

# St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1180

Thursday, October 12, 2023

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## Coffee with a Cop



Al Burge of Barista's (left) and Gwen Ament (right) were among those who spent some time with Stratford Police Service officers Darren Fischer and Mark Taylor during the "Coffee with a Cop" event held at Barista's on Wednesday, October 4. (Stewart Grant photo)

## Indian restaurant coming to town

By Stewart Grant

St. Marys social media was abuzz with excitement last weekend when restaurateur Prahlad Meena made the announcement that "Naina's Indian Kitchen Bar & Grill" is coming to town.

The Indian restaurant will be based at 202 Queen Street East, which is the former home of China House Restaurant - located across the road from

Tim Hortons.

The Independent spoke with Prahlad on Tuesday morning who says he's been so encouraged to see the positive response from the community. He said he hopes to have the interior remodeling completed by the end of the month. If all goes well, the restaurant will be ready for dine-in and take-out service by November 1st.

Continued on page 2

## Town launches Stonetown Supports Report

### New feature aims to reduce stigma through education

The Town of St. Marys is launching a new feature to inform residents about its progress on addressing social issues. The Stonetown Supports Report is a bi-monthly community update designed to build awareness about the many social services available in St. Marys. Through education, the Town hopes to reduce stigma and ensure no one falls through the cracks.

The first edition is available below and online at [www.townofstmarys.com/stonetownsupports](http://www.townofstmarys.com/stonetownsupports). Each edition will include information about trending topics and issues in our community. Topics are suggested by Brittany Petrie, the Town's Community Outreach Worker, based on her interactions and observations. This month's edition addresses local transportation options and the new Community Closet.

You can subscribe to receive each edition of the Stonetown Supports Report directly to your email at [www.townofstmarys.com/stonetownsupports](http://www.townofstmarys.com/stonetownsupports). Questions about the report can be directed to Brittany Petrie, Community Outreach Worker at [bpetrie@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:bpetrie@town.stmarys.on.ca) or 226-261-0098.

Read on for the first edition of the report.

#### Transportation


Transportation within and beyond St. Marys is a barrier to individuals who don't have a vehicle and need to attend appointments to access social services.

PC Connect - Perth County's bus system - is cur-

Continued on page 2

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COMMUNITY —

# Town launches Stonetown Supports Report

Continued from page 1

rently the only public transportation in St. Marys, aside from VIA Rail and GO. Council recently voted to ensure PC Connect remains operational in Town until 2025; they have also asked staff to investigate other options for public transportation.

In the meantime, the Town has resources to support those relying on PC Connect. Please contact Brittany Petrie, the Town's Community Outreach Worker for details (contact information below).

### Community Closet

A group of dedicated volunteers have officially launched St. Marys Community Closet. Operating out of St. James Anglican Church, the closet offers new or gently used clothing, outerwear, and footwear at no cost. Shopping hours are every other Monday and the first and third Thursday of each month from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., and every other Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Monday hours coincide with St. Marys Community Meals, offered across the street at St. Marys United Church, by donation. The Nourish

Market also runs the first and third Thursday of every month from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the United Church. The market offers fresh local vegetables, fruit, and unprocessed meat at wholesale prices.

For more information, visit St. Marys Community Closet on Facebook, email [stmaryscommunitycloset@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryscommunitycloset@gmail.com) or call 226-261-0098. For emergency clothing assistance, contact Brittany Petrie, the Town's Community Outreach Worker. Her contact information is listed below.

### Additional Information & Resources

If you have questions or concerns about any of the topics listed above, or need support, please contact Brittany Petrie, Community Outreach Worker at [bpetrie@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:bpetrie@town.stmarys.on.ca) or 226-261-0098.

For a comprehensive list of social services available in St. Marys, visit the Stonetown Supports page on our website ([www.townofstmarys.com/stonetownsupports](http://www.townofstmarys.com/stonetownsupports)).

# Indian restaurant coming to town

Continued from page 1

Meena hails from the state of Rajasthan in northern India, which is the largest Indian state by area and the seventh largest by population. His attractive home city is Udaipur, which has a population of about 500,000 and is known as the 'City of Lakes'.

Prahlad first came to Canada in 2007, when an opportunity arose in Alberta to help setup a new Indian restaurant. He worked there as a sous chef until moving to Niagara Falls in 2016 to help establish another Indian restaurant (Virsa Fine Indian Cuisine) and to perform the role of head chef.

With 25 years of experience preparing fine Indian cuisine, Prahlad felt the time was right to start his own restaurant and was fortunate to learn of the space for rent here in St. Marys.

He decided to call his new restaurant "Naina's" after his wife's name. Though currently in India, she will be working alongside Prahlad at the restaurant when the time comes.

Meena says that people can expect to find all of their favourite Indian dishes at Naina's, including butter chicken, chana masala, chicken tikka, vegetable pakora, naan bread, and so much more.



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12°C	15°C	12°C	11°C	12°C	12°C	13°C
Feels Like 10	Feels Like 15	Feels Like 10	Feels Like 10	Feels Like 11	Feels Like 11	Feels Like 12

**COMMUNITY —**

# Museum's Popular Seminar Series Returns on October 19

The popular St. Marys Museum seminar series returns for its eleventh season this fall with two engaging evening presentations.

On Thursday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m., the Museum will hold a seminar about historical facts and superstitions around death. Just in time for

Halloween, this presentation will explore Victorian death and dying traditions in early St. Marys. It will also delve into interesting monuments in the cemetery and what they can teach us.

On Thursday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m., the stories of local Amish fam-

ilies in the community will be presented. This seminar will explore the impact of the Amish community in this region, from their arrival in the Wellburn/Uniondale area in 1959 up to their recent out-migration to Michigan.

The seminars are fundraisers for the

Museum. The cost per person is \$12 or \$10 for Museum members. Space is limited and therefore pre-registration is necessary. For more information or to register, call 519-284-3556 or email [museum@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:museum@town.stmarys.on.ca).

# Town hosting Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste Event on October 21

The Town of St. Marys is hosting its next Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste Disposal Day on Saturday, October 21, 2023.

The event will run from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Municipal Operations Centre (MOC) located at 408 James Street South (enter off South Service Road). It is open to residents of St. Marys and Perth South.

Items that will be accepted at the dis-

posal event include:

Acids, aerosol cans, antifreeze

Bases, batteries, bleach

Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs), fluorescent tubes

Fertilizers, fuels, garden and pool chemicals

Household cleaners, motor oil, paints, pesticides

Propane tanks/cylinders, solvents,

stains, Varsol

All materials must be sealed and in their original containers with labels. Materials should be transported in the rear of vehicles (trunk, truck bed, etc.), and contained in rigid containers for safe transport and unloading. Vehicles with materials in the back or front seat will be re-directed to a separate area of the parking lot where they can be moved to the trunk or tailgate. Residents are asked to remain in

their vehicles at all times as materials will be unloaded by trained staff.

Please note that the MHSW depot that was located at the St. Marys Landfill has now been closed, and MHSW material will no longer be received at the landfill.

For more information about waste disposal services in St. Marys, visit [townofstmarys.com/MHSW](http://townofstmarys.com/MHSW).


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## EDITORIAL —

# GoFundMe launched for Richards family

The St. Marys Independent wishes to bring attention to a fundraising campaign for Rev. Jason Richards' wife Young and son Lincoln. If you wish to donate to the GoFundMe campaign referenced below, visit GoFundMe.com and search under "Support for Lincoln". There is also a Pumpkin and Bake Sale for Young & Lincoln organized for this Saturday from 8 a.m. until noon (or until sold out) at St. Marys DCVI.

Please see below for the words of Jason's father Bruce Richards from the GoFundMe homepage that has been established:

Dear Friends and Supporters,

My name is Bruce Richards. My grandson is Lincoln, my daughter-in-law is Young, and my son was Jason.

Lincoln is a vibrant 6-year-old who, in the span of a few months, faced challenges that few could fathom at his age.

Lincoln's parents, Jason and Young, both dedicated pastors, served their community and church with love and compassion. They were united in their marriage and shared a mission to bring hope, faith, and God to others. Sadly, in April 2023, Lincoln's father, at 41 years old, succumbed to a fierce three-year battle with colorectal cancer. The tragedy was intensified because just a month before Jason's passing, in March 2023, his mother, Young, was diagnosed with breast cancer and began her own challenging treatment journey.

Young and Jason's story started when

Jason studied as a Canadian exchange student at the South Korean Presbyterian church seminary and met his future wife, Young. They married in July of 2015. They had a dream that they would serve rural area churches, so they were both ordained as ministers in the United Church of Canada. Living and working in Saskatchewan, Canada at the time, they welcomed their son, Lincoln, to the family in 2017. In the summer of 2019, they moved from Saskatchewan to St. Marys, Ontario. They made a beautiful life of love and service in St. Marys.

Imagine being Lincoln, at just six years old, trying to comprehend the loss of his father while watching his mother bravely face her own health battle. Their shared dreams, hopes, and the simple joy of being a family have been overshadowed by grief, medical appointments, and the looming financial burdens associated with cancer treatments.

We're coming together to raise \$36,000 for Lincoln and his mother. These funds aim to ease some immediate financial pressures, ensuring that, during this traumatic time, Lincoln can have some semblance of a normal childhood - focusing on school, play, and healing rather than the weight of adult worries.

Every donation, monetary, prayer, or act of kindness will be a beacon of hope for Lincoln during this tough time.

We thank you for your compassion and generosity from the depths of our hearts.

## Bravo

We have 2 Bravos this week.

1) Bravo to Robbie Tremblett and the team at St. Marys Your Independent Grocer for surprising 10 different customers with free Thanksgiving turkeys!

2) Bravo to the Towne & Country Cheese Shoppe who celebrated their 3rd anniversary under the current ownership. To celebrate they held a draw for a gift basket full of delicious products from the store with Mary Smith winning the draw! Congratulations.

## Boo

In the spirit of Thanksgiving we have no Boos this week.

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

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

## Quote of the Week

*"Israel is at war. We didn't want this war. It was forced upon us in the most brutal and savage way. But though Israel didn't start this war, Israel will finish it. In fighting Hamas, Israel is not only fighting for its own people. It is fighting for every country that stands against barbarism."*

- Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu on the brutal terror attack of Israel by the Hamas political organization.

## St. Marys Independent

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## The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS  
OF THE WEEK

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The happiness of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts.

Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations.

If you spend your whole life waiting for the storm, you will never enjoy the sunshine.

Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game.

## Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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I am so sick of Thanksgiving leftovers. I am quitting cold turkey

It is a fact that calories between Thanksgiving and New Years do not count.

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



# Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance Amalgamation Information Sessions

The Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA) Board of Directors has unanimously agreed to start the process to amalgamate the four hospital corporations of the HPHA - Clinton Public Hospital, St. Marys Memorial Hospital, Seaforth Community Hospital and Stratford General Hospital.

Community members are invited to attend a virtual Information Session to learn more about the amalgamation and provide feedback. Sessions will take place via Zoom. Two session options are available:

**October 23, 2023 at 12 p.m.**

**October 25, 2023 at 7 p.m.**



RSVP to Sue Davey, Executive Assistant at 519-272-8205 or [susan.davey@hpha.ca](mailto:susan.davey@hpha.ca) to receive the Zoom link in advance of your chosen session.

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# STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



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Have an upcoming birthday? Make a splash and rent the Aquatics Centre pool for your next event!

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

## SHOWER PROGRAM

Thursdays, 9 AM - 1 PM | Pyramid Centre

This program provides free showers to those in need. Showers are private, secure and accessible for individuals of all abilities.

Visit Guest Services or call 519-284-2160



## BADMINTON

Adults (14+) can join badminton at St. Marys D.C.V.I on Wednesday evenings starting September 13 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

## ST. JOHN AMBULANCE HOME ALONE COURSE

October 21, 9 AM - 3 PM | Pyramid Centre

This course is designed to equip kids with the skills and confidence they need to be on their own.

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



## ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BABYSITTING BASICS

Oct. 22, 9 AM to 4 PM | Pyramid Centre

This course teaches youth aged 11- 15 all they need to know to care for younger kids.

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

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**Senior of the Week**



Our Senior of the Week is Laurine McIntosh who celebrated her 96th birthday on October 10. Laurine spent most of her life in the Motherwell area both growing up and then as a married woman. She was very involved in the local Women's Institute and made lifelong friendships that she cherishes to this day. Laurine has 6 children, 8 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. Happy Belated Birthday, Laurine.

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

**COMMUNITY —**

**Lions Club erect Canadian Flags**



From May until November, members of the St. Marys Lions Club erect Canadian Flags on many of the downtown storefronts to beautify the main street. Members put the flags up on Thursday, October 5th in recognition of the Thanksgiving long weekend. (Photos by Lion President Gwendolen Boyle)

**Weekend Quiz**

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- 1) When did the Berlin Wall fall?
- 2) Who directed the movie "Jaws"?
- 3) What is the capital of Peru?
- 4) How many vertices does a cube have?
- 5) What is the 6th color of the rainbow?
- 6) What is the name of the princess in "The Princess Bride"?
- 7) In what U.S. state would you find the Grand Canyon?
- 8) What animal appears on the Lamborghini logo?
- 9) Who was the first Blue Jays pitcher to win 20 games in a season?
- 10) Who is the Roman goddess of love?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31



**Preserve of the Month**

10% off all McCully's Chutneys

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

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**McCully's Annual Harvest Festival**

Harvest Festival will run weekends (weather permitting) beginning Saturday, October 7th to Sunday, October 29th.

Hours are 10 - 3. Price is \$7.5/person or \$6.25/person for a family of 4 or more. Two & under are free.

**Store Hours for October**

Open Daily: 10 - 5 | Saturday: 9 - 5

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**COMMUNITY —**

**Kirkton Horticultural Society Holds Special Event**



“By helping Wildlife, we help ourselves,” was a comment made by Brian Salt as he shared important information and stories to an attentive audience of all ages on October 3, at the Kirkton Woodham Community Centre. His well trained guest Chaukar, a rescue falcon, also made an appearance as we learned what to do and what not to when finding injured wildlife. Brian’s organization, Salthaven Rehabilitation and Education Centre in Mount Brydges since its inception, has treated and released thousands of animals back into the wild. Brian makes presentations to community groups /schools and he has been awarded several prestigious honours such as the Youth Mentor Award and the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal. The Kirkton Horticultural Society’s Youth Group committee was pleased to host this informative and entertaining event and we thank everyone who took the time to attend. (Contributed photo)



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COMMUNITY —

# COPS FOR CANCER: Officers shave their heads for a good cause



Police officers from Stratford Police Services and the Ontario Provincial Police line up ready to shave their heads for a good cause at the annual Cops for Cancer event at the Army Navy Air Force Club.

By Amanda Modaragamage

Perth County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) partnered with Stratford Police Service (PS) to host a 'Cops for Cancer' event in Stratford on Saturday, September 30th, 2023, at the Army, Navy, Airforce Club, on Lorne Avenue in support of childhood cancer research.

Open to members of the public, the event ran from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event raised more than \$1,300 with all proceeds generated supporting the Canadian Cancer Society. The funds will go to fueling new

pediatric cancer research discoveries, sending 600 kids each year to Camp Goodtimes, providing support services such as counselling, and advocating to improve the lives of children affected by cancer.

Several Perth County OPP and Stratford Police Service members and friends stepped up to have their heads shaved for donations. Scott Jackson, owner of Stone Town Barber in St. Marys, was there along with employee and barber Jack Taylor, giving out free head and beard shaves all day and took part in the main event, shaving the heads of Stratford Po-

lice and OPP officers alike during the sunny afternoon.

The Stratford Police Services Pipes and Drums Band were in attendance and played while officers were escorted into line to have their heads shaved. In addition, there was a by-donation BBQ and raffle table, with all the profit generated directly donated to the cause.

Perth County OPP and Stratford Police Services displayed several vehicles, including cruisers, specialty vehicles, and an OPP motorcycle. Unfortunately, the anticipated helicop-

ter was unavailable to be at the event due to the nature of the services. Kids and families who attended were able to get a close-up look at the vehicles while also meeting and chatting with police officers from both Stratford Police Services and The OPP.

Darren Fischer, Stratford Community Service Police Officer, said, "When I first was asked to take part in this event, I was told that the goal was \$10,000; I thought that was pretty lofty," but continued on to recognize and show gratitude to the community for their hard work in supporting and donating to this successful event.



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COMMUNITY —

# Christmas Poems for Children raise money for local food bank



Jackie Cousins



Danielle Stephen



By Stewart Grant

With colder weather reminding us that Christmas is just around the corner, the timing is perfect to talk about a newly published poetry collection fit for the season by St. Marys resident Jackie Cousins.

'No Sense Christmas Poems for Children', Jackie's ninth published book of poetry, was published last month and is now for sale at Lyric Flowers. Continuing with the theme of the Christmas spirit, the entire proceeds from book sales (\$15 per book) will be do-

nated to the local Salvation Army food bank.

"I know the food bank really needs the support this year," said Jackie.

The book contains 25 Christmas poems designed for younger children and with the overall theme of "sharing and caring", says Cousins, who is a former elementary school teacher at Holy Name here in St. Marys. She completed her poetry for this collection while recovering from her second broken ankle.

This poetry book was extra special for

Cousins since she had the opportunity to collaborate with St. Marys native Danielle Stephen who did the illustrations within the publication.

"Danielle was wonderful to work with," said Jackie. The colourful drawings added much visual appeal throughout the book.

In addition to be available at Lyric Flowers, 'No Sense Christmas Poems for Children' is also available on Amazon under author title M.J. Cousins.

Nate Baker, an American who gave the book a 5-star review on Amazon not-

ed, "This book is perfect for anyone who works regularly with small children in a daycare or teaches younger children. The author has obviously worked in this environment, and it shows with the content. The creative poems are designed to get the kids involved as much as possible while also being funny and imaginative."

Another review said succinctly, "It's not yet Christmas but it seems Christmas came early with this book. Though it is Christmas-themed, this seems to me like a book for all seasons."

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## SPORTS —

# Lincs split back-to-back with Komoka, Strathroy

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys Lincolns were involved in a pair of shut-outs last weekend, only one of which they came on the right side of.

With a back-to-back against two youthful teams trying to climb higher than they have in recent years, the Lincolns were trying to bounce back after a tough loss to the LaSalle Vipers on September 29th. Last Friday saw the Lincolns host the Komoka Kings in their first game since their loss to the Vipers and, from the opening puck drop, the Lincs were looking better than the week previous.

On their first powerplay of the game, Jaden Lee fired a wrist shot from just above the faceoff dot to open the scoring for the second straight game and, in the process, extend his goal streak to three games. The goal, scored just under six minutes into the first period, was Lee's fourth of the season and was assisted by the newly-acquired Ethan Weir and Josh Cornfield.

Exactly 12 minutes later, Colton Henderson rocketed a one-timer to finish off a quick-touch passing play also involving Chase MacQueen-Spence and Ryan Hodgkinson, both of whom got assists on the goal. Just 69 seconds later, Weir got back on the scoresheet with a nice slap shot to make it 3-0 in favour of the Lincolns with the team's second powerplay goal of the contest. Weir's shot capitalized on a brief goaltending swap made by the Kings after starter Matthew Koprowski had to temporarily leave the game due to an equipment issue and backup netminder Leland Gooder had to come into the game cold. The assists went to Marcus Dashevsky who won the faceoff and Cornfield who made the set-up pass. By the end of the first, the Lincs were outshooting the Kings 16-4.

Head Coach Jeff Bradley explained that some alterations to the team's powerplay units allowed them to finally break through against Komoka, going three-for-five with the man advantage last Friday.

"We changed the powerplay a little bit just to try and find what works for us," said Bradley. "I think we started to find more of what we were looking for out of Josh Cornfield's unit. We're still experimenting on Adam Barkley's unit, but overall, we changed where we were running the powerplay from and it started to open things up a little bit more so hopefully we can continue to tinker with it and find what works but overall, we were happy with how our special teams looked."

Only one goal found its way into the net during the second frame and it came just 54 seconds into the period with Henderson potting his second of the game after several whacks by all three St. Marys forwards on the doorstep of Koprowski's net. Linemates Wesley Wilding and Blake Elzinga earned the helpers.

That line continued to play a starring role in the

game with Wilding scoring once and Elzinga adding a pair of goals in the third period. Henderson and Cornfield both made it three-point nights for them as they earned an assist during the third period. Ryder Livermore found a pair of assists while Adam Barkley and Jimmy Schiedel each found a helper during the final stanza. Colby Booth-Housego earned his first GOJHL shutout in between the pipes.

Bradley sang the praises of the Elzinga, Henderson, and Wilding trio, who combined to score five of the Lincolns' seven goals in the contest.

"That line was great," Bradley told the Independent. "They are three really good players who have been really strong offensive contributors pretty much every year of their careers and they've all put in a ton of hard work so far this season so it was nice to see them get rewarded for it and have such a big night for us."

Although it came against a struggling Kings squad, the offensive outburst by the Lincolns was a direct and positive response to one of the team's focuses – score more goals.

"In the three previous games combined, we scored seven goals," noted Bradley. "So, being able to put seven in on Friday night alone, including three on the powerplay, we felt it was good for our confidence. I thought there were a lot of good things about our game. Colby was really good in net for us. He made some sharp saves when he needed to. I thought our defence was good in front of him."

## Rockets stifle Lincs 3-0

The Lincs' offence appeared to dry up one day later when the team visited the West Middlesex Memorial Centre in Strathroy to play the Rockets.

Despite the loss, the Head Coach had positive feelings about the way St. Marys played in the first 40 minutes.

"The first two periods, I thought we were the better team," Bradley admitted. "In the first and second, I thought we had the lion's share of the scoring chances and their goaltender was playing incredibly well. We had a great chance near the end of the second that we didn't score on and I think, had we scored on that one, we might not have been gripping our sticks as tightly going into the third."

"Then, we give up that shorthanded goal 14 seconds into the third period and I think that just sucked all of our energy out of the game," continued Bradley. "We couldn't get anything going after that and overall we were very lacklustre in the third. Overall, though, I'm not disappointed with our effort, I just think our execution needs to be a bit better."

Strathroy got two goals from Ethan Facchina, including a powerplay goal in the first period and a shorthanded tally a mere 14 seconds into the third. Former Lincoln Damian Pancino buried one with just one minute and three seconds left in the second frame.

Bradley elaborated that, at least in the first two periods, he didn't feel his team was overly lacking in the work ethic department.

"It wasn't a case of needing more from the guys than what they gave in the first two periods. There were a few scrambles in front of the net and we'd either just miss or get in our own way. We just couldn't put the puck in the net. It would be easy to get down on ourselves after the second period because we were down but in our eyes, the only negative in the first two periods was that we weren't scoring."

Even though he didn't find the back of the net, Noah VandenBrink was arguably the Lincolns' best player, firing about half a dozen quality scoring chances towards the Strathroy net. Bradley said the Belmont native, who has yet to score so far this season, displayed his high-end skill level against Strathroy.

"Noah [VandenBrink] was awesome. He puts a lot of pressure on himself to score goals because he feels that he needs to and he is a very important guy for us offensively. He's a top-six guy and gets those kinds of opportunities and in the first few games of the season, wasn't quite playing up to his expectations, but now he is. He deserved a lot better against Strathroy. If not for their goaltender, he could have had five goals. We're not worried about Noah, especially after seeing how he played in Strathroy. I just think he's going to get one off his foot or his body and then the rest will start going in for him."

The Lincolns played Wednesday night in LaSalle against the Vipers and will return home this Friday for their first meeting of the year against the Chatham Maroons.

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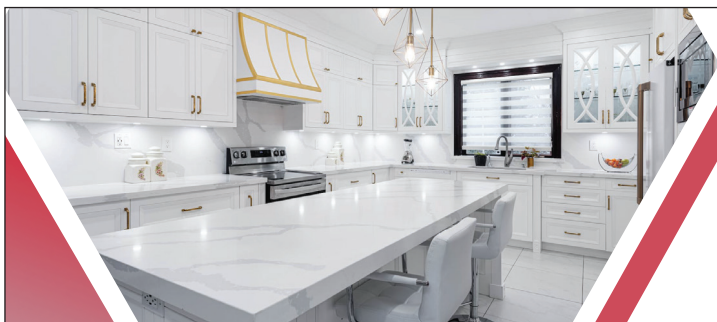
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## SPORTS —

# Lincs bolster lineup by adding Sigmon, Weir

By Spencer Seymour

Two significant acquisitions were announced by the St. Marys Lincolns last week, adding to an already-deep and talented squad that has high hopes in the GOJHL's Western Conference.

The first of two new players joining the team that the team unveiled was defenceman James Sigmon. The native of Royal Oak, Michigan may be familiar to Lincolns fans as the blueliner spent last season with the Leamington Flyers and helped the Flyers down the Lincs in the Western Conference Final, en route to Leamington winning the Sutherland Cup over the Stratford Warriors.

General Manager Pat Powers told the Independent that he's excited about the intangibles Sigmon will bring to the club, both on and off the ice.

"James is a smooth-skating puck-mover who loves to get up in the rush from the back end," explained Powers. "He provides us with versatility on our blueline and he can help bring a winning culture to our group from winning a Sutherland Cup last year with Leamington."

The other addition to the roster was highly-touted OHL prospect and forward Ethan Weir. The 16-year-old played for his hometown London Jr. Knights last season and recorded 21 goals and 65 points in 34 games. Weir also served as an affiliate player for the Komoka Kings and played five games for the Kings in which he tallied two goals and one assist.



Pictured on the left is James Sigmon. On the right is Ethan Weir. The St. Marys Lincolns announced the acquisitions of the two players last week. (Photos by Spencer Seymour)

In the 2023 OHL Priority Selection, Weir was drafted in the second round by the Kingston Frontenacs. GM Powers is looking forward to the overwhelming talent that Weir adds to a top-six forward group already brimming with high-end talent.

"Ethan will bring a high-end scoring threat to our

top six," Powers said, excited about the potential line combinations Weir's addition could create. "He is a very strong, powerful player that demonstrates skill in all areas of the ice. Ethan will diversify our offensive attack and give us more weapons for the opposition to work to contain."

# DCVI Boys Baseball team earns pair of road wins

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys DCVI Boys Baseball team won both of their games last Wednesday when they travelled to the Clinton Raceway to take on St. Anne's and Central Huron.

In their first game of the day, Simon Greig got the start on the mound against St. Anne's and displayed strong control of pitches, limiting St. Anne's to just one hit in five innings. Colton Henderson led the way offensively, going three-for-three at the plate in the game, while Griffin McGregor and Nate Schiedel both went three-for-four. These performances guided the Salukis to an eventual 6-3 final score, which secured the first win for DCVI's baseball program in four years.

Coach Graham Rae told the Indepen-

dent that the team's ability to exploit mistakes made by the opposition was key throughout the day.

"Our offence was really hot all day," said Rae. "It was a matter of stringing hits together with guys building on what the previous hitter did and capitalizing on mistakes with aggressive base running. We really liked what we saw from our guys at the plate in both games."

The strong play continued in the team's second game of the day when they battled Central Huron. Brody Higham got the ball as the starting pitcher and after giving up an early run, Higham settled into the game and found his groove. Five straight strikeouts carried Higham through the beginning of the third, allowing DCVI's bats to get going. In the sec-

ond inning, with two outs, the Salukis found a four-run rally which began with a single by Finn Stewart.

Central Huron clawed back to tie the game in the fifth inning but the Salukis remained resilient and got big runs from Schiedel and Wil Boreham in the bottom of the fifth to make it 6-4. Stewart closed the game on the mound and shut the door on the Central Huron batters.

Rae praised the group's play on both sides of the ball for being simple yet effective.

"Our pitchers came out and threw strikes. That allowed them to get ahead early and put the pressure back on the hitter. Our defence was solid and we didn't give away many extra bases or runs. That helped our pitchers execute without the extra pressure of errors."

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**SPORTS —**

# DCVI Jr. Boys Volleyball team gains confidence in three-set victory

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys DCVI Junior Boys Volleyball team picked up their second victory of the season and, in doing so, appeared to develop more confidence as a unit last Thursday when they played two games in Listowel.

In their first game of the day against Goderich, the Salukis started strong, jumping out to a seven-point lead on the backs of some great serves by Lucas Binning. The St. Marys boys then began to struggle in the passing department, allowing the Vikings to climb back into the match. The rest of the first set was back-and-forth with Goderich ultimately taking it 25-21.

The Salukis seemed poised for a rebound in the second set but once again, it appeared a mental block got in the way and the second set was taken by Goderich 25-20, also giving them the overall victory.

Head Coach Ian Moore said that he

was happy with how the boys played in the opening game and identified the reason they came out on the wrong side of the score as not being an issue with their skill.

"They came out strong and they were strong technically," Moore told the Independent. "The fundamental skills, their passing, serving, setting, and hitting, were all good. It seemed they struggled a bit psychologically. The confidence bug seemed to bite us a couple of times. I honestly felt like we were the stronger team physically but Goderich was a bit stronger and more consistent mentally."

After a bit of a breather, the Junior Boys returned to the court to take on the host Listowel Lightning and right from the get-go, the Salukis were clearly feeling more confident than their first game of the day. With the group truly starting to believe in themselves, they turned in a very

competitive first set, just narrowly getting beat out 25-22 by Listowel.

The result of the first set didn't shake the Salukis' confidence, however, and their mental fortitude allowed them to come back from a six-point deficit in the second set which they ended up taking 25-18. Rookie Henry Switzer put forward some strong serves while hitters Simon Taylor and Justin Ropp came up big on the left side.

The third set saw more of the same from St. Marys who continued to play with a strong belief in themselves, once again taking the set 25-18 to win the contest. Rookies Zach Larmer and Rumley Snyder made several excellent plays defensively while Binning had a great outing as a key distributor to the rest of the team's hitters.

Moore was happy to see the team rebound mentally in the second game, saying that the "biggest switch" from the first game to the second was the

team's cohesiveness.

"Our goals as a team for the entire day were to have confidence in ourselves and believe in their abilities to perform the various skills. Also, the importance of not playing as individuals but playing as a team was something we constantly talked about in timeouts. They started to relax and to pick each other up when things weren't going well but to also pump someone up when they did something well."

According to Moore, he has seen "tremendous improvements" through just three games this season.

"Their basic skills of passing, setting and hitting have come a long way as well as their understanding of where they need to be on the court both offensively and defensively. In practice, their ball control and court awareness have been great and now they are starting to bring that into game situations."

# U11 A Boys earn first win of season in opening week

By Spencer Seymour

The Social Thirty-One U11 A Boys St. Marys Rock scored their first victory of the season last Tuesday when they travelled to Mount Brydges and came away with a 3-1 win over the Cougars.

Head Coach Merlin Malinowski said that he was thrilled with the team's defensive performance, citing it as a key factor in the win.

"Before the game, we talked about


doing a better job in the defensive zone at protecting the front of our net than we did in our home opener to Dorchester," Malinowski told the Independent. "We asked our wingers to come down low in our zone and protect the slot and they did a great job of not giving Mount Brydges any shots from the slot area."

Malinowski added that, when the Cougars did find some quality scoring


opportunities, goaltender Luke Savile was there to make several key saves. On the offensive side, Keaton Ward led the charge with a pair of goals before Ryder Boehmer secured the win with an empty-netter in the final minute.

The bench boss praised the team's ability to dramatically improve from the previous game in the offensive zone as well as the defensive end.


"Offensively, we asked our forwards to shoot the puck earlier as opposed to trying to get in real close to the Mount Brydges net before taking a shot. Coupled with getting our shots off earlier, we wanted the other two forwards going hard to the net for any rebounds that might be there. They did a really good job of executing the strategy and they got rewarded with the win as a result."



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**SPORTS —**

# Minor Sports Scrapbook



Abby Martin drives towards the net with the ring during the U19 St. Marys Snipers game last Saturday at the PRC.



Logan Masselis, grandson of former St. Marys Lincoln Ken Masselis, fires a shot during the U9 MD Boys St. Marys Rock game last Saturday.



Emily Chateauvert walks the blueline with the puck during the Hitching Post U11 C Girls St. Marys Rock game this past Sunday.



Mya Grose drops down to stop an incoming shot during last Saturday's St. Marys Kinsmen Club U9 C Girls St. Marys Rock game.



Kyla Graham maneuvers by an opposing defender during the U12 St. Marys Snipers game last Saturday. (Photos by Spencer Seymour)

## Pickleball season continues into Fall

It was another fun-filled week of pickleball at the Outdoor Courts in St. Marys this week.

A special thank you to the Town and Country Cheese Shop and Deli in St. Marys for sponsoring the association's play last week.

One of the featured matches saw the newlyweds Lori and Francis Brekelmans take on Barry Stone and Jerry Terhaerd. The Brekelmans won this close match by a score of 11-8. The

newlyweds were in fine form and exhibited flawless communication on the court.

Tracey Marshment and Megan Richardson were victorious over Tim Cronsberry and Carol Venn by a score of 9-6. Marshment and Richardson needed to be on their game to win this one as neither team was giving an inch to the opposition.

Mike and Brian McKinnon faced off against Barb Nicholson and Mike

Brine in a boisterous match which saw the McKinnons win by a score of 11-9. This game was close and both teams needed a rest after the final point.

In a game that went to extra points Megan Richardson and Jody Stone outlasted Lisa Vandenheuvel and Esther Vander Hyden to win 13-11. Richardson and Stone played like a "Tournament Ready" team to claim the top spot in the match.

Jerry Terhaerd and Ian Moore played Barb Nicholson and Chris Evans and won by a score of 11-8. Nicholson and Evans put up a good fight but came up short in this match. A future rematch is expected.

Mike Richardson and Matt Payette challenged Lisa Evans and Lisa Vandenheuvel and came away the winners by a score of 11-9. Lisa and Lisa gave it their all and made it a close match.

# SPORTS —

## DCVI Sr. Boys Volleyball win in straight sets over Listowel

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys DCVI Senior Boys Volleyball team travelled to Listowel last Thursday for a pair of games and came away with a win over the host squad in straight sets.

In their first game of the day, the Salukis brought great energy and enthusiasm but came up against a disciplined Goderich team that didn't give St. Marys much opportunity to create offence. A few errors by the Salukis combined with Goderich's strong play led to the St. Marys Senior Boys dropping the match.

However, St. Marys was able to shake off the loss and rebound well in their second game of the day against the host Listowel team. Led by a great run of serves by Ethan Connolly in the second set and much more organized overall play, the Salukis defeated Listowel in two straight sets.

Head Coach Steve Chateauvert explained that the team's ball movement was key to their improved play against Listowel.

"The boys regrouped and found a nice rhythm on offence," said Chateauvert. "For me, getting in a

rhythm like that means we have good passing. If we're able to get the ball to our setter, then our setter has options on offence. However, if we're struggling to pass, we're often limited to setting the ball to our left-side hitter."

Chateauvert also mentioned that the team had to acclimate to playing two games in one day as it was the first time this season that they had a back-to-back on their schedule.

"We needed to get more comfortable playing at a 'game pace' as we had only played one match at the time coming into the games against Goderich and Listowel. Serve receive is also something that is very important in order to be able to get the ball to all three hitters in the front row."

"I think it's just experience and court time," Chateauvert continued. "It takes time for the guys to get comfortable on the court again after only having one match at a time. We've got two more matches this week and then we're in tournaments the following two weekends, so the hope is that we get that experience in the next few weeks, just in time for playoffs at the end of the season."



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## COMMUNITY —

## Setting the Stage for Opening Night by Norm Foster



Jessica O'Connor as Cilla Fraser, Ryan Stewart as Richard Hyde-Finch, Edie Pedersen as Ruth Tisdale, Don Van Galen as Jack Tisdale and Daniel Kennedy as Tom Delaney. (Photo by Bruce Zinger)

St. Marys Community Players is thrilled to announce the highly anticipated production of *Opening Night* by renowned Canadian playwright Norm Foster. This delightful comedy takes audiences on an uproarious journey into the world of theatre and is set to open on Friday, October 27 at the Town Hall Theatre.

*Opening Night* is a "backstage play", a comedy whose plot unfolds in a theatrical context that usually revolves around the production of another play and it promises hilarious comedy, reaching its peak when we finally witness the 'performance' of the new play opening that night.

The madcap antics start as Jack and Ruth Tisdale celebrate their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary with an evening at the theatre. It's a dream come true for Ruth and an imposition for Jack who would rather be at home watching the World Series. However, after the events both on and off the stage that fateful night, their lives, and those of all of those involved are irreparably altered.

Director Costin Manu says, "There is nothing more satisfying for an audience than seeing and enjoying a good story unfold before their eyes in a darkened theatre, and Norm Foster's comedies offer us stories with a glimmer of hope and much-needed laughter in this otherwise cynical and increasingly unfeeling world.

*Opening Night* takes us behind the scenes of a professional theatre production, where we witness the backstage, and on-stage chaos, the nervous excitement, and the tangled web of personal and professional relationships. However, it goes one step further by also incorporating the interactions and stories of regular theatre patrons into the backstage life it focuses on. Some of the theatre characters in the play may often represent archetypes found in any profession – and believe me, I have met and worked with most

of them in my career."

He adds, "In *Opening Night* what happens behind the scenes doesn't stay behind the scenes, and it makes for high comedy. Foster invites the audience to simultaneously laugh, reflect, and empathize, and he doesn't shy away from portraying the messiness of human emotions, both on and off stage. What makes each live theatre performance different and unique though, is that it is shaped by a new audience every time."

The play was much praised in the press: "Foster has created two wonderfully familiar Canadian characters, put them into an absurd situation and made the whole thing explode like a time bomb of hilarity." - *The Montreal Gazette*.

#### About Costin Manu

Costin Manu brings a full resume to SMCP. He has directed over forty productions; produced over fifty plays/musicals; acted in Europe, Canada, United States and held principal roles in theatre, film, and television. And has taught acting, directing, audition technique and the business of performing arts. Key connection to this production of Norm Foster's *Opening Night* includes sitting on the Board of Directors of "The Foster Festival" in St. Catharines and translating five Norm Foster plays just published to a third printing in Romania in 2022. Costin and his wife Susan have been residents of Exeter since 2019.

*Opening Night* by Norm Foster, previews on Thursday, October 26, opens on Friday, October 27 and closes on Sunday, November 5. St. Marys Town Hall Theatre, 175 Queen Street East.

Directed by: Costin Manu.

Starring: Gregory George, D'Arcy Irvine, Daniel Kennedy, Jessica O'Connor, Georgia Peacock, Edie Pedersen, Ryan Stewart, and Don Van Galen.

Tickets are \$25 general admission with the exception of the preview show at



D'Arcy Irvine as Clayton Fry, Georgia Peacock as Libby Husniak, Gregory George as Michael Craig, Ryan Stewart as Richard Hyde-Finch and Jessica O'Connor as Cilla Fraser. (Photo by Bruce Zinger)

\$20. Online tickets available at [www.stmaryscommunityplayers.ca](http://www.stmaryscommunityplayers.ca), or in person at Troyer's Spices, 110 Queen Street East or call 226-661-8777 during business hours. Matinees at 2 pm. Evenings at 8 pm.

An optional dinner and theatre ticket package is available on Saturday, October 28 at The Westover Inn followed by an 8 pm show for \$80. Another op-

tional dinner and theatre package is offered on Friday, November 3 at Social Thirty-One with dinner followed by an 8 pm show for \$82.

SMCP would not be able to produce shows without the dedication and hard work of many volunteers and with the assistance of our sponsors. To learn more about SMCP visit our website [www.stmaryscommunityplayers.ca](http://www.stmaryscommunityplayers.ca).

## STONETOWN TRAVEL

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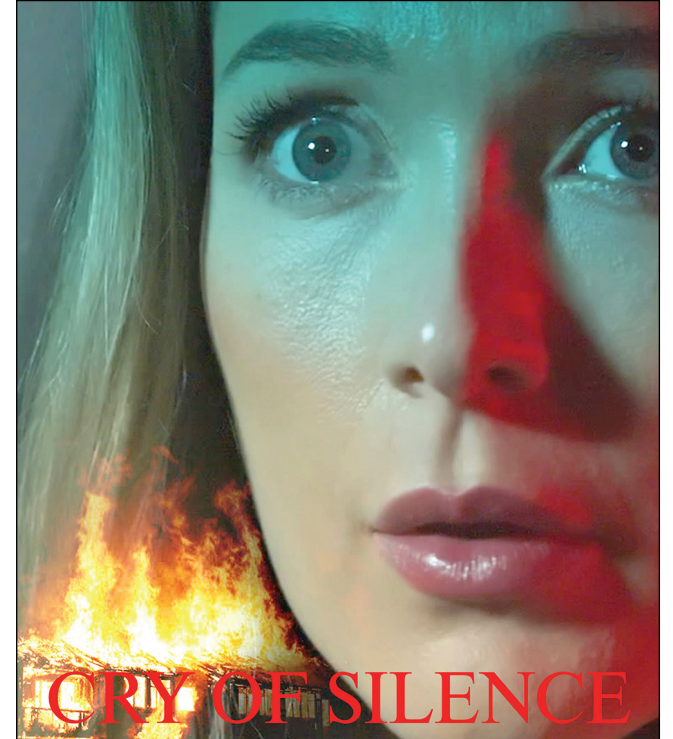


## ARTS &amp; CULTURE —

## More Than a Kool Film



Pictured above is Allen Kool directing "Cry of Silence"



The Cry of Silence poster.

By James Giles, Edited by Alice Rixson

Akoolfilm Company is the award-winning brain child of St. Marys' entrepreneur Allen Kool.

Akoolfilm Company began shooting scenes for *The Sanctuary*, its first thriller, in St. Marys in 2019. The plot revolves around a murder suspect who takes asylum with an elderly couple in an isolated house after escaping custody. *The Taste of Blood*, the second movie, was filmed at the Westover Inn in St. Marys. It centres around an aging private detective searching for the Whalen family, rumoured to be cannibals that has been escaping justice for 30 years. When he hears of a strange murder in a small Canadian town, his pursuit begins. Both films were Canadian Screen Awards nominees.

*Cry of Silence*, Akoolfilm latest feature film, written by Allen's wife Robin E. Crozier, was also shot and produced in the St. Marys area. This action thriller features a young husband and wife, settling into their new life in the community, who are terrorized by

a serial killer.

*Cry of Silence* won "Best Narrative Feature Film" in Berlin and "Best Feature Film, Script, Editing and Original Score" in Los Angeles. Germany's Brandenburg International Film Festival and the Accolade Global Film Competition in Los Angeles are but two of the recent film festivals from which the Akoolfilm Company garnered awards.

Now, ain't that kool!

Natives of Holland, the Kool family immigrated to Winnipeg to be closer to family in Manitoba. Allen's father, a jazz musician who played saxophone, snared work with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Allen learned percussion and starting performing and working with his dad at the tender age of 8. Later he studied music at the University of Winnipeg.

The inspiration for Akoolfilm Company originates from Allen, a 50-year veteran in the North American film and television industry. His involvement in that line of art and entertainment began in the early 1960s. As

his career evolved, Allen logged more than 20 years with the CBC, where he ventured into all areas of film and television production. In 1982 he was Director of the CBC National News with Knowlton Nash. While with the CBC, Allen piloted several production companies creating movies, TV documentaries, balancing his technical expertise and resourcefulness with an innate business sense.

In 1972, Allen formed the film company Future Film Productions Ltd. This award-winning enterprise specialized in futuristic film formats such as Imax. In 1978, he partnered with John and Sarah Stoneman to form Mako Films Ltd., a Toronto based award-winning enterprise, specializing in underwater film conception. Allen created a number of underwater movies, documentaries, and TV programs and was the originator of the Imax film *Nomads of the Deep*.

Before relocating to St. Marys in 2018, Allen and Robin called London home where she taught film at Western University. Allen expressed concerns about moving to a small town for his

career's continuance, but Robin assured him he could succeed – and that he did.

Allen engages local talent for his movies, but also brings in international, seasoned actors. For his latest picture, more than 100 local extras, and a cast and crew of 30 were involved in the filming in town.

Adding yet another layer to his career, Allen is sharing his knowledge by mentoring. He's had the privilege of guiding and aspiring individuals like Michael A. Charbon (Executive Producer, actor and writer) alongside Yaz Lachporia (Assistant Director/Production Manager of *Cry of Silence*) who, incidentally, also calls St. Marys home.

Don't miss the opportunity to attend the showings of *Cry of Silence* at the Stratford Cinemas October 16-18, 2023 or at the Premiere in November at the Royal Cinema in Toronto.

Please send comments and proposed topics for Arts articles to [smindependentarts@gmail.com](mailto:smindependentarts@gmail.com)

## The St. Marys Farmers' Market

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Market continues to Oct. 28



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# COMMUNITY —

## Electrical Cooking Appliance Safety

When we think of cooking appliances in the kitchen, we often think of the stovetop, oven, and microwave. However, more and more people are often turning to electrical appliances like air fryers and slow cookers for the convenience of cooking meals quickly. Using these appliances properly is key to keeping safe in the kitchen.

### Key Safety Tips

- Always use cooking equipment—air fryers, slow cookers, electric skillets, hot plates, griddles, etc.—that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions on where and how to use appliances.
- Remember to unplug all appliances when not in use.

• Check cords regularly for damage. Do not use any appliance with a damaged cord.

### Slow Cooker

A slow cooker is designed to be left on while you do other things, even things outside of the home.

However, there are few safety tips to keep in mind:

- Keep things that could catch fire away from the slow cooker.
- Make sure the slow cooker is in a place where it won’t get bumped. If the lid gets dislodged, the liquid could boil away, which could cause the appliance to overheat and create a fire.

### Pressure Cooker

A pressure cooker is designed to cook

food faster than a stovetop or oven. Because it uses hot steam and pressure to cook food it is important that they are used properly to prevent burns.

- Place the cooker in an open space to give enough room for the steam to ventilate.
- Never cover the steam release valve on the pressure cooker.
- Do not leave the home when using a pressure cooker.

### Air Fryers

• Give your air fryer enough space. The air vents release heat and need airflow.

- Do not leave the home when using the air fryer.

• Make sure you clean grease and food debris after every use. Unplug and allow to cool completely before cleaning.

### Hot Plate, Griddle and Electric Skillet

- Stay with the hot plate, griddle, or electric skillet when cooking.
- Do not touch the surface of a hot plate, griddle, or electric skillet, as it could burn you.
- Unplug a hot plate, griddle, or electric skillet when not in use and before cleaning.

Allow the appliance to cool before cleaning it.

## October 14: St. Marys Fire Department Open House

Members of the St. Marys Fire Department are excited to host the entire community for an open house event. Firefighters will open the doors from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Enjoy station tours, fire truck and equipment

demonstrations, new inflatable fire safety house, fire prevention display, the Stratford Police, Community Outreach "I've Got Your Back 911", three delicious food vendors (Campbells Catering, Donut Diva and Pierogi

Queen), refreshments and a chance to meet the local firefighters and Sparky too!

For more information on Fire Prevention Week 2023, visit the Town’s web-

site ([townofstmarys.com/firepreventionweek](http://townofstmarys.com/firepreventionweek)), Facebook page ([facebook.com/stmarysontario](https://facebook.com/stmarysontario)) and Twitter account ([twitter.com/townofstmarys](https://twitter.com/townofstmarys)).

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## Walk In Flu & COVID Clinics

The Happy Valley Family Health Team, in partnership with the Town of St. Marys and the Huron Perth Public Health Unit, will be offering WALK IN flu shot and COVID-19 vaccine clinics at the Pyramid Recreation Centre for Residents of St. Marys and surrounding rural areas on:

- **Thursday November 2nd**  
**10:00am-5:30pm**
- **Wednesday November 8th**  
**10:00am-5:30pm**

Please note that masking is required by all attendees over the age of 2 years. Please wear a shortsleeved shirt and be prepared to wait 15 minutes after your immunization(s). Arrive at the clinic through Entrance B. The flu shot and the COVID-19 vaccine can be safely given at the same time.

To be eligible for the flu shot, you must be over the age of 6 months and feeling well. To be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, you must be over the age of 6 months, with at least 6 months having passed since your last dose of COVID-19 vaccine or confirmed COVID-19 infection. The new monovalent Moderna vaccine will be available on these dates. High dose and adjuvanted flu vaccines for adults ages 65 years and older will be offered to eligible individuals while quantities are available. If you have specific questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, please call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900, Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm (excluding holidays).

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# HISTORY —

## HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Leon Clench, Part Two

By Mary Smith

In 1845, when the Clench family moved to London, Joseph Brant Clench, Indian Department superintendent for the Western District (southwestern Ontario), was also appointed agent for conducting the sale of Indian lands in the Western and London Districts. This was a position of trust and Clench was bonded. Trust fund accounts had been established for the various First Nations in these districts and when a portion of their land was sold, Joseph Clench deposited the proceeds into the appropriate account. At first his work went well. Although today the concept seems outrageously paternalistic, Clench's responsibility was to protect First Nations' interests. But then, things went very wrong. Clench found out that his wife, Serena, and his son, Leon, were intercepting the money arriving at their household from land sales and using it for their own purposes. Of course, the Indian Department discovered that money was missing and Joseph was dismissed from his position. He faced a court of inquisition, and lost almost all his property and possessions as the government acted to recover the misappropriated funds. In 1857, he died insolvent in a London hotel room, age 66.

While Joseph Clench was reaching his sad end, Leon Clench, his son, was establishing a remarkable life for himself just 45 kilometres away in St. Marys. He first advertised his services as a solicitor but continued to upgrade his qualifications. The Law Society of Upper Canada admitted him to the Bar in 1859. By then, he had married Eunice Cruttenden and they were parents of a year-old daughter, Mary. Also in 1859, solidifying his position in the community, he was appointed village clerk and held that office until 1861. While turning his back on his own father, he was welcomed into the Cruttenden family. He got on well with Lauristen, his father-in-law, a vigorous 53-year-old when his daughter, Eunice, was married. Leon, with Lauriston's support, undertook a number of house building projects on property in the west ward owned by the Cruttendens, including, in 1875, a home for Leon and his family at 96 Robinson Street. Not only did they plan and design these houses, but also picked up their hammers and saws and worked on the actual construction.

In May 1867, the year of Confederation, Leon and Eunice had a second daughter, Esther Leonora. A good musician himself, Leon gave both his daughters lessons from an early age. His older daughter, Mary, became an accomplished pianist. But Leon discovered that young Nora was specially gifted. By the age of four she was playing a child-size violin that Leon had made for her. At eight, she gave her first public performance on the stage in the town hall auditorium. By the time she was 12, she had performed in most of the cities and principal towns of southern Ontario as well as Buffalo and Detroit. Her father accompanied her as they travelled to these destinations by railway. As well as he could, Leon arranged for her to take lessons from the best instructors available. Because of her father's dedication, Nora Clench eventually went on to become a world renowned concert violinist, performing before various crowned heads of Europe, including Queen Victoria.

Although committed to advancing Nora's career, Leon had time for many other interests. He was an inventor, full of creative ideas. He sent off a number of patent applications for his inventions, including one for the velocipede. Basing his design on a photograph, he had the machine constructed at a local carriage factory and arranged for a public un-



Leon Clench poses, ca 1869, on his prototype velocipede, an early form of bicycle.

veiling in February 1869. The studio photograph, shown with this column, was taken to demonstrate how he planned to ride it. (There is no record of actual attempts to navigate the area's mud and gravel roads on this device.) Other inventions included an oscillating arm for a sewing machine, a pneumatic repeating hydropult (a machine for spraying water) and, with his friend, civil engineer Alexander Niven, air brakes for use on railways. A local belief was that Clench relinquished patent rights for the air brake to George Westinghouse for a few hundred dollars and then Westinghouse took full credit for the invention. As the St. Marys Journal told Leon's story half a century later, "Inventing things was his hobby but the law was his business. Because he did not let his hobby interfere with his business, he remained an obscure lawyer while Westinghouse got his name in the newspapers."

On January 28, 1870, this small item appeared in the St. Marys Argus: "Our versatile townsman, L. M. Clench, Esq., has kindly placed upon our table a sample bottle of wine, made from grapes grown by himself. It is pronounced 'delicious,' and demonstrates that Mr. C. can grow the grape, make wine, build an organ, paint a picture, blow a musical instrument, engrave on wood, or conduct a case at law with equal facility and ability." He was also a high ranking member of the Masonic Lodge and an officer in the Perth Militia. Leon Clench was a remarkable man but the dark shadow from his past remained a factor in his life.

His father had died still indebted to the Indian Department because of his defalcation (the term used for the theft, misuse, or misappropriation of funds held by an official trustee.) Department officials were determined to get the money back. In 1854, the attorney general of Canada West, John A. Macdonald, had initiated legal proceedings against Clench and his securities and obtained an injunction against the estates and properties of Mrs. Serena Clench and Leon Moses Clench. Before he died, Joseph had signed an indenture releasing to the government his interest in his properties. A considerable portion of the money was recovered but some remained outstanding. Serena died in January 1872, refusing to the end to admit to any involvement in the defalcation.

Leon Clench died of a stroke on June 29, 1883, at the age of 53. The loss of such a dominant personality was a shock not only to his family but to the community at large. According to an obituary notice in a Stratford newspaper, "...the cortege was of immense length." The followers included many members of the legal profession. Clench was recognized as "the oldest, practicing member of the Bar in the County of Perth." Following the death of the last of the Clench family involved in the defalcation, the government's legal actions to recover the money seemed to lose momentum. However, the consequences of the Clench defalcation were far from resolved. It appears that although much of the stolen money had been recovered, not a penny had been deposited into the First Nations trust funds as originally intended.

The Chippewas of the Thames First Nation began to press the Indian Department as early as the 1880s for their share of the misappropriated Clench funds. They were essentially given the runaround for more than a century. When, across Canada in the 1990s, land claims became more determined and the process more structured, the Chippewas reactivated their claim against the Clench defalcation. A settlement was finally reached in 2005. Further settlements were made to the Aamjiwnaag and the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nations in 2021. The Government of Canada paid more than 50 million dollars for these three settlements. The First Nations distributed a large portion of the settlement money to community members. The Chippewas of the Thames held back a portion to fund research into future land claims. All First Nations, after consultation with their members, used other portions for infrastructure projects in their communities.

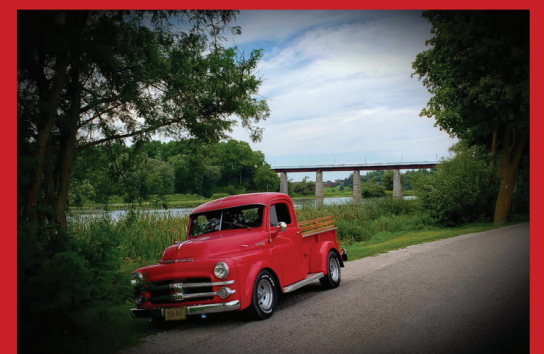
NOTE: More detailed information about these land claim settlements can be found on-line in Government of Canada documents and in contemporary newspaper articles. An internet search for "Clench Defalcation" produces a surprising number of responses.

### Our Food Bank needs our Help!

Please bring a food donation to the flats in St Marys on October 28th! You will receive a complimentary photo with the truck and the tressle in the background!

Starting at 9.30 till Noon and back at it from 1.30 till 2.30!!

Lets Fill This Truck Everyone!!!



## COLUMN —

## FROM THE GARDEN: Fall planting



By Nancy Abra

We normally think of Fall as the harvest season. But it is also planting time for certain bulbs and even some seeds.

Mid to late October is the time to plant garlic for next summer's crop. Garlic grows best if it goes through a 'dormancy' period of cold, moist weather. This cold period of six to eight weeks allows the garlic to develop healthy roots before the ground freezes but not enough time for it to form its green growth.

Mid-October to November is also the best time to plant spring flowering bulbs. The soil needs to be cooled from the summer growing season before you plant your bulbs. And the soil needs to be consistently cool so the bulbs can develop a good root system but not sprout. As soon as the soil warms in the spring, they

will sprout and grow.

There are many trees, shrubs, perennials, and wildflowers that also need a cold period before their seeds can germinate. Several weeks of exposure to winter's cold temperatures and moisture helps break down the hard seed coating. This period of cold, moist conditions is called stratification.

Trees such as Red Bud, coniferous or evergreens, and most nut tree seeds require a cold period of two or more months before they can successfully germinate. As for garden perennials, Purple Coneflower, False Indigo, Rudbeckia and Lupin are a few that also need a cold period for germination.

Many gardeners have added some native wildflowers to their gardens. And some avid native plant growers collect those seeds in September for planting in October. Being in a temperate climate zone, Ontario wildflowers need to go through a period of cold for spring germination. Seeds of native grasses also do best when planted in the fall, between mid October to mid November.

For fall seed planting, prepare an area in your garden. Weed

and remove any small seeds that will compete with your little seedlings next spring. Rake over the area with a stiff garden rake to loosen the top couple of centimetres of the soil. If you think this area is lacking organic matter, work in a little compost. The compost will also improve the soil's texture, allowing for oxygenation and moisture retention. Gently scatter your seeds evenly over the prepared area. To protect these seeds from hungry birds or little critters, sprinkle about a centimetre of compost or soil to cover the seeds. Lightly water to moisten the area. It is also important to mark or note what you have planted and where. (<https://www.torontomastergardeners.ca/askagardener/wildflowers/>)

If you don't plant seeds that require a cold, moist period outside in your garden this fall, you can mimic the stratification process indoors. Place the seeds in a moistened paper towel, sand, or vermiculite in a closed container. Put that container in the refrigerator at 1 degree C to 4 degrees C for one to three months, depending on the variety of seeds you are stratifying. Through this pe-



riod, it is important to check your seeds occasionally to make sure there is still some moisture in the container but not too much which can cause mold. After the proper length of cold period, the seeds can

be planted into pots or directly sown outside in the spring. (<https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/good-growing/2022-01-27-seed-stratification-what-seeds-require-cold-treatment>)

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*160th Anniversary Service*

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 - 11AM**

Guest speaker:  
**Rev. Susan Cole**  
(a descendent of the Brown family)

Musical guests:  
**Shane and Angela Wiebe**  
(three-time winners of the inspirational album of the year at the Canadian Gospel Music Awards)

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AND FELLOWSHIP AFTER  
THE SERVICE**

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at Line 13 - about 1 km east of  
Cobble Hills Road*

# COLUMN —

## HOSTING UKRAINE: Blessed Community

By VJ Knutson

A planned Ukrainian/Canadian get together was a washout due to rain last weekend. Too bad, as many of us were looking forward to the social time, and catching up with new friends. We will reschedule the event so look for more information on Facebook.

I especially was hoping to welcome a new family to our community. Husband, Sasha, arrived a while back and found work. Now his wife and son have joined, and no doubt the family is grateful to be together. A big St Marys welcome to Sasha, Katya, and Kiril.

The mentorship program through the library is well underway. Thank you to Darren of the Stratford Police Department, who visited last Tuesday and educated the ladies in attendance about bike safety. Darren has offered to return and answer any questions about life and laws in Canada. I'm sure there are many more questions.

Thursday, October 12th, from 5-7, is the next date for drop-in at the library. Someone from the Adult Learning Centre will be on hand to speak to our newcomers.

Our ESL volunteer, Sonia, has started a new drop-in class on Tuesday



mornings for Women and little ones. It is also being held at the library from 12:45 to 1:45. Sonia and her first group of attendees are pictured in the photo collage.

Sue Griffiths, from Stone Home Creatives, also opened her doors to Ukrainian Moms and kids this week. Sue offered a workshop in candle making. I understand 19 people attended. What a wonderful way to

usher in the Fall season. As you can see by the photos, the event was a great success.

I've said it many times before, and I'll repeat it here, that learning English is the number one priority for newcomers hoping to stay in Canada long term. Ric and I have noted such a difference in the skills of many Ukrainians that have been here a year or more. We keep looking for more ways

to tie in the need for conversation with opportunities to socialize. This week I received more donations towards our knitting circle. Thanks Marlene! The knitting circle is more social than about skills, and we invite any newcomers to join. At the moment, we are trying to settle on a time that suits.

As the cold weather approaches, so does the need for warm clothing. Last year, the Rotary Club took every family shopping and bought boots and coats and other necessities. This year, children are bigger, and we have new families in the mix. If you have anything to donate, please think about the St Marys Community Closet hosted at the Anglican Church, or post your offerings to Everything Free St Marys, Ontario Facebook page.

Thank you for all you do, St Marys. We are so blessed to live in such a warm and supportive community.

One last, special mention for our in-house Ukrainian. October 11th is Lesia's birthday. Hope you'll join us in wishing her a very special day.

Till next time.

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

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

Solutions on page 31

### ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION PERTH REGIMENT VETERANS BRANCH 236 ST MARYS

#### HOURS

TUE – THU 3PM - ???  
FRI NOON TILL ???  
SAT – NOON TILL CLOSING

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# BGC Youth Programming in Thorndale

By Nancy Abra

BGC ('Boys & Girls Club') is a community organization with programming designed to provide fun with a purpose. These programs offer hope, inspiration, and opportunities to help our youth reach their full potential. By promoting both physical and mental health as well as emotional well-being, these programs help young people succeed in school, form positive relationships, and develop into healthy, responsible, and caring adults. (<https://bgclondon.recdesk.com>)

The BGC is located in London but they have committed to bring some of their programs and new opportunities to the rural communities of Ilderton and Thorndale. They are also ex-

ploring ways to support families with young children. Families can look for programs in the future once the youth programs are up and running.

The vision for the school year programming is to offer a variety of different activities to cater to youth who have diverse interests. In Thorndale, there are leadership programs, tutoring, arts and crafts, sports, and youth events coming to their communities during the 2023-2024 school year. And the BGC is excited to continue to run the Next Level Sports clinics and leagues, starting with basketball this fall and then volleyball in the winter. Another program is Jr. M.A.P, an education support program. This program offers youth individualized academic support and homework help, career exploration, social skill

development activities, and special events. It is a unique enrichment program to support students in grade 4-8 who require support to catch up or to stay on track academically. Every student has the support to develop their Action Plan to Education and to work towards their goals.

The Youth Action Team is a free leadership program that is meant to empower students in grades 7 and 8 to contribute to strengthening their community. These youth will benefit from training, enjoy special events and recreational activities, and plan and facilitate community service projects. BGC would like to introduce students to the importance of volunteering and support them to find ways to leverage their skills to address challenges and create opportunities

for others.

BGC is piloting a Club model in both Thorndale and Ilderton communities, offering a few different activities at one location, on the same day each week. The BGC Thorndale programs will run out of the Youth Clubhouse in partnership with I Love Thorndale on Tuesdays, and at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre in partnership with Thames Centre on Thursdays. Youth will be encouraged to try new opportunities by collecting points towards fun prizes and compete to win the Thorndale Clubhouse Cup.

For more information on the BGC youth programming in Thorndale, go to <https://bgclondon.recdesk.com/Community/Program>

# Tis the season - harvest, pumpkins and Thanksgiving dinner



The Thames Centre Senior program hosted a special Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings for approximately 150 Thames Centre seniors at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre last Friday, October 6th. Busy preparing this meal was (from left to right) Helen Bendall; Willy Rooyackers, Senior Program Coordinator; Karen Gress and on the right, Penny Caley.



Every summer the Mt.Olivett 300 Masons grow pumpkins for their annual fall fundraiser. After a successful harvest of a few hundred pumpkins of varying sizes, they are ready for sale. Contact Geoff Clays at 519-461-1065 or at [claysg@sympatico.ca](mailto:claysg@sympatico.ca)

# Thorndale Lion's Cash and Dash October winner

By Nancy Abra

On the first Friday of each month, the Thorndale Lions pull the 'Cash and Dash' monthly winner. Last Friday,

October 6th they met at the West Nisour Manor with a gathering of seniors to witness the draw. Ross Olmsted pulled the winning ticket of Gwen

McArthur for a prize of \$2200.00 with Ron Johnson of the Thorndale Lions overseeing the draw.

Thorndale Lion's Club 2024 'Cash and

Dash' tickets are now on sale which can be purchased through their website - <https://www.thorndalelionsclub.ca/>

# - Word Search -

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

## Word List

- Anderson
- Leverton
- Edwards
- Taylor
- West
- Becker
- Dundas
- Primeau
- Robinson
- St Clair
- Sass
- Burlingham
- Jeffrey
- Petrie
- McKay
- Downham
- Hartsell
- Lippert
- Byers
- McCone
- Dumontier
- Forman
- Merkel
- Taylor
- Wrigley
- Sager

## 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 29

### Friday, October 13

- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog/sausage lunch - 12 Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 pm
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Chatham Maroons at the PRC - 7:30 pm

### Saturday, October 14

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 am to Noon
- St. Marys Fire Department open house - 10 am to 2 pm
- McCully's Hill Farm Harvest Festival - 10 am to 3 pm
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm

### Sunday, October 15

- McCully's Hill Farm Harvest Festival - 10 am to 3 pm
- Browns United Church 160th Anniversary service - 11 am followed by lunch & fellowship

### Monday, October 16

- St. Marys Horticultural Society plant auction at the Legion hall - 7 pm

### Wednesday, October 18

- St. Marys Lincolns vs London Nationals at Western Fair Sports Centre - 7:15 pm

### Thursday, October 19

- St. Marys Museum seminar (facts & superstitions around death) - 7 pm



The **Riddle Kid**  
OF THE WEEK

What fish only swims at night?



Starfish!

**Natalie Hibbert (6)**

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 Hazel Brown Sugar Sharp. Hazel is a 13 week old Lab golden doodle. Her favourite things are sleeping, eating and getting the zoomies.



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

Did you know that the Farley Foundation assists (eligible) low-income pet owners by subsidizing the cost of emergent veterinary care?

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## COLUMN —

## OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Should I travel to Florida?



By Paul Knowles

A lot of Canadians travel south to avoid the cold winter months. Many of us are planning our visits right now. I don't spend all the colder months somewhere warm but we do try to head south for a month or so and I know a great many snowbirds who skip Canadian winters entirely.

Most head to warm parts of the United States although that has become increasingly fraught with concern in recent years. I know many people who own property in the US but who are thinking of selling out and finding a warm alternative.

I also know Canadian travel writers who are reluctant to encourage people to visit the US, given the current social and political climate.

This was on my mind when I met Ronny Maye, one of an international group of travel writers, during some recent travels. Ronny, an American who lives in North Carolina, describes herself as "a solo traveler, female traveler, plus size traveler and Black traveler." She recently wrote a piece

for Fodor's Travel, responding to a travel advisory cautioning people of colour and LGBTQ2+ folks, to beware of travelling to Florida.

Her conclusions, I think, can apply to all concerned travellers.

Ronny wrote in part, "I believe the travel advisory was necessary to keep people abreast of the current climate in Florida towards Black residents and travelers. But it's equally important to acknowledge that the beliefs of [Governor] DeSantis (and his following) are not the beliefs and feelings of the entire state. There are places within the state that are welcoming to visitors of all races and lifestyles."

She cautions that, "A decrease in tourism will negatively impact the communities the advisory wants to protect. Numerous Black and LGBTQIA+ Floridians work in hospitality, restaurants, and other service industries directly served by tourism."

But she is careful: "What's happening in the state should not be overlooked. Much like traveling internationally, travelers should enter the state erring on the side of caution..."

Ronny's analysis mirrors my own thoughts about travelling to parts of the world, including the United States, where social and political challenges exist. But Ronny's carry far more credibility than mine because of who she is and what she has experienced.

I know this is a lengthy introduction to what follows but I

have felt for some time that I should make some comments on the issues facing travellers to the U.S. Ronny's thoughtful article gave me that opportunity.

And so... it will not surprise regular readers of this weekly feature that I am a fan of the Florida Keys. This is unlike any other destination in the U.S. Most of the people of the Keys are laid-back, welcoming and entirely inclusive.

As we hit the time of year when Canadians are thinking about heading somewhere warm for a while, let me suggest Key West.

We visited the town earlier this year and stayed at Opal Key, a terrific resort right on the harbour.

Opal Key is the reincarnation of a resort that has existed under several brands but now flourishes as a family-owned complex of hotel, restaurant and retail space. It's where cruise ships dock in Key West, and so when you stay there, all amenities are immediately at hand. Plus, you get the secret pleasure of watching all those cruise folks board their ship to leave Key West in the late afternoon. The boats have to be gone by sunset so they don't block the view of people celebrating sundown on Mallory Square while you get to stay in this magical town for an entertaining evening.

While staying at Opal Key, we dined at their Bistro 245 and the food was terrific. I loved the truffle encrusted grouper, and this being Key West, I finished of course with key lime pie.



Maggie Montoya, at the fabulous restaurant, Milagro. (All photos by Paul Knowles)

My favourite thing about Key West is the live music, sundry styles performed in dozens of bars all day and most of the night. I also love the sunset celebrations, the Conch tour train, the museums and galleries. But on this trip, we also discovered how wonderful the foodie scene is. Visitors could dine in a different, excellent eatery every day for months.

A quick shout-out to three. First, the Half Shell Raw Bar is the place to go for seafood, a casual waterfront diner on the historic Key West Seaport.

Blue Heaven is one of the finest breakfast establishments ever. You sit outside, surrounded by tropical plants, and accompanied on occasion by the ubiquitous Key West chickens. And yes, you can have key lime pie for breakfast.

And a wonderful surprise is Milagro, owned and run by Maggie and Kevin Montoya. Maggie

is in the right job as host: warm, friendly, engaging. Kevin is a superb chef. My meal, a starter of perfectly prepared octopus with a mango sauce and polenta, and then hogfish and shrimp as the main was over-the-top delicious. Don't knock it 'til you've tried it!

All of this is to say: I understand and share your caution about visiting some of the more right-wing American states right now. But I think Ronny is right. We can do more good than harm in supporting the tourism business and its people, and more specifically, once you get to the Florida Keys, you are in a safe, secure – as well as entertaining, welcoming and delicious – environment.

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).



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**OBITUARY**

*Stewart*



Jane Ann Stewart (nee Chantler) passed away peacefully with her family at her side and in her heart at Wildwood Care Centre, St. Marys, on Wednesday October 4, 2023 at the age of 93. Beloved wife of 67 wonderful years to the late Allan Stewart (2020). Loving mother to Kimberly (Doug)

Glennie, Leslie Showers (Bill Chmura) and John (Julie) Stewart. Cherished Grandmother to Lindsay, Kylie, Kristy, Jamie, Allison, Tim, Ben, Sydney, Scott, and the late Steven. Great Grandmother to 12, with a 13th due very soon. Predeceased by her mother Mary Chantler (nee Macintosh) and her father Henry Chantler. Jane will be missed by sister Alison Smith.

Jane was born in Hamilton in 1930 and spent her early life in London, Ontario, where she met Allan through Young Peoples. They married in 1953 and moved to Hamilton where Jane worked at Bell Telephone. In 1954, Allan took a job in Montreal where they had their family. In 1965 they moved to Burlington where they settled for the rest of their days, until their final stop at Wildwood Care Centre in 2018.

Jane was a woman of great faith. She served God throughout her life quietly and gently touching everyone she knew. Jane made many wonderful memories at Knox Presbyterian Church. She was involved in CGIT (Canadian Girls in Training), Ladies Aid and was a church Elder.

Jane was the proud owner of The Golden Pear bed and bath boutique in Burlington and also worked with Allan at Heritage Wood Products. She worked part time at the post office and helped many people working at Telecare.

Jane was described as unassuming, gracious, non-judgemental, and kind. Everyone knew her to be an excellent hostess, good cook, and always positive no matter the situation. She demonstrated to all who knew her how to live a fulfilling and happy life. "If he brought me to it, He will see me through it".

We would like to thank the wonderful staff at Wildwood Care Centre for their excellent care.

Visitation at SMITH'S FUNERAL HOME, 1167 Guelph Line (one stop light north of QEW), BURLINGTON (905-632-3333), on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 from 9 a.m. until the time of the Celebration of Life at 10 a.m. Reception to follow. A private interment for the immediate family only will take place at Burlington Memorial Gardens.

For those who wish, donations can be made to The Alzheimer Society of Perth County, 1020 Ontario St. #5, Stratford, ON N5V 6Z3 or Knox Presbyterian Church, 461 Elizabeth St., Burlington, ON L7R 4B1. [www.smithsfh.com](http://www.smithsfh.com)

**OBITUARY**

*White*

Richard (Dick) David White peacefully passed away at home, surrounded by the love of his family on Friday, September 29, 2023, at the age of 75. Beloved husband of 51 years to Janice White (Hughes). Dear father of Jeremy (Kyla) of London and brother of Doug White (Beverly) of Orillia; brother-in-law of Barry Hughes, Bill and Lynne Rysnik, Brian and Marian Hughes, all of St. Marys; Shirley and Garry Waugh of Woodstock; and Brian and Julie Hartwick of Thornedale. Predeceased by son, David (Whitey) 2013; parents Wilbert and Beverly White; and in-laws Harry and Reta Hughes. Uncle to many special nieces and nephews.

Dick worked at the London Free Press for over 20 years and then at Sportswood Printing, retiring in 2013. A die-hard Toronto Maple Leaf fan and tired of waiting for them to win a Stanley Cup! Passionate about golf and enjoyed meeting so many special friends at both Hickory Ridge and in recent years, West Haven Golf and Country Club.

Visitation was held at Westview Funeral Chapel, 709 Wonderland Road North, London on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m., followed by a private family burial.

Those wishing to make a donation in memory of Dick, are asked to consider Ronald McDonald House Charities or a charity of your choice. For donation information or to leave an online condolence, please visit [www.westviewfuneralchapel.com](http://www.westviewfuneralchapel.com).

**OBITUARY**

*MacDonald*



John passed away in the comfort of his home on October 7, 2023. Born on September 15, 1925 in Inverlochy Castle near Fort William, Scotland, son of the late Dougald and Violet (Warren) MacDonald. Beloved husband of the late Doris (Waterhouse) MacDonald and beloved partner and constant companion of Doris Champion. Loving father of Iain (Janine), Lynne (Ray) and Bruce (Michelle). Proud and loving Papa of Michael (Cassandra), Heather (Kevin), Andrew (Melanie), Adrienne (Katharine), Richard (Amanda) and Colin (Lindsay). Delighted to be a great grandfather of Sarah, Alexander, Tasia, Madison, Aiden, Colin, Cameron, Liam, Paislee, Hannah, Skye, Bennet and Camryn. Dear brother to Thomas (1981), Alastair (2015), Barbara (2023), Roy (2016) and Jean (2011). The family would like to thank Dr. Berta and the nursing and home care team for their compassionate care.

Friends will be received at the Brock and Visser Funeral Home, 177 Dundas St., Thamesford, on Thursday October 12 from 12-2pm. Funeral Service will take place at 2pm in the funeral home chapel with interment to follow at St John's Anglican Cemetery, Thamesford.

Friends will be received at the Brock and Visser Funeral Home, 177 Dundas St., Thamesford, on Thursday October 12 from 12-2pm. Funeral Service will take place at 2pm in the funeral home chapel with interment to follow at St John's Anglican Cemetery, Thamesford.

**OBITUARY**

*Houghton*



Jean Walton Houghton, of Tavistock, passed away in Stratford General Hospital on Thursday, October 5, 2023, in her 103rd year.

She was born in Downie Township, Perth County on April 29, 1921, a daughter of the late John and Elizabeth (Hanson) Dunbar.

Jean was a "Paul Harris Fellow" of Rotary International and a member of Grace United Church in Tavistock. She married Russell Carson Houghton at St. Marys on January 5, 1943. He predeceased her on June 30, 1993. She was also predeceased by her son, Richard Houghton on July 29, 2008.

Jean is survived by five children, Sylvia Shackleton (Gavin Smith), Vernon Houghton (Diane), Mary Gatt (Theodore Lenssens), Thomas Houghton (Karen), William Houghton (Brenda Lee); her daughter-in-law, Cynthia Fowler-Houghton; eight grandchildren, Ryan Norrington, Destiny Shackleton, James Houghton, Benjamin Houghton, Lucas Houghton, Catherine Houghton, Emma Houghton, Bentley Houghton; four great grandsons, Jack, Logan, Frederick, Connor.

She was predeceased by her brother, Thomas Dunbar; her sisters, Mary Dunseith, Sarah Ham, Clara Arnold, Margaret Pearson, Anna Hardie-McCullough.

A funeral service to celebrate Jean's life will be held in Grace United Church, Tavistock on Sunday, October 15, 2023 at 2pm. The Rev. Marg Smith will officiate. Reception following. Interment in St Marys Cemetery at a later date.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to the United Church, Camp Bimini would be appreciated and may be made through the Francis Funeral Home by calling 519-655-2431.

Personal condolences can be posted at [www.francis-fh.ca](http://www.francis-fh.ca)

**CELEBRATION**



**Celebration of life for Ken Cole of St Marys**

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## COLUMN —

# Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

Fall is in the air, and what better way is there to celebrate than to make a fall gnome decoration for your door? Join us Wednesday, October 25th at 8:00pm at our next After Hours at the Library event for the Fall Gnome Door Hanging Make and Take. Customize a beautiful piece of fall décor while enjoying good company and refreshments. This is an 18+ event and there is a recommended donation of \$20 at the door. Visit the following page to sign up: [tinyurl.com/SMPL-Bookings!](http://tinyurl.com/SMPL-Bookings!)

## This Week's Recommendation

In nature, it is often those best suited to their environment that thrive. Such is also the case in Philip Reeve's "Mortal Engines" in which cities and towns are mobile and must consume each other to survive. London, the largest Traction City on our planet

post Sixty-Minute War, is quickly running out of resources. Here we find Tom, an apprentice who unwittingly finds himself stranded in the Out-Country after a mishap involving an assassin named Hester Shaw. Will Tom make it back onto London? Why is Hester determined to murder London's Head Historian? All is revealed in "Mortal Engines", available in both hard copy and on Libby.

## Up This Week

Friday, Oct. 13th: Crafty Tales (9:30am)

Saturday, Oct. 14th: Open 10:00am-4:00pm

Monday, Oct. 16th: Open 10:30am-8:00pm

Tuesday, Oct. 17th: Euchre\* (1:00pm-3:00pm), Writing Club - Ages 10-17 (6:00pm-7:00pm), Writing Club - Ages 18+ (7:00pm-8:00pm)

Wednesday, Oct. 18th: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30am), Mahjong Intro (1:00pm-2:00pm, 6:00pm-6:30pm), Mahjong! (2:00pm-4:00pm, 6:30pm-8:00pm)

Thursday, Oct. 19th: Euchre\* (6:00pm-8:00pm), Scrabble (6:00pm-8:00pm)

\*Registration is required

## IN MEMORIAM

*Sterkenburg*



In loving memory of a dear wife, mother & Omie, Debra Ann Sterkenburg, who passed away 1 year ago on October 10th, 2022.

Gone are the days we used to share

But in our hearts, you are always there.

The gates of memory will never close

We miss you more than anyone knows.

With tender love and deep regret

We who love you will never forget.

Love always, Barry; Darryl & Whitney; Brittany, Brett, Myla & Hudson



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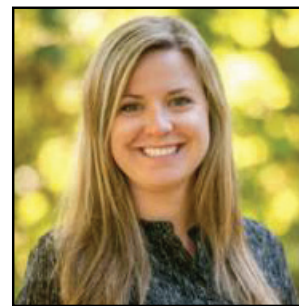
For further information or tender forms:

Waghorn, Stephens, Sipos and Poulton,  
Phone: 519-284-3640  
email: [ben.waghorn@waglaw.net](mailto:ben.waghorn@waglaw.net)

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or call 519-284-0041

## LOOKING BACK



By AMY CUBBERLEY

## Vet Purchasing expands

25 years ago (1998)

Rannoch and area residents are letting their voices be heard loud and clear that South Perth Centennial School should remain open. Over 400 people packed into the school's gymnasium last Wednesday during an information meeting about the potential closing of the school.

The new eight hospital partnership in Huron and Perth has its first President/CEO. Bonnie Adamson was appointed to the position late last week. Adamson is currently vice-president of Patient Networks and Alliances at the London Health Sciences Centre. There were a total of 86 applicants for the CEO job and 10 were granted interviews.

Veterinary Purchasing on Queen Street West is in the midst of a 42,000 square foot expansion.

50 years ago (1973)

According to the latest statistics, we have noticed St. Marys Collegiate football teams are not falling over end zones frantically. Both junior and senior entries are on the bottom of the pile with Goderich leading the Huron Perth Conference in both divisions.

The Western Horse Show held at the Flats on Monday was a highly successful event with an enthusiastic group of participants providing an excellent show. Everyone involved hopes that this Horse Show will become an annual event at Thanksgiving.

The present aluminum and glass doors on Town Hall will be changed to those originally ordered, bronze and glass. The change may not take place for about three months.

75 years ago (1948)

A few housewives have been doing their washing and ironing on Sundays to save electricity.

Work has started on foundation excavations for a new building on the Gleeson Motor property, corner of Wellington and Jones Streets. Stan Bean has the contract.

A West Ward lady saved a lot of electricity unintentionally recently. While attempting to make some housewifely electrical repairs she pulled the switch on two fuse boxes. Later she put one back on but forgot the other which was connected to a hot water tank. It was several days before this mistake was discovered.

100 years ago (1923)

It was the Journal Rambler's privilege to spend a few days in Detroit and he could not refrain from making a comparison between the city today and the city in the eighties. The big Ford factory resembles a bustling city covering 250 acres.

An unknown burglar entered the home of Miss Overholt, Peel Street, on Sunday evening while she was at church, and took a considerable sum of money from a purse left there. The police were notified but up to the present time have failed to find a clue to the missing money.

George Thompson's show window on Friday and Saturday last was the talk for the town. It was artistically laid out with the choicest of meats in tempting array. A well-decorated window is an asset to the town as well as a good advertisement for the merchant.

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**RUN YOUR CLASSIFIED AD HERE FOR JUST \$10 PER WEEK**

## QUIZ ANSWERS

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1)Nov 9, 1989      | 6)Buttercup   |
| 2)Steven Spielberg | 7)Arizona     |
| 3)Lima             | 8)A bull      |
| 4)8                | 9)Jack Morris |
| 5)Indigo           | 10)Venus      |

## SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

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This position has generally flexible hours July through January, and full-time February to June with extended hours throughout our busy season. This role is a contract.

The successful candidate must be friendly and personable, professional, detail oriented, good with numbers, and have strong computer skills, good organization skills, and able to multi-task in fast-paced environments. The position requires someone who is self-motivated, and able to work both independently and as part of a team.

Outlook and Excel and Word knowledge is required. Working knowledge of Simply Accounting, Quickbooks, and basic accounting knowledge would be considered strong assets, although we are willing to train the right person.

Being able to maintain the absolute privacy and confidentiality of client matters is paramount.

Willing to start immediately, or for the right person within two weeks.

**Please drop off your resume at Daryl McClure & Co CPA Professional Corporation**

**119 Water St S, St. Marys, or email to success@mcclureandco.com, or fax to 519-284-2878.**

**No phone calls please.**

*We thank you for your interest, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.*

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Applicants: please send resume and cover letter to louise@stonetowntravel.com and stew@stonetowntravel.com.



### HAPPY VALLEY FAMILY HEALTH TEAM

The Happy Valley Family Health Team is a dynamic team of professionals including 11 Family Physicians, Dietitian, Pharmacist, Mental Health Workers, Addictions Counsellor, Nurses, Nurse Practitioners and administrative support.

We currently have an opening for:

#### FULL-TIME PATIENT FLOW COORDINATOR

The Patient Flow Coordinator will be responsible for calling patients from the waiting room to the exam room, collecting and documenting height, weight, temperature and blood pressure in the Electronic Medical Record as required. Will also include administrative duties as assigned. The Patient Flow Coordinator must be able to communicate and work effectively on a multidisciplinary team. The Happy Valley Family Health Team has a mandatory vaccine policy.

**Please forward resume by October 16th 2023 to:**

Happy Valley Family Health Team

Attention: Kimberly Lang, Executive Director

268 Maiden Lane

P.O. Box 1120

St. Marys, ON

N4X 1B7

stmmc@stmmc.ca

*Thank you to all applicants who apply.*

*Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.*

*The Happy Valley Family Health Team welcomes and encourages applications from people with disabilities. Accommodations are available on request for candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process.*



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- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
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| <b>Mon. Oct. 02 - Brian Kittmer, St. Marys</b>          | <b>\$50.00</b>  |
| <b>Tues. Oct. 03 - Easy Lift Doors Ltd., St. Marys</b>  | <b>\$50.00</b>  |
| <b>Wed. Oct. 04 - Matt Coulthard, St. Pauls</b>         | <b>\$50.00</b>  |
| <b>Thur. Oct. 05 - Darrel Renecker, Stratford</b>       | <b>\$50.00</b>  |
| <b>Fri. Oct. 06 - Marg &amp; Mike Maslen, Stratford</b> | <b>\$50.00</b>  |
| <b>Sat. Oct. 07 - Shawn Rae, St. Marys</b>              | <b>\$200.00</b> |

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