

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1187

Thursday, November 30, 2023

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The Holiday celebration in St. Marys continues

There's no shortage of holiday spirit in St. Marys this year!



Horse and wagon ride around the WinterLights display at Milt Dunnell Field.

The Holiday Light Tour, which launches on Monday, December 4, features over 15 beautifully lit and decorated homes. Download and print the map at www.discoverstmarys.ca/happyholidays. Hard copies of the map are available at municipal facilities. The self-guided tour runs until January 1, 2024.

Our wonderful WinterLights continue every evening from 5:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Milt Dunnell Field. The ever-popular horse

and wagon rides will return on December 15 and 16 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., and December 23 and 24 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This beloved tradition is being offered at no charge thanks to the generosity of our WinterLights sponsors. You can contribute to the WinterLights using our convenient online form: www.townofstmarys.com/winterlights.

New this year, is the first ever WinterLights Night Market, showcasing local

vendors and artisans at Milt Dunnell Field from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on December 15 and 16. Enjoy holiday music, free horse and wagon rides, warm up by the fire, and purchase delicious food and hot drinks from the on-site food truck.

For indoor fun, check out the St. Marys Museum Open House on Sunday, December 3 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. which includes children's crafts, festive treats, door prizes

Continued on page 2

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Opening doors with attainable housing plan

Town of St. Marys looking to add 200 new rental units by 2027

The Town of St. Marys is addressing the housing crisis head on with a new action plan. Called "Opening Doors," the plan was developed by a housing expert, following consultations with developers, builders, and community members.

The plan aims to tackle St. Marys' short-

age of affordable housing options. Like many Canadian communities, the Stonetown has very few rental options available. When vacancies do arise, rents are often higher than what the average earner can afford.

"We have people working good jobs, earn-

ing a decent wage, who can't find a house or afford rent in St. Marys," says Mayor Al Strathdee. "That's a problem. Everyone deserves a place to call home."

The Opening Doors Plan seeks to allevi-

Continued on page 2



Owen Lewis-Havard

Sales Representative for Coldwell Banker Homefield Legacy Realty, Brokerage
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MLS

COMMUNITY —

Opening doors with attainable housing plan

Continued from page 1

ate the issue by adding 200 new rental units to the town's housing stock by 2027, with 30 of these falling into the affordable/attainable housing category.

The plan identifies four areas that the

Town should focus on to achieve its housing goals: policies, programs and incentives, land, and implementation team. Together, these focus areas direct the Town to review its by-laws, processes, grants, and landholdings to ensure they are being used in a way that advances its housing goals.

A copy of the Opening Doors plan is available on the Town website at www.townofstmarys.com/housing. Residents can read the plan and view a summarized list of the four focus areas, their associated initiatives and progress to date. Those interested can subscribe to the page to receive an

email when new information is added and milestones are reached.

Questions about the plan can be directed to Grant Brouwer, Director of Building and Development at 519-284-2340, ext. 215 or gbrouwer@town.stmarys.on.ca

The Holiday celebration in St. Marys continues

Continued from page 1

es and a silent auction. Admission is free, but donations are always welcome. Browse the Museum's "Holidays on Display," exhibit running until Monday, January 15, 2024. From parades to retail storefronts, this exhibit examines the history of holiday displays in St. Marys.

The Pyramid Recreation Centre is also offering free skates and swims throughout the holiday season, thanks to sponsorships from the Downie Optimist Club, Petals and Foliage, and Avon Maitland Elementary Teachers Union. Pre-registration is recommended. For specific dates and times, visit www.discoverstmarys.ca/

happyholidays. If you are looking to sponsor a skate or swim this season, please reach out to Vanessa Bisschop at vbisschop@town.stmarys.on.ca.

For last-minute holiday gifts, head to our historic downtown. Our local shops, restaurants and services have festive ideas for everyone on your list. You can also give the gift of shopping

local by buying St. Marys Money. Request yours using our simple online form: <https://forms.townofstmarys.com/Request-St-Marys-Money>

Enjoy the Holiday season and be sure to follow the Town of St. Marys' Facebook, Instagram and X accounts for any updates and reminders.

Pay It Forward Project at Joe's Diner

By Wendy Lamond

A wonderful initiative has started at both the St. Marys Joe's Diner as well as the Stratford location.

The holiday season can be very tough for many, all for a variety of reasons so the staff at the diner have started a Pay It Forward program to help those that may need some extra assistance. Owner Blaine Meyers saw the idea online for a Pembroke restaurant and loved the idea of it as he is a firm believer in helping

wherever possible. If you wish to pay for a meal for someone, it will cost you just \$14.

Those in need can come to the restaurant, have a seat, and can discreetly tell their server that they wish to use a Pay It Forward ticket which will get them a previously paid for meal combo like a soup and sandwich and coffee or breakfast.

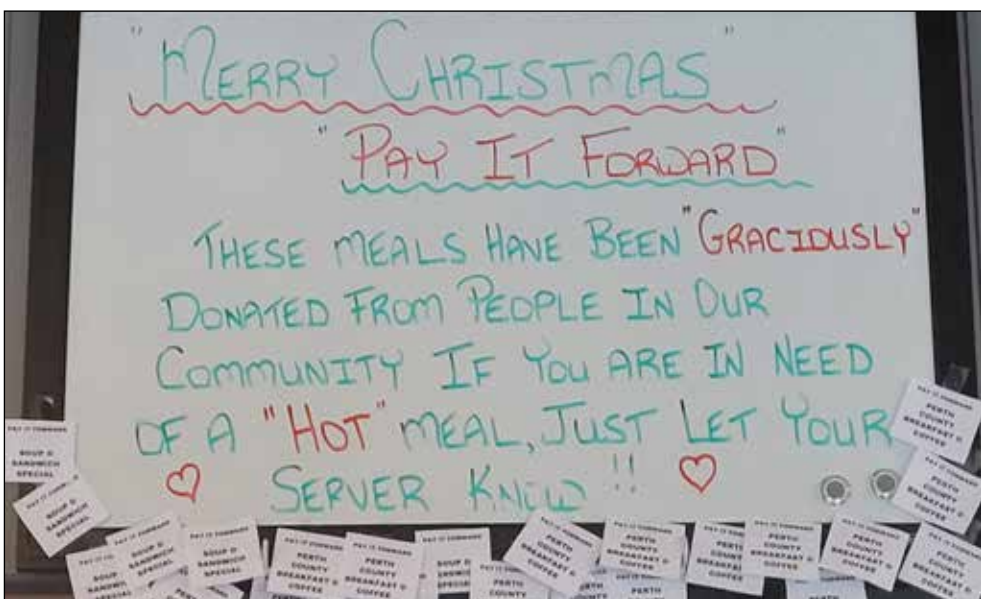
The idea behind "Pay It Forward" is to cause a ripple effect of good deeds and

not expecting anything in return. You never know what another person is going through and by helping one person at a time, you can truly make someone's day. As of right now there is no end date for the program. Meyers commented that if the need is there and it is being used, he does not want to stop it and wants to keep it available to the community.

The concept is catching on and the diner has already reached over 50 meals. If you wish to contribute to the Pay It

Forward board you can visit the diner and pay by debit, credit, or cash.

Meyers has worked with the Outreach program in Stratford in the past that provided 25 meals per month to the homeless. He has also worked with the St. Marys Fire Department and other local organizations on fundraising efforts. Meyers is interested in working with local groups to help within the community so if you need help for a fundraiser, you can visit him at the diner for details.



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7 Day Forecast - Weather Sponsored by **THE HITCHING POST**

Wednesday Nov-29th	Thursday Nov-30th	Friday Dec-1st	Saturday Dec-2nd	Sunday Dec-3rd	Monday Dec-4th	Tuesday Dec-5th
Scattered flurries	Sun/cloud	Cloudy	Sun/cloud	Rain	Cloudy	Scattered flurries
-2 °C	5 °C	2 °C	2 °C	3 °C	3 °C	2 °C
Feels Like -8	Feels Like 0	Feels Like 1	Feels Like -1	Feels Like 1	Feels Like 2	Feels Like -1

COMMUNITY —

Two downtown businesses celebrate anniversaries



Pictured from left to right is special guest Mary-Lou D'Avirro, Owner Kerri McIntosh, Current team members Judi Palmer and Sara Emm. (Wendy Lamond photo)

By Wendy Lamond

Two of our downtown businesses have recently celebrated anniversaries.

Nail Effects has just recently celebrated 25 years in business. It was originally started by Maria Daniels at its previous location on Church Street

South. Kerri McIntosh took it over 11 years ago from Maria. The business relocated 10 years ago to where it is now on Queen Street where a friendly staff will greet you providing manicures/pedicures and nail extensions and overall pampering. Congratulations!



Jay and Lanny pose with Santa outside of Lyric Flowers. (Nina Polidoro photo)

Lyric Flowers also just celebrated an anniversary. They have been in business for 12 years. Co-owners Lanny Hoare and Jay Harrison named the business after the old Lyric Theatre where the store was located for the first three years. The business then moved down to its current location

further down Queen Street. The floral boutique is constantly busy with weddings, specialty workshops and day-to-day floral needs in the community. The pair are known for their exceptional customer service, unique designs and friendly atmosphere. Congratulations!

DECEMBER							1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
31								

Naughty List

heidi
andrew
emily
jake
michelle
devon
taylor

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COMMUNITY —

Oranges, Grapefruit and Clementines, Oh my!

St. Marys Kinsmen Fruit Sale Returns



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"For as long as I've been a member, the popular fruit sale was always the talk of the town. It became even more popular once we put the order online and added contactless home delivery," says Chairman Christopher Swarthout.

That's right: Oranges, Grapefruit and Clementines all the way from the groves of Florida, South America and Texas, delivered to your front door just in time for Christmas. The sweet deal, a 500ml Maple Leaf glass bottle of maple syrup is also available. The maple syrup is local, straight out of the Kinsmen Club of London's local sugar bush. The famous gift baskets are back too!

Visit stmaryskinsmen.com/fruit-sale-store and pay with your credit card. Place any delivery details in the memo section. "My co-chairmen Cliff Sterritt, Thomas Redman

and Ron Cummings, have been busy working on the website end of things to keep everything in order. With inflation being at an all time high, we've tried to keep our pricing as reasonable as possible. In most cases, beating grocery store pricing at a per unit cost. All money we raise, from any project we do, goes back into our community.

For those who don't have access to the internet, a paper copy of the order form appears on page 5. You can drop your order forms off at the St. Marys Independent Newspaper. We will contact you for payment details.

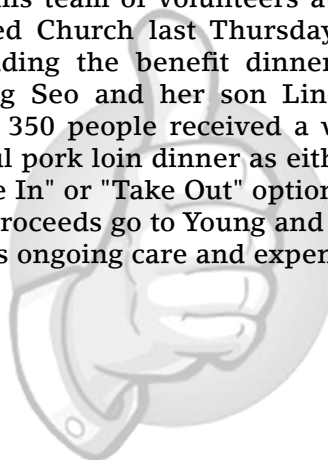
Deliveries will take place Saturday, December 16th starting at 8am. Any questions, please visit www.stmaryskinsmen.com/contactus and someone will get back to you. St. Marys Kinsmen - Serving the Community's Greatest Need.

Bravo

We have 2 Bravos this week

1) Bravo to the St. Marys BIA and all of the businesses involved in the Merchants' Open House! The town came alive this weekend with so many people shopping local and enjoying the beautifully decorated downtown core. It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!

2) Bravo to chef Sergio Boscarato and his team of volunteers at the United Church last Thursday for providing the benefit dinner for Young Seo and her son Lincoln. Over 350 people received a wonderful pork loin dinner as either a "Dine In" or "Take Out" option. All net proceeds go to Young and Lincoln's ongoing care and expenses.



Boo

We have no Boos this week.



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

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

Quote of the Week

"Whether it's making someone smile, helping a neighbor or stranger out, showing up for an issue or people we care about, or giving some of what we have to those who need our help, every act of generosity counts, and everyone has something to give"

- Asha Curran, CEO of Giving Tuesday and co-founder of the global generosity movement.

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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Great to see so many people supporting local on the weekend.

My only problem on Giving Tuesday was trying to decide what charity to support.

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

St. Marys Independent

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Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



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The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK

Sponsored by:

RADAR 
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395 Queen Street West

The best way for a person to have happy thoughts is to count their blessings, not their cash.

One day you will realize that material things are nothing. All that matters is the well-being of the people you care about.

Anyone can give you material things but giving attention, loyalty, effort and honesty is priceless.

Children will not remember you for the material things you provide but for the feeling that you cherished them.



HOW TO LISTEN TO ST. MARYS RADIO

- Step 1. Go to www.stmarysradio.com
- Step 2. Click play on the online player



COMMUNITY —

Opening for Business



The interior is redecorated, the kitchen is full of shiny new appliances, the building has been repainted, and the exterior sign has been installed. Naina and Prahlad Meena are excited for this week's opening of "Naina's Indian Kitchen" at 202 Queen Street East (across from Tim Hortons). Beginning this Wednesday, November 29th, the restaurant will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, please call 519-284-0708 or visit their website at nainasindiankitchen.com. (Stewart Grant photo)

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

Sat., Dec. 9 | Pyramid Centre (Entrance D)

Join the EarlyON Centre between 9:30 and 11:30 AM for a morning of exploration to see how families celebrate the Holidays in December around the world!

www.keyon.ca or 226-374-6544

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



WINTERLIGHTS

5 - 11 PM | Milt Dunnell Field

Enjoy over 100 colourful holiday displays at St. Marys WinterLights! The displays will be lit each evening from 5 - 11 PM from Nov. 17, 2023 until Jan. 1, 2024.

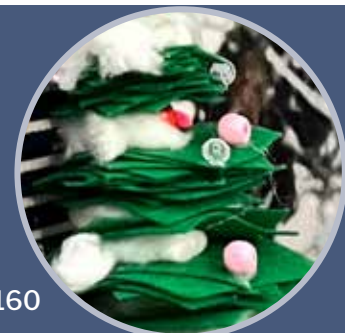
discoverstmarys.ca/happyholidays

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT CRAFT

Pyramid Recreation Centre

Join the PRC and Stone Home Creatives from 4 - 5:30 PM for a festive evening of making your own ornament to hang on your tree or gift to someone special!

townofstmarys.com/activenet or 519-284-2160



DROP-IN SEWING TIME

December 11 @ 8 PM | Library

Bring your own project and thread, or grab some from the fabric bag. Use the Library's sewing machines or surger and create a masterpiece from 2 - 4 PM!

townofstmarys.com/library or 519-284-3346

St. Marys Kinsmen Christmas Fruit Sale 2023

Season's Greetings

HELP SUPPORT LOCAL INITIATIVES AND ENJOY SOME HAND-SORTED, DELICIOUS FRUIT. STRAIGHT FROM THE GROVES TO YOU. JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Contact-less porch delivery will be on Saturday, December 16th starting at 8am.

Paper orders can be dropped off at the St. Marys Independent Newspaper in their mailbox.

Do not place any cash or cheques with the order.

Instead, please indicate payment method on delivery in the notes section of this order form.

Product Description	Qty	Price
1. Oranges – Full Case	(60 pcs)	\$80
2. Oranges – Half Case	(30 pcs)	\$45
3. Grapefruit – Full Case	(40 pcs)	\$80
4. Grapefruit – Half Case	(20 pcs)	\$45
5. Clementines – Full Case	(90 pcs)	\$60
6. Clementines – Half Case	(45 pcs)	\$40
7. Oranges & Grapefruit Full Case	(30 oranges/20gf)	\$80
8. Oranges & Grapefruit Half Case	(15 oranges/10gf)	\$45
9. Deluxe Holiday Gift Basket	(approx 12lbs of fruit)	\$60
10. Maple Leaf Sugar Bush Maple Syrup	(500ml glass bottle)	\$25

ORDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th by noon.

Customer Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number/Email: _____

Payment Method: _____

Other Notes: _____



Contact us

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communications@town.stmarys.on.ca



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Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Elsie Witteven. Elsie turned 93 on Nov. 25th. She was born in Insinger, Saskatchewan. Elsie has two children, three grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

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

Weekend Quiz

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16 Water Street South
519-284-3288

- 1) What was the first toy to be advertised on television?
- 2) What does a bat use to navigate and locate its prey?
- 3) What does the acronym "URL" stand for?
- 4) When was Hershey's founded?
- 5) What NHL team has won the most Stanley cups?
- 6) Kenny Loggins 'Danger Zone' is featured in what 80s film?
- 7) What is Weird Al Yankovic's first name?
- 8) What is the tiny piece at the end of a shoelace called?
- 9) Originally, Amazon only sold what kind of product?
- 10) How many players are on each side of the net in beach volleyball?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

COMMUNITY —

In support of Muscular Dystrophy



St. Marys Volunteer Firefighters Association recently donated \$2,000 to Muscular Dystrophy Canada. In total the St. Marys Volunteer Firefighters Association has donated \$82,000 from 1979 to date while the Perth County Fire Departments collectively have donated \$970,000. (Contributed photo)



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*Certain conditions apply. See details on manufacturer rebate.



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*Certain conditions apply. See details on manufacturer rebate.



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COMMUNITY —

Another record month for PC Connect

By Stewart Grant

Updated figures provided to St. Marys Town Council this month indicated that the PC Connect transportation had yet another record number of riders during the month of October.

Across the service's four routes (Kitchener-Waterloo to St. Marys; London to Stratford; Perth County North, and Kitchener-Waterloo to Listowel), a total of 2,014 rides were logged during October, which was up

7% over September, which itself had been a new record high.

Relating to St. Marys specifically, a record 564 passengers used Route 2 (KW to St. Marys) during October while 452 utilized Route 3 (London to Stratford).

The PC Connect program is funded through to March 31, 2025 when the financial commitment from the Province of Ontario expires.

Giving Tuesday initiative



Menstrual insecurity is a real problem; for many reasons, people who menstruate may not have consistent access to the necessary products to manage their menstrual cycle. For Giving Tuesday Hubbard Pharmacy and Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home are donating 20 menstrual cups and product wash to the local Salvation Army Food Bank as a reliable, reusable, and convenient alternative to traditional sanitary products. From left are Hodges Funeral Home owners Andrew Hodges and Andrea Macko-Hodges, and Hubbard Pharmacy owners Erin and Dave Dunbar. (Contributed photo)



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SOURCE FLOORING

<p>IN STOCK PAD ATTACHED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LUXURY VINYL PLANKS 5MM THICK</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">\$169</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">FROM PER SQ. FT. REG 4.99</p>	<p>IN STOCK NEW PRICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LOOSE LAY LUXURY VINYL 5MM THICK</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">\$199</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">FROM PER SQ. FT. REG 5.99</p>
<p>IN STOCK 12MM THICK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HANDSCRAPED LAMINATE</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">\$159</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">FROM PER SQ. FT. REG 4.99</p>	<p>IN STOCK NEW ARRIVAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HIGH-GLOSS LAMINATE</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">\$299</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">FROM PER SQ. FT. REG 3.99</p>
<p>IN STOCK CLICK ENG.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4" WIDE X 3/4" THICK CORK BACK HARDWOOD</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">\$399</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">FROM PER SQ. FT. REG 8.99</p>	<p>IN STOCK 6" WIDE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MODERN FARMHOUSE WHITE OAK ENGINEERED HARDWOOD</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">\$399</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">FROM PER SQ. FT. REG 12.99</p>
<p>IN STOCK NEW ARRIVAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HERRINGBONE HARDWOOD</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">\$399</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">FROM PER SQ. FT. REG 8.99</p>	<p>IN STOCK HOT BUY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GLASS/STONE BACKSPLASH</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">\$299</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">FROM PER SQ. FT. REG 6.99</p>
<p>IN STOCK DOOR CRASHER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">13" X 13" PORCELAIN TILES</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">69¢</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">FROM /SQ. FT. REG 3.99</p>	<p>IN STOCK HOT DEAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12" X 24" PORCELAIN TILES</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">99¢</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">FROM /SQ. FT. REG 3.99</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">\$099</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">FROM PER LIN. FT. REG 3.99</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3/7" WIDE COLONIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">\$199</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">FROM PER LIN. FT. REG 3.99</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5.5" WIDE STEP-BASE</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">\$259</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">FROM PER LIN. FT. REG 3.99</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6" WIDE SQUARE</p>	<p style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">NO TAX!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5' X 8" AREA RUGS STARTING FROM</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">\$99</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">NOT EXACTLY AS SHOWN</p>

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COMMUNITY —

New experiences abound for Japanese homestay student

Trick-or-treating, country fairs, Niagara Falls and winter tennis have been just a few new experiences for Minami Abe, an exchange student visiting St. Marys from Japan.

Abe has been taking in many Canadian activities as part of a three-month visit with MLI Homestay, an international organization that provides "transformative, high-quality learning experiences across Canada," according to its website.

For Abe, the goal of her three-month stay, which ends this week, is to "make new friends and communicate with people who aren't from my country, and experience education that's different from Japanese education."

While attending DCVI, Abe was immersed in student life, including a variety of volunteer experiences. "Volunteerism isn't common in Japan. Helping people made me feel good, and I enjoyed communicating with many different people."

Abe also joined the DCVI basketball team, a new sport for her. "My teammates and coaches taught me nicely so I could enjoy it a lot," she says.

She was also excited to rediscover tennis during her visit. Members of the St. Marys Tennis Club noticed Abe wearing a tennis club warm-up jacket and invited her to their club nights –



Pictured from left, Andrea Macko and Minami Abe. (Contributed photo)

even if these nights looked a little untraditional but Canadian to the core.

"We play as long as the nets are up and the weather allows," notes Club president Don Van Galen. "Which can sometime mean you're wearing a par-

ka and gloves while on the court."

Abe has played tennis since her childhood, and she was a great addition to the group. "She has a terrific lob and just doesn't make unforced errors," notes Van Galen. "That she could just

join in our games speaks to the universality of tennis – it was so much fun for all of us to play with her and learn about her life."

Abe admits that she was apprehensive about experiencing racism or discrimination during her visit but says that "I was the only person to think this, and everyone treated me as a person. Every single country has its good points and its problems."

On a lighter note, whether it was at her host family's home near Science Hill or on the tennis court, Abe was able to see something new: stars. "I live in a busy city in Japan, so I was surprised there was nothing around my house but fields. At night I could see stars if it was not cloudy out. I have never seen those beautiful stars before."

As she returns to Yokohama later this week, Abe would like to thank her host family, friends, professors, and everyone she's met during her active stay.

"Three months is too short a stay but I learned and experienced many more things than I had expected," Abe says. "I'd like to come back and contribute something to this town in the future."

To learn more about the program as a student or host family, visit www.mli-homestay.com.



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COMMUNITY —

Perth South supports our local hospital



On November 21st the Township of Perth South made a donation of \$12,500 to the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation. Pictured, from left, Councillors Sam Corriveau, Robert Wilhelm, Jaime Martin, Jim Van Nes; Jim Aitcheson, Mayor; Sue Orr, Deputy Mayor; Bernice De Decker, Communications and Fundraising Coordinator for SMHF and Ken McCutcheon, Campaign Chair. (Nancy Bickell photo)

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COMMUNITY —

Merchants Open House in downtown St. Marys



Santa and Mrs. Claus greeted shoppers who took advantage of the no tax savings on purchases made during the Downtown Merchants open house. (Contributed photo)



The Victorian Carollers in St. Marys on Saturday, November 25th entertained people with Christmas music during the Merchants Open House. (Nancy Bickell photo)

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COMMUNITY —

Volunteering at the Salvation Army kettle



The U15LL "Undefeated" hockey team were out on Saturday with full smiles manning the Salvation Army Kettle at the Scotia Bank corner. The team, who is sponsored by Ashton Tire, spent two hours taking their turn helping out in the community. (Wendy Lamond photo)



Another enthusiastic volunteer was this well dressed reindeer, Sylvia Harvey who collected money for the Savation Army. (Nancy Bickell photo)

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COMMUNITY —

The Avonbank Community welcomes the Christmas season



David Mountain's tractor and wagon led the Avonbank Christmas parade around the country block. (Contributed photo)

By June Grant

Seventeen years ago, three farmers in the Avonbank community (Derek Crawford, Bob Ready and John Hotson) decorated their tractors with lights, drove them around the coun-

try block and the Avonbank farm machinery Christmas parade was born. On Friday, November 24th there were a total of 29 entries in this year's parade. Vehicles lined the block from one end to the other to view tractors,



Members of the Motherwell Women's Institute - Pauline Crawford, Eileen Nethercott, Yvonne Brown and Irene Hotson display trays full of homemade goodies. (Nancy Bickell photo)

sprayers and balers resplendent with bright lights and Christmas displays. There were even a couple of horses decked out in lights.

After the parade people were invited back to the church to enjoy coffee, ci-

der and homemade cookies supplied by the Motherwell Women's Institute. Chocolate milk for the children was also provided by the Perth County Dairy Producers. It was also an opportunity for children to have a visit with Santa.



NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of The Corporation of the Town of St. Marys intends to designate 100 Church Street South as a property of cultural historical value or interest under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.0.18, as amended.

Property Description

The subject property is described as PT BLOCK 3 WEST SIDE CHURCH ST PLAN 225 ST MARYS; PT LOT 1 WEST SIDE CHURCH ST PLAN 235 ST MARYS AS IN R242243; S/T R242243 ; ST MARYS

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Design and Physical Value: The home consists of a centre hall plan, two-unit depth by two-unit width. To the south façade is a clapboard extension consisting of a garage at the upper level and rooms at the lower and ground level back. The main roof is saddle back style with a ridge board running north/south and open end gables.

The masonry walls are limestone, with the east wall being half coursed square cut ashlar, running bond pattern, quarry faced finish. All four corners are quoined using full course, single block square cut ashlar, alternating vertically and horizontally in a tooled finish.

The windows are wood frame double hung style, two over two muntin and mullion style all painted beige. The front door is wood, solid style with lower horizontal panels being fielded style and upper being glazed finish in wood-stained oak. The entrances have solid wood surrounds of plain painted wood.

Historical Value: The house at 100 Church Street South has a long and interesting history, with direct ties to the Eaton family. It also served as a manse for the St. Marys Methodist/United Church, located across the street.

Contextual Value: 100 Church Street South is located two blocks south of Queen Street, where the Eaton family opened their first business in St. Marys. It is located across the street from the St. Marys Methodist/United Church, where is served as its manse for approximately 30 years.

Description of Heritage Attributes

- Saddleback style roof with wood shake central gable on the front façade.
- The masonry walls which are limestone vary in cut style; with the east wall being half coursed square cut ashlar, running bond pattern, quarry faced finish. All four corners, quoined using full course, single block square cut ashlar, alternating vertically and horizontally in a tooled finish. All large, single-block lintels and sills.
- The red brick chimney on the south end of the building.
- All wooden windows and doors.

Notice of Objection

Any person may serve their notice of objection to the proposed designation to the Town Clerk within 30 days of the date of this notice, and no later than 4:30 pm on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. Objections should be directed to the Town of St. Marys, Box 998, St. Marys, ON N4X 1B6, Attention: Jenna McCartney, Clerk, or by email to clerksoffice@town.stmarys.on.ca A notice of objection must set out the reason(s) for the objection and all relevant facts



NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of The Corporation of the Town of St. Marys intends to designate 285 Emily Street as a property of cultural historical value or interest under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.0.18, as amended.

Property Description

The subject property is described as LOT 73 EAST SIDE WATER STREET PLAN 248 ST MARYS, BEING PT 3 44R-402 ; ST MARYS

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Design and Physical Value: The plan for this house is to run east to west with the main entrance facing Emily Street and the longitudinal L shaped section runs this way.

The roof is saddle back style with a single steep pitched centre cross gable, from the front of the house into the main ridge board running longitudinally north/south; as well as a lesser pitched roof running from the ridge board east to form the L shape part of the house.

The west façade is limestone regular cut ashlar, with a central protrusion which contains the entrance and the second storey window centred in the cross gable. The north/east extension and southern walls are limestone, irregular coursed rubble. The rear wall or east extension has a field stone ground floor with a wood plinth separating it from the second level; which matches the other walls of the extension in limestone rubble.

Historical Value: 285 Emily has a long and interesting history, with connections to the early flax milling industry that took place in St. Marys along the Thames River, the Knox Presbyterian Church, a family of Olympic runners, and Thamescrest Farms.

Contextual Value: 285 Emily Street is located in the North Ward of St. Marys, on a street overlooking the Thames River. It is located on the former land of Thamescrest Farms, near the sites of several former mills that were powered by the Thames River.

Description of Heritage Attributes

- Site of residence, located on Emily Street on former Thamescrest Farm site.
- Saddleback style roof with large central gable on the west façade.
- L-shape design with central protrusion at west façade entrance.
- Two limestone chimneys, on the north and south ends of the Emily Street façade. The north chimney was fully rebuilt in 2023 using limestone to closely match the original.
- All exterior limestone masonry walls.

Notice of Objection

Any person may serve their notice of objection to the proposed designation to the Town Clerk within 30 days of the date of this notice, and no later than 4:30 pm on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. Objections should be directed to the Town of St. Marys, Box 998, St. Marys, ON N4X 1B6, Attention: Jenna McCartney, Clerk, or by email to clerksoffice@town.stmarys.on.ca A notice of objection must set out the reason(s) for the objection and all relevant facts

COMMUNITY —

Holiday Smile Cookies



This year's Smile Cookie campaign at Tim Hortons in St. Marys raised an amazing \$4,218 for our local Salvation Army. Much appreciation goes to all the volunteers and the entire community who supported the campaign. Pictured above are Jennifer Morris (Community and Family Services Manager, Salvation Army), Shari-Ann McHardy (Manager, Tim Hortons) and Paul Whaling (Owner, Tim Hortons).

A world of friends



Fourteen Ambassadors from the Stratford/St Marys Friendship Force Group recently travelled to Newcastle, Australia and did a home stay with the Newcastle Friendship Force. The Friendship Force Tagline is "A World of Friends is a World of Peace". Making many new friends on their journey, the Newcastle Friendship Force showed them all the sites of their city. The last night concluded with a wonderful farewell dinner at the Valentine Bowling Club where they were joined by the Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Kay Fraser and Deputy Mayor Madeline Bishop and they passed on greetings from our mayor, Al Strathee. (Contributed photo)



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SPORTS —

Lincs take three of six points in loaded four-day schedule

By Spencer Seymour

Playing three games in four days is challenging enough but it's an even bigger grind when the three teams you're facing are some of the grittiest groups in the league. And although their three points were enough to keep them in the mix at the top of the conference, the St. Marys Lincolns certainly entered this week having felt like they had left at least one or two points on the table.

Their busy schedule began last Thursday in Sarnia as the Lincolns visited the Pat Stapleton Arena to play the Legionnaires. In a period highly reminiscent of the second against St. Thomas back on November 19th, the Lincolns looked dominant in the first frame, outshooting Sarnia 19-5 and scoring four goals in five minutes and nine seconds, three of which came within a 57-second stretch. Head Coach Jeff Bradley was thrilled with the opening frame by his team but admitted the second especially left a little to be desired.

"I thought we had a great first period," Bradley told the Independent. "I'd call it quite similar to the second period against St. Thomas. Obviously, not so much with the second period. We got it back somewhat in the third but at the end of the day, a win is a win. In that rink, it's always a tough fight to leave with two points."

"We stopped doing the things that made us successful. Obviously, we had a ton of skill but if the work ethic doesn't match your skill, then it creates an opportunity for the other team to win. Sarnia was doing things that we should have been doing. They were hard to play against in front of their net when we were not in front of ours. We were sitting back too much on our defensive gaps, our forwards were getting too low in the offensive zone which created odd-man rushes."

Ethan Weir got the game's first goal with his sixth of the year and first of two he would score in the game. After Anthony Tudino evened things up for Sarnia, Josh Cornfield fired his first of the season, followed in quick succession by goals from Noah VandenBrink and Luca Spagnolo.

Later in the game, Ryan Hodkinson found his much-deserved and



Ethan Weir celebrates as he scores a goal during the St. Marys Lincolns game last Friday night against the LaSalle Vipers. In three games from November 19th to 24th, Weir as well as Billy VanSumeren recorded nine points in three games for the Lincolns. (Photo credit: Mike Chennette/McGinny Photography)

long-overdue first of the year on a shorthanded two-on-one. Weir's second of the game came in the third along with an empty-netter by Blake Elzinga, while newly-acquired Josh Kirton got the win in goal as the Lincs left with a 7-5 win over the Legionnaires.

One of the Lincolns' newest acquisitions, Cohen Bidgood, has an assist in the game and earned rave reviews from the bench boss.

"Cohen was outstanding. He is as simple as it gets. He doesn't try to do anything too fancy if he doesn't have to. He plays a style that we need on our team. He works hard, he goes to the net, and he's not scared. He's not soft at all. He wants to do things the hard way and he's good at doing so."

When comparing the first period against the Legionnaires, the second period against the Stars earlier in the month, and many of their games this season in which they've lost despite greatly outplaying or outchancing their opponents, Bradley considered the difference in his team's play between the game they've won versus the ones they've lost.

"I don't know how much of a difference there is between the second period against St. Thomas, the first

period against Sarnia, and the majority of the games we've played this year, in terms of how hungry we are around the net. I think now, we're just starting to get rewarded for it. When you're not getting the results, it's easy for guys to abandon the system but all credit to our players, they never did that. They continued doing what we preached and it's great to see them finally getting rewarded."

Bradley said it is "incredibly important" to have a roster full of players who not only can execute on the team's gameplan, but continue to do so even when it isn't yielding the results they want or even perhaps deserve.

"You have to have a plan if you want to be successful. We pride ourselves on how much video and preparation work we do but it means nothing if the work ethic doesn't match that level of planning and thankfully, the players' work ethic always matches our planning. They're continuing to get better and learn and thankfully, they've put trust in us and continued to follow the plan and thankfully we're starting to see results."

"We've got players in and out of the lineup who have the work ethic and willingness to execute on our gameplan," continued Bradley. "Having

that depth is great. It's unfortunate at times because you always have to sit someone who deserves to play and if they were on any other team, they would be playing. It's the hardest part of our job and it sucks to sit guys out but it creates accountability and competition and allows us, if someone goes down, to always have someone we really trust step in."

Lincs dominate, Vipers steal extra point in OT

When asked about how he viewed his team's performance one night later when the Lincolns returned home to host the LaSalle Vipers, despite a 7-6 final score in overtime for the visitors, Bradley was thrilled with the performance by all 12 forwards and six defencemen.

"Honestly, I thought we played unbelievable. We outshot them 58-27, we gave up just 18 even-strength shots. We led in high-danger scoring chances 32-13. How do you get mad at our team for a performance like that, especially against a really good team? Our guys had every reason to give up with how many times LaSalle got the lead but they didn't quit at all. They got it back every time. I thought skaters one through 18 were all awesome."

According to the Head Coach, even though they only secured a single point, the Lincs showed a ton of character and desire to win in the game in which they erased four different Vipers' leads in regulation.

"We challenged some of our big offensive guys who had big nights in Sarnia to be a bit more responsible defensively and they did. You look at guys like Blake [Elzinga], Ryan [Hodkinson], and Cohen [Bidgood], those are three first-year players who played like veterans. They are incredibly effective players and it's a really good line for us."

"Our defence was really good. We're missing James [Sigmon] who is an important piece back there for us. Adam [Barkley] was sick as a dog all week but he stepped up and played almost 30 minutes for us. Jaden [Shiell] came in and even though he has kind of been in and out this year, every time he has come into the line-

Continued on page 15

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SPORTS —

Lincs take three of six points in loaded four-day schedule

Continued from page 14

up, he's given us something useful."

Nine-and-a-half minutes after Nathan Gaymes gave the Vipers an early 1-0 lead in the first, Jaden Lee scored on the powerplay to tie it at one apiece. In the second, just under two minutes after Owen Pitters put the Vipers back ahead by one, Weir made it three straight games with a goal with his eighth of the season assisted by linemates VandenBrink and VanSumeren.

Ahead of Sunday's game, both Weir and VanSumeren each had nine points in their last three games while VandenBrink also had points in three straight and was at over a point per game in those three outings. Bradley said that trio was fantastic all night long on Friday.

"Ethan was winning faceoffs in the defensive zone and was just really good in his own end, and obviously offensively, he's a freak. Then you've got Noah who has taken on a bit of a mentor's role with Ethan. Everywhere Ethan is going, Noah has been in those shoes as a high-end OHL draft pick with even higher aspirations beyond that. And then there is Billy who is the straw that stirs the drink. He's got the exact experience every team wants. He's a great leader and a great player and that line, as well as the Lee, Spagnolo, and MacQueen-Spence, were both outstanding."

Seven seconds after Weir tied the game, Jak Thiessen fired a quick shot on a quick rush off of the faceoff to retake the lead for LaSalle. Adrian Manzo made it 4-2 for the Vipers just 33 seconds later, a goal that chased Colby Booth-Housego from the game. However, two powerplay goals from VandenBrink and VanSumeren saw

the Lincolns once again bring the game back to even.

Just 66 seconds after VanSumeren's game-tying goal, Kyle Greene responded for LaSalle to make it 5-4 heading into the second. In the final frame, Pitters once again put the Vipers up by a pair but the ever-resilient Lincolns clawed back yet again, first with a goal by Luke Bogart and then, in the final minute, a heroic equalizer by Captain Barkley.

In overtime, an offensive rush got flipped on the Lincolns and turned into a two-on-none with Manzo one-timing the game-winner for his second of the game and a 7-6 LaSalle victory. The win may have spoiled what would have been a gutsy comeback win for St. Marys, but didn't negate the many positives in the Lincolns' game.

"We outchanced and outshot them, obviously," Bradley noted. "We were physical. We dictated the pace of the game. Our special teams were great. The powerplay was three-for-seven and our penalty kill went seven-for-seven. Mike [Herman] and the penalty killers worked on a slightly different penalty kill gameplan to adjust to LaSalle's powerplay and it worked really well."

Offence dries up in Chatham

The explosive goal-scoring pace the Lincolns had been on came crashing back down to earth on Sunday when they travelled to Chatham and a strong goaltending performance by Kaleb Papineau coupled with an atypical shooting inaccuracy resulted in the Lincs being blanked 3-0 by the Maroons.

After Jaxen Fortier-Smith got the game's first goal in the second frame, the Lincolns took the game over. St. Marys outshot Chatham 17-6 in the

middle stanza thanks in no small part to several dominant powerplays, including a 90-second five-on-three, that were single-handedly fended off by Papineau in the Maroons net.

"In the first two periods, I thought we played pretty well. The first period was a good road period for us. We're playing an opponent who plays us really tough and we had a few opportunities. And then in the second, with the way our powerplay produced on Friday, I was feeling pretty confident in our powerplay and we got some good looks but we just couldn't finish."

"Chatham did a really good job stacking three guys along the blueline and while I thought we did a good job adjusting to having to chip pucks in but the problem was we weren't chipping them in the proper places to retrieve where we had our numbers," Bradley continued. "We would chip them in the wrong corner or put it right in the place we don't want to put it. I didn't hate our powerplay, we got some good chances with it, and we got set up in the zone, we did pretty well, but we had a bit of a tough time on our entries."

In the third, on a powerplay of their own just a minute and five seconds

into the period, lacklustre net-front coverage allowed Cale Marontate to whack a rebound by Booth-Housego, who made 23 saves on 25 shots on the night. Aiden Edwards scoring an empty-netter with one minute and 33 seconds left in the game. Bradley cited the powerplay goal by Marontate as a turning point in the game.

"I think the powerplay goal that Chatham got early in the third took some wind out of our sails. It would have been nice if we had shown a bit more fight in the third like we did on Friday night but we also have to give credit to Chatham, they are a good team, their goaltender played really well, and we just couldn't buy a goal."

The Lincolns schedule this week includes a trip to London on Wednesday to battle the Nationals followed by a home game against the St. Thomas Stars on Friday. This Friday's game at the PRC marks the beginning of the Lincolns' annual Toy Drive for the Salvation Army. At their three home games in December, the team is collecting items for the Salvation Army.

An important note to consider is that the items most in need are toys for tweens and teens, as well as toiletries and personal hygiene products.



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SPORTS —

Details finally paying off for U11 C Boys

By Spencer Seymour

The U11 C Boys proved they were way better than their early-season rough patch might suggest last Wednesday when they earned a dominant 7-1 win over the East Lambton Eagles.

Head Coach Brayden Lord told the Independent that the team appears to have started clicking many of the puzzle pieces in their game together.

“We’re really proud of them,” said Lord. “We’ve been teaching them a lot of small things and the last couple of games, we’ve really started to come along and see good things out there. We’ve had a few tough games in a row where the effort was there but they just didn’t get the breaks but tonight, the effort was there and they were able to break through.”

Lord added following last Wednesday’s win that the team’s play at both ends has been impressive.

“Our forechecking system has really come into focus for us these last few games. We just introduced it and they’ve seemed to have really taken to it. They are keeping their heads up, making good passes, and backchecking well so they aren’t quitting on our goalie.”

The Rock jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first period, starting with two goals in 38 seconds from Luc Richardson and Sheamus Ross. Lachlann Thistle then added another with two minutes and 26 seconds left in the opening frame.

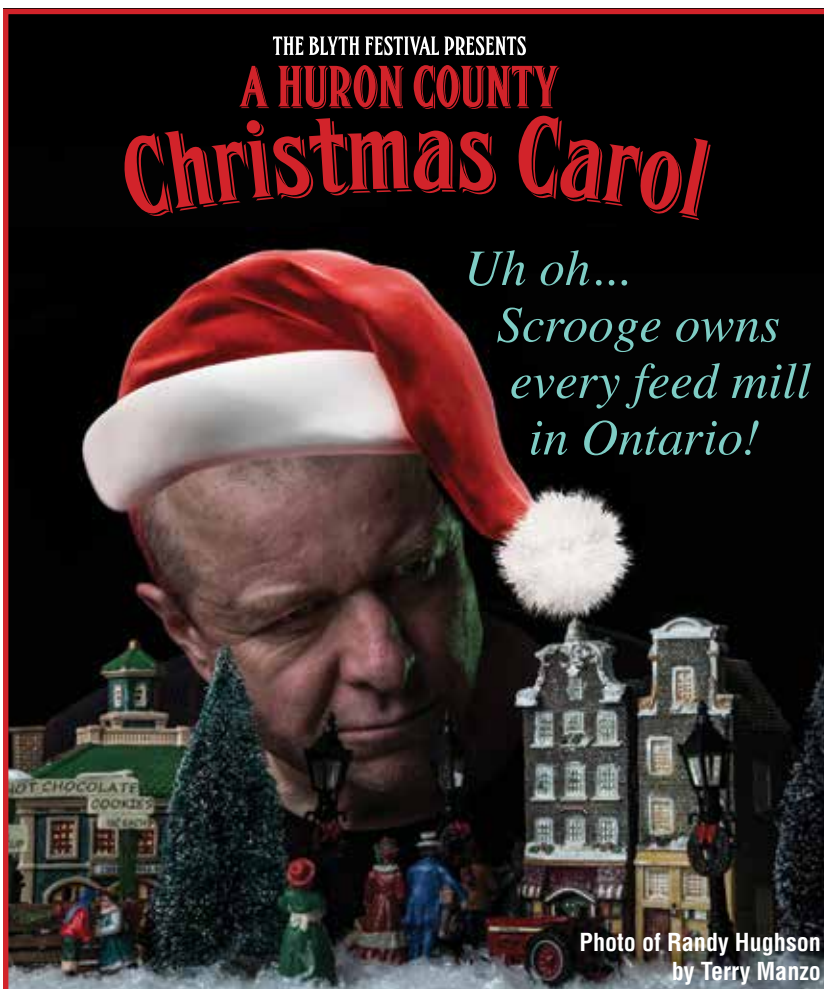
If you thought the two goals in under 40 seconds would be the fastest pair of goals in the game, the Rock would prove you incorrect when Ross and Thistle improbably scored just three seconds apart in the second period. Daxton Thistle picked up his first goal of the season with a shorthanded marker three minutes later.

In the third, Lachlann Thistle completed the hat-trick while East Lambton got their only goal of the night en route to a 7-1 final in St. Marys’ favour. Lord said that the big win was important for the team to finally see some fruits of their labour.

“You always have those games when you know you could have done something better and you didn’t get the breaks. And as a team, even if you know it mentally, sometimes you need to put a few points on the board to really see that what you’re doing works. To see them do all the things we’re preaching and the things they were doing but just not getting the results before, finally end up in a win, it’s really good for the whole team.”

The Rock also picked up a 4-3 win on the road last Saturday over the South Huron Sabres. Lord noted that, with every passing game, they appear to execute better and better.

“They always would take what we were giving them and teaching them and try to put it into practice. You could see they were trying it out there and it just wasn’t quite coming together for them. It’s a marathon, not a sprint, and things seem to be starting to click and they’re picking things up quicker. As a coach, you see these little things all coming together that they may not see and don’t always appear on the scoreboard but eventually, they put all those things together and they look up at the scoreboard and realize that it works.”



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SPORTS —

Minor Sports Scrapbook



Kyla Graham emerges from behind the net with the ring during last Saturday's U12 St. Marys Snipers game.



Jillian Davies chases down a loose puck during last Saturday's Kinsmen Club U9 C Girls St. Marys Rock game.



Kira Henderson looks to make a play from behind the net during the Harris-Greig Automotive U9 HL Girls St. Marys Rock game last Saturday.



Reiner De Boer comes up with a big save while tending the goal during last Saturday's U9 LL Boys St. Marys Rock game.



Owen Simons, wearing mismatched socks for improved accuracy, takes a shot during the Finnbilt Construction U9 MD Boys St. Marys Rock game last Saturday.



Ellie McDonald jams a goal home at the side of the net during the Hitching Post U11 C Girls St. Marys Rock game this past Sunday. (Spencer Seymour photos)

SPORTS —

U14 A Boys find confidence in spirited win over Strathroy

By Spencer Seymour

So far this season, it hasn't been uncommon for a lacklustre finish to spoil an otherwise solid performance by the Frayne Custom Cabinets U14 A Boys St. Marys Rock. However, this past Monday, rather than come undone in the final frame, the Rock ratcheted their intensity and desire to win even higher and as a result, found four unanswered goals to down the Strathroy Jr. Rockets 6-3.

Head Coach Todd Dittmer told the Independent that he is hopeful the win on Monday could prove to be a catalyst for the rest of the season.

"They came to play tonight," Dittmer said following the win on Monday night. "It was a really good night for us as a group and I'm really proud of the way they competed tonight. They did everything we asked them to do and hopefully, they proved to themselves that they can be a really strong team night in and night out when they bring what they brought tonight."

St. Marys and Strathroy traded one-goal leads in the first two periods with the Rock getting goals from Scott Dewan in the first and Graeme Froud in the second, the first of two



Graeme Froud goes forehand-to-backhand to tuck home one of the Frayne Custom Cabinets U14 A Boys St. Marys Rock's four goals in the third period that propelled the team to a 6-3 win over the visiting Strathroy Jr. Rockets. (Photo by Spencer Seymour)

goals of the evening for both players. The true turning point of the game was the third period, which this season, has been where the U14 A Boys have had some issues when it comes to maintaining their strong play and closing out the game. However, after an early-period goal, the Rock went

ballistic, scoring four unanswered goals including the second of the night for Dewan and Froud, as well as the game-winner by Dom Marziali and a punctuation mark by Dan Dittmer that made it 6-3, the eventual final score.

Coach Dittmer said his team execut-

ed on everything the coaching staff had been preaching and it paid off in a big way.

"They did everything we asked them to do. They forechecked really hard the entire game. There were always two guys on the puck. Most importantly, their puck aggression and intensity levels were where we needed them and they had it for three periods. We can beat anybody in two periods but sometimes this year, we've struggled in the third a bit. But tonight, we seemed to get better in the third which was really positive for our team."

When asked what the difference was in Monday's game and other outings this season that didn't end with the desired result, Dittmer said a big part is the team recognizing how good they are when their mental strength is as solid as their two-way skillsets.

"With this team, I think it's a matter of confidence and mentally being in the right headspace to expect good things to happen. We have tons of skill and ability, and tonight, what I really liked was that it looked like we had the winning mentality and to me, that was the biggest factor in us coming away with the win."

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SPORTS —

St. Marys Bowling Lanes participate in Giving Tuesday



The St. Marys Bowling Lanes bowlers collected six large bags of food for the library pantry as part of the recent Giving Tuesday event. Pictured are YBC bowlers, including, in the front row from left to right, Ryker Rothernel, Christie LeBlanc, Rosie Le Blanc, Kinsley Kosluk Harper, Leia Slaney, Bridget Stevens, Brendan King, and Nate Sims. In the back row, from left, Landon Ball, Nathan McKeen, Jack Brockman, and Natalie McKeen. (Contributed photo)



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COMMUNITY —

DCVI Giving Tuesday project



On Giving Tuesday the grade 7/8 class from St. Marys DCVI collected individually packaged food products and gift cards for a food drive. The proceeds will go towards the school snack cart for students that need something to eat and to families that need help.

Pictured from left are Serina Persaud, Emma Hodgkinson, Seth Mountain and Charlotte Greene who braved the snow and cold to collect donations.

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COMMUNITY —

Council Briefs

By Stewart Grant

The Town Hall is currently closed for renovations and will remain so until May 2024. The first-floor renovation is being performed by Tradition Construction for the procured price of \$563,983, inclusive of all taxes. During the construction period, Council will meet in the Boardroom at the Municipal Operations Centre (408 James St. S). The police are temporarily located out of the Fire Hall dispatch office.

Mercury Theatre Building

At the November 14th Council meeting, it was resolved that the procurement for the Mercury Theatre Building (14 Church Street N) renovations be awarded to N1 Construction Ltd. for the amount of \$767,270, inclusive of all taxes, and that Council approves an additional \$130,000 of costs to be incurred in the delivery of the project for engineering fees, abatement of mold, agreements with neighbours, and a project contingency.

Youth Centre booming

The Community Services report provided to Council on Tuesday indicated excellent utilization of the Youth Centre this fall. For the month of October, there were a total of 517 visits to the Youth Centre, which is 230 higher than October of 2022. Combining September and October 2023 versus the prior year, Director of Community Services Stephanie Ische reported that participation is up by 233 per cent.

Suspect identified in October's PRC power outage

The November 28th report to Council from Community Services reported that a squirrel was the culprit whose actions led to the October 18th power supply disruption. Following the incident, Festival Hydro coordinated an inspection revealing that many overloads protecting HVAC equipment were tripped, which was a positive sign since they are designed to protect motors and variable frequency drives from damage. However, two components of the pool Dectron were found to be damaged from the incident including an exhaust motor and compressor.

ST. MARYS CURLING CLUB Competitive League Standings

TEAM	W	L	T	PTS
Morris Van De Walle	6	0	0	18
Pat Murray	5	1	0	16
Jared French	4	2	0	14
Tom Westerveld	4	2	0	14
Brady St. Louis	3	3	0	12
Jim McCutcheon	2	4	0	10
Adam Winchester	2	4	0	10
George White	2	4	0	10
Chris Meyer	1	5	0	8
Lindsay McLeod	1	5	0	8

ST. MARYS CURLING CLUB Doubles League Standings

TEAM	W	L	T	PTS
Stewart & Jake Grant	5	1	0	16
Pat Murray & Jeff Jackson	4	1	1	15
Adam Hudson & Andrew Zwambag	4	1	1	15
George White & Neil Hemingway	3	3	1	14
Merlin Leis & Alan Johnston	2	3	0	9
Tom & Marjie Westerveld	2	3	0	9
Richard Murphy & Ryan Leaman	1	3	1	8
Luke & Rick DeBrabandere	1	4	0	7
Mark King & Chris Van Wieren	2	1	0	7

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HISTORY —

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: John E. Harding and Charles S. Jones

By Mary Smith

Several weeks ago, this column described several of the earliest lawyers to practice in St. Marys. That idea came from a lengthy article, titled "Old Time Barristers," published in two parts in the St. Marys Journal Argus in January 1929. It outlined the careers of about two dozen men who had practised law in 19th century St. Marys. The writer of the article believed their names should be remembered for their impact – not always positive – on the community at the time. The writer stated, rather colourfully: "How the years roll by, old faces, old voices pass on! New ones appear, and like their predecessors, go along that long, long trail of winding, the road that leads to eternity." This column expands the stories of two lawyers who were, as the article put it, "contemporaries or opponents in the world of business" – John E. Harding and Charles S. Jones. Both also served as mayor of St. Marys, Harding in 1870-1871, and Jones, soon after, in 1873-1874.

John Elley Harding was born on May 29, 1840, in Wentworth County near Hamilton. His father, also named John, had been born in Tipperary, Ireland, and was a farmer and mill owner. The Harding family had immigrated to Canada in the early 1820s, settling in London Township. In 1826, John senior married Jane Talbot. She was a member of the well-known Talbot clan, early settlers in that part of southwestern Ontario. John and Jane Harding had nine children, eight of whom lived to be adults. John Elley was their seventh child and third son.

By the 1851 census, the Harding family had left Wentworth County and moved back to London Township, closer to relatives on both the Harding and Talbot sides. The parents were in failing health. John Harding Senior died in 1856 at the age of 55 and Jane Talbot Harding died just a year later, age 49. When John and Jane died, their youngest four children – two girls and two boys, one of whom was John – were still in their teens. But they seem to have been well provided for. John was well on his way to completing an excellent education. He had been a student at Carodoc Academy, a private school west of London, with the reputation of being one of the best in Upper Canada. John was also privately tutored and by the time he was 18, he was reading law with prominent lawyers, first in London, and then in Toronto. He was called



The house at 89 Ontario Street South was built in 1870 for Charles S. Jones, a local lawyer, who served as mayor of St. Marys in 1873-4. He is also remembered for absconding with a large amount of money held in trust.

to the bar in 1866.

Harding opened up his own practice in St. Marys that year. He was able and ambitious and soon made his name. At the age of 40, according to the 1880 Canadian Biographical Dictionary, Harding was "the leading member of the leading law firm in the town, his partners being his younger brother, Edward W. Harding, and Henry A. L. White, both having studied their profession with him." Not only had he served as mayor of the town but also had been a trustee on the St. Marys Collegiate Institute board for many years. He was a Liberal in politics and an active member of St. James Anglican Church. He was an officer in the local militia unit and a member of the Masonic Lodge.

On New Year's Day, 1866, when he was 25 and just beginning his career, John Harding married Mary Stevenson, the daughter of George Stevenson, a one-time mayor of Sarnia. Their first son, Robert Talbot Harding, was born in September 1867. The Hardings had five more children – another son, Jack, and four daughters, Kate, Jenny, Mary and Helen. They bought a large, limestone house near the north boundary of the town, overlooking the Thames River. This lovely property, currently identified as 285 Emily Street, was, at that time, set in the farmland that still circled St. Marys within the town limits. It must have been a great place for the Harding children to grow up.

In the early 1890s, John Harding was appointed to a position in the Perth County Court in Stratford. This was

cially to farmers, and in 1863, he was also an insurance agent.

However, as he increased his qualifications, his legal career picked up. By 1866, he was in a position to marry 18-year-old Helen Amelia McDougall, the daughter of a prosperous mill-owning family. The McDougalls were originally from Vaughan Township and had moved to St. Marys ca 1860. They lived in the large, limestone house on Church Street South, now the St. Marys Museum. Charles and Helen's first son, Frederick, was born in 1868. A second little boy died as an infant, but eventually, there were two more sons, Alan and Thomas. In 1868, Jones formed a partnership with Helen's older brother, Alfred McDougall. The firm of Jones and McDougall must have prospered because in 1870, Charles and Helen Jones and their family moved into their handsome, new, brick house at 89 Ontario Street South, set on a large property overlooking the Thames River valley. Charles became involved in municipal politics. He was elected mayor in 1873 and 1874. As well as offering legal services, he continued to arrange loans and to act as an investment advisor.

The law firm of Jones and McDougall dissolved in the late 1870s when Alfred McDougall left for Toronto to pursue political ambitions. And then things fell apart for the Jones family. In early May 1879, the residents of St. Marys discovered that Charles had skipped town, taking several thousand dollars of his clients' money, but leaving behind a large number of creditors. The St. Marys Argus reported: "Of course, it is natural that a great many rumours should be afloat, but even if one tenth of all be true, his affairs are certainly left in a bad state. Scores of men had placed their money, many to the extent of thousands of dollars, in his hands for investment." Helen McDougall Jones was six months pregnant with their fourth child at the time. Her brother, Alfred, returned from Toronto to try to sort out the grim situation. But Jones never came back to St. Marys to face his creditors, former clients or family members. He never met his baby son, Thomas, born in August 1879. Helen had to sell the beautiful house on Ontario Street. She moved to Toronto and raised her sons as a single parent. Family members recalled that her husband's name was never again mentioned in her household. Charles S. Jones died in 1898, far away in Portland, Oregon, at the age of 57.

a stepping stone to a subsequent appointment as a junior judge in Lindsay, Victoria County, northeast of Toronto. He eventually became Senior Court Judge of Victoria County. Harding's personal life, however, had its sorrows. In 1898, soon after the family moved to Lindsay, his eldest daughter, Kate, died, age 29. Then, Mary, his wife of almost 40 years, died in November 1905. Seven years later, in September 1912, Judge Harding married Elizabeth Malcolmson of Hamilton. She was 30 years his junior. After a long and distinguished career, he retired to Hamilton and died there in 1925. John Harding is buried with his first wife, Mary, in Lindsay.

Another young lawyer, Charles S. Jones, had already set up his office when Harding came to St. Marys in the 1860s. Jones's career also showed early promise but took quite a different trajectory. Charles Samuel Jones was born in London Township in 1841, the son of Thomas Jones, a cabinet maker, and Susan Norris Jones. By the 1851 census, the Jones family was living in St. Marys and Thomas and Susan had four children – two sons and two daughters. By 1861, Charles was 20 years old. He and his older brother, Thomas Junior, were working with their father as cabinet makers but Charles was probably also studying law with a local firm. In September 1862, he opened an office on Water Street, offering his services as an attorney, conveyancer and solicitor. He was 21 years old. His law practice might have been slow to get started. Jones advertised that he could arrange loans, espe-

THORNDALE WEEKLY NEWS

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It's Christmas in Thorndale

By Nancy Abra

The Christmas season is upon us, and it starts in Thorndale. There is an array of Christmas activities coming up. On December 1st the 'Jingle and Mingle' holiday celebration for area youth takes place at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre with planned fun activities. Also, there are various Christmas crafts and activities planned by the BGC (Boys & Girls Club) in December at the Community Centre.

On Monday, December 4th, the Thorndale Lions are hosting their annual Christmas Bingo at 7pm at the Thorndale Community Centre. Then later in the week, on Friday December 8th at 7pm, it is the Thorndale Lions Santa Claus Parade. The parade will leave the Community Centre, make its way east through the subdivisions, then return to the Community Centre for entertainment, food and the little ones can visit with Santa. For the parade route details go to www.thorndalelionsclub.ca

On Saturday, December 9th there will be lots of activities planned by various 'downtown' businesses in Thorndale. Thorndale Farm Supplies is hosting a special Christmas Open House from 10am to 2pm with fun activities for children, a magic show, face painting, Christmas Carolers, food truck and more. And don't forget to check out



their retail store for a wide variety of products and gift ideas. Community Care Connection of the Thorndale United Church will also be there that day collecting women's personal items and baby needs for ANOVA, a women's shelter in London, also hats and water-resistant gloves for Mission Services in London.

Also that Saturday, Thorndale Ace Hardware is hosting a Customer Appreciation Day from 9am to 3pm. Karen and Don Bentum will have sweet treats, season promotions, and prizes including a draw on the 'World's Largest Stocking' filled with toys. In addition, this will be a great opportunity to meet the new owners of Thorndale Hardware who will be taking over the beginning of January.

'Take Back Your Health' is a new business in Thorndale located at 196 King Street. They are having an open house on December 9th and it's a great opportunity to meet the owner, Jen Hew-

son and her practitioners and enjoy a cup of hot apple cider.

While in Thorndale that Saturday, drop in at Bella Vita Aesthetics at 237 King Street. Owner, Gillian Masse is offering a gift with purchase of a product or gift card. And at 160 King Street, Sheena Ball, RMT at Therapy Worx along with the other businesses have launched their annual Christmas toy drive. Sheena Ball will be there on December 9th collecting toy donations and check out the opportunities to purchase some gift cards/certificates from the businesses there.

For more information on Christmas in Thorndale events check out <https://www.ilovethorndale.ca/christmas-in-thorndale-2023/> and register for a chance to win one of two \$100 'I Love Thorndale' business vouchers.

Firefighter Recruitment Open House in Thorndale

By Nancy Abra

The Thorndale Fire Department hosted the Thames Centre Firefighter Recruitment Open House last Thursday evening, November 23rd. There was a good turnout of 46 men and women who attended. Many were from the local area but there were some from outside Thames Centre and beyond. These interested candidates got a chance to talk to Thorndale firefighters, look over the equipment as well as ask questions. Currently there are 24 at the Thorndale station. Thames Centre Chief Dorcken stated that they anticipate hiring more for both Dorchester and Thorndale, but that number hasn't officially been determined yet. "We will be looking for the best people

to fit into our team. Of course, previous skills and education, response availability and proximity to the station bring much to a candidate's resume, but it's much more than that." Chief Dorcken remarked. "Building a team of hard working, compassionate, trustworthy people is paramount in the fire service. The community must trust that they can rely on us to be dependable on their worst days and for that to happen, we must assemble a team that trusts and respects itself from within. I strongly believe that both of our stations already possess those attributes, now we must scrutinize the new generation of volunteers to ensure that we continue our trend of quality people providing exceptional service to the people of Thames Centre."

THORNDALE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS
Open House
Saturday, December 9
10am-2pm
at Thorndale Farm Supplies
197 King Street, Thorndale

Hosted by:
THORNDALE FARM SUPPLIES COUNTRY STORE

- Food Trucks • Kids Activities
- Magic Show 11:30am
- Carolers at 12pm • Face Painting
- Community Cares

FREE Grab Bag to the 1st 50 Kids!

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- Thorndale DENTAL CENTRE

Visit I Love Thorndale Facebook for schedule of events

COLUMN —

HOSTING UKRAINE: St. Nicholas Day

By VJ Knutson

"I'm interested in hearing about your holiday traditions," I messaged my Ukrainian friends this week. My inbox was immediately flooded with videos, photos, and stories, so I thought I'd share a few, starting with St Nicholas day, which falls on December 6th.

Katarina Maslova writes: "According to tradition, on this night, Saint Nicholas leaves gifts under the pillows of polite children. On the eve of the holiday, children write him letters with their wishes and drop them in the mailbox, or put them on the window. Polite children find a gift under the pillow, and naughty children find a twig. This harshness serves as a kind of warning to the child that it is time to think about his behaviour and correct himself.

In essence, the image of St. Nicholas is similar to the North American Santa Claus. During the Soviet Union, Santa Claus brought gifts to children under the Christmas tree in Ukraine on New Year's Day, December 31. But it is St. Nicholas that has his own history in Ukraine. Ancient Ukrainian peasants celebrated this holiday together after church service. Special cookies were prepared for the children for this holiday - Santa Clauses. The tradition of the cookies has become popular again in recent years.

Another good tradition for this holiday is the custom of making peace with one's enemies. And the girls, who are preparing for marriage, put their chests in order: they prepare clothes and jewelry in which they are to meet

their suitors.

Men were the first to wake up in the morning, walk around their yard, feed the cattle, and say: "Give, God, a good day" and ask for health for their family."

Tatyana Ianchuk wrote that "every year in Kyiv, on St. Nicholas Day, the lights on the main Christmas tree on Sofiyivskyi Square are turned on. This is a great time and place to celebrate the holidays."

I did a bit of research, and found that Saint Nicholas was a fourth century saint who lived in Turkey. Known for his generosity toward the poor, he symbolizes the spirit of giving. A wonderful spirit to kick off the holidays. Saint Nicholas is the inspiration behind our North American Santa Claus.

My heritage is British, and while we did not have Saint Nicholas in our holiday lore, we did have stockings which hung on the bedpost. A good girl or boy received a gift, and a bad one, a lump of coal. Happy to say, my stockings were always blessed with gifts. Interesting to see that the messaging at this time of year is the same.

The photos I've included this week show the trees lit up on St. Nicholas Day, in Kyiv and Lviv.

More next week. In the meantime, don't forget the performance on December 8th at DCVI in support of Alina's Cirque de Soleil dream. Show starts at 7 pm and tickets are \$25 at the door.

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



HANDEL'S MESSIAH
 Paul Grambo, Artistic Director ~ Hayoon Kim, Accompanist
 London Pro Musica Choir & Soloists
 www.londonpromusica.ca

Saturday, December 16, 2023 - 2:00 pm
 St. Marys United Church, 85 Church Street South, St. Marys
 (Doors at 1:30 pm)
\$25 General Admission
 Advance tickets available at the church office - Call (519) 284-3016
 A fundraising concert for St. Marys United Church

Logos for KKP, Choirs Ontario, and other sponsors are present.

St. Marys Museum
Holiday Open House
 Sunday, December 3, 2023
 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Free Admission

Children's Crafts Door Prizes
 Festive Treats Silent Auction

Musical Entertainment by
The Bone Radlers

177 Church Street South
 519-284-3556 | museum@town.stmarys.on.ca

St. Marys Horticultural Society

Christmas Show, Potluck Dinner & Annual Meeting

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
 ST. MARYS LEGION HALL

- Christmas Flower Show Viewing - 6:00 PM
- Potluck Dinner - 6:30 PM (bring your own cutlery, plate, mug)
- Coffee/Tea provided by St. Marys Tim Hortons
- Seasonal Entertainment
- Annual Meeting & Installation of the Board to Follow

Canned Food Collection for the Salvation Army

Purchase your 2024 Membership and be entered in a draw for a beautiful poinsettia

Makes a Great Christmas Gift!!

Kirkton Horticultural Society

Open Meeting
 and
 Flower Show

Tuesday, December 5, 7:15

Doors open at 6:45 for social time and viewing flower show

Admission \$3

Speaker Paul Knowles

Vendors, door prizes, seed exchange, and more.

COLUMN —

WHAT'S FOR DINNER: Holiday Appetizers



By Lauren Eedy

The festive season is upon us and with this comes its share of social engagements. Whether hosting or attending as a guest, it's always nice to have something to bring to share with fellow partygoers. The following recipes are always making an appearance this time of year. I prefer to bring snacks that can be individually picked up so you can socialize around the festivities freely.

Cranberry Brie Phyllo Cups

Prep: 10m Cook: 8m Serves: 15

This is an easy yet elegant appetizer than can be assembled ahead of time, just pop in the oven to bake!

15 frozen phyllo sheets

8oz wheel or wedge of brie cheese

7.5 tsp cranberry sauce plus extra to taste

Sprigs of fresh rosemary

Method:

-Preheat oven to 350°F. Prep a small baking sheet with parchment paper or foil and top with phyllo shells.

-After removing the rind, cut brie into 15 1" cubes.

-Place a cube of brie in each phyllo cup. Bake for 8m until brie is melted and warm.

-While phyllo cups bake, warm up cranberry sauce in a microwave or on the stovetop. Add ½ tsp to each cup. Top with a small sprig of rosemary.

-Serve immediately while warm. Recipe can be doubled.

Bacon-Wrapped Dates

I adore bacon wrapped water chestnuts but this is another spin on the same concept. Dates are a lovely addition to a classic party snack.

Prep: 15m Total time: 1hr 10m Serves: 24

24 large Medjool dates, pitted
4 oz crumbled goat cheese

12 slices bacon, halved

1/4c maple syrup

¾ tsp crushed red pepper flakes

1 tsp finely chopped rosemary

¾ tsp freshly ground black pepper

Method:

-Preheat oven to 400°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and fit with a wire rack, set aside.

-Halve the date lengthwise, ensuring not to cut all the way through. Place a small amount of cheese in each date. Wrap a piece of bacon around each date while making sure the ends meet underneath the date.

-Place dates, seam side down on prepared sheet, bake until bacon fat is beginning to render out, about 15 minutes.

-Meanwhile, in a small bowl, mix together maple syrup, red pepper flakes, rosemary and black pepper. Continue to bake brushed dates until

bacon is crispy. 15-20 minutes more.

Caprese Bites

Prep: 20m Yields: 12

These are always a favourite of mine to bring to parties. I occasionally add salami to them but they are just as delicious without the addition of meat.

8 oz mozzarella balls

2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil

1 tsp Italian seasoning

¼ tsp crushed red pepper flakes

24 cherry tomatoes

12 fresh basil leaves

1 c balsamic vinegar to make a glaze or your favourite balsamic reduction.

Method:

-In a small bowl, stir together mozzarella, Italian seasoning, crushed red pepper flakes and olive oil. Season with salt and pepper.

-Assemble skewers: layer a cherry tomato, basil leaf, marinated mozzarella ball and another cherry tomato. Place on your serving platter

(here you can optionally add salami of your choice too if so desired).

-Make balsamic glaze: in a small saucepan or skillet, bring balsamic vinegar to a low simmer. Let thicken until syrupy, 15m, set aside to cool and thicken.

-Drizzle skewers with glaze and serve.

Homemade Shrimp Cocktail Sauce

There is bound to be shrimp at a holiday party. If you choose to pick up a shrimp ring, why not elevate that with your own cocktail sauce?

½ c mild chili sauce

½ c ketchup

1 tsp lemon zest

2 tbsp lemon juice

1 tbsp horseradish

1 tsp Worcestershire sauce

2 dashes hot sauce

¼ tsp celery salt.

Method:

-Mix all ingredients together, serve with lemon wedges and garnish with parsley.

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

Solutions on page 31

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Riddles

- What does a phone eat?
Minutes.
- What comes down but never goes up?
Rain.
- What did Delaware?
A New Jersey
- What do you call a person with a tree for a briefcase?
A branch manager.
- What did the calculator say to the other calculator?
"You can count on me"
- Why were the pirates so good at singing?
They were working on the high Cs.
- What do prisoners use to call each other?
Cell phones.
- What did one NASCAR driver say to the other?
"Do you want to crash at my place tonight?"
- Why do gorillas have broad fingers?
Because they have large nostrils.
- Why is a snake lucky?
Because you can't pull its leg

- Word Search -

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PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

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

Word List

- Pick a tree
- Decorate
- Hang garland
- Make a list
- Prepare budget
- Invite guests
- Mail cards
- Shop
- Plan a menu
- Order turkey
- Bake cookies
- Houseclean
- Wrap gifts



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

Why can't humans hear a dog whistle?



Because dogs can't whistle

Jaxon Arn (8)

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 Brookie Robinson. Brookie was a rescue dog and is a mix of Chihuahua and Jack Russell. At the age of 6 Brookie loves her walks and playing with her stuffy.



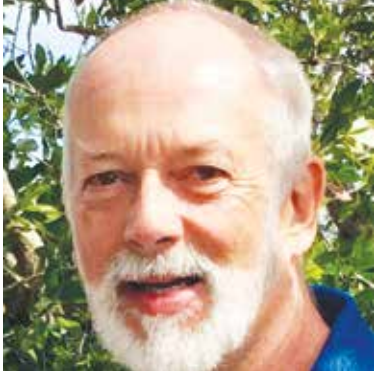
St. Marys Veterinary Clinic is pleased to be the sponsor of the **PET OF THE WEEK**

Pet Safety in Cold Weather Week #1
Sand and salt can be harmful to your pet's paws. Some products can burn the pads of your pet's feet and clump between their toes.

Be sure to wipe your furry friends paws well or have them wear pet boots

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www.stmarysvetclinic.com

COLUMN —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: A beautiful Irish location for a domestic tragedy

By Paul Knowles

The story of Kylemore Castle comes straight out of a gothic romance. It is indeed a castle, but not one built for military or defensive purposes, nor a castle that has a long history of restoration and renewal. No, Kylemore Castle, situated in the beautiful Connemara district of Ireland, was built in the Victorian age in 1868 by a rich English doctor, Mitchell Henry.

Both the Castle and its grounds are enormous. The place includes 33 bedrooms, four bathrooms, four sitting rooms, a ballroom, billiard room, library study, schoolroom, smoking room, gun room, and sundry offices and quarters for domestic staff.

You might think it was already a tragedy to have 33 bedrooms and only four bathrooms, but there is a bigger tragedy here and that's where the gothic, romantic bits come in. Mitchell built Kylemore as a home for his beloved spouse, Margaret but she died only seven years after her dream castle was built. It is amazing how many elaborate, palatial homes – Boldt Castle in the Thousand Islands comes to mind

as does Toronto's own Casa Loma – were built to celebrate love stories that ended in tragedy.

And thus it was at Kylemore. But Margaret's death led to the construction of yet another beautiful structure – the chapel at Kylemore. And eventually, to one more, smaller but still ornate building – the Mausoleum, where both Margaret and Mitchell are entombed. Mitchell had long since left Kylemore but when he died in 1910, having lost most of his fortune, his body was returned to the estate to lie beside his beloved.

Mitchell's fortune came by way of inheritance from his wealthy, industrialist father. Instead of stepping up and running the family business when he inherited his father's wealth, Mitchell stopped practicing medicine and entered politics. Which proved a costly enterprise.

The property changed hands. From 1903 to 1913, the Duke and Duchess of Manchester made Kylemore their home. But in 1920, the 33-bedroom Castle became the home of a group of Benedictine nuns and their successors own and manage the estate to this day.

All of which makes Kylemore one of the most interesting destinations I have visited.

First, there is the stunning setting. The entire region of Connemara is breathtakingly beautiful. Mountains, moors, lakes and free-range sheep (including some ranging in the middle of the roadways) make this drive a highlight of any trip. And Kylemore's

own lakeside setting, backed by craggy mountains, is right out of a storybook.

What makes Kylemore even more special, though, is the diversity of attractions throughout the large property. The Castle of course is worth a lengthy visit. And the nuns, or whoever is running the attraction on their behalf, state of the art interpretive features. Holograms of the period characters tell the story of Kylemore. Visitors are not dependent on written guidebooks or the necessity to download a tour on their phones. Instead, we meet helpful, if virtual, characters eager to share their story.

The property's features are located all around the lake – actually, two lakes, linked by a stream – and the walks are very enjoyable. From the main entrance, you can choose to turn right and visit the Abbey (which is the castle), then the Gothic Church and finally (appropriately enough), the Mausoleum.

Turn left after the main entrance and you can walk, or take a trolley to one of the finest and largest, Victorian walled gardens I have ever visited. And I love visiting Victorian walled gardens.

At the same time the Castle was built, Mitchell Henry ordered that a six-acre bogland be converted into an impressive walled garden. Today, you can wander through the beds and plantings, talk with gardeners and visit the glasshouses (two of an original 21 have been restored), the head gardener's house,



Kylemore Abbey, set in the beautiful Connemara district of Ireland. (All photos by Paul Knowles)

the pigsty, and all manner of individual gardens – kitchen garden, formal flower garden, rockery, nuttury, herb garden, herbaceous borders and more.

The entire Kylemore estate covers 1,000 acres and while you won't visit the property in its entirety, there are several walks and trails, carefully identified, that will take you through woodland, along rivers and even to a waterfall.

All of this at a place where Benedictine nuns continue to "live, work and pray". In fact, visitors are welcome to join the sisters for daily mass and vespers in the modern, newly-constructed Monastic Church located near the entrance to Kylemore (and quite close to the restaurant and gift shop). By the way, when the nuns aren't praying, they spend their time making chocolate and of course, the hand-made Kylemore Abbey Chocolates are on sale in the

gift shop.

Kylemore Abbey has become a national leader in sustainable tourism in Ireland. The vehicle fleet is being electrified, hundreds of native trees are planted on the property each year and the attraction is developing a full "biodiversity plan", working with the National University of Ireland in Galway (about an hour and a half south-east of Kylemore).

There are plenty of destinations worth an hour or two of your time. Kylemore is not one of them. You'll want to schedule a full day at this dramatic, romantic, stunningly beautiful place.

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.



A parade of sheep, along a lake backed by mountains, in Connemara.



Kylemore boasts a six-acre, walled Victorian garden.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

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PRC & Friendship Centre events - See the Stonetown Crier on Page 5
 St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 29

Friday, December 1

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

Saturday, December 2

- First Baptist Church Christmas cookie sale - 10 am to Noon
- Delmar Merry Christmas open house - 10 am to 5 pm
- A.N.A.F. Men's Dart league - 12:45
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm

Sunday, December 3

- St. Marys Museum holiday open house - 2 to 4 pm

Monday, December 4

- Community Dinner at the St. Marys United Church - 5 pm, Sponsored by Community Living Admission is free but donations are greatly appreciated
- Thorndale Lions Club Christmas bingo & 50/50 at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre - 7 pm

Tuesday, December 5

- Kirkton Horticultural Society open meeting & flower show at K-W Community Centre - 7:15 pm

Wednesday, December 6

- St. Marys Horticultural Society Christmas show, potluck dinner & annual meeting at the Legion - 6 pm

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 Phone - 519-284-2760

COLUMN —

Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

What could be better than a good book? How about discussing a good book over a pint of beer? You can do just that at Books and Brews, a St. Marys Public Library book club run in partnership with the Broken Rail Brewery! Join Meaghan and Nicole at Broken Rail on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm for a thoughtful discussion of the current book(s) while you enjoy a tasty libation. Please contact Meaghan at meverett@town.stmarys.on.ca if you're interested in attending.

This Week's Recommendation

On a version of Earth very similar to our own, humanity has access to Death-Cast, a company which contacts you shortly after midnight on the day you will die. Fortunately, this Earth also has Last Friend, an app for "Deckers" (those marked for imminent death) and non-deckers alike to make a friend on their Last Day. This is how Mateo Torrez and Rufus Emeterio are brought together. How will they spend their last day alive? Find out in "They Both Die at the End" by Adam Silvera. You can find it in

hard copy format as well as on Libby (as both an eBook and an eAudiobook).

Up This Week

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

Saturday, Dec. 2nd: Dungeons and Dragons (10:30am)

Monday, Dec. 4th: Open 10:30am-8:00pm

Tuesday, Dec. 5th: Cooking Club* (10:30am), Euchre* (1:00pm-3:00pm), Writing Club* – All Ages (6:00pm-7:00pm)

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

Thursday, Dec. 7th: Euchre* (6:00pm-8:00pm), Scrabble (6:00pm-8:00pm)

*Registration required

LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

The Desert Song

25 years ago (1998)

David Stewart of Stratford and Linda Dick of St. Marys were a couple of big winners in the many St. Marys Minor Hockey Association Booster Weekend draws on Sunday. Stewart won tickets to a Toronto-Boston NHL game and a weekend in Toronto, while Dick won the 50-50 draw worth \$578.

Shelagh O'Neill won a silver medal for ballet at a British Association Teachers of Dance competition in London. Twenty-six schools of dance and over 800 dancers participated in the competition.

Former St. Marys Lincoln Rylan Lindsay is living a dream. The 22-year-old Hamilton resident recently signed on with the Calgary-based Canadian national team earlier this fall and will tour the world for the next seven or eight months, representing his country.

50 years ago (1973)

The Eyesight Committee of the St. Marys Lions Club collected over 600 pairs of eyeglasses. These have been catalogued and are on their way to India. Mr. Stan Culbert is the chairman of the project. There is a dire need for children's size eyeglasses.

According to G.A. Forbes of C.N.'s London office, the St. Marys station may be leased but definitely not torn down. C.N. still heats the building for passengers. Frame stations in four other nearby centres are to be sold and removed.

A bonus in the way of storage space has come about through the interior renovation program at the Town Hall. Lowered ceilings in the new lavatories have left a large area above with a ready-made doorway half-way up the backstairs. Custodian Tom McGiveron is busy filling the newfound space with ballot boxes and old files.

75 years ago (1948)

Mayor Archie Skinner received a letter of appreciation from the secretary of the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh thanking the people of St. Marys for their expression of good wishes sent by cable on the birth of the new prince.

Over sixty people from town and countryside have cooperated during the past six weeks to make possible the presentation of the musical play "The Desert Song" which is being seen by about 1500 persons this week in Town Hall.

Bruce Fordham, an employee of H.E.P.C., received cuts and bruises to his face on Tuesday while working near the St. Marys Junction on a truck equipped to string power lines. He was treated by Dr. R.H. Latimer.

100 years ago (1923)

Six hundred and forty-five rural schools in Ontario have an average attendance of less than ten pupils.

The stretch of road between the Starr Inn and the pavement on Queen Street West is probably one of the worst pieces of highway in the county. Holes large and small cover its surface and it resembles road that has been shelled with whiz-bang guns for about six months.

Two local thoroughbred cattle breeders were successful in taking prizes at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto last week. Both John Hooper and Joseph White of St. Marys took home prizes.



A.N.A.F. Unit 265
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Drop off unwrapped toys
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 Monday to Saturday noon - 6pm
 Deadline is December 16th

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Community Liaison Committee

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

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



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

OBITUARY

Ryan



William (Bill) Douglas Ryan, 79, of St. Marys, ON passed peacefully surrounded by his family's love at 1:44 pm on Friday November 24, 2023.

Welcomed to Heaven with love by his Grandson William (Will) Anthony Simons, Parents, William (Bill) and Alice (Flannery) Ryan, Mother- and Father-in-law, Dennis (Bud) and Madeleine (Reynolds) McMahon, Brother-in-law Maurice McMahon, and his best friend Joey Maloney who passed when they were 16 years old, as well as several cherished family members and friends. Survived by his loyal and loving Wife of almost 60 years, Anna Marie (McMahon), Son, Michael (Lisa), Daughter, Katie (Matt) Simons, adored Grandchildren, Shane, Shannon, Cameron, Kasen, Luke, William, August, Nicholas, Veronica, Owen, Jack and Annalise, Brother Terrance (Terry), Brothers- and Sister-in-law, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Bill, affectionately known as Billy in his early years, was born and raised in St. Columban, ON. Bill farmed alongside his parents and brother, living without hydro and indoor plumbing for many years. Bill loved to play hockey and was involved in 4H. He proudly shared with his Grandsons that he played in Young Canada Week in Goderich, ON! Bill moved to Kitchener, ON when he was just 16 where he worked in automotive and construction and began to forge his own way in life. Bill loved a good party and wasn't afraid to crash them. In 1964, he did just that, and met the love of his life, Anna, when he popped over to introduce himself and get involved in the card game that was going on.

Bill and Anna married on June 12, 1965 and welcomed their first child, Michael in 1966. Bill continued to work in automotive supplies and began his first business in the 1970s. Bill loved to watch his son play sports, enjoyed travelling, snowmobiling, and camping. In the early 1980s Bill began trucking full time as an Owner Operator. He enjoyed travelling throughout North America and always had many pictures and stories to tell! In 1985, Bill and Anna welcomed their second child Katie, and began the process of parenting again! In the 1990s Bill took some risks and began his own Trucking Company - owning a fleet of 9 trucks - his pride and joy. Bill made many great friends through trucking, who became his family, too.

With the new millennium, came many health challenges that Bill took in stride and fought through with bravery and determination. Through his Will to survive, he saw graduations, weddings, births, and all the regular days in between. He even learned how to use a Smart Phone! Bill will be remembered for his great sense of humour, his never-ending stories, the time he always had for a chat, his avid love for the Toronto Maple Leafs and his great love for his family.

Thank you to St. Marys Memorial Hospital, CCAC, the Alzheimer's Society, St. Marys Mobility, Friendship Centre, VON Nurses, Action Health Care, Dr. Donaldson and the team of compassionate and loving Nurses, PSWs, Recreation Staff of Kingsway Lodge, and Community Supports who gave Dad the best care and a great final stretch of life. Visitation was held at the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home on Nov 28th, followed by a private family service. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society or the Parkinson Society. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

OBITUARY

Rule

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our Mother, Betty Claire Rule (nee Marshall) on November 20, 2023 in her hundredth year.

Betty was predeceased by her husband of 55 years, Joseph Henry Rule in 2003, her daughter Marcy Dale Rule in 2020 and her sister Valerie Marshall in 1999.

She is survived by four daughters, Dana (Wes), Lori (Phil), Tracy and Trudy and son Robert (Sharon).

She will be sadly missed by six grandchildren, Jason, Jennifer, Tyler, Spencer, Katie and Zack, also six great grandchildren Trystan, Joseph, Trenton, Bennett, Hudson and Amelia.

Betty was always proud that she was born and lived her life in St. Marys.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

IN MEMORIAM

Hughes

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