

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1176

Thursday, September 14, 2023

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Great Weekend for Kirkton Fall Fair



McKenna Ross, with 5-month-old calf Winslow, was among those from the Kirkton Dairy 4-H Club participating in last weekend's Kirkton Fair. (David Shepley photo)

Lincs' Home Opener this Friday

By Spencer Seymour

After playing their final exhibition game last Friday, the St. Marys Lincolns begin their regular season schedule this Friday night when they host the St. Thomas Stars at the PRC.

The Lincolns went 3-1 in the pre-season and enter this season with a strong roster aiming to follow up on their excellent 2022-23 campaign. Head Coach Jeff Bradley said that he is excited to coach what he called "a very deep team."

"Our depth is our strong suit," Brad-

ley told the Independent. "It's going to be nice for me as a coach because I can put out any line depending on who is or isn't playing well. We've got returning guys who have all taken steps forward and young guys who have already proven that they can be trusted in key situations.

For the first time in well over a decade, the Lincs advanced to the Western Conference Finals last season, sweeping the Strathroy Rockets and London Nationals before falling to the powerhouse Leamington Flyers in the Conference Finals.

Upgrades underway at Rotary All Wheels Park

Park will remain open during construction

Upgrades to the Rotary All Wheels Park on James Street are officially underway.

Deputy Mayor Fern Pridham, members of the project steering committee and representatives from the Rotary Club of St. Marys gathered for a groundbreaking photo on Monday, September 11, 2023.

The group included Jean Rowcliffe, former Royal Family nanny and brothers Quin and Sully Bolton. Rowcliffe and the Boltons started the campaign to revamp the park in 2021.

To date, the group has raised over \$160,000 which includes a generous \$100,000 donation from the Rotary Club. The steering committee is still seeking \$90,000 to reach its fundraising goal.

The money raised will be used to add new features to the park, including a quarter pipe, bowl, and pump track. Donations are being accepted online with a credit card (www.townofstmarys.com/skatepark), through online banking, in person at the Municipal Operations Centre (408 James St. S) or by mailing a cheque to the Town.

Construction on the park is anticipated to last approximately six weeks. The park will be open for use during construction, although some elements may be closed temporarily to accommodate the work.

Additional information about the Rotary All Wheels Park project is available at www.townofstmarys.com/skatepark. Questions about the project can be directed to Stephanie Ische, Director of Community Services at sische@town.stmarys.on.ca or 519-284-2340, ext. 624.

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COMMUNITY —

Stratford Perth Centre for Business opens applications for Small Business Coaching Program

The Stratford Perth Centre for Business recently opened the application portal for the Starter Company Plus program, a provincially supported program aimed at entrepreneurs within Stratford, St Marys, and Perth County. The Starter Company Plus program is funded by the Province of Ontario, and the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, and delivers 2 cohorts each year. This year's fall session offers 6 successful applicants 4 weeks of business planning training beginning October 16 and ending November 14, focusing on areas of business planning, cash flow, operations, and marketing. After 4 weeks of training the graduates

are eligible to receive a \$5,000 grant. The Stratford Perth Centre for Business, a department of investStratford, provides mentorship via a 4-week hybrid training and mentorship program with individual coaching to support their entrepreneurial business dreams.

The program features weekly online lessons that will teach entrepreneurs how to build a business plan with an emphasis on cash flow planning and digital marketing. The program also includes a mentorship component where the participants will learn from a matched mentor who specializes in accounting, financial planning, digital marketing, and policy creation.

New this season will be a return to a hybrid model in which to meet and learn together in person, creating conversations around partnerships, networking and idea sharing. Interested applicants can register at www.stratfordperthbusiness.ca/starter-companyplusprogram.

Holly Mortimer, Business Advisor, Stratford Perth Centre for Business: "Aside from the structured learning The Starter Company Plus program offers, there is a unique experience that takes place among the participants that I found unexpected but extremely important. There is the creation of this unique community of new entrepreneurs, where they can

navigate the 4-week course material together and rely, not only on the program instructors but also on each other. Becoming an entrepreneur can be a lonely experience and the sense of support and community created within the 4 weeks last as a peer networking group for many long after the program concludes."

Joani Gerber, CEO, investStratford: "Starter Company Plus has been a flagship grant program of the Stratford Perth Centre for Business for many years. I am thrilled to see this excited and inspired group of business owners get started and grow in our community."

1418 students attending local schools this year

Robert Parkinson, Principal - South Perth Centennial School

South Perth has the same number of students as last year putting them at 191. The number of classes and teachers has remained the same as well.

Jeremy Brock, Principal - Little Falls Public School

We have 447 students currently reg-

istered at Little Falls as we open the school year, which is slightly above last year. We also have a few new staff members with us this year. Mrs. Wiffen, Ms. Tomlinson and Ms. Wood join our Kindergarten team, Ms. McManus joins our Gr. 2 team, and Ms. Bedford and Ms. Cooper join our support staff. Also Ms. Cox joins our EA staff this year. Students are looking forward to lots of exciting events over the next

few weeks including inter-school soccer and cross country competitions, our Book Fair (from September 18 to 22), and our school Open House on September 21, from 4 to 6 pm.

Scott Richardson, Principal - St. Marys D.C.V.I

Last week we welcomed back 126 grade 7 and 8 students and 439 secondary students into the building. Our staff of 60 people includes 4 new teachers and 4 new support staff. We are looking forward to a great year of academics,

sports and extracurricular activities.

Jennifer Keene, Principal - Holy Name of Mary Catholic School

We have been blessed to have 215 students at Holy Name of Mary Catholic Elementary School this year. We have the same number of classrooms this year but welcome a new teacher and a new Educational Assistant. In the office area we have a new Office Assistant and a new Principal. We continue to have 12 full time staff members here at Holy Name.

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16°C	18°C	19°C	21°C	21°C	18°C	20°C
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EDITORIAL —

Terry Fox Day this Sunday



Let's cross the finish line in Terry Fox's marathon of hope in finding a cure for cancer! This Sunday, Sept. 17, participants can run, walk, bike, paddle or simply support those who do!

Registration for the land portion of the day begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Wellness Centre at the north end of the hospital (268 Maiden Lane), with an official start at 9 a.m. The registration and 5km course remains open until noon. Those who choose to paddle can register at the boat launch at Milt Dunnell Field beginning at 8:30 a.m., and can complete

their 5k on the water until noon.

Teams and individuals can also register in advance at <https://run.terryfox.ca/28601> or scan the QR code. Organizers would like to thank all the volunteers and businesses who contributed to the day, including the homes and businesses who put up signs. A special thank you to Michelle Laidlaw at Vitality Health and Fitness for allowing a display of vintage Terry Fox t-shirts in her window. In front of the display, from left, are Terry Fox organizers Anna Doupe, Kelly Deeks, Arlene Callender and Andrea Macko.

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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Trudeau's turbulent India trip has finally come to an end

If the Touch the Truck bouncy horse competition is any indication, the Lincolns have a hell of a team this year.

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!

Bravo

We have 4 Bravos this week.

1) To the organizers of the "Touch a Truck" event, congratulations on a job well done. This is an excellent event that is more than just an entertaining fundraiser. It also exposes our young people to all forms of heavy equipment and to the trades community. Thank you for your hard work.

2) Huge bravo to those that organize Evans Touch A Truck! Success! I was a volunteer at the gate collecting donations. Obviously thank you to everyone who donated, but I was genuinely in awe at the number of young people that came with friends and DONATED. We have some pretty great teens out there.

3) Bravo to the Scott & Jablecki families for organizing Evan's Touch The Truck Event on Sept. 9th. Loved the inflatable horse race with Mayor Ritsma & our Mayor Strathdee. Kudos to Spencer Seymour as well.

4) My profound thanks to the wonderful cashiers at Foodland, who when they discovered I had left my purse on the counter, brought it down the street to the Salvation Army because they know I drop in there almost every day. And of course, I was there browsing when lovely Sharon said to me "Rosemary! Do you have a burgundy leather purse? (Made in New York in the 1970's) And there it was, my dear purse that somehow transferred down the street. I just thank everyone for their kindness.

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

Boo

We have 3 Boos this week.

1) The community mail boxes at Hawthorn Crt and Ridgewood Cres have had their mail slot blocked by Canada Post, therefore not allowing anyone to send out mail.

2) Boo to the people who have bonfires on a very hot humid night. For those of us without central air and breathing problems, we have our windows open. The smoke from your fires comes in our windows making it hard to breathe. Please be considerate of your neighbours.

3) On the day of the "Touch the Truck Event" why did the Town not close Water Street North from Queen Street to the green bridge and move the market there? It would have separated market traffic from the big rigs and the market would still have been visible to its customers. The big rigs cannot use the green bridge anyhow so entrance by the rigs to the flats off Parkview Drive would have been streamlined, saving rig drivers and participants in this excellent event a lot of headaches. Driving a big rig is not as easy as driving a desk. Something to think about.

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

Quote of the Week

"Putting partisanship aside, no one likes to see a Canadian prime minister repeatedly humiliated & trampled upon by the rest of the world."

Pierre Poilievre, in reference to Prime Minister's appearance at the G20 Summit in India last week

St. Marys Independent

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The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS
OF THE WEEK

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Thank you!

We raised \$20,000!

Thank you to all who came out and sponsored our 30th Annual Golf Tournament on August 24th at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club. All money raised will be going towards our capital campaign!

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- St. Marys Dentistry
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- Tradition Mutual
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- Donna Aldis
- Leslie Showers
- Hinny Haanstra
- Melanie Goad
- Libby McCurdy
- Kim Ross Jones
- Melanie Hardy
- Evelyn Melanson
- Cathie Szmon
- Sue Fowler
- Kiley
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Coordinators:

- Amanda McCurdy
- Bernice De Decker
- Brandon Boyd



STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



YOUTH CENTRE

The Youth Centre is now open for the 2023/2024 season! Sing up for a membership now so that your child can drop-in throughout the 2023/2024 school year.

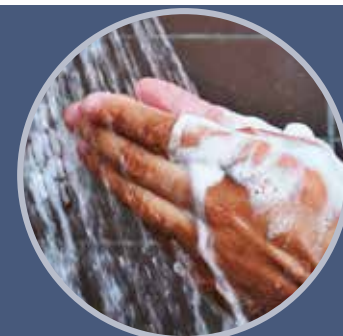
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FALL SWIM LESSON REGISTRATION

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

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Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Joan Lang. Joan just celebrated her 86th birthday on September 3rd. She is the eldest of 3 siblings and has spent her whole life in St. Marys. She is the mother of seven children, has 21 grandchildren and 28 great grandchildren. In her spare time Joan likes to knit, crochet, paint, garden and help everyone that she can.

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

COMMUNITY —

Rotary Club donates \$10,000 to Baseball Hall of Fame



Last week, St. Marys Rotary Club President Charlie Hammond presented the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's (CBHOFM) Director of Operations Scott Crawford with a \$10,000 cheque as part of the St. Marys Rotary Club's ongoing pledge support. The Rotary Club has supported the Hall of Fame since it arrived in St. Marys in the mid-1990s, with this specific pledge starting in 2017. (Contributed photo)

Weekend Quiz

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- 1) In what century was the Japanese river otter declared extinct?
- 2) Earth's second outermost layer is known as what?
- 3) What is Mariah Carey's best-selling album?
- 4) How tall was Robert Wadlow, the world's tallest man?
- 5) What is the only continent with no active volcanoes?
- 6) The smallest bone in the human body is what?
- 7) In what year was Fox News launched?
- 8) The letter C, represents what number in Roman Numerals?
- 9) What animal can sleep up to 3 years without waking up?
- 10) How many people attended the Last Supper?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27

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COMMUNITY —

Grand Trunk Trail upgrades have begun



Kinsmen have recently begun upgrades to Grand Trunk Trail (Kenny Hutton photo)



BIGGEST ON THE BLOCK!



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COMMUNITY —

Kirkton Fall Fair had something for everyone



Congratulations to the organizers of the Kirkton Fall Fair who, once again, pulled off a tremendous event for people of all ages. (Nancy Bickell photo)



Ava and Nora Anderson posed for a picture before entering one of the many inflatable attractions. (Nancy Bickell photo)



The straw bale maze was one of the many activities at the Kirkton Fall Fair. Also available was grain wagon basketball, corn-filled wading pools, a petting zoo and kids' tractor pull races. (Nancy Bickell photo)



No fair is complete without an old-fashioned pig race! (David Shepley photo)



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COMMUNITY —

Another successful Evan's Touch the Truck event



Amy Mathias and husband David were among many of the organizers who were appreciative of all who took part in Saturday's Evan's Touch the Truck Event. Amy is Community Engagement and Events Associate for Childcan, whose vision is "to make childhood cancer a health priority, fund innovative research, and expand family supports until childhood cancer is eliminated." Childhood Cancer is the number one cause of death by disease of Canadian children, and Childcan (www.childcan.com) serves 25% of all children diagnosed with childhood cancer across Ontario. (Stewart Grant photo)



Katty and Alex Campbell along with sons Nathan and Jackson enjoyed checking out all the big rigs during the Evan's Touch the Truck event on Saturday. (Stewart Grant photo)



From left to right, St. Marys Mayor Al Strathdee, Stratford Mayor Martin Ritsma, Stratford Director of Community Services Tim Wolfe, and St. Marys Town Councillor Fern Pridham participated in the Evan's Touch the Truck Horse Races. The races were a new addition as part of the annual event in support of ChildCan and featured numerous "local celebrities." (Spencer Seymour photo)



Local barbers Jay MacPherson and Jack Taylor raced alongside Lincolns' forwards Ryan Hodkinson and Blake Elzinga. (Spencer Seymour photo)



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COMMUNITY —

Scotty James is coming to St. Marys

By John Stevens

The way Scotty James figures it, he hopes to become a household name in Canada one porch at a time. It's St. Marys' turn this Sunday, September 17 at 2 pm at 96 Robinson Street. He will be giving a free, live concert for everyone who pulls up a lawn chair.

Scotty has been on the Billboard charts for a few years with such hits as Wanna Be Loved, Head Over Heels, Toes, and My Car. Along the way, he picked up a Canadian Radio Music Award. His songs have been streamed by millions upon millions. He has built a solid career that keeps on growing.

Then Covid hit. What started as neighbourhood concerts on his front porch became weekly music sessions everybody would attend. Scotty enjoyed this so much, he figured it would be nice to do it on a larger scale across Ontario post Covid.

He originally had no plans of coming to St. Marys, but the power of social media drew him here. A message on the Stratford Life Facebook page got shared on St. Marys Life. Several people suggest-

ed the Stevens' porch at 96 Robinson Street, the original venue for The Front Porch Show. The connection was made and voilà, Scotty James is coming here.

Scotty says, "Once I saw a photo of the porch, it didn't take me long to see that it is the perfect place for one of my concerts. Having heard so many great things about St. Marys and the people here was the clincher. I hope everyone comes out to my concert. I will be giving my all for you. I'm really pumped up about coming to entertain you."

Growing up in Waterloo, he was bullied a lot at school when he was younger. Playing his guitar and composing his songs were his escape. By the time he hit high school, he was performing at many venues. This led to getting serious about his music after graduation. He discovered that he thrives at playing his original songs in front of live audiences.

So, why not take advantage of this opportunity to attend a free concert of original songs? Bring something to sit on, relax and enjoy the music. Let's give Scotty James a welcome to St. Marys that he will never forget.



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CASCADES CONTAINERBOARD PACKAGING - ST. MARYS
a division of Cascades Canada ULC is looking for

Assistant Printing Press Operator

Cascades Recruitment Open House

11am-1pm on Friday September 29th

at the Cascades St. Marys Plant, 304 James St. South in St. Marys - front entrance.

Interested Candidates will need to be prepared to be interviewed on site and bring their current resume, two pieces of photo ID as well as current banking information (VOID cheque or direct deposit form).

Reporting to the Shift Lead, the Assistant Printing Press Operator is responsible for assisting with, set-up, operation, cleanup, and recommending improvements to operations. It's a rotational & continental shift that rotates on to evenings and weekends with a starting wage of \$23.82/hour. There are ample opportunities to get involved, learn and grow with Cascades.

Job Responsibilities:

The successful candidate will be responsible for the following:

- Feed the machines and assist with setting-up various sections on machine accurately in accordance with proper setup techniques.
- Obtain order and verify stock specifications and condition. Monitor box quality, and report any quality problems to the Operator.
- Complete necessary administrative duties and reports in an accurate and timely manner.
- Assist operators with job duties on machine.
- Turn in maintenance orders to shift lead for repairs.
- Be proactive in the maintenance of equipment.
- Comply with all company policies and procedures, including conduct, Health & Safety and maintaining good housekeeping, as well as all government regulations.
- Additional duties related to or not related to this job classification as assigned by shift lead

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2. For multiple career opportunities to match your ambitions.
3. To contribute to the innovative initiatives of a responsible company on all fronts.
4. To benefit from a competitive and comprehensive benefits package.
5. To continue to learn and grow.

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Supplemental pay types:

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Application question(s):

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Are you comfortable rotating between day and overnight shifts every two weeks?
Are you comfortable working 12 hour continental shifts?
If you answered yes to all of these questions, apply today by emailing tanna_kittmer@cascades.com or dropping your off your resume in person.

Experience:

Manufacturing: 1 year (preferred)



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SPORTS —

Lincs making final preparations ahead of home opener

By Spencer Seymour

One week before their home opener this Friday against the St. Thomas Stars, the St. Marys Lincolns defeated the Stars in their final exhibition game by a score of 5-4, with some last-second heroics by one of the Lincs' newest faces.

Head Coach Jeff Bradley told the Independent that he felt the last pre-season tune-up was a net positive for the group as they continue to round out the greater details of their game.

"While remembering what this hockey is right now, that being a process of getting our game in order ahead of the start of the season, I was happy with a lot of how we played," said Bradley. "At times, I think we looked quite dominant. There were some points where it looked a bit disorganized due to how early on it is and the fact that we haven't had a ton of time as a group to work on our systems."

No more was that periodic dominance alluded to by Bradley more present than the first period. During the opening frame, the Lincolns outshot the Stars 20-9 and took a 2-0 lead into the first intermission. Jaden Lee fired the game's first goal past St. Thomas netminder Alexei Medvedev just under six minutes into the game. With 57 seconds remaining in the period, Luca Spagnolo made it 2-0 for St. Marys.

The script completely flipped in the second when the Stars exploded for four goals, two of which came on the powerplay. Bradley gave credit to the Stars for bringing an impressive work ethic to the contest, a major reason for the team's second-period offensive outburst.

"It was closer than maybe we had hoped it would have been but that's what happens when you're still getting your game in order and your opponent works as hard as they did. That St. Thomas team works incredibly hard and they put a big emphasis on winning battles. When you have a team working that hard and a goaltending performance as good as the one they got, it can make that game a lot tighter."

Before the end of the second, Spagnolo potted his second of the game. Lee



Jaden Lee fires a shot on St. Thomas goaltender Alexei Medvedev during the Lincolns' final preseason game last Friday. The Stars return to St. Marys this Friday for the Lincs' home opener. Last Friday, Lee posted a goal and two assists, with his helpers coming on linemate Luca Spagnolo's pair of goals. (Photo credit: Mike Chennette/McGinny Photography)

assisted on both of Spagnolo's goals. In between the pipes, Carter McDougall got the start and stopped 11 of 13 shots faced, while Colby Booth-Housego came in just over halfway through the game and made 20 saves on 22 shots. Bradley said that he is feeling very positive about the Lincolns' duo in goal.

"Our goaltending has been good. Obviously, it's tricky not having either goalie getting a full game yet but I thought Carter and Colby both played well. It's disappointing that we had to move a quality player and person like Matt [Perdue] but we feel good about the guys we have in net."

On the blueline, Bradley explained that he was thrilled with the performances of two right-handed rear-guards.

"Ryder [Livermore] and Josh [Cornfield] were outstanding on the back end. We've known what Josh can do for a long time and we expected Ryder to be a good addition but it's been a very pleasant revelation to see how

well Ryder has played."

In the third period, the Lincolns were able to regroup and the high-flying Matt Prendergast found the equalizer, tying the game at four apiece on an unassisted tally. The game remained deadlocked until Colton Henderson capped off a strong game with some last-second heroics, sneaking a tight-angle shot through the wickets of Medvedev with 1.6 seconds left on the clock, securing the 5-4 win for the Lincolns.

Henderson was one of two rookie forwards for whom Bradley had high praise following Friday's game.

"Ryan [Hodkinson] and Colton [Henderson] in my opinion were outstanding. Sometimes, with rookies, you're not given the same opportunities that you have gotten on previous teams but the thing that you're looking for as a coach from first-year players is trust. It's not often to have first-year guys who you trust this early on but I was really comfortable putting Ryan and Colton out there in the last min-

ute of the game."

"Colton has been really receptive to our style of doing things. He didn't make any big mistakes that cost us but just some things that he's done in the past that are a little bit different from how we do certain things. But when we've told him 'Hey, we want you to do this a bit differently,' he goes out and does it. On top of that, his desire, aggression, and willingness to do anything you ask is going to push him ahead even more."

"Ryan is an incredibly smart and responsible player. He's got a really good stick. He seems to have everything and to have everything as a 17-year-old doesn't mean you're immediately going to be a star player, but it means the progression is going to be quicker and the learning curve will be shorter."

With the games beginning to count in the standings this week, Bradley talked about what the mindset will be heading into a season that follows the team's first conference final appearance in well over a decade.

"We know what we expect to receive from other teams this season, and that is their best. Over the last two seasons, I think this organization has continuously kept moving forward and the product on the ice reflects that. And part of what comes with being a good program is that you're always going to get your opponent's best. You never get a night off."

Throughout the preseason, many of the Lincolns' returning players have drawn praise for their play. Bradley said that, from watching the exhibition games, team practices, and Summer skates, he feels that everyone is coming into this season a better player than they were last year.

"There isn't a single guy returning from last year who didn't get better over the Summer. Jimmy [Schiedel], Matt [Prendergast], Owen [Voortman], Luca [Spagnolo], Jaden [Lee], Josh [Cornfield], Jacob [Montesi]. Wait until Chase [MacQueen-Spence] gets back and Adam [Barkley] really gets going. We know Eric [Smith] is going to bring plenty of physicality. These guys have come to play and are ready to go."

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SPORTS —

U15 Blue, Red Rockies go undefeated in playoff games last week

By Spencer Seymour

Last week was packed with U15 WOBA Playoff action for the Blue and Red St. Marys Rockies, with both teams going unbeaten en route to advancing to the next round of the postseason.

It began on holiday Monday when the Canadian Tire Blue Rockies travelled to Walkerton. After giving up an early first-inning run, Justin Ropp pitched three strong innings. Combined with Jared Ballantyne who entered the game in relief, the two pitchers struck out a total of 10 Walkerton batters. On the opposite side of the ball, a six-run second inning, highlighted by a Kyler Rooney home run, followed by a third inning that saw both Rooney and Evan Ballantyne each add another homer, propelled the Rockies to a 13-2 victory.

In the team's final first-round game, the Blue squad was back on the road visiting Clinton. Evan Ballantyne started the game strong from the pitcher's mound, while Turner Roth jumpstarted the Rockies' offence, posting a double and a single. Sullivan Brown also doubled and brought a couple of runs over the plate. Simon Greig came into the game as the closer and backed up Ballantyne's great showing with a likewise excellent effort, securing an 8-0 win.

U15 Red takes three games in four days

The Social Thirty-One Red Rockies had three games on their schedule last week and, like their St. Marys Blue counterparts, they came away with an unblemished record.

Beginning last Tuesday, the Red Rockies started their contest against Mitchell firmly in control. Grier Mahoney was dominant on the mound with a pitch

slate that kept the Mitchell batters off balance. Blake McIntosh connected with a two-run double in the first innings, creating an early three-run lead. Michael Ewing came in for the save in relief of Mahoney and helped the Rockies weather a late rally by Mitchell to hang on for a 6-5 victory.

After a day off, St. Marys Red began a back-to-back on Thursday when they made the long trip to Kincardine. Ewing got the start and gave up just one hit over three strong innings of work. Mahoney and Jared Ballantyne got the Rockies on the board, each striking with an early double. Isaac Barber and Ty Camden added RBI singles and McIntosh closed the game on the mound, sealing an 11-3 win for St. Marys Red.

The next day, their schedule continued with a home game against Listowel. Ty Wheeler got the ball to start the game and met the challenge, tallying three punch-outs in the first. In the opening inning's next half, Ewing and Chase McDougall posted back-to-back doubles to take an early lead. As Wheeler continued to quiet the Listowel hitters, the St. Marys Red offence continued increasing their lead, with four more runs being scored in the bottom of the third. Listowel clawed three late-inning runs over the plate but it wasn't enough to end the Red Rockies' unbeaten playoff record, with St. Marys taking the game 7-3.

St. Marys Blue currently sits 3-0 in playoff action, while the Red Rockies boast a 4-0 record. Coach Chris Chessell told the Independent that there were some significant similarities through all of the playoff games for both teams.

"All in all, a consistent theme through these seven

playoff games was solid pitching, helped by some early offence to take some pressure off the pitchers and let them settle in," said Chessell. "Our hitting with two outs and runners on base was also a pleasant surprise in several of the games. Players are focused while in the box and are executing clutch hits."

Chessell also said that both teams have long boasted highly potent offences, but the defensive play and attention to detail by both squads have improved impressively.

"Both teams have improved defensively. They have focused on making the smart play and limiting mistakes that would have led to extra bases for the opposition. We have had really solid pitching on both teams as well which gives us a chance to win every game as our offence in WOBA is second to none. I see contributions all the way through the lineup, top to bottom, including several quality at-bats with two outs that have kept innings alive and scored big runs."

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SPORTS —

Still openings for Sept. 23 Lincs' Alumni golf tourney and reunion

By Pat Payton, Special to the Independent

There are still a few openings for the St. Marys Lincolns' Alumni golf tournament and reunion Saturday, Sept. 23 at River Valley Golf and Country Club.

It's a Texas Scramble format and four-person teams can contact Scott Graham (519-282-3872), Rick Fifield (rickfifield@rogers.com), or Brian Hughes (519-284-1593) for more information.

The fundraising tournament will fea-

ture a steak dinner and all the fixings, a prize table, and more. It will be a 10:30 a.m. shotgun start, with registration starting at 9:30. Everyone is welcome. It's \$50 for those wanting to just attend the dinner following the 18-hole tourney.

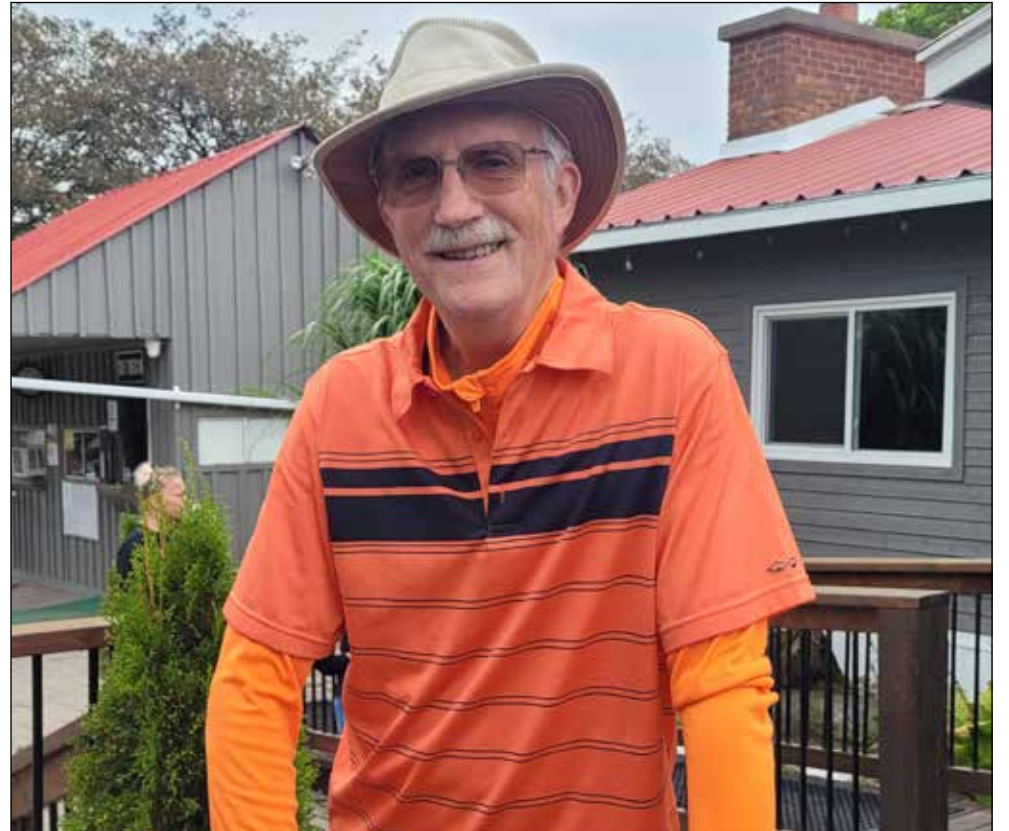
Alumni committee member Jacques Cousineau reports that he will have a Lincs' Memorabilia display at the tournament. The new Lincolns' Alumni Recognition Trophy will also be presented that day.

River Valley Mixed League Wrap Up Tournament



River Valley held their Pot of Gold mixed wrap up tournament on Sunday. It was a shotgun start for the 13 teams participating in the four-man best ball. The winning team with a score of 56 are pictured from left, Jane Parkinson, Trevor Warwick, Peter Westlaken and Joe French.

Osgerby scores first career Hole in One



Last Saturday, Tom Osgerby scored his first ever hole in one. The bull's eye shot took place at River Valley Golf Club on hole #13. Tom was using his pitching wedge during a match play round with Jeff Griffiths. (Contributed photo)

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SPORTS —

River Valley Club Championship held Labour Day weekend



Over the Labour Day weekend, River Valley Golf Course held its annual Club Championship. The Men's Club Champion was Joel Carlberg who won with 154 two-day gross.



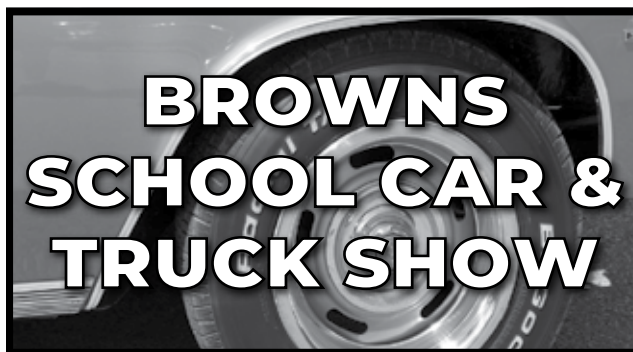
Pictured is Jess Murray whose 167 two-day gross earned her the Ladies Club Championship at River Valley last weekend.



Charlie Hamilton posted a 154 gross to claim the River Valley Senior Men's title. (Contributed photos)



The River Valley Senior Ladies Championship went to Sandy Forrester who scored a 192 gross.



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SPORTS —

Ladies Slo Pitch hosts year-end tournament



This past weekend, the local Ladies Slo Pitch league held its year-end tournament. The Free Agents walked away as the 'A' Division Champions after winning the championship game 17-7 over the Heat. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Kayla Horan, Madison Graham, Emma Doucette, and Shaylyn Currah. In the middle row, from left, are Mel Thomson, Amy McLean, Angela Reid, Jen Graham, and Katie Fifield. In the back is Claire Spackman.



In the 'B' Division, the Wannabes won a one-run thriller over Just The Girls, taking the final game by a score of 3-2 to become their division's champions. In the front row, from left, are Corrine Nicholls, Gabby Bailey, Lori Bearss, and Melissa Davey. In the back row, from left, are Christine Hinrichs, Vicki Innes, April Innes, Kit Sheldon, Sheri Baier, Darihana Neito, Rachel Eidt, Catherine Found, and Marcy Woodend. (Photos by Spencer Seymour)

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HISTORY —

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: The Sisters of St. Joseph in St. Marys

By Mary Smith

On a winter afternoon, January 24, 1913, James McCardle, with his horse-drawn taxicab, met some special passengers on the 1:30 train from London. They were members of the Sisters of St. Joseph who had arrived to take charge of the school beside the Roman Catholic Church on the north ward hill. Mother Celestine from the convent in London accompanied them to St. Marys and helped the three sisters who remained to settle into their new home. Two of them, Mother Clotilde and Sister Fidelia, were teachers while the third, Sister Gabriel, was in charge of household affairs.

After welcoming the new arrivals in the rectory parlour, the priest, Father John Ronan, escorted them to the convent – a lovely spacious house, but still not quite finished. Although the floors had been scrubbed and the windows cleaned, the painting and varnishing of the woodwork was still in progress. The rooms were empty except for a coal stove in the kitchen. This was remedied immediately by the generosity of other convents and the efficiency of the sisters themselves. Beds and bedding had been shipped from London and were unpacked. A barrel of provisions was waiting in the basement pantry and a supply of blankets had been sent from St. Joseph's Hospital in Chatham. Two sisters "at once set out to town to purchase some necessary articles, as chairs, a table, kitchen cabinet, bedroom sets, etc." Even the Protestant residents of St. Marys knew the sisters were arriving and had followed the construction of the convent on King Street North. Still, the two nuns in full habit must have made a minor sensation as they walked downtown on their furniture-buying expedition that afternoon.

This account comes from the Chronicles of the Sisters of St. Joseph, a journal they were required to keep to record the progress of their mission in St. Marys. It is a researcher's good fortune that the first journal writer had a cheerful tone, a sense of humour, and an eye for detail. Her account describes small, day-to-day activities and gives a good sense of life in this religious community. The sisters' first meal in their new home, seated at their new table, was a supper that had been prepared for them in London before they set out. "Needless to say how daintily it had been prepared and in what generous quantity; so the sandwiches, cake, olives, biscuits, etc. were thoroughly enjoyed with a cup of fresh tea. The fresh air on Holy Hill that January day had sharpened every appetite." The sisters then went upstairs to set up their bedrooms, said evening prayers in the warm kitchen, and retired for the night.

They had discovered by the end of that first day that their new home was as comfortable and modern as any in Ontario in 1913. Thanks to the efficient St. Marys waterworks system, there was running water in the kitchen and in an upstairs bathroom that the occupants shared. The house was heated by hot water and "was cosy and comfortable from the first day." The floor plan was standard for a family home of that period. The ground floor featured a centre hall with large rooms on either side. The music room and dining room were on the sunny, south side and could be opened into one large room for music recitals or other similar events. The parlour and "community room" were on the north side of the hallway. The kitchen at the back was "bright and cheery." There were porches at both ends of



Sister Delores, from Holy Name School, is among the teachers reviewing new educational material at a teachers' conference in Stratford in October 1965. From left: Nancy Forster, Janice Patterson, Sister Delores, Julia McIntyre and Burton Morgan, all of St. Marys. Photograph from the London Free Press Stratford Bureau.

the hall, "making the ventilation easy and perfect." Upstairs, there were five private bedrooms and an arch-roofed chapel. It was another week before the chapel was fitted with an altar and made ready for the first mass, "said by Father Ronan on February 4, 1913." But all in all, even on the first day, the recorder noted: "Not a more convenient little Convent is found in the Diocese."

The two teaching sisters met their students the following Monday morning. Although the early Chronicles don't record the number of students, later entries indicate that, in the first decades of the 20th century, there were about 30 students in each of two rooms – junior and senior classes. During that time, the number of residents in the convent sometimes rose to four or five. There were frequent long-term visits by other members of the London convent, especially older nuns who found it a pleasant change to spend time enjoying "the delightful air" on the north ward hill. While there, they assisted with sewing and other day-to-day activities. There was considerable interaction between the convent and members of the parish. "During the first six months, the sisters seldom bought bread, as sufficient quantity was supplied. Often a little box of eggs or a fresh loaf was left at the door." Even during the years of World War I when exorbitant food prices were felt in many households, these generous gifts continued. In return, during hard times, "Mother Clotilde always found means to help the poor, to provide clothing, etc. for any poor children within her reach."

And so the years – and the decades – passed for the Sisters of St. Joseph in St. Marys. The personnel changed, of course, but the Chronicles continued to record the significant events in the convent and the parish. For example, on May 1, 1928, the elderly priest who had welcomed them, Father Ronan, celebrated his Golden Jubilee – the 50th anniversary of his ordination. The elaborate ceremony is described in detail, including the music performed by the children from the school. On June 7, 1933, a cyclone struck St. Marys, downing many trees and causing great property damage. The children and teachers were trapped in the school while "boards,

slates, large pieces of tin, bricks, storm doors flew in every direction, driven by a giant power." No one was injured and damage to the school and convent was minimal. The school population grew following World War II. Several additions were added to the old stone school house and several lay teachers were hired to teach the extra classes. Finally, in 1973, the old building was demolished and a brand new school was built – the Holy Name of Mary School we know today.

In 1967, the Chronicles record a busy spring: "We all had our habits to re-make according to the new pattern." Following Vatican 2, nuns no longer had to wear the long, black tunic with wimple and veil. The sisters in St. Marys chose at first to wear simple, dark-coloured dresses and some still wore a head-covering. It was Canada's Centennial and Holy Name of Mary School took part in a number of projects. "The schools of St. Marys went together in a grand program of song, pageant and slides at the high school gym. Our contribution was a credit to the school." The Grade Eights' year-end school trip was to Expo 67 in Montreal.

Throughout the Chronicles, the sisters' dedication to the school and to the pupils in their charge is clear. They had a good relationship with the members of the local Separate School Board and negotiated successfully for annual supplies for the classrooms. They attended teachers' conventions, and in the summer, when the convent was closed, many took extra courses to upgrade their qualifications. They were proud of the numbers of students who successfully passed examinations or did well in athletic events and were delighted when graduates who had gone on to successful careers kept in touch or returned to visit.

But times changed. The small local board was disbanded and the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board was established in 1969. Many young lay teachers were graduating from teachers colleges and were seeking employment. Gradually, the Sisters of St. Joseph withdrew from all the parish schools in the London Diocese. The last teaching sister left Holy Name of Mary School in 1984 and the convent was sold in 1988. An era ended.

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COLUMN —

HOSTING UKRAINE: Behind the Scene

By VJ Knutson

Our household is quiet again, Ric watching sports on his iPad, I writing in the sunroom, Lesia studying in her basement nook. The dishwasher only runs every two days now, and we help ourselves to most meals, dinner being the exception. We are taking a hiatus from hosting, while I turn my attention to projects behind the scenes.

Linda Schuyler, from the St Marys Rotary Club, has been patiently nudging me for information for a proposal to continue ESL classes. Thankfully, her efforts were successful, so Saturday's classes at the United Church are still underway with Tetiana Pipus. Barb Reinwald continues to offer classes on Wednesday and Friday evenings at the Presbyterian Church and on Mondays by appointment. Sonia Waind, presently on vacation, will be offering beginners classes on Monday evenings again in October at the United Church, and will start a Woman's circle on Tuesday mornings. More to follow on that. The St Marys Rotary Club has also purchased Ukrainian/English dictionaries and a grammar book for each participating family. I know that our Ukrainian community is very grateful for the efforts and support of all involved.

I've also been meeting with individuals who are interested in developing an English language program for



Ukrainians, linked to employment. We hope to create a pilot program in partnership with a workplace. There is some funding available, and we think it could be win-win for all involved. While this idea is in its infancy, it is not without precedence. I have written before of the program Western University is running with Food Services, which allows employees time for English training as part of the work day. I also think back to the days when I was a customer service representative for Bell Canada.

I had a degree in French (literature) which was not too helpful for guiding francophones wanting to move their phone service, so Bell paid for me to upgrade my language skills.

It was reported this week that women in Ukraine are to be conscripted for the military if they have medical training. The effective date is October 1st. Not sure how this will affect us, but it is a reminder that things are not ending any time soon. I continue to get requests for help.

Most recently, I have been asked on behalf of a family in St Marys to help a friend and her daughter, age 17. This mother and daughter have been working and living in Hungary, but now realizing that they cannot go back to Ukraine, plan to come to Canada. They seek temporary housing until both can find employment and rent an apartment. I'll post more on Facebook once I have the details.

A big thank you to Mrs. Nethercott for dropping off knitting patterns and wool for our knitting circle. Now that the children are back to school, we hope to get back on schedule.

Thank you also to Nadia, who honoured us with a visit and a freshly baked peach pie this past Saturday. Not since my mother's pies, have I tasted a pastry so melt-in-your-mouth delicious. And it was Gluten-free! Nadia is hoping to sell her pies at the market, or by custom order. Contact me if interested.

Nadia is not the only one with an entrepreneurial spirit amongst our newcomers. I had another delightful visit this week with a woman who arrived last year. Encouraged by her improving language, she plans to take advantage of her new life to reinvent herself. The plans she shared with me are also exciting.

That's for next time.

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

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Solutions on page 27

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COLUMN —

FROM THE GARDEN: Fall's bounty



By Nancy Abra

As summer wanes and the days advance to fall, our gardens are yielding the last of its season's produce. As for area orchards, they are just coming into their bounty. For many families, a visit to a local orchard for fresh picked apples has been a long tradition and some orchards offer tours which adds to the farm experience.

Last weekend we had the opportunity to tour an organic apple farm in Ayton near Hanoi, Ontario. Filsinger Or-

ganic Products is a 100-acre apple farm, originally established by Alvin Filsinger. He believed there was only one way to grow apples, and that was the natural way. His farm was one of the first organic farms in Canada and he was honoured by an award for his life-long work in the organic industry. The present owners also have the same passion of growing naturally and still follow the same process Filsinger used over 75 years ago.

The Filsinger farm consists of approximately 30,000 trees of a few types of pears and over 30 heritage and newer varieties of apples. Grown naturally, without herbicides and pesticides, the apples aren't pretty or perfect. As the consumer wants blemish free, Filsinger's apples are not appealing for fresh from the trees purchase. But the taste of organically grown

apples comes through in their apple juice, sweet apple cider, sauce, and apple cider vinegar they produce in their facility at the farm.

We witnessed a demonstration on how they manufacture their apple cider vinegar. Donna, our guide, and present owner, said they use the older varieties such as Courtland, Spartan, Ida Reds, and Empire in making their cider vinegar because of their higher acid levels. The production of their cider vinegar from tree to bottle is approximately two months. The newer varieties such as Honey Crisp, Jonogold and Gala have a lower acid level and are juicier so they are used in their apple juice.

Apple cider vinegar is made through a process called fermentation. The process has two main steps. First the washed fresh apples are crushed, then dumped into a filtration

device to extract the juice which is transferred into huge, contained vats. Yeast is added to these vats to speed up the fermentation process so the sugar converts into alcohol after a couple of weeks. Then, natural bacteria break down the alcohol into acetic acid which gives the vinegar its tangy taste and odour.

Filsinger Organic Products produce and bottle raw apple cider vinegar, meaning it is not pasteurized. It has a rich amber colour, has a cloudy appearance, and referred to as the 'mother of vinegar'. In this natural cider vinegar all the vitamins, minerals and enzymes are still present. The pasteurization process removes these natural components, has a brighter colour and is free from cloudiness, meaning it is more visually appealing to the consumer.

Filsinger Organic Products are available across Canada in most health food stores and at some Bulk Food stores.

They also ship to Thailand, a couple of countries in South America, and most recently, China.

There are many claims that raw cider vinegar has many health benefits from boosting weight loss, curing chronic diseases to controlling blood pressure and enhancing the immune system. I remember that my grandmother would drink down an ounce or so everyday of cider vinegar and swore that this daily dose improved her health. And yes, it was cider vinegar. A little sniff of the glass confirmed this was. Before you start guzzling down cider vinegar as a daily routine of preventative medicine, do the research. For me, I won't be using it as a health benefit but will stick to using it in my preserves. Only now, I will make sure the apple cider vinegar I use will be non-pasteurized and in glass bottles for the best results in my pickles and preserves.

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COLUMN —

Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

What does bamboo, a joker, soap, and a dragon all have in common? They're all names of tiles in the game of Mahjong, a strategic game of tile grouping and matching that will entertain and strengthen your brain. Want to learn how the game is played? Come to our introductory sessions. Already know how to play? Come to our gameplay sessions. Both sessions are 16+, free to attend, and no sign-up is required.

This Week's Recommendation

"Four Treasures of the Sky" by Jenny Zhang follows Daiyu, a young girl kidnapped from her home in China and smuggled into America. Experience Daiyu's inner thoughts as she reconciles family and folklore with fact and fate. Zhang's harrowing de-

but novel can be found on Libby (as an eBook and an eAudiobook) and as a physical copy.


Up This Week

- Friday, Sept. 15th: Open 10:30am-5:00pm
- Saturday, Sept. 16th: Open 10:00am-4:00pm
- Monday, Sept. 18th: Mahjong! (6:00pm-8:00pm)
- Tuesday, Sept. 19th: Writing Club: Ages 10-17 (6:00pm-7:00pm), Writing Club: Ages 18+ (7:00pm-8:00pm)
- Wednesday, Sept. 20th: EarlyON – Play and Read (9:30am-10:30am), Mahjong Intro (1:00pm-2:00pm, 6:00pm-6:30pm), Mahjong! (2:00pm-4:00pm, 6:30pm-8:00pm)
- Thursday, Sept. 21st: Scrabble (6:00pm-8:00pm)



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SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

<p>FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Gates open to Public 6:00 p.m. Midway Opens (\$3/ride) 7:00 p.m. Opening Ceremonies at the Community Centre Crowning of 2023 Fair Ambassador; Awards: Homecraft, Youth Fair, School Fair; Field Crops; Service & Special Recognition; Lil Ambassador; Greetings from Dignitaries; Pie Auction</p> <p>SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Gates open to Public (buy your weekend pass) 11:00 a.m. Midway opens (pay 1 price begins at 12 p.m.-4 p.m.) Parade leaves Thorndale Farm & Pet Supply</p> <p>IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE (10:00 am to 6:00 pm)</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Homecraft, Youth Fair, School Fair Exhibits 3:30 p.m. Bingo! All ages! FREE! 6:00 p.m. Community Centre Exhibits closes</p> <p>OUTSIDE ATTRACTIONS</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Midway opens (pay 1 price begins at 12 p.m.) Thames Valley Modular Railroad Display opens 12:00 p.m. FREE wagon rides begin (Middlesex Mutual Livestock Pavilion) <i>sponsored by Coni Marble</i> Thorndale Lions Ag Awareness Tent Blown Glass Display (near splash pad) 1:00 p.m. Agility Dog Show <i>sponsored by Wellburn Agromart Ltd.</i> Foot Race Registration (outfield on Diamond 3) Horse Pull Competition (Horse Pen) Antonio Alas Mariachi Band (roaming grounds) Thames Electric Vehicle Association Q&A (next to Splash pad) 2:00 p.m. Foot Races begin (check out categories page 28 in the book) Snowmobile Drag Racing begins (in the derby pit) <i>sponsored by Oxford Forklift Services & Ryan Elliott's Repair</i> Social Tent – Coty Robinson (8:00 p.m.) <i>sponsored by Sutton Select Realty Melanie & Bob Sorensen, Sales Representatives and Bruce Sworik, Broker</i> 3:00 p.m. Agility Dog Show <i>sponsored by Wellburn Agromart Ltd.</i></p>	<p>OUTDOOR STAGE</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Graham Bedard 1:00 p.m. Antonio Alas Mariachi Band 1:30 p.m. Trevor Pyka 2:30 p.m. Graham Bedard 3:30 p.m. Trevor Pyka</p> <p>HEEMAN'S FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT ZONE (Kids of all ages)</p> <p>12:00 p.m. FREE Face Painting and Balloon Creations until 4 p.m. <i>sponsored by of Rosewood by Sifton Properties</i></p> <p>12:00 p.m. Markus Music 12:30 p.m. BIG Balloon Show 1:30 p.m. Markus Music 2:00 p.m. BIG Balloon Show 3:00 p.m. Markus Music</p> <p>LIVESTOCK SHOWS</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Arabian, Open and Stock Horses Show 12:30 p.m. 4-H Dairy Show <i>sponsored by Thorndale Farm & Pet Supplies</i> 1:00 p.m. Horse Pull <i>sponsored by the Agromart Group</i></p> <p>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Gates Open to Public 11:00 a.m. Midway opens (pay 1 price begins at 12 p.m.-4 p.m.) 4:00 p.m. Community Centre Exhibit Rooms closed 4:30 p.m. Exhibits pick-up</p> <p>IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Homecraft, Youth Fair, School Fair Exhibits 12:00 p.m. Baby Show Registration 12:30 p.m. Baby Show including special prizes from I Love Thorndale!</p>	<p>OUTSIDE ATTRACTIONS</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Lion's Classic Car Show opens Thames Valley Modular Railroad Display opens 11:00 a.m. Midway opens (pay 1 price begins at 12 p.m.) FREE wagon rides begin (Middlesex Mutual Livestock Pavilion) <i>sponsored by Coni Marble</i> Blown Glass Display (near splash pad) Thorndale Lions Ag Awareness Tent 1:00 p.m. Thames Electric Vehicle Association Q&A (next to Splash pad) 2:30 p.m. Antique Tractor Parade 3:00 p.m. Demolition Derby presented by Edge Motorsports <i>sponsored by Goris Electric, Goris Rentals, C.R. Chittick Construction & TRS Components</i></p> <p>OUTDOOR STAGE:</p> <p>11:00 a.m. J-Me Shrier 12:00 p.m. Graham Bedard 1:00 p.m. J-Me Shrier 2:00 p.m. Graham Bedard</p> <p>HEEMAN'S FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT ZONE (Kids of all ages)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. FREE Face Painting and Balloon Creations until 3 p.m. <i>sponsored by Rosewood by Sifton Properties</i> 11:30 a.m. BIG Balloon Show 12:00 p.m. Pet Show Registration Petal Tractor Obstacle Course (until 2) – all participants to receive a prize <i>sponsored by Dick Masse Homes</i> 12:30 p.m. Pet Show (see page 20 in book for classes) 1:00 p.m. Markus Music 1:30 p.m. BIG Balloon Show 2:00 p.m. Markus Music</p> <p>LIVESTOCK SHOWS</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Western Horse Show <i>sponsored by Kintore Boxes</i> 10:30 a.m. Haflinger Horse Show & Heavy Horse Show <i>sponsored by Kintore Box</i> 1:00 p.m. 4-H Beef Show <i>sponsored by Thorndale Farm & Pet Supplies</i></p>
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Thorndale Dental Centre celebrates a decade

By Nancy Abra

“It is hard to believe 10 years have passed since I opened the Thorndale Dental Centre in September 2013,” Dr. Massé remarked. “Time certainly has flown by, and it has been a pleasure serving this community where I grew up.”

After Dr. Massé received his Doctorate in Dental Surgery at Western’s Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry in 2009, he held an associate position for a couple of years in two area dental offices, expanding his skills under the guidance of distinguished mentors. When Dr. Massé decided to set up a practice of his own, he wanted it to be in Thorndale.

“I consider Thorndale my home and have fond childhood memories of going to school and playing ball here” stated Dr. Massé. “So, it only made sense to me, I would set up a dental practice here.”

When the Trails at Wye Creek commercial area property became available, Dr. Massé jumped at the opportunity to purchase some land. And keeping with local, the building was constructed by MCI Design-Build

Corporation.

The Thorndale Dental Centre had a modest beginning with three part-time dental staff joining Dr. Massé. As his practice grew, so did his team to a full-time staff of eight, including Dr. Ryan Hornyak joining them in July 2021. Two of the staff members live in Thorndale while the rest live in nearby small towns. So, the importance of community and its loyalty is near and dear to everyone at the Thorndale Dental Centre.

Dr. Massé and his team believe that good oral hygiene and preventive measures is very important. They encourage and educate their patients to achieve success. They offer a wide range of dental services for patients of all ages – children, adults, and seniors. Their collective focus is the oral health and well being of the community. Just as important, the Thorndale Dental Centre participates and supports many community activities and is a member of ‘I Love Thorndale’.

“We greatly appreciate the community’s loyal support over these past ten years,” Dr. Massé stated. “And we look forward to continuing to grow and serve Thorndale and this area.”



Pictured are staff from Thorndale Dental Centre from left to right. Back row - Lindsey McLeod-Finkbeiner, dental hygienist, Natalie Wright, dental hygienist, Tanya Vieira, receptionist, Brittney Couto, dental assistant, Tracy Rice, dental hygienist, Iryna Lysenko, dental assistant. Front - Dr. Ryan Hornyak and Dr. Nicholas Masse.

Saying goodbye...

By Nancy Abra

Life provides many paths in our lives to venture down. Sometimes to attain that correct path, opportunities must be accessed, and sometimes deferred if the timing is not right. But more than often, passion comes to the forefront of those hard decisions in life’s crossroads. The Ahrens, owners of Edible Acres, made that hard decision and are ready for what the next path in their lives offers.

Laurie and Corey Ahrens have made important decisions in their life together. As a young couple, in 2007 they purchased a small 12-acre farm on Purple Hill Road, southeast of Thorndale. They wanted a place where they could raise their two children and grow food for themselves and the local community. They both had full time jobs while working their farm, raising sheep, chickens for eggs, growing various fruits and organic heirloom vegetables. In 2016, Laurie made a big decision to quit her job at the hospital to farm full time.

With the Ahrens choice to farm full time, it worked in their favour. Edible Acres grew into a successful market garden operation. They were a regular produce vendor at the St. Marys Farmers Market every Saturday morning. As well, Laurie was a member on the board of directors for that market. For the

last six years, they were also a produce vendor at the Masonville Farmer’s Market on Friday mornings and on Sunday mornings in Stratford at that market. Besides these markets, they also sold CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) boxes of their fresh produce and eggs to many local families. They were also active in the community of Thorndale, supporter of I Love Thorndale and Corey, a member of the Thorndale Lions.

This year another path appeared in the Ahren’s life journey. With their children now grown and on their own personal passage, the Ahrens made the difficult decision to sell their farm this summer. A young couple purchased it and are excited to learn and to grow vegetables and fruit.

“It was another big decision for us, but the timing is right, and we are ready. We are headed to Belize.” Laurie stated. “Growing is still our passion and we are interested in learning more about what we can produce in another country, to learn more from Mother Nature and to give back”.

“Saying goodbye to family, friends and this wonderful community is hard” Laurie remarked, “and we have some mixed emotions, but we are ready for this new venture and excited to see what the future holds for us.”

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Word List

- Church Street
- Cadzow Park
- Heritage home
- Castle in the bush
- Limestone
- Exhibits
- Archives
- Collections
- Information
- Programs
- Community
- Local history
- Research

THE WEEK AHEAD

SPONSORED BY: **McDonald's St. Marys**
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PRC & Friendship Centre events - See the Stonetown Crier on Page 5
 St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 20

Friday, September 15

- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 pm
- St. Marys Lincolns home opener vs St. Thomas Stars at the PRC - 7:30 pm

Saturday, September 16

- Embro Fall Fair - see ad on Page 14
- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 am to Noon
- Scrapbooking garage sale at the PRC - 9 am to 1 pm
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm
- Larry & Elsie Coulthard 40th anniversary open house at the Legion - 8 pm to Midnight

Sunday, September 17

- Embro Fall Fair - see ad on Page 14
- Terry Fox Run - Register at the YMCA 8:30 am, Run begins 9 am
- Scotty James live concert at 96 Robinson Street - 2 pm

Thursday, September 21

- St. Marys Buick customer appreciation event - 4 to 7 pm
- St. Marys United Church strawberry supper, takeout only - 5 to 6:30 pm
- Call Shirley Porter 519-284-1496 or church office 519-284-3016 for tickets



The **Riddle Kid**
 OF THE WEEK

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Isla Reid (6)

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This week's Pet of the Week is Newspaper, a 15 year old cat. She is a very good snuggler and loves pets. She also loves playing with a tape measure! She is a great part of the Reid family.



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COLUMN —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: The ongoing impact of Lord Beaverbrook



By Paul Knowles

Max Aitken was raised in a Presbyterian parsonage in New Brunswick. Later in life, he referred to himself as “the barefoot boy from Miramichi.” And while he lived most of his adult life in the United Kingdom, he never forgot his home province.

In fact, when Aitken was raised to the ranks of British aristocracy, he opted for a lordly title that echoed the landscape of his youth. Max Aitken became Lord Beaverbrook, publisher of three important British newspapers, financial giant, author and for a while, Minister of Information in the British Parliament.

But a big part of his heart lay always in the province where he grew up. He was actually born in Maple, Ontario but New Brunswick today, especially the capital city of Fredericton, is full of the evidence of his philanthropic activities.

The beautiful Frederic-

ton campus of the University of New Brunswick is dotted with buildings endowed by Lord Beaverbrook. He was chancellor of UNB from 1947 until his death in 1964; the university's website calls him “the institution's greatest benefactor of the 20th century.”

There is a towering statue of his lordship in the park across the road from the provincial Parliament buildings. Portrayed in bronze, he literally towers over a city where his influence continues to be felt everywhere.

He was the donor behind the creation of the city's Playhouse. And the world-class Beaverbrook Art Gallery, also in the heart of the city, is among the finest galleries I have ever visited.

When in Fredericton, we even stayed at the Lord Beaverbrook hotel, now the Crowne Plaza Lord Beaverbrook, conveniently next door to the art gallery.

My favourite among all these Beaverbrook locales – and there are many more all over the province – is the Beaverbrook Art Gallery. It's a gob-smacking surprise, a truly world-class gallery in a city of just over 60,000 residents.

It was founded in 1959 and not only did Beaverbrook provide the key funding for the en-

terprise, he also donated over 300 works from his own collection, most by highly sought-after artists.

At the Beaverbrook, you will find paintings by British masters like J.M.W Turner, John Constable, Thomas Gainsborough and Joshua Reynolds. There are also pieces by modern artists including Augustus John and Lucien Freud.

Those works, or their equivalents, you could find in almost any significant art gallery. It's the unique stuff that came from Beaverbrook, or has been collected since, that make this such a special place.

I am a huge fan of Canadian art and was delighted to find art by members of the Group of Seven and their important contemporaries like Tom Thomson and Emily Carr. The exhibition includes a large, wonderful Lawren Harris from his earlier days, the subject is houses in Toronto. There is also an eye-catching abstract by one of the best in that genre, the late Montreal artist Jean-Paul Riopelle.

The Beaverbrook does not remain fixated on the past. There are exhibits featuring the work of contemporary Canadian and New Brunswick artists and plenty of attention is given to Indigenous work. A huge

expansion of the gallery, only completed a year ago, has created a lot of space for these exhibitions, some temporary and some permanent.

For instance, as we entered the gallery, the first thing we encountered was a display of unique ceramic sculptures entitled “seed vessels” by New Brunswick artist Judy Blake.

Further in, we discovered the “Grandfather Akwiten”, one of the oldest birchbark canoes in existence, built an estimated 200 years ago. The craft was actually taken from New Brunswick to Great Britain by a British soldier in the 1820's; it was only returned to the local Wolastoqiyik/Maliseet people in 2009, sent back home by the government of Ireland. The canoe, rife with significance for all Indigenous people and all Canadians for that matter, is on loan to the Beaverbrook gallery.

Perhaps my favourite treasure in this institution jam-packed with potential favourites is a 2019 portrait of someone also of great significance to Fredericton, the province of New Brunswick, the country of Canada, and beyond – Fredericton native Willie O'Ree, the first black player in the NHL. The painting, by Canadian artist Tim Okamura, is in itself worth the visit

to the Beaverbrook Gallery. It captures the dignity, courage and perseverance of this great ambassador for people of colour for his country, and for his beloved game. Some of my favourite moments come when art touches my heart and my tear ducts like this painting did.

The star of the show at the Beaverbrook is probably the gigantic work, Santiago El Grande by Salvador Dali. It is indeed a world-class treasure and the story of it coming to the Beaverbrook is worth a feature on its own. The enormous work was intended for a church but Lady Dunn acquired it

instead, and eventually donated it to her friend, Lord Beaverbrook for his new gallery. Later, Lady Dunn and Beaverbrook were married. The end result? One of Dali's most important paintings hangs proudly in an art gallery in a small Canadian city.

A gallery that anyone interested in art and especially Canadian art simply must visit.

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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Folks that want to play Cribbage on a casual basis can come to the Royal Canadian Legion every Tuesday night starting October 3rd and ending in April with a break for Christmas.

Game time is 7:00pm-9:00pm (?)

Skill level is not important as it is just for fun. Let us know by the end of September if you wish to play, or show up the first night.

You are NOT OBLIGATED to play every night.

Cost is \$2 from each player per game night.

You DO NOT have to be a Legion member to play.

Contact Vic Mansfield 519-284-1542 or Don Feeney at donfeeney@quadro.net



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OBITUARY

Williams



Sandy passed away peacefully surrounded by her family at St. Marys Memorial Hospital on September 5, 2023 at the age of 76.

Beloved wife of 39 years, Ronald "Crow" Williams. Loving Mother of Lynn (Rick) Hainer and Cindy Swinkels (Carroll Robinson). Proud

grandmother of Johanna and Mitchell Hainer. Will be missed by sisters Vi (Jack) Dill of Ottawa, Barb Hunter of Batchewana and very good friend Marie Mills. Also remembered by many nieces, nephews and their families and extended family and friends. Predeceased by parents Stanley and Violet Corbett.

Sandy was a proud member of the Ladies' Auxiliary Army, Navy and Air Force Unit 261, Stratford, ON, and the Perth Regiment Veterans St. Marys Br.236 Royal Canadian Legion. She loved playing darts and attending meet draws at the ANAF St Marys on Friday nights. In her last several months, she enjoyed her time at Kingsway playing bingo and doing crafts.

Cremation has taken place. Interment in St Marys Cemetery at a later date. Friends and family are welcomed to Celebrate her Life at the ST. MARYS LEGION, 66 Church St. N., St. Marys, on November 17, 2023 from 6 to 8 pm. Sandra's family will be forever grateful to the staff at St Marys Memorial Hospital, Kingsway Lodge and the Happy Valley Family Healthcare Team for their caring and compassionate care of Sandy, Mom and Grandmother. In lieu of flowers, donations to Community Living St. Marys and Area or the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

THANK YOU

Strahan

The family of the late Marlene Strahan would like to thank all of our family, friends and neighbours for their calls, visits, food, flowers, and donations. The compassion and kindness we received at the time of Marlene's sudden passing was of great comfort.

We live in an incredible community! To all of you who attended Marlene's Celebration of Life, no words will accurately describe how much it meant to our family to see you. We were grateful for your presence, love, and support.

Special thanks to Marlene's grandson, Matthew Graham who shared precious memories of his childhood with his cherished Grandmother. A special thank-you to Elsie Coulthard, you were more than a caregiver, you were Marlene's friend. Your friendship meant a great deal to her and our family.

Thank-you to the Happy Valley Family Health Team for Marlene's care over the years. Dr. Foster, Dr. Burley, and dear Dr. Davis thank-you for being exceptional in your practice. The VON, St. Marys Mobility Bus and One Care we are grateful to have world class care in our small hometown.

Lastly to the dear, Legion ladies for the lovely lunch and to Andrew Hodges Funeral Home for their guidance and support. All was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Don, Jenanne, Cathy, and Families

OBITUARY

Martin



Carol Pearl Martin (nee Watson) passed away with family at her side on September 4, 2023 at the age of 77.

Beloved wife of the late Terry Martin whom she was married to for 57 years until the time of his passing in October of 2020. Survived by her children Barb Nicholson (Brian McKinnon), Tracey Martin (Mark Dries) and Rick Martin (Andrea). Proud Grandmother to 7 granddaughters Katie McNaughton (Jason), Breanne Ireland (Chad), Keisha Stacey, Tori Axelson (the late Anders), Alicia (David), Melanie and Abby Martin. Great Grandmother to Wyatt, Bryson, Sophia, Whitney, Andres Jr. and Anastasia. Sister to Crystal Thompson, Robert Watson (Eleanor), David Watson (Robin). Sister-in-law to Annetta Watson (Jack), Diane and Pat Martin. Carol will also be missed by her extended family and many friends. Predeceased by her parents Milton and Pearl Watson, brother Clinton Watson; brother and sister in laws, Jack Thompson, Catherine Watson, Bruce, Don, Delbert, Roy, Jim, Bob; Marilyn, Rose, Valrae and Ruthanne Martin, son-in-law Tim Nicholson.

Terry and Carol were married June 16 1963 at the family farm in Thedford. They moved to St. Marys in 1966 where Terry had accepted a position with the St. Marys PUC. They made their home in St. Marys where they raised their family. Carol loved to test her luck at the casinos and Bingo and was just as happy winning her chocolate bars at Wildwood as she was winning big money at the casino. Terry and Carol spent their retirement years traveling in their RV across Canada and spending the winters in Florida. Great memories were made on weekend family camping trips including a long trip out west with four young granddaughters.

Cremation has taken place and a family graveside memorial service will follow at a later date. Thank you to Wildwood Care Centre and Dr. Gatfield for their care of Carol in recent years. Expressions of sympathy can be made to Golden Years -Wildwood Care Centre- or a charity of your choice. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

THANK YOU

The St. Marys Lions Club, The St. Marys Kinsmen, Stratford's 3 Rotary Clubs, and the Optimist Club of Downie would like to thank all of the businesses who sponsored and donated to our first car, truck, and tractor show in St. Pauls on September 9, 2023. It turned out to be a fantastic day with 24 cars, 7 trucks, and 14 tractors. We raised \$245.00 for the Rotary Club of Stratford's Aqua Box project. Two food banks received 3 boxes of food and over \$125.00 in cash each.

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OBITUARY

McNaughton



Sheila Jean McNaughton (Watson) passed away peacefully in her sleep Tuesday September 5, 2023 at the age of 85. Beloved wife of Paul McNaughton and loving mother of Rodney (Jenn), Randy (Cheryl), Shawn (Nita) and their families. Survived by siblings Lucille (Reg) McCurdy,

Vesta (Bob) Marshall and Jim (Betty) Watson, Sisters in law Joan McNaughton and Jane Masse. She will be missed by her grandchildren and great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and many lifelong friends.

Cremation has taken place. We would like to welcome you all to a Celebration of Sheila's Life to be held in the Community Hall at the ST. MARYS PYRAMID RECREATION CENTRE, 317 James St. S. St. Marys, on September 22nd from 3-7pm. An Eastern Star service will be conducted from 3:30-4pm Memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Ontario Heart & Stroke Foundation. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca

THANK YOU



As the St. Marys Minor Ball Association wraps up another successful ball season, we would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to all the loyal sponsors and supporters.

The following individuals, organizations and businesses have generously supported us with individual team sponsorships for our traveling and house league teams:

Canadian Tire, Cubberley Plumbing & Heating, Dave Hensel, Dunny's Source for Sports, Forman Electric, Happy Valley Health Team, Hubbard Pharmacy Limited, McLean Taylor Construction, Red Rock Construction, Royal Canadian Legion, St. Marys Building Centre, St. Marys Cement, St. Marys Firefighters, Social Thirty-One, Stonetown Electric, The Kinsmen Club of St. Marys, Veterinary Purchasing Co. Ltd., Wildwood Care Centre

The following individuals, organizations and businesses have generously supported us financially as a general sponsor:

Action Health Care, Craig and Jess' No Frills, Finnie's Distributing, Graham Energy, St. Marys Dentistry, Stonetown Physiotherapy, The Hitching Post

St. Marys Minor Ball Association is fortunate to have a high level of commitment and support of parents, grandparents, loyal fans, umpires, tournament sponsors, and the many volunteers that work behind the scenes to help provide an amazing baseball experience for our children.

Our final tribute goes to our coaches. Your commitment to baseball contributes to the fabric of our community, and we are grateful for the time you invest in our children. More than that, your love for the game keeps the spirit for baseball thriving in this community. What a great season it has been! Congratulations to all the coaches and your dedicated players, and on the many successes that you've enjoyed. See you all again in the spring!

Sincerely, St. Marys Minor Ball Association

CELEBRATION

Congratulations!



Kirk and Judi Rankin are celebrating their 50th wedding Anniversary on Sept 15th

With much love from their family.

CELEBRATION



**Join us for
Joyce McKay 95th Birthday Celebration**

Saturday, October 7th Riverwalk Commons

2:00 pm - 4:00pm

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THANK YOU

Schutz



Thank you to all our family and friends for your love and support shown to Jane and us during her illness and on her passing. The cards, messages, flowers, food and memorial donations were greatly appreciated.

Thanks to Andrew Hodges and Father Butler for giving her the service she wanted. The Wannabee colour guard and Ryan on the bagpipes were both very heart warming.

Thanks to the Legion ladies and the bartenders for everything that day.

Lastly thanks to all who came to the celebration of life at the legion and to the wake after. The words of memory by Theresa and John, the tears, the laughter and all the stories was a true testament of how she touched the lives of so many.

*John, the boys and families
Mary, John, Fran and families*

THANK YOU

Mahaffy

Thank you family and friends for being an important part of my special birthday celebrations.

Your thoughtfulness, gifts, best wishes and impromptu neighbourhood party were appreciated and enjoyed.

THE BEST BIRTHDAY EVER!! Becky

LOOKING BACK



By AMY CUBBERLEY

Duggans dig Dakotas

25 years ago (1998)

There are several new principals at St. Marys and area elementary schools this fall. St. Marys resident Ron Aitken is the new principal at Arthur Meighen Public School in St. Marys. There are new administrators at Downie Central, Plover Mills and A.J. Baker public schools as well.

The Grand Trunk Trail committee is holding a Children's Dress Up Parade on Saturday. This is a trail fundraiser and there will be prizes, balloons, treats and face painting.

After a week of being closed, the St. Marys Public Library was a beehive of activity Tuesday morning, just before reopening. Four or five volunteers were busy putting the piles of returned books, videos, and newspapers back in their respective places.

50 years ago (1973)

It was Jean Paul Parise day on Saturday in the Minnesota North Star's hometown of Smooth Rock Falls. Mr. and Mrs. Terry Crisp of St. Marys were among guests for the big occasion. Terry and Jean Paul were former teammates with the St. Marys Lincolns.

The Wellburn building boom continues. We noticed another new home going up on the side road west of the hamlet.

Some St. Marys householders may receive a second visit from enumerators following the theft of 2,300 completed forms from the Huron-Perth Assessment office in Goderich recently.

Shoplifters appearing in Perth County Court may face a jail term in the future. Shoplifting has been reaching alarming proportions of late and, as a result, Judge Ehgoetz has been quoted as saying second offenders will certainly go to jail.

75 years ago (1948)

It was nine years ago Sunday last that the Perth Regiment received mobilization orders for the Second Great War.

The sidewalks and roadways of the town, especially in front of the local bookstores, were littered with bicycles on Tuesday morning, as school pupils struggled to buy their necessary books for the season.

Though ninety-nine out of a hundred citizens feel morally obliged to pay their entry fee to the baseball games at the Flats each time the local teams play there, there are the others who find their way in by a more circuitous route on each occasion.

Some of the local golfers enjoyed a pleasant day at St. Marys Golf Club where several contests have been arranged by J.J. McLaughlin's tournament committee.

100 years ago (1923)

Rev. F.W. and Mrs. Duggan and little daughter Ruth returned this week from a two-month motor tour, covering seven states and four thousand miles of road. In speaking with the Journal, Mr. Duggan says they had a most delightful time in the middle western states, but were delighted to get back to the old Stone Town for a rest just the same.

Bert Ross of Science Hill won first prize for his team in the heavy draught class at London Fair this week. Joseph White of St. Marys took first for a two-year-old bull in the Shorthorn cattle class.

The crowd in attendance at the St. Marys-Hamilton lacrosse game in that city on Saturday was the greatest ever seen at a game of lacrosse there. This fact speaks well for the reputation of St. Marys as a lacrosse town.

Milestone Birthdays!



Come help celebrate some Fall milestone birthdays with a retirement thrown in!

John McCarthy and Linda Dick will be 70. (Linda's upcoming retirement) and Paul Vergeer will be 40.

Friday September 22, 2023

at the St. Marys Legion downstairs from 6-?

Drop in for a quick Hi or stay for the evening. Best wishes only or if you insist on bringing a gift, please bring canned or dry goods for the Salvation Army food drive.

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| 5) Australia | 10) 13 |

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

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The Township of Perth South is seeking a qualified equipment operator/truck driver who would be available to work on a seasonal basis for winter maintenance purposes from December 1st, 2023 until March 31st, 2024. Reporting to the Operations Manager, applicants will be experienced with the ability to operate various pieces of equipment, such as wheel loaders, road graders, and tandem dump trucks equipped with snow plow, wing, and sander. The operator may be required to perform other duties within the Public Works Department, along with other miscellaneous labour duties from time to time.

Applicants must have a valid "D" license with a "Z" endorsement. Experience in road and/or equipment maintenance would be an asset. This position is subject to weekend scheduling and 24 hr. call-out, with a minimum of 32 hours per week.

The salary range for this position is \$24.19 – \$29.69 per hour for 2023 and \$25.55 – \$31.36 per hour for 2024.

We thank all candidates for their interest, however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

Interested candidates are invited to submit a detailed resume expressing their interest to the undersigned clearly marked as "seasonal operator" by September 30, 2023.

Fred Tranquilli, CAO
Township of Perth South
3191 Road 122
St. Pauls, ON N0K 1V0

E-mail – ftranquilli@perthsouth.ca

Information gathered is under the authority of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and shall only be used for candidate selection purposes.



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Wed. Sept. 06 - Donna Russell, Stratford	\$50.00
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