

# St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1172

Thursday, August 17, 2023

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## 36th Teddy Bear Reunion takes place this Sunday



One of the town's longest and most popular events is taking place this Sunday, August 20th. The Teddy Bear Reunion was started 36 years ago by Dawn Bennett. It was taken over by Cliff Elliott, who at the time was a member of the Optimist club. Cliff continued to carry on the event until his daughter Marlene Forman took it over from him.

As in other years, the parade will start at the high school at 1pm. The categories for judging will be Best career-oriented bear, Best dressed Teddy, Owner look alike bear, largest teddy and Teddy with the most friends. The parade will end at East Ward Park where there will be pony rides, face painting, train rides, and many more games and activities.

There is currently a raffle by donation of a beautiful, hand-stitched quilt by Mary Jane Ball at Cascade Cleaners. The draw for this will happen on Monday, August 21st. All proceeds go towards providing teddy bears to the Hospital.

This is always a fun event for the whole family and the kids will have a blast showing off their best teddy bears. Marlene Forman, organizer of the event commented that she is looking forward to seeing everyone on Sunday.

### Fatal Drowning at Wildwood

The Stratford Police Service was called to Wildwood Conservation Area in the Township of Perth South on August 6, 2023 due to a possible drowning of a 15 year old female.

Bystanders, police, fire, park staff and paramedics performed CPR on the individual who was rushed to St. Marys hospital where all life saving measures were taken by medical staff.

Anyone who witnessed or has been affected by this tragedy are encouraged to contact Victim Services at 1-866-376-9852 for support and resources. The Stratford Police Service offers condolences to the family, no further information will be released out of respect and privacy for the young girls family as they mourn this devastating loss.

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# COMMUNITY —

## A Good Ole Time is coming to Purple Hill Country Hall

Ram Rodeo, Good Brothers and much more August 25-27

By Stewart Grant

If you've never been to Purple Hill Country Music Hall, located halfway between Thorndale and Thamesford, the weekend of August 25-27 promises to be one heck of a show.

For the second year, Purple Hill is hosting the Ram Rodeo Tour, and combining the thrills of buckin' broncos with an incredible lineup of country music talent throughout the weekend.

"It's really a live action event for a wide range age of people," said Purple Hill Country Hall owner George Taylor. "It's billed as the largest rodeo this side of Calgary." Last year, more than 2,500 people came out for the first Ram Rodeo event and Taylor expects an even bigger crowd this year.

The headline band on Saturday is The Good Brothers, who chose the Purple Hill rodeo weekend as the ideal moment to celebrate their 50 years of international touring. They will be accompanied by Meredith Moon, who is the daughter of legendary Canadian singer-songwriter Gordon Lightfoot. The relationship between Lightfoot and The Good

Brothers goes back a long time - Lightfoot made the Good Brothers' song "Alberta Bound" a huge hit back in 1972.

"We're really excited about the lineup," said Taylor of the entire weekend of talent, which begins Friday at 8:00 p.m. with the Cowboy Kick Off Party featuring the Southbound Dance Band.

On Saturday, the Rodeo gates open at 11 a.m., and at noon the Canadian Country Cowgirls host the Kids Free Rodeo before the Ram Rodeo live action event starts at 1:00 p.m. Legendary fiddler Shane Cook takes the outdoor stage at 2 p.m. during the rodeo intermission, and the Country Music Showcase with the Good Brothers and Meredith Moon begins at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday is a full day of rodeo and music, again with gates opening at 11 a.m. Matt Wood and Kiln Country will entertain during the rodeo intermission, while the 5:00 p.m. Country Music Showcase will include the Canadian Country Showband starring Scott Woods, and the Purple Hill Grand Ole' Country Opry starring Paul Weber, Naomi Bistrow, Hector James Sturgeon, Mike Pollard, Caro-



line Danowski-Burchill and Shelley Rastin.

The event is fully licensed and there will be a variety of vendors - not just cowboy clothing and accessories but also many food and drink options available under the big tent, expertly installed by Marshall's Tent Rentals. For the kids, there's bouncy castles, balloons, face-painting and more. The whole event is a huge commu-

nity effort that wouldn't be possible without the support of so many volunteers and sponsors.

The cost to attend each day is \$30 at the gate for adults and discounted rates for kids. For more information, please visit [www.purplehillcountry-musichall.ca](http://www.purplehillcountry-musichall.ca) or call 519-461-0538. Purple Hill Country Music Hall is located at 20903 Purple Hill Road, Thorndale.

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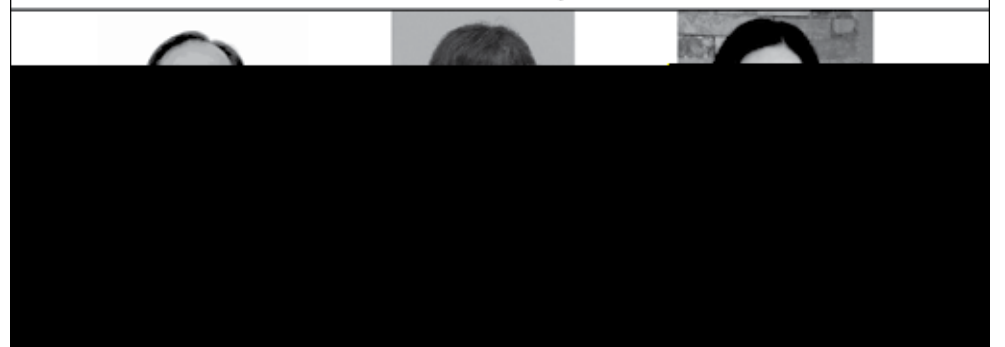
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Sunny	Thunderstorms	Mainly sunny	Sunny	Mainly sunny	Potential showers	Mainly sunny
<b>24</b> °C	<b>25</b> °C	<b>21</b> °C	<b>23</b> °C	<b>27</b> °C	<b>27</b> °C	<b>27</b> °C
Feels Like <b>27</b>	Feels Like <b>29</b>	Feels Like <b>22</b>	Feels Like <b>26</b>	Feels Like <b>33</b>	Feels Like <b>32</b>	Feels Like <b>32</b>





# COMMUNITY —

## St. Marys Fire Department performs low angle rescue as training exercise

On Wednesday August 9, 2023, the St. Marys Fire Department conducted a low angle rope rescue training exercise off a steep embankment in an old quarry.

Low angle rescues are performed when a slope is too steep for rescuers to safely carry someone without the use of ropes and other equipment. The training scenario imagined that a man had sustained a head injury when he tumbled down the embankment along the quarry.

The exercise involved sending a firefighter down the embankment with harnesses and a rope line to retrieve a 175-pound mannequin. The firefighter then provided reconnaissance and reports by radio regarding the nature of the man's injury.

Based on the estimated weight of the victim, a 3:1 mechanical advantage pulley system was created and

secured to the fire truck. The system allowed rescuers to pull the victim up the hill, distributing the weight so each firefighter would be carrying no more than 50 pounds.

Following the rescue, the firefighters reviewed each element of the exercise, critiquing the performance and noting the positives as well as items that may have been overlooked.

"Our goal is to practice every type of rescue at least twice a year," said Fire Chief Richard "Andy" Anderson. "In addition to low-angle rescue, we conduct training exercises on ice/swift water rescues, vehicle extrication, structural search and rescue, and confined space."

Questions about the St. Marys Fire Department can be directed to [randerson@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:randerson@town.stmarys.on.ca) or 519-284-1752.

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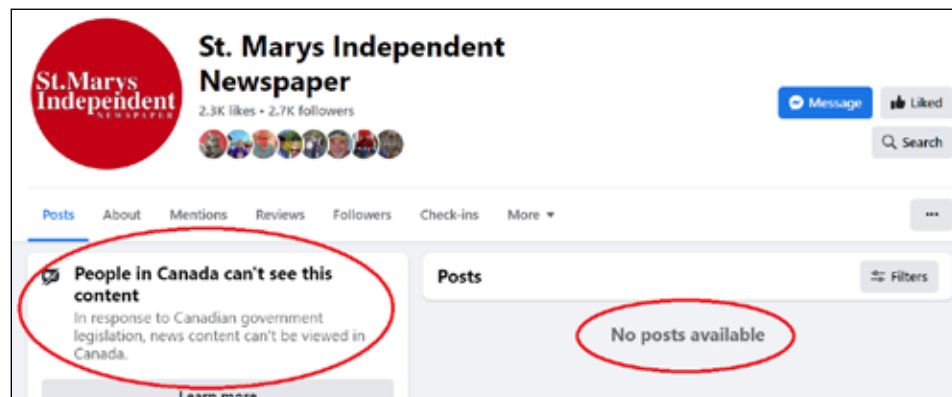
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# EDITORIAL —

## Canceled by Facebook



By Stewart Grant

Many of us have maintained for years that Facebook isn't the best place to get reliable news, but that is truer more than ever now that Meta (Facebook's parent company) has blocked Canadian news content on its popular social media platform.

The screenshot above shows the St. Marys Independent Newspaper Facebook page, which is now devoid of all content. As explained below, Meta is not allowing our content to be shared in Canada in response to Canadian government legislation.

As I've written previously, I don't blame Facebook/Meta for this current standoff. I blame the short-sightedness and arrogance of our current government for enacting terrible legislation.

The point of today's column is to let you know how you can access our news stories online. I know that while we are primarily a print newspaper, there are many who enjoy reading the Independent online - from wherever in the world that they currently reside.

Our newspaper is available at [www.stmarysindy.com](http://www.stmarysindy.com), which redirects to

our main page at [www.granthaven.com](http://www.granthaven.com). You can go to either of these sites directly, or you can subscribe to our weekly email distribution of the paper by going to the right-hand side of our website and entering your email address.

We've had a website redesign take place this year, with a mix of success and frustration.

Though the website works for most people, most of the time, I wish it worked 100% of the time for everyone! The best "fix" that I've found in the short-term is if you go to the website and it's not working quite right, please hit the "refresh" button, which reloads the page and pulls the latest content. If you're not sure what the "refresh" button looks like, it looks like this:

It's not ideal that I have to tell people to sometimes hit the "refresh" button to get our website to work for them. But like the current Meta/Google vs. Canadian government standoff, it's a work-in-progress and hopefully everything will be back to normal soon.



## Bravo

We have 5 Bravos this week

1) Bravo to the volunteers, host family of Fred and Beth Cowdry and the generous sponsors who contributed to a successful Perth County Plowing Match. Without their contributions we would not be able to carry on this tradition.

2) Bravo to the kids who found my wallet at Meadowridge Variety on Aug. 8th and gave it to the person working there. You are to be commended for your honesty. Not knowing who you are, this was the only way to thank you. There are great kids in St. Marys.

3) A huge thanks to J from Granton and his 3 J's for stopping to help me, a perfect stranger, unload and dump a bunch of topsoil that I was working on by the mailbox. You were a great help and a generous family to stop and help.

4) I'd like to send a massive bravo to the wonderful staff at the St. Mary's Childcare Centre. They all work extremely hard and I appreciate each one of them for all they do for the children and families!

5) A big Bravo and a huge thanks to everyone that came to my aid when I was involved in a car accident on August 3rd at the intersection of Church and Jones. Many thanks as well to the paramedics and hospital personnel who tended to my needs that night. I'm so grateful for everyone's care and compassion that I received during this unfortunate accident.

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

## Boo

We have no Boos submitted this week

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

## Quote of the Week

*"We have to do all we can to stop global warming, and reverse it."*

- **Josh Green, Governor of Hawaii, following the "fire hurricane" which destroyed the town of Lahaina, Maui last week. As of press time, at least 99 people have declared dead as a result of the wildfire, while at least 1,000 people remain missing.**

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## The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS  
 OF THE WEEK

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## Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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Can't the UTRCA do something about the condition of Trout Creek? Even the dogs won't drink the water.

Trump can't be pardoned in Georgia, which makes his latest indictment the best one yet.

Have you heard something humorous around town that you think might be of interest to others? Either email them to us at [info@stmarysindy.com](mailto:info@stmarysindy.com) with the title "Overheard at The Coffee Shop", call 519-284-0041 or drop by the office to let us know!



# COMMUNITY —

## Kingsway Lodge unveils new accessible motorized bike



Kingsway Lodge has a new accessible motorized bike. Last Thursday, Rec Staff Sierra Klee took the first resident passenger, Missy Little out for a spin. They hope to provide an experience for residents to get them outside and enjoy St. Marys in a way they haven't been able to in years, on a bike. Please be aware of the bike while driving in the Kingsway area to ensure that everyone stays safe. (Contributed photo)

## 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.

519-284-3346

### 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



### NOW BOOKING AUGUST ICE RENTALS

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

[townofstmarys.com/skating](http://townofstmarys.com/skating) or 519-284-2160

### MOVIES IN THE PARK

Friday, August 25 @ 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](http://townofstmarys.com/library) or 519-284-3346



### MELODIES AT THE MUSEUM SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Catch a tune on Wednesday evenings in August at 7 PM in Cadzow Park with a different musical performance each week!

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# ACTION

## HEALTH CARE

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### Senior of the Week

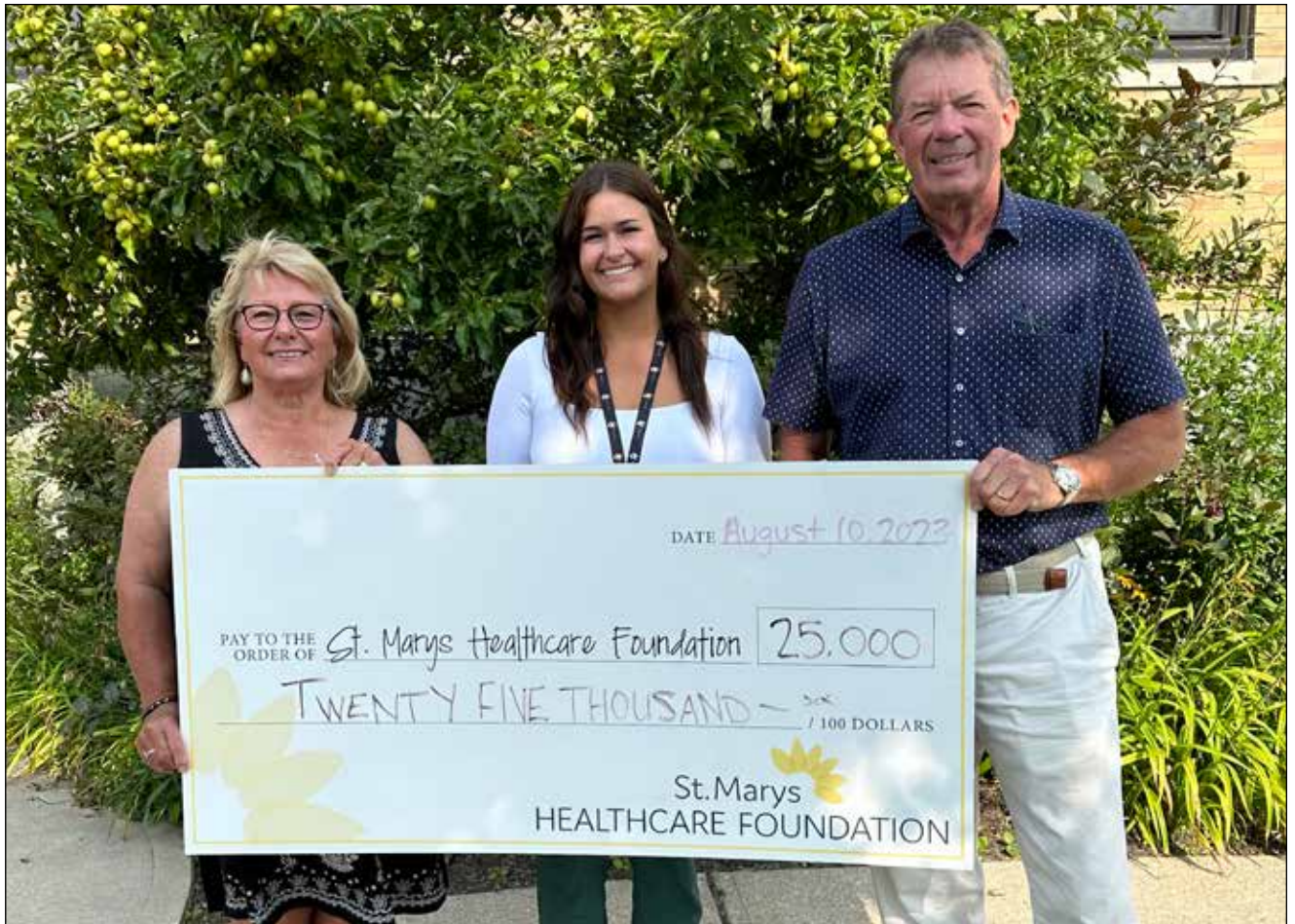


Our senior of the week is John Duizer. John is 72 and will be celebrating a birthday in September. He has 2 daughters, 2 son-in-laws and 2 grandchildren. John was born and raised in Clinton, Ontario and now lives in St. Marys with his wife Wilma. John spent his entire working career as a farm inspector for Agriculture Canada. In retirement he loves spending his time with his grandkids, boating, fishing and camping.

**If you would like to nominate someone for Senior of the Week, Contact us at 519-284-0041 or [info@stmarys-independent.com](mailto:info@stmarys-independent.com).**

## COMMUNITY —

# Past resident Jim Sheldon donates to the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation



A generous donation of \$25,000 to the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation was made by Jim Sheldon. Jim Sheldon was born in the St. Marys Memorial Hospital and grew up in St. Marys but has since moved away. He appreciated the great care his mother received in her final days and throughout her life. "I haven't forgotten the community I grew up in and I wanted to contribute to the community!" Pictured from left, Cindy Bilyea, Chair of the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation, Bernice DeDecker, Communications and Fundraising Coordinator and Jim Sheldon. (Nancy Bickell photo)

## Weekend Quiz

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- 1) What two chromosomes do males have that determine their sex?
- 2) Hera is the Greek goddess of what?
- 3) On what day did the United States drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan?
- 4) According to Billboard Year-End Hot 100, what was the #1 song of 1963?
- 5) What is the capital city of Chile?
- 6) A group of iguanas is known as what?
- 7) Who assassinated Abraham Lincoln?
- 8) What is the length of a day on the planet Mercury?
- 9) When was the first Barbie doll introduced?
- 10) What is the name of Super Mario's brother?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27

SCIENCE HILL Country Club

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# COMMUNITY —

## All Wheels Park donation of the week



Thanks to Pam Zabel, Eric Thomas (and the lovely Holly) for being Supporters of the Rotary All Wheels Park. Their generosity is helping to make this much-needed expansion of the skate and all wheels park a reality for the children and youth of our community. Visit the town's website to see the plans and to find out how you can donate to this worthy community project: <https://www.townofstmarys.com/en/recreation-and-culture/skatepark.aspx>



# BIGGEST ON THE BLOCK!



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## COMMUNITY —

# Business Profile: Practical Art

By Gary West

There is a well-established business at a new location east of St. Marys and just north of the Wildwood Conservation area on highway #119. The company is known as "Practical Art".

Practical Art was founded by Michael McNeil who grew up in Perth East and still resides in Shakespeare, with his wife Cheryl and daughters. The company started out as a custom furniture business in 1992.

When business partner Steve Pietens joined the company, the pair began to focus on handcrafted metal decor artwork, made from recycled and salvaged materials. Their vision at that time was to create products which were both stylish and functional - hence the name.

After 30 years of travelling to shows across Canada and the United States, Practical Art is now excited to open their new manufacturing and retail facility at R.R. 7 St. Marys where they will service the local community and beyond with hand-crafted metal artwork. The team has now grown to include talented sales experts, metal craftsmen, administrators, and graphic designers.

A leisurely walk through their show room offers a view of the large variety of interior and exterior decor products that are crafted by their metal-working experts. They have become well known for their garden sculptures, like cardinals and ladybugs, and more recently they are thrilled to offer customizable, metal signs, and even custom logos for area businesses. They have now also taken on large scale commercial projects with their expanding and spacious new location.

This Saturday, August 19th, the Practical Art team will be opening their doors for a Grand Opening celebration. They invite everyone to stop by to meet the team, enjoy some refreshments, claim your free gift, and enter a raffle for exciting prizes! They have several indoor galleries in which you can view all of their amazing products. Their doors will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. With any purchase over \$50, the purchaser will receive a \$20 gift card to be used for their next visit.

For more information on Practical Art, visit [www.practicalart.ca](http://www.practicalart.ca) or email their office at [jennylojuoan@gmail.com](mailto:jennylojuoan@gmail.com).



Pictured above, from left to right, is the team at Practical Art: Cory Paton and Martin Rice (sales and metal artistry), Michael McNeil (owner and founder), Jennifer Rayson (office administrator), Charu Sachdeva (graphic designer), Pankaj Bains (web designer), and Steve Pietens (metal artistry). (Gary West photo)



McCully's  
Hill Farm

## Preserve of the Month

10% off McCully's Lady Ross Relish

### In the Freezer

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### What's New at McCully's

**Aarden Farms Sweet Corn is available at the store and the corn stand on #19!**

We have local beans, carrots, peas, potatoes and hot house peppers, tomatoes and cucumbers.

We now have local Blueberries and Raspberries and Niagara Peaches as well as local plums, nectarines and strawberries..

McCully's now carries locally produced, four wood blend BBQ smoker pellets.

### McCully's Sunflowers

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COMMUNITY —

# Politicians demonstrate their talent at the Perth County Plowing Match



Pictured above, Matthew Rae (left) and John Nater (right) coached by John Urqhart in the VIP competition.

By Anthony Bertrand, President, Perth Plowmen's Association

On August 12th an age-old tradition continued to thrive – the Perth County Plowing Match. Steeped in history this event brings together farmers, enthusiasts, and families to celebrate the art of plowing and the camaraderie that comes with it. Beyond the rows of meticulously turned soil, plowing matches embody the essence of community spirit, heritage preservation, and a connection to the land that sustains us.

Plowing matches are more than just contests; they serve as an ode to the generations that shaped the agricultural world. These events offer a tangible link to the past, enabling participants and spectators alike to appreciate the dedication, hard work, and knowledge that farmers bring to their craft. By maintaining and showcasing modern and antique equipment and

horse drawn plowing methods, these matches honor the legacy of those who tilled the soil before us.

One of the most enchanting aspects of plowing matches is their ability to foster a sense of community that transcends generations. Farmers, neighbors, and families gather to celebrate not only the skillful plowing but also to share stories, exchange insights, and strengthen bonds. The atmosphere is one of camaraderie, where the competitive spirit is balanced with a genuine sense of togetherness.

25 competitors from around Southern and Central Ontario demonstrated their care for the land by plying their trade in a competition that highlights the role of responsible land management. 6 local competitors from Perth County vied for the title of Perth County Champion, and to qualify for the International Plowing Match in Dufferin County in September.

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# COMMUNITY —

## Melodies at the Museum August 9th performance



A good crowd was on hand at the second Melodies at the Museum performance on Wednesday, August 9th. They were entertained by Meg and Brady of La Grove, a dynamic musical duo from St. Marys.



Pictured are Brady Lewis and Meg Riley of La Grove who performed a blend of oldies, classical rock and pop tunes. Brady and Meg have been performing together for 3 years. (Nancy Bickell photos)

## TriCounty Foodgrains Update

It has been over 5 weeks now since the members of the TriCounty Foodgrains group met on June 25, to dedicate their crop of onions, potatoes and squash. That crop is now growing well on Sheila Greason's farm with the help of several of the dedicated group members!

The TriCounty Foodgrains group is a partnership between St. Marys Presbyterian Church, East Nissouri Union Church and St. Marys First Baptist. It

is a Christian response to hunger that involves the growth and sale of crops with proceeds matched by our government at a rate of 4:1. All funds are then used to help end hunger in our world. The group was thrilled to celebrate their 30th anniversary last year.

For several years now, Sheila has donated her land, while seeds and plants have been kindly donated by The Hitching Post and Petals and Foliage. Cedar Row Sanctuary has also do-

notated a generous amount of fertilizer this year. Produce harvested from this land will be available for purchase at the St. Marys Farmers Market in the coming months. You can stock up on potatoes, onions and squash knowing that you are helping others as well as enjoying fresh, locally grown food!

As in previous years, there will be a fundraising music night at First Baptist Church. On September 23, 2023, Tom and Rose Merrigan from Exeter

will grace us with their musical talents. A freewill offering will be taken at that time with all proceeds supporting the project. More details will be shared as the date approaches.

If you have any questions at all about the project or would like to become involved, please contact Sheila at (519)349-2768 or stop by and talk to us at the market this summer/fall!

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**COMMUNITY —**

# Town Wide Yard Sale held last Saturday



Despite the threat of some rain, there were many people out and about for the town wide garage sales on Saturday morning. (Wendy Lamond photos)

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# SPORTS —

## Midwestern Ontario Jr. Optimists tourney held at SMG&CC



St. Marys native Rylee Cunningham claimed first place in the Girls 10-14 age division at last Tuesday's Midwestern Ontario Junior Optimists tournament. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

By Spencer Seymour

St. Marys Golf & Country Club (SMG&CC) hosted 43 golfers last Tuesday for the Midwestern Ontario Junior Optimists tournament, a field that included several local competitors.

The young golfers were aiming to shoot a qualifying score, which would have earned a qualification for next year's Optimist International Junior Golf Championships at the Doral Resort and Spa in Miami, Florida.

The field included seven St. Marys natives, including Nathan Wolfkamp who shot a 76, good for second place in the Boys 14-15 division and to qualify for next July's International Championship. It will be Wolfkamp's second consecutive appearance at the tournament after competing in the global tournament last month.

Donovan McGregor, Kolton McAllister, and Simon Greig of St. Marys also competed in the Boys 14-15 category. McGregor finished third while McAllister came in fourth and Greig took 10th. Grayson Carter of Newton was the division's champion.

Although they didn't shoot a qualifying score, Rylee Cunningham of St. Marys was victorious in the Girls 10-

14 division. Fellow St. Marys resident Charlotte Heinbuck finished fourth in the group. Second place went to London's Nesya Rickesha while Jocelyn Wilhelm captured third.

Stratford's Braden Keating finished atop the Boys 10-11 division and qualified next year's International Championship. Nash King of Walkerton came in second while Caleb Gibson of Gorrie took third and St. Marys native Briland Cunningham finished fourth.

Alexa Todd from Owen Sound was the only competitor in the Girls 15-18 division, qualifying for the 2024 International Championship by shooting an 80.

Kincardine's Max Roppel's 76 was good enough to come in first in the Boys 12-13 bracket. Jackson Brekelmans of Strathroy finished second, and Cal McQuillin of Kincardine took third.

In the Boys 16-18 division, only one shot a qualifying score, that being Kallan Gillard of St. Thomas, who won the group by shooting a 77.

Rachel Skillen, District Golf Chair for the South Huron Optimist Club, expressed gratitude to the St. Marys course for their hospitality as well as



Nathan Wolfkamp chips the ball during last Tuesday's Midwestern Ontario Junior Optimists tournament. Wolfkamp qualified for next year's Junior Optimists International Championship being held at the Doral course in Miami, Florida. Wolfkamp competed at this year's iteration of the International Championship. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

the Club's volunteers who helped run the event smoothly.

"St. Marys Golf and Country Club put on a great tournament and we really appreciate all the work that everyone did to make this tournament run so well," said Skillen. "The conditions were challenging in some areas and in the rough just due to the recent weather but the golfers did a great job persevering and thankfully we

got some great weather the day of the tournament."

"We also want to thank the Optimist volunteers who came out to support us and help out in multiple different roles around the course. It's really great to see all these young players taking up the sport and we hope they continue to play and encourage their friends to pick up the game."

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## SPORTS —

# George backstops Canada to U18 Gold

By Spencer Seymour

Former St. Marys Lincolns' goaltender Carter George helped Team Canada capture the Gold Medal at the Hlinka-Gretzky Cup held in Breclav, Czechia earlier this month.

The Thunder Bay native spoke to the Independent following his win and said that the win has yet to sink in.

"It's pretty crazy. It doesn't feel real. I wake up and I think about it and it just hits you that you just won Gold. It's such a surreal moment and feeling."

When speaking about wearing the Canadian jersey and being the netminder the team went with in the final game, George called it a "massive honour."

"It meant a lot to wear that jersey. It was a dream come true and something I've thought about and dreamt of since I was a little kid. There were a lot of moments when I couldn't believe it was actually happening and that I was playing on that international level. For them to turn to me the Gold Medal game is something that you dream of and work towards. It feels like the hard work and dedication have really paid off."

George admitted that he didn't expect to make the national team for the

Hlinka-Gretzky Cup, having not been a regular CHL player and not making the U17 program last Summer. This resulted in the Owen Sound Attack's 2022 third-round pick going into the tournament in a role he relishes – the underdog.

"No one has high expectations for you because you didn't play in the CHL and the other guys did and they put up great numbers. It's a lot easier being the underdog because there is no pressure when you go out there. You can just play your game. When you're at the top, there are always guys coming to try and take your spot. When you're the underdog, it's your spot to take."

George's rise from the third goalie to the starter on Team Canada wasn't the first time he has had a surprise breakout, having pulled off a very similar feat for the Owen Sound Attack last year

For a junior player, there are very few situations that come with more prestige and reverence than a Gold Medal game that goes into overtime. Going into the game, George said the team felt good about their chances.

"Our team was super confident going into it. We had beaten the Czechs in the exhibition before the tournament

and had beat them 5-0. We knew we could beat that team, it was just a matter of us going out and executing. We believed in our own abilities and the guys sitting next to them."

After a late third-period comeback by the Czechs forced overtime, George explained how the team's leaders settled the Canadian group and re-focused ahead of the sudden-death period.

"It was a little nerve-wracking," George said, describing the atmosphere during the intermission ahead of the extra frame. "We had great leaders on our team and going into overtime, they were all saying that when we came back into the dressing room, we would be champions. I felt that a big thing for us to have that motivation and confidence even though we gave away the lead late in the third."

George was the only member of Team Canada who didn't play the majority of last season with a CHL team. The former Lincolns' goalie felt tremendous pride in being among the top players for the Gold Medal-winning team.

"To even be mentioned in that conversation with those players is an incredible honour. Winning that Gold Medal as part of that team means a

lot to me. The whole team bought into our goal of winning the Gold and the whole team competed for each other and as a team. My defence was amazing and everyone put their bodies on the line to block a ton of shots."

Entering the tournament, George's focus was on enjoying the experience of representing his country. Exiting the tournament, just as valuable as the Gold Medal are the friendships that were made inside the Canadian dressing room.

"Going into it, I just wanted to make the most of it and enjoy every moment of the experience. I knew that this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I just wanted to savour as much of it as I could. The first couple of days were a bit nerve-wracking but once I settled in and got comfortable with the guys, it was great. The facilities, the hotel, the views, everything was awesome."

"The close bonds with the guys is something that will be really special to me for a long time," George continued. "You're with the guys all the time for two weeks straight and you become close friends with them by the end. They are guys I'll probably keep in touch with the rest of my life and how we bonded really helped us as a team to overcome adversity."

## U9 teams end season with strong playoffs



Pictured is the Kinsmen Club U9 Blue St. Marys Rockies. In the front row, from left to right, are Cole DeVries, Lincoln Jennings, Nolan Seleski, and Jack Becker. In the back row, from left, are Elliott Maddock, Jacob Hahn, Clark Monteith, Coach Matt Monteith, Harvey Terpstra, James Van de Gevel, Coach Robin Van de Gevel, Reed Martin, Tony Fluttert, and Maclean Ross. Absent were Coach Ryan Brown, Oscar Brown, and Damon MacNeil. The team played a consolation tournament in Mitchell last weekend and had good showings in three back-and-forth games. Several awards were handed out following the tournament, including Maddock being named Most Sportsmanlike Player. Ross and Martin received the Most Improved Player award. Last but not least, Jacob Hahn was named the Most Valuable Player. Coach Van de Gevel was thrilled with the team's season, praising the players for their development and encouragement of each other. (Contributed photos)



Pictured is the Dunny's Source For Sports U9 Red St. Marys Rockies. In the front row, from left, are Cooper Sass, Logan Strahan, Mitchell Grant, Nico Thompson, Max Bilyea, and Everett Crummer. In the back row, from left, are Coach Jared Stokes, Coach Lisa Bilyea, Aiden Hibbert, Ryan Pickel, Forest Vergeer, Jack Bilyea, Cameron Stokes, Logan Messelis, and Head Coach Nate Hibbert. Coach Hibbert told the Independent that the team was made up mostly of players new to the game who made strong strides forward supported by a few returning youngsters. "We had a great year with lots of improvements in the batters box and a noticeable difference on the field as well," said Hibbert. "They were a great bunch of kids to coach and watching them develop their baseball skills was very satisfying for us as coaches." In the first of three playoff games last weekend, the squad defeated Exeter. The team didn't move on based on runs against but Hibbert praised the team's performance over the whole weekend.



**SPORTS —**

# Burgin breaks 29-year-old record at Ontario Masters

By Spencer Seymour

A record that has stood for close to three decades was broken by Aileen Burgin from just outside of Kirkton during the Ontario Masters Track and Field Championships held in Toronto during the final weekend of July.

Burgin ran the Women's 80-84 200-metre sprint in a time of 52.95, not only good for first place in the event but also bested Isobel Cunningham's previous record time of 53.1. Cunningham's record stood for 29 years.

According to Burgin, an earlier miscommunication with her husband and coach Harold Burgin led her to initially believe that she had a poor time following the race.

"I felt rather disappointed as I neared the finish line," Burgin told the Independent. "I had run as fast as I could. I had not saved anything for the last 30m surge and the time display was showing 50, then 51 then 52. It flashed through my mind that my husband had said a time 'under 50 seconds' would be a good result. He showed up right after his 200-metre dash and declared that he thought that I had broken the record. That was when I learned that he had said 'under 60 seconds' would be a good time."

Once things had been cleared up, Burgin's mood shifted to that of much more excitement.

"Of course, I felt good about [setting a new all-time record]," said Burgin. "I have never set a record in anything so that is pretty special for me. Truthfully, I believe that Harold who, in his career as a high school Phys Ed teacher and coach, had guided quite a few highly motivated teens and he probably is the one who is enjoying this the most."

"It is really satisfying to see my name in the Athletics Ontario and to think that it could possibly stay there for several years," continued Burgin. "Isobel's record held up for 29 years so it's exciting to think that I may stay in the record books for a long time."

Going into the Championship meet, Burgin explained that such an impressive feat wasn't part of her expectations.

"Truthfully, my expectation was simply to finish my races without suffering an injury. When I run a race, I run as fast as I can and hope the finish line shows up soon. I had run the 100-metre on the Saturday, it was pouring rain and I was the only competitor in my age bracket, so I won the Gold in



(Photo credit: Doug Smith/shaggysphotos.com)

that event automatically. I was hoping to run that race in under 24 seconds and thought that was going to be my big win of the weekend but it wasn't."

The 200-metre event took place the following day and interestingly, Burgin admitted that she wasn't feeling quite as enthusiastic about the event in which she would eventually set a record.

"Going into Sunday, I really didn't want to run the 200-metre. I'm a dart-and-dash kind of person and in the 100-metre, I can see the finish line before the race. With the 200-metre being twice as long as what I am used to running, I thought it was too far for me going in."

Burgin isn't new to the OMA Championships, having competed in two prior events before this one. She said that it is a very well-run event with great people competing in the events.

"It is quite a spectacle and the camaraderie is great. When we leave the track facility, the common comment is 'see you next year' and in my mind, I am saying 'God willing'. The meet is only successful because of the myriad of volunteers of all ages. Some are in their 80s and have been competitors in the past. Some are young teens who are being trained by their mentors."

As previously mentioned, Burgin, who runs as an 'unattached' with no club affiliation, is coached by her husband Harold. She made sure to credit his support and coaching ability as a key factor in her success.

"Without Harold, the whole effort would never have been attempted. He is the one who saw the potential and, despite my lethargic cooperation, he doggedly carried on with the idea that I could make a very good stab at raising the record. Without him, I certainly wouldn't have been able to manage the hurdle of travelling to Toronto and the race site. There would have never been such an event in my life if I was on my own."

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**SPORTS —**

**Minor Sports Scrapbook**



On the left, Will Richardson sprints back to home plate during the Cubberley Plumbing and Heating U13 Red St. Marys Rockies game last Wednesday. On the right, Adam Nelson looks to get an out after collecting the ball in the infield.



On the left, Jacob Zwambag takes the ball towards the net during the U8 Boys Tier Three St. Marys Storm Two game last Saturday. On the right, Kyle Johnson lines up a big kick.



On the left, Jaynie Johnston pushes the ball towards the box during this past Sunday's U9 Girls Tier Three Two St. Marys Storm game. On the right, Jessica Zwambag kicks the ball past the keeper.



On the left, Tucker Posthumus battles for the ball during this past Sunday's U9 Boys Tier Two St. Marys Storm game. On the right, goalkeeper Jakob Kittmer plays the ball to a nearby defender.



On the left, Cory Vansteelandt scores a goal for the U10 Boys Tier Three St. Marys Storm during their game this past Sunday. On the right, Landon Weber hops over an opposing player to advance the ball down the field.



On the left, Aryn Sheldon with a big kick towards the opposing during the U14 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm game last Thursday. On the right, Brooke Horenberg dashes down the wing. (Spencer Seymour photos)



# SPORTS —

## U17 Boys 'buzzing' in final home game of season

By Spencer Seymour

The dominant U17 Boys Tier Two St. Marys Storm continued their winning ways with a 5-2 win over the London United Knights in their final home game of the season.

Co-Captains Grayson Ropchan and Dan Zulu spoke to the Independent following the game, saying that the team's energy was at a high en route to the win.

"All the boys were buzzing tonight," said Ropchan. "From start to finish, we were quick on our feet, making good passes, and getting good touches. We had lots of really good shots and were just moving really well all game."

The star of the game was Joop Brinke, normally the team's goalkeeper who shifted into an offensive role in an effort to get on the scoresheet. The second half of the game in particular saw Brinke put in a speedy, hard-working effort, finding several scoring chances but couldn't quite find the back of the net.

That was until the dying moments of the game when Brinke found some open space and then the back of the net, scoring just seconds before the final whistle was blown to end the game.



Joop Brinke races by a London defender during the U17 Boys Tier Two St. Marys Storm game this past Monday night. Brinke, normally the team's goalkeeper, went on to score a last-second goal in one of the team's most special moments of their dominant season. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

The entire team was elated to see Brinke's goal, with both Ropchan and Zulu singing his praises.

"Joop came up big for us," Ropchan

said, before Zulu chimed in. "What a performance. He had a couple of big runs. He burned the tank out there hunting the ball down and had a few rockets of shots."

In addition to Brinke, the Storm also goal goals from Carson Brock, Willem De Wit, Diego Franco-Farmer, and Roger Sebben.

Several times throughout the game, the character of the group was evident with many instances of respect shown to their opponents even in the heat of battle. Ropchan gave the credit to the team's coaches, Sam Triemstra and Alex Zulu.

"I think the credit goes to our coaches. They keep us focused, they keep us grounded, but most importantly, they make this a really fun environment. Playing for this team feels like recess for us."

When asked what makes the team special, both Ropchan and Zulu said the team's close-knit nature was what allowed the high talent level to play as such a well-oiled machine this season.

"The coaches bring a positive attitude and that has rubbed off on all of us," explained Ropchan, before Zulu continued. "We're a family out there. The friendships, the chemistry, the bonds we have, that all makes it fun to play together and we play well because of it."

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**SPORTS —**

# Army & Navy hosts U15 hockey ring ceremony



This past Sunday, players and coaches of the provincial title-winning U15 Boys St. Marys Rock minor hockey team took part in a ring ceremony held at the Army and Navy, who also sponsored the team last season. The Army and Navy have sponsored hockey teams in St. Marys for at least 65 years and also sponsor local baseball teams. Pictured from left to right are Army and Navy Vice-President and Sports Officer Bob Mills, Coach Brendan Near, Zach Larmer, Reid Taylor, Danny Switzer, Andre Mollet, Coach Eric Burford, Coach Kyle Spence, and Army and Navy President Roy Maynard. Kneeling in front is Head Coach Gord Cookson. (Wendy Lamond photo)

# Youth, experience team up for Gold



Pictured from left to right are Matt Payette and Dwayne Henderson, members of the St. Marys Pickleball Association, who won the gold medal at the Iron Horse Pickleball Tournament in St. Thomas on August 6th. The event was a Men's Doubles split age (one person over 50, one under 50) tournament in the 3.5 skill rating. In the finals, Payette and Henderson played three games. They lost the first game 7-11 before regrouping to win the next two contests, both by a score of 11-9. Tournament play requires mental discipline and confidence in your partner. Henderson and Payette do not have a lot of experience playing together but handled the pressure and came out on top. The second annual St. Marys Pickleball Association Golf Tournament was played on August 11 at the River Valley Golf Club. A total of 23 members participated in the nine-hole scramble which was won by Michelle Ramus, Marty Ramus, Mike McKinnon, and Dave Baxter, who won with a score of one over par. A reminder to members that ladies play Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. at the St. Marys courts. Beginners and non-members are welcome. (Contributed photo)

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## HISTORY —

## HISTORIC ST. MARYS: The Palatines in Blanshard

By Mary Smith

For his 1899 book, *Pioneers of Blanshard*, William Johnston interviewed David Brethour, an early settler in the township. Brethour was born to Irish Palatine parents in County Limerick, Ireland, in 1831, the youngest in a family of ten children. His mother died when he was a nine-month old baby. In 1833, his father decided to take his young family to Canada. They arrived in Quebec following an 11-week voyage and settled in Georgina Township near Lake Simcoe, an area that, in the 1830s, was still wilderness. David grew up working with his father on the family farm. In 1851, he married Elizabeth Shier, another Irish Palatine from neighbouring Brock Township. Her brother had taken up land in Blanshard Township. David and Elizabeth Brethour relocated to Blanshard in 1853 and raised seven children on their farm on the Base Line near Woodham. David served on township council and was reeve in 1873-1874. He was a captain in Blanshard's first volunteer militia, a Conservative, and an Orangeman. According to Johnston, he was extremely good-natured, kind, honest and well-read in all branches, particularly history.

The Brethour and Shier families had lived more than a century in Ireland before they immigrated to Canada. They had lost their German language and spoke English with an Irish accent. But they held onto the stories of that early 18th century migration from Germany to Ireland. In Canada, they passed these stories on to their descendants. Brethour explained to William Johnston how his ancestors fled the Palatinate because of religious persecution, "seeking freedom for themselves and their families in the forests of America." Johnston continued the story: "Accordingly, three ships were freighted with the poor, persecuted people of the Palatine and sailed for the west. After putting out to sea, they were overtaken by a great storm, and one of the ships was cast away on the southwestern coast of Ireland, where all those who were aboard finally settled."

This dramatic shipwreck story was repeated in the 1951 book *The History of Blanshard in Review*, this time associated with the early history of the Switzer family. Their ancestors supposedly "set sail for Pennsylvania, May 4, 1709, and were wrecked on the coast of Ireland at the time of Queen Anne." Historians can find no record of any such marine disaster involving Palatines on their way to North America. The popular story was untrue: the Switzers, Shiers and



Nathan and Emma (Cornish) Doupe and their little daughter, Velma, early 1900s, outside their home on Mary Street, Kirkton.

Brethours were placed in Ireland as part of a settlement scheme to augment the Protestant population. Still the tale served generations of Palatines to explain their presence in that country – a people distinct from the general population.

Being distinct and separate was no longer necessary when the Palatines arrived in Canada – certainly not in Blanshard Township. As William Johnston reports in his 1903 *History of Perth County*, "Blanshard was settled almost entirely by people from the north of Ireland, particularly that portion west of the River Thames." Although the Palatines were mostly from Limerick or Tipperary in the southwest of Ireland, they were at home among their new neighbours, mostly Protestants, many of them Methodists like themselves. And in this larger country, if there were differences with near neighbours in politics or religion, they did not threaten a family's wellbeing or ability to prosper.

John and Agnes Switzer came from Limerick to Canada in 1843 with seven of their children – two daughters and five sons. An older son, Reuben, along with his wife and five children, followed in 1846. They had several more children born in Blanshard Township. Like David Brethour, Reuben Switzer also served on the township council and later was appointed License Inspector for the township. At that time there were 13 hotels in Blanshard, and, according to William Johnston, the inspector could test "the

various liquors at any time, as well as to sample every bottle in the bar, to enable him to decide whether they were up to the required standard or not." Johnston suggests, "... a person holding this honorable position had a difficult task to perform among the 13 houses of public entertainment, and preserve the dignity of the office."

Many Irish Palatines had large families and their children married and had children of their own. The 1879 *Belden Historical Atlas* shows the families spread out through the township. The farms along the Mitchell Road were homes to a number of first and second generation Irish Palatines. Not only some of John and Agnes Switzer's family but also Sparlings, Raynards and St. Johns settled in this area. Reuben Switzer's farm was in Concession 3 near Anderson, close to farms owned by Shiers and more Sparlings. There were other groupings of Irish Palatines on both the Usborne and Blanshard sides of Kirkton and Woodham – Shiers, Switzers, Brethours and Doupes.

The information about the Irish Palatine Doupe family in this area is both comprehensive and accessible, thanks to genealogist Roy Doupe. Roy grew up in St. Marys but also spent time with his relatives in the Kirkton area. His interest in his family history began when he was young. He listened to – and remembered – the stories told by his older siblings, his parents, his aunts, uncles and cousins. He travelled to Ireland and met with people of Palatine descent who still live

there and corresponded with Doupe descendants throughout Canada and the United States. He attended family reunions, sought out old photographs, read historic newspapers, land registry documents, census returns and church records. The list of works cited for his *Doupe Family History* (2000) has more than 60 entries.

Roy's great-grandfather, Henry Doupe, born in 1812 in Limerick, was a school teacher. In 1838, he married Mary Ann Legear, a school mistress, who was also from a Palatine family. But Mary Ann died in 1847, leaving Henry a widower with five young children. In 1849, he married another teacher, Lucy Leitle, from County Cavan, 18 years younger than he was. Henry, Lucy and the five young children set out for Canada soon after the wedding and settled in Usborne Township, just west of Kirkton. Ten more children were added to the family, all born in Usborne.

Roy is the grandson of Henry and Lucy's seventh child, Amos Doupe, who married Eliza Kirk in 1896. Amos and his younger brother, Nathan, were renowned athletes in the 1880s, setting records and winning prizes for athletic competitions: sprints, high jump, pole vault, long jump and hop-step-and jump. Amos retired from competition in 1887, "finding it impossible to keep in proper shape for the games and run a farm also." Before he and Eliza retired to St. Marys, Amos served as an official of the Kirkton Fair Board for 48 years. He died in 1943.

Nathan's athletic career was interrupted when he earned his certification to become a school teacher. He taught in the Kirkton area for most of his working life, with the exception of several years as a merchant in Lucan. He, his wife, Emma Cornish, and their daughter, Verna, are shown in this week's photograph. Nathan retired from teaching in 1928, but remained active in the village all his life. He served as auditor for Blanshard Township, the Blanshard Fire Insurance Company and the Blanshard Telephone Company. He died in 1955, age 91.

The Palatines who settled in the Blanshard Township area 180 years ago subsequently contributed to this area and across Canada as farmers, teachers, municipal officials, doctors, ministers, merchants, telephone linesmen, bankers, soldiers, mechanics, school trustees, musicians, nurses, salesmen, writers, 4H leaders, Sunday School superintendents and athletes. The Irish Palatines truly found a home.



COLUMN —

# FROM THE GARDEN: Inspiring passion



**By Nancy Abra**

Many gardeners are inspired by various factors. During the cold drab winter months, we dream of warm summer days, colourful gardens and maybe a couple of travel adventures. These summer inspirations usually stem from a garden magazine article, a presentation we attended or brochures of famous gardens. For me, it is the Whole Seed Catalog from Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds of Mansfield, Missouri. This seed catalog was first published in 2014 and has grown in size and popularity ever since. The 2023 edition is over 500 pages of colourful pages of heirloom varieties of flowers, herbs and vegetables from across North America and around the world. It includes historical backgrounds of some of their seeds, interesting recipes, growing information and behind the scenes look at their research and staff. It is prob-

ably the world's largest seed catalog, and more like a gardener's coffee table book. As I read through this catalog in the dead of winter and mark down what I want to grow in my garden, my thoughts drift off, thinking I would love to visit this seed farm.

Well, that aspiration came true last month. On our way home from a conference in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, the Baker Creek Seed Farm just happened to be, well not too far out of the way, on our drive home. I was so excited to see firsthand the farm that produces the wonderful heirloom seeds I plant in my garden.

Founder Jere Gettle started Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Company in 1998 as a hobby, and it has grown into North America's largest heirloom seed company. Over the years, they have never lost their passion for growing and sharing heirloom varieties. Their mission is to provide seeds of sustainable food supply, keeping heirloom varieties flourishing for future generations. [www.rareseeds.com](http://www.rareseeds.com)

The farm headquarters includes trial and research gardens, greenhouses, a quaint pioneer village, restaurant, and a colourful display garden in from of their retail

seed store, where there are thousands of seeds varieties lined up on shelves to purchase. All of this on the homestead where Gettle and his wife, Emilee still live.

When chatting with the clerk in the seed store, I mentioned that I was thrilled to be there, a fan of their seeds and inspired by their mission of providing open-pollinated heirloom seeds. "Do you have some time to take a tour of our farm?" she said. "I'll go get our farm manager". My excitement escalated with the thoughts of a personal behind-the-scenes tour of this seed farm.

As we scooted down to the greenhouses and trial gardens on a golf cart, Jordon, the young farm manager explained about their research, purity trails in the various areas of this 8-acre farm. We drove around the gardens of various vegetables, sweet corn which had just been hand pollinated and the ears bagged, past the egg plant trail bed, a sweet potato bed and another with huge peppers. Jordon explained these gardens were monitored for their growing and fruiting performance, and once harvested the seed is pure to its genetic line. He told us there was a garden staff of 8 em-



ployees and all have various tasks in the greenhouses and trial gardens.

We visited their citrus houses growing guava, mandarin oranges, finger limes, avocado, and exotic spices of turmeric and cardamom. There was a fig house with ginger and more turmeric. Another greenhouse facility we visited was a 1500 sq ft for their 2023 melon trials, mainly of the Kajari Melon variety. Other greenhouses were used for various close monitored veggie trials. And their colourful

flower and kitchen display gardens were amazing, buzzing with pollinators of various species.

Besides the gardeners on staff, the Baker Creek Heirloom Seed has approximately a staff of 100 in the diverse positions of gardeners, seed handlers, customer support and technology, maintenance, retail store and restaurant. And everyone we met that day was so warm, welcoming and passionate about what they do on this farm... an inspiration for every gardener.

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Solutions on page 27



COLUMN —

# HOSTING UKRAINE: Peer Support

By VJ Knutson

"I just wish someone would tell me the rules!" Iryna said to me shortly after they moved in. I wasn't sure what she meant, but with a bit more prodding, I realized that she didn't understand how Government benefit programs work.

"It's everything, really," she added.

Early in the New Year, Andrew Atlin and colleagues offered a session on the how taxes work, but of course, Iryna had not been here at that time. It's hard to keep up with who knows what.

In discussion with three Ukrainian moms, it was suggested that peer support would be helpful. I relayed the message to Brittany from the Town of St Marys, and she contacted Sarah from the library. We all got together and identified two needs: a drop-in situation in which Ukrainians can receive help navigating Canadian life, from translating school memos to help filling out forms; and an ongoing series of informative talks.

We are looking at 2 afternoons and 2 evenings a month on alternate



weeks. I'll pass on more information when it's been finalized, but if you are Ukrainian, have been here a while, and are willing to volunteer some time (2 hours a month), then please reach out to me. Ukrainian speakers from the greater community are also welcome.

I am still receiving requests for hosts. Currently looking for help for a mother and two-year-old as well as a mom with two children. They have com-

pleted all their paperwork and have been living in temporary quarters, but need to be housed by August 27th. If you think you can help, please message me. I'm always looking for hosts, and can work to accommodate your comfort level. If these families don't suit, there will be others.

On a lighter note, Grandma Luda, Max and I met up with Alina and Andrew for a walk along the river. We watched an osprey with a prized

catch circle overhead, admired the Great Blue Heron calmly keeping his post across the way, and collectively laughed at Andrew's antics. It was a glorious visit, and I came away reminded that it's the simple things in life that make a difference.

Ten-year-old Max was delighted later when I asked if he'd like to be a paper carrier for the Independent. Luda and I laughed as Max, accompanied by his mom and Ric, all headed out to deliver his first batch of papers. If you live around the hospital, please be sure to give Max a shoutout. He's proud of his job.

Next week, I will follow up on another young Ukrainian in our midst. Many of you will remember having seen Alina Shyshkivska at the Front Porch last summer. It's been more than a year now, and what Alina has accomplished is outstanding. Alina's dream of joining Cirque de Soleil remains firm.

Till next time.

(Always love hearing from you. Contact me at [english.knutson@gmail.com](mailto:english.knutson@gmail.com))



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# Thorndale's Local Monarch Hero

By Nancy Abra

The compassion of being a volunteer firefighter and coming to the aid of people and creatures never seems to wane. Kathy Machay joined the Thorndale Fire Department in 1999 because she wanted to do something for her community, was interested in helping people and wanted to provide support for victims. She was a member of this fire department until she retired in 2016. She is currently a realtor for the Century 21 First Canadian Corp. But the compassion to come to the rescue of who or what needs help has never declined.

"This is my third year raising Monarch butterflies", Machay remarked. "A few years ago, I read that the Monarch population was declining and in trouble. I watched a couple of videos on people raising Monarchs and thought, I could help save these creatures too. I raise Monarchs for the conservation of this species, but it has turned into a fun and rewarding hobby."

Machay explained the first year she started in this rescue project, she would stop at patches of milkweed along the sides of the road and look for eggs on the leaves. "I also collected



the milkweed leaves for caterpillars to eat once they had emerged from the eggs. I wanted my own plant source, so I purchased five small milkweed plants. The last couple of years, these plants have spread by the rhizomes underground, so now I have about 20 plants in my garden." Machay added that she also likes to collect the seeds from these plants to grow more plants for food source for her caterpillars. In addition to the milkweed in her

garden, she has a couple of butterfly bushes, Joe Pye Weed, coneflower, sedums and butterfly weed.

"In 2021" Machay stated, "I released 11 adult Monarch butterflies and in 2022 I released 36. So far this year, I have released 6 but I suspect I will have another 30 or so to raise and release by the end of season."

"Not every egg makes it through the life cycle to adulthood" Machay ex-

plained. "I have had several caterpillars die at the various instar stages. This year I even had a caterpillar make it to the chrysalis stage, darken as if it was going to become a butterfly but then die. That was disappointing."

Machay explained that the instar stages are when a caterpillar molts during their growing stages and that they go through five of these stages in total. The Monarch's life cycle takes approximately 30 days to go from an egg to an adult butterfly. "When you think about it," Machay said "that's pretty amazing."

As for how long each Monarch raising season lasts, she said she continues until she no longer finds any eggs and the last Monarch is raised. They migrate to Mexico every year and is usually from late August to early October. Last year, Machay stated that the last Monarch she released was on September 11th. She releases all her Monarchs in her backyard, with a goal each year to raise more Monarchs than she did the previous year.

The compassion of Kathy Machay to come to the assistance of an endangered species is truly a hero for our local Monarch butterfly population.

# Thorndale's annual street and yard sale

By Nancy Abra

Last Saturday was Thorndale's annual street and yard sale. This summer event has been an annual affair for the town for more than thirty years. It was initially spearheaded by Don and Karen Bentum, owners of the Thorndale Hardware Store as a summer promotional event for their store.

In past years the streets would be full of bargain hunters and treasure seekers combing through the wares people had for sale. This year,

it seemed to be a little quieter than normal but there was good activity in front of Thorndale Hardware store and at Wye Creek Park. There was also quite the crowd in front of the Thorndale United Church on King Street for their bake sale, kids' carnival, and BBQ. Driving through the streets of Wye Creek subdivision there were many yards sales happening. So, the competition for sales wasn't as strong as in past years, but many people were out and about picking up deals throughout the town of Thorndale.



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## Word List

- Commentary
- Editorial
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- Sports
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- Riddle Kid
- Thoughts
- Word search
- Stonetown Crier
- Weekend Quiz
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- Gardening
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## THE WEEK AHEAD

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PRC & Friendship Centre events - See the Stonetown Crier on Page 5  
 St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 29

### Friday, August 18

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

### Saturday, August 19

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 am to Noon
- Practical Art grand opening at 2849 Road 119 - 9 am to 4 pm
- A.N.A.F. Brisket & Cornfest - 4 to 6 pm, Entertainment 4 to 8 pm
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm

### Sunday, August 20

- Granton Cemetery Decoration Day
- Harrington Decoration service at Knox Presbyterian Church - 11 am, lunch after service
- Teddy Bear Reunion - Parade starts at DCVI at 1 pm followed by activities at East Ward Park
- Edith Kestle "Nearly 90" celebration at St. James Masonic Lodge - 2 to 4 pm

### Wednesday, August 23

- Melodies at the Museum featuring York Street Thought Process at Cadzow Park - 7 to 8 pm

### Thursday, August 24

- Maurice William Arthur Celebration of Life at Cobble Hills Golf Club - 5 to 8 pm



## The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

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

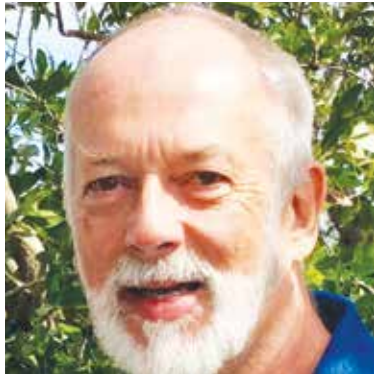
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## COLUMN —

## OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Off the beachin' path



**By Paul Knowles**

When we Canadians think “Myrtle Beach”, odds are good we conjure up two images: the beach and golf.

We’re not wrong. Myrtle Beach boasts almost 100 kilometers of beautiful beach on the Atlantic Ocean. And there are 90 or more golf courses in the area.

So, yes... sun, sand and fairways. But Myrtle Beach offers so much more as we got a chance to discover during our stay in March.

For instance, there are two great state parks here. Myrtle Beach State Park does, in fact, include beautiful beachfront but visitors can also enjoy nature trails and the unique Myrtle Beach pier. We found some ardent fisherfolk on the pier catching puffers, otherwise known as “dinner.”

Further south is Huntington Beach State Park where

we, with some trepidation, signed on for a two-hour Naturalist’s Tour by kayak. We got lucky. The park offers these tours every day but only occasionally does a qualified naturalist from the Park accompany the group, supplying all the information you could ever want to know about the flora and fauna of the salt marshes. It was a terrific experience and one I would take ahead of lying on a beach, every time!

In truth, the very best “off the beachin’ path” experience in Myrtle Beach is Brookgreen Gardens, a spectacular sculpture garden that was instantly one of my favourite gardens anywhere in the world. But I have already written a feature in this space about Brookgreen so... moving on.

Far less sophisticated than classical sculptures and botanical treasures, but still a ton of fun, is miniature golf and Myrtle Beach is a haven for miniature golf. If you’re driving around the city, you simply can’t miss the lavishly – some might say, garishly – decorated mini-putt courses. They’re worth an entertaining hour of your time.

Myrtle Beach is home to two unique shopping/dining/entertainment districts – Barefoot Landing and Broadway at the Beach.

The latter is rather cleverly

branded as an “outdoor lifestyle hub”. The reference to “the Beach” in its name comes from “Myrtle Beach” because this place is not on the waterfront, at least, not on the Atlantic. But there is a lagoon and popular waterfront attractions ranging from Ripley’s Believe it or Not to a restaurant and concert venue called “The Hangout”. These are highlights among the 350 acres of shops, nightlife destinations and hotels, all described as “the most popular tourist destination in South Carolina.”

Although, to be candid, we preferred Barefoot Landing with shops, pubs and restaurants also surrounding waterways accessed via a boardwalk. We enjoyed a typical but well-prepared roadhouse dinner at the Crooked Hammock Brewery, a craft brewery and pub that also offers outdoor dining with fire pits, hammocks (I would need a seminar on how to eat in a hammock), a kids’ playground and bocce ball courts.

There is far more to do in Myrtle Beach than you could ever take in, in a week or 10-day holiday, from the SkyWheel, a 61-meter high “observation wheel” which is newly renovated, to a variety of art galleries and museums.

In fact, if you want to keep really connected to the art scene, you can access a free digital pass – the Visit Myrtle Beach Arts & Gallery Trail – which lists over 100 stops along the “Grand Strand”. That should satisfy anyone’s appetite for art.

Canadians who visit or spend a few months in Myrtle Beach should know about Myrtle Beach CAN-Am days, a week in mid-March when Canadians are treated to all sorts of special events and offers.

And as if all the attractions of Myrtle Beach are not enough to keep you busy and entertained, I have to suggest that you also make a side-trip to Murrells Inlet, billed as “The Seafood Capital of South Carolina.” This little community includes a waterfront boardwalk called the Murrells Inlet Marshwalk with a full menu of casual waterfront eateries along this wooden path. The names of these places alone will catch your eye – Drunken Jack’s, Wicked Tuna, Creek Ratz, Dead Dog Saloon, and Bubba’s Love Shak. Great names, great seafood, and, not entirely surprisingly, good beer menus, too.

Myrtle Beach proper also has some really fine places to eat and that’s a topic for another future feature.

And to be fair, we also enjoyed the top two things about Myrtle Beach. We did walk the beach, and yes, we did play golf, enjoying a round at the Grand Dunes Resort Course, a highly-rated course where the fairways were like carpets, the greens had all been redone recently, the bunkers were silky, the driving range was free to players and my golf was as inconsistent as ever. It was a lovely day out though and highly recommended.

As, in fact, is Myrtle Beach in general. One tip... a lot of our Canadian friends have discovered Myrtle Beach and are spending several months there, January through March. It can be chilly (sweater weather), but those are considered off-season in South Carolina and the prices are amazing compared to warmer destinations farther south in the US.

You won’t be swimming in the ocean but you can do everything mentioned in this article. And, as they say, more.

*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](mailto:pknowles@golden.net).*



The boardwalk at Barefoot Landing. (Photo by Paul Knowles)

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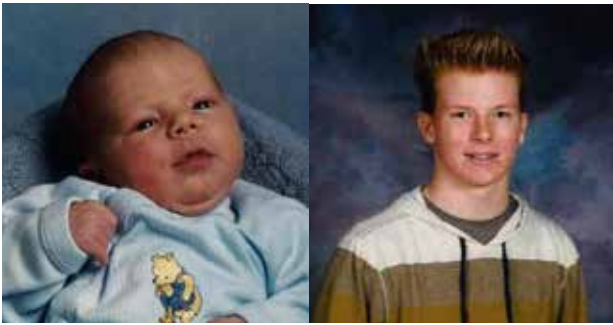
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### IN MEMORIAM

*Henderson*



#### Henderson - Michael Anthony

Son of Diane Henderson and Tony Wilhelm. Born February 4th, 2000 and died August 16, 2018 in Fredericton, New Brunswick as the result of a construction accident.

*The light and love you brought for 18 years will shine forever. Your light is still aglow.*

*The memories we shared will live on in our hearts,*

*Grief never ends, but changes, it is called love.*

*Michael, you are always with us.*

*Though tears still come, there's laughter and sunshine too, Our lives are not the same, but our love has never changed.*

*Aunt Beat is now with you, taker her hand and show her all the beautiful gardens.*

**Today as everyday, we remember you.  
Gramma Bessie and family**

### IN MEMORIAM

*Abel*

*In loving memory of my Dear Sister Sylvia who passed away February 15, 2018*

*Days of sadness still come over me,*

*Tears of silence often flow,*

*For memories keep you ever near me*

*Though you died FIVE YEARS AGO.*

**Always remembered by  
your sister Phyllis and Ken up above**

### IN MEMORIAM

*Taylor*

*In memory of a loving wife, mother and grandmother Sue, who left us on August 18, 2002.*

*We remember the way she smiled,*

*The things she used to say,*

*The many things she did for us,*

*In her own and loving way.*

*Those special years will not return when we were here together.*

*But with the memories in our hearts, she will be loved forever.*

**Loved and dearly missed by  
Ken, Paul and Anne, Jeff and Leslie  
and your loving grandchildren**

### 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.

### IN MEMORIAM

*Henderson*

**MICHAEL HENDERSON  
LOVED FOREVER AND ALWAYS  
Feb 4, 2000 - Aug 16, 2018**



Five years have now passed and missing you has not become any easier. We carry you with us every step of the way. The wish of wanting one more hug brings tears to our eyes. The ache in our hearts will never go away.

You are missed by all your family and friends. Keep watching over us our Sweet Angel.

Love Mom, Armond and Eric

### CELEBRATION



#### Please Join Jane's family for a Celebration of life Friday August 25

at St Marys Royal Canadian Legion Veteran Branch #236 from 2 till 4 pm followed by a good old Irish Wake downstairs at the Legion from 6:00 pm till the wee hours.

Please wear green and bring a Janer Story.

Salnte!

### 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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**OBITUARY**

*O'Hara*



Michael "Mike" John O'Hara, 62, of St. Marys passed in peace on Saturday, August 12th at Bluewater Health in Sarnia, Ontario.

Born November 16, 1960 to mother Shirley O'Hara (Vanstone) and father Robert John O'Hara, he is lovingly remembered by his mother and now

rests at peace with his father. Mike was the beloved husband and best friend of his childhood love, Linda O'Hara, who he married in 2014 and spent the last 9 years of his life with.

After spending the majority of his life in St. Marys, he and Linda settled in Port Franks to retire together. Mike was well known for his love for the beach and spending time in Florida. He always prioritized family and those close to him, offered mentorship, and gave love unconditionally. Also known by the nicknames "Harry", "Mike", and "Spike", Mike made significant contributions to the St. Marys community. He was the 3rd generation owner of O'Hara Antiques, coordinated tradeshows for RVS, and was a dedicated DZ driver at Andemar Dust & Ice.

Mike is remembered by those close to him for his accepting, understanding nature, infectious smile, and calming, one-of-a-kind voice and demeanour. During the final months of his life, Mike was graciously cared for by his wife, Linda, as well as many dedicated leaders in healthcare including Dr. Mark Vincent; Dr. Brian Yuremko and associates at the London Health Sciences Centre; and Dr. Mike Trevail at Happy Valley. Immense gratitude is extended to Dr. Orla MacSweeney and the Palliative Care team at Bluewater Health for their compassion and support in his final days.

Brother of Janice (Harry), Nancy (Lothar), and Jeff; father of Sara (Dennis), Josh (Taylor), Houston (Mackenzie), Samantha (Annanth), and Olivia (Geon); grandfather to Clayton Dale and Madeline O'Hara. Uncle of his nieces and nephews; great uncle of his great nieces and great nephews. Cherished by many close friends who loved him dearly.

Mike will be forever remembered for his warmth, compassion, and strength. In lieu of flowers, donations to London Health Sciences Centre or the Canadian Mental Health Association are deeply appreciated. A private burial and ceremony of life will be taking place at a later date. Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

**THANK YOU**

*Jaques*

The passing of a mother is never easy.

Your admiration and affection expressed for her, in the many comforting acts of love, both in word, and in deed, are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, the Marian Jaques family

**OBITUARY**

*Quigley*



Peter George Quigley, of St. Marys and formerly of London, passed away suddenly University Hospital in London on August 8, 2023 at the age of 56.

Beloved husband of Angie, married for 30 years. Loving father Jasmine (deceased), Tara (Robert), and MacKenzie

(Dani). Brother of Steven (deceased), and James (Julio). Uncle of Heather (James), Brian (Ember), Jennifer (Leigh), Michael, Michelle (Connor). Predeceased by his parents Robert and Marian Quigley.

Peter was member of the St. James Tecumseh Lodge No.73 AF&AM and Shriners. Cremation has taken place. An Open House Celebration of Life will be held at Peter and Angie's home, 105 Queen St. W. St. Marys on Sunday August 20, 2023 from 2 to 7 p.m. (Note: do not park in the driveway to the house, please use side streets off of Queen St.)

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be given to the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine Jasmine Quigley Memorial award (6 Queen's Park Crescent West Toronto, ON M5S 3H2). Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

**THANK YOU**

*McLean*

**Erma McLean**

We would like to thank all our family and friends for all the love and support given to Mom and all of our family. All the calls, visits, flowers, cards, gifts and memorial donations in Mom's name were truly appreciated and meant so much.

To the staff at Kingsway Lodge, we want to give a special thanks for all the wonderful care over the last few years.

Thanks to Dr. Gatfield (Mom's family Dr.), Dr. Burley, Dr. Komorowski and Dr. Trevail and staff at St. Marys Memorial Hospital. You were all so kind to Mom.

Thank you to Andrew from Hodges Funeral Home for his guidance in helping us to make Mom's Celebration of Life a great memory.

Gary Mallalieu, we want to thank you too for helping us through this with your prayers and kindness. Clare French, your tribute to Mom was very touching and heartfelt.

Everyone's kindness has been such a comfort and will always be remembered.

Sincerely, Erma's Family

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**LOOKING  
BACK**



By AMY CUBBERLEY

**Yahoo! for Canada**

25 years ago (1998)

This Friday, Dan Dawson, 13, of St. Marys, will accompany Mark Fletcher on the pipes at Little Falls, starting at 8 p.m. Dan had just returned from the Gaelic college in Cape Breton.

Thanks to the limping Canadian dollar and warm temperatures, the Stonetown has attracted quite a few visitors this summer. Sharon Barnes, St. Marys Recreation Program Director and supervisor at the tourism office, reports that it has been an excellent year.

Allison Maciver is one proud Canuck. The St. Marys area teen is so proud that two years ago she created the "Canada Rocks the World" website. Maciver decided to make her website because in 1996 most websites about Canada were government-run. She also felt that the level of pride in Canada seemed low. Last week, Internet browser Yahoo! Canada chose her site as the Yahoo! Canada Pick of the Week.

50 years ago (1973)

Good summer weather is providing a real financial boost for operations at both the swim quarry and Cadzow Park. Following a rather disastrous season in 1972, the uptrend this summer is very welcome.

Complaints have been heard regarding the brush allowed to grow at either end of the Water Street bridge, creating a traffic hazard for traffic coming along Parkview Drive and turning south over the one-lane traffic bridge. We understand a town crew has either started to remove the brush or will shortly.

It is rather curious to observe the almost absolute indifference local citizens accorded an ambulance proceeding down the main street with lights flashing. Last Friday morning, this reporter noticed numerous casual jay-walkers strolling across the road, right in front of the ambulance.

75 years ago (1948)

Harvey Ball, Thomas Street, has made further provisions to protect his house and property from the spring flooding and the ice danger. He has built a 4-foot concrete wall atop the old stone slab wall along the bank of the Thames.

Trucks are still lined up at the elevator of the Great Star Mill, unloading wheat. During the past week, many thousands of bushels of this year's abundant local wheat crop have been bought by the company, some of it at a price of \$2.20 per bushel.

When the sluice gates were opened under the chopping mill of the Great Star Mills this week, the rush of water carried tons of silt and other debris out of the old mill race. The deposit of ashes, gravel and rubbish had been carried into the race by the flood of last spring.

100 years ago (1923)

The fine big barn of James H. Robinson, third concession Blanshard, was completely destroyed by fire of unknown origin at 2:30 a.m. on Saturday. The barn contained over 60 loads of this year's hay crop, all of Mr. Robinson's wheat crop, and part of the barley. It was one of the largest and most up-to-date barns in the county, and the loss, although partly covered by insurance, will be a heavy one.

The curtain rod factory has started work. All litigation in connection with the removal of the head office and factory of the Pocock Manufacturing Company from Hamilton to St. Marys has now been amicably settled. A new company has been formed with Mr. Pocock holding a controlling number of shares, and the remaining shareholders have consented to the transfer of the above-named. Manufacturing operations have already commenced in the factory here and within a week will be going full blast.



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- 1) 1 X, 1Y
- 2) Marriage and childbirth
- 3) August 6th, 1945
- 4) Surfin' U.S.A by The Beach Boys
- 5) Santiago
- 6) A mess
- 7) John Wilkes Booth
- 8) 1,408 hours
- 9) March 9th, 1959
- 10) Luigi

**SUDOKU ANSWERS**

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

**COLUMN —**

**Straight from the Shelves**

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

Our annual End of Summer BBQ Celebration is next Thursday from 4:00pm to 7:00pm! Join us on the Queen Street lawn between Tim Hortons and the Town Hall for games, prizes, food, music, cake, and balloon animals! Everyone is welcome to attend this free event. Donations are accepted and appreciated.

**This Week's Recommendation**

The final weekly theme for this year's Summer Program is pirates! If you ever wanted to learn how to speak "Pirate", Mango Languages has the perfect course for you. Like all of Mango Languages' courses, learning to speak "Pirate" is completely free for all Library patrons. Before you know it, you'll know how to give sailing commands, greet a friend, and pay a compliment in Pirate speak. Create your free account on Mango Languages here: [tinyurl.com/Mango-Languages-SMPL](http://tinyurl.com/Mango-Languages-SMPL).

**Up This Week**

Friday, Aug. 18th: Funday Friday – Exploring with Kendra Martin of Coyote Nature School (10:00am)

Saturday, Aug. 19th:

Monday, Aug. 21st: Crafty Kids (10:30am-12:00pm), Club SMPL (1:30pm-3:00pm), Mahjong! (6:30pm-8:00pm)

Tuesday, Aug. 22nd: Reading Help (10:30am-12:00pm), Wonder Workshop (1:30pm-3:00pm)

Wednesday, Aug. 23rd: EarlyON – Play and Read (9:30am-10:30am), 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. 24th: End of Summer BBQ Celebration (4:00pm-7:00pm), Mahjong Intro, 6:00pm-6:30pm), Mahjong! (6:30pm-8:00pm)

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Application forms will be available on the Stratford Police Service website under the "Careers" link.

Completed application packages for this Experienced Police Constable position will be accepted until September 8, 2023.

Please mail or deliver completed applications to Stratford Police Service, 17 George Street West, Stratford, ON N5A 1A6.

We thank all applicants for their interest; however only those selected for testing will be contacted.

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Please send cover letter and resume by Thursday, August 17th, 2023 to:

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