

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1173

Thursday, August 24, 2023

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New Ownership at Flower Shop and More



By Julie Docker-Johnson

It is with every emotion that you can think of that I am announcing that The Flower Shop and More will have new owners!

I am beyond thrilled to introduce you to the O'Connor family - Christopher, Deb, Kate, Eli and Toby. When I made the decision to sell the store my wish was to find the perfect people to continue the legacy that has been built over the past 45 years, well my wish came true!

Christopher and Deb own The Garden in Harrington where they grow beautiful flowers. This marriage of The Flower Shop and More and The Garden in Harrington will be amazing. They respect and appreciate what we have built and will add their expertise to the mix.

Linda, Larry, Sue and I will work with them over the next while to make the transition seamless.

What a journey this has been, what a gift it has been to me. For the past 17 years I have had the honour to be part of the memories people have made, the best of times, the worst of times and everything in between. The Town of St. Marys has allowed me to "do my thing" and you have never let me down. I have had the huge honour to work with the most amazing people that are now my family and I love with all of my heart.

We will keep you posted as details come together about our transition. What I know for sure is The Flower Shop and More and The Garden in Harrington will be so much 'Better Together.'

Doors Open returns to St. Marys on September 23

On Saturday, September 23, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., visitors can travel through time by exploring several historic sites in St. Marys. Sixteen properties will be welcoming visitors as part of Doors Open, a province-wide event that highlights Ontario's architectural treasures.

New to this year's event is Riverwalk Commons, located at 84 Water St. S. This 1850s limestone commercial block was recently restored and now offers a space for intimate gatherings and events, small group workshops, retreats and co-working opportunities.

Next is Riverside Bed and Breakfast, located at 96 Robinson St. This designated heritage property was the childhood home of world-famous violinist, Nora Clench. Owners Marie and John Stevens will be hosting a variety of musical entertainers and artists on their front porch throughout the day.

Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home will also be receiving visitors. The property was built in 1897; the ground floor was converted to a funeral business in 1949. The upper floor is now home to owners Andrew, Andrea, Charlotte, and Mr. Pickles Hodges.

St. Marys has five historic churches - all on, or very near, Church Street. Members of their congregations will welcome visitors and explain the features that make the churches important to the town's architecture. Also on Church Street are two popular museums: the St. Marys Museum and the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. Both will be open to visitors throughout the day.

Several municipal buildings will also be open, including the St. Marys Public Library and 14 Church St. N. The Station Gallery - located in the train station on James St. N - will welcome visitors to its exhibit, Maaike Roosendaal Creative Digital Portrai-

Continued on page 2

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COMMUNITY —

Doors Open returns to St. Marys on September 23

Continued from page 1

ture. Steps away is St. Marys' Heritage Conservation District, which includes several dining and shopping destinations housed in historic buildings.

Broken Rail Brewing will open its doors as of 12:00 p.m. This train station, built by the Grand Trunk Railway, served the community for almost a century. A teenaged Thomas Edison may have worked here as a night tele-

graph operator from 1863-64. Visitors can enjoy a pint while the new owners share the history of this space.

Due to popular demand, the Friends of the Museum will once again be hosting mobility bus heritage tours throughout the day. Departing hourly from Town Hall, these tours are an excellent way to see St. Marys' heritage highlights from the comfort of an air conditioned, accessible bus. Visitors

can pre-register for their preferred timeslot by calling the museum or can sign up on the day of on a first come, first served basis.

Information headquarters for Doors Open will be a tent in front of Town Hall. Maps will be available, as well as last-minute news about special "added-value" features planned for many of the sites. Council Chambers will be open, and visitors can view work

underway in the auditorium as the St. Marys Community Players prepare for their fall production, Opening Night. Admission to all Doors Open sites is free.

For more information about the event, visit www.discoverstmarys.ca/doorsopen or contact Amy Cubberley, Cultural Services Manager at 519-284-2340 ext. 405 or acubberley@town.stmarys.on.ca.

Kick off the United Way campaign in St. Marys with a Hoedown

United Way Perth-Huron's (UWPH) St. Marys and Area Community Committee invites everyone to the St. Marys Community Hoedown on Wednesday, September 13 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club.

"We are proud to call St. Marys home and wanted to invite everyone to put on their best country-themed outfits and come celebrate our vibrant community," said Rob Edney, St. Marys and Area Community Committee co-chair and event organizer. "Our committee also wanted a chance

to talk about how we can continue working together to strengthen St. Marys through UWPH and its local supported partners and programs, including the NOURISH Equal Access Food Market and the St. Marys Community Developer and Support Worker."

Hosted by Joanie and Claire Chapple from The Yoga Chapple, the St. Marys Community Hoedown is an opportunity for locals to kick up their heels with a BBQ buffet, line dancing — with lessons courtesy of Shirley Davis — a silent auction, cornhole, and

other fun games with prizes highlighting the needs of vulnerable people in the community. Guest speaker Brent Kittmer will speak about creating a stronger, more resilient community.

Tickets are \$45 each. To purchase, call UWPH at 519-271-7730 or email reception@perthhuron.unitedway.ca.

The St. Marys Community Hoedown is proudly sponsored by Cascades Containerboard Packaging — St. Marys, Tremblett's Your Independent Grocer St. Marys, the St. Marys Golf and Country Club and the Yoga

Chapple.

About United Way Perth-Huron

UWPH helps here in the community you care about, tackling #UNIGNORABLE issues including homelessness, mental health and access to services. Thanks to United Way, its partners, and donors, vulnerable people across Perth-Huron have the chance for a brighter future. To show your #LocalLove by donating or volunteering, call 519-271-7730 or 1-877-818-8867, mail to 32 Erie Street, Stratford, ON N5A 2M4 or visit perthhuron.unitedway.ca.

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COMMUNITY —

Melodies at the Museum - week three



On week three of the Melodies at the Museum August concert series, Chet Greason and Aimee Jesso of The Bone Radlers took the stage. Both performers are Melodies at the Museum regulars but this was their Melodies debut as a duo. A good crowd was on hand to enjoy the musical talents of the Bone Radlers on Wednesday, August 16. (Nancy Bickell photos)

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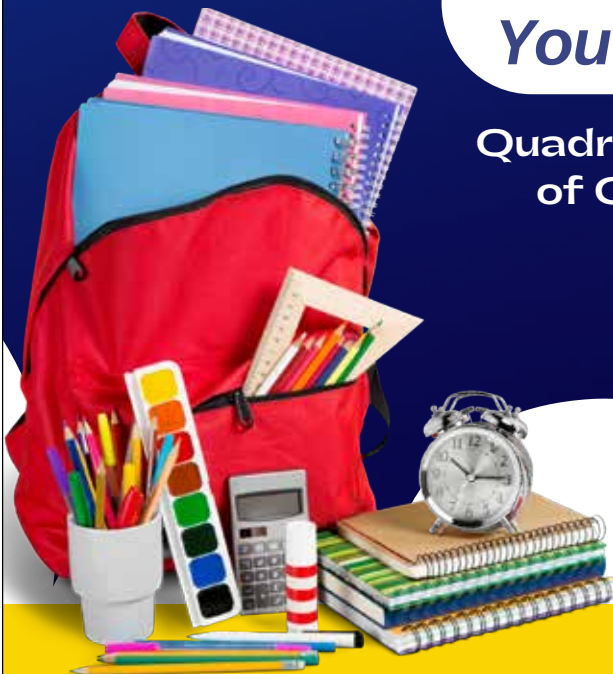
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OBITUARY —

Francis (Frank) Doyle



Francis (Frank) Joseph Doyle died peacefully with family by his side, after a short illness which he battled with strength, humility and humour.

Frank was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Margaret (nee Brown) and his parents, Capt. James P. Doyle and Patricia Doyle (nee Curran), as well as brothers Michael, Donal, Peter, Philip and John.

Survived by his sons Christopher (Karina), Eamonn (Pamela) and Francis (Janine) as well as his brother, Rev. Fr. James Doyle.

He is a treasured Papa to 14 grandchildren: Clara, Evelyn, Callum, Niall, Caoimhe, Pdraig, Ciaran, Cillian, Malachy, Maggie, Thomas, Thérèse, Cecilia and Francis Joseph.

Born and raised in Dublin, Ireland (Dundrum) as the second youngest of seven boys, Frank was generous, witty and humble, with a deep love of his family and local community. In his youth, Frank was the All Ireland 440 yards champion. He emigrated to Canada from Ireland in 1967, and was a fiercely proud Canadian, grateful for the opportunities his adopted home gave his family.

Frank loved St. Marys, Ontario where he lived with his family for more than 40 years. He is the founder and longtime editor of the St. Marys Independent newspaper, and loved reporting on all the news in town. He was also a three-time town councillor, serving as chair of the police board, and served on the founding committee of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame. Frank loved sports, especially golf, baseball and the Toronto Maple Leafs, as well as music, and loved to opine on politics.

Frank's unwavering devotion to his Catholic faith led him to be an active member of Holy Name of Mary Parish throughout his life, including as chair of parish council.

Frank loved to tell you the latest news, or a great joke, with a twinkle in his eye and a wry smile — often when you least expected it.

Funeral arrangements at Holy Name of Mary church will be announced shortly.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to St. Marys Memorial Hospital or Margaret's Place hospice would be greatly appreciated, at Frank's request.

The family would like to thank the staff and nurses of Margaret's Place for their exceptional care.

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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How will Bob Dylan's first Canadian show in six years do? The answer is blowing in the wind.

Toronto has a \$1Billion shortfall, people are living in the streets and Olivia Chow wants to spend \$8.6M to change the name of Dundas Street. Give me a break!

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

Bravo

We have 3 Bravos this week.

1) Bravo to the young kids working at McDonalds in St. Marys. Always polite with lots of smiles while providing excellent service. Thank you.

2) Bravo to Marlene Forman and her group of volunteers for another successful Teddy Bear Reunion. Children and parents alike appreciate all the work that goes into this annual event.

3) Bravo to the town for adding handicap parking back on Water street after the previous ones were removed for the patio.

Boo

We have 3 Boos this week.

1) A friend of mine who is 75 years of age went to the doctor for her shingles and pneumonia shot. She decided, at her age, it would be beneficial to get some protection against these two illnesses. Guess what? If she was under 70, these shots would be covered by OHIP. If you are over 70, you pay \$327.00 for these two shots. You would think our healthcare system would look after the most vulnerable but that is not the case. Boo to OHIP.

2) Boo to the teachers unions who are threatening strike action in Mid-October. The threat of another strike is completely unfair to students and their parents.

3) Boo to the people who took the bird feeder from a back yard on Salina St. Please have respect for other peoples belongings.

*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

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

- And he certainly did. Spoken by Frank Doyle in his "Reflections from Frank" in the August 10 issue of the Independent. We regret to inform you that Frank Doyle passed away August 21.

St. Marys Independent

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The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS
OF THE WEEK

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



BADMINTON

Adults (14+) can join badminton at St. Marys D.C.V.I on Wednesday evenings starting September 13th from 7 to 9 PM. A one-time membership fee of only \$20 is required to join.

townofstmarys.com/activenet or 519-284-2160

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.

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NOW BOOKING AUGUST ICE RENTALS



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

townofstmarys.com/skating or 519-284-2160

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!

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Contact us
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Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Rob Favacho. Rob just celebrated his 90th birthday on Aug. 18th. Rob was born in Shanghai China and came to Canada in 1952. He has been married to Barbara for 64 years and they have 2 children and 3 grandchildren. He is an excellent tennis player who won 14 singles championships and 6 or 7 doubles championships with his father, Robert Favacho Sr. He was also in the fire department for over 25 years, and got to ride in "Old Betsy", St. Marys first fire truck on the weekend which also just turned 90 years young.

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 first element of the periodic table?
- 2) What Canadian hockey player wears number 87 on the Pittsburgh Penguins?
- 3) What former U.S. president cameoed in the film "Home Alone 2"?
- 4) When was the first lightbulb invented?
- 5) Which is the largest of the 5 "Great Lakes"?
- 6) What does the Spanish word "vamos" mean?
- 7) In what country would you find the mountain of Kebnekaise?
- 8) Based on its weight, what is the strongest muscle in the human body?
- 9) How old was Queen Cleopatra when she died?
- 10) The line, "I have a bad feeling about this" is quoted throughout which beloved movie franchise?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27

COMMUNITY —

Local Humane Society desperately needs help

By Veronica Reiner

The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth (KWSP) said they are functioning in crisis mode after feeling more than strained this summer.

There is a large volume of animals coming in (345 total currently in their care between both centres), kennels are constantly full, and there is a waiting list of 139 pets needing help. KWSP Humane Society staff are also receiving a high volume of calls from pet owners needing help.

"This is the first time we are seeing such high numbers in the past decade," noted KWSP Humane Society spokesperson, Nasreen. "We are asking community members to show some compassion to us. Staff members are being constantly yelled at and we're just asking people for some patience and kindness as we try to help them as fast as possible."

KWSP Humane Society Director of Community Outreach, Calla James, noted that this phenomenon is not unique among the local humane society.

"Shelters across North America are at breaking points and have been for a while," said Calla. "We are shortstaffed, adoptions have slowed despite reducing adoption fees, donation sizes have decreased, demand for outreach programs has skyrocketed, demand for low-cost veterinary services has skyrocketed, there's a high volume of animals coming into our centres, and call volumes for surrendering have significantly increased."

Those looking for help from the KWSP Humane Society are typically citing financial reasons, as well as lifestyle changes. These lifestyle changes include travelling, moving to a different place for a job, etc.. "People are looking to choose between feeding their family or feeding their pets or paying a medical bill for their pet or affording rent," said Nasreen.

Over the last year, there has also been a significant jump in callers looking to surrender young, large-breed dogs that are exhibiting behaviours that their owners cannot handle. Based on their ages, they are typically obtained during the pandemic, have not received any training, and have not been socialized.

"We have almost 140 pets on our waiting list needing help, but the stray and abandoned animal volumes continue to keep our kennels full. This year alone, we have taken 1,066 stray and abandoned animals into our care! Callers are increasingly angry, and the staff is burnt out. We not only need our community's help, but we are also asking for their kindness and patience as we do our best to help people and pets as quickly as we can," said Calla.

The KWSP Humane Society has also seen a steep increase in the number of people reaching out to use their low cost veterinary services as well as their Pet Pantry, which is a program that supports pet

owners in an emergency need of pet food and basic supplies due to a personal crisis or financial limitations. The demand for the Pet Pantry increased 200 per cent from 2021 to 2022. In 2022 alone, the KWSP Humane Society helped 2204 pets through the program.

The KWSP Humane Society aims to keep owners and their pets together at all costs before turning to surrender as an option. In addition to the Pet Pantry program, the organization has launched programs including:

Low cost rabies and microchip clinics: to help pet owners ensure their pets can be vaccinated and microchipped, so they can be returned home when found.

Emergency boarding services (when capacity allows): available through social services and emergency service referrals for anybody experiencing a crisis and needing short-term boarding to source alternative care. Nasreen noted this service has also seen a spike.

Veterinary outreach services: available through social services referral, for pet owners who are experiencing homelessness or who are vulnerably housed to access vet care for their pets.

Home to Home platform: recently launched earlier this summer for their two animal centre locations. It is a platform that allows pet owners to self-rehome their pets, helping to alleviate the stress in shelters. The platform is available for no cost and can be accessed through the KWSP Humane Society's website.

"There isn't a better time than now to support the KWSP Humane Society," said Calla. "We are a self-funded charity that receives no level of government funding for our charitable programs and services. We are also in desperate need of foster homes to support both our centres. Anything you can do to help us is appreciated."

Those looking to help out can do so in the following ways:

Adopt – view available animals on their website and submit an online application.

Donate – via a one-time donation or become a monthly donor.

Foster – complete an application form under the How to Support tab.

Support programs – view the current wishlist of items needed under the How to Support tab. Share – like and follow the Humane Society on Facebook, X and Instagram and share posts of animals looking for new homes.

For more information on the KWSP Humane Society's initiatives, visit kwsphumane.ca.



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2. Click play on the online player



COMMUNITY —

Windmill Family Campground helps the Salvation Army



Jim Fedyk, organizer of the Windmill Family Campground car show, was pleased to donate \$2,500.00 to the St. Marys Salvation Army food bank. This was the proceeds of this year's classic car show at Windmill which saw 155 vehicles participating. 2023 was the 26th year for this annual event. Pictured from left Raelyn Marshall, Family Services Worker, Jim Fedyk and Rick Honcharsky, Executive Director of the Salvation Army Stratford/ St.Marys regional community ministries. (Nancy Bickell photo)



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COMMUNITY —

The sun shines on the Teddy Bear Reunion



Angelica Pretty proudly shows off her teddy bear wagon that she designed herself to enter into the parade.



Isla Reid is all smiles as she takes her turn on the pony rides.



Leah Robinson waited excitedly to have her face painted. (Wendy Lamond photos)

The 36th annual Teddy Bear Reunion was held on Sunday Aug. 20th. There was a great turnout, many teddy bears and the weather held off giving all the

little ones a day to enjoy.

The numerous activities for the kids kept all young and young at heart

entertained. This included a train ride, boat rides, pony rides, bubble machine, ring toss, face painting and more.

Thanks go to Marlene Forman and her volunteers for a wonderful event.



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COMMUNITY —

Sylvie Schryer, advocate for mental health, shares inspiring quote

By Wendy Lamond

You may have seen many signs around town saying, "It's a Great Day for a Great Day."

The voice behind these messages is Sylvie Schryer. Sylvie, who works at St. Marys GMC is an advocate and survivor of mental health.

This message has been very inspiring and has helped Sylvie in her own journey. Sylvie uses this saying to shape her day and wanted the helpful words, which is now being used by colleagues, to be seen on a larger scale around town and to help others that need a daily boost. To date, 12 local businesses and 2 from Mitchell have come on board to help share the importance of mental health and to help spread the word of positivity.

Sylvie wanted to make sure that people around town know what it is in reference to as she is always trying to have a voice for mental health and be

an inspiration to those that are struggling.

When asked about her mental health journey, Sylvie quoted "My brand around my mental health campaign is my YAYBI way. YAYBI stands for you are your best investment. When you can invest in yourself then you can then invest in others."

When Sylvie's mental health journey started, she knew she needed help. After reaching out to her mother and medical practitioner, she was able to find the resources that worked best for her. She is proud to say that she was brave enough to ask for help. "If you don't know where to go, reach out to someone who can guide you but always reach out and use your medical doctor to start with. There is also a great relief and healing that also begins in our vulnerability" Schryer shared.

If any local businesses would still like



to share this message, it is never too late to get the word out there and help

be an advocate for mental health. "It's a Great Day for a Great Day!!"

Nature Day at Cadzow takes place this Saturday

Nature Day at Cadzow Park will be held in St. Marys, on Saturday, August 26, from 2 to 4pm. It is a free event for families and anyone who wants to come experience, play and learn.

With the guidance of Kendra Martin, director of Coyote Nature School, the Nature Day team is offering fun activities around the park to explore the wonders of plants and animals using

all our senses.

Discover new bird calls with Herman V., create a woodland fairy village with Barb L., make a tree friend with Gail C., draw a tree with Janet P., choose an

animal name and pick up a scavenger hunt game from Lorna P. at the welcome table (Pavilion), and more.

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SPORTS —

Another successful KW Optimist Slow Pitch tourney



The Mighty Oaks downed the Terrible T's to become 'A' Champions during the Kirkton-Woodham Optimist Club Slow Pitch tournament earlier this month.



The Squad edged out the RB's Gang by a score of 8-7 to secure the 'B' Championship.

The dark clouds stayed to the south as 12 teams competed in another successful, fun-filled KW Optimist Slow Pitch Tournament that took place at the wonderful Kirkton Community Park on August 12th and 13th.

Round-robin games were played on Saturday to determine which teams would move on to the 'A', 'B', and 'C' semi-finals on Sunday.

In one of the 'C' semi-finals, Basic Pitches had the KW Kids on the ropes, leading 14-7 after four innings. The Kids fought back and tied it up in the fifth. Basic Pitches answered with six more runs but the Kids' bats stayed hot and they squeaked past their opponents by a final score of 21-20.

The other C semi-final between the Red Neck Mafia and Joe Buck Yourself started off being fairly close. However, the RN Mafia ran out of gas and were defeated 21-13.

In the 'C' final, Joe Buck Yourself took an early lead with four runs in the first inning. It turned out to be a lead that was never relinquished as they went on to defeat the KW Kids 8-4 to become the 'C' Champs.

In the 'B' division, RB's Gang took on last year's 'A' champions, The Squad. Both teams had excellent defence, which made it tough for any runs to be scored. RB's Gang had a slim one-

run lead going into the last inning but The Squad managed a couple of runs and won by a narrow 4-3 margin.

Blue Steel and Muff 'N Men played a very different type of game in the other 'B' semi-final with many runs coming in. Muff 'N Men dominated with the lead throughout the game and came out on top 18-13.

In the 'B' final, things were looking a little bleak for the Muff 'N Men as The Squad led 6-2 after six innings. In the last inning, The Squad increased

their score to eight while Muff 'N Men made a valiant effort with five more runs but fell just short and had to concede the 'B' Championship to The Squad by a score of 8-7.

The Terrible T's met the Tall Oaks in one of the 'A' semi-finals. The T's struggled with their bats and were down 16-7 after five innings. However, the T's came alive with eight runs in the sixth and only trailed by one as they headed into the last inning as the home team. With the bases loaded

and two out, Lucas Spence launched a ball into right field that gave his team a walk-off 18-16 victory.

The other 'A' semi-final was a lop-sided affair in which the Mighty Oaks steadily piled up runs against Komets Kidz and earned their ticket to the final by a commanding 35-12 score.

The 'A' final started off fairly even with the Terrible T's and the Mighty Oaks tied 2-2 after three innings. Unfortunately, for the T's, the wheels came off after that and the Mighty Oaks surged ahead with hits all over the place and went on to become this year's 'A' champs by a score of 26-7.

Kirkton-Woodham Optimist Club leader and tournament convener Cliff Thomson expressed gratitude to all who helped run the tournament, which was raising funds for the Kirkton Pool.

"Thanks to the pool committee for running the food booth, to the volunteers who umped or bartended, to the grounds and cleanup crew, and of course to the teams who played. Thank you to the Mighty Oaks, The Squad, and the Terrible T's who donated their winnings directly back and to the teams who indirectly donated back through the bar. The generosity is always humbling and we hope to see you all next year."



Joe Buck Yourself defeated the KW Kids 8-4 to become 'C' Champions. (Contributed photos)



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SPORTS —

Sterkenberg, McVittie, Parsons, Rittenhouse win Club titles at St. Marys G&CC



Darryl Sterkenburg won his first major individual tournament at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club last weekend when his 149 two-day total earned him the Men's Club Championship. (Contributed photo)

By Spencer Seymour

A marquee event on the St. Marys Golf and Country Club's annual calendar was held this past weekend when 82 golfers competed in the Club Championship.

Darryl Sterkenburg emerged victorious as the Men's Club Champion for 2023, shooting a 149 over the two-day tournament to claim the top spot and etch his name onto the Club Championship plaque.

Sterkenburg said that winning the Club Championship is a great accolade for him to have.

"It's a pretty good feeling," remarked Sterkenburg following his victory. "It's been a long time coming. I've had a bunch of tries at it but was never successful so it's definitely nice to finally win the thing."

As Sterkenburg reflected on his performance, he was able to get some fortuitous bounces on 50-50 shots, which he feels was key to his eventual title win.

"I would say I got a few breaks that went my way throughout the weekend. I was able to grind it out which, to me, means when you don't have your best shot at times, to just get it up and in and grind out the pars and even the bogeys that you need to keep your score on a good pace."

"In general, I was getting some good bounces that helped me not have to get out of too many bad spots," Sterkenburg continued. "Some drives that started going into the trees would

bounce off the trees and kick back onto the fairway as opposed to going deeper into the rough or into the trees. A few times I was fortunate to be able to hit my next shot to the green as opposed to having to punch it out to the fairway from the trees first."

Sterkenburg has been playing at the St. Marys course to varying frequencies for approximately 15 years and this was his first singles title at the local course. Heading into the Club Championship, he had a decent feeling about his chances.

"Going in, I felt pretty confident that I could compete for a title. I thought I would be somewhat in the running. While playing, my confidence as far as winning the whole thing wasn't



Rich Parsons shot a 152 to win the Senior Club Championship. (Contributed photo)



Cheryl McVittie posted a 189 to emerge as the Ladies Club Champion. (Contributed photo)

quite as high but I knew if I kept with it and ended strong by grinding out some pars on the last few holes, that I could be in contention."

On the Ladies' side of the tournament, Cheryl McVittie took the top spot in the race for Club Champion with a 189 over the weekend. The 'A' Division winner was former Ladies Champion Loretta Czernis who shot a 199. The 'B' Division Champion on the Ladies' side was Janis Kapp.

Alongside Sterkenburg and McVittie, the overall champions were rounded out by yet another Senior Club Championship for Rich Parsons who shot a 152 to finish first in the 50-69 age group. In the Super Senior division, Jonathan Rittenhouse took home the

top prize, earning the 70+ Club title with a 159 over the weekend.

In the Men's 'A' Division, former Club Champion Taylor Booth claimed victory with a 150 two-day total. Kyle Heinbuch was the runner-up scoring 157.

The 'B' Division was won by Eddy Seok with a 161 while Jonathan Allum was runner-up, posting a 166.

Kevin McCotter's 164 took the 'C' Division championship, narrowly edging out the 166 posted by Scott Kean.

In the 'D' Division, Mike Gregory and Graham Clouser both fired a 173, with the tie-break going in favour of Gregory.

In the Seniors pool, Jim Craigmile's 160 was good enough to put him atop the Senior 'A' Pool. Ron Howard was the runner-up, finishing just behind Craigmile with a 164.

The Senior 'B' pool saw both Gord Russell and Tim Whitton deadlock at 173 with the edge ending up going to Russell.

Fred Pinkerton claimed the top spot in the Senior 'C' division, posting a 188 and beating out John Shales who scored a 197.

The Men's Net Champion was Will Lamoureux whose net score came out to 147. The Ladies' Net Champion was Tara Firby whose net score was 163. A 146 net gave Tony Sims the Senior Net top spot. Jimmy Angus' net of 148 made him the Super Senior Net Champion.

SPORTS —

U15 HP Girls rise to occasion of playoff tournament

By Spencer Seymour

Runs for and against ended up preventing the McLean-Taylor Construction U15 HP Girls St. Marys Rockies from advancing to the second day of their playoffs tournament this past weekend, but the team had an incredibly strong end to the season nonetheless.

Their three playoff games saw the Rockies go undefeated, beginning with a closely-contested battle against the Clinton Mustangs from which St. Marys came away victorious by a final score of 15-13.

Head Coach Carly McEwan called the team's weekend "amazing" and praised the team for the hunger they showed in their playoff opportunity.

"After finishing 16th of 18 in the league, the girls were determined to

prove themselves this weekend and they did that by winning all three games," McEwan told the Independent. "Unfortunately, the girls didn't make it to Sunday due to the runs for and against not going in our favour but we as coaches couldn't be prouder of their determination and hard work at the end of the season."

McEwan said that, over the year, lead protection has been an issue for the group, although that wasn't an issue in their first of two games on Saturday when they cruised to a 15-2 win over the Mitchell Hornets.

"In the tournament," began McEwan, "when another team got close on the scoreboard, the girls battled back and always kept a lead against the other team. The girls took every experience in the game and used it as a lesson to improve. After making mistakes

in the infield, the girls bounced back by ensuring they kept their bodies in front of the ball."

"The girls were very smart base runners this weekend which made all the difference. Every time the girls had a chance to take an extra base, they jumped on the opportunity. The team's pitchers Gracy [Schlotzhauer] and Addyson [White] had exceptional games on the mound as did Billie [Sedley] behind the plate."

Although not posting an earth-shattering win-loss record during the regular season, the U15 Girls displayed an impressive ability to rise to the moment of the playoffs en route to winning all three games last weekend. McEwan attributed their success to the enjoyment of the game that is very easy to see when the Rockies play.

"Every game this weekend, Bailey [Wiffen] and I noticed how much fun the girls were having which we think made a huge difference. They all feed off of each other's positive energy which in turn makes them play better. They were all very excited to play together for the whole weekend and to be able to spend time together between games which kept the morale up."

"The girls struggled all season to come out on top and hold onto that lead," McEwan continued. "As coaches, Bailey and I knew they had it in them to push through a whole game and come out on top and we really tried to get that point across to them. I think they were determined to prove us right and did just that."

St. Marys youth athletes compete at National Track and Field Championships

By Spencer Seymour

St. Marys was very well-represented at the Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships held in Sherbrooke, Quebec earlier this month. The meet featured elite athletes from across Canada.

Beginning with Isabella Mills who, as a 14-year-old, was the youngest competitor in the U16 category, took part in the U16 Female Pentathlon. Despite the seniority of the rest of the field, Mills earned a strong fifth place overall. Her final result was a culmination of the combined events, which included a fifth-place finish in the

200-metre Hurdles and sixth-place results in the 80-metre Hurdles and Long Jump.

Myles Clinton's slate of results was highlighted by taking fourth in the U16 Male Steeplechase, one of six top six finishes in the country for the Stratford Sabrecats program, of which Clinton is a part. Clinton also competed in the U16 Male 1,200-metre Sprint and claimed 19th.

Charlotte Clinton had a strong effort in the U18 Female Steeplechase and ended up with the 15th spot.

Half of the Sabrecats' six top-six fin-

ishes were earned by St. Marys natives, which included one by Payton Blight who claimed sixth in the U16 Female Javelin. The program also saw 16 top-10 finishes, seven of which came from St. Marys athletes. Blight added two of those top-10 placements, coming in seventh in both the U16 Female Discus and Hammer Throw.

Bronwyn Hawkins had the final top-six finish for the St. Marys contingent of the Sabrecats, placing sixth in the U16 Female Pole Vault.

Colton Hawkins put in a very good showing in the U18 Male Pole Vault, adding one of the Sabrecats' top-10

results as he came in seventh.

Of the top-10 finishes for the Sabrecats, Adrianna Hollestelle-Black was the final St. Marys resident to earn such a result, placing ninth in the U16 Female Hammer Throw.

Charlie Bender and Kaleb Dingman also represented St. Marys, competing in multiple events on the National stage. Bender took 14th in the U16 Male 1,200-metre Sprint and 17th in the 2,000-metre Run. As for Dingman, he also competed in the same events as Bender, coming away with 18th and 23rd-place finishes.

U14 Boys take pair of playoff games

By Spencer Seymour

Although their torrid offensive pace didn't follow them to Exeter where the Red Rock Construction U14 Boys St. Marys Rockies played four playoff games last weekend against the Express, they still managed to come up with two wins.

In their first of two games on Saturday, the Rockies put up their highest single-game run total, winning the

game 7-3. They then followed that up with a tight 2-1 victory over Exeter later that same day. Head Coach Justin Ewing told the Independent that the two wins came as a result of complete, well-rounded efforts on both sides of the ball.

"We got really good pitching from Peyton [Wynands], Kolton [McAllister] and Harper [Murrell]," said Ewing "Our defence was really strong as well. We got some timely hits off

the bats of Donovan [McGregor] and Parker [Levy]."

The hard-fought battle continued into the fourth and final game on Sunday, which was tied going into the bottom of the sixth inning. Unfortunately for St. Marys, the Express cracked some key hits which managed to squeak through every little hole available, leading to an Exeter win. Zach Larmier had an "outstanding" effort on the pitcher's mound.

Ewing said the team was very good on both sides of the plate in their two wins, even though they struggled to produce the number of runs they normally have this season.

"The boys had a lot of really good approaches at the plate," Ewing said. "They have a plan in place and don't waiver from it. They just seem to be naturally gifted hitters who have an eye for when to swing."

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SPORTS —

Gammon, Stephens help Canada win big in Dragon Boat Worlds

By Spencer Seymour

Two St. Marys residents were part of the U16 Canadian National Junior Team which came away with 21 medals as well as the Junior Division World Cup when they competed in the 16th IDBF World Dragon Boat Championships.

Elissa Gammon and Alexandra Stephens helped Team Canada win seven Gold medals, along with 13 Silvers and 1 Bronze. In its entirety, Canada picked up 52 Golds, 26 Silvers, and 13 Bronzes, making Canada the sport's world leader.

Both Gammon and Stephens recently talked to the Independent about their experiences at the World Championships, held in Pattaya, Thailand.

"The experience was surreal," said Gammon. "From meeting new people, new cultures, different languages being spoken, and seeing different racing strategies, everything was different than the racing experience here in Ontario. It's something I don't think races here could replicate."

"Stepping onto that race site and the experience of it all was insane," Stephens added. "Being there, you see so many countries with thousands of people competing for the same thing and having the same passion for Dragon Boating that you have."

Both St. Marys residents used the

word "nerve-wracking" when discussing their feeling of taking on the best in the world.

"It felt like every first race of the day was your first time ever competing," said Gammon. "However after that first race, you felt confident enough not to let any thoughts get to you and were able to remind yourself that you're supposed to be competing here."

"Competing against the best paddlers from around the world was definitely nerve-wracking but it was also exciting," Stephens elaborated. "A way that I put it in perspective for my teammates when drumming in a race was that 'the whole world is watching' and even just saying that felt so surreal as if it couldn't be happening."

When asked about the moment they won their first medal, Stephens called the feeling "unexplainable," while Gammon described an overflowing of emotions amongst the whole team.

"When you win that first medal, you feel emotional," Gammon said. "Our first race as a team, we got off of the boat and many of us cried. I personally cried over the fact that I was here in Thailand doing a sport I loved and bringing home medals. But after getting that first one, every medal was a reminder that all my hard work was finally paying off and I was showing the world that."

Canada's success, both with the Junior team as well as the entire national program, propelled them to finish first in the world. Gammon believed the Canadian squads had great environments that cultivated winning, with Stephens adding that both the coaches and paddlers were committed to pushing each other to be their best.

"I believe that Team Canada, from my view as a junior, was able to do so well because we mainly focused on our technique," said Stephens. "Our coaches worked really hard to get us in the place we needed to be to win the Junior Cup. Another major factor in our success was the fact that we believed in each other as a team and put 110 percent into our performance on the water."

Both Gammon and Stephens mentioned the Junior team's motto, "One Team, One Unit." According to both athletes, that was the fuel for the team's success, on and off the water.

"Some of my teammates who I have known for my whole dragon boat career and some I knew for only a few weeks, but they all weren't just a teammate," Gammon said. "They were more than that, they were my family."

"One of my teammates said something after the races and it really stuck with me," Stephens continued. "That was 'Since last September, it's always

been One Team, One Unit and now it's One Family.' The saying 'One Team, One Unit' was something the coaches always said that if one person was hurting, the whole team was hurting, and I think that put things into perspective and brought us together to be a family. These are lifelong friends that I have shared the experience of a lifetime with."

Gammon and Stephens both talked about their takeaways from the journey of reaching the National Junior Team, with Gammon highlighting a piece of motivating advice given by her coach, while Stephens reflected on the pay-offs of hard work.

"One thing I feel that's important to mention which may help other athletes who want to take their sports career further but are feeling they might fail at it is what my coach Geoff Johnston told me when I was scared to try out for the team," said Gammon. "The only way to fail is to not try. That has stuck with me and helped me remind myself with every move I make in the boat."

"My biggest takeaway from this experience is that everything good comes with hard work," Stephens added. "Everything I have achieved was never given to me, I had to work for it. The same is true for all of my teammates and I couldn't have more respect for them and my coaches for pushing me to be in the place I am today."



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SPORTS —

U18 Girls play their game to win League Cup

By Spencer Seymour

The U18 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm claimed the District Cup this past Sunday with a 2-0 win over Delko Brydge.

According to Head Coach Sheila Murphy, the team came away victorious thanks to their focus on imposing their style on the game.

"The girls played their game," Murphy told the Independent. "They were calm, cool, and collected, making nice passes to work the ball up the field and keep the ball in the opposing end. They really work well together as a team with a lot of respect and encouragement across the whole pitch. They fight hard but fair in tackles, meaning we get the ball but avoid the calls."

Goalkeeper Alyce Ruthig was arguably the team's biggest star of the weekend, with Murphy crediting Ruthig's "outstanding" performance in between the pipes on Saturday as the key to the team advancing to the championship game on Sunday, which

included saving a penalty kick.

Ruthig's stellar effort in goal carried over to Sunday when she earned the shutout in the Cup final. Meanwhile, St. Marys controlled much of the ball possession and peppered the Delko Brydge keeper with shots. Neave Goris and Alex Binning each found the back of the net en route to the Storm's 2-0 victory, a win that secured them the District Cup.

With the Storm's season ending with a title, Murphy happily reflected on the year that was for the U18 Girls, describing the improvement of the entire roster up and down the bench.

"It has been a great season," said Murphy. "The depth of the entire bench has really grown. Players who started out a little more shy are now our most aggressive players. A lot of knowledge was passed down from the older players to the younger players setting us up for success next season when another crop of players age out and who will hopefully move on to the women's league."



Pictured is the U18 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm who won the District Cup this past Sunday with a 2-0 victory over Delko Brydge. In the front row, from left to right, are Anna Standeaven, Neave Goris, Eve Greig, Avery Jones, Megan Richardson, and Abbey Taylor. In the back row, from left, Alyce Ruthig, Riley Kittmer, Rachel Hoyles, Alex Binning, Bella Aarts, Maddie Brown, Abby Martin, and Head Coach Sheila Murphy. (Contributed photo)

U14 Girls make finals of District Cup

By Spencer Seymour

The U14 Girls Tier Two St. Marys Storm came within one shot of winning their division's District Cup this past weekend.

After a Saturday that saw the Storm win their way into the championship game, the U14 Girls gave a gutsy performance against the higher-ranked Wingham squad. Through the heat and the tall task that was the very strong team from Wingham, the Storm were determined to pull off the upset and for much of the game, it seemed like that was precisely what was going to happen.

St. Marys dominated the contest and was never behind throughout the game, forcing Wingham to chase the Storm for much of the play. The Storm scored early in the game to which Wingham then tied it up. Another Storm goal gave them a 2-1 lead before Wingham came back again to make it 2-2, the score that both teams took into halftime.

Early in the second half, St. Marys once again got the jump on Wingham, taking a 3-2 lead and fighting

off Wingham's surge. That was, until, with very little time left to play in regulation, Wingham finally found a tying goal.

After one half of overtime solved nothing, both teams went into a second overtime half. Late in this segment of the game, Wingham squeaked in the game-winning goal to claim a 4-3 win and the District Cup.

Alanna Saville scored the Storm's first goal of the game before Charlotte Richardson scored the next St. Marys markers.

Co-Head Coach John Hodkinson praised the team for their effort throughout the weekend and especially in the final game, showing their high resolve and compete level despite being on the wrong end of the tight final score.

"The girls played a terrific game," Hodkinson said. "We came in as the underdogs and made Wingham work hard for every chance they had. Mark and I are very proud of the effort the girls put forward. Everyone contributed to a very exciting game."



Pictured is the U14 Girls Tier Two St. Marys Storm, who took second in their division's District Cup. Laying in the front is Jenna Gooder. In the middle row, from left to right, are Kirsten McKichan, Aubrey Cousineau, Charlotte Johnson, Kacey Graham, Morgan King, and Ella Frayne. In the back row, from left, are Coach John Hodkinson, Abby Russell, Laura King, Emma Hodkinson, Charlotte Richardson, Regan Jones, Alanna Savile, Leighton Lichti, and Coach Mark Muir. (Contributed photo)

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SPORTS —

Hutton 'N' Fishin' win closely-contested Mixed Scramble

By Spencer Seymour

St. Marys Golf and Country Club (SMGCC) hosted 30 teams made up of 120 golfers last Thursday during their annual Mixed Scramble event.

When the last putt had been made, the hotly-contested tournament saw two teams draw for the top score. The teams of Hutton 'N' Fishin', made up of Steve Fisher, Melanie Fisher, Kenny Hutton, and Leslie Monroe, and Shack Attack, consisting of Aimee King, Dale Levy, Amie Shackleton, and Derek Shackleton, both shot a nine-under-par 63.

In the end, retrogression was used to determine the winners to be Hutton 'N' Fishin'. Team member Kenny Hutton spoke to the Independent following the tournament's conclusion, crediting all four members of the team for their collective performances.

"It was a really good team effort," said Hutton. "The ladies had great drives, Steve bailed us

out a few times with some great second shots, and we were all putting pretty well. Just an all-around good team effort."

Hutton added that there were several keys to the team's strong day on the course, including a strong start and everyone having instances where they picked up the rest of the team when needed.

"We did really well on the front nine. We struggled a bit more on the back nine. Starting on hole number two, we got a par and from there, we felt good getting that toughest hole out of the way. After that, everything clicked for us and each of us made key shots. One of us was always picking the rest of the team up, if three of us hit less than stellar shots, one of us hit a really good one to make up for it. We weren't all bad on one hole."

Another notable pair of honours came in the form of the closest to the pin awards, which went to Janet Jarrett on hole number 16 and Steve Jarrett on hole 18.



Pictured from left to right are Steve Fisher, Melanie Fisher, Leslie Monroe, and Kenny Hutton. The team, dubbed Hutton 'N' Fishin', narrowly edged out Shack Attack on retrogression to win the Mixed Scramble last Thursday at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club after both teams shot a strong nine-under-par 63. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

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SPORTS —

U17-BT2 win ‘exciting, chippy’ District Cup final

By Spencer Seymour

There was no shortage of emotions on both sides of the pitch during the District Cup game this past weekend but in the end, the powerhouse U17 Boys Tier Two St. Marys Storm left London with a 1-0 victory on their divisional championship.

Coaches Sam Triemstra and Alex Zulu both had smiles on their faces when describing the feeling of winning the league title.

“It felt really good for sure,” Triemstra told the Independent. “Definitely a great way to end a season in which we’ve been so successful. It was a really good, close game too, which made it better to come out on top in the end. Having such a close, competitive final game got the boys even more fired up which was fun to see.”

For much of the first half, the game remained in unfamiliar territory for the U17 Boys with no goals on the

board for either side. This was due in part to an unfortunate series of missed calls that cost the Storm potential free kicks.

“There were a few missed calls that went against us,” Triemstra and Zulu both echoed. “But, we did keep the pressure on them and were really pushing a lot of the play. Our goal was the result of our pressure. We’d been running non-stop at them for roughly 10 minutes before we finally cracked through.”

The lone goal of the contest came after AJ Denomme made a fantastic cross-pitch pass to find Grant Hallman who finished off the play and potted what went on to hold up as the game-winning goal. Other important moments mentioned by the coaches were some good opportunities from Carson Brock, a hard foul committed against Ryan Hodgkinson that resulted in a penalty kick, and a shutout performance in goal by Joop Brinke.

“After we got that goal, it was pretty much our game entirely,” said Triemstra before Zulu added. “You could tell the confidence was really building at that point. The momentum really started going our way even as the game started to get chippy.”

With a 1-0 lead, the Storm used their overwhelming speed and skill to hang on for the victory, while also with-

standing a rough, unfriendly finish to the contest.

“The game got pretty chippy shortly after we scored,” said Zulu, with Triemstra chiming in. “I honestly think our boys like it that way. I think they are all just super competitive and that kind of game just makes them want to win even more and prove that they are the best team on the pitch.”



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SPORTS —

Craigmile fires hole-in-one at St. Marys Golf & Country Club



Jim Craigmile (pictured) had a great day at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club last Friday when he fired a hole-in-one on hole number two. It's Craigmile's fifth ace. Derek Van Der Linden also recorded a hole-in-one on hole 18 last Thursday. (Contributed photo)

Local Tractor Pullers compete in recent events

By Spencer Seymour

Earlier this month, several local individuals competed in a pair of Tractor Pull competitions.

On Friday, August 11th, Kurtis Armstrong claimed third place in the 6,500-lb Modified Farm event in the Southwestern Ontario Tractor Pulling Association (SWOTPA) meet held in Forest. At the same event, Armstrong also took fifth in the 7,500-lb Modi-

fied Farm event.

The following day, Forest also hosted an Ontario Vintage Tractor Pulling Association (OVTPA) event that saw Brian Harris come out on top of the 6,700-lb Improved Class 13 miles per hour (mph). His son Tanner Harris finished second in the 7,700-lb Improved Class 13mph.

This weekend will see SWOTPA and OVTPA events in Wyoming.



PROPERTY TAX REMINDER

All Final Tax Bills have been mailed.
The First Final Tax Instalment is due on

August 30, 2023

You can make payments through Telephone/Online Banking (**allow 3-5 business days for processing**), ATM, at most financial institutions, or by mail. We also offer payment by cash, cheque or debit card at the Municipal Office. Post-dated cheques are accepted. **New – Online Credit Card Payment option.** Please visit Thames Centre website for more information. Our office is open to receive payments from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. After 4:30 p.m., a payment slot is located to the left of the office door.

Failure to receive a property tax bill does not exempt you from paying on time. If you have not yet received your property tax bill, please call the Municipal Office at 519-268-7334.

Please make sure your payment is received at our office by
4:30 p.m. on August 30, 2023.

Penalty/Interest of 1.25% will be charged on the first day of default and the first day of each month thereafter, per the Municipal Act, 2001 s. 345 (2).

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519-284-0041 or email info@stmarys-independent.com

HISTORY —

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Shopping for Food

By Mary Smith

These days, as food costs rise, most people shop cautiously, comparing prices and making careful selections. They also consider where the food was grown or produced. For a number of good reasons, many people try to get as much local food as possible for their dinner tables. The stores shown in this week's photograph were popular places to shop in downtown St. Marys in the 1930s. The customers knew the store owners and trusted the sources of the items that they sold.

The two stores on the left, Jack's Fruit Store and Paul's Meat Market, occupy what today is a single business, Revive, at 99 Queen Street East. The owner of the fruit store was Attilio (Jack) Sgariglia, who had been born in 1890 in Porto S. Elpidio on the Adriatic coast of Italy. When he was just 14 years old, he and his friend, Vincenzo (Jimmy) Marziali, worked their way to Argentina on a cargo ship to seek their fortunes. A few years later, they returned to Italy but Attilio was still restless. In 1910, he immigrated to Canada, finding work on the railway and on Great Lakes boats. Eventually, he came to St. Marys where he worked with some of his countrymen in the Horseshoe Quarry. (His friend, Vincenzo Marziali, joined him in St. Marys about this time.)

In 1914, Jack Sgariglia decided to try a new venture. He opened a store in the west half of a retail building owned by James Chesterfield, a local businessman. He sold groceries, specializing in fresh fruit. In 1920, Jack became a Canadian citizen and in 1924, he married Florence (Flossie) Switzer, from a Blanshard Township Irish Palatine family. The store did well. In 1927, Jack and Flossie were able to take a three-month holiday in Europe that included a good visit with Jack's relatives in Porto S. Elpidio. According to the 1931 census, taken about the same time as this photograph, Jack (a fruit merchant) and Flossie were living in a six-room, brick house on Church Street South. They had two little boys, Granville, age two, and Maurizio, just one month old.

In 1933, Jack's Fruit Store moved across the street to larger quarters at 122 Queen Street East. In both locations, his store was a popular shopping place, especially among Italians who enjoyed dropping in and having a chat with someone who spoke their language. Jack and Flossie were members of the United Church and



Jack sang tenor in the church choir. Unfortunately, when he was just 55 years of age, Jack became ill and died in January 1945. Flossie carried on the business with the help of her sons until 1957 when the business was sold. More information about the Sgariglia family can be found in *Bravi*, a book by Loriana Rocchetti, published in 1996, telling the history of the Italian community in St. Marys. There is a copy in the public library.

Paul's Meat Market occupied the east portion of the Chesterfield block. Alfred Paul was born in 1884 in Chelsea, London, England, one in a family of six children. As a young boy, he was apprenticed to a butcher in Smithfield, a famous meat market district in Central London. Having learned his trade, he worked as a butcher for a number of years and was in Lichfield, Surrey when he decided to come to Canada. He established a butcher shop in Kirkton and married Irene Robinson, a Kirkton girl. They had three children: two daughters, Audrey and Muriel, and a son, Lloyd, who died at the age of 12 in 1930. By that time, Alfred Paul had sold his store in Kirkton to another butcher and established Paul's Meat Market in St. Marys. He advertised regularly in the *St. Marys Journal Argus*, promoting his "Fresh Home-Killed Meats of the Better Kind! Our meats are fresh from the farm. That's why they retain their rich, juicy flavor. Try Them! There's a Difference!"

The Paul family was musical. Alfred had been a boy chorister in England and always sang in a choir as an adult. In Kirkton, he and his brother,

Charles, had played a prominent part in many church and community concerts. In St. Marys, Alfred was a member of the St. James Anglican Church choir. In October 1934, the *Journal Argus* published a profile of Alfred Paul as part of "The People We Meet" series, describing him as one of St. Marys' best-liked citizens. The article briefly described a trip the Pauls had taken in the summer to England and said that Alfred, a Rotarian, would be speaking to the St. Marys club about his impressions of current conditions in England at an upcoming meeting.

The photograph shows three stores but it was specifically taken to promote the business on the right, Thames Valley Bread, located at 101 Queen Street East where Lauren Whitney is today. In 1909, Harry Zurbrigg, originally from the Listowel area, purchased an established bakery on Water Street South. He ran the business in this location for several years. Then he formed a partnership with Hazelton C. White and they moved to Queen Street. Although, according to the 1931 assessment, the Zurbrigg-White partnership was still in place, Zurbrigg was already in the process of leaving St. Marys, expanding his interests to include a bread factory in Stratford. Thames Valley Bread continued under the direction of H. C. White who eventually took on a new partner, Thomas McDonald. The number of employees and delivery vehicles in this photograph shows how successful this popular bakery was. TVB was a significant local employer. In an advertisement for groceries in the *Journal Argus*, August 20,

1931, the price of a loaf of the company's bread was seven cents.

Hazelton White was born in 1876 on a farm in Concession 10, Blanshard Township, not far from Granton. He was a good student and attended the St. Marys Collegiate where one of his school mates was Arthur Meighen. He enrolled as a mathematics and physics student at the University of Toronto but ill health prevented him from continuing in the program. He returned to his father's farm where he stayed until his family moved to St. Marys in 1907. The Whites purchased the Meighen farm on the west edge of town. But Hazelton's health continued to be uncertain and he had to give up farming. Managing Thames Valley Bread was a less physically demanding occupation. H. C. White was also featured in February 1933 in the series, "The People We Meet." He had served five terms as a town councillor but his greatest contributions of "time, talent and means" were to the United Church where he had been involved in youth groups and served as Sunday School superintendent. He was also an avid baseball fan and had taken several holiday trips to the United States to see major league games.

These three businessmen, Jack Sgariglia, Alfred Paul, and H. C. White, were all doing well in 1931 although the Great Depression was underway. But there were disturbing signs around them. In the *Journal Argus*, August 20, 1931 – the same issue that ran the meat market and grocery ads – this notice appeared: "All unemployed in St. Marys are required to register on or before August 31 with the Chief of Police, Town Hall, This is being done in all towns and cities at the request of the Government of Ontario. All those out of work, married or single, are asked to register." The notice was signed by Harold D. Lang, Mayor. The Ontario government was gathering this information to determine what sort of relief measures might be necessary to help municipalities ride out the depression. Another notice on the same page announced a mortgage sale of a farm on the North Boundary Concession, not far from St. Marys.

There were residents of St. Marys and area in 1931 who would have found Jack's fresh fruit and Paul's juicy cuts of meat out of reach and who might even have found it difficult to buy enough bread for their families. Unfortunately, for many, food insecurity still exists almost a century later.

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COMMUNITY —

Stratford/Perth Shelterlink invites applications for Board of Directors positions

Stratford/Perth Shelterlink, a pioneering organization dedicated to providing vital support and shelter to Perth County youth aged 16-24 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, is pleased to announce its call for applications to join its Board of Directors.

As a stalwart advocate for the vulnerable youth population, Stratford/Perth Shelterlink is resolute in its mission to combat homelessness and uplift the lives of young individuals in need. With a strategic shift towards housing-focused solutions, the organization is on the cusp of an exciting transformation that promises to make an even more substantial impact on the community.

Shelterlink provides a comprehensive range of services that encompass shelter, basic needs provision, unwavering support, community engagement, and dedicated advocacy efforts. By addressing both immediate necessities and the broader systemic issues that contribute to homelessness, Shelterlink stands as a beacon of hope and a catalyst for change in the Stratford and Perth County region.

The Board of Directors plays a pivotal role in steering the organization's strategic direction, ensuring its financial sustainability, and championing the rights and well-being of homeless and at-risk

youth. With this in mind, Shelterlink is actively seeking individuals who are passionate about the cause and eager to contribute their expertise and leadership to the board.

While candidates with experience in finance, legal matters, and human resources are of particular interest, Shelterlink welcomes applications from all backgrounds and walks of life. The common thread that binds potential board members is a shared commitment to making a difference in the lives of youth who are facing the challenges of homelessness.

If you are someone who is inspired by the prospect of creating meaningful change, Stratford/Perth Shelterlink invites you to explore the opportunity to join its Board of Directors. By becoming a part of this dynamic team, you can help shape the future of the organization and, more importantly, positively influence the lives of countless young individuals in your community.

For more information about the role and application details, please visit our Facebook page Stratford/Perth Shelterlink or <https://forms.gle/qFSyu77Nnfroj2UW9>

Application deadline is August 29, 2023.

AMDSB prepares to welcome students and reminds families of first day

Schools in the Avon Maitland District School Board (AMDSB) are busy preparing to welcome students for another exciting year! Any new families are encouraged to register as soon as possible using the online registration system - details including which school a child should attend, bus information and the link to register can be found on their School Registration page.

The board is also reminding families that the first day of school is not the usual Tuesday after Labour

Day but Wednesday, September 6. Dr. Lisa Walsh, Director of Education said: "In order to provide our staff with important, mandatory training we have scheduled a professional learning (or PA) day on the Tuesday, September 5th. We will be ready and excited to welcome students on Wednesday, September 6th."

For more information about what AMDSB schools have to offer or for more details about back to school please visit amdsb.ca/BackToSchool.

LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

Stonetown traffic jam

25 years ago (1998)

Milt Betteridge, son of Eleanor and the late Ralph Betteridge, was the recipient of the OPSTF Occasional Teacher of the Year award. The presentation was made recently at Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto. Milt, who received the award for dedication and contributions to the educational system, will be teaching grade 4 at Prince Charles Public School in London in September.

Congratulations to Lloyd and Isabel Mardlin who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last Friday evening with an open house at Kirkton-Woodham Community Centre. About 400 friends and relatives attended.

Before the ice wars can heat up, the troops must be chosen. Eighty-four hopefuls were pared down to about 40 this weekend at the St. Marys Lincolns main training camp. Jim Simpson, the Lincs' director of player personnel who handles scouting and general manager duties, said he was impressed with both the quantity and quality of players who attended.

50 years ago (1973)

Reports from local fishing enthusiasts indicate a definite trend toward better fishing in the Thames River this season. According to one informant, the quantity of coarse fish is decreasing with trout and small mouth bass becoming much more numerous in that area.

The pace of building permits issued thus far into August has been relatively slow with a \$52,000 total, representing one new home on Waterloo St, a storage warehouse on King St south, a swim pool, plus several garages and alterations.

The parking lot on Water Street north, formerly known as "pothole corners" should soon be back in operation and vastly improved. Asphaltting of the area is expected by the end of the week, weather permitting.

75 years ago (1948)

Two men carrying pistols entered a garage and service station in Thamesford shortly after 10:00 p.m. on Monday night and rifled the cash box of its contents. The owner believed this was in the neighbourhood of \$150. The two men entered the store and ordered coffee and while the proprietor was in the kitchen they forced him to remain there at gun point while they seized the money and also took his wallet, which had about \$125 in it.

Miss Letta Annett of RR 3 Thorndale is the delighted owner of an African violet with over fifty velvety blossoms.

The starling pests are becoming more numerous as fall approaches. Citizens who have discharged many blasts of shotgun fire at these birds are pained to find that their actions are practically useless as a deterrent to the invading birds.

The traffic jam which developed at the corner of Queen and Water Streets on Wednesday at noon took some minutes to untangle itself. At least forty cars, trucks and other types of vehicles were in the stalled parade and the tooting of horns was audible for blocks.

100 years ago (1923)

Miss Janet Maus of Ayr was appointed as the extra member of the teaching staff of the St. Marys Collegiate to take care of the new room now being put in shape on the Presbyterian church grounds.

During the week of London Fair on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the train leaving Sarnia at 6:50 in the morning will connect with a train at St. Marys Junction at 9:05 and will reach London at 10:10. The returning train will leave London at 10:30 at night, connecting at the St. Marys Junction at 11:35.

Mr. Robert Boyce, the genial caretaker of the Collegiate Institute, is making the alterations necessary to make the annex or club room of First Presbyterian church a splendid classroom for a class of Collegiate Institute students.

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COLUMN —

HOSTING UKRAINE: Supporting a Dream

By V J Knutson

For 15-year-old Alina Shyshkivka, fleeing war in her home country meant being one step closer to the realization of a dream. From the age of four she studied acrobatic dance, and when she saw Cirque de Soleil on television, she knew what she wanted to do with her life. In coming to Canada, she found hope for her dream.

"I've never met a young person with such conviction," my husband says of Alina.

I agree. Alina's commitment to her goal is inspiring.

Last summer, many of us watched Alina perform on the Front Porch Show. As a result of that performance, she was invited to audition for two Circus schools, resulting in a full year's scholarship for training at Studio Cirque in London.

Ric and I were able to attend a performance of Studio Cirque in December with our three granddaughters. We were all mesmerized by the incredible flexibility and gravity defying feats of the troupe and even more wowed by the progress Alina had made in only three months. My heart was in my throat for much of the performance, especially when Alina climbed to the top of the aerial hoop and dropped down, catching herself before plunging to the mats far below. I could barely video the event through tears.

Alina trains four days a week, for a total of 23 hours a week. Like any bud-



ding competitive athlete, she is also tasked with keeping up her school work, another challenge she willingly takes on. Through it all, she maintains her sweetness, making time in her busy life to do for others. We are so blessed to have her in our lives.

The end of July, Alina's scholarship ran out. The fees for training are hefty. Alina has applied for a work permit so that she can work to offset the costs, but the paperwork is currently held up. She has had to put her training and her dream on hold.

A group of us met recently to brainstorm ways to help Alina fulfill her potential. She will train three more years before she can apply to Cirque de Soleil school. John Stevens has set up a GoFundMe account (Alina's Cirque de Soleil dream) and her circus troupe has offered to perform for free, here in St Marys, to help her cause. Nataly is organizing the event, so stay tuned. There has also been talk of auctioning off a dinner for 6-8 cooked by Nataly, and other fun events. Of course, I'll keep you informed.

Alina and her family have become an integral part of our community, having landed here in May of 2022. You might recognize them from the Saturday Farmers' market, or had a haircut from Nataly at Kalon & Co Studio on Water Street. Alina's sister Vasyli's artwork appears on greeting cards sold throughout town – money she has raised to help the soldiers in Ukraine.

Ric, Kostia, and Alina's father, Ruslan, are currently working together to build Alina new hand canes for her ground routine. Meanwhile, Alina anxiously awaits her papers so that she can re-establish her training routines.

If you are inspired to help, or have any ideas or questions, reach me at english.knutson@gmail.com, or find the link to the GoFundMe page on John Steven's Facebook account.

Till next time.

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It's been one year...

By Nancy Abra

Earlier this month Priyank Shah and his partner Tushar Patel celebrated their first year as the owners of 'Sassy's' in Thorndale.

"I am so happy we bought Sassy's last August", Shah remarked. "At first, we were a little concerned how people would react to new owners and new faces behind the counter. But it has been an amazing year beyond what we expected. People have been so welcoming, and we are so happy to be part of this wonderful community."

When Shah and Patel purchased Sassy's, all of Brad Richardson's recipes for his famous baked goods and pizza came with the deal. "It took a few months, but I think we mastered Brad's recipes" Shah said. "We tried very hard to get things right to please our valuable customers. We also have



Pictured are Priyank Shah and his Mom, Dipikaben Shah. (Nancy Abra photo)

expanded our product line to include local produce and meats and in doing so we have expanded our customer base."

"Knowing that we are from India," Shah stated, "our customers asked us to bring some of our traditional food to Thorndale." So along with their pizza,

subs, chicken, and various sides, they have added two Indian dishes to their carry-out menu. "The Butter Chicken and Chicken Tikka Masala has been a big hit with our local customers. People are loving it and we are getting 60-70 2person servings ordered per day and on the weekend, about 100 orders go out."

Shah remarked that their Butter Chicken and Chicken Tikka Masala are two traditional dishes made with true Indian spices and are his mom's recipes. "My Mom's recipes are a secret," Shah added with a smile, "sorry, I have been sworn to secrecy."

"We greatly appreciate the loyalty of our customers and their support. And in return, we like to support local community events." Shah added, "We look forward to many more years as part of this wonderful community of Thorndale."

Thorndale's ballpark, a hub of activity

By Nancy Abra

During the week, Thorndale is a bustling town of businesses, people, and traffic. On the weekends, the streets are a little quieter, but the Thorndale's ballpark is a hub of activity.

Thorndale has always been known for their welcoming atmosphere and the well-groomed ball diamonds. Various ball tournaments, both with local teams and teams from London and beyond have spent many a Saturday at these fields, enjoying what they like best.

The National Slow Pitch Association, London co-ordinator said they enjoyed hosting tournaments in Thorndale. He explained there are six to ten teams from all over southern Ontario, as far away as Barrie and Toronto and Chatham to the south and three divisions of men's, ladies, and co-ed. He mentioned that the teams really like playing in Thorndale, and they appreciate the Thorndale Optimist Club with their food booth as these teams like to support a local organization.

The Thorndale Optimist Club has been a fixture at the ballpark for decades. Bill Tipping, the club's president said, "we try to do our best for the teams who come here and play.



Pictured is Bill Tipping of the Thorndale Optimist Club.

And if anyone has some extra time on the weekend, we can always use another helping hand in our food booth, especially with the Thorndale Fair coming up too. Our 'Catch the Ace' is also coming up and we greatly appreciate people support for that as well."

Saturdays are usually busy at the ballpark with various ball tournaments. On Sunday evenings the activity continues with the local men's teams taking the fields. It is great entertainment to come out to Thorndale ballpark to cheer on the local teams.

Thorndale Firefighter's 'Fill the Boot'



By Nancy Abra

A couple of weeks ago, during Thorndale's Street and Yard sale, Thorndale firefighters Rob Hanson, (on the left) and Dave Broomfield with their 'big boots' were on King Street collecting donations for Muscular Dystrophy.

The 'Fill the Boot' campaign is the largest revenue generating event, raising an average of \$3 million annually across Canada. (<https://mus->

[cle.ca/fill-the-boot/](https://muscle.ca/fill-the-boot/)) It is the most successful as local firefighters ask members of the public or in this case, people driving through Thorndale to voluntarily donate to their 'Big Boots'.

Thorndale Fire Chief, Ken Armstrong said, "This year people were very generous, and we collected \$4572.00. This was an unbelievable amount and a 'big' thank you goes to everyone from Muscular Dystrophy Canada."

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A DAY AT THE BEACH

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Word List

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- Driftwood
- Sunshine
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- Life jacket
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- Sail

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Friday, August 25

- Jane Schutz Celebration of Life at the Legion - 2 to 4 pm
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 pm
- Purple Hill Cowboy Kick Off Party - 8 pm

Saturday, August 26

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 am to Noon
- Purple Hill Ram Rodeo - gates open 11 am, Featuring the Good Brothers at 5 pm
- Nature Day at Cadzow Park - 2 to 4 pm
- Kingsway Lodge celebrates 50 years with a street party - 4 to 8 pm
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm

Sunday, August 27

- Purple Hill Rodeo and entertainment - games open 11 am
- Lakeside Cemetery on the Hill decoration day
- North Nissouri Cemetery decoration service - 2:30 pm
- Avonbank Community Cemetery service - 2:30 pm

Wednesday, August 30

- Melodies at the Museum featuring Jazzm@x at Cadzow Park - 7 to 8 pm



The **Riddle Kid**
OF THE WEEK

What has hands and a face, but can't hold anything or smile?



A clock.

Eli Mills (5)

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

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PET OF THE WEEK

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



This week's Pet of the Week is Fable, a 10-week-old Golden Retriever who is part of the McArthur family. Fable is an adorable troublemaker who enjoys wrestling with her fur brother. She keeps her family on their toes with her antics, which include dunking her head in her water dish.



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!

500 Water Street South St. Marys
www.stmarysvetclinic.com

COLUMN —

WHAT'S FOR DINNER: Peaches in August



By Lauren Eedy

This column likes to remain focused on promoting seasonal, local and sustainable products. If August had a staple fruit, it would be peaches. This column highlights the sweetness of the crop showing its versatility in both sweet and savoury dishes. Perth County also has an array of wonderful pork producers who are easily accessible. If you want to support local and keep it local, these are the recipes for you.

Pork Chops and Peaches Skillet

Serves 4

1 lb fresh peaches or unsweetened frozen sliced peaches

1 ½ tsp sweet paprika

½ tsp onion powder

¼ tsp granulated garlic

¼ tsp salt

¼ tsp black pepper

4 boneless pork loin chops (about ¾-inch/2cm thick)

2 tbsp olive oil

½ c chicken broth or water

1 tbsp white wine vinegar

1 tbsp honey

Fresh basil leaves

Method:

-If using fresh peaches, bring a large pot of water to a boil and fill a large bowl of ice water.

-Using a paring knife, core the skin of each peach from end to end without cutting into the flesh. I personally score a small 'x' at the bottom of each peach.

-Place peaches in the boiling water for 30 seconds., then use a slotted spoon to transfer to ice water for 30 seconds.

-Remove and discard the skins, halve the peaches, discard the pits and slice the peaches into 8 sections.

-In a small bowl, stir together paprika, onion powder, granulated garlic, salt and pepper. Sprinkle onto both sides of the pork rubbing in gently so it adheres.

-In a large skillet over medium high heat, heat oil until shimmering. Add pork and lower to medium.

-Cook without moving

the pork, until nicely browned, 2-3 minutes then flip for another 2-3 minutes. Transfer to a plate.

-Add broth or water, vinegar, and honey to a skillet and bring to a boil, stirring to dissolve any brown bits in the pan.

-Add peaches and cook, stirring occasionally until warmed through and slightly softened, about 2 minutes. (if using frozen peaches it will take longer).

-Return pork to pan with any juices and cook, flipping the chops once, until pork is cooked and slightly pink in the centre; internal temp of 145°F, 1-2 minutes.

-Tear basil leaves and scatter on top before serving.

Note* you can swap the pork for chicken breast.

Old Fashioned Peach Cobbler

Serves: 9 Total time: 55 minutes

9x13 glass baking dish

5 peaches, peeled cored and sliced (about 4 cups, use method in above recipe)

¾ c granulated sugar

¼ tsp salt

For the batter:

6 tbsp butter

1 c all-purpose flour

1 c granulated sugar

2 tsp baking powder

¼ tsp salt

¾ c milk

Ground cinnamon

Method:

-Add the sliced peaches, sugar and salt to a saucepan and stir to combine (* if using canned peaches, skip the first two steps).

-Cook on medium heat for just a few minutes,

until the sugar is dissolved. This helps bring out the juices from the peaches. Remove from heat and set aside.

-Preheat oven to 350°F. Slice butter into pieces and add to a 9x13" baking dish. Place the pan in the oven while it preheats to allow butter to melt. Once melted, remove dish from oven.

-In a large bowl, mix flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt. Pour in milk until just combined. Pour the mixture into the baking dish and smooth it into an even layer.

-Spoon the peaches and juice over the batter. Sprinkle cinnamon generously over the top.

-Bake at 350° for about 38-40 minutes. Serve warm, with a scoop of vanilla ice cream if desired.

Enjoy!

Community Liaison Committee

The next Community Liaison Committee Meeting will be held on Friday September 8th at 10am at the St Marys Municipal Operations Center. Members of the public who wish to observe are welcome to attend.

Residents who wish to speak in front of the Committee may submit a detailed request in writing at least 3 days prior to the meeting in writing to the Committee. The request will be considered by the Committee and approved prior to the meeting. Please submit all requests, questions, and concerns for the meeting to kara.terpstra@vcimentos.com by September 6th, 2023.

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Strawberry Supper
Thursday September 21
St. Marys United Church
5:00 - 6:30 pm
All tickets **\$25** - Takeout Only
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519-284-1496 or Church office
519-284-3016 or from any Church members

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Sunday August 27th 2023
at 2:30 pm
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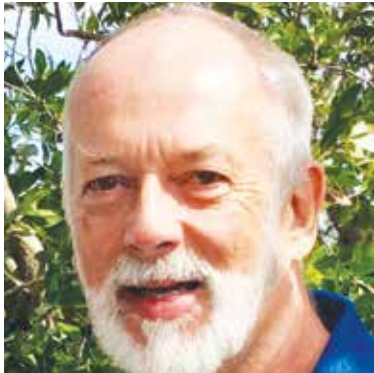
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COLUMN —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Where Churchill could escape the weight of history



By Paul Knowles

I studied history during my time at the University of Waterloo and one of the ideas I encountered was the now-dismissed "Great Man Theory". The weaknesses of the concept are pretty immediately obvious: there is a gender issue; there is an unbalanced focus on leaders who captured attention; there is a less-than-subtle suggestion that leadership is based on genetics; and there is a clear, overall sense of myth vs. fact.

I don't believe you can explain history on the basis of a few, prominent men.

On the other hand, there is little doubt that a few people have had a disproportionate impact on the history of our world. And I recently had the chance to visit the home of one of them.

Chartwell, in the southern England county of Kent, was the much-loved home of Winston Churchill. Churchill of course has become a character of mythical proportions. And my job here is not to de-

fend his status as "saviour of the world" or "inept military commander" or "drunken politician" or "Nobel Prize winning writer". Perhaps he was all of these.

Most certainly, Churchill was a man whose enormous footprints are all over the history of the 20th century.

So an opportunity to spend time at his home was not to be missed and I was delighted to take my travelling companions on a visit to Chartwell.

Chartwell is now a National Trust site protected by that important British heritage organization. The property includes three distinct locales of interest: the house, the gardens, and the studio. I would be hard pressed to choose a favourite among the three.

The house, quite honestly, tells us more about Winston's wife, Clementine, who furnished the home. And the great news is she was the final person to live there so the National Trust has been able to preserve – not merely restore or re-furnish – the home of the Churchills, complete with many elements of their lifestyle and their tastes.

It's well worth the walk-through. I especially enjoyed the dining room where it is so easy to imagine the Churchills and their friends relaxing over a good meal, most probably accompanied with champagne, Churchill's tippie of choice.

The house includes Churchill's study. In this room where he worked, standing at desks built for such posture and dictated his speeches, articles and books to a secretary, visitors can feel close to the man himself. Before leaving the house, there is an exhibition room including a monitor showing films of Churchill making a speech. His voice and prose are as compelling as they were during World War II.

But I think you get even closer to Winston Churchill in his gardens where he built some of the brick walls himself and where he constructed the ponds, and in his studio.

Churchill was a devoted and busy painter. He admitted that he would have been crushed under the load of his responsibilities had he not been able to retreat into the life of an artist. His studio, a downhill walk from the house, contains dozens of his paintings, including a couple painted during a visit to the Canadian Rockies. It's amazing that the estate has managed to retain so many of his highly sought-after works. The walls of the studio are full of his art, a genuine treat for any art lover, historian or anyone interested in the life of this fascinating man.

When Churchill first began to paint, he knew he enjoyed the hobby but he wasn't sure he actually had any talent for it. And, already a famous world leader, he didn't think anyone would actually tell



In the gardens at Chartwell. (All photos by Paul Knowles)

him the truth if he asked for an assessment of his work. He was "Winston Churchill" after all!

So he submitted a painting to a juried art show under a pseudonym and he won an award! That painting hangs in a room in Chartwell today.

The Chartwell gardens are worth a visit in their own right. Lush wisteria, an entire pathway lined by butterfly bushes, delicate California lilac, springtime rhododendrons, and exquisite roses are just a few examples of the amazing flora in the gardens that surround the house.

Chartwell is a popular spot for visitors – over 230,000 come here each year and yet the spacious grounds (covering 80 acres in its entirety) seldom seem crowded. We were among only a handful of visitors in the studio during our visit and on the grounds, there were empty

benches and chairs available for relaxation and taking in the view of the Weald of Kent.

Being a National Trust property, there is of course a good gift shop and a tea shop. These amenities are well removed from the house and grounds so Chartwell remains what it was in the days of its most famous owner – a convivial home, a fascinating art studio, and lush, well-tended gardens.

It is obvious why a man with the weight of the world and the weight of history on his shoulders was able to relax, refresh and create in this environment. One well worth visiting, whenever you are in England.

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

Wilson



Wilson, Donald

Don passed away peacefully at St. Marys Memorial Hospital on Wednesday, August 16, 2023 at the age of 86 years. Beloved husband of the late Jean (nee Scott) Wilson who predeceased him June 18, 2021.

Loving father of Warren (Lorraine), Sandra McFarlane (John), and Perry (Robin). Loving and proud grandfather of Jacqueline Blake (Evan), Natalie Lean (Scott), Michelle Wilson (Marcus O'Connor), Sean Orr (Kalan Lynn), Ryan Orr, Theresa Billings (John), Jennifer Simmonds (Tim), Connor Wilson (Michaela Fazio), and Carlie Wilson (Gordie May); and great-grandfather of Helen Simmonds, William O'Connor, Reilly O'Connor, Colton Blake, and Dylan Blake. Also remembered by brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Rick and Nancy Scott and Jo-Anne and Allan Lounds. Don was predeceased by his brother Jack Wilson (Marion), and sisters Doris Batten (George), Marjorie Kennedy (Al), and Grace Sayles (Dr. Robert). Forever missed by many nieces and nephews and friends.

Don was a farmer and a millwright, having been employed at Canada Cement Lafarge for 35 years. He was an extreme sports enthusiast and loved the Toronto Maple Leafs. He was a member of the St. Marys Golf and Country Club, Union Bowling league, and a past Master at the Doric Masonic Lodge #569 Lakeside. He was fun loving man who always put his family first.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial visitation will be held at the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, 47 Wellington Street, S. St. Marys on Friday, August 18, 2023 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. The funeral service will be held at St. Marys United Church, 85 Church St. S. St. Marys on Saturday, August 19, 2023 at 11 a.m. A private family interment in St. Marys Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations to St Marys Healthcare Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

The Wilson family will be forever grateful to the staff at St. Marys Memorial Hospital and the Happy Valley Health Care Team for their professional, compassionate and competent care that was given to their father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

THANK YOU

A big Thank You from Jim Fedyk, organizer of the Windmill Family Campground Car Show to those who donated to the cause.

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OBITUARY

Vanderpol



Vanderpol, Nellie

Passed away peacefully at Kingsway Lodge on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at the age of 90 years. Nellie was born on November 7, 1932 in Eindhoven, The Netherlands.

Beloved wife of the late Simon Vanderpol. Loving mother of Frances Cook (Irv), Anthony (Agnes), Paul (Betty), Joan Nichol (Stacey), Karen Nelson (Craig). Dear grandmother of Christopher (Tiffany), Pamela (Steve), Dennis (Amber), Robert, Bryan (Kaisu), Brett (Madi), Rachael, Adam, Michelle (Ross), Kerry (Donnie), Mandy (Brice), Laura (Lucas), and Nicole (Dan). Proud great-grandmother of 15 great-grandchildren. Nellie is also remembered by her sisters Teresa of Luxembourg and Frances of The Netherlands. She was predeceased by brothers John and Arnold.

Visitation at the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, 47 Wellington Street, S. St. Marys, on Monday, August 28, 2023 from 2-4 & 7-9 p.m. A funeral Mass will be held at Holy Name of Mary Parish, 149 King Street, N. St. Marys on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at 11 a.m. Interment in St. Marys Cemetery.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Alzheimer Society would be appreciated by the family.

Thank you to the staff at Kingsway Lodge for the love and care shown to Nellie over the many years she lived there. Special thanks to Dr. Bob Davis for his years of care and help with navigating Nellie's journey and to Dr. Jeff Hepburn for taking over her care in her final days.

OBITUARY

McLean



With heavy hearts we announce the sudden passing of Marilyn Mae McLean of Gores Landing, on August 11th, 2023.

Marilyn was born on May 27th, 1955 to Peter and Thelma Verbrugge in Ridgetown, Ontario, the fifth of six children.

Marilyn leaves behind son Peter (Suzanne), daughter Emily (James). She was the cherished Oma to Hunter, Chloe, Clara and Owen. She also leaves behind her siblings Egbert, Jerry, Diane, Archie and many friends including her companion, Ronnie Linton.

She was predeceased by her parents, Peter and Thelma, her dearly loved husband Alan McLean (1998), her beloved partner Douglas Cofell (2017) and her brother Allan Verbrugge (2023).

Marilyn had a passion for life that sometimes included taking her hands-off and a love for horses that shaped much of her later years. She will be sorely missed and lovingly remembered. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In memory of Marilyn, consider a donation to SARI Therapeutic Riding.

OBITUARY

Strahan



It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Marlene Eleanor Strahan on Aug 7, 2023, age 72, after a courageous battle with dementia. Born on November 8, 1950, to Florence and Beech Baker.

Marlene is survived by her beloved husband William

Donald "Don" Strahan, married for 55 years. The loving mother of Jenanne Graham and Cathy Sparling (Jeff). Cherished grandmother of Matthew Graham (Holly), Jake Graham (Samantha), Josh Sparling (Ashley), Samantha Sparling (Braidon Weston), Zach Graham, Ryan Sparling (Macie McLean), Eli Graham. Great-grandmother of Jesse and Skylar Graham, Tanner and Lucas Sparling, Andie Weston, and Reid Sparling. Sister of Barbara Riordan, Jennifer Sweetziz and sister-in-law of David Strahan (Suzanne), Bob Strahan (Karen) and remembered by many nieces and nephews.

She will be missed by her dog Pookie, who was always a faithful companion. Pookie was always close by her side. Marlene is predeceased by her parents, brother Robert Baker and sister Jane Baker. Marlene's thirst for knowledge was insatiable, and the pages of books were her windows to countless worlds. With each turn of the page, she embarked on adventures of the mind, expanding her horizons and enriching her soul.

Her love for reading was a testament to her curious spirit and her appreciation for the beauty of words. Above all, Marlene's heart was a wellspring of unconditional love for her family. Her bond with them was unbreakable, a testament to the depth of her affection and the joy she found in their company. With her grandchildren, through the world of computer games, she bridged the generation gap, sharing her passion for adventure and fun.

Marlene's mastery of games like Monkey Island, Treasure Mountain, and King's Quest was legendary, and her grandchildren marveled at her skill and wisdom, eager to learn from the master herself. Marlene's legacy is one of love, kindness, and a spirit that embraced the wonders of life. Her memory will forever remain etched in the hearts of those who were fortunate to know and love her.

Special thanks to the VON, One Care, St. Marys Memorial Hospital Emergency and Stratford General Hospital Emergency departments, Dr. Foster, and all the care providers at the Happy Valley Healthcare Clinic. An Open House Celebration of Life was held at the St. Marys Legion on August 18, 2023. Memorial donations may be made to the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation or Heart & Stroke Foundation. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca

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Full time job Monday through Friday involves answering parts calls, receiving / shipping parts, organizing and maintaining warehouse, assembling equipment, and preparing for trade shows. Agricultural background an asset but not required. Must be able to work with little supervision. Better than competitive wages, with benefits and pension plan.

Please submit resumes by e-mail to jobs@dfkequipment.com

The St. Marys Farmers' Market

Raspberries and blueberries available!



Saturdays 8 am to noon at Milt Dunnell Field

Connect with us for updates!

Thank you to 2023 sponsor National Farmers Union, Perth/Oxford Local

ANNIVERSARY



Happy 60th Anniversary Mom and Dad Aug. 31, 2023

Love from Peter, Shawn, Nicole, Andy and families

Lakeside Cemetery on the Hill

Decoration Day - August 27

Donations are gratefully accepted for the upkeep of the cemetery

ST. MARYS DENTISTRY

520 WATER ST, S. P.O. BOX 1650 | ST. MARYS, ON N4X 1B9 | 519-284-2660

Dr. Michael Nixon and Dr. Karl Weselan

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

We offer early morning appointment times, and have later appointment times three days per week.

520 Water St. S., St. Marys, Ontario N4X 1B9

Ph: 519-284-2660 | www.stmarysdentalclinic.com



At Kingsway Lodge

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26
4pm - 8pm

NEIGHBOURHOOD STREET PARTY

LIVE MUSIC
REFRESHMENTS
FOOD & FUN

COME CELEBRATE AND REMINISCE

DEMO SALE

We're clearing our 2023 dealer demonstrator and customer service vehicles. Each is available on a first come, first served basis at substantial discounts.



2023 Buick
Envision
Avinir
AWD
4,000 km, G33795
\$1,800
Demo
Discount



2023 GMC
Acadia
AT4
AWD
4,000 km, G33821
\$1,800
Demo
Discount



2023 GMC
Acadia
Denali
4,000 km, G33764
\$1,800
Demo
Discount



2023 GMC
Sierra
1500
Denali 4WD
Diesel, Leather,
11,000 km, G33699
\$4,000
Demo
Discount



2023 GMC
Sierra
1500 SLT
4WD
Leather, Sunroof,
12,500 km, G33691
\$4,000
Demo
Discount



2023 GMC
Sierra
2500HD
Denali 4WD
Diesel, Leather,
7,500 km, G33727
\$4,500
Demo
Discount



2023 GMC
Sierra
2500HD
SLT 4WD
Leather, Sunroof,
750 km, G33674
\$4,000
Demo
Discount

NOTE: Featured demonstrator and customer service vehicles will be sold as 'used' vehicles with the balance of factory warranty.

NEW IN-STOCK ARRIVALS - DRIVE HOME TODAY!

5 LEFT



2023 Buick
Envision
FROM **4.99%** 48 MOS.

1 LEFT



2023 Buick
Enclave
FROM **4.99%** 48 MOS.

2 LEFT



2023 GMC
Acadia
FROM **4.99%** 48 MOS.

2 LEFT



2023 GMC **Sierra** 2500HD
Crew Cab

11 LEFT



2023 GMC **Sierra** 1500
Crew Cab
FROM **0.99%** 60 MOS.

4 LEFT



2023 **Sierra** 1500
Double Cab
FROM **0.99%** 60 MOS.

1 LEFT



2023 GMC
Terrain
FROM **4.99%** 48 MOS.

3 LEFT



2023
Yukon
FROM **5.99%** 84 MOS.

1 LEFT



2024 Buick
Encore GX

1 LEFT



2024 **Sierra** 2500
HD Double Cab
FROM **5.99%** 84 MOS.

ST. MARYS



449 Queen St. W. • (519) 284-3310
stmarysgm.com

2023 SIERRA 1500 FINANCE OFFERS EXCLUDES AT4X, DENALI, AND DENALI ULTIMATE TRIMS. SOME TRIM LEVELS EXCLUDED FROM SPECIAL FINANCING. FINANCE EXAMPLES: \$35,000 @ 0.99% / 4.99% / 5.99% FOR 60 / 48 / 84 MONTHS = \$512 / \$690 / \$438 PER MO. TOTAL INTEREST \$761 / \$3,155 / \$6,801. TOTAL OBLIGATION \$30,761 / \$33,155 / \$36,801. TAXES EXTRA. OFFERS MAY CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.