of Irish Palatines was mostly indifferent to religion. Far removed from their Lutheran roots, "having no minister, they were become eminent for drunkenness, cursing, swearing and an utter neglect of religion." This was fertile ground for Wesley's message and his open-air style of preaching drew many listeners. By the end of the 18th century, Meth-

odism was well-established among the Palatine Irish and many brought that religion with them during their next migration to North America.

The exodus of many Palatines from Ireland in the mid-19th century was not an isolated event. Two and a half million people left Ireland between 1846 and 1850, largely because of the great potato famine of the mid-1840s. A number of the Palatines left before the start of the famine, including John and Agnes Switzer who, as the plaque states, had settled in Blanshard Township by 1843. As with the original migration from the Palatinate in the early 1700s, there were a number of reasons to leave Ireland for the new world. The original eight-acre farms leased to the Palatines were not large enough to subdivide and support the families' adult sons who also wanted to be farmers. Furthermore, the landlords had raised the rent, making these farms even less sustainable. But during an economic downturn following the end of the Napoleonic Wars, the Palatines still did better than their Irish neighbours and this bred great resentment. For many Irish, the Palatines symbolized Protestant oppression; they were usurpers on their land. A number of

Palatine homes were raided by Irish vigilante groups searching for weapons. Even more extreme acts took place that included beatings, arson and even murder. Although economic conditions eased in the 1830s and early 1840s, a number of Palatine families saw no future for themselves in Ireland. Many immigrated to Ontario.

Those coming to Canada in first decades of the 1800s mainly settled on farms in eastern Ontario. When the Canada Company opened Blanshard Township to settlement ca 1840, some Irish Palatines moved there from other parts of Ontario. Others arrived directly from Ireland to settle in this area. In his 1899 book, *Pioneers of Blanshard*, the great local historian, William Johnston, included two Irish Palatine men in his sketches of individual pioneers: David Brethour and Reuben Switzer. Reuben was the eldest son of John and Agnes Switzer, memorialized on the Switzer Cairn. Johnston told the story of the Irish Palatines as he heard it from Brethour and Switzer – both elderly men when he interviewed them for his book. Their version is somewhat different from the story told in more scholarly books, such as Carolyn A. Heald's 1994 monograph, *The Irish Palatines in Ontario*. Much of the historical information for this column was taken from Heald's book.

Another fascinating story of Irish Palatine settlement in this part of Ontario is W. Roy Doupe's exceptionally well-researched book, *A Doupe Family Story*, Millennium Edition, published in 2000. Roy grew up in St. Marys and undertook this genealogical work after a career as a high school teacher in Elmira. Both books are available on the reference shelves of the St. Marys Museum and both will provide material for next week's column. It will consider the lives of the Irish Palatines after they arrived in Blanshard Township and their impact on this area.

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ARTS —

The Art Intelligence of Lionel Venne's Northern Journey

By H. L. Meakin

There has been much in the news of late about Artificial Intelligence, or A.I. Its inventors warn us of the Frankenstein monster they may have let loose upon the world, while A.I.'s champions proclaim a brave new world full of medical miracles and driverless cars. There is much to think about as the already considerable presence and reach of A.I. in our lives increases, and as A.I. increasingly blurs the boundary between human and machine.

At this critical moment in human history, then, the wisdom of Lionel Venne's voice and vision is the news we need now: we need his Art Intelligence. Our species' technological evolution has so outstripped our biological and ethical evolution, only if A.I. is aligned with humane values and the common good can it be the positive transformation it promises. Venne's Art Intelligence offers us a way to connect with those humane values and the common good. His art takes our imaginations into the northern landscape and its workings upon the human heart and psyche. In his painting, tapestry, collage, and sculpture, Venne reminds us that the natural world we live in and the universe within us—our minds and hearts—exist in deep relationship, and the reality of both cannot be denied or replaced.

While he has travelled widely throughout the world, Venne was born--and has lived and worked for most of his life--in Northern Ontario, surrounded by boreal forest, beneath huge skies, and amidst myriad lakes and trees, all making their seasonal rounds. This northern landscape, which city dwellers might assume to be monotonous, has affected his art profoundly, he says, by "eliminating distraction."

Venne remembers his grandmother's gentle instruction as they walked in her garden, or up to the farm to milk the cows: "Look at everything." The emphasis here, I think, is on "Look." Take the time to attend to what is in front of you, what is real. Focus, and truly see it. She also encouraged him to "Take care of everything, even the insects."

For someone like Venne who learned from his



In a short film made about him, *Creative Spiritual Awakening*, Venne talks and works on a painting, He wears a work shirt covered in dozens of dabs and smears of paint in as many different colours. It seems that he is, himself, a painting, and that the paint that moves from artist to painting and back again contains the energy of the creative act itself. Venne creates in his dining room on his dining room table. The same table thus nourishes him with food for the body and with food for the spirit. He says simply, "I paint for the joy of painting, and for pleasure, for my pleasure. If someone likes it, that's fine."

grandmother how to "look," how to "take care," there are in the elements of the northern landscape endless variations in the play of colour texture, light and line:

Our relatively short summer covers us with transparent heat (at times) and threatens us with rolling line squalls and sudden rainstorms. In winter, leaden clouds thrill us with occasional shafts of pure golden sunlight. Winter understates itself in subtle greys and blues or shocks us with dazzling whites. My horizons are not formed by concrete skyscrapers but by open spaces, flat and rolling farmlands, forest and ancient hills, spruce swamps and pine ridges. It is a landscape that imposes visual and often physical strain. (Artist's Statement, 1991).

Venne has spoken about his artistic influences,

"in-fluence" being another kind of transfer of imaginative energy that occurs both by serendipity and by deliberate seeking. When he was a young boy, Venne's teacher, Mrs. Martindale, in a one-room schoolhouse in Cane, Ontario, taught the children everything from knitting to art; how to create after an encounter with the natural world stretching out in all directions around them. She introduced them to works by the Group of Seven, a fraternity of painters now household names in Canada, famous for articulating and realizing a recognizably Canadian art, especially but not limited to their depictions of Canadian landscapes.

Group of Seven member Lawren Harris observed: "No man can roam or inhabit the Canadian North without it affecting him, and the artist--because of his constant habit of awareness and his discipline in expression--is perhaps more understanding of its moods and spirit than others are." Venne's earliest influences, then--his grandmother and Mrs. Martindale--equipped him well to grow into Harris' vision of the northern artist.

As Venne recognizes, distraction is one of the most insidious elements of modern life with its demands of "everything everywhere all at once." We are in denial that we are finite creatures and that we must choose where to put our attention. It was recognized as something to be vigorously resisted even a century and a half ago, by the great Scottish-American environmentalist, John Muir, who wrote: "I am losing precious days. I am degenerating into a machine for making money. I am learning nothing in this trivial world of men. I must break away and get out into the mountains to learn the news."

What is "the news" for Muir and Venne if it is not to be found in "the trivial world of men?" For Muir, it is the great joy of being part of Creation, walking among the sequoia in what he considered to be sacred forests in Yosemite, or on its mountains and glaciers and meadows. While Venne is doing something different from Muir--creating art from his experiences of northern Ontario--both men partake of a kind of transfer of imaginative energy, of spirit, between themselves and the natural world. It is a true exchange, in that Muir's work to establish a National Park system in the U.S. benefited the wilderness that so nourished him, and Venne's art brings to him and to us news--revelation--of the interconnection between humans and their environment, both individually and collectively.

So, while living in the North eliminates distraction
Continued on page 21

Granton Cemetery
Decoration Day
August 20, 2023

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ARTS —

The Art Intelligence of Lionel Venne's Northern Journey

Continued from page 20

tion for Lionel Venne, he makes clear that these northern landscapes are not easy. Their apparent simplicity demands a rigorous discipline, for Venne tells us he is not interested in "a mere emotional outburst in celebration of nature" but something closer to the idea expressed by a modern art curator, that "Every work of art is an incarnation: an investment of matter with spirit."

Venne has stated of his landscapes that "The horizon is always my first interest, where earth and sky become one and matter meets nothingness." His art partakes of the mystical, which for him in this context means a "concern with making tangible that elusive relationship between the physical and the spiritual" (Artist's Statement 1991). As Muir observes,

By going out into the natural world, I'm really going in.

Venne uses what he sees on his peregrinations in the Northern Ontario landscape and indeed on his world travels, to express his inner spiritual and emotional landscape; in doing so, he traces the deep and often surprising connections between humans, the spiritual, and the natural world. Nowhere is this more evident than in his collage work. Various materials (cardboard, string, wire, fabric, maps, etc.) are juxtaposed—that is, put in relation to each other—such that we see connections and associations that were not apparent in the materials on their own.

There is a book to be written about Venne's fascination with the liminal—those meeting places of earth and sky, matter and nothingness, the physical and the spiritual, paint and paper, white and black, the use of different artistic materials—at which an osmotic or symbiotic exchange of spirit occurs, and the transfer of imaginative

energy takes place.

Inspiration of a Northern Landscape is an example of Venne's mastery of collage (literally "gluing") or assemblage. We need to recognize that "collage cannot be defined adequately as merely a technique of cutting and pasting....Its significance lies not in its technical eccentricity....Collage has been the means through which the artist incorporates reality in the picture without imitating it."

Venne's Inspiration of a Northern Landscape demonstrates this principle in that we can discern elements of landscape—earth, hills, water, sky—but the expectation of a straightforward representation of "a" place is quickly surprised by the compositional playfulness of scale, proportion, perspective, and colour, as well as by elements that do not correlate to any material reality: drawn lines in the form of x's and grids, for example, layers of torn and cut paper. His collages act on us like music and makes the same demands on our imagination. Think of Debussy's Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun, in which the feeling of a "scene" is evoked by the flute, the melody, and so on, but our imagination is also busy working to paint a picture as the music plays.

In Venne's collage, Northern Lights seem to glow across the top of the picture (or are they floating icebergs or mountains?) but the blue orb in front of them throws into question even the basic question of whether we are looking at day or night. The work does not elicit fear or frustration in this viewer, at least, but curiosity and wonder. There may be no human figures in Venne's landscapes but they convey in no way a sense of absence. Even stripped to their basic forms, colours, lines, the elements of these landscapes combine to transmit presence, intelligences, secret or privileged knowledge that is yet accessi-

ble to all of us if we only know how to look, how to attend, how to take care, how to "get the news."

Venne's modus operandi is to paint from memory rather than en pleine air, so that here we have a kaleidoscope of memories of northern landscape, in which earth and sky seem to want to burst out of their "places" and turn cartwheels in the air. Our eye is free to combine and recombine the elements, turn cartwheels with them in a joyful dance. The collage invites us to play with it.

Venne's collage is not so much "a" landscape as "landscape" or perhaps "an experience of landscape." It frees us from the practice regrettably so often seen in museums and galleries whereby visitors will lean in to look at the label next to a work of art before looking at the work of art itself so as to "know" what they are looking at. Few are confident or perhaps playful enough to trust that their experience of the work will be meaningful in and of itself whether or not they "get it," get the "official version." We need to trust ourselves!

In other words, Inspiration of a Northern Landscape asks us to "inspire" it, or take it in to our own memory and

imagination and play with it, make its energy our own.

When we place Venne's description of his Northern environment from his Artist's Statement, quoted above, next to the following rhapsody of John Muir about the Yosemite landscape, we can see they are kindred spirits, deeply spiritual men who bring back the intelligences of the natural world for their and our own invigoration. Muir writes,

We are now in the mountains and they are in us, kindling enthusiasm, making every nerve quiver, filling every pore and cell of us. Our flesh-and-bone tabernacle seems transparent as glass and the beauty about us, as if truly an inseparable part of it, thrilling with the air and trees, streams and rocks, in the waves of the sun—a part of all nature, neither old nor young, sick nor well, but immortal. Just now I can hardly conceive of any bodily condition dependent on food or breath any more than the ground or sky.

Like Muir but in a different landscape, Lionel Venne is in North Ontario and it is in him, "kindling enthusiasm, making every nerve quiver."



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

Lizet Scott, Clerk, Township of Perth South - 3191 Road 122, St. Pauls, ON N0K 1V0

Telephone: 519-271-0619 x224 | Email: LScott@perthsouth.ca



COLUMN —

WHAT'S FOR DINNER: Simple Weeknight Meals



By Lauren Eedy

As we make the most of what is left of summer, let's keep things simple. A 15-minute weeknight meal of Asian inspired nachos is sure to be a hit with peanut butter fans, sweet chilli lovers and cheese enthusiasts alike. This is followed by an approachable galette recipe which highlights the beauty of local, seasonal peaches and an added Asian flair with warm, spicy notes.

Sweet Chilli Peanut Chicken Nachos

Prep: 10m Cook: 15m Serves: 4

Ingredients

- 250g (9 oz) tortilla chips
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 large onion, halved, peeled, thinly sliced

2 large bell peppers, trimmed, deseeded, thinly sliced sea salt

1/4 cup sweet chilli sauce (you could also use hot sauce or BBQ sauce here)

1/2 a rotisserie-cooked chicken, cooled, meat shredded

200g (7 oz) grated mozzarella cheese

1 tbsp unsalted roasted peanuts

handful cilantro leaves or thinly sliced scallions, to serve

Peanut nacho sauce:

1/3 cup smooth peanut butter

1 tbsp dark sweet soy sauce

1/2 tbsp soy sauce

1 tbsp rice vinegar

Method

-For the peanut nacho sauce, add the ingredients to a bowl, along with 3 tablespoons of hot water. Whisk to combine, then set aside for later.

-Preheat the oven grill to high. Meanwhile, scatter the tortilla chips

in an even layer in the base of a large baking dish.

-Heat the vegetable oil in a wok or large frying pan over medium heat. Add the onion and cook for 2 minutes, stirring often, or until softened. Add the bell peppers, increase the heat to medium-high, then cook for 8-10 minutes, stirring occasionally, or until very tender. Season with salt. Spoon the bell pepper mix over the tortilla chips, then drizzle over the sweet chilli sauce.

-Scatter the shredded chicken over the chips. Spoon over the peanut sauce, then scatter over the mozzarella and peanuts.

-Place under the hot oven grill for 5 minutes or until cheese is bubbling and golden. Sprinkle with cilantro or green onion, serve.

Five Spice Peach Galette

Prep: 10m + 1hr chill time Cook: 40m Serves: 6

Ingredients

180g (6.3 oz) plain (all purpose) flour, plus extra for dusting

160g (5.6 oz) unsalted butter, chilled

2 tsp raw granulated sugar

1/2 tsp sea salt

1 tsp ground ginger

1 tbsp apple cider vinegar

2 tbsp water, chilled

Five spice peach filling

4 peaches, stones removed, thinly sliced

2 tbsp white sugar

1/2 lemon, juiced

1 tsp Chinese five spice

2 tbsp apricot jam

1 tsp cornflour (cornstarch)

Method

-To make the pie crust, place the flour, butter, sugar and salt into a food processor. Blitz until it resembles a breadcrumb-like texture. Next, add in the ground ginger, apple cider vinegar and water, and continue to pulse until the dough is just formed.

-Transfer dough to a lightly floured surface and knead for 2 minutes until smooth. Using your hands, press into a 10cm disc, then wrap in cling film and refrigerate for 1 hour.

-When your dough is almost ready, preheat oven to 200°C (390°F). Mix together the peach slices, sugar and lemon juice in a large mixing bowl. Add in the five spice and apricot jam, then mix until just combined. Leave aside.

-Remove the dough from the refrigerator. Dust a small amount of flour onto a large sheet of baking paper, then place the dough on top. Transfer to a flat sheet pan. Roll out the dough into

a rough round approximately 40cm (15.5") in diameter and about 1cm thick. Dust the cornflour over the pastry. This will help draw away excess juice so you avoid a soggy bottom galette.

-Starting in the centre, arrange and fan out the peach slices into a pinwheel shape, leaving about 7cm (2 3/4") of border around the edges. Fold over the edges of the dough to create the galette, exposing about 15cm (6") of fruit mixture in the centre.

-Transfer tray to the oven. Bake for 40 minutes or until the pastry is golden and crispy. Serve with ice cream.

Decoration Day

Harrington Decoration Service
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Sunday, August 20, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m.

Speaker: Don McKay

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The biggest little hardware store around

By Nancy Abra

For more than one hundred years, the Thorndale Hardware store has been the cornerstone of the business section in Thorndale. Thomas Hogg opened a hardware store in the blacksmith shop on the south side of King Street, Thorndale in 1900. Two generations of that family ran the hardware store until his son sold it to Vern and June Rogers in 1972. The Rogers ran and owned the store until they sold it to Bill and Teresa McDonald of the Thorndale area in 1985.

The present owners, Don and Karen Bentum purchased the hardware store business from the McDonald's in 1987 and the buildings, including the house adjoining, the following year. Before being hardware store owners, Don Bentum was in sales at Wolverine Tube in London, but he wanted to be an entrepreneur. Karen, at that time, was a dental assistant and was all for a change in careers.

Over the years, the Bentums were Pro Hardware franchise dealers and then switched to being an Ace dealer. At present, they are proud independents with Orgill, carrying products from the same warehouse in London they started with 36 years ago.

The Thorndale Hardware store claims, 'we're the biggest little hard-



ware store around and if we don't have it, you probably don't need it.' And with a visit to the store, that statement is true. They have thousands of items from small automotive electrical parts, plumbing hardware to various nails, screws, and washers. They also carry a wide variety of paints and supplies. There is an aisle of household products and canning and cooking items. As for other products, the Bentums carry a wide range of seasonal products from shovels

and salt to garden seeds and tools, bird seed and festive lights. They also have a line of 'University of Thorndale' apparel, which is very popular for gift giving.

During the pandemic, the Thorndale Hardware store was a godsend to the community and beyond. Karen remarked, "Many people were working on various home improvement projects during the pandemic. We had people come from London because they could get better service here

rather waiting a couple of days from the big box stores. And we usually had everything they needed. As we carry a good supply of plumbing parts and paint, they would call me and by the time they got here, I greeted them outside with what they wanted. We always make a point to serve our customers well, whether first timers or people who have been coming here for years. And we are delighted those first timers come back".

With a busy successful business, the Bentums also serve the community as well. For years they have been Thorndale's 'ticket master'. Whether it is tickets to the Thorndale Ag Society dinner theatre or selling tickets to other various events in the community, they are happy to do this which also gets people to come into their hardware store.

As for the future, the Bentums look forward to retiring and hopefully do a little travelling. Don said, "This has been a great career, a successful business and being part of this wonderful community. But it is time for us to pass the entrepreneur baton on to another person."

The Thorndale Hardware store, a supporter of 'I Love Thorndale', is the biggest little hardware around, with community-oriented inspiration and warm friendly service.

There's riding, roping and country music!

By Nancy Abra

The Purple Hill Country Music Hall, located east of Thorndale on the Taylor farm, began with George Taylor's vision as an auction barn back in 1992. But since then, it has been transformed into a unique rustic event hall for weddings, anniversaries, reunions, and stage music presentations.

On the first Sunday of each month, the Purple Hill Country Music Hall showcases an afternoon of country music of local talented entertainers

followed by a delicious meal. Besides being a music and event venue, the Taylor farm has also hosted the Middlesex Plowing Match in 2012 and two years later the Canadian Plowing Championships which drew competitors from across Canada. Last summer the Taylors hosted the 'Ram Rodeo' as part of this rodeo circuit.

The Ram Rodeo is returning to the Taylor farm again this month with rodeo performers from all over. Taylor remarked, "this is an action-packed

event, and we are excited to host the Ram Rodeo again this year, on August 25th to 27th. We will start with a cowboy kick-off party with the Southbound Dance Band on Friday night."

Taylor explained on the Saturday and Sunday there will be thrilling rodeo competitions on each afternoon with country music performers of local talent in between the rodeo events. The Canadian Cowgirls will run the kids rodeo both on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

"We had a great crowd come out last year" Taylor commented, "and with good weather, we have good expectations to double those numbers this year. There is also dry camping available so people can make it a fun weekend of music and cowboy riding and roping."

Check out <https://www.ramrodeoontario.com/2022/11/purple-hill-ram-rodeo-aug-26-27.html> for tickets and more information about this event.

Good Neighbour Project – Correction

By Nancy Abra

In the article 'Good Neighbour Project' published on August 3rd, it stated that the Good Neighbour Project com-

mittee will be hosting a Pork BBQ at Brown's United Church, located west of Hwy 19, on Plover Mills Road. The correct date for this BBQ is Sunday, August 13th. There will be entertain-

ment at 5:30pm, followed by 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.

COLUMN —

HOSTING UKRAINE: Mothers and Children

By VJ Knutson

The initial news reports out of Ukraine suggested it was just women and children who were fleeing. That is what we were led to believe when we initially signed up to host a family. The implication caused our hearts to swell with compassion and sent us into rescue mode. Few of us stopped to ponder the long-term repercussions.

Ric and I immediately agreed to take a mother with three children, teary-eyed over their situation. As it turned out, while that family was waiting for paperwork, we took in another. This family included a mother and father, which meant that Dad could immediately start working while Mom and I got the kids situated in school, and then she looked for work. Within five weeks, they were ready to live independently. Women without men would need extra support, we realized.

By the time their paperwork cleared, our original family of four became five – Dad was cleared to come too. Like our first family, they too were able to gain independence in short order.

Another family of three, Mom, Dad, and child had a similar experience.

Today, we are hosting a family of three – a mom, her child, and the grandmother. Mom is working, but Grandma and the son will not be able to contribute to the family household. There is no financial program to help



senior immigrants. Old Age Security is available after ten years, and CPP does not apply, so Grandma is fully dependent on her daughter's efforts. In Ukraine, this was not a problem for the single mother, as she held a high-level position in finance. Here, in Canada though, her English is 'not quite' good enough for banking, so

she has accepted a survival job.

When I asked Grandma what I should write about, she said that people like her daughter need financial aid to get started. How is she supposed to work, learn English, and upgrade her credentials so she can regain her career? Grandma would like to help her by getting a job, but her own health is-

sues do not allow it.

Ric and I have assured them they can stay here until the situation improves, but it has made me think about the many other mothers and children who we were so eager to help. Where are they now, and if they managed to stay in Canada without help, how did they achieve it?

Did the government know that we would open our hearts and homes readily out of empathy? Did they realize that we would not think about the long-term challenges?

Our eldest daughter raised a child on her own, and as hard as it has been, she was able to access daycare, and had family around to back her up. We are proud of how hard she has worked as we've watched her succeed in her chosen career.

The moms that have landed here, displaced by war, are having to start again. Too late to sign up for daycare, and without the language to slide into comparable jobs, they are doing whatever they can to get by.

As Grandma and I discuss the current situation, we both agree: if women and children are going to integrate into Canadian life, and bring their skills and knowledge to the forefront, they will need help.

Sigh...

Till next time.

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

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- 395 Elizabeth St.
- 163 Waterloo St. S
- 382 Elgin St. East
- 619 Elgin St. East

SOUTH

- 286 Church St. S
- 43 Sparling Cres.
- 10 Trillium Cres.
- 82 Homefield Court
- 297 Tracy St.
- 330 Tracy St.
- 351 James St. S
- 315 James St. S

WEST

- 40 Robinson St.
- 101 Markham St
- 331 Elgin St. West
- 73-30 Ann St.
- 25 Thames Road,
Unit 23 (Maple Lane
Park)

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SATURDAY AUG 12

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Tenth year

Performance

Outdoors

Jesse Webber

La Grove

The Bone Radlers

York Street Thought

Process

Jazzmatics

Donations

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

St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 29

Friday, August 11

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

Saturday, August 12

- Town wide yard sale - See list of locations on Page 25
 - St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 am to Noon
 - Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm

Sunday, August 13

- Pork BBQ at Browns United Church - Entertainment 5:30 pm, Dinner 6 pm Hosted by the Good Neighbor Project committee, Donations welcome

Monday, August 14

- St. Marys Horticultural Society flower show & meeting at the Legion hall - 7 pm

Tuesday, August 15

- Twp of Perth South public meeting re proposed zoning by-law amendment - 9:30 am

Wednesday, August 16

- Melodies at the Museum featuring The Bone Radlers at Cadzow Park - 7 to 8 pm
 - Station Gallery video presentation & discussion of The Art of Lionel Venne - 7 pm



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

Why does the farmer not tell his pigs a secret?



Because they will squeal!

Colbie Luke (8)

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

TONS OF FUN FOR KIDS EVERY WEEK!

PET OF THE WEEK

Each Pet of the Week will receive a FREE treat bag from St. Marys Veterinary Clinic



Maverick St. Clair is a four-year-old English Golden Retriever. When out and about, Maverick is very social and always wants to say 'hi' to everyone, especially while he's in the stands taking in a U15 Girls fastball game. He enjoys going on walks, especially when he meets new people, kids, or other dogs along the way. At home, he loves to sleep and go swimming in the family pool.



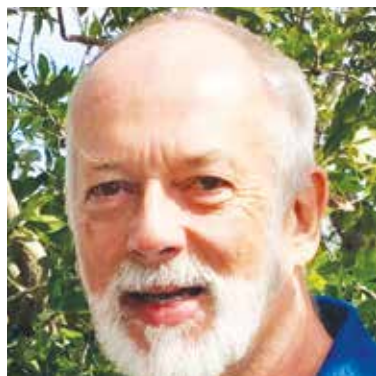
St. Marys Veterinary Clinic is pleased to be the sponsor of the **PET OF THE WEEK**

Summer Pet Safety Tips
 To avoid chemicals, bacteria and parasites, don't let your pet lap up lake, river, pool or long-standing water. When they are thirsty, they need fresh drinking water!

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COLUMN —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Neither wind or rain shall keep these golfers...



By Paul Knowles

If you watched coverage of The Open golf tournament (often erroneously referred to as The British Open), you saw a whole bunch of very wet, wind-blown golfers taking on the elements. The elements mostly won.

I identified with their plight. Not with their level of talent – the game I played called golf is so far removed from their game that it should have a different name of its own – “duff” or “flub” or, as suggested by golf partners from time to time, something far less suitable for print.

No, what I identified with was playing golf in unspeakable conditions.

Because I was in northern Ontario as part of a group of half a dozen travel writers who were hosted on a golf tour in June.

Typically, a golf get-away means finding several golf courses at the same golf resort or nearby communities, adding some unhealthy meals and a fair amount of beer, and Bob's your uncle.

We didn't do that. Well, okay, we did have unhealthy food and a certain quantity of beer, but our hosts were determined that we experience a large swath of northern Ontario so we were playing courses in North Bay, Sudbury and Manitoulin Island on consecutive days. And we visited some breweries. Did I mention beer?

Day One: Osprey Links Golf Course just outside North Bay about two hours from our hotel in Sudbury. We were driven to the course through pretty intense rain. Well, it might brighten.

It didn't. It was coming down in sheets. We sat in the clubhouse hearing stories about the link (or perhaps the lack thereof) between former Ontario Premier Mike Harris and the course. Fascinating stuff for a political junkie like me.

The rain and wind continued. Three of our group members opted out. But three of us, on the premise that we would probably not get to play Osprey Links again any time

soon, donned rain gear and climbed into golf carts.

The rain gear was pretty ineffective – mine, anyway. I was soon soaked to the skin, my clubs were slipping in my hands, my golf gloves were sodden, and the wind was blowing my golf balls sideways. At least that's my story, and I am sticking to it.

And I was having a ball!

That's because of several things. I was playing with two equally deranged golfers, Dave Finn and Max St. John, and we were all in hysterics about the unexpected results of playing in a gale. The course is in fact beautiful, even in the rain, and we had learned that it is a sanctuary for all sorts of wildlife. Thankfully, the rain kept the bears away, if not the mosquitos. We were unduly proud of ourselves for simply sticking it out. We will not discuss scores.

We had brought a certain amount of dry clothing with us so were able to partially change after the most moist nine holes I have ever played. We headed for the New Ontario Brewing Company in North Bay for a tasting flight of their excellent craft beers, an interesting tour of the brewery and dinner.

The three non-golfers stayed dry, but I am willing to bet that the three idiots who braved the storm had more fun. And the good news is the Holiday Inn in Sudbury had one industrial clothes drier so by next morning, nothing was damp.

Which was good because we loaded everything into the SUVs early the next day and headed for Manitoulin Island where we were to play 18 drier holes at the First Nations-owned Rainbow Ridge Golf Course. Another two-hour trek later and we had crossed the only land bridge that links the island with the mainland and were about to experience life, Manitoulin style. Which is apparently a thing unto itself.

Everything our hosts had planned, except the golf itself, got rearranged because folks on Manitoulin operate on “island time”. Our dining arrangements were changed twice in one day for reasons I never figured out but other establishments put out the welcome mat and we were royally entertained with terrific island cuisine and yes, a flight of beers, this time at the convivial Manitoulin Brewing Company.

Next morning, back to Sudbury to play 18 at the terrific Timberwolf Golf Course designed by “world-renowned course

architect” Thomas McBroom.

Timberwolf, which opened in 2000, is the shining star among five courses owned by a local family. It now features a unique, “Pro Putt Putting Course” that is vastly more challenging than any conventional mini-golf course. It is well worth a visit in its own right.

And the actual course has been accurately described as “a wonderful tour through the wilderness of Northern Ontario”.

In fact, it is that northern reality that made our trip most worthwhile. The rules of golf are the same everywhere but the game can be transformed into something entirely different by unique environments. In the case of Northern Ontario courses, that includes the local wildlife (I saw sandhill cranes on Manitoulin); the unique topography (no lack of rocky outcroppings!); and did I mention the weather?

Oh yeah, the local craft beer is well worth sampling too.

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

Rae



Margaret Emma (McFalls) St. Marys formerly of London Twp.,

Passed away peacefully with her family by her side, at Kingsway Lodge, St. Marys on Wednesday, August 2, 2023 of St. Marys formerly of London Twp., at the age of 91.

Beloved wife of the late Arnold

Rae (1999) for 71 years. Cherished mother of Daryl and Kathy Rae of Granton, Carol and Dave Ledgley of St. Marys, Diane and Bill Blom of Ottawa, and Paul and Cindy Rae of Lobo. Adored nan of Scott Rae, Adam Rae; Tanner and Madison Blom; and Amy Rae and great-nan of Nathan, Alicia; Jorja, Dalila; and Gibson. Fondly remembered by her many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her sisters Jeanne McFalls, Doris (Howard) Keays, Lenore (Michael) Moir, Helen (Roy Cadick) (Ron Grasby) Grasby, and Barbara (Allan Bradshaw) (Don Rigney) Rigney and her parents Gordon and Viva (Morrow) McFalls.

Marg was a loving mother, nan, and great-nan. She was always there for her family and will be lovingly remembered for her caring personality. The family would like to extend a special thanks to the staff at Kingsway Lodge for their exceptional care and compassion they provided to Margaret over the years. In keeping with Margaret's wishes, cremation has taken place.

A private family graveside service will be held at Medway Cemetery, Middlesex Centre. Arrangements entrusted to Haskett Funeral Homes, LUCAN (519-227-4211). Donations to the Alzheimers Society - Huron Perth, or Kingsway Lodge in Margaret's memory would be appreciated by the family. Condolences may be forwarded through www.haskettfh.com.

OBITUARY

Brine



Cheryl Ann Brine passed away suddenly at St. Marys Memorial Hospital on August 2, 2023 at the age of 60. Beloved daughter of Grace Brine and the late Don (2021). Sister of Daryl Brine (Erica). Loving aunt of Katie and Ethan. Niece of Ross and Marilyn Robinson.

Cheryl worked for 35 years in the Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs in Ontario. She loved animals and enjoyed scrapbooking, cross-stitching and reading.

Cremation has taken place. Visitation at the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, 47 Wellington St. S. St. Marys, on Friday, August 11, from 2 – 4 and 7-9. The Memorial Service will be conducted at the ST. MARYS UNITED CHURCH, 85 Church St. S. St. Marys, on Saturday, August 12 at 11 a.m. Reception to follow in the church hall. Interment in Kirkton Union Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the St. Marys Friends of the Library or Diabetes Canada. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

OBITUARY

Jaques



Marian Kathleen Jaques passed away peacefully at the Wildwood Care Centre, St. Marys on August 1, 2023 at the age of 94 years. Marian was born in Usborne Twp, a daughter of the late Carrie (Thomson) and the late Arlow Copeland.

Predeceased by her loving husband Lloyd Jaques (1983) and 2nd husband Don Maguire (2019). Beloved mother of Dan Jaques of Renfrew, Deborah Ford (Ron) of St. Marys, Nancy Hudson of Windsor, Suzanne Matheson (Steve) of Devon, AB, and Barbara Jaques of Napanee. Lovingly remembered by 13 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. Marian was predeceased by her son-in-law Charlie Webb, Mike Bedard and sister Loreen Hodgson.

Throughout her life, Marian was an active and appreciated member of the Kirkton-Woodham community. She held the position of Blanshard Township Clerk Treasurer for several years. Upon retirement Marian was a dedicated volunteer in various capacities.

Her family would like to thank Wildwood Care Centre for their compassionate professional care. The funeral service was held at the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, St. Marys on August 4, 2023 officiated by Pastor David Horne officiating. Interment in Kirkton Union Cemetery, Kirkton. As expressions of sympathy, donations would be appreciated by the family to the Alzheimer Society or Grace Community Church. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

OBITUARY

Harburn



Betty Harriet Harburn (Wakem) passed away at Wildwood Care Centre, St. Marys, on August 3, 2023 at the age of 93.

Predeceased by her first husband Alonzo Harburn (March 10, 1992). Survived by loving spouse Jack Coddington. Mother of Dianne Harburn (deceased), Betty Anne Prouty,

deceased, (surviving spouse John [Joan]) Doug Harburn (Cathy), Hugh Harburn (Annette), Murray Harburn, and Darlene Capson (Keith, deceased). Grandmother of Jason Prouty (Tanya), Carrie Anne Barker (Shane), Mike Harburn (Ashley), Susan Hohner (Ken), Jennifer Harburn (Sean), Justin Harburn (Amy), Colin Harburn (Nikky), Larissa Klumpkens (Johnny), Travis Harburn, Denise Mason (Ben), Lauren Dixon (Craig), Alyssa Berkemans (Blake), Taylor Capson (Hayden Waller). Also survived by 27 great-grandchildren. Also remembered by her stepchildren Rick Coddington (Karen), Dianne Eeley (Clint), and Roger Coddington (Angie) and their families. Sister of Jack Wakem (Joyce).

Betty's family wish to sincerely thank the caring staff at Wildwood Care Centre. A private graveside service will be held in St. Marys Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Society. Arrangements with the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, St. Marys, (519-284-2820). Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

OBITUARY

Pickering



Leonard Wilson Pickering, born and raised in Lakeside, passed away peacefully of leukemia on August 6, 2023 at the age of 76 years. Beloved husband of 57 years to June (nee Coddington). Loving father of Tammy & Wilson Brown of Grand Bend, and Charlene & Shawn Perrin of

Woodstock. Grandfather of Mitch McCall and Kim Consitt of Zurich, Brayden McCall of Stratford, Jessica McCall of Grand Bend, Hunter Brown & Kyra Ramos of Grand Bend, and Tristan Brown of Grand Bend. Great-Grandfather to Allie, Lincoln, Oaklynn, Seth, Levi, and Noah.

Also left mourning Leonard are his family: Brothers - Jim, Joe (Chris), George, Brian (Barb), David (Jean), Brothers & Sisters in Law – Joanne Pickering, Betty Pickering, Jack Coddington, Jim & Karen Coddington, Margaret Delong, Ruth Fletcher, Bill Coddington (Nancy), Brenda Coddington, Helen & Rob Chesterfield, Marianne Coddington, Jean Carroll (Jim). Survived and loved by many nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Predeceased by his parents Alex & Myrtle Pickering, his siblings: Jean, Jack, Lloyd "Pat", Joan, and Ronald; brothers-in-law: Jack Noon, Arnold DeLong, Murray Fletcher, Lawrence "Baldy" Coddington, Ken Coddington, Nelson Coddington, and his sisters-in-law: Marilyn Pickering, Jean Pickering, Betty Harburn, Pat Coddington, and Joyce Coddington.

Cremation has taken place. Private interment at Lakeside Cemetery on the Hill. Memorial donations may be made to the St. Mary's Healthcare Foundation and SickKids Foundation. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca

OBITUARY

Schutz



Jane Schutz passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on August 3, 2023. Beloved wife of John Schutz for 43 years.

Proud mother and grandmother of Joel, Carolyn and Max; Jeff, Kim and Kenny; Jim, Margie and Ada Jane.

She will be dearly missed by her family Mary Nairn-Buuck, John and Mary Lou McCarthy, Frances and Steve Glover, in-laws Debbie McCarthy, Eria and Steffen Larsen, Gerd Schutz. Jane's guidance will be forever remembered by all her nieces and nephews.

A lifelong resident of St. Marys, she was a member of Holy Name of Mary Parish, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 236 and St. Marys Ladies Slowpitch. The family extend sincerest gratitude to the care provided by Dr. Komorowski and Palliative Care Services.

Graveside service and burial at St. Marys Cemetery, 150 Cain St., St. Marys, on August 25, 2023 at 1 pm. Followed by an Open House at the St. Marys Legion, 66 Church St. N. St. Marys, from 2 – 4 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Canadian Cancer Society, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 236 or a charity of your choice in Jane's memory. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

COLUMN —

Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

Little Ray's Reptile Zoo is back this summer for tomorrow's Funday Friday! Join us in the Town Hall Auditorium at 1:00pm to meet some cool reptiles as you learn about these unique animals and their special adaptations. To register for this free, fun and informative event, register here: tinyurl.com/SM-PL-Summer-Program.

This Week's Recommendation

The Reptilia class contain some of the most fascinating (and the most fierce) creatures in the animal kingdom. Dive into their world with "Reptiles" by Mark Hutchinson. Take an up-close look at how lizards regulate their body temperature, find out how and why snakes shed their skin, and learn about the infamous crocodile "death roll". Discover all of this and more with "Reptiles", found in the children's non-fiction section with the call sticker J 597.9 Hut.

Up This Week

Friday, Aug. 11th: Crafty Tales (9:30am), Funday Friday – Little Ray's Reptiles: Nature Ninjas (1:00pm), Movies in the Park – Guardians of the Galaxy 3 (Dusk @ Cadzow Park)

Saturday, Aug. 12th: Dungeons and Dragons (10:30am), Game Days (1:00pm-4:00pm)

Monday, Aug. 14th: Crafty Kids (10:30am-12:00pm), Club SMPL (1:30pm-3:00pm), Mahjong! (6:30pm-8:00pm)

Tuesday, Aug. 15th: Reading Help (10:00am-12:30pm), Wonder Workshop (1:30pm-3:00pm), Writing Club – Ages 10-17 (6:00pm-7:00pm), Writing Club – Ages 18+ (7:00pm-8:00pm)

Wednesday, Aug. 16th: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30am), STEAM League (10:30am-12:00pm), Mahjong Intro (1:00pm-2:00pm), Reading Help (1:30pm-3:00pm), Mahjong! (2:00pm-4:00pm), Scrabble (6:00pm-8:00pm)

Thursday, Aug. 17th: Mahjong Intro (6:00pm-6:30pm), Mahjong! (6:30pm-8:00pm)

LOOKING BACK



By AMY CUBBERLEY

Runaway horses cause a scene

25 years ago (1998)

About 20 local people presented their "Summer in St. Marys" passports for stamping at the Museum last weekend. There's still time to take part in this challenge to visit local attractions and to qualify for the grand prize.

The Friendship Centre's mural metamorphosis is taking shape. London-based freelance artist Fred Harrison just completed a mural on the east wall of the Friendship Centre in Cadzow Park. The landscape scene depicts a panoramic 1909 view of the Flats, falls and Sarnia Bridge. It took Harrison 67 hours and eight gallons of water-based paint to complete.

Carlyle Anderson, age 14 of RR7 St. Marys, is off to the races. Carlyle is set to compete in the Trans-Canada International Motocross competition in Walton this weekend. Approximately 1,000 competitors will take part in the race.

50 years ago (1973)

A record bean harvest is expected in this area unless some type of weather disaster takes place between now and harvest time in September. Corn is also doing exceptionally well to date in area fields.

The "de Cycles", some fifty young men on bicycles from Hartford City, Indiana, rolled into St. Marys on Civic Holiday. They are on a 3,000-mile tour of five US states plus Ontario and Quebec. They received a real treat in St. Marys when Wilf Barclay of Dixie Lee generously provided them with noon lunch.

The new Holy Name of Mary School building is progressing in the North Ward. Over the past few months, a completely new building has taken shape while at the same time the oldest portion of the former school has almost disappeared with the exception of the north wall which is being used as a support wall for the new structure.

75 years ago (1948)

Many shade trees lost limbs in the windstorm which swept over the district a little over a week ago. The same storm ruined crops in the district south of Thorndale and west and north of Stratford, where trees were stripped of leaves, corn fields were shredded, and grain fields threshed out by hailstones the size of pullet eggs.

Percy Noels, who recently sold his taxi business, has purchased a parcel of land east of the old Presbyterian Cemetery and has started to build an open-air roller skating rink there. Although pouring of the concrete started on Tuesday, Mr. Noels has more than half of the large rink surface covered with the foundation concrete already.

At least five firms have entered tenders for building of the Wildwood flood control dam so far this week. The tenders have been handed into the office of G.G. Reid, consulting engineers.

100 years ago (1923)

Mr. Wellington Hay, late leader of the Liberal Party in the Provincial House, and with whom Mr. H.L. Rice is operating the grain elevator here, was in town on Tuesday. The price being paid for wheat in St. Marys is 90 cents standard.

A runaway occurred in town on Tuesday when W.C. Kidd's heavy dray team, attached to a partly loaded truck of bottle crates, bolted from in front of Richardson's Foundry. The horses came galloping up Wellington Street, crossed Queen, passed over the cement bridge, and finally came to an abrupt stop at the corner of Station Street, when they straddled a tree with the neck-yoke. Several people attempted to stop the horses. The only damage that was done was to the wagon tongue, which snapped off, while the neck-yoke was also splintered.

Chief W. Moyes and Fireman L. Wilson, delegates, have returned from attending the Annual Fireman's Convention and Celebration at Burlington this week.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Mom's "Nearly 90" Celebration



Edith (Youngson) Kestle turns 90 years young on February 28, 2024

We thought it might be fun to celebrate when it's warmer....summer....yu' know.... when she's 89 1/2

Come help us honour our Mom
Open House, Sunday, August 20th
2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the
St. James Masonic Lodge
45 Thames Road, St. Marys, Ontario

Note, since this isn't really Edith's birthday, she has asked that no one bring any gifts or cards, just please drop in say hello! Hosted by: Edith's family

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Solutions on page 31

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

Wanted

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

Wanted to buy

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



Festival of Flowers Show and Open Meeting

MONDAY, AUGUST 14TH AT 7:00 PM
ST. MARYS LEGION HALL

Speaker: Cheryl Losch
Topic: Winter Prep and Extending the Vegetable Season



Everyone Welcome
This meeting is for YOU! Come out and enjoy.
Reminder to bring a mug if you'd like to enjoy a beverage at our meetings.

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

HELP WANTED

J. MARSHALL & COMPANY INC.

PARTY RENTALS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

HELP WANTED, FULL AND PART TIME WORKERS

- ASSIST INSTALLING PARTY TENTS UNTIL NOVEMBER

- START \$23 PER HOUR, BONUS BASED ON DEPENDABILITY & WORK PERFORMANCE

CALL 519-225-2345 or EMAIL j.marshall@quadro.net

CELEBRATION OF LIFE



Celebration of Life for Maurice William Arthur (July 20, 1965 - May 21, 2023)

August 24, 2023 from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Cobble Hills Golf Club, 5714 Cobble Hills Rd.
Thamesford, ON N0M 2M0
We invite our friends and family to join us at Cobble Hills Golf Club for a celebration of Maurice's life. There will be drinks, food and good stories to share.

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) CO2
- 2) Peru
- 3) 1914-1918
- 4) The Owl
- 5) Margaret Thatcher
- 6) The Olympic and the Britannic
- 7) Michelangelo
- 8) Christian Bale
- 9) A diamond
- 10) Volcanos

CANADIAN BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

Adding a part-time **Financial and Fundraising Administration Coordinator** to the team to cover an 18-month maternity leave.

This position is responsible for clerical, financial, customer service activities and will assist with fundraising.

The right player will have relevant office experience, computer proficiency, exceptional organizational and communication skills and a passion for community service. A flexible schedule including some hybrid hours possible in this position.



Full job description available at www.baseballhalloffame.ca

Please send cover letter and resume by Thursday, August 10th, 2023 to: Scott Crawford, Director of Operations Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum baseball@baseballhalloffame.ca



NOW HIRING

SERVICE & SUPPORT TECHNICIANS

Join our team! We're seeking Full-Time Service & Support Technicians to install, maintain and service agricultural equipment throughout our growing customer base in Perth, Huron, Bruce, Middlesex, Lambton, Essex, Chatham-Kent and Elgin counties.



APPLY NOW!

Visit our website or scan the QR code using your mobile device for full position details.

Resume submissions can be emailed to info@avonbank.ca

[avonbank.ca](https://www.avonbank.ca)

THANK YOU

Thank you to our Cascades Employees past and present!

We were so thankful to see so many of our retirees and Cascades community at our Family BBQ.

We are very proud to be a part of the wonderful St. Marys community.



Home furniture

STRATFORD

Main store: 519-273-9330, 2954 Hwy 7&8 E | Outlet: 519-273-7453, 617 Douro Street

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OPEN THU-SUN



SPECIAL PRICING! LARGE SELECTION! 12+ MODELS TO CHOOSE FROM!

OUTLET NOW OPEN EVERY WEEK, THURSDAY - SUNDAY



Home furniture

Main Store Hours:

Monday to Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Friday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Outlet Hours:

Thursday to Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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