

# St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1174

Thursday, August 31, 2023

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## Five residents recognized for being "Strong As Stone"



Five St. Marys residents were recognized as part of the Town's Strong as Stone program on Tuesday, August 22, 2023. The program celebrates individuals who perform selfless deeds for the good of the community. (From left: Cllr. Fern Pridham, Cllr. Dave Lucas, Grant Barton, Andrew Middleton, Mayor Al Strathdee, Gord Barnett, Rev. Gwen Ament, Cllr. Jim Craigmile, Cllr. Marg Luna, Susan McCutcheon, Cllr. Brogan Aylward.)

When it comes to individuals willing to go the extra mile for others, St. Marys has them in spades.

At its meeting last week, Town Council recognized five residents for their selfless deeds as part of its "Strong as Stone" program. The program allows people to nominate those whose volunteer acts benefit the community.

Among the group was Andrew Middleton, who delivered meals during

the peak of the pandemic. He also assists with fundraisers for Camp Bimini and regularly drives others to and from church.

Gord Barnett was recognized for donating a kayak to the Yak Shack, and for using his photography and social media skills to promote local initiatives and share helpful information.

Grant Barton was applauded for his

*Continued on page 2*

## Council to seek alternative concepts for Milt Dunnell Field

Ring Road to be retained

By Stewart Grant

As a result of overwhelming feedback from the community on retaining the ring road at Milt Dunnell Field, Town of St. Marys Council has requested staff to develop revised concepts for revitalization of the space for future public consultation.

During their August 22 meeting, Council short-listed the following amenities or upgrades to the public space as part of the long-term master plan:

- Protection from shoreline erosion
- Pedestrian walkways/trails, including along the ring road and connections to the Grand Trunk Trail and Downtown sidewalk network
- Increased tree canopy
- Enhanced lighting
- Additional seating areas and river viewing areas
- Additional picnic areas
- Upgraded pavilion
- Event space

In the short term, Council also authorized that staff proceed with several priority items with regards to Milt Dunnell Field. These include an investment of up to \$150,000 in the Milt Dunnell Field washrooms, an accessible dock (\$61,283), Farmers' Market paving (\$80,000), Lawn bowling wooden gutter boards (\$8,000), and accessible playground upgrades (\$29,000). An amount of \$333,333 has also been budgeted for trees, conservation, and education.

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COMMUNITY —

# Annual Terry Fox Run set for Sunday, September 17

By Stewart Grant

As Terry Fox said during his 1980 Marathon of Hope, "I want to set an example that will never be forgotten. It's got to keep going without me."

This year marks the 43rd anniversary of the Terry Fox Run for Cancer research that has, thus far, raised more than \$850 million across Canada and in over 50 countries throughout the world.

At the August 22 meeting of Council, Mayor Al Strathdee shared an example of the worldwide recognition of Terry Fox. While in Europe earlier this year, Strathdee wore a t-shirt bearing Terry's image and he recalled that there were so many instances during the trip where people would take note of the shirt and recognized the photo as being Terry Fox.

The Terry Fox Run will be held in

St. Marys again this year. On Sunday, September 17, residents are encouraged to take part in the walk/run/bike journey along the Trestle pathway or by paddling on the Thames River accessed at Milt Dunnell Field. This year's event message is: "Dear Terry, You Ran For Us. Now We Run With You."

Registration on September 17th will take place at the YMCA beginning at 8:30 a.m. and opening ceremonies

will occur at 8:45 a.m. The run will begin at 9:00 a.m. and remain open until noon.

In support of this important annual fundraising event, Council has proclaimed the week of September 11 to September 18, 2023 as "Terry Fox Week" in the Town of St. Marys.

For more information or to register or donate on-line go to [terryfox.org](http://terryfox.org).

# Five residents recognized for being "Strong As Stone"

Continued from page 1

work with the local food bank and Nourish Market. Grant also decorates and drives the Rotary's Christmas float and delivers meals to seniors during the holidays.

Reverend Gwen Ament's long-time

advocacy for inclusion was acknowledged, as were her recent efforts to help re-settle Ukrainian refugees.

The final recipient was Susan McCutcheon, whose decade of teaching fitness classes at the Friendship Centre has helped countless local seniors stay strong and active.

"We are incredibly grateful to this generous group of individuals for giving their time, effort and energy to others," said Mayor Al Strathdee. "Their actions truly embody the Stonetown spirit."

The next call for Strong as Stone nominations will start in Febru-

ary 2024, with recognition to occur in April as part of National Volunteer Week. An announcement will be made when nominations open through the local media, social media, and Town website ([www.townof-stmarys.com](http://www.townof-stmarys.com)).

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## COMMUNITY —

# Rotary All Wheels Park construction to begin this fall

## Donations to fundraising campaign encouraged

Thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers and the support of those near and far, construction on the Rotary All Wheels Park is set to begin this fall.

Last year, former Royal Family nanny Jean Rowcliffe partnered with teens Quinn and Sully Bolton to launch a fundraising campaign to revamp and expand the skate park. The group has since secured \$100,000 from the St. Marys Rotary Club, along with donations from supporters across the globe.

The money raised will be used to add several new elements to the park, including a quarter pipe, bowl, and pump track. The design of the expanded park was chosen during a public engagement period earlier this year.

Construction on the park is anticipated to last for approximately six weeks. The park will be closed to the public during this time. Exact con-



struction dates and details will be posted on the Town of St. Marys website ([townofstmarys.com](http://townofstmarys.com)), Facebook page ([facebook.com/stmarysontario](https://facebook.com/stmarysontario))

and Twitter account ([twitter.com/townofstmarys](https://twitter.com/townofstmarys)) as soon as they are available.

"We are thrilled to create a wel-

coming environment for riders of all ages, levels of expertise, and talents," says Stephanie Ische, Director of Community Services. "We want to thank the steering committee for their efforts and all the generous donors who have come together to help create a new and improved park."

The Skate Park Steering Committee is still actively seeking donations during construction to support the cost of upgrading the park. Members of the public can donate online with a credit card ([www.townofstmarys.com/allwheelspark](http://www.townofstmarys.com/allwheelspark)), through online banking, in person at the Municipal Operations Centre (408 James St. S) or by mailing a cheque to the Town.

Questions about the project can be directed to Stephanie Ische, Director of Community Services at [sische@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:sische@town.stmarys.on.ca) or 519-284-2340, ext. 624.

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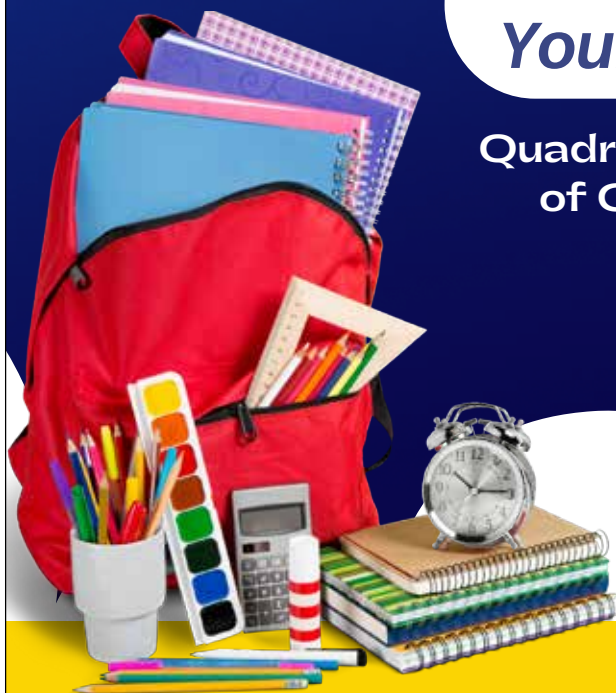
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## COMMUNITY —

### Gift Card Scam Alert



The Stratford Police Service would like to warn members of our community of the ongoing concerns related to scams involving payment by gift cards.

Over the last several weeks we have received a significant increase in the calls for service related to gift card scams. In one incident a senior citizen was scammed out of \$9000 after purchasing gift cards from a store in Stratford and sending the information to the scammer.

These scams typically involve the victim receiving a phone call from an individual who identifies themselves as an employee of a legitimate business, or government agency. The person presents the victim with some type of problem and requests

payment to correct that problem by way of sending gift cards. The victim is directed to purchase gift cards and send the information on the card to the caller, with the funds from that card then being stolen.

We are asking everyone to speak with their family members and loved ones about the prevalence of these scams to help protect any further members of our community from being victimized.

We would also like to encourage the staff and management of stores where gift cards are sold to educate themselves on these types of incidents and to engage with customers who are making large gift card purchases to help stop these types of incidents from occurring.

### Bravo

We have 2 Bravos this week.

1) Bravo to the 'customer service reps' at Graham's Corn Stand... These young adults are amazing at their jobs! I've been a few times and each and every time the conversation and the service is above and beyond!! Kudos to these fine young folk!!

2) Bravo to the staff and volunteers of the library whose summer program kept kids of all ages stimulated and entertained this season! From the Crafty Kids and Funday Friday drop-ins to the registered Wonder Workshop and STEAM League, the program ensured our youth was engaged in learning all summer long.

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

### Boo

We have 1 Boo this week.

1) Boo to people who do not adhere to the posted signs regarding parking on the street. Some of the narrower streets in town only allow parking on one side but that doesn't stop some people from ignoring the signs. They park on the other side as well creating a narrow path for cars to continue along the street.

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

### Quote of the Week

*Stew, I am overwhelmed by the coverage of my retirement. The spread was unbelievable and I will always be grateful, I'm trying to find words but I cannot — it is indescribable. Good luck with everything in the future and thank you again.*

- Frank Doyle

### St. Marys Independent

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

#### Publisher / Editor

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

#### Graphic Design / Layout

Tyler Carruthers • info@stmarys-independent.com

#### Sales Representative

Stewart Grant • ads@stmarys-independent.com

#### Billing Administrator

Cindy Boakes • boakescindy1576@gmail.com

#### Administrative Assistant

Wendy Lamond • wendylamond74@gmail.com

#### Contributors

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



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### The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS  
OF THE WEEK

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You are under no obligation to be the same person today as you were yesterday

It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit

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### Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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RIP Bob Barker age 99. Got close to a dollar without going over.

I see that Kleenex is leaving Canada. I hope toilet paper isn't the next to go.

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



**COMMUNITY —**

**All Wheels Park donation of the week**



Many thanks to the folks at the St. Marys Golf & Country Club for their support of the Rotary All Wheels Park! Pictured from left are Mark, Matt, Ashton and Brandon. See how to get on board with your own donation by visiting the town page: [www.townofstmarys.com/en/recreation-and-culture/skatepark.aspx](http://www.townofstmarys.com/en/recreation-and-culture/skatepark.aspx)

*O'Grady's*  
clothing & accessories

I would like to take the time to thank each and every one of our customers for the support, loyalty and friendship over the last 12 years. This includes the women that have worked at the store and supported me.

I want to make a point of thanking Marlene Brownlee. For 12 years, she has come to my rescue when I needed her. Without hesitation, she helped me whenever I was short staffed or needed someone to cover a day, rather than close the store.

I am eternally grateful for her friendship.

Secondly - I want to give the biggest shout out of all time to our long time employee Jan Westman. I could not have done it without her over the last 6 years. She has seen me through more than any of you know. Her constant positive - "its okay" attitude has been a gift to me. Her ability to keep everything on point and impeccably merchandised is amazing even to me.

I am so excited for Jan to now be able to work with her daughter Jennifer and be the consistent bridge that you all deserve.

Last but not least - without my husband Ed, none of what was accomplished would have happened.

Successful business takes place because of supportive partners. I am a very lucky girl.

I wish the new owners Jennifer and Chris Dungo, nothing but success, new found friendships, personal and business growth.

If you have an outstanding gift certificate, I do encourage and would appreciate it being used asap.

Fall stock is arriving and there is always a clearance area. All certificates will be honoured for one year.

*The last dozen years have absolutely been my pleasure and I thank you!*

- Heather Parkinson



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**STONETOWN**  
**CRUER** 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](http://townofstmarys.com/activenet) or 519-284-2160

**SHOWER PROGRAM**

Thursdays, 9 AM - 1 PM | Pyramid Centre

Starting September 1st the shower program is moving to the Pyramid Recreation Centre! This program provides free showers to those in need.

Visit Guest Services or call 519-284-2160



**FALL SWIM LESSON REGISTRATION**

Registration for fall swimming lessons (starting September 18) opens on Tuesday, September 5 at 5:00 PM.

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

**MOVIES IN THE PARK**

Friday, Sept. 8 @ Dusk | Cadzow Park

Join the Friends of the St. Marys Public Library for a FREE outdoor movie at Cadzow Park. Bring your own lawn chair or blanket. Movie starts at dusk!

[townofstmarys.com/library](http://townofstmarys.com/library) or 519-284-3346



**EARLYON NATURE POP-UP**

Saturday, Sept. 16 @ 9:30 - 11:30 AM | Sparling Bush (179 Waterloo St. S)

Come and join us for a morning of nature exploration.

[townofstmarys.com/earlyon](http://townofstmarys.com/earlyon) or 226-374-6544

**Contact us**

519-284-2340

[communications@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:communications@town.stmarys.on.ca)







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## Senior of the Week



Our Senior of the Week is Brian Farrell who will celebrate his 72nd birthday on September 6. Brian spent 42 years working at Canadian General-Tower in Cambridge. He retired to St. Marys four years ago. He and his wife, Bonnie, have been married for 49 years and have 2 children, 3 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Happy Birthday, Brian.

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

## Weekend Quiz

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- 1) Who is the founder of the World Economic Forum?
- 2) In what year did the United States invade Iraq?
- 3) How many eyes do monarch butterflies have?
- 4) Where did surfing originate from?
- 5) Who is the current Prime Minister of Australia?
- 6) What is the national flower of Ukraine?
- 7) Who created the equal ("=") sign?
- 8) What country was Christopher Columbus born in?
- 9) How many notes are there on a standard grand piano?
- 10) Which professional golfer has won the most majors?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27

## COMMUNITY —

# What's open on Labour Day

With regards to the upcoming Labour Day holiday on Monday, September 4th, the Independent Newspaper has reached out to our two local grocery stores, St. Marys Foodland and Tremblett's Your Independent Grocer. Both have confirmed that they will be open on the holiday Monday but with shortened hours. Canadian Tire will be open from 9 am until 5 pm.

All national banks, the LCBO, the Beer Store and Delmar Foods are closed for the holiday Monday.

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

### Closed Monday, September 4:

Administrative offices (Town Hall and Municipal Operations Centre)

Adult Learning

Child Care Centre

Town of St. Marys EarlyON Centre

Fire Station

Friendship Centre

Landfill

Library

Mobility Services Offices (Rides must be booked by 12 p.m. on Friday, September 1)

Museum and Archives

Pyramid Recreation Centre (including the Aquatics Centre)

Service Ontario

GO Train Service

### Home Support Services

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

### Garbage and Recycling Collection

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

### Quarry

Open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Last day of the season is September 4, 2023.

Pre-register at [townofstmarys.com/quarry](http://townofstmarys.com/quarry) or pay using debit or cash in person.

### St. Marys Train Station

VIA Rail Station will be open; however, there will be no GO Train service. Visit [www.viarail.ca](http://www.viarail.ca) for train schedule.

Any updates will be posted to the Town website ([townofstmarys.com](http://townofstmarys.com)), Facebook page ([facebook.com/stmarysontario](https://facebook.com/stmarysontario)) and Twitter account ([twitter.com/townofstmarys](https://twitter.com/townofstmarys)) as soon as they are available.



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**COMMUNITY —**

# Vet Purchasing supports Higher Learning



Pictured above: back row: Brandon Winchester, Tucker Van Bolhuis, Pat Hinnegan (CEO), Kaitlyn Te Grotenhuis, Morgan Tam, Tia Glousher. Front Row: Fernando Portillo, Emily Shrubsole, Hayden MacDonald. (Contributed photo)

Veterinary Purchasing Company Ltd. is committed to excellence in education and supports the pursuit of higher learning through post-secondary education. Beginning this year, student employees can apply for a Higher Learning Bonus of up to \$3,500 (\$1.25 per hour worked as a student) to support their pursuit of further education. Above are this year's recipients, who have earned a combined total bonus of more than \$20,500! "We are extremely grateful for the assistance and contributions

that our student employees make in helping VP serve the veterinary profession in Ontario and Eastern Canada" commented CEO, Pat Hinnegan. "It is my pleasure to make these contributions towards their continuing education and we wish them all the best at school this fall."

Are you a high school student looking for a job? Start earning hours toward your Higher Learning bonus and apply on our website: [vpcl.bamboohr.com/careers](http://vpcl.bamboohr.com/careers).

# Pyramid Recreation Centre pool roof being replaced

Please note that construction has begun to replace the Pyramid Recreation Centre pool roof. Crews will be on site daily at 7:00 a.m. starting on Monday, August 28, 2023, and work is anticipated to be completed by Wednesday, September 6, 2023, weather dependent.

Area residents may experience con-

struction noise and odours during the roof replacement process.

A reminder that the Aquatics Centre is closed for scheduled maintenance until Sunday, September 17, 2023. The rest of the Pyramid Recreation Centre building will remain open to the public while work on the roof is being done.



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## COMMUNITY —

# Council approves 2022 audited financial statements

By Stewart Grant

Paul Seebach, partner at Seebach & Company Chartered Professional Accountants, appeared before Council on August 22 to present the December 31, 2022 Audited Financial Statements for the Town of St. Marys.

Seebach said that the audit ran smoothly, with field work taking place between March and May.

The Town's Consolidated Statement of Operations for 2022 showed an annual surplus of \$1,209,341, as compared to the budgeted annual surplus of \$2,200,500. The shortfall to budget was largely represented by costs relating to a cyber attack incident occurring in 2022.

Per discussion with Town CAO Brent Kittmer, total costs to date relating to the cyber incident are \$1,301,104. Of this amount, \$860,970 was incurred for incident management and investigation (including ransom paid of approximately \$290,000) while \$440,133

was spent on a rebuild of the network system.

"The network rebuild were costs we would have needed to incur over time anyway, the incident just forced them all at the same time," Kittmer told the Independent.

Consolidated revenue for the Town of St. Marys in 2022 was \$27,390,341, which was up 3.6% over 2021. Taxation revenue of \$13,667,252 was up 3.1%

from 2021, while 'user fees, licences, permits and donation' revenue of \$8,320,855 jumped 13.6% as the Town had more of its facilities open as we emerged from the pandemic.

Financial assets of the Town were \$30,287,170 at December 31, 2022, up from \$28,952,055 a year earlier. Net financial assets, which represent the financial position after deducting accounts payable, accrued liabilities, deferred revenue, landfill closure and post-closure liability, and municipal debt, decreased during the year from \$11,546,257 to \$8,593,236.

The reason for the decrease in net financial assets was that many capital projects (totaling \$7.2 million) took place in 2022, which effectively moved assets from current financial assets to long-term non-financial as-

sets. Net tangible capital assets totaled \$94,553,579 at December 31, 2022.

Municipal debt for the Town at year-end was \$8,085,807, down from \$8,973,321 the prior year. No new debt was taken on during the year.

Seebach noted that the Town's debt position compares favourably to the province's benchmark on acceptable debt for a municipality. While the benchmark is set at roughly 25% of revenue, the Town is operating at about one-quarter of the benchmarked level.

Al Strathdee asked Seebach's opinion about how the Town's finances stack up versus other municipalities. Seebach replied that the Town is in a good position with regards to both its debt position, and with regards to having adequate reserves to fund the capital items planned for the next five years.

One last point on the financial statements, which are prepared on an accrual accounting basis. Above, a surplus for the year was noted of \$1,209,341. However, the Town prepares their budget on a modified accrual basis – by this measure, which uses alternate timing on the depreciation of tangible assets, a deficit for the year was shown of \$542,816. Council moved to fund the 2022 deficit by the Working Capital Reserve.



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COMMUNITY —

# St. Marys Station Gallery Presents Creative Digital Portraiture by Maaike Roosendaal



It is generally believed that what is considered a work of art includes the fact that the artist has something to say to the person viewing the art work. This exhibition by Maaike Roosendaal is the perfect example of 'Creative Photography' as works of art. Every item in each photograph is created by the artist: wigs, head-dresses, jewelry and, in some cases, the clothing. The models are staged, dressed and lit by the artist. The final

touches are done on the computer by using photography software to create the environment, and to make the adjustments of colour, light and shade. The final image tells a story; a story personal to the artist.

Roosendaal states: "My art is meant to be whimsical, curious and mysterious, despite the sometimes desperate cry for help that they really are, a distraction from the pain of reality.

It allows me to twist up a dark world into something beautiful, bold and colorful, work that I can drown in, and ultimately make peace with".

In viewing the work one is reminded of the photographs by Vanity Fair fashion photographer Deborah Touberville whose work in the book "Unseen Versailles" transcends the usual fashion photo to become works of art telling mysterious and beautiful stories. For

the most part Roosendaal's stories are set in the myths and mysteries from the 'ancient worlds' of powerful goddesses.

Maaike Roosendaal previews at the St. Marys Station Gallery Friday, September 1st, 2023 from 11am to 4:30pm and opens on Saturday, September 2nd, 2023 with a reception that day to meet the artist from 1pm to 4:30pm. 5 James St. N (VIA train station).



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# COMMUNITY —

## Harrington Happenings



Pictured left is Christopher O'Connor from The Garden in Harrington, while to the right are reusable cloth bags by Harrington's Bag Lady.

The Harrington and Area Community Club (HACA) held an open house at the Grist Mill on Saturday, August 19th. It was a beautiful day for the event that ran from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and drew a crowd of over 100 visitors of all ages. Mill tours given by Tim Van de Kemp and John Hiuser ran continuously throughout the day for those who were keen to see this historic entity that stands

in the centre of the village. It is a symbol of the strong social cohesion of the Harrington community, past and present. Attendees appreciated learning about the history that created a demand for milling in the area, the hand-hewn post and beam construction details of the building and details of the water driven machinery that operated here from 1864 to 1963. HACA has been active over the years



Above, from left to right, the Coyote Nature School team of Gail Courtnage, Kendra Martin, and Tammy Chapman.

restoring the Mill to its current pristine condition. On days like Saturday, they are proud to be able to show it to those who would normally only be able to view the Grist Mill from the exterior.

Harrington's Bag Lady (HACA member Brenda Krantz) displayed an array of colourful handmade reusable bags. She donates the proceeds of sales to the work of HACA.

Kendra Martin, founder of Coyote Nature School, and her team welcomed guests at Harrington Hall, and engaged kids in a fun scavenger hunt.

The Garden in Harrington also attended, selling their beautiful, fresh from the farm flowers.

A BBQ lunch was enjoyed under the shade of the trees lining the Mill drive, and many stayed to visit and enjoy the ambiance of Harrington.

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- U8-U18 Travel League: \$120 (2006 - 2016)



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# COMMUNITY —

## Nature Day at Cadzow Park



On Saturday, August 25 Nature Day was held at Cadzow Park. Nature Day at Cadzow offered families many hands-on fun activities to reconnect with the natural world. Participants could make a tree friend, draw a tree, discover new bird calls or create a fairy village, all the while using all their senses to explore the wonders of plants and animals in their neighborhood. This lasted for two hours and was very well attended.



Grandma Jan is reading a story to her grandson, Max Parkinson about different insects at the Nature Day event at Cadzow Park. (Nancy Bickell photos)

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## SPORTS —

# Lincs start preseason with two-game split against Warriors

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys Lincolns returned to the ice for the first time since falling in the Western Conference Final this past Spring when they took on the Stratford Warriors in two exhibition games last weekend.

Beginning on Friday night, the Lincolns visited the Warriors at the Stratford Rotary Complex and an early powerplay for St. Marys seemed to give the Lincs the early advantage. The visitors dictated the play for the first half of the opening frame before the Warriors were able to find their footing and push back. For much of the remainder of the contest, the Warriors wielded the advantage and in the end, Stratford held on for a 3-2 victory.

Both St. Marys goals came in the second period, including a short-handed marker by Luke Schofield at the 2:03 mark assisted by Kingston Frontenacs' 2023 10th-round draft pick Gavin Puhl. Later in the middle period, Blake Elzinga sniped home an unassisted tally. Elzinga also displayed his offensive creativity on three separate occasions. In one instance he pulled off a bank pass where he bounced the puck off of the boards and had it ricochet back out in front to himself.

Even though his squad didn't come away victorious on Friday night, Head Coach Jeff Bradley told the Independent that he saw a lot more good than bad.

"I was really happy," said Bradley. "I saw a lot more positives than negatives. I thought in the first game we did a good job considering their roster compared to ours with the number of returning guys they had. Our guys did a good job competing but I think Stratford had more of a team feel just with having more returnees in their lineup. I thought several of our returning guys looked like veterans and our goaltending was really good."

Brampton native and 20-year-old Matthew Perdue got the start for the Lincolns and played the first 40 minutes of the game. Perdue stopped 20



**Matt Prendergast tucks a partial breakaway between the legs of Stratford goalie James Hopper during the St. Marys Lincolns' preseason game on Saturday against the Warriors. Prendergast scored both Lincolns' goals in their 2-1 win over Stratford. (Photo credit: Mike Chennette/McGinny Photography)**

of 22 Stratford shots. In the third period, 17-year-old Strathroy product Brady Galbraith came into the net, making 12 of 13 saves.

The cohesiveness of the Lincolns improved significantly just 24 hours later when the two teams ventured to the PRC for the second half of their exhibition back-to-back on Saturday. According to the Head Coach, with many of the players who suited up on Friday also playing the next day, the Lincs were a bit exhausted but still managed to improve their performance.

"We looked a bit tired at times [on Saturday] due to how many guys had also played the night before. Jacob [Montesi] looked really seasoned and played like a veteran. Once again, we got some strong goaltending. Colby had to make some tough saves and for Carter, he came in halfway through the game which is never easy, and he seemed to calm down the guys in front of him."

After over half the game went without a goal from either team, the deadlock was finally broken by returning forward Matt Prendergast who took a great feed from Jimmy Schiedel,

springing him for a partial breakaway which he buried by tucking the puck through the five-hole on Stratford netminder James Hopper. Both Prendergast and Schiedel were cited as some of the weekend's standout performers by Coach Bradley.

"Matt [Prendergast] and Jimmy [Schiedel] really seemed to have had productive off-seasons. It seems like those two guys are prepared to take that next step for our team this year and be bigger contributors. Jimmy took his lumps last year with not playing as much as he would have liked but he took it in stride. This year, it's time for him to be a bigger part of what we do and he looks like a veteran so I think he can do it. Same with Matt, he looks bigger, faster, and stronger, and he's a year older while the league is a year younger which I think bodes well for him."

With just under six minutes to go in the third period, Prendergast managed to get around Stratford blue-liner Cole Brooks before firing the puck into the Warriors' net for the eventual game-winning goal. Colby Booth-Housego started the game and stopped all 20 shots directed his way, while Carter McDougall stopped 19

of 20 shots during the second half of the game when he entered the net.

It wasn't just the returnees for the Lincolns who impressed Bradley and the rest of the Lincolns' brass, with the bench boss praising the skill and grit of two first-year forwards.

"It's not a surprise in the sense that we didn't believe in them, but for guys like Ryan [Cornfield] and Blake [Elzinga], it's not often that you see guys come out of U18 hockey and be junior-ready players, but that's what they looked like. Blake has a really good offensive flair but he's also got some bite which you need at this level. We're seeing that he has the ability to be an impactful player. You can tell Ryan has the skill, but he also has that tenacity and is aggressive."

When asked about the expectations for the preseason rosters and what Bradley hopes to see, the Head Coach said that it depends on the player's experience entering the exhibition schedule.

"It differs on the player. We gave a baseline of systems for them to execute which we didn't feel was executed the way we would have liked on Friday night, but it was better executed on Saturday. For our returning players, we want those to be executed well and show the young guys the way and set an example for them to follow."

Many of the Lincolns' likely star players were unavailable for the first two preseason games, which Bradley says makes it harder to fully simulate a regular season atmosphere but does allow more depth players and potential affiliate players to show their skills.

"You're looking to prepare for the season but right now, we don't have Spagnolo, Lee, Barkley, Sullivan, or Dashevsky. None of them have played an exhibition game so after Labour Day, we will really ramp up our preparation and everyone is excited to get going, but we are getting some good looks at some younger guys and some potential APs. We are hoping for big things this year."

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## SPORTS —

# St. Marys Healthcare Foundation hosts another successful golf tournament



Pictured from left to right are Jason Firby, Jesse Brockman, Rich Parsons, and Mike Gregory. The four-man team shot a 15-under-par to win the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation's 30th annual golf tournament last Thursday. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

By Spencer Seymour

The 30th annual St. Marys Healthcare Foundation Golf Tournament held last Thursday was a big success, according to the Foundation's Chair Cindy Bilyea.

"It was a great day on the course and it was great to see so many golfers out there," Bilyea said at the banquet immediately after the tournament. "I want to thank the committee who organized this tournament and who did a wonderful job. We are also very grateful for Brandon De Groot and the St. Marys Golf and Country Club for hosting us."

With 126 golfers taking part in the tournament to help raise funds for the Foundation, Bilyea said the support for the organization was incredible.

"This Foundation is so grateful for the support we get from this community. I often think about how fortunate we are to have a hospital in this town to look after our residents. We all know how important it is to have a local hospital and we feel grateful to have

the great team of doctors, nurses, and support staff that we have."

"Everyone had a lot of fun and the weather thankfully held steady for us today," Bilyea continued. "We are privileged to live in such a supportive community and thanks to our many other tournament sponsors and our dedicated volunteers and board members, who help us on this day."

Bilyea said that, while the final fundraising total is still being calculated as of the Independent's press time. Last year, the tournament raised around \$20,000. The funds will be put toward the "Here For You Today, Building For Tomorrow" campaign. This initiative is paying for the renovation of the east and west wings of the St. Marys Memorial Hospital, which has begun and should be complete by this time next year.

The tournament was made up of four-person teams with a shotgun start. The team of Jesse Brockman, Jason Firby, Mike Gregory, and Rich Parsons came away as the 2023 Champions, shooting a marvellous 15-un-



Jason Firby, Jesse Brockman, and Rich Parsons watch alongside teammate Mike Gregory as he tees off on hole seven at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

der-par to secure the tournament win. The runner-up was the quartet of Brian Hartwick, Joshua Hartwick, Matt Hartwick, and Scott Jackson, who tallied a 12-under-par. Third place went to Jeff Barber, Brian De Groot, Jesse De Groot, and Clive Slade, who came in 11-under-par.

Team member Brockman told the Independent that winning the tournament was obviously a very enjoyable experience but that he and his teammates were even more happy to help the Foundation.

"It feels great to win the tournament but it is more about supporting a great cause," said Brockman. "It is very important for me as a resident of St. Marys and I know for all four of us to help keep our hospital and make sure it continues growing."

Brockman added that everything seemed to be clicking for his four-man unit right from their first swings, with several key shots contributing to their excellent score.

"Our team got hot right on the first hole," Brockman said. "We played hole number 18 first and made a birdie which is tough on the par three's. We had made our first par of the day on the fifth hole after six straight birdies. Then, we managed to make a long eagle putt on number six which was key as holes seven and eight are very tough holes to birdie. That momentum kept us going. Overall we had great play from all four of us throughout the day and we were laughing and joking all day long. We were never in trouble on any hole and everyone on the team contributed."

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## SPORTS —

# Lincolns acquire McDougall, Livermore; Keleher dealt to Ayr

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys Lincolns made two significant acquisitions last week including a local resident and a 19-year-old offensive defenceman.

Goaltender and St. Marys' own Carter McDougall was acquired from the Listowel Cyclones along with blueliner Ryder Livermore, a native of Exeter. The Lincolns sent cash considerations to Listowel for the pair.

McDougall will suit up for his hometown team in what will be his third

GOJHL season. In his first two Junior 'B' campaigns, McDougall has recorded 25 wins and a 0.904 save percentage in 57 games, all of which were played with the Cyclones.

General Manager Pat Powers believes that McDougall's presence will provide a boost to the rest of the team in front of him.

"Carter is a big goalie with two years of GOJHL experience," Powers told the Independent. "Our belief is that he will come in and give confidence

to the guys in front of him. He's a big goalie that doesn't give up the easy goal and we think he'll thrive with the group in front of him that we have."

Joining McDougall in coming to St. Marys is Livermore, a right-handed rearguard who posted two goals and 20 points in 39 games with Listowel last season. Powers praised Livermore for his intelligence and two-way prowess.

"Ryder is a very smart puck-moving defender who will help us generate

offence breaking out of our zone," said Powers. "He'll put our forwards in advantageous situations to be successful. Even though he's undersized, he stands in and battles against all opponents."

An unexpected subtraction was made to the lineup last week when Austin Keleher was traded to the Ayr Centennials after requesting the move for personal reasons. In 85 games over two seasons with the Lincolns, Keleher totalled 16 goals and 33 points.

## U16 Girls never quit on each other

By Spencer Seymour

Head Coach Nathan Brown told the Independent that the U16 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm found great success playing their brand of soccer this season.

"The biggest thing for our girls is that they played with a lot of discipline all year but they also played 'St. Marys Storm-style soccer,'" said Brown. "If matches were getting out of control physically, they were composed enough to just turn away and keep playing. I was very proud of them for their ability to not engage in the nastiness that has popped up this year."

The team wasn't able to advance past the semi-finals of their division's District Cup earlier this month but still

turned in a showing to be proud of, drawing the top-ranked squad from Lucan before falling in the shootout. Last week, their season ended with a dominant 9-0 victory over the last-place London Whitecaps. Speaking about their District Cup effort, Brown praised the team's regular roster members as well as a large number of call-ups who stepped in admirably.

"We only had eight of our own players so we had to call up seven girls from the U14 teams. We took the first-place Lucan team to a 1-1 tie in the semis. It was a really tough match, Lucan was a very difficult team to play against. Even when faced against their physicality, we battled really hard and didn't leave anything in the tank. We also owe a big thank-you to the U14

girls because many of them helped us out during the year when we were short on bodies"

Brown also credited the group for their desire to win and high work ethic, which he has preached all year as the team's calling card.

"These girls always brought a really high compete level to every game this year. Their ball movement and willingness to get in the hard areas and win ball battles was always really impressive. We had a lot of games where we had no substitutes or only had one sub, but these girls never gave up on each other. They all go to different schools and play different sports but they got together at the start of the year and they came up with their

goals for the season as a team."

In particular, Brown wanted to make mention of the team's leadership for setting the tone for the entire group.

"They know my expectations and the expectations of St. Marys Minor Soccer of fair play but our leadership, Olive Aarts and Abby Martin, did a great job as the Captains of our team. Every time they went up for a coin toss, they would bring an assistant captain who would be someone who had a positive game the last time out. For example, when Isla Unich won a tournament game for us in a shootout, the next game, the girls brought her up as their assistant captain which was always special for all the girls to get recognized by their Captains."

## U13 Red Rockies gain valuable playoff experience

By Spencer Seymour

With a team full of first-year players eligible to return next year, the Cumberley Plumbing and Heating U13 Red St. Marys Rockies have gathered some great playoff experience in last weekend's playoffs.

The Rockies made it to the semi-finals of their post-season before narrowly falling to Mount Forest in an air-tight 8-7 game. Evan Wolfkamp turned in a strong pitching performance after coming into the game in relief of Jude Schlotzhauer. Offensively, the team got great at-bats from Ben Graham, Nate Hern, Landon McDonald, Jacob

Savile, and Luke Showers, who went two-for-three at the plate.

In the team's trio round-robin games, the Rockies won two of three, including a 12-11 thriller over Listowel in which Hern, McDonald, Savile, and Remko Wynands combined for a perfect 11-for-11 run at the plate and Wolfkamp and Adam Nelson anchored the group on the mound.

They also picked up a 19-4 mercy rule win over Saugeen Shores, led by two home runs from Schlotzhauer who went three-for-three in the batter's box. Hern capped off the win with a walk-off homer. In the first

round-robin contest, the Rockies fell in a closely-contested pitchers duel against Exeter. Schlotzhauer threw 10 strikeouts in four-and-a-third innings while Nelson and Showers went three-for-three.

Head Coach Ken French praised the group's focus over the weekend which he said was the team's biggest improvement this season.

"Their concentration has really improved this year," said French. "More and more, they were playing a full game. They've really picked up on the importance and value of every pitch, batter, inning, and game."

French also added that he and the entire coaching staff are thrilled with how the players have grown, on and off the field.

"I'm so proud of this team and the ball-players and young men they've become. Everyone accepted their role and we excelled because of great teamwork and sportsmanship. We have much to look forward to next year because the team is entirely first-year players. They've also grown as teammates. Supporting and challenging each other. Staying positive and being ready when opportunities present themselves."

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## SPORTS —

# U13 Blue Rockies win Division Three WOBA Championship

By Spencer Seymour

The Veterinary Purchasing Company Limited U13 Blue St. Marys Rockies won the Division Three WOBA Championship after going unbeaten in their playoff finale this past weekend.

In round-robin play, the Rockies were white-hot at the plate, hitting double-digit runs in each of their three games and totalling 41 runs in those three contests. They first defeated Saugeen Shores Two 16-5 on Friday before knocking off Saugeen Shores Three on Saturday morning by a score of 10-6. Later that same day, St. Marys cruised to a 15-4 win over Owen Sound.

Head Coach Paul Jacobs said the team was clicking on both sides of the ball throughout the weekend.

"The boys played great all around baseball this weekend," Jacobs told the Independent. "We had great pitching and everybody contributed at the plate."

After winning their semi-final match-up against Clinton, the Rockies once again found a way to come out on top, taking a 7-3 win and punching their



Pictured is the Veterinary Purchasing Company Limited U13 Blue St. Marys Rockies, who won the Division Three Championship this past weekend. In the front row, from left to right, are Bryce Martin, Will Jacobs, Nolan Stewart, Seth Mountain, Lake Hodson, Ryder Blight, and Josh Gerber. In the back row, from left, are Coach Dan Anderson, Coach Jeff Stewart, Seth Brown, Zack Tubman, Dylan Chateauvert, Dan Dittmer, Coach Paul Jacobs, and Coach Todd Dittmer. (Contributed photo)

ticket to the finals. With an opportunity to become back-to-back Division Three Champions, Jacobs said the

team was ready for the big game.

"The boys went into the championship game focused and with a quiet

confidence that led them to the win," said Jacobs. "This team tends to start the season out slow and just as last year, finds a groove and seems to become unstoppable. These boys are great teammates and great kids. They worked hard and deserved in."

In the final game, the Rockies met the squad from Goderich. Once again, St. Marys was clicking offensively, defensively, and on the pitcher's mound, and emerged with a convincing 9-1 victory and a second consecutive championship end to their season. Jacobs said that the entire coaching staff was very proud of the team.

"This was a great group of boys to coach. I think what allowed this team to have such success was how well they played together and they always had fun doing it. I feel we hit a turning point midway through the season. Some may say it was Seth Mountain's pre-game warm-up music which, in the coaches' opinions was awful but the players enjoyed it. The boys never looked back and finished the season only losing one game in their last nine. They really turned it on late in the year and it showed with their championship performance."



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# SPORTS —

## Loaded Men's Slo Pitch schedule played last Sunday



On the left, Nic Cortes of the LA Batts fields the ball to first base. On the right, the Merchants' Josh Poetker tries to tag a sliding Dustin Welch of the Booze Brothers out at third. The St. Marys Men's Slo Pitch League held a day of action that saw eight games played on King Field at the Baseball Hall of Fame grounds this past Sunday. The games were make-ups for games this season that had been postponed due to inclement weather.



On the left, Jason Robertson swings for the fences for the Bulldogs. On the right, Nelson Graham of the Thunder cracks the bat against the ball. Notable scores from this past Sunday's slate of games include a 25-15 win by the Ducks over the Pats. The Pats earlier in the day defeated the Autobots 17-12. The Thunder downed the Bulldogs 11-8. The Sox edged out the Bomberadoes 15-13. (All photos by Spencer Seymour)

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COMMUNITY —

# A sure sign of fall



The sunflowers at McCully's Hill Farm will soon be ready for harvest. As a matter of interest, the sunflower is the national flower of Ukraine.

# Melodies at the Museum - week 4



On August 23 former Museum employee, Jaron Camp, took the stage with Rachael Frankruyter. After years of playing together, Jaron and Rachael created the duo project, York Street Thought Process. They have collectively performed at a variety of venues throughout southern Ontario, from restaurants to festivals. Their debut album was released in August 2022. (Nancy Bickell photo)

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# HISTORY —

## HISTORIC ST. MARYS: A Tribute to Frank Doyle (1944-2023)

By Mary Smith

In 1993, the St. Marys Museum was a partner in an oral history project with an adult literacy program running at the public library. To develop oral skills, participants interviewed a number of local residents who had come to St. Marys from another country or another part of Canada. They were asked how their original homes differed from St. Marys, to explain why they came to this community, and to describe their first impressions. The interviews were transcribed, edited into “accessible” English, and eventually published as a booklet, “So I’ve Been Told ... Stories from St. Marys.” Intended for use by literacy students, this little book is still available at the public library.

Frank Doyle, the town council representative on the St. Marys Museum Board, agreed to be one of the first interviewed and the transcript of his responses is in the archives vault at the Museum. Frank was a great interview subject, describing his arrival from Ireland clearly and with humour. He explained how he had arrived in Montreal on August 13, 1967. It was Canada’s Centennial and Expo ‘67 was in full swing. The weather was hot and humid. Frank arrived wearing his overcoat – not because, like so many tourists, he thought he would be coming to a land of perpetual ice and snow, but because he wanted to bring as much as possible with him. Wearing his heavy coat meant more space in his luggage. His first impressions of Canada were very urban. He was struck by the highways with their overpasses and underpasses, their multiple lanes and the size and abundance of automobiles.

Frank, the second youngest in a family of seven boys, grew up in Dundrum, a historic village complete with castle ruins that had become part of the outer suburbs of Dublin. The Doyle home was the first in a new subdivision. Frank and his brothers rode their bicycles five miles to school every day, rain or shine. Young Frank had participated in many sports – soccer, Gaelic football, track and field. He was justifiably proud that at one time he had been the Junior All Ireland 440 yard champion! His oldest brother, Michael, had been the national marathon champion of Ireland in 1961. Frank’s love of competitive sports lasted all his life.

One of Frank’s older brothers was the first to come to Canada. He had been offered a scholarship to study at Villanova but decided to attend university in Toronto instead. Frank’s father came to visit him and went back to Ireland to report that Canada would be a great place to live. Eventually, the entire family immigrated – Frank, his parents, and all his brothers. Frank found that it was not difficult to find employment in Toronto at that time. In fact, employers were looking for workers. He recounted that during his interview with a floor tiling company, he was asked what his salary expectations were. He named a figure and they said, oh no, and named a higher figure. He took an accounting position with the company. He was later transferred to the Stratford branch and that was how he met his wife, Margaret Brown, from nearby St. Marys.

Frank immediately liked St. Marys and was glad that he and Margaret decided to raise their three



Frank Doyle unlocks the office door to begin another day at the St. Marys Independent, June 2018.

sons here. In the 1993 interview, he described St. Marys as unique among other southwestern Ontario towns of similar size – lively, bustling, with a compact downtown. It had good schools, a library, a museum, recreational facilities and good neighbours. Frank’s commitment to the town was shown in his terms on town council and his efforts to support new enterprises. He was part of a committee that worked to bring the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame to St. Marys in 1994. As CAO Brent Kittmer pointed out in his letter to Frank in the August 10 issue of the Independent, Frank never hesitated to contact the town hall to make suggestions if he believed there was some local issue that needed attention. He believed that keeping town officials alert to controversy was part of his responsibility as editor of a local newspaper. Those who have watched live-streaming of council meetings know that Frank also made frequent use of the opportunity to submit questions to be addressed during the public input period at the beginning of each regular meeting.

Frank’s desire to keep St. Marys on the right track was one reason for his decision 30 years ago to launch a second local weekly newspaper. The first issue of the first version of The Independent was published on July 23, 1993 – about three months before Frank’s interview with the literacy project. Its banner in large bold letters: Extra! Extra! Read All About It! The editorial page stated that the Independent newspaper was a division of

CEF Enterprises and would be printed every Friday. The office was 25 Church Street South, the commercial space in front of the bowling alley. And CEF? –Frank’s three sons were Christopher, Eamonn and Francis. The newspaper was very much a family affair with input from friends and relatives. The Doyle boys’ bylines appeared regularly on various newspaper features – even after they had left St. Marys for university. This was a source of great amusement to their friends.

Frank’s first editorial dealt with the Arena Board’s decision not to allow smoking in a designated area, the arena foyer. Frank disagreed with this decision and wrote that a compromise solution should have been reached. He was also one of the town council representatives on the Arena Board and, a smoker himself, he had voted on the losing side of the decision. In these days when smoking is absolutely prohibited in the arena, this editorial position seems to have been clearly against the tide. But smoking in indoor public places, while not recommended, was still legal in Ontario in 1993. There would have been a number of local readers of that first Independent who strongly agreed with the editor.

In the summer of 1993, the St. Marys Museum was featuring an exhibit about the contribution of Irish settlers to this part of Ontario. Frank gave space in the first Independent for an account of a visit with Erma Keane in the Gore of Downie to gather information about her large, extended family to use as background. Frank, as a member of the Museum Board, made his own contribution to the exhibit: he prepared a detailed account of the history of Ireland, starting from prehistoric days. In his interview for the literacy project, he admitted that his memories of Ireland were almost 30 years old and that he had never been back. He became a Canadian citizen but he remembered his Irish roots. His grandchildren have an array of wonderful Irish names.

That first version of the Independent folded in the mid-1990s because it had lacked an adequate business plan and a strategy to attract advertisers and subscribers. But Frank remained determined to publish a second St. Marys newspaper, an alternate voice to that of the long-standing St. Marys Journal Argus. Vol. 1, No. 1 of the current Independent arrived on Friday, June 16, 2000 – a Frank Doyle millennium project. Once again, the emphasis was on local news and community engagement. Readers enjoyed such weekly features as Boos and Bravos, Riddle Kid, and Senior of the Week. The early issues may have lacked journalistic polish but they were filled with humour and energy.

St. Marys owes the continuation of a local community newspaper to Frank Doyle and to the opportunities he gave the Independent’s current staff and contributors. Producing the paper probably helped sustain him through difficult personal times, most significantly the death of his wife, Margaret, on Christmas Day 2011. He was also sustained by his great love of his family, his pride in their accomplishments and his delight in every opportunity to interact with his grandchildren. He is missed!



COLUMN —

# FROM THE GARDEN: Just amazing....



**By Nancy Abra**

Each summer the flowers in my cut garden never cease to amaze me. The different species of bees, butterflies, and other pollinators that the colourful floral splendour attract is a wonder of Mother Nature. It's just amazing.

I have had good luck with various flowers of dahlias, celosia, verbena, cosmos and zinnias in my cut garden over the past few years. The zinnias have been a favourite of mine with their vibrant blooms and the butterflies and bees they attract. But this year, my tall marigolds have reined supreme with the pollinators and are beyond my expectation.

Marigolds are beautiful, colourful, and resilient. They have literally colonized the globe with their long and rich history of cultural connection

with various countries and peoples.

Marigolds are originally from Mexico and Guatemala. Research shows that Mesoamerican cultures used the flower to adorn idols, priests and sacrificial victims long before the Aztecs. Marigolds were used in healing but were also sacred, playing a role in a diversity of ceremonies. In the 1500's, the early Spanish explorers brought the Aztec's native seed to Spain. These seeds were cultivated in monastery gardens in Spain. From there, the marigold seeds were transported to France and to northern Africa where they were naturalized. They were introduced into Britain in the early 1600's. In the 1800's, immigrants and explorers came back to North America with marigolds. They have been a favourite garden flower ever since.

There are two main Marigold species grown - French, *Tagetes patula*, which are compact in stature with smaller flowers of gold, orange, reds, and yellows, bicolor, and striped and the African type, *Tagetes erecta*, that are much taller in height and have large blooms of yellow, orange, and

cream white. These varieties are easy to grow from seed and are versatile in any sun loving garden, whether it be used as mass planting, edging border, containers or for the tall varieties as cut flowers. They also make good plant partners in the vegetable gardens to attract beneficial insects, serve as a trap crop for certain pests and even repel certain insects and critters.

How these beauties got their common name may be associated with the Christian faith. Marigolds are often associated with the Virgin Mary, and the story of Mary offering her golden coins to the poor. They were often used to adorn church altars. Because of their strong scent they were often used at funerals to help mask the stench of the deceased. <https://sundropsandstarflowers.com/whats-in-a-name-marigold>

Marigolds carry different meanings in various cultures. They often symbolize purity, divinity and a connection between life and death. In Mexico, marigolds play a central role in the annual 'Day of the Dead' celebrations. In India, marigold flowers hold a special place in the Hindu cul-



ture, often used in festivals, weddings and religious ceremonies. In China, marigolds are often associated with wealth and prosperity and are used as decorations for their New Year celebrations. In other Eastern Asian countries, they believe marigolds have transformative power of the sun and represent vitality and warmth.

In my garden the bright

blooms of these flowers are a peaceful setting for a multitude of bees, butterflies and dragonflies that come to visit and sip the sweet nectar of these beauties. They are just amazing!

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/marigold/>

<https://piedmontmastergardeners.org/article/marigold-more-than-a-pretty-face/>



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Ladies League  
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Mixed League  
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Friendship League / Seniors  
Wednesdays and or Sunday 1:30pm  
Starts Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday September 13<sup>th</sup>  
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Thursdays 7pm  
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Local businesses live here. They play here. They invest here. They need our support, now more than ever.






COLUMN —

# HOSTING UKRAINE: Deadlines

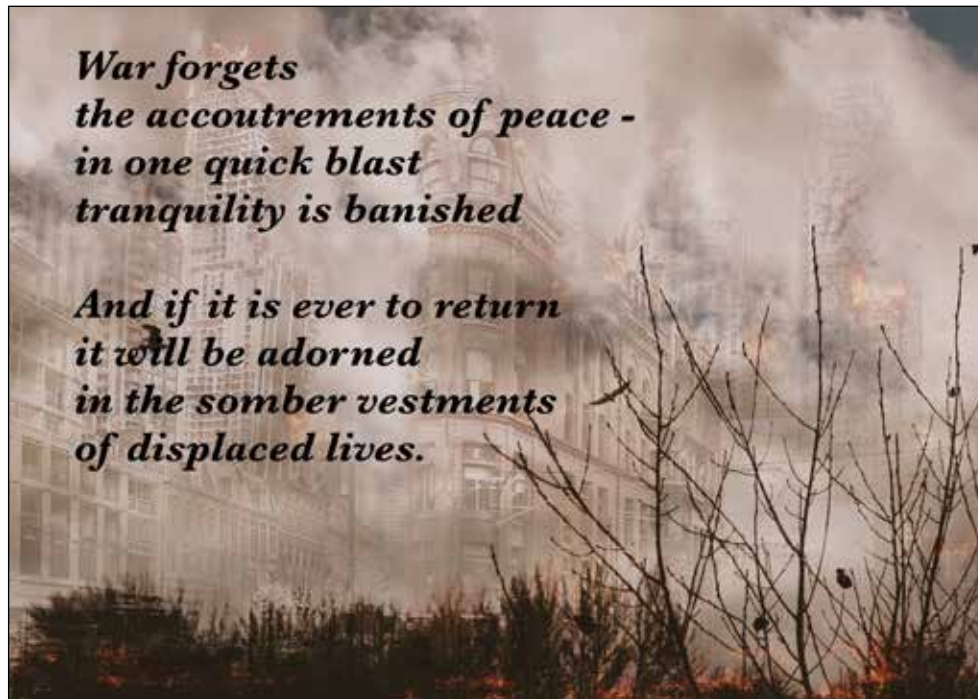
By VJ Knutson

The ability to apply for the Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel, or CUAET program, closed July 15th, 2023. Current CUAET visa holders, not yet in Canada, have until March 31, 2024 to take advantage of the program which allows 3 years temporary residency, an open work or study permit, health-care, and one-time Federal aid.

As the number of Ukrainians fleeing war increases, I'm not sure what the government is thinking. 29.5 million Ukrainians are currently displaced, either within or outside of their country. That is more than half the population. Friends tell me the lines at the border, of those fleeing, are 15 km long. The problem is not going away.

The news on permanent residency is not much better. Those who already have relatives here (Canadian citizens) can apply to be fast tracked, but what happens to all of those who have no blood ties? I'm not an immigration consultant, but I can see the stress all this uncertainty is having on others.

What does this mean going forward? Those applying to come to Canada now will only receive a 6-month visitor's visa – without the perks of CUAET. I can't see the incentive in



this for hosts or guests. According to the government, as of the closing date, July 15, 2023, they still have 300,000 CUAET applications to process. They hope to be finished this task by year's end.

While the government took measures to help at the onset of war, they left much of the support of Ukrainians to grassroot movements. Many found hosts, and jobs, and were able to fair-

ly quickly, integrate into our society. I fail to see how this will be possible after March of next year.

This week, I had the opportunity to catch up with families who have been here a year or more, reminiscing about early struggles, and marvelling over how far they have come. Most of the conversations were in English, without the need of translators, and all expressed plans for the future.

We talked about the down times, and the inevitable homesickness, but Ukrainians are optimistic people, and focusing on what can't be changed is generally not in their nature.


If I mention Canada's changing policy to my Ukrainian friends, most shrug and say Europe is the same. They are not bitter. They are grateful for the help that has been extended to them. "It will be people of means who will come to Canada now," they tell me. Not a new story, I'm sure.

It's an interesting position Ric and I have found ourselves in this past 18 months. We have had an honourable front row seat to how war affects people. We have been witnesses to fear, heartbreak, and unbelievable devastation. Most incredibly, through the power of social media and technology, we have been able to reach across the globe, and offer a hand up. The stories we now share, the memories we have built with our new extended family, are invaluable. Most powerful of all, is knowing that when evil strikes in the world, good prevails. We have seen it time again – together, all of us, in this small town. Incredible.

Till next time.

(Reach me at english.knutson@gmail.com. Poetry by yours truly.)

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

Solutions on page 27



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# September means the Thorndale Fall Fair

By Nancy Abra

The banner is up, and the fair books are out. In four weeks, the Thorndale Agricultural Society will be hosting their event of the year ~ the Thorndale Fall Fair.

The Thorndale Fall Fair has been the highlight of the community for more than 165 years, making it one of the oldest continuous run events of its kind in Southwestern Ontario. But it just doesn't magically happen every year on the third weekend in September. It takes committees, planning, and sponsors for this event to be a continued success. It also takes community involvement and participation, especially the youth of the area.

The Thorndale Agricultural Society invites all young males and females, from the age of 17 to 22 years old, residing in the Thorndale community to enter in the Thorndale Fair Ambassador competition. Interested applicants are requested to com-

plete the online registration form at <https://www.thorndalefair.com/ambassador-program>. Contestants will be judged on their community knowledge and involvement, agriculture knowledge, personality, and presentation. Judging will take place on Friday evening of September 22nd at the fair opening ceremonies. For more information, contact Laura Langford at [ljlandford@gmail.com](mailto:ljlandford@gmail.com).

The Thorndale Fair Ambassador is a very important role for the fair. The ambassador attends various community area events, attends the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies convention in February and represents Thorndale Fall Fair at the C.N.E. in August for the fair ambassador competition. The ambassador program is also a wonderful opportunity for area youth to strengthen their leadership skills, make new friends, and is an enlightening experience representing their community and the Thorndale Fall Fair.



# Mobile Food Bank comes to Thorndale

By Nancy Abra

Since May, on the fourth Wednesday of every month, the Salvation Army Stratford-St. Marys mobile food bank stops at the Thorndale United Church from 1:30pm to 3pm. Gracie Dafoe, Family Service worker with the Salvation Army said part of their Commu-

nity and Family Service was to extend their outreach to other communities. She explained, "the main premise for the mobile food bank is to promote food accessibility to smaller rural areas." Their mobile foodbank visits Fullarton, Tavistock, and Thorndale, once a month. She said, "we feel by

coming to these communities, people have a better access to food."

Dafoe said, "We provide one hamper of food for those families who register on our website. The response has been mixed as last month", she added, "I left here with more food than what I handed out. We greatly appre-

ciate people sharing their extra food with others. This also includes fresh produce from people's gardens too if they have extra."

For more information or to register for the Salvation Army mobile food bank, check out <https://www.salarmy-cfs.ca/foodbank>.

# At the Thorndale Library

By Jennifer Owens, Thorndale Library staff

Thank you to everyone who took part in Thorndale Library's summer reading program and interactive summer programs!

The fun continues with our fall programming. Bring in your fair projects and craft alongside friends at Pro-craft-inators-Thorndale Fair Edition on September 6, 13, and 20 at 6:00pm. Females aged 16+ can join us on September 27 at 6:30pm to celebrate National Women's Health and Fitness Day with yoga. Our new chess program, it's a Good Knight for Chess, starts October 4 at 6:00pm. Family movie night (No School Tomorrow—Movie Night Tonight!) is on October 5 at 5:00pm. Space for some programs are limited and registration is required. Please check program details at [library.middlesex.ca/events](http://library.middlesex.ca/events), in person, or by phone.

Our regular drop-in programs continue into fall,

with some adjustments. Storytime will continue Tuesdays at 10:30am and starting on September 7, 'Summer Hangout' will be replaced with Afterschool Hangout. This hour-long program runs Thursdays at 4:30pm.

Middlesex County Library's 2023 Reading Challenge for September takes us back to school with a challenge to read a book with the NoveList theme Dark Academia. Visit [bit.ly/MCLnovelist](http://bit.ly/MCLnovelist) to get started with NoveList—an electronic resource that's free to you through the library—and log in with your library card number and PIN. Then, do a keyword search for "TH dark academia" and find your new favourite!

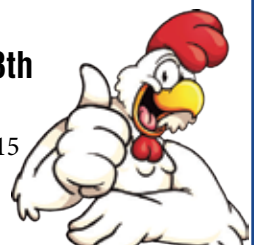
As always, feel free to drop in, call us at 519-461-1150, or email us at [thorndale\\_staff@middlesex.ca](mailto:thorndale_staff@middlesex.ca) with any questions. We hope to see you at the library this fall!

## ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH THORNDALE

### Chicken BBQ Dinner

172 King St. Thorndale  
Wednesday, September 13th  
4:30pm - 6:30pm

Adults \$25 Children under 12 - \$15  
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# - Word Search -

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 C K U B H I S T O R I C S I T E S D D I  
 J M V Z C N V T A E R S S Y G V K W U J

## Word List

- Historic sites
- Riverwalk Commons
- Riverside B and B
- Andrew Hodges
- Churchs
- Museum
- CBHOF
- Public library
- Station Gallery
- Broken Rail
- Council chambers
- Bus tours
- Discover St. Marys

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**SPONSORED BY:**  **McDonald's St. Marys**  
 752 Queen St E  
 Founding and Forever partner of Ronald McDonald House

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

Thorndale Library September events - See Page 21

St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 25

### Friday, September 1

- Station Gallery preview of Maaike Roosendaal exhibit - 11 am to 4:30 pm

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

### Saturday, September 2

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 am to Noon

- Station Gallery reception for Maaike Roosendaal exhibit - 1 to 4:30 pm

- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm

### Sunday, September 3

- Vining Cemetery Decoration Day - 9 am to 3 pm

### Monday, September 4

- Labour Day

### Wednesday, September 6

- First day of school



The **Riddle Kid** OF THE WEEK

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



A clock.

**Quinn Van De Walle (3)**

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

## TONS OF FUN FOR KIDS EVERY WEEK!

## PET OF THE WEEK

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



Our Pet of the Week is Shadow, a 23 year old African gray parrot. He has been a big part of the Shaughnessy family for 20 years and calls them by name. Shadow is very talkative and loves to sing and can whistle the tune "Pop goes the Weasel".



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

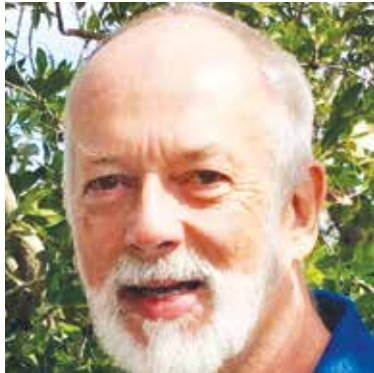
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## COLUMN —

## OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Up, up and away over the Thousand Islands



By Paul Knowles

There are a lot of great ways to see the Thousand Islands and we did several of them.

But let's start with the math. Here's a trivia question: "How many islands are there in the Thousand Islands?" Answer? Nobody actually agrees. In fact, they don't even agree on the definition of "island."

Some will tell you that an island is any piece of land surrounded by water, said land being above the surface of the water year-round and having at least one tree. Others will say no, it needs at least two trees. Others may argue that some islands may be submerged sometimes but they are still islands.

And then there are the numbers. Several of the local experts we met said there are 1,864 islands. But a plaque atop the Thousand Islands Tower insists "There are officially 997 islands in the Thousand Islands. This is often exaggerated by including all the shoals and rocks to make the total 1867." The Canadian Encyclopedia cites

"an official count" that totaled "1149 islands and islets."

Suffice to say, there are a lot of islands in the Thousand Islands, probably more than 1,000, and together they create one of the most beautiful areas in the world.

And, as I said before I went down the rabbit hole of arithmetic, there are a lot of fine ways to enjoy them. We took a Thousand Island cruise, we toured the waterway closest to Gananoque in an heritage, wooden power boat and we ascended the Thousand Islands Tower so we thought we had a pretty comprehensive perspective on the area.

That is, until we climbed into a four-seater helicopter at 1000 Islands Helicopter Tours for a flight piloted by company owner Dave Kouri.

Our flight lasted only about 20 minutes but the magic and the awe stretched that into an amazing adventure. Seeing the Thousand Islands from the deck of a boat gives you a good look at what humans have accomplished in this highly sought-after destination. You see the heritage cottages and the elaborate homes and you can consider the differences between how people have settled in Canadian territory compared to the U.S.

By the way, for both boat and helicopter, it's okay to enter U.S. waters or airspace as long as you don't put a foot on American soil.

So we had experienced the

islands from a water-level viewpoint but seeing it from 1400 feet up was something completely different. From there, the clear, clear waters of the St. Lawrence look like an impressionist painting, changing hues depending on the depth. It reminded me of the ever-changing waterscape you see as you drive the Overseas Highway in the Florida Keys.

And the islands are revealed to be, in the main, forests with tiny plots of land claimed by humans along the shores. There is green everywhere. My perspective of the landscape changed completely with this air-borne perspective.

Dave Kouri has owned 1000 Islands Helicopter Tours since 2008. Originally, it was based in Kingston (the St. Lawrence officially begins somewhere between Kingston and Gananoque), but he moved the operation to a site minutes north of the town locals simply call "Gan" a few years ago.

Today, he owns three helicopters and has a staff of expert pilots. He told me he flies less often than he used to because he has accumulated way more than enough qualifying hours to keep him in the air. But he clearly enjoyed the flight with us almost as much as we did.

His company offers five tour options – 10 minutes, 20 minutes, two 30-minute tours (one heading east on the St. Lawrence, the other heading



Pilot and fleet owner Dave Kouri. (All photos by Paul Knowles)

west to include Kingston) and "the works", a one-hour tour that combines everything.

Dave told me that people who take the 10-minute tour (\$99) always say they wish that had opted for something longer. I would say the 20 minute flight was amazing (\$169), and while more would probably be more amazing, we landed happy and enthralled.

Our particular tour took us well east through the islands. The highlight is the flight around Boldt Castle. This was constructed by American millionaire hotel owner George C. Boldt, starting in 1900. He intended it as a very ostentatious gift to his wife, Louise. But it was not completed when Louise passed away in 1904 and Boldt completely abandoned the project. The castle, which is located on an American island, sat empty for 73 years; in 1977, the U.S.-based Thousand Islands

Bridge Authority decided to finish construction to create what has become a popular tourist attraction.

And it is impressive. But as Dave told me, most of his customers on the 20-minute or 30-minute 'Two Castle Tour', "go out to see the castle but talk about everything else when they return."

I guess the lesson here is, humans can do pretty impressive things but we can never top the sheer magnificence found in nature. The castle is interesting but the waterways, rocks and forests of the Thousand Islands are spectacularly beautiful.

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



The lovely town of Gananoque – population about 5,500, but punching way above its weight as a terrific tourist attraction.



An aerial view of the popular tourist attraction, Boldt Castle.



**THANK YOU**

*Brine*

The family of the late Cheryl Brine would like to thank friends, neighbours, relatives and Cheryl's former colleagues for their cards, flowers, emails, phone calls, donations and food brought to our homes at the time of Cheryl's sudden passing.

A special thank you to Rev. Pirie Mitchell for his meaningful service, Tim Gilbert for the music, the U.C.W. Ladies of St. Marys United Church for the lovely lunch, Andrew Hodges Funeral Home for their guidance and direction and also to the Delmar dream team for their support.

All was greatly appreciated.

Grace, Daryl, Erica, Katie and Ethan

**THANK YOU**

*Carter*

The Carter family would like to thank everyone for the kind words and condolences after the passing of our mother, Margaret Carter, on July 21, 2023.

We also send our gratitude to those who donated to the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation.

**THANK YOU**

*ANAF*

Thank you to the Executive, Members and Volunteers for all the hard work to set up and tear down at the past Brisket/Corn Roast.

Special thanks to Joe's Diner for smoking the briskets and their donations.

Roy M

President, ANAF Unit 265 ftss

**THANK YOU**

*O'Hara*

The family of Mike O'Hara would like to express their thanks to those who have shown immense generosity.

The donations, flowers, cards and condolences are greatly appreciated!

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**COLUMN —**

# Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

Meteorological fall starts September 1st, but the fall equinox (the official start of fall) is September 23rd. Why do we bring this up? We want to keep the summer fun going with our final two Movies in the Park of the season! The first movie night is September 8th and the second is September 22nd. Both movies will be shown at Cadzow Park and will begin at dusk. The movies are free to attend and there will be free popcorn, both things made possible by our dedicated Friends of the Library volunteers. Remember to bring your own blanket or chair for maximum movie-watching comfort. Check our Facebook page for updates and for the titles of the movies.

**This Week's Recommendation**

Really great movies and plays have a way of sticking in our brains. This is even more the case when the production has an awesome soundtrack. You can find a bunch of amazing soundtracks on Hoopla, a

database available for free to all Library card holders. Titles include "Barbie: The Album", "The Little Mermaid (2023)", "Encanto", "The Greatest Showman", and even "Hamilton (Original Broadway Cast Recording)". Check out Hoopla today. Find a quick link to the database on the Online Resources page of our website.

**Up This Week**

Friday, Sept. 1st: Open 10:30am-5:00pm

Saturday, Sept. 2nd: Open 10:00am-4:00pm

Monday, Sept. 4th: CLOSED

Tuesday, Sept. 5th: Writing Club - All Ages (6:00pm-7:00pm)

Wednesday, Sept. 6th: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30am), Mahjong Intro (1:00pm-2:00pm), Mahjong! (2:00pm-4:00pm), Scrabble (6:00pm-8:00pm)

Thursday, Sept. 7th: Mahjong Intro (6:00pm-6:30pm), Mahjong! (6:30pm-8:00pm)

# LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

## Bridge issues

**50 years ago (1973)**

This season is shaping up as something of a record in the hay-cutting history of the area with a number of farmers contemplating a third cutting.

Firefighters were called at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday to douse a bonfire in the West Ward.

It was fortunate a pedestrian did not fall into the Thames River below Victoria Bridge when some unthinking pranksters removed several planks from the south walkway and tossed them into the river during the early hours of last Friday morning.

The recovery of two valuable library books from the waters of Trout Creek in recent weeks has led to speculation that books are being lifted out of the drop-box at the Library front door and dumped into the creek.

**75 years ago (1948)**

An outdoor phone kiosk has been placed at the Cox Service Station and Restaurant by the Bell Telephone Company.

Yesterday afternoon's 90 degree heat caused the staff at the Forsyth Shirt Factory to leave their machines an hour earlier than usual.

The apple harvest season is with us. It is also the season of tummy aches for the younger fry who prey on the neighbours' apple trees.

The small bridge on Elgin St. West in front of the Ferguson farm collapsed on Monday afternoon after a loaded Brecken cement truck had passed over it. At the time, the truck was making a detour from Queen Street due to house moving operations which were in progress there. The vehicle got across the bridge, but apparently the weight of the rear wheels was too much for the small plank structure.

**100 years ago (1923)**

Real estate agents report that there are hundreds of vacant houses in Toronto for sale or to rent. One agent estimated that there were 1,000 vacant homes and stores in North Toronto and hundreds of others in the Danforth district and other sections of the city.

Mr. Frank Tricomo, who has operated a fruit store next to the St. Marys Theatre for the past two months, returned to his home in Waterloo on Tuesday. Mr. Tricomo unfortunately was unable to continue the branch store here as the distance was too great to allow him to supervise both his business establishments in Waterloo and St. Marys.

The Oxford-Cambridge Lacrosse Team, who are on a Canadian tour, will play the St. Marys Intermediates in Athletic Park on Labour Day.

## The St. Marys Farmers' Market

**Raspberries and blueberries available!**



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**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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- 3) 12
- 4) Hawaii
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- 7) Robert Recorde
- 8) Italy
- 9) 88 notes
- 10) Jack Nicklaus (18 majors)

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

**OBITUARY**

*Pelkmans*



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of "Carl" Carolus Henricus Maria Pelkmans in his 79th year, August 24th 2023.

Immigrating in 1965 from Baarle-Nassau, Netherlands to set roots in Canada and building the family dairy farm, settling in Oxford County. He was most proud of his Dutch

heritage and growing family as the years had gone by. Carl was a hard-working proud Ontario farmer who was always willing to lend a listening ear and helping hand, traveling the world on many adventures, daily walks exploring the farms with the beloved family dog by his side, and enjoyed friendly but competitive games of chess.

He will be dearly missed by many extended relatives and friends in the Netherlands, Canada far and wide. Youngest son of Augustinus Willhelmus Pelkmans (1980) and Maria Alojsia (1990) (Verheijen) Siblings: Henricus Johannes Pelkmans (2021) - Maria Jacobs (2005), Adrianus Carolus Pelkmans - Anna Dickens, Josephus Augustinus Pelkmans (2009) and Mary Van Beek, Cornelia M.A Pelkmans - Jo W.A Wijnhoven (†), Johannes Carolus Josephus Pelkmans - Mary Verhoeven, Alphonsius J.M Pelkmans - Toos Christianen, Ria Pelkmans (2018). Beloved husband of 51 years to Ulrike Pelkmans. Loving father to Carmen van Lierop (John), Karen Ische (Mike), Carl Pelkmans Jr, Stefan Pelkmans (Tamzin). Proud Opa to 16 grandchildren, Deanna van Lierop, Cody Weston (Gage), Robin van Lierop (Keegan), Janneke van Lierop (Alejandro), Tina van Lierop, Marieke van Lierop, Alana Ische, Ethan Ische, Collin Ische, Jordan Pelkmans, Marcia Pelkmans, Trevor Pelkmans, Russell Pelkmans, Oliver Pelkmans, Lucas Pelkmans, Nora Pelkmans. Missed by great-grandchildren Luuka Weston, Baby (2023).

A private family interment ceremony will take place with a celebration of life occurring at a later date. In lieu of flowers a memorial donation may be made to the Parkinson Society of Southwestern Ontario, through the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

**Vining Cemetery Decoration**

**22157 Purple Hill Road Thorndale  
September 3rd, 9:00am to 3:00pm**

Donations are accepted and are used for cemetery upkeep. If you are unable to attend and you would like to send a donation, please make cheques payable to Vining Cemetery and send to Lloyd Monteith at 34542 Granton Line, Granton Ont. N0M 1V0

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**OBITUARY**

*Noble*



Norman Howard Noble of Valleyview Home, St. Thomas passed away with family at his side, at his late residence on Monday, August 28th, 2023 at 84 years of age. Formally of Warton and St. Marys. Beloved husband of the late Ruth Noble (Dotzenroth) who predeceased him on March 12th, 2015.

Loving father of Richard of Meaford and Susie Velestuk (Rick) of St. Thomas. Dear brother of Jim Noble and Vic Noble (Helen). Fondly remembered by Shauntel, Katie, Kaleb and Taylor. Predeceased by sister Nancy Himborg, brother-in-law Phares Himborg, brother Lefty Noble, sister Mary Schmidt, brother-in-law Ralph Schmidt, and sister-in-law Dorothy Noble. Also survived by many nieces, nephews and their families.

Norm was born May 19th, 1939 in St. Marys, Ontario, the son of the late Victor and Margaret (Malcolm) Noble.

Many thanks to Paul, Dorothy, Greg, Allyson and Kristen.

The family wish to express their sincere thanks to the Valleyview Home nurses and staff for all their care and compassion.

At the family's request there will be no funeral or visitation. Cremation has taken place. As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to a charity of your choice in memory of Norm.

Williams Funeral Home, 45 Elgin St., St. Thomas entrusted with arrangements.

**OBITUARY**

*Stiltz*



Cameron Roy Stiltz  
April 01, 1957 to August 24, 2023

Passed away at age 66 years old at Kingsway Lodge from a lifetime battle with Parkinson's Disease and Lewy Body Dementia.

Sadly missed by family and friends.

Cremation has taken place, Celebration of Life will be held sometime in September.

**THANK YOU**

*Stiltz*

Thanks for all the care he received from Kingsway and the Happy Valley Health care team.

Karla and Jason Smith and Robby Stiltz





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