

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1182

Thursday, October 26, 2023

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Happy Halloween!



Many local residents have gone to great lengths to decorate their homes for Halloween. One example is the McGregor house on Maxwell Street that is certainly welcoming to all ghosts and goblins.

Town hosting Coffee with Council on November 4

Event planned for 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at The Flour Mill

The Town of St. Marys is trying to brew up some buzz around its budget.

On Saturday, November 4, 2023, the Town is hosting Coffee with Council at The Flour Mill, located at 6 Water St. S. This informal, drop-in event will run from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and is open to all residents and ratepayers.

The coffee will be free, and so will the discussion around the budget. The idea is to give taxpayers a chance to ask questions and make comments in a casual environment. Several members of Council are planning to attend, including Mayor Al Strathdee.

"We invite all residents to come down, have a hot drink, and chat about the budget," said Strathdee. "This is a great opportunity to meet your councilors and support a local business."

The Town hosted a Coffee with Council event this past February after Council had met regarding the budget. This time, the goal is to get feedback earlier in the process to ensure the 2024 budget reflects the wants and needs of ratepayers.

This event is just one of several opportunities for the public to provide input on the budget. Council will meet to discuss the budget on November 21 and December 5 at 9:00 a.m., and January 9 and March 14 at 6:00 p.m. Residents can attend the meetings, submit questions in advance, or view the meetings on the Town's YouTube channel.

Additional information about the budget is available at www.townofstmarys.com/budget. Questions can be directed to André Morin, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer at 519-284-2340, ext. 217 or amorin@town.stmarys.on.ca.

GO Train service no longer available due to end of pilot project

A pilot project that brought GO train service to St. Marys came to an end on Friday, October 13, 2023.

The project was launched in 2021 and provided weekday GO train service between London and Toronto, with stops in St. Marys, Stratford, and other locations. The project was operating on a two-year trial basis and

has been discontinued by Metrolinx, GO's parent company.

VIA Rail service will continue to operate in St. Marys, despite changes to GO. Passengers are encouraged to purchase VIA rail tickets online (www.viarail.ca) or by phone (1-888-842-7245).

Continued on page 2

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COMMUNITY —

PC Connect ridership trending up

By Stewart Grant

Updated ridership numbers for the PC Connect bus transportation system through September show that use of the service is on the rise in St. Marys, despite the closure of the Perth County South route.

Both remaining bus routes serving St. Marys saw record ridership during the month of September.

Route 2, which travels from Kitchen-Waterloo to St. Marys, had ridership of 535 last month – an increase of 20% versus August’s 444 total. The previous ridership record for this route was 509 in June 2023.

Route 3, which goes from London to St. Marys to Stratford, had 415 riders in September – up 10% over the prior month (377), which had been the previous all-time high.

Across the entire PC Connect system (all routes), total September ridership was a record of 1,886. This is nearly double the September 2022 figure of 1,021 from one year ago.

Although more people are utilizing the service, the PC Connect program is only funded until March 31, 2025 when the financial commitment from the Province of Ontario expires.

Go Train service expires

Continued from page 1

A self-service computer is available at the train station for purchasing tickets online with a credit card; cash and gift cards are not accepted. A customer service attendant is on site to help passengers print tickets seven days a week from 10:15 to 11:15

a.m. and 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Questions about train service in St. Marys can be directed to Kelly Deeks-Johnson, Tourism and Economic Development Manager, at 519-284-2340, ext. 272 or kdeeks@town.stmarys.on.ca.

Hospital Auxiliary Sip & Shop

The St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary is winding up a successful year by hosting their popular Sip and Shop on Sunday November 12. The event welcomes shoppers to Riverwalk Commons, the beautifully renovated heritage building at 84 Water St. S. from 11:00 to 3:00 to browse their fall collection of garments and accessories from The Boutique along with vintage treasures from Tisket a Tasket, while enjoying light refreshments.

This event, along with the Auxiliary’s Bingo, spring raffle, summer garage

sale and the Easter and Thanksgiving Bake Sales generously hosted by Troyers, have enabled the Auxiliary to purchase three large pieces of equipment for the St. Marys Memorial Hospital.

Visit The Boutique at St Marys Memorial Hospital, open Monday to Friday 2:00 to 4:00 and commencing in November, Saturday 2:00 to 4:00. For more information about the Auxiliary and their events visit their Facebook page @ The Boutique at St Marys Memorial Hospital

Town aiming to improve safety of Church St. S and Jones St. E intersection

Changes are underway at the intersection of Church St. S and Jones St. E in St. Marys.

Starting this week, the Town will be taking several measures to improve safety at the corner, which has been the site of several collisions in recent years.

Council directed staff to review the intersection after hearing concerns from several residents. The review found that most accidents happen when an eastbound driver enters the intersection incorrectly. Drivers often enter the intersection incorrectly because their view is obstructed; they may also be less cautious because of the yield sign on Jones St E.

The resulting changes will include the replacement of the yield sign with a stop sign, the trimming and/or removal of trees and vegetation in the area, and the removal of street

parking spaces on Church St. S. “Hidden Intersection” signs will also be added to Church St.

Work in the area will be done throughout the week of October 23 to 27, 2023. There will be intermittent road closures while trees are removed and road lines are painted. Any trees taken down in the process will be replaced by three new trees elsewhere in town, as per the Town’s Forestry Management Policy.

Lost parking spaces will be offset by the number of new spaces that were added during the reconstruction of Wellington St. No accessible parking spaces will be removed through this process.

Questions about the project can be directed to Jed Kelly, Director of Public Works at 519-284-2340, ext. 244 or jkelly@town.stmarys.on.ca.

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7 Day Forecast - Weather Sponsored by The HITCHING POST

Wednesday Oct-25th	Thursday Oct-26th	Friday Oct-27th	Saturday Oct-28th	Sunday Oct-29th	Monday Oct-30th	Tuesday Oct-31st
Mainly cloudy	Cloudy showers	Cloudy showers	Sun/cloud	Rain	Cloudy showers	Sun/cloud
18°C	20°C	21°C	12°C	12°C	7°C	5°C
Feels Like 18	Feels Like 21	Feels Like 23	Feels Like 10	Feels Like 12	Feels Like 5	Feels Like 2

COMMUNITY —

St. Marys Public Library Pantry now open

By Wendy Lamond

St. Marys Public Library CEO Sarah Andrews shows off a few products from the pantry that are available for those in need. As we all know the cost of living has skyrocketed and you never know when you could be in a situation that requires some assistance. The library has found a solution to helping when possible. The pantry is stocked with non-perishable and fresh food, snacks, and has a fridge and freezer. The items are either provided through the library or donated by folks in the community from individuals or groups.

Recently added to the pantry are feminine hygiene products. It is a common necessity that often gets missed being talked about. Research indicates almost two thirds of people who menstruate in Canada have missed work or school because of lack of access to necessary products. The Huron-Perth period poverty task force has been working on fixing this issue and providing free access to these products is a great initiative. The group will engage in a range of activities, from resource sharing to improving access to current supply, to advocating for broader, more systemic long-term solutions for Huron-Perth. On October 16th every library in Huron-Perth has started to provide free access to these products in hopes of taking some financial strain off those that need it most.

The library also has a coffee corner that provides



warm coffee and hot chocolate and during the winter they will also have soup packs available.

If you would like to donate towards the library pantry, they will happily accept all donations as the purpose of it is to provide ample food in a safe, private environment for those that are experiencing difficulties and need the essentials.

Library Pantry
We're always looking for:

- canned tuna
- ham and chicken
- cooking oils
- rice
- crackers
- mayonnaise
- spices
- canned or dried fruit
- baking mixes that require only water added
- granola bars
- instant potatoes
- meals in a box
- spaghetti
- peanut butter
- dry soup
- canned soup
- chili or stews
- cereal
- dried milk
- stocks or broths
- canned beans
- pudding cups
- juice boxes/bottles
- toilet paper
- toothpaste
- shampoo
- menstrual pads
- pasta sauce
- granola bars

The library is open Monday – Thursday 10:30am-8pm, Friday 10:30am-5pm and Saturday 10am-4pm.

Upcoming events for the library include a Living Library event with best-selling author Karma Brown on November 1st at 7pm at the PRC and the annual book sale on Nov. 8th-11th.

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ST. MARYS GIVES 2023: WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOUR?



St. Marys Giving Tuesday 2023 is dedicated to Sheila Greason - a true giver and a neighbour to many

“*“Won't you be my Neighbour” is the theme for this year's Giving Tuesday. It of course conjures up the kind spirit of the PBS personality, Mr. Rogers, but how realistic a request is it in today's manic world?*

I can happily report that the kindness of neighbours is alive and thriving here in St Marys. A recent medical emergency had me housebound in excruciating pain, needing regular oversight of medications and meals. One neighbour stepped up to get me to the ER at our local hospital (which is staffed by wonderfully kind souls) and then a group “team” was formed with a number of neighbours ...unbeknownst to me...who took charge of checking in, delivering and monitoring meds, preparing meals and keeping me company during long days of recuperating. As someone who lives alone, this generosity of spirit provided the welcome shoulder of others to lean on, and of course my gratitude runs deep.

Just showing up and being there was the gift.

How many opportunities do we have every day to help someone in our community? It doesn't have to be a grand gesture, just something as simple as a passing smile or asking “how are you today?” will make a difference.

This November 28th will be a day to honour our neighbours and celebrate all that we share. Consider taking time to plot some neighbourly gestures or events surrounding this day. It will mean the world to someone you may not even know.

- JAR, St. Marys



Bravo

We have 2 Bravos this week.

1) Bravo to Dorota Klubowicz at St Marys Physiotherapy and Rehab clinic for inviting me to come in immediately when I was experiencing some debilitating pain last week. The fact that she was willing to pick up the phone late in the day, and then stay to help me was such a gift. Thank you.

2) Bravo to the St. Marys construction crews who made quick work to pave the Water St N. and Maxwell Street roads.

Boo

We have 1 Boo this week.

1) Boo to the people who drive too fast down Church Street South and contribute to the high volume of accidents at Jones Street. The speed limit should be reduced to 40 km/h in this area to encourage people to slow down in this area.



*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

"I'm super proud, obviously, Canada has a big presence at these Games and I really hope my victory is motivating and inspiring for the rest of the athletes."

Orillia resident Gunnar Holmgren on winning Canada's first gold medal at the Pan Am games in mountain biking.

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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All hockey families will no longer remember a quiet weekend at home for the coming months.

Good to see the roads getting paved. They will be in good shape for the winter.

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!

St. Marys Independent

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The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS
OF THE WEEK

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Newcomers Welcome Package Program

Deadline for 2024 Sponsorship payment extended to **November 6th**

Just a few more days to be a 2024 Sponsor

If you are a business or service operating in the St. Marys or Perth South community, we would welcome your sponsorship of this program. For an annual cost of \$100, you could introduce yourself to new residents and put your promotional material directly into their hands. Welcome packages are distributed to newcomers free through the St. Marys Public Library and prepared by the Friends of the Library.

For more information email friendsofstmaryspubliclibrary@gmail.com

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 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 or 519-284-2160

EARLYON PLAY & SKATE

Thursdays, 1:30 - 3 PM | Pyramid Centre

Come out and enjoy some ice time and then take a break and explore engaging and fun activities off the ice. Helmets are required for all under 16 years.

townofstmarys.com/earlyon or 226-374-6544



ST. MARYS MUSEUM FALL SEMINAR SERIES

The popular museum seminar series returns for its eleventh season! Join the museum for stories of local Amish families in the community on Nov. 16 at 7 PM.

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Seniors of the Week



Our seniors of the week are Bev and Isa Rabbets. The two will be celebrating their 60th anniversary on October 26th. The couple have two children, Tracy and Andrew, a son-in-law Darrin and daughter-in-law Melissa. They have four grandchildren and one of them just recently got married. Bev was born in Corinth Ontario and Isa was born in Markinch Scotland. Bev enjoys doing Sudoku puzzles and Isa loves scrapbooking and making greeting cards.

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

COMMUNITY —

Synterra Security Solutions establishes new location in St. Marys



Synterra moved to the southeast corner of Jones and Water street earlier this month. They were previously located on Elgin St. East. Synterra Security Solutions was founded in 2011 by Mark and Scott McIntosh with an idea of making a difference with First Nation communities. They provide security to some of the largest gold producers in the world. Their employees reside across the province but the head office is located in St. Marys. Although they control security and access to remote exploration and mining locations, they are also able to provide companies with highly-trained security and personnel to make sure your work site is secure. The company is a proud member of the Canadian Council for aboriginal business. (Stewart Grant photo)

Weekend Quiz

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- 1) What two countries did Halloween originate from?
- 2) What do you say when you arrive at the door for candy?
- 3) When did the Salem Witch Trials take place?
- 4) Who is the iconic villain in the Halloween movie franchise?
- 5) What zodiac sign is associated with Halloween?
- 6) What are Dracula's primary weaknesses?
- 7) What is another name for a carved pumpkin?
- 8) In what year did Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' premier on MTV?
- 9) What do you call a group of witches?
- 10) Who you gonna call?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31



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COMMUNITY —

Adult Learning offering GED testing until 2024

Financial support available to cover testing costs

Adult Learning Programs of Perth is assuring residents that it will continue to offer GED preparation and testing until 2024 in response to upcoming changes to the program.

The General Educational Development (GED)[®] test allows adults who have not finished secondary school the opportunity to earn an Ontario High School Equivalency Certificate signed by the Minister of Education.

Those interesting in obtaining their GED must register to write the test by January 31, 2024, and must schedule their test dates by March 31, 2024, based on a decision by Pearson Vue GED Testing Service (GEDTS) to no longer provide the testing service in Canada.

Adult Learning offers a free GED

preparation program for those planning to take the test. The program helps GED candidates improve their reading, writing and math skills, and provides self-study materials for science and social studies.

Adult Learning can also help candidates book their GED test and provide financial support to cover the testing fee. Candidates are encouraged to contact Adult Learning at 519-284-4408 or alearning@town.stmarys.on.ca to start the process.

Candidates can also visit the Adult Learning office to speak directly with staff. The office is located at 47 Water St. S. and is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Jane Anderson acknowledged for 40 years at BMO



The staff at the Bank of Montreal celebrated a long time employee's milestone. Jane Anderson has been with the bank for 40 years and has been involved in various roles over the years with the majority of it being at the St Marys branch. From left to right Amanda DCosta, Sherry Cookson, Tristin Lovric, Michelle Rovers and Jane Anderson.



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COMMUNITY —

Bridging Business and Local Governance Luncheon

By Amanda Modaragamage, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

On October 18 the Stratford and District Chamber of Commerce and the town of St. Marys hosted a Commerce luncheon at the St. Marys Pyramid Centre in appreciation of Small Business Week.

Small Business Week is an opportunity to celebrate the big ideas contributing to our communities and bring attention to the challenges that inhibit their growth and innovation.

This Bridging Business and Local Governance Luncheon hosted by Eddie Matthews, Stratford and District Chamber of Commerce General Manager, was an informal discussion where Matthews sat down with Mayor Al Strathdee for the first time since before the pandemic to discuss local business and ongoing governance across St. Marys.

Food for the event was purchased from local businesses, including Social 31 at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club, Gilley's, Snapping Turtle and Tutt Co.

Matthews started the discussion with budget questions related to local business. Mayor Strathdee did mention that he was optimistic about the outlook of the current budget; however, he does note, similar to all towns across Ontario post-COVID-19, "it's no secret that we're trying to play catch up."

The mayor told Matthews about the concerns across small towns and said, "We don't have deep pockets, but we really tried to focus on servicing the industries that are here, because when they grow, we grow."

The mayor expressed his support for the local small business culture in St. Marys, "I think St. Marys is a good



Eddie Matthews and Mayor Al Strathdee at the Bridging Business and Local Governance Luncheon on October 18, 2023.

place to do business because people care about the community and we have a tendency to support small business," he said, "there's always been a good entrepreneurial spirit, partially because of the agricultural society here."

When discussing the town's infrastructure, Strathdee mentioned issues regarding last year's sewer maintenance on Huron Street and his concerns with financial support from other levels of government lacking, "We're not seeing any money from the other levels of government. Nothing's going to the rural areas. We are being left behind. That's just the reality."

The mayor discussed essential services, including a full-time social worker the town hired to help man-

age homelessness and other social issues in St. Marys. Strathdee openly discussed how vital this service is to the town and how it's playing a big part in helping with homelessness.

Regarding the volunteer firefighters, Strathdee noted that many small towns have a hard time retaining volunteers due to the rigorous training and steps needed to maintain the status; however, he notes his appreciation for businesses across St. Marys who understand volunteer firefighters' emergency status and allow them to be a part of such an essential service, "we're lucky in St. Marys because we have wonderful employers and a real sense of community that allows employees to be part-time firefighters and work on a call."

Similar to the stance Stratford City

Council has regarding intracity connection with transportation services such as the Go Train, Strathdee notes that St. Marys City Council also feels these essential services need to be a priority, "The government needs to make passenger rail a priority," he said, "there's a lot of behind the scenes politics between Metrolinx and CN controlling the tracks. Quite frankly, a lot of it comes down to the more freight is moving on the lines, the less availability they have for passenger transport." He continued to say that the town of St. Marys is staying optimistic and hopes to see changes to this in the future.

Regarding the current housing crisis, the mayor discussed the urgency of affordable housing availability in St. Marys, "We do have a goal of increasing our housing supply over the next several years, and we put policies in place," he continued, "interest rates have gone from one or two percent, and therefore, we're finding many of our developers have put plans on hold due to costs."

This, along with other barriers to housing, does not leave the mayor very hopeful regarding fixing the housing crisis anytime soon, "It's going to take time; this isn't something that can be fixed overnight," he stated.

Although hopeful and optimistic about several things with regards to the state of St. Marys, Strathdee does note concern regarding post-pandemic issues that have affected everyone across Ontario and specifically small towns; according to Strathdee, "Housing, jobs and transportation are all interconnected," he said, "How can we get people to move here without a place to live? The industry is crying for help, and many can't work without appropriate transportation."



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SPORTS —

Lincolns falter on the road, dominant at home

By Spencer Seymour

The highs felt incredibly high and the lows felt equally as low last week for the St. Marys Lincolns when they played three games in four days.

It all began last Wednesday when the Lincs went to London for a heavy-weight tilt against the Nationals. Just hours before gametime, the storyline of the game was altered significantly with three major acquisitions announced. For St. Marys, it was 2023 Sutherland Cup Champion Billy Van Sumeren being acquired by the Lincolns from the Leamington Flyers. In 49 games last year, Van Sumeren posted 23 goals and 34 points for the Flyers. He added eight goals and 15 points in 24 playoff games. The 20-year-old from Midland, Michigan stands six-foot-five and weighs 220 pounds.

General Manager Pat Powers was excited for the big man to join the highly skilled Lincolns forward group.

“Billy is a proven winner and goal scorer and will be a great addition to our top six,” said Powers. “He allows us to move some guys into more suitable positions for our team to be better balanced. Being six-foot-five, he will be tough to contain in the offensive zone with his strength and nose for the net.”

The Lincolns subsequently dealt forward Wes Wilding to the St. Thomas Stars for cash considerations.

After Talan Palmer opened the scoring four minutes and nine seconds into the game for London, Powers’ words proved prophetic as the big man, parked right in front of the London net on the powerplay, pounced on a rebound from a point shot by fellow Michigander and former Flyer James Sigmon and tied things up at one apiece. Sigmon and Adam Barkley picked up the assists.

A scoreless second period was followed by three goals in three minutes and 45 seconds to open the third. First, it was Colton Chipman busting down the right side to walk in behind the St. Marys net and tuck in a wrap-around. Just under two minutes later, the Lincs were back on the powerplay and this time, Marcus Dashevsky banged home the tying goal. The lone

assist went to Josh Cornfield.

Six seconds later, Josh Ruelland fired a long shot that snuck through Carter McDougall. One of the Nats’ two mid-day acquisitions Blake Arrowsmith, a 2023 third round pick of the London Knights, assisted on the goal. London also reacquired Lucas Chard from Leamington, who had 19 goals and 66 points last year.

At the 15:10 mark, Jeremy Hirsh extended London’s lead to two. With 34 seconds left, Noah VandenBrink found another powerplay marker to cut the lead to one but that was as close as the Lincolns came.

Best game of year earns Lincs 4-1 win over Rockets

After a disappointing result 48 hours previously, Head Coach Jeff Bradley was thrilled to watch his team play unquestionably their best game of the year when they downed the Strathroy Rockets 4-1 last Friday at the PRC.

“We needed a performance like that,” Bradley told the Independent. “We needed a game where we dominated and it was nice to finally get that. That was for sure our best game of the year. Which isn’t to say that we’ve been bad this season, for the most part, we’ve been good. We’re in a process of trying to put everything together, everyone is trying to get things right, and against Strathroy, it looked like it had all come together the best it has so far this season.”

Although the game was scoreless through 20 minutes, Bradley felt very good about the way his team was trending, which proved to be an accurate assessment as the second frame was the Lincolns’ most visually dominant period of their young season.

“I thought the first period was really good and it was a sign of things to come. The second period was great, I went into the dressing room after the second and said ‘I can tell you guys are hungry for goals.’ We had good net-front presence, we had lots of shots, and our forecheck was really good. They kept up that hunger in the third while keeping it smart to close it out. I honestly thought everyone was great, there wasn’t anyone’s performance who we were unhappy with.”

In the second period, Matt Pren-

dergast and Owen Voortman put on one of their multiple excellent penalty killing efforts, capped off with a shorthanded marker scored by Prendergast and assisted by Voortman. Two-and-a-half minutes later, VandenBrink made it four straight games with a goal as he made it a two-goal St. Marys lead. Linemates Van Sumeren and Weir picked up the helpers.

VandenBrink’s goal was the first of three for that line’s members as Weir got back on the scoresheet with his second of the season. The eldest Cornfield brother along with Voortman were credited with the helpers.

The Lincs’ otherwise incredible period was blemished with 15 seconds left as Ethan Facchina rocketed a one-timer into the net after an aggressive forecheck by the Lincolns took an unfortuitous bounce and gave Strathroy an odd-man rush. Bradley explained that the late-period goal was a matter of an unfavourable bounce rather than any mistake made by his squad.

“We weren’t mad about that goal at all because they were doing what we asked them to do. We’ve got an offensive zone draw late in the period and if we get one, it could put them away. Unfortunately, the shot got blocked somewhat and Strathroy was able to go back down and score. When you give up that late goal in a period, it can be easy for teams to get into a shell a little bit but I don’t think we did that at all.”

In the third, a beautiful three-way passing play started by VandenBrink and Weir was finished off by Van Sumeren who pounded it into the back of the net. On a night when every line looked strong, that aforementioned trio looked other-worldly.

“Those are three real hockey players and they were awesome. They don’t just care about scoring and celebrating, they do things right. Ethan has been great in the faceoff dot and he’s young so any information you give him, he wants to use it and get better. Noah is a winner, he chose to come back here and wants to do the right things to make this team succeed. And Billy, when we played against him, you knew he was a good player but when you’re seeing him first-

hand every night, he’s a heavy player, he finishes checks, and he can slow the play down when needed. He’s just a really good, smart player.”

Lincs fall 6-3 in Sarnia

Just 24 hours later, the good vibes were halted by the Sarnia Legionnaires who doubled up the Lincolns 6-3.

Although not their best period, the Lincs were thoroughly in the game at the end of the first as they trailed 2-1, with their lone goal coming from Chase MacQueen-Spence. They totally took over the game in the second, outshooting Sarnia 14-2 and utterly

Continued on page 11

**GOJHL STANDINGS
Western Conference**

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS
LaSalle Vipers	12	9	3	0	0	18
London Nationals	11	8	3	0	0	16
Strathroy Rockets	12	8	4	0	0	16
St. Marys Lincolns	11	6	5	0	0	12
Sarnia Legionnaires	11	5	5	1	0	11
St. Thomas Stars	13	4	8	0	1	9
Chatham Maroons	12	4	8	0	0	8
Komoka Kings	14	2	12	0	0	4

**St. Marys Lincolns
2023-24 Player Statistics**

PLAYER	POS	GP	G	A	PTS
Chase MacQueen-Spence	F	11	6	6	12
Adam Barkley	D	11	2	7	9
Noah VandenBrink	F	11	4	4	8
Ethan Weir	F	6	3	4	7
Matthew Prendergast	F	11	3	3	6
Marcus Dashevsky	F	9	1	5	6
Josh Cornfield	D	10	0	6	6
Colton Henderson	F	9	3	2	5
Wesley Wilding	F	7	2	3	5
Luke Bogart	D	10	2	3	5
Jaden Lee	F	9	4	0	4
Owen Voortman	F	11	1	3	4
Luca Spagnolo	F	7	0	4	4
Ryan Hodkinson	F	9	0	4	4
Bill VanSumeren	F	3	2	1	3
Blake Elzinga	F	8	2	1	3
Jimmy Schiedel	F	10	1	2	3
Ryder Livermore	D	11	0	3	3
Ryan Cornfield	F	10	2	0	2
James Sigmon	D	7	0	2	2
Jacob Montesi	D	11	0	2	2
Jaden Shiell	F	5	0	0	0

GOALIE	RECORD	GAA	SV%
Colby Booth-Housego	3-1-0-0	1.65	0.935
Carter McDougall	3-4-0-0	3.16	0.880



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SPORTS —

U12 Snipers continue dominance on home ice

By Spencer Seymour

Once again, the U12 St. Marys Snipers' excellent combination of skill and comradery lifted them to a dominant blowout victory at the PRC last Saturday morning over the visiting squad from Tillsonburg.

Two players had six-point games including Olivia McCutcheon who had a hat-trick and three assists as well as Lillian Garniss who recorded two goals and four helpers. Madison McCutcheon joined Olivia as she also scored a hat-trick as part of a five-point effort.

Lyla Habermehl, Kenzie Shackleton, and Ava Bastien all had three-point games, while Meredith Stokes and Brenna Bearss each found the back of the net twice. Kyla Graham had a goal and an assist, while Mary McCutcheon and Amara Grant both had a goal.

The team enjoyed such impressive dominance thanks in large part to their experience, with much of the



Madison McCutcheon sends a pass to the slot during the U12 St. Marys Snipers game last Saturday. (Photo by Spencer Seymour)

team being returnees from last year's squad. However, against Tillsonburg, already-stellar ring movement was taken to an even higher level with the girls routinely completing high-skill

passing plays.

Head Coach Evan Habermehl couldn't say enough good things about the team's performance.

"The ring movement was indeed another focus of the game and trying to include as many players as possible in the offensive end. They did a great job of making lots of passes and looking for the open player. We have been trying to get them to be more patient with the ring and that seemed to be a bit of a success [last Saturday]."

Another key element for the group was the very clear amount of fun they were having on the ice together, which Habermehl recognized as a major key to the team's focus.

"Having fun is honestly the name of the game. We as a staff continue to preach to them to have fun and play their game every game. The support for each other is awesome. They'll be high-fiving each other because they performed a passing play really well instead of just taking a shot immediately. When they are having fun and playing as a team, they are amazing to watch and coach."

Lincolns falter on the road, dominant at home

Continued from page 10

dominating the play. Weir finished off a two-on-one to make it a 2-2 game. However, a juicy giveaway with two minutes left in the middle stanza was pounced on by the Legionnaires who capitalized and took a 3-2 lead into the intermission.

In the third, two goals in the first two minutes and two seconds, one of which came off of another egregious turnover by the Lincolns in their own zone, not only put the Legionnaires ahead by three in the blink of an eye, but also chased McDougall from the net in favour of Booth-Housego. Bar-

kley scored a late powerplay goal but an empty-netter by the Legionnaires sealed their victory.

Back in the first frame, the Lincs thought they had another goal when the line of Jimmy Schiedel, Blake Elzinga, and Colton Henderson crashed the net and nearly buried. That line received praise from Bradley following the game.

"Jimmy is such a smart player and what we need from him is to be a trustworthy player to send out in any situation, work hard, and be tough to play against. For the most part, I thought Jimmy as well as his line-

mates Blake [Elzinga] and Colton [Henderson] did a really good job at doing that."

Even though the team felt that they had let one slip away from them, Bradley reiterated the positive trends that the group is seeing.

"Growth wise, we feel like we've made good progress and our game is in good shape. We're continuing to plug the holes in our game. One thing we wanted to improve on in these last few games is getting hungrier around the net and we did a much better job of that against Strathroy and Sarnia."

"Looking at last year compared to this year, I think our grasp of concepts and

systems has come along a lot quicker," Bradley continued. "We had a very difficult time having a responsible forward high in the zone so that we can activate our defenders down the wall. That was something that took us until February to really execute well last season and we've already gotten to a good point with that in October of this year."

The Lincolns once again play back-to-back games this weekend when they host a rematch from last Wednesday against the Nationals this Friday before they make their first trip of the season to Komoka to do battle with the Kings.

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SPORTS —

DCVI Cross-Country team enjoys great results at H-P Championships

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys DCVI Cross-Country team had excellent results at the Huron-Perth Championships last Thursday.

Collectively, the St. Marys boys won the Overall Boys Team for the lowest score across all age categories. This included DCVI's Novice Boys winning their division and the Huron-Perth title. In the Novice Boys division, Charlie Bender finished first while Abe Bender captured third and Nic Brintnell rounded out the top five in the fifth spot. Vaughn Barr took seventh with Ben Robson coming in ninth.

On the Girls' side of the Novice division, Charlotte Richardson came in second. Alanna Savile added a fourth-place finish and Holly Black took sixth.

The top two spots in the Junior Boys were occupied by Salukis as Kaleb Dingman finished first with Myles Clinton coming in second.

On the Junior Girls' side, Bronwyn Hawkins finished first in dominant fashion, winning her race by over a minute.

Two of the top three spots in the Seniors Girls' competition were claimed by St. Marys students with Charlotte Clinton earning first and Abbey Taylor



Pictured is the St. Marys DCVI Cross-Country team who picked up a strong slate of results at the Huron-Perth Championship last Thursday. Pictured in the front row from left to right are Charlotte Richardson, Alanna Savile, Holly Black, and Bronwyn Hawkins. In the middle row, from left, are Mac Hern, Nic Brintnell, Zach Matheson, Ben Robson, Kaleb Dingman, and Myles Clinton. In the back row, from left, are Abbey Taylor, Eden Robson, Ezra Bender, Oliver Black, Charles Black, Layne McIntosh, Abe Bender, Vaughn Barr, Charlie Bender, Charlotte Clinton, Bailey Ross, and Coach Megan Bryan. (Contributed photo)

lor picking up third.

Ezra Bender and Charles Black raced in the Senior Boys category and respectively took fifth and sixth place. Overall, the Senior Boys team from St. Marys, including the two aforementioned racers as well as Oliver Black and Layne McIntosh, placed third.

Head Coach Megan Bryan talked to the Independent about what impressed her most about this year's Cross-Country team.

"Their work ethic and dedication have been really impressive," said Bryan. "We always have a big turnout to practices and they show up ready to

work hard. They always push themselves to do their best at races."

Bryan added that a major reason for the team's success this season has been the group's tight-knit bonds.

"They are very supportive of each other. On race days, you rarely find them sitting around. If they aren't racing, they are helping hold the team's place on the line, participating in the team chant before each race, and cheering each other on throughout the course."

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SPORTS —

Minor Sports Scrapbook



Brooke Hahn gets by an opposing defender to take the ring to the net during the U14 St. Marys Snipers game last Saturday.



Alex Harlton fires a shot on goal during this past Sunday's Hitching Post U11 C Girls St. Marys Rock game.



Jaynie Johnston leans into a shot during the U11 B Girls St. Marys Rock game this past Sunday.



Tony Fluttert drives the net and gets a shot on goal during this past Sunday's U9 LL Boys Three St. Marys Rock game.



Brynlee Pickel drops into the butterfly to stop an incoming shot during this past Sunday's U13 HL Girls St. Marys Rock game.



Emma Carradine gets the last touch on a Home Hardware Building Centre U15 C Girls' goal in their game this past Sunday.

SPORTS —

Graham sinks two holes-in-one in five days



Scoring a hole-in-one is an impressive feat as it stands but Steve Graham of St. Marys recently pulled off a downright unbelievable stat, draining two aces in the span of five days at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club. Graham's incredible pair of tee-offs included an ace on hole #18 with an eight-iron followed by a hole-in-one on #16 with the driver just five days later. (Contributed photo)

Men's Slo Pitch League holds annual golf tournament



Pictured from left to right are Norm Penney, Kenny Hutton, Jase Doucette, and Josh Drinkwalter (not pictured was Mark Mohr), the winning team in the St. Marys Men's Slo-Pitch League's annual golf tournament. The team shot a 10-under-par to claim victory in the tournament, narrowly edging out two teams who finished with a nine-under-par. The tournament saw 100 golfers making up 25 teams. Jamey Snow won the Longest Drive while the Longest Putt was won by Greg Wolfkamp and Devin Heinbuck took the Closest to the Plate. Closest to the Pin honours went to Dan Anderson. Speaking on his team's victory, Doucette told the Independent that "each of us contributed with big shots and everyone was hitting the ball really well." The tournament was hosted at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club and the league thanks its sponsors, the St. Marys Lincolns, DFK Farm Equipment, Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, and Core Fuels. (Contributed photo)



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SPORTS —

Several players step up in DCVI Jr. Girls' victory

By Spencer Seymour

Last Thursday saw the St. Marys DCVI Junior Girls basketball team pick up a dominant 46-12 victory over the visiting Listowel Lightning.

According to Coach Tim O'Connor, the win saw several players who haven't typically been called upon to log big minutes have the opportunity to enjoy a larger role on the court. A task that they were clearly up for, said O'Connor, while also noting the team still has a couple of elements of their game to fine-tune.

"We were missing a few key players so it allowed us to give some other kids more chances to score and try some different things offensively. I would say

we did pretty well but as always, there are things we need to practice a bit more. We're still learning to be strong with the ball in traffic."

Offensively, the high offensive output was led by Marin Chateauvert and Claudia Laino. O'Connor also noted several other players who turned in strong performances

"With a few players missing, we needed other players to step up," O'Connor continued. "I thought we got great games out of Cammie Lobb, Sophie Richardson, and Marieke Van Lierop. Those three looked eager to be playing bigger roles and I could really see the confidence of all three of them growing as the game went along."



Cammie Lobb takes the ball to the basket during last Thursday's St. Marys DCVI Junior Girls basketball game. (Photo by Spencer Seymour)

DCVI Sr. Girls dominant against Listowel

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys DCVI Senior Girls basketball team was excellent at both ends of the court in their game last Thursday, a 44-15 rout of the visiting Listowel Lightning.

Head Coach Monica Ryan praised the team for their aggressive tenacity in retrieving possession.

"I loved their intensity on both sides

of the ball," Ryan told the Independent. "We worked on a full-court, man-to-man defence, and I think they did a good job with it. And, just as importantly, I think it allowed them to bring that intensity to their offence as well."

Anna Ropp led the team in points with 12 while Eden Sinnett added eight and Paige Barr scored six. Ryan believed that, up to that point, no game

had featured as high an intensity level from the St. Marys Senior Girls.

"It was the most intense we've been on the ball so far this season. It's really important for us to bring that kind of aggressiveness. We've had some slow starts this year against teams that we need to be able to compete with so seeing them bring that kind of intensity is great because it's what we will need to bring in the playoffs."

"We caused a lot of turnovers which helped us score a bunch of layups," continued Ryan. "We are a very fast team but we also are very physically strong so when we're able to create that many layup opportunities for ourselves puts us in a really good position. They also talked a lot on the court today which is also something we've been trying to do more of so it was good to hear them communicating more and more."

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SPORTS —

Van de Bevel wins YBC Bantam Singles title



On Sunday October 22, at the St. Marys Bowling Lanes, James Van de Bevel won the Boys YBC Bantam Zone Singles Championship by 83 points. Van de Bevel will participate in the Provincials on December 3rd in Woodstock. Other recent results for local bowlers include Leia Slaney placing fourth in the Bantam Girls competition, narrowly missing third place by five points. At the Junior Boys Singles in Stratford, Jack Brockman placed fourth and Nathan McKeen placed sixth. At the YBC Senior Singles in New Hamburg, Rory Brockman and Tyler Sims both turned in strong showings but didn't quite crack the finals. (Contributed photo)

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ARTS & CULTURE —

Beyond Butterflies and Bees



Students from Little Falls P.S.

By James Giles, Edited by Alice Rixson

A lifelong concern and mindfulness of environmental importance and its global impact inspired Cameron Porteous, the curator of the Station Gallery in St. Marys, to feature an art exhibit about the necessity of insects for pollination.

Towards that goal, Little Falls Public School and South Perth Centennial Public School were invited to participate to have young students (ages seven to 13) create artwork with the theme of butterflies and bees as essential in the very large group of our pollinating insects.

So why all the buzz and fuss about creating artwork for this public exhibition? Maybe readers' thoughts are that our elementary schools need only to focus on subjects such as the three "R's" - reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic.

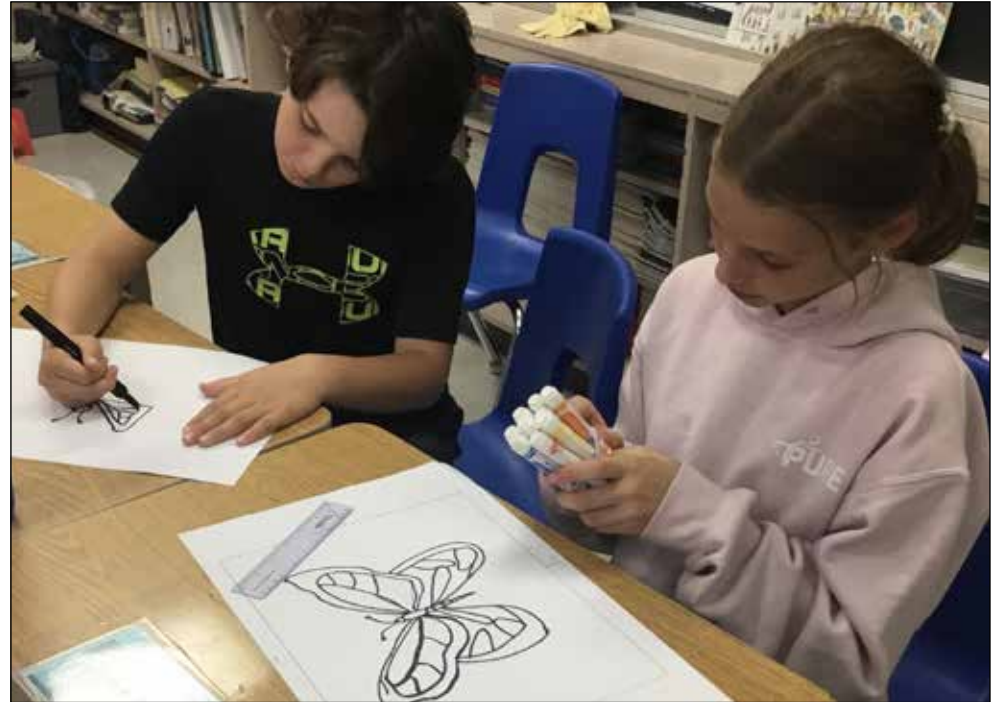
Richard Louv, author of *The Nature Principle and The Last Child in the Woods*, has coined the term "nature-deficit disorder" to describe how a generation of kids has been deprived of time outside to explore and interact with nature and to observe the natural cycles of life. He asserts

that the more high-tech our lives become, the more we need to interact in nature to achieve balance.

Learning encompasses so much more than just teaching the basic scholarly skills. For example, students at Little Falls have been exploring the outdoors and connecting with nature for some time.

Vice Principal Lori Turk explains that students from Grade 1 to 6 didn't approach their art project just to create pretty pictures for the exhibition at the Station Gallery. Some teachers integrated science, for instances, by bringing in a butterfly chrysalis and explaining about pollinators, like monarch butterflies. Rounding up the Arts theme, a primary educator taught students about brush strokes techniques and mixing colours.

Many have heard of the *Group of Seven* - Canada's first internationally recognized art movement. Founded in 1920, it was a school of landscape painters focused on modern art. *The Group* was united in the belief that distinct Canadian art could be developed through direct contact with the country's vast and unique landscape. One of the founding members of this worldwide recognized group of art-



Students from South Perth Centennial P.S.

ists was Arthur Lismer (1885-1969), a painter and educator who wrote, "Inside each one of us is an artist... a child who has never lost the gift of looking at life with curiosity and wonder. Art is not the exclusive possession of those who can draw, write poems, make music or design buildings. It belongs to all who can see their way through all things with imagination." (*Art and Understanding*, Art Gallery of Ontario Archives, Lismer's Lecture Notes).

The ability to experience, create and respond to the Arts is inherent in all children. Since the evolution of the human race, people have been self-contained artists, equipped and delighted to hum, draw, whistle, sing, sculpt, move, clap their hands and dance. Preschool and when first introduced to formal education, children make sense of their world through play, movement, music, imagination and artistic expression.

The Arts are a way of learning and personifying forms of compound intelligence and multiple techniques of perceptiveness. Mounting brain development research supports Arts education as a way for students to develop the capacity to achieve higher

levels of skills, such as problem-solving, creativity, communication, reasoning, discipline, reflective and critical thinking. There is a correlation between the Arts and academic success that inspires students to become more motivated and engaged. Improvement materializes in literacy, mathematical skills and other studies. The Arts are also a "feel good" alternative, developing self-confidence and direction in students who may be tempted to choose an alternative, self-destructive life style.

Arts educator, Bonnie Anthony has developed Curricular Connections in the Arts for elementary school educators. This resource is available upon request to any educator who plans to visit the Gallery and to view this exhibition.

Let's strive to ensure that a stronger focus on the Arts is introduced into and maintained in the curriculum of our educational system. Plan to view the upcoming generation of creative thinkers and artists at the Station Gallery in St. Marys until December 2.

Please send comments and proposed topics for Arts articles to smindependentsarts@gmail.com

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COMMUNITY —

Inner Wheel Club of St. Marys hosts AGM

By Wendy Aitken

The Inner Wheel Club of St. Marys hosted the Annual General Meeting for District 707 on October 13 and 14th.

Members from Ottawa and Cobourg arrived by car and train on Friday while members from Montreal and the west joined in virtually for the meeting which was held at the Westover Inn on Saturday.

We were very pleased that Mayor Al Strathdee was able to pay a visit and give a warm welcome to our guests.

Following the meeting, former St. Marys resident, Paul King spoke about noteworthy women in St. Marys' past, and provided a booklet with key information.

The guests had time to explore our town and were impressed with the historical buildings, the Grand Trunk Trail, the shops and the feeling of community.

The Inner Wheel Club of St. Marys

wants to thank the many businesses who donated to our guests' gift bags.

What is Inner Wheel?

It is an international Women's Organization that promotes friendship and fosters international understanding. There are 4000 clubs worldwide (100,000 members in 100 countries) with four NGO members at the United Nations.

Inner Wheel gives women the opportunity to connect and use their intelligence, and capabilities to benefit society at large. It has only one requirement, and that is the desire to serve.

In our community, the Inner Wheel Club of St. Marys supports the food bank, GOALS breakfast program, the United Way, Stonetown Heritage Festival, Winter Lights, Station Gallery, and All Wheels Park.

You can learn more about the Inner Wheel organization on the internet or you can contact Wendy at 519-284-2110.



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Happy Valley
Family Health Team

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).

THORNDALE WEEKLY NEWS

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Thorndale's Muscle Man

By Nancy Abra

Earlier this month, Ryan Reed of Thorndale placed 2nd in the Men's Classic Physique Juniors at the Canadian National Pro Qualifier in Toronto. "I have trained and worked hard this year" Reed said, "and I am proud of my accomplishment."

Usually, body building isn't a conventional career. Sometimes the path chosen is due to past circumstances, not so much on what one initially sets out to do.

"All through public school I was small" remarked Reed. "And once I got to high school at Lord Dorchester, I was still small. Smaller than most of the guys my age. I was picked on in grade 9 and bullied a bit. I was in the music program and my passion was music. I loved playing the drums. But being picked on changed my attitude about myself. I guess this developed into a personal challenge. I started doing some weights in my spare time in high school. I wanted to be proud

of myself" Reed stated. "My Dad and I put together a small weight and work out room at our home. I watched videos and trained hard, and this developed into a passion and is now my career."

Reed says he loves going to the gym and trains 2 1/2hr six days a week which includes weights and cardio. He focuses on good nutrition, heart health and digestion in building good muscle growth.

"Being a good or winning body builder in a competition" remarked Reed, "isn't all about big muscles. It is conditioning, a passion and the performance. We perform with music and fluid movements, our facial expressions with a commanding presence on stage is all part of the competition. It is an art."

Reed plans to focus on his training and muscle growth as he prepares for competitions next year and continues to develop on the sport he absolutely loves.



Thames Centre Council meeting in Thorndale

By Nancy Abra

Last Monday, October 16th, Thames Centre Council held their monthly council meeting at the Thorndale Lion's Community Centre. In her opening statement, Mayor Sharron McMillan said October was small business month and as Council's 'support local' campaign, they were visiting some small businesses throughout the municipality. She mentioned that she, Councillor Heeman and Chief Administrator, David Barrick dropped in at a couple of businesses in Thorndale the week before.

Announced at this council meeting, Thames Centre Fire Chief, Nick Dorken, said he will be moving his office from Flight Centre in Dorchester to the Thorndale fire hall later this month.

As for Thames Centre department reports that directly relate to Thorndale, Planning and Development officer, Marc Bancroft presented an application from Sifton Properties for lands described as Block 72, located on the north side of Purple Beech Street and on the west side of Blue Spruce Avenue in the Rosewood subdivision. Sif-

ton Properties is proposing to develop this site into three street townhouse blocks, each of which are to support six units for a total of eighteen housing units. To allow for homeownership of individual units, Sifton Properties is requesting an exemption to part lot control. Under the Planning Act, Bancroft reminded Council that the municipality can pass by-laws to exempt blocks of land within a registered subdivision so further subdividing of that block can occur. Motion was approved.

Bancroft next reported the update

from Thames Valley District School Board. Council approved the Mayor to send a letter of support for the Thames Valley District School Board's proposed addition to West Nissouri Public School, as recommended in the Thames Valley District School Board's business case submission to Ministry of Education 2023-2024 Capital Priorities Program.

For more information regarding the Municipality of Thames Centre, go to <https://www.thamescentre.on.ca/>

Mason's Child Identification Program

By Nancy Abra

The MasoniCH.I.P. is a child identification program sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Canada in the province of Ontario. This program uses police approved techniques to create a child identification kit for parents or the child's guardian for them to use in case the child goes missing.

On Saturday, November 4th the Ma-

soniCH.I.P. program will take place at the Mount Olivett Lodge 300 in Thorndale from 10am to 5pm. This is hosted by the lodge members, is free and open to families with children in Thorndale and the surrounding community.

That day, there will be different stations set up. Parents and guardians will fill out a form listing the child's height, weight, hair and eye colour

and any identifying birthmarks or scars. Volunteers will record this information into a computer. Volunteers take a cheek swab from each child. Digital fingerprints are also taken as well as digital photos of the front and profile of the child. Along with this, a video recording of that child is taken. The volunteers will ask the child various questions about themselves. The basis of this recording is that there is

a voice print of the child and how that child thinks or would act in a difficult or scary situation.

This kit identification information is given to the parents or child's caretakers and is not saved on the equipment or uploaded to any internet sites. For more information about this program, contact Scott Ivins at 519-878-6538 or scott.ivins@hotmail.com.

HISTORY —

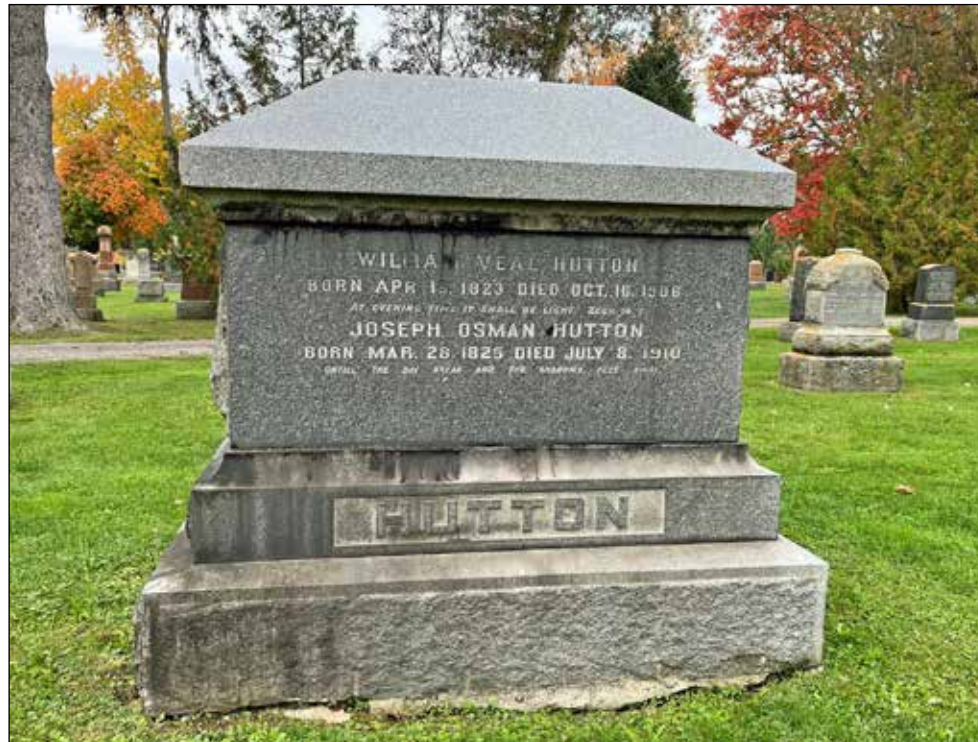
HISTORIC ST. MARYS: A Column for Halloween

By Mary Smith

On Thursday evening, October 19, the St. Marys Museum's first seminar of the season dealt with customs, beliefs and ceremonies surrounding death in Victorian and Edwardian times. Some of these seem strange to us today. For instance, when a death occurred in a family in the 19th century, the body was prepared at home for burial. The coffin was placed in a large room, usually the best parlour. Many families believed that until the funeral, someone should always be in the room keeping watch beside the coffin. The curtains were drawn on the windows and a wreath of black ribbon was hung on the front door. Funeral cards were ordered from the job printing department of the local newspaper for the family to distribute. They were, in fact, invitations to attend the funeral. Although funeral cards could be quite ornate, most of the ones in the local archival collection are simple – small, black-edged, rectangles with the name of the deceased, date of death, age, time and place of the funeral. St. Marys newspapers carried short death notices every week and frequently also supplied detailed obituaries – a wonderful resource for genealogical researchers.

Of course, the news of a death in the community spread quickly by word of mouth, even without the notice cards. Neighbours and relatives came to pay their respects, stayed for a brief time in the parlour, and then left. The funeral was normally held in the home and a cortege of family and friends followed the hearse to the grave for the burial. When Leon Clench died in 1883, according to an account of the funeral in a Stratford newspaper, Mr. Herrington, a local undertaker, used his brand new hearse for the first time. Drawn by a fine team of horses, the hearse carried Clench's coffin from his home on Robinson Street to the old Anglican cemetery on Elgin Street, just east of James Street South. He was later reinterred in the "new" St. Marys Cemetery after it opened in 1885.

Nowadays, the funeral director plays a much more significant role although many elements of a modern funeral can be traced to the old traditions. Friends and relatives come to pay their respects at the funeral home – the visitation. Frequently the service is held there also. Catholic funerals, however, are always held in the church; so are many protestant funerals if that is the family's wish. Many friends still go to the house as well,



taking gifts of food to help sustain the family through a difficult time. Word of mouth in a small town still spreads the news quickly but funeral home websites have replaced printed funeral notices. Often website obituaries also replace the ones formerly available only in newspapers. The cortege to the cemetery remains the same although black, motorized hearses have replaced the horse-drawn version.

But whatever the form of the procedure following death – a traditional church funeral, a secular celebration of life, a private family graveside service, or a large gathering with abundant food and drink – once the grave has been filled or the columbarium door has been closed, the same feeling of tranquility returns to the cemetery. That may be one of the reasons that people are drawn to visit graveyards. In spite of challenges in our personal lives or the turmoil in the world around us, this is the still and final ending for us all.

Halloween is associated with cemeteries. Home decorations often include a number of fake tombstones planted on the front lawn along with ghosts and skeletons. There is also a connection with the original All Hallows Eve, the evening before All Saints Day, recognized in many Christian calendars. It precedes the Day of the Dead, a festival still celebrated on November 2 in a number of cultures. Families visit graves to commemorate their ancestors and to communicate with their spirits. Sometimes, very unfortunately, Halloween also means vandalism in local cemeteries – overturning and damaging gravestones.

June 1896 by the Reverend Alexander Grant of Knox Presbyterian Church. They were both members of large St. Marys families. George's father, Frederick Purdue, was ticket agent at the Junction Station and Bella's father, William Norris, was a teamster. Avalon, their only child, was born on December 16, 1895, in Durham County where George, a tinsmith, had found work. When she died three years later, just before Christmas, she was buried in St. Marys. George and Bella had no other children. Later census records show them living in Toronto. George was working in a factory there and Bella had a number of boarders in their home, including two of her sisters and a brother, also working in the city. When they died, however, both George and Bella chose to be buried in St. Marys, close to their little daughter.

Halloween visitors to our town's beautifully maintained, well-regulated cemetery will discover that it is not haunted. But even if we are not receiving messages from beyond the grave, we can still try to understand something of the people who lie there. It doesn't take much imagination, for example, when visiting the grave of George Graham in Section C, to get a sense of the despair and panic he must have felt when he "Perished in the Titanic Disaster," on April 14, 1912. It might be also possible to feel indignation emanating from the grave of Isabel Meighen in Section AF. A Canadian flag flies over the gravesite she shares with her husband, marking Arthur Meighen's significance as the ninth prime minister of Canada. Before he died in 1960 at the age of 86, he chose this site – on an east-sloping hillside in the cemetery. It is also marked by a plaque placed by the Government of Canada. These tokens of recognition would have pleased his wife, Isabel. However, she would not be happy about his statue, placed in Lind Park in 1988. When she saw the commissioned work, she disliked this stylized version of her husband so much that she refused to allow it to be erected on Parliament Hill or anywhere else as long as she was alive. She died in 1985 at the age of 102.

Of course, it doesn't have to be Halloween to visit the cemetery. But Emily Taylor, Curatorial Assistant at the St. Marys Museum, is offering two guided walking tours this Saturday, October 28, at 10 a.m. and 12 noon. For more information and to register, call the Museum: 519-284-3556.

The St. Marys Museum offers walking tours of the local cemetery to school classes, emphasizing respect for the graves, perhaps beginning the tour by asking if anyone in the class has relatives buried there.

Cemetery tours are also an opportunity to tell stories about some of the people who were part of this community's early history, stories that help explain how the town has grown and changed. The huge charcoal granite stone, shown in this week's photograph, is the grave marker for two brothers, William Veal Hutton (1823-1906) and Joseph Osmond Hutton (1825-1910), who were the original owners of Westover Park. They came to St. Marys from England with their parents and other family members ca 1850. Shrewd businessmen, they were involved in milling, banking and property development and they prospered. The Huttons were responsible for the construction of many of the fine limestone commercial buildings in downtown St. Marys. Neither William nor Joseph married. They lived into their 80s, enjoying their home with its beautiful grounds on Thomas Street.

Not everyone was so fortunate. It is not at all difficult to find graves of infants and very young children in the older sections of the cemetery. A small white marble stone, not far from the cemetery office, marks the grave of Avalon Clare Purdue who died on December 21, 1898, at the age of three years and five days. The carved figure of a lamb is on the top of the marker, a symbol of innocence and purity. George Purdue and Bella Norris were married in

COLUMN —

FROM THE GARDEN: Through human intervention



By Nancy Abra

I recently read 'Corn Tastes Better on the Honor System' by Indigenous storyteller and author, Robin Wall Kimmerer. I found it interesting and thought provoking. To consider and comprehend someone's value or connectiveness to a plant gave me another perspective.

Holding a few kernels in the palm of your hand can be very powerful for a gardener or farmer. Those simple seeds are the embryos for the next generation. They have an amazing genetic diversity and when it comes to corn, it has fed and fueled humans for thousands of years.

Corn, Zea mays and sometimes referred to as maize would not exist today if it wasn't for humans that cultivated and developed it. It is

a human invention, a plant that does not exist naturally in the wild. It can only survive if planted and protected by humans.

The history of our modern-day corn began over 7,000 years ago in Mexico. It basically started from a wild grass called teosinte. This plant is very different from our modern-day corn. It had numerous branches, each bearing bunches of distinctive small spikes of seeds. These ancient farmers noticed that not all teosinte was the same. Some plants may have grown larger than others, or maybe some kernels tasted better or were easier to grind. The kernels were small, irregular and some spikes had more kernels than others. The farmers saved kernels from plants with desirable characteristics and planted them for the next season's harvest. Over the thousands of generations, the development of corn advanced to what we have today. <https://learn.genetics.utah.edu/content/evolution/corn/>

Corn is the third largest plant-based food source in the world. Globally for

2022, the top producer was the United States, at 348.75 million metric tons, followed by China and Brazil. Canada ranks lower on that list at 14.59 million metric tons. (www.statista.com/statistics/254292/global-corn-production-by-country) Ontario and Quebec are the top growers of corn in Canada. According to Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 2.1 million acres of corn were planted this past spring in Ontario. Yet no one in the industry is stating corn production has peaked.

Despite its importance as a major food in many parts of the world, corn is inferior to other cereals in nutritional value. Its protein is of poor quality, and it is deficient in niacin or B Vitamin needed for the nervous and digestion system and healthy skin. But corn is high in fibre and rich in antioxidants.

As we drive through the countryside, we see row after row of endless acres of corn. We immediately think of food, corn cereals for us and in feed for animals. But corn is more than that. There are approximately 4,000 items



in our grocery stores that list corn on the label. Beside food products it is in cleaners, hand soap, toothpaste, the list is endless. Corn is also used as colouring in craft brews and fermented into alcoholic beverages. It is used in building materials and used to produce biofuels.

Corn has many relationships with different peoples. It is

still honoured as the centre of many Indigenous cultures and reflect a deeply respectful relationship between people and the plant that sustains them. As for our farmers, their interaction with corn will begin shortly as the harvest begins in the next few weeks.

www.ndsu.edu/pubweb/
www.britannica.com/plant/corn-plant

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Solutions on page 31

COLUMN —

HOSTING UKRAINE: Visits

By VJ Knutson

"This is the person responsible for us being here today," Alla said to a couple seated in her café as Ric and I walked in last Friday.

We'd decided to drive to Strathroy to meet up with Ric's cousin and his wife, who we hadn't seen in a while. A good chance to check up on a few of our Ukrainian friends too.

"Tell us the story?" the man asked. "How did this come about?"

I told him the story of meeting Richard Hone, and signing on as a volunteer, and how one month in, Richard set me up with a woman in Barrie, who was working with a man at the Warsaw train station, and before I knew it, I was trying to find 525 Ukrainians homes across Canada.

"Alla was on that list," I explained. A family here in Strathroy offered to take her family in.

Like many of the Ukrainian families I met, I fell in love with Alla's vibrancy and positive outlook. We have kept in touch since she arrived, and I am awed by what she



has accomplished. Alla's Perogies & More opened two months ago, on Frank St in Strathroy. It's a bright and welcoming space, and we feasted on borscht, perogies (she even made me gluten free), and cabbage rolls.

From there, we decided to visit an-

other family that I was honoured to help. Mykola and his wife started their bakery many months back. U.Cake is located on Front Street, Strathroy, and features a full menu of sweets, and lunch entrees. The couple do all the baking, and every item is unique and delicious. We

brought home some of their delicious teas, heart-shaped gingerbread, caramel balls, and meringue swirls on a stick.

We arrived home full and tired, our hearts warmed. The next day, we received a phone call from another Ukrainian family, saying they were coming our way from London. Could they drop in?

It's always thrilling to connect with those we've come to consider as extended family. I've written about Nadiia before, who works in St Marys, but lives in London with her daughter, sister and nephew. Anna is now four, and surprised us in full Halloween gear. I couldn't resist a photo. The women always have so much to share, and questions to ask, and the children are a delight.

There are so many rewards that come with the little bit we do. This week I am compiling a list of who needs what, now that Winter is approaching. If you think you can help, message me on Facebook, or at english.knutson@gmail.com.

Till next week.

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November 13th - November 24th

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COLUMN —

Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

Attend our next Living Library event with author Karma Brown! On Wednesday, November 1st, join us at 7:00pm in the 2/3 Hall at the Pyramid Recreation Centre for light refreshments and the opportunity to hear from Karma Brown, an award-winning journalist, speaker, and best-selling author. Pick up your FREE tickets at the Library to save your seat. Limited tickets will be available at the door. A selection of Karma Brown's books will be available to purchase at the event, courtesy of Betty's Bookshelf.

This Week's Recommendation

Karma Brown's newest novel, "What Wild Women Do", is about Rowan, a stalled screenwriter, and Eddie Calloway, a head-strong feminist who mysteriously disappeared in 1975. The two women are bound together when Rowan discovers Eddie's forgotten handbook while on a trip to the Adirondacks with her fiancé. As Rowan learns more

about Eddie, it becomes apparent that Eddie's story may have the ability to change the course of Rowan's future. Place a hold on the hard copy of "What Wild Women Do" today.

Up This Week

- Friday, Oct. 27th: Open 10:30am-5:00pm
- Saturday, Oct. 28th: Open 10:00am-4:00pm
- Monday, Oct. 30th: Open 10:30am-8:00pm
- Tuesday, Oct. 31st: Book Club* (11:00am), Euchre* (1:00pm-3:00pm)
- Wednesday, Nov. 1st: 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), Author Talk with Karma Brown* (7:00pm @ PRC)
- Thursday, Nov. 2nd: Euchre* (6:00pm-8:00pm), Scrabble (6:00pm-8:00pm)

*Registration required



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\$43,995 + HST & lic All-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 25,122 km

2022 GMC Terrain SLE

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LOW KMS
 12,213km

2020 Kia Soul EX

\$29,995 + HST & lic Front-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 31,098 km

2022 Honda Civic Sedan LX

\$34,995 + HST & lic Front-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 20,049 km

2021 Kia Soul EX

\$30,995 + HST & lic Front-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 49,267 km

2021 Subaru Forester

\$34,995 + HST & lic All-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 37,891 km

2022 Kia Forte EX

\$30,995 + HST & lic Front-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 25,924 km

2022 Nissan Rogue S

\$35,995 + HST & lic Front-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 58,013 km

2019 Ford Econoline 450

\$39,995 + HST & lic Cutaway Base DRW Rear-Wheel Drive
LOW KMS
 116,561 km

2019 Ford Econoline 450

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LOW KMS
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 M H V F Q T E N A Y G C E K N D F L S W
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Word List

- Ghosts
- Goblins
- Candy
- Trick or Treat
- Witch
- Spooky
- Tombstone
- Vampire
- Zombie
- Costumes
- Jackolantern
- Skeleton
- Dracula

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 25

Friday, October 27

- Stonetown Grans Fabric & Yarn sale at St. Marys United Church - 6 to 8 pm
- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog/sausage lunch - 12 Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 pm
- Mudmen concert at the Legion - Doors open 7 pm, Show at 8 pm
- St. Marys Lincolns vs London Nationals at the PRC - 7:30 pm
- SMCP performance of "Opening Night" at the Town Hall Theatre - 8 pm

Saturday, October 28

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 am to Noon. Drop by and take a photo with the red pick-up truck and donate to the Food Bank
- McCully's Hill Farm Harvest Festival - 10 am to 3 pm
- St. Marys Museum Cemetery walking tours at 10 am & 12 pm, Call 519-284-3556 to pre-register
- Stonetown Grans Fabric & Yarn sale at St. Marys United Church - 10 am to 1 pm
- Hall-O-Ween Pet Parade and Costume Contest - Starts at the Town Hall 10:30 am. Put on your costume and Trick or Treat at downtown businesses - 11 am to 2 pm
- SMCP matinee performance of "Opening Night" at the Town Hall theatre - 2 pm
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm
- Kim Massey & Kim Hopkins 65th birthday celebration at the Legion - 7 to 11 pm
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Komoka Kings at the Komoka Wellness Centre - 7:15 pm

Sunday, October 29

- McCully's Hill Farm Harvest Festival - 10 am to 3 pm
- SMCP matinee performance of "Opening Night" at the Town Hall theatre - 2 pm

Wednesday, November 1

- Kingsway Lodge Penny Sale Draws - Start at Noon
- Shirley Croff Celebration of Life at James Purdue Centre - 3 to 6 pm

Thursday, November 2

- Happy Valley walk in flu & Covid clinic at the PRC - 10 am to 5:30 pm
- SMCP performance of "Opening Night" at the Town Hall theatre - 8 pm



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What do you call a bear with no teeth?



A gummy bear!

Alex Hibbert (3)

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

TONS OF FUN FOR KIDS EVERY WEEK!

PET OF THE WEEK

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



Our Pet of the Week is Kevin. Kevin is excited to show off his costume on Saturday with all the other pets coming out for the Pet Costume Parade! You can participate in the parade or just watch the cutest thing to happen to the downtown EVER! See you there!



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

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COLUMN —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Leisure, luxury, education and entertainment in Wendake, Québec**By Paul Knowles**

It's hard to anticipate what may await you when you arrive at The Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations in Wendake, just north of Québec City. First of all, it's pretty unusual to visit a destination that is both a hotel and a museum. It's also a unique experience to have the choice of sleeping in one of the suites of a four-star boutique hotel, or perhaps instead, in an authentic First Nations longhouse tucked in under wolf pelts.

You will have the opportunity to learn Indigenous crafts in special seminars or to dine in a gourmet restaurant which features locally-sourced dishes ranging from duck breast with blueberry and honey broth sauce to seal tatakai to soup with bannock.

The first thing that strikes you on arrival is the contrast between the longhouse that stands longside the parking lot, and the unique, impressive hotel/museum itself. The pairing is a perfect symbol of the Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations' commitment to

honouring and revealing the past, while celebrating the lives and accomplishments of First Nations people today.

The facility, which is entirely First Nations-owned, the first (now of several) such in Canada, was opened in 2008, with 55 rooms. Only this year, a spacious and elegant addition brought the total number to 79.

From the beginning, the commitment has been to welcome and educate guests about the Huron-Wendat First Nation.

I met Diane Andicha Picard, an artist, elder and teacher, who is a descendant of Huron-Wendat Chiefs Okouandoron and Taouranche. For the past 10 years, she has been leading classes on First Nations craftwork in the lobby of the hotel beside the entrance to the museum.

Andrew Germain, Marketing Advisor with Indigenous Tourism Québec, led us on a tour of the museum which specifically focuses on the history of the Huron-Wendat people.

I have made it my goal of late to take advantage of any opportunity that comes up to learn more about the history of First Nations. And here was yet another wonderful opportunity to learn about a history that was often much less than wonderful, a story that is told very well at this museum.

It's also told exception-

ally well by Andrew, himself a member of the Huron-Wendat Nation, a community about which I knew virtually nothing.

I learned that the Huron-Wendat people originally lived primarily in what is now the Greater Toronto Area but their communities were located as far north as Sault Ste. Marie, and along the Bruce Peninsula. Says Andrew, "We were the commerce tribe...like the grocery store." They were farmers, producing "the three sisters" – corn, squash and beans. They traded with other Indigenous groups as well as with European newcomers, including Jacques Cartier.

When the Europeans arrived, there were over 100,000 Huron-Wendat people in the GTA and environs. In subsequent years, wars involving the European newcomers (largely English vs. French) and pandemics sparked by illnesses imported with the Europeans reduced the population to a tiny fraction of its former size. Some Huron-Wendat moved to Oklahoma where they became known as the Wyandot. Three hundred or so came to what is now Wendake in Québec, a tiny remnant of what was once a great nation.

I know this is a travel feature, not a history lesson, but one of the best things travel does is to enlighten us to the culture and heritage of people whose lives are different from

our own, and one of the best places for this I have found in recent years is at Wendake.

In the museum, we saw artifacts from ancient history, all the way up to current works of art. And next door, we were able to visit an authentic reproduction of a longhouse where visitors who register for the opportunity can spend the night, accompanied by a fire keeper. The longhouse at Wendake could sleep 40; some were large enough to house 150!

The historic displays at Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations are very much worth your attention. And the hotel itself is a wonderful place to stay with large, comfortable rooms, eye-catching Indigenous art and artifacts throughout and an amazing restaurant helmed by French Chef Marc de Passorio. In France, his restaurant earned two Michelin stars – a remarkable feat. But he was captured by the opportunity to create original dishes based in the local terroir and Indigenous culinary traditions. That has led to a menu like no other – unique, creative, and delicious. But more important to de Passorio is the opportunity to mentor Indigenous youth, many of whom are finding a path to personal success through their work under de Passorio.

While we stayed at Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations, we travelled a

**Diane Andicha Picard is a Huron-Wendat artist and elder who teaches Indigenous crafts at the hotel.**

few minutes to a unique attraction called Onhwa' Lumina, an amazing sound and light show presented as you stroll after dark through a forest. The show, produced by the ground-breaking company, Moment Factory, presents First Nations culture in a multi-media, multi-acre work of art that captures the imagination and the hearts of visitors.

Suffice it to say, we loved it. The experience is open during all four seasons with a few blackout dates during snow thaw.

So, my fellow Canadian travellers, if you are looking for a destination that combines leisure and luxury with education and entertainment, look no further. I could not recommend Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations and Onhwa' Lumina more highly.

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.

**The Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations, in Wendake, Québec. (All photos by Paul Knowles)****ST. MARYS UNITED CHURCH***Bake & Craft Sale***Saturday, November 18th**

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OBITUARY

Petrie



On October 20 2023 at 4:20 pm at Stratford General Hospital, Manfred Raymond Petrie passed away peacefully surrounded by his family, at the age of 87. Survived by his wife Edythe, married for 56 years, his children Raymond (Nancy), Roberta (Don Brown), John (Julie) and Jim.

Grandchildren Madeline, Adam, Rachel, Kate, Lucy, Grayson, Ryerson, Holden, and Roen, and his brothers Dennis and Robert and many nieces and nephews. Survived by brothers and sisters-in-law John Feehan, Ted Thomas, Linda Petrie, Joanne Petrie, Ed Cassidy, Lenore Haycock, Rudy McIntosh, Ross McIntosh (Lois), Elaine Smith (Jim), Donald McIntosh (Joanne) and many nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by his mother and father, Clara Bender and Emerson. His brothers and sisters Emerson (Marie), Marion, Shirley, Helen Pryke, Donna (Don), Lois (John), Marlene, Ken, Gary, Earl (Josephine), and Karen Petrie. Brother-in-law Doug Haycock and Glen McIntosh (Ann), and sister-in-law Barbara McIntosh. He worked at the White Packing Company then he began his career as a brakeman/conductor with CN Rail where he worked for 35 years. Fred was a skilled stonemason and a carpenter. He was a jack of all trades. He loved dancing, singing, country music, his birds, planting his fruit trees, tending to his garden, playing sports, coaching sports, and watching his Jays and Leafs. He enjoyed fishing with the Boat Lake Bongers every May "24" weekend and hunting with his community friends. Thank you to the staff at Stratford General Hospital for their wonderful care. Family and friends are invited to the ST. MARYS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 147 Widder St. E., St. Marys, on Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023 for visitation from 10 am until the time of the Funeral Service at 11 am. A private family interment will take place at Colpoys Cemetery at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Stratford General Hospital Foundation.

Arrangements with the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home (519-284-2820). Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

THANK YOU

Greason

The family of Sheila Greason would like to express a sincere thank you to friends in the community and afar for attending her Celebration of Life held at the Community Centre on Saturday October 21.

Thank you to Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home for all of their professional help in guiding the family through this difficult time.

Thank you to Pastor Richard Hryniw and Pastor Gail Kavelman for organizing and presiding over the event.

Thank you to anyone who made donations in memory of Sheila; we are truly grateful.

Remember, when you think of Sheila, stop and do an act of kindness for someone.

William Greason and Family

OBITUARY

Stephens



Scott Vernon Stephens passed away suddenly at St. Marys Memorial Hospital on October 17, 2023 at the age of 54.

Son of the late William "Bill" (deceased, 2017) and Anna Stephens. Brother of Michael Stephens and his wife Shaila Ahmed of Toronto, Marilee

Stephens of Edmonton, Sandy Stephens of Toronto, Mark Stephens of St. Marys and uncle of Naylah Stephens. Also survived by his aunt Bessie Thompson and several cousins and their families. Predeceased by his uncle Vernon Thompson and aunts Helen McLean Nethercott and Marion Bickell.

Scott will be remembered for his humour and smiling face. The Funeral Service was conducted at the St. Marys United Church on Oct. 21, 2023. Cremation followed. A private family interment in Avonbank Cemetery will take place at a later date. Memorial Donations may be made to a charity of choice. Arrangements with the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home (519-284-2820) with online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

OBITUARY

Kittmer



Victor "Tick" Eugene Kittmer, resident of Harrington and long-time employee of Hutton Transport (49 years) passed away at Victoria Hospital in London on Oct. 21, 2023 at the age of 73.

Predeceased by his parents Chad and Alma Kittmer, and beloved partner and best

friend Candice Thomson (2018). Brother of Tom Kittmer and wife Sherri (Hamilton) and missed by many cousins. Gene was an avid gardener, great outdoorsman, honorary member of the Tavistock and District Rod & Gun Club, and member of the Doric Corinthian Masonic Lodge #569 Lakeside.

On Saturday, October 28, 2023 at the Knox Presbyterian Church in the village of Harrington, 963727, a Masonic Service will be conducted by the Doric Corinthian Lodge at 12:30, public visitation will then take place from 1 pm until the time of the Funeral Service at 2 pm with Rev Joyce DeGier VanderSpek officiating.

Burial following in Knox Presbyterian Church Cemetery. Arrangements with the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, St. Marys, 519-284-2820. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society, Knox Presbyterian Church Harrington or to a charity of choice. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca

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OBITUARY

Cookson



Joyce Louise Cookson, long-time resident of St. Marys, retired to Ipperwash, passed away peacefully at Jessica's House in Exeter on October 21, 2023 at the age of 83.

Predeceased by her husband Grant Cookson (1999). Mother of Jason (Tammy), and Kelly. Grandmother of Nathan

(Amanda), Cody (Billy Joe), Alyssa (Dylan), Nathan (Ashlyn), Josh (Carly), Leah. Great-grandmother of Holly, Stella, Grace, Mia. Sister of Shirley Fredrickson (Norm). Also remembered by a small army of nieces and nephews. Sadley missed by her long-time friend and partner Wayne Walker of Ipperwash.

Joyce worked as a nurse at St. Marys Memorial Hospital for 32 years. Joyce's family wish to sincerely thank the staff at Jessica's House Hospice for their exceptional care.

Cremation to take place. Memorial donations may be made to Jessica's House, St. Marys Healthcare Foundation or the Canadian Cancer Society. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

OBITUARY

Armstrong



Diane Armstrong (nee O'Neill) passed away at Wildwood Care Centre, St. Marys, surrounded by her loving family on Oct. 21, 2023 at the age of 79.

Predeceased by her twin sons, Kevin and Kenneth, her parents John and Florence O'Neill and her sister Sandra. Diane is survived by her husband Chuck, her children Shawn (Nancy), Kimberley (Cuyler), Greg aka "Cricket" (Marnie) and her sister Sherry (Terry). Diane was blessed by her nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Cremation to take place. A private family memorial to be held at a future date. Donations in Diane's memory may be given to a charity of choice. Forever in our hearts. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

THANK YOU

McKay

Joyce McKay and family would like to sincerely thank all the family and friends who joined us and celebrating Joyce's 95th birthday. Thank you for all the cards, gifts, best wishes and hugs.

Sincerely, Joyce

OBITUARY

Croff

Croff, Shirley passed away peacefully at home in St. Mary's, on Friday October 20, 2023, in her 60th year.

Beloved daughter to the Late Wiliam and Mary Croff; dear sister to Kathleen Mills (Bob), Kalvin (Elaine), Linda Krease, Susan Croff, Sandra (Neil) Cressman. Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by a sister Margaret Brown and brothers; Elgin, Richard David and Gary Croff

Friends will be received at the Wm. Kipp Funeral Home, 184 Grand River Street North, Paris on Wednesday October 25, 2023 from 12-1 PM. Complete funeral service to follow in the funeral home chapel at 1:00 PM. Cremation followed by interment Paris Cemetery.

The funeral will be live streamed. Please go to funeral home website to register.

Donations to Cancer Society or Kidney Foundation would be appreciated.

Online condolences and donations may be arranged through www.wmkippfuneralhome.com or contacting WM. Kipp 519 442 3061

CELEBRATION OF LIFE



Please join Kim Massey & Kim Hopkins

October 28 at the St. Marys Legion to celebrate their 65th birthday

Starting at approximately 7 until 11 following the meat draw and elimination draw.

All are welcome to stay and party on!

LOOKING BACK



By AMY CUBBERLEY

Old Betsy

25 years ago (1998)

Public works foreman Roy Blanchard and cemetery foreman Jack Hannaberry were honoured at a special retirement open house at the Lind Sportsplex on Sunday afternoon.

The nominations for the Volunteer of the Year have taken place and although there were only three individuals nominated this year, they are excellent representatives of the quality of volunteerism that takes place daily in the community. They are Carol Robinson-Todd, Steve Grose, and Bob Sass.

The newest face at the Journal Argus should be familiar to most readers. Don Van Galen joins the staff as a full-time reporter and photographer starting with this week's edition.

50 years ago (1973)

New concrete abutments have been poured for the St. George St foot bridge over Trout Creek. It is expected the small steel bridge will be lifted atop the pillars in the near future.

Last Thursday evening marked the first occasion the Town Hall auditorium has been used for a social function in almost twenty-five years, according to custodian Tom McGiveron. The refurbished auditorium brought forward much favourable comment from the crowd in attendance at a McConnell Club euchre party that evening.

"Old Betsy" the 1933 vintage pumper of the St. Marys Fire Department is on the operating table at the local fire hall, suffering a cracked block. A replacement engine will be installed by the fire hall crew. The old pumper has been used only for parade purposes for the last number of years.

75 years ago (1948)

The Andrews tower clock is generally correct or within a few seconds of being so. Mr. W.E. Andrews checks it for accuracy almost every day.

Alteo (Tanner) Marzaili has had his little motor scooter laid up for several weeks now due to needed repairs. Tanner brought the scooter from Italy this spring when he returned with his family to Canada. Spare parts are almost impossible to get.

Relief has come at last for starling infested areas of the town. The wintry winds and falling leaves caused an exodus of these feathered pests over the weekend.

100 years ago (1923)

On Thursday last week Decole Weston was driving home from town when a runaway horse overtook him by the Campbell tile yards. The horse was driven by Miss Mary Woods of Nissouri. Her horse became frightened at the quarry, the bit broke and the horse became unmanageable and ran into Mr. Weston, throwing him from the rig, also Miss Woods. They both came off lucky, only badly shaken up. Mr. Weston is still confined to his bed.

Francis, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Kidd, was painfully burned on the face on Saturday morning. Her father had just finished putting on fresh coal on a small heating stove and the little girl was sitting in front of the bottom draft, watching the fire, when sparks and flames suddenly shot out, probably caused by escaping gas, and burned her face. However, although her face is badly swollen, it is thought no scars will result.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE



It's with great sadness that we announce the passing of Shirley Croff, age 59, on Saturday, Oct 20, 2023.

Shirley was surrounded by family and her furry companion Scarlett. Shirley loved her community and we welcome you to drop in on Wednesday Nov 1, 2023 from 3pm-6pm at the James Purdue Centre - 300 Elgin Street E, St. Marys ON, to share our memories and celebrate Shirley's life.

IN MEMORIAM

O'Hara

In loving memory of our son Timothy who passed away October 30, 1996.

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Of a son we loved so dear.

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We miss you so much Tim

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stonetownalterations@gmail.com

519-703-2007

TAKE OUT



519-284-1864

Mondays CLOSED Friday and Saturday 11-10
Tuesday to Thursdays 11-9 Sundays 3-8

118 QUEEN STREET, ST. MARYS

WATER TREATMENT



Sales - Service - Rentals
Call Dave at
519 349 2040. Waterite

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Joel's Tree Service
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Trimming
Removals
Stumps
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RETAIL

Little Falls 519.284.0433



Over 150 LOCAL CRAFT/ARTISAN PRODUCTS

Your headquarters for 18" doll clothes and accessories

Available now:
Ladies jockey briefs, buttons, gutermann thread, DMC embroidery floss, and more.

Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm
83 Queen St E. St. Marys, ON

Artisan Crafters Market

CLASSIFIED ADS

Seeking newspaper boxes and stands

Looking to buy old newspaper distribution boxes or display stands. Please contact stew@granthaven.com or text or call 519-868-1290. Send picture of item(s) if possible.

Wanted

\$ Cash Paid \$ for your RECORDS and LPs. Jazz, Blues, Rock, Pop, Folk, Soundtracks, and more. Selectively buying CDs, Cassettes, Turntables, and Stereo Equipment. For more information: Diamond Dogs Music 114 Ontario St. Stratford/ 226-972-5750

Wanted

A working camcorder that will play Hi-8 digital tapes. Phone 519-284-3774

Wanted to buy

All collectibles including sports cards, beanie babies, Funko pops and stamps. Highest prices paid. Free appraisals. Call or text Stan anytime 519-868-3814.

For Sale

2 Men's Winter Coats
1 -Black Leather Coat
1 -7 in 1 Coat (which means can be changed into different types of coats)
Both Size 2XL
Phone 519-284-4068

For Sale

Solid Oak Door: Lead Glass Window, Brass Hardware, Oval Shape Knobs, Key, Mail Slot
Please call 519-393-5576 after 6 p.m.

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1)Ireland and Britain | 6)Sunlight, crucifixes, garlic |
| 2)Trick or Treat! | 7)Jack-o'-lantern |
| 3)1692-1693 | 8)1983 |
| 4)Michael Myers | 9)A coven |
| 5)Scorpio | 10)Ghostbusters! |

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

HELP WANTED



Reversible Fans For Radiator Cleaning

CALLING ALL COLLEGE GRADS

CLEANFIX NORTH AMERICA INC. located in STRATFORD ON is looking for a suitable MANUFACTURING & APPLICATION ENGINEERING TECH who has the primary responsibility of application designing our reversible engine cooling fan into a diverse range of equipment, machines and trucks.

Responsibilities

- Strong mechanical, technical and electrical aptitude is a must for this position as well as technical problem solving capabilities
- Ability to multi-task; strong time management, organizational skills and self-motivated with a strong, independent work ethic
- Diagnose mechanical problems, provide quick & innovative solutions for mechanical equipment breakdowns by applying proven skills in the principles of mechanics, fitting, plumbing, basic welding, metal fabrication, machining, troubleshooting, and analytical problem solving
- Must pay attention to details with a customer service attitude
- Perform assessment of Cleanfix Reversible Fan installations sometimes to be performed at customers places
- Provide solution to routine or unique installation problems

Requirements/Qualifications

- A track record of proven application design, and technical depth
 - Strong focus on meeting customer commitment dates and achieving the highest quality standards
 - Proactive in response to problems as well as in the initiation of corrective actions
 - The ability to measure and improve performance in an engineering and design and process environment
 - Training and experience in lean manufacturing is an asset
 - Capability in Solid Works design program
 - Capability in MS Word, Project, Outlook and Excel
 - The ability to create and maintain a team environment focused on continuous improvement
- Willingness to be a long term contributor and strong team member of a stable and growing organization
- Possess strong oral and written communication skills and interpersonal skills
 - Must pay attention to details with a customer service attitude

To Apply

Interested applicants are requested to apply by sending their resume with their salary requirements by e-mail to i.kleinsasser@cleanfix.org

First Baptist Church in St. Marys

seeks pianist for a baby-grand piano

3 hrs/week: Sunday service plus a rehearsal, with up to three additional services per year.

We are VERY flexible so the position could be shared in multiple ways: a "snowbird" might take the role spring through autumn, two people might each take two Sundays a month, etc.

For details contact

pastor@firrstbaptiststmarys.ca

or 519-284-1758



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:

CASUAL REGISTERED PRACTICAL NURSE

This position requires the ability to multi-task in a fast paced environment and excellent communication skills. The Happy Valley Family Health Team has a mandatory vaccine policy.

Please forward resume by October 30th 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.



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 are looking for a full-time Administrative Assistant to work within our team.

Competence with Excel, Word and Power-Point using Apple computers is necessary. Experience with Telus Health EMR is an asset. Required abilities include time management, organization, self-direction and flexibility with an ability to work as a professional member of a multi-disciplinary team. The Happy Valley Family Health Team has a mandatory vaccine policy.

Please forward resume by October 30th 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

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