

# St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1149

Thursday, March 9, 2023

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## Time change a good reminder to check your smoke and CO alarm batteries



Gina Koot from Bungalow joined Chief Fire Prevention Officer Brian Leverton to remind residents to change the batteries in the smoke and CO alarms when the clocks go forward this Sunday.

Clocks spring forward at 2:00 a.m. this Sunday, March 12 and the St. Marys Fire Department is recommending residents install new batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms (CO) when they change their clocks.

"Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms sense fire well before you can, but only if they have working batteries." States Chief Fire Prevention Officer Brian Leverton. "When you change your clocks on March 12, take the time to install new batteries in all

alarms."

It is the law to have working alarms on every storey of the home and outside all sleeping areas. For added protection, it is recommended to also install smoke alarms inside all bedrooms. CO alarms must be installed outside all sleeping areas if your home has a fuel-burning appliance, fireplace or attached garage.

"Most fatal fires occur at night when people are asleep," explains Lever-

*Continued on page 2*

## Pyramid Recreation Centre pool was set to re-open

The Pyramid Recreation Centre pool was set to re-open on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, following a boiler issue that caused water temperatures to drop. The boiler has now been repaired and water temperatures are returning to normal.

A number of swimming lessons were cancelled due to the unexpected closure. Aquatics staff have prepared a revised schedule with shortened sessions to ensure all swimmers have an opportunity to learn this important life skill.

The new schedule and information about fees and credits on accounts will be emailed to registered participants. It has also been posted to the Town's website at [www.townofstmarys.com/aquatics](http://www.townofstmarys.com/aquatics).

"We are so grateful for the community's patience and support as we worked through this and our previous unplanned closure," says Aquatics Manager, Andrea Slade. "We look forward to welcoming swimmers back to the water!"

Questions about the re-opening and revised swim lessons schedule can be directed to Slade at 519-284-2340, ext. 623 or [aslade@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:aslade@town.stmarys.on.ca).

**Visit our website to have the Independent emailed to you every week! Simply enter your email in the 'Subscribe' box and receive an electronic copy of the paper every Wednesday afternoon.**

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# COMMUNITY —

## Design finalized for revamped skate park

### Donations to fundraising campaign encouraged

After extensive public consultation, the Town of St. Marys has finalized the design for its revamped skate park.

The chosen design – known as Concept 1 – includes street elements, a quarter pipe, a bowl, and a pump track. The design separates “beginner” features from those that are more suited to skilled riders.

“It was a very close contest between the two options,” says Darcy Drum-

mond, Recreation Manager for the Town of St. Marys. “The separation of features in Concept 1 adds an element of safety, which was attractive to parents and newer users.”

The public engagement process included a popular online survey and visit to local schools.

“We were absolutely floored by the level of interest in this project, both locally and provincially,” says Drummond. “In addition to comments from

our own residents, we heard from enthusiasts across Ontario who expressed interest in visiting the new park.”

Drummond continued: “Clearly, there’s a growing interest in the sport and we are excited to create a welcoming space for riders of all ages, skills, and abilities.”

Construction on the park is planned for later this year. In the meantime, the Skate Park Steering Committee

is actively seeking donations to cover the cost of the upgrades. Donations can be made online with a credit card ([www.townofstmarys.com/allwheelspark](http://www.townofstmarys.com/allwheelspark)), through online banking, in person at Town facilities or by mailing a cheque to the Town.

Questions about the project can be directed to Drummond at [ddrummond@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:ddrummond@town.stmarys.on.ca) or 519-284-2340, ext. 626.

## Town wants to hear how local industrial businesses are “going green”

### Green Initiatives Awareness Program aims to highlight actions and inspire change

The Town of St. Marys wants to know how local industrial businesses are working to reduce their impact on the environment.

The call is part of the Town’s Green Initiatives Awareness Program, which is now in its second year. The program was developed by the Town’s Green Advisory Committee to highlight the community’s efforts to combat climate change.

Each spring, the Town requests submissions from a specific group, based on a specific theme. That group is asked to share details about an initiative they have undertaken to promote sustainability. The Town reviews the

initiatives, chooses the ones that best fit the criteria, and then shares the details through its communications channels.

“We know that many of our local businesses are making an effort to reduce waste,” said Green Committee Council representative, Brogan Aylward. “By promoting the actions of our businesses, we hope to inspire others to join the fight to protect our planet.”

This year’s theme is waste/emissions reduction, and the Town is seeking submissions from businesses in the light and general industrial sector. The sector includes factories and factory outlets; car dealerships, car

washes and mechanics; lumber, salvage, and wrecking yards; contractors and others.

Submissions are being accepted online at [www.townofstmarys.com/gogreen](http://www.townofstmarys.com/gogreen) until March 17, 2023. Paper copies of the submission form are also available upon request. The selected initiatives will be promoted through the Town website, social media and in the local paper in the lead up to Earth Day (April 22, 2023).

For more information about the Green Initiatives Awareness Program, visit [www.townofstmarys.com/gogreen](http://www.townofstmarys.com/gogreen)



or contact Morgan Dykstra, Public Works and Planning Coordinator at 519-284-2340, ext. 213.

## Time change a good reminder to check your smoke and CO alarm batteries

Continued from page 1

ton. “Smoke alarms provide an early warning in the event of a fire, allowing residents to escape their homes safely”

Tampering with or removing the

batteries from your smoke and CO alarms is against the law and can result in a ticket for \$360 or a fine of up to \$50,000. For more information, contact the St. Marys Fire Department at 519-284-1752 or visit [www.townofstmarys.com/smokealarms](http://www.townofstmarys.com/smokealarms).

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1°C	2°C	-2°C	1°C	2°C	1°C	-1°C
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## COMMUNITY —

# Museum's Spring Seminar Series Begins on March 16



The St. Marys Museum is excited to present its spring 2023 seminar series! The Museum has planned three engaging evening presentations covering a variety of topics.

On Thursday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m., Janis Fread and Museum staff Sophie Thorpe and Emily Taylor will discuss the history of theatre in St. Marys. From early European theatre traditions up to the St. Marys Community Players, theatre has played an important role in bringing our community together.

On Thursday, April 20, Museum staff Amy Cubberley and Emily Taylor will present a seminar all about birds. The presentation will examine the Museum's display of stuffed birds in the 'Bird Room' and the history and care of such collections. The presentation will also cover topics such as the history of bird watching, notable local birds, and how to be a responsible

bird watcher.

On Thursday, May 18, a seminar on recent successful heritage renovations will be presented. Melissa Barton of Riverwalk Commons will discuss renovating 84 Water Street South. Gail Kenworthy-Foreman and Andy Foreman of Foreman Electric will present on their renovations of the McDonald house at 481 Water Street South. Erin and Ryan Leaman's conversion of the Junction Station at 480 Glass Street from an abandoned railway station to the successful Broken Rail Brewing will also be shared.

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

## Bravo

We have four Bravos this week.

- 1) Thank you to the two ladies who helped me get a ride home on Monday night from the ER especially since a big storm was happening.
- 2) I would like to send a huge Bravo to everyone who came to my assistance after a fall on the ice covered sidewalk in front of the Church St. apartments on March 2nd. Very special thanks to the kind gentleman who stayed with me while I waited for my co-worker and friend Wanda who took me to the hospital; my manager Alex, his understanding is always amazing; the person in the white SUV who stopped to help as well. Thank you, I appreciate everyone's help VERY much!
- 3) Thank you Larry and Landon for helping me get my stuck vehicle out of my driveway from the most recent storm. It was very much appreciated. We have the best neighbours.
- 4) A big thank you to the fellow with the snowplough helping dig out driveways after Friday night's big snowfall. Neighbourly kindnesses like this are one of the reasons I love living in St. Marys!

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

## Boo

We have one Boo this week.

- 1) Boo to the dog owners who let their pets use Teddy's Field as their wash-room. Not only are they letting the pets use the new light poles to do their business but also use the field for the same reason. Pretty soon kids will be playing ball there and will have to avoid the dog messes.



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

## Quote of the Week

*"We have long known, as an independent report confirmed again last week, that the Chinese government, and other regimes like Iran and Russia, have attempted to interfere not just in our democracy, but in our country in general, whether it's our institutions, our businesses, our research facilities, or in the daily lives of our citizens."*

- PM Trudeau announced that he will appoint an independent special investigator to probe alleged Chinese meddling in Canada's polls.

## St. Marys Independent

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## The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS  
OF THE WEEK

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Be thankful we're not getting all the government we're paying for.

Ham and eggs. A day's work for a chicken, a lifetime commitment for a pig.

Being "over the hill" is much better than being under it!

Wrinkled was not one of the things I wanted to be when I grew up.

## Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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For a change it is good that the Town is in "hot water" for the pool to reopen.

The hour we are going to lose this weekend was the one I was going to use to go to the gym.

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](mailto:info@stmarys-independent.com) with the title "Overheard at The Coffee Shop", call 519-284-0041 or drop by the office to let us know!



# COMMUNITY —

## 2023 Draft Budget presented

2023 Draft Budget Summary		2023	
<b>Revenue</b>		<b>Expense</b>	
Tax Levy	14,066,923	Advertising	79,320
Grants	1,322,017	Bank Charges	25,570
Internal	621,781	Contracted Services	5,011,198
Investment	261,000	Debtenture	1,262,616
Other	701,562	External Transfers	1,207,499
Other Municipalities	1,251,304	Internal	853,131
Taxation Supplemental Revenue	321,125	Program	433,441
User Fees	7,760,021	Reserve Transfer	4,050,094
<b>Revenue Total</b>	<b>26,305,733</b>	Taxation Expense	124,200
		Utilities/Fuel/Oil	1,086,800
		Supplies	600,608
		Repairs & Services	853,454
		Materials & Services	32,207
		Telecommunications	384,340
		Wages & Benefits	9,445,192
		Conferences, Seminars & Training	161,126
		Professional Fees	694,937
		<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>26,305,733</b>

At the February 28, 2023 Town of St. Marys Council meeting, Director of Corporate Services / Treasurer André Morin led a Public Meeting for the purposes of sharing the 2023 Draft Budget. Shown in the graphic above is a summary of the forecasted revenue and expense line items, which result in an expected increase in tax levy of 3.69% for the current year. Council will consider the final budget by-law at the regular Council meeting on March 14, 2023.

### Town of St. Marys Council Remuneration for 2022

Position	Name	Note	Salary	Spruce Lodge	Cell Phones	TOTAL
Mayor	Al Strathdee	1	33,470			33,470
Councillor	Fern Pridham		15,799	680	550	17,029
Councillor	Marg Luna		15,799	629	550	16,978
Councillor	Rob Edney		15,799		550	16,349
Councillor	Jim Craigmile	1	15,799			15,799
Councillor	Lynn Hainer	2	13,804		525	14,329
Councillor	Tony Winter	2	13,804			13,804
Councillor	David Lucas	3	1,995	103		2,099
Councillor	Brogan Alyward	3	1,995			1,995
			<b>128,266</b>	<b>1,412</b>	<b>2,175</b>	<b>131,853</b>

**Notes:**

1. Council member with Town-supplied cell phone
2. Council member who served for 2018-22 term, but not 2022-26
3. New Council member for the 2022-26 term

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# Stonetown Crier



The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys

### Free Skating

Enjoy a free skate at the Pyramid Recreation Centre, courtesy of local sponsors!

- **March 13, 1:15 - 3:15 PM**  
(sponsored by St. Marys Health Care Foundation)
- **March 15, 2 - 3 PM**  
(sponsored by the Kinette Club of St. Marys)
- **March 16, 1:30 - 3:30 PM**  
(sponsored by Avon Maitland Teacher's Union)
- **March 17, 2 - 4 PM**  
(sponsored by Quadro Communications)

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



### Free Transit for March Break

Free transit is your ticket to March Break magic!

PC Connect will be FREE the entire week of March Break (March 13 - 18, 2023), making it easier than ever to fill your week with unforgettable memories!

Start planning your FREE day trip today by visiting PC Connect's website.

Details: [perthcounty.ca/pconnect](http://perthcounty.ca/pconnect)



### Youth Wooden Chick Night

Get crafty with the St. Marys Youth Centre and Stone Home Creatives at Youth Wooden Chick Night!

Participants will create two wooden chicks that they can keep or share with someone special.

**Date:** Thursday, March 23

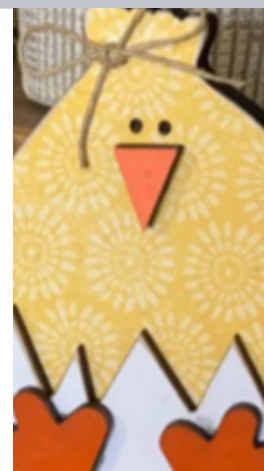
**Time:** 4 - 5:30 PM

**Location:** 2/3 Hall, Pyramid Recreation Centre

**Cost:** \$20 for Youth Centre members; \$25 for non-members

Pre-registration is required as spots are limited.

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



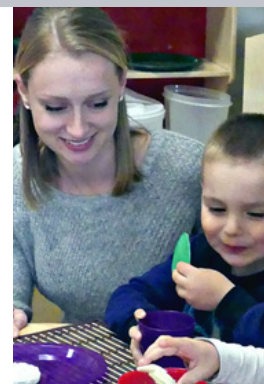
### Job Opportunities

Do you enjoy working with children and youth? We have several exciting opportunities for you!

We're hiring Educator Assistants and Early Learning Services Program Assistants for the St. Marys Child Care Centre. We're also hiring Recreation Attendants for the Pyramid Recreation Centre.

Applications are being accepted until March 10, 2023. Visit our website for full details.

Details: [www.townofstmarys.com/careers](http://www.townofstmarys.com/careers)



Contact us: 519-284-2340 | [townofstmarys.com](http://townofstmarys.com)





# ACTION

## HEALTH CARE

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### Seniors of the Week



Our very special Seniors of the Week are Donna and Don Pearson who are celebrating their 70th anniversary on March 21. This great couple were married in Stratford on March 21, 1953. Don, who is 91, was born in West Nissouri and Donna, who will be celebrating her 89th birthday on April 10, was born in Stratford. They have 4 children, 9 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Congratulations Don and Donna and Happy Birthday Donna!

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

## COMMUNITY —

# Rotary All Wheels Park donation of the week



The Rotary All Wheels Park is kicking off its fundraising campaign and each week we will post a photo of our "Donor of the Week". We are so grateful to the Rotary Club of St. Marys for their pledge of \$100,000 to be spread over 10 years. Their early support has been instrumental in moving this project forward. Thank you! We look forward to acknowledging more donors in the coming weeks and months. Please visit our website for more information, view our story and make a donation. [www.townofstmarys.com/allwheelspark](http://www.townofstmarys.com/allwheelspark)" Pictured above front row, Rob Edney, Charlie Hammond (President, Rotary Club), John McGary (Past President, Rotary Club); back row Julie Johnson, Heather Douglass, Jean Rowcliffe (Members of the Steering Committee). (Contributed photo)

## Weekend Quiz

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- 1) What was the name of the world's first commercial jet airliner?
- 2) Maleficent is the main antagonist in which Walt Disney classic?
- 3) What are the first seven words in the song 'Runaround Sue'?
- 4) What does JPEG stand for?
- 5) What is the address of the Canadian PM in Ottawa?
- 6) What is the Address of the US president in Washington?
- 7) What is the address of the British PM in London?
- 8) Which country in the world has the largest total area of vineyards?
- 9) What is zero points in tennis known as?
- 10) What was Muhammad Ali's birth name?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

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## 2024 TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN

### What we heard

Over the past year, we asked for your feedback on Oxford County's 2024 Transportation Master Plan. Now, we want to share the draft recommendations based on your input.

- Comment through the online survey, map tool, or comment form
- Join the virtual (online) Public Consultation Centre on Tuesday, March 21 at 6:00 p.m.
- Visit us in person in Ingersoll (March 23), Woodstock (March 28) or Tillsonburg (March 30)

For full details visit [Speak Up, Oxford!](http://Speak Up, Oxford!) at [www.oxfordcounty.ca/2024tmp](http://www.oxfordcounty.ca/2024tmp)

  
Growing stronger together



## COMMUNITY —

# Cloud 9 Kids Makes Shopping for Children Affordable with Federal Funding

Cloud 9 Kids in downtown St. Marys is a recipient of a My Main Street non-repayable contribution of \$10,000 to support and grow its main street business.

Originally opened in Lucan in 2019, Cloud 9 Kids relocated and is now a key children's store for St Marys and the surrounding area, selling gently used clothing, toys and accessories. Owner and operator, Katy Evans, is changing perceptions about resale—proving that buying second-hand doesn't have to mean compromising on quality.

"The funding received through My Main Street is key to Cloud 9 Kids establishing ourselves as a new business in St Marys," says Evans. "It will help us to gain visibility in the downtown core with new signage, introduce us

to the community with marketing and continue to build our customer base with a new rewards program."

Cloud 9 Kids is located at 13 Water Street South, online at [cloud9kids.ca](http://cloud9kids.ca) and on Instagram and Facebook @ [cloud9kids.ca](https://www.facebook.com/cloud9kids.ca). The store is open Tuesday to Friday 10 -5 and Saturday 10-4.

My Main Street is the result of a \$23.25-million Government of Canada investment through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) to support the recovery and revitalization of main streets and local businesses across southern Ontario. The funding is being distributed in partnership with investStratford, the Stratford Perth Centre for Business and the Town of St. Marys.



Cloud 9 Kids owner, Katy Evans.

### FARM LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER PERTH SOUTH

**Property:** Lot 21, Concession 10 Blanshard, s/t interest in the Municipality; s/t BLN15975, Municipality of Perth South

**Municipal Address:** 5126 Line 2, Perth South

Total of 100 acres including 93 workable acres (more or less), systemically tiled with multiple field entrances and 7 acres of bush and buildings.

Buildings include a 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom home with a drilled well, sunroom, propane fireplace, oil furnace, newer deck, kitchen cupboards and flooring. There is a large drive shed 35'x75', a small drive shed 30'x25', a mixed-use bank barn with addition and 2 grain bins. This property is subject to a hydro easement. The farmland is currently rented and sown in winter wheat.



Tenders will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. on March 29, 2023.

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

For tender forms contact:  
Monteith Ritsma Phillips Professional Corporation  
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Attention: Andrew Phillips

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Mitchell, ON N0K 1N0  
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## COMMUNITY —

# Local entrepreneur launches platform to keep memories alive, and us OFF social media

By Stewart Grant

What is the best way to organize and retain life's precious moments?

Depending on the generation, your most treasured memories might be stored in an eclectic collection of photo albums, deteriorating VHS videos, or scattered digitally within various social media sites and your latest phone or tablet. What hope is there of reliably preserving these important moments into the future for your older self or for your descendants to enjoy? Where will you leave your legacy?

Local entrepreneur and St. Marys native Kevin McCotter has thought deeply about this subject and has recently launched an internet-based platform called LifeShare. This secure website, located at [www.lifeshare.info](http://www.lifeshare.info), went live on February 4th, chosen specifically as the same date that Facebook was launched back in 2004. McCotter says that LifeShare though will not repeat the pitfalls that have emerged within Facebook and other social media sites. "My goal is to get people off Facebook and onto LifeShare."

"Over the past year or so I have been working on and developing a new business that really sprung from COVID and when people were not able to see and talk to their family and loved ones," McCotter told the Independent. "The idea also became more relevant as the chatter on the ills of social media, fake news, click bait, etc., picked up more awareness. I personally don't post anything on social media and would say the majority of people I know do not either, but I thought there needs to be a better way to document your life and the most important moments and memories (not just what you were having for dinner at some restaurant to get a few comments or likes). So that is how I developed the idea, and now the platform, LifeShare."

McCotter explained that LifeShare combines the best aspects of Facebook, Instagram, and Dropbox, and the future of Artificial Intelligence. "You can document any special moments via video, images, audio, or text onto your 'life line'. You can share these moments with your chosen contacts if you want and they can comment about the experience, or you can simply keep your story private for yourself, or to pass on when you actually pass on. I'm presently working on adding a new feature where if people want to clone their voice to leave on to their loved ones they can. It's amazing. When someone loses someone the thing I always hear is "I wish I could just hear their voice again", this will be an option for people."

The platform has many other features for documenting and organizing your life.

One unique offering is the Pre-Programming of future messages, which enables you to record and pre-program messages to be delivered anytime in the future, such as grandkid birthdays, anniversaries, or anything special you want to make sure you are a part of in the future. This can be done by simply recording the message and choosing the date for it to be delivered with an email link in the future. "It's a great tool if someone knows they might be passing on sooner than later, or also just to make sure you don't forget a special day for someone," said Kevin.

In another local connection, LifeShare has partnered up with Willful, an online and affordable Will services company headed up by St. Marys native Julia Staffen. The link with Willful was a natural extension of what LifeShare is looking to do in preserving important information. "I think it's a great tool and will encourage people to make sure they have their affairs sorted sooner than later," McCotter noted.

In preparing to write this article, I took a few minutes and set up an account with LifeShare to test it out. I found it easy to use, and I liked how I could "timestamp" key moments in my life and add photos, video, sound and text to my "lifeline", which could then be sorted chronologically. It became easy to imagine how someone in retirement years would find it a great project to share with their family members, or for young parents to document the early years of their children's lives.

Unlike Facebook in which everyone's accounts are at least partially visible to everyone, McCotter insists that LifeShare is not a social media platform and has invested heavily into "military grade security" that keeps each cloud-based account completely private and secure. Kevin added that LifeShare will also never resort to selling ads or news within the platform, instead earning revenue (not now, but in the future) from reasonably priced membership fees and pre-programmed message credits.

Successfully launching a start-up platform such as LifeShare is a lofty and ambitious goal, but McCotter does have a good track record. In 2008, he partnered with friend Tony Pook on a business that began with "PookToques" and has since morphed that business ([www.pook.ca](http://www.pook.ca)) into much more than its origin as a sock/hat company and is now a full line of comfy clothing. McCotter and Pook have made two appearances on the popular television



show Dragon's Den and have expanded the Canadian company significantly into the United States during the last seven years.

With the design and development of LifeShare already done and paid for, marketing the platform is the next big step. "We're going to do some trade shows, such as the Mommy and Baby tradeshow, and start approaching retirement homes and pitching them on

accounts so that people can get comfortable with it. There's probably a trust barrier that we need to break," said Kevin. He also has an audition in the works to get back onto Dragon's Den, who knows what Mr. Wonderful will think...

To give LifeShare a try and see for yourself what it's all about, create an account for free at [www.lifeshare.info](http://www.lifeshare.info).

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## COMMUNITY —

# Tax Tips for Individuals to Ensure a Stress-Free Tax Season

By Tina Groenestege

Almost 31 million Canadians filed personal income tax and benefit returns in 2022. Taxes can be tricky, stressful, time consuming and sometimes frantic. The following tips will provide you with new credits to be aware of and touch on ways to ensure a smooth and stress-free tax season.

## Know Your Deadline, Start Gathering Information Early and Get Organized

Ensuring you file on time will help you prepare and avoid last minute gathering of information and reduce late filing penalties and interest. At the time of writing, the interest rate on unpaid taxes and late or insufficient instalments is 8%. Accordingly, we encourage you to pay attention to the instalment request letters from CRA and make payments by the due date.

Individual tax payers must file their T1 Personal Income Tax and Benefit Return and pay the taxes owing on or before May 1, 2023.

Taxpayers with at least one business

statement must file their T1 Personal Income Tax and Benefit Return on or before June 15, 2023 (however tax payment due date is still May 1, 2023).

## Know What Has Changed and Take Advantage of Credits and Deductions you Can Claim

Research or seek professional advice before filing your personal income tax and benefit return to ensure you are taking advantage of all the tax credits by reporting everything correctly. This knowledge will help avoid any issues or unexpected tax payments or penalties in the future. A few new credits or programs available are as follows:

**Ontario Staycation Tax Credit:** Ontario residents can claim 20% of their eligible 2022 accommodation expenses in Ontario such as a stay at a hotel, cottage or campground. You can claim eligible expenses of up to \$ 1,000 as an individual or \$ 2,000 if you have a spouse, common-law partner or eligible children, for a refundable credit of up to \$ 200 as an individual or \$ 400 as a family.

## Multigenerational Home Renovation

**Tax Credit:** The Multigenerational Home Renovation Tax Credit is a refundable credit of up to \$ 7,500 (15% of up to \$ 50,000 in construction costs) for families wishing to add a secondary unit to their home for the purposes of allowing an immediate or extended family member, who is either a senior or adult with a disability, to live with them.

**Residential Property Flipping Rule:** The CRA has introduced new sections of the Income Tax Act aimed at taxing individuals who flip residential properties and avoid paying income tax by claiming these houses as their principal residence, or as capital gains. For any dispositions after December 31, 2022, profit from the sale of a house will be treated as ordinary income for tax purposes if the property is bought and sold within 365 days. Some exceptions apply to this rule such as moves required for work.

**Disability Tax Credit for Individuals with Type 1 Diabetes:** Individuals with Type 1 diabetes will now be eligible for the disability tax credit and no longer permitted to provide additional information about time spent on permitted activities for tax years 2021 and later. The Disability Tax Credit Certificate (T2201) form must be completed by your medical practitioner prior to being able to claim the credit with CRA.

**Tax-Free First Home Savings Account:** Beginning in April 2023, Canadian residents who are 18 years of age and are considered a first-time home

buyer can open a new Tax-Free First Home Savings Account. This new registered plan would give prospective first-time home buyers the ability to save up to \$ 40,000 on a tax-free basis. Like a RRSP plan, contributions would be tax deductible, however withdrawals to purchase a first home, including the investment income, would be non-taxable.

**Canada Dental Benefit:** This payment is intended to help lower dental costs for eligible families earning less than \$90,000 per year. This tax-free benefit provides support for parents and guardians of children under 12 years old if they receive dental care in Canada and do not have access to any private dental insurance. Children already covered under another government dental program may be eligible if not all dental care costs are paid by that program.

**One-time top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit:** This payment aims to help lower-income renters with the cost of rent. They may be eligible for a one-time tax-free payment of \$500 if their income and the amount that they pay in rent qualify. The application for this benefit will be open until March 31, 2023.

Tax filing does not have to be a burden. Be prepared, informed, organized and file on time to avoid any unnecessary late filing penalties and ensure you are getting all the benefits you are entitled too. We wish you a successful, stress-free tax season.

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# COMMUNITY —

## Firefighter Shawn McNaughton named Firefighter of the Month for March

This March the St. Marys Fire Department is pleased to announce Shawn McNaughton as its "Firefighter of the Month".

Firefighter Shawn McNaughton was selected as Firefighter of the Month for numerous reasons," said Fire Chief Richard "Andy" Anderson. "Shawn has dedicated over 20 years to the St. Marys Fire Department, providing an endless amount of fire cover and attending a range of incidents in town and throughout the county, keeping the community safe."

McNaughton joined the St. Marys Fire Department as a firefighter in January 2003. He has had an interesting and rewarding career as a firefighter and will become the recipient of the 20-year Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal. As of February 25, he has decided to hang up his boots and helmet and retire.

"I was inspired to join the fire department and become a firefighter when I volunteered at the Fire Fighters Association of Ontario Convention that was held here in St. Marys in 2001." Says McNaughton, "I waited for a spot to open and about a year and a half later I was able to join. Helping other people was the best thing about the job, especially when they are having the worst time of their lives, being able to help them is a privilege. It has

given me the opportunity to do so many things and help so many people that I wouldn't normally get to do."

McNaughton said, "One of the most significant changes that I had seen over my 20 years of service would have to be the construction of the new fire hall. A close second would be the purchase of the new 75' aerial ladder truck. This vehicle allows us to reach the tallest structures in St. Marys and Perth South."

"One of my favourite memories was the time the fire department was given the opportunity to play a charity hockey game against the Maple Leaf Alumni players," said McNaughton. "I really enjoyed organizing the event and giving back to the St. Marys Community with the money we had raised."

In retirement from the fire department, McNaughton plans to continue to dedicate his time to his fiancé Nita and continue camping. He is employed at Radar Auto Parts as a sales representative.

"We wish you all the very best and thank you, Nita and your daughters Katie and Keisha for the sacrifices you have all made as a family to enable you to serve your local community," said Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Edwards. "Enjoy your retirement, it is very well deserved."



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# COMMUNITY —

## Long term parking



A brutal storm hit the area on Friday night, bringing significant snowfall, strong winds, and even bouts of thundersnow. The ever-efficient Town of St. Marys road crew was active into Saturday morning clearing the roads except for encountering the odd obstacle. Pictured above was the lone car that was left on Queen Street on Friday night (and Saturday night) whose owner will likely be sure to not make the same mistake next time. (Stewart Grant photo)

## The 'kissing' planets



If you happened to glance westward at approximately 7:15 pm on Wednesday, March 1, you would have seen two bright lights in the night's sky. What you were viewing was Jupiter and Venus. They appeared to be very close together with the two planets set to pass each other in what is known as a conjunction. After the moon, Jupiter and Venus are currently the brightest objects in the sky. (Murray Grant photo)

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## SPORTS —

# Lincolns win first two playoff games over Strathroy

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys Lincolns were in a good position on Monday night after beating the Strathroy Rockets in the first two games of their first-round series.

The series was originally scheduled to begin last Friday in St. Marys but the game was postponed due to inclement weather.

Lincs win Game One 5-4 in overtime

Despite a lack of discipline and an energetic effort from the underdog Rockets, the Lincolns managed to escape with a 5-4 victory in overtime. However, it wasn't without room for improvement, specifically, according to Head Coach Jeff Bradley, as it related to staying out of the penalty box.

"In the first period, we lacked intensity but in the second and third, I was much happier because we stuck to our gameplan and didn't give them much. Obviously, though, the discipline part and us taking some selfish penalties was extremely disappointing and very uncharacteristic for our group. Part of our gameplan was to be disciplined and we executed on every other facet of our strategy except for the discipline part."

The Lincolns gave the Rockets nine powerplays in the game, with Strathroy capitalizing on two of them. In their last five games of the regular season, the Rockets' powerplay scored nine goals on 36 opportunities.

The first of Strathroy's two powerplay goals came at 6:33 of the first period, with Andrew Jaques potting the game's first goal. Just over 11 minutes later, with the Lincs on a man advantage of their own, Michael Elliston skated the puck to the point and fired a shot through a screen and past goaltender Liam Reid to tie the game at one apiece.

A much stronger second period from the Lincolns allowed them to take a 3-1 lead in the middle frame on goals by Adrian Stubberfield and Ethan Lamoureux. The Rockets pushed back, however, getting a goal from Caden Faulkner with one minute left in the second to cut the St. Marys lead to one.

Just 90 seconds into the third, Austin Keleher tipped a shot from the blueline by Nathan Small that snuck through the five-hole of Reid to restore the Lincolns' two-goal lead. Keleher's goal also meant that a member of every forward line had chipped in a goal in



Jacob Montesi fistbumps a fan as he comes off the ice. Montesi is one of just four defencemen the Lincolns have had in the first two games of their playoff match-up against the Rockets and has stepped up with some strong defensive play while logging a ton of minutes alongside Nathan Small, Grayden Strohack, and Josh Tidgwell. (Photo credit: Mike Chennette/McGinny Photography)

the contest.

Penalty trouble came back to bite the Lincolns later in the third on an extended five-on-three Strathroy man advantage. Cole Smith buried a powerplay marker at the 14:22 mark, followed just under two minutes later by the second goal of the game for Jaques to tie the game at 4-4 which, although not a powerplay goal, came after the Lincs iced the puck and got caught with a tired group on the ice.

In overtime, the Lincolns once again had to kill a penalty taken by Owen Voortman, which they did successfully. The Thunder Bay-native made up for the infraction less than two minutes after leaving the penalty box by pounding a one-timer past Reid on a drop pass by Jaden Lee in the slot to win the game.

St. Marys was playing with only four defencemen, with Adam Barkley, Josh Cornfield, and Rourke McEwan all out with injuries. With no affiliate players available for a call-up, this left all of the defensive duties to Small, Jacob Montesi, Grayden Strohack, and Josh Tidgwell. Bradley was happy with how all four stepped up to log huge minutes for the Lincolns, specifically the two first-year Junior 'B' rearguards, Montesi and Strohack.

Bradley was also much happier with the discipline that his team played with compared to Saturday's game. The Lincolns only took three penalties in Game Two and killed off all three Strathroy powerplays.

St. Marys came out flying right from the opening faceoff with Matt Prendergast potting his first of the post-season just 64 seconds into the game. Jacob Chantler hounded down the puck behind the Rockets net and managed to set up Prendergast in the slot who wired it past Rockets' netminder Dylan Grover.

Just over 10 minutes later, a breakdown on the powerplay gave Alex Laszlo the opportunity to bury a shorthanded tally and tie the game at 1-1.

Much like in the first period, the Lincs got the jump on Strathroy early in the second as well. This time, it took just one minute and eight seconds for Nathan Small to fire a point shot through a screen and past Grover. Small's goal held up as the eventual game-winner. With just 93 seconds remaining in the middle stanza, a strong drive through centre ice and towards the net by Grayden Strohack opened up some space for Chase MacQueen-Spence, who fired a one-timer that Grover was only able to get a piece of before it went into the net.

At the 16:16 mark of the third, a misplay by Grover behind the net led to Chantler pushing the puck into the slot for Jaden Lee who easily put it into a yawning net, making it a 4-1 score. Matteo Lalama was great in net, making 41 of 42 saves.

The Lincolns played Game Three on Tuesday night after the Independent's press time. Game four takes place on Thursday and Game Five is scheduled for Friday, both in St. Marys. If necessary, Game Six will be played on Saturday in Strathroy, with Game Seven slated for next Monday.

Before Friday's game, the Lincolns had a moment of silence in honour of Ernie Little, who sadly passed away last week at the age of 85. Little was the "Original Goalie" for the Lincolns, backstopping the team in their first season, and has been a celebrated former player ever since. The team hung a jersey bearing Little's name and number on the glass between the benches where it was prominently visible to the crowd.



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## SPORTS —

# Local curler a key member of fan-favourite Nunavut team

## Brady St. Louis' second Brier appearance a special one



Proudly carrying the Nunavut flag this week at the 2023 Tim Hortons Brier are, from left to right, skip Jake Higgs, vice Sheldon Wettig, second Brady St. Louis, lead Christian Smitheram, and fifth-man Terry Lichty. (Photo Credit: Curling Canada)



Brady St. Louis of St. Marys slides out of the hack at this week's Tim Hortons Brier at Budweiser Gardens in London. (Stewart Grant photo)

By Stewart Grant

For the first time since 2011, the Tim Hortons Brier is being hosted this week at London's Budweiser Gardens. For local curling fans, it's been a welcome opportunity to make the short drive to London to see some of the world's very best curlers compete.

I've attended three draws this week to cheer on the "home team", by which I'm not referring to Team Ontario but rather Team Nunavut, the plucky group of underdogs that includes Brady St. Louis of St. Marys, who plays second, and Jake Higgs of Strathroy, who is the team's skip.

Since first being admitted to the Brier in 2018, Team Nunavut had compiled a win-loss record of 0-38 heading into this year's event, as they have been considerably overmatched by the more populous provinces and territories.

St. Louis, who was eligible for the team due to being born in Iqaluit in 1997, told the Independent that Team Nunavut's goals for this week "were to try and show that we belong to be there and hopefully win one or two games."

This goal was achieved right away in their very first match, as the team prevailed 7-4 over Newfoundland and Labrador. "My favourite memory of the week would definitely have to be Nunavut's first ever win," Brady said. "We played well that game and Newfoundland is a great team. It came down to the final shot."

This year was Brady's second appearance at the Brier, having participated

as the alternate for the team skipped by Peter Mackey in 2021 when the event was held "in the bubble" in Calgary.

"This Brier is definitely a different experience being close to home and having fans around," he said. "Hearing the crowd cheer is something that can be tricky with many sheets in play, but the crowd is involved in every shot and it's awesome to hear a good roar from them."

The crowd was particularly loud during Monday morning's game despite having lower attendance than the weekend draws. Many area schools facilitated a field trip to the arena on Monday, and the kids were having a blast cheering on the players and making as much noise as possible.

One of the great things about curling that it is truly a game for all ages, and it's also a game with strong family ties. Many of the players at this year's Brier are the sons of notable curlers. Brady's father, David St. Louis, skipped Team Nunavut at the Brier in both 2018 and 2019.

When Nunavut and Yukon were first guaranteed spots in the national championship in 2018, some pundits argued that it was ridiculous to have these sparsely populated territories match up against curling-rich provinces such as Alberta, Ontario, and Manitoba. By 2023 however, the decision appeared to be vindicated. Three wild card teams have been added to the field in recent years to give teams from strong provinces another path

to the Brier, and each year the teams from smaller provinces and territories have gradually improved and played up to their competition. This year, both Nunavut and Yukon have won games, while Prince Edward Island has won twice, including an upset over Mike McEwen's Ontario rink.

"All the teams are getting stronger every year," said St. Louis. "It comes with a little more experience every time someone comes to the Brier. The teams are finding the best possible group of guys and making a strong team which makes the field stronger. Hopefully it keeps the games closer and more interesting to watch."

It's been a great watch indeed. For those hoping to catch a glimpse of Team Nunavut at this year's Brier, you'll only have until Wednesday night (March 8th), when they take on Reid Carruthers' Wild Card entry. Once the round robin is complete, only 6 of the 18 teams will continue into the playoffs in pursuit of the title which will be awarded on Sunday night.

Although Team Nunavut won't be hoisting the Brier Tankard this year, they've certainly proved that they belong to be there and, based on the cheers so far this week, they seem to have won the hearts of curling fans right across the country.

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## SPORTS —

# U16 A Boys win three straight playoff games

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys Legion U16 A Boys St. Marys Rock continue to find ways to win, with a victory over Halton Hills last Wednesday followed by back-to-back road wins over Stoney Creek and Orangeville.

The U16 A Boys came out flying in their game at the PRC against the Halton Hills Thunder, jumping out to a 2-0 lead with goals from Hayden Brintnell and Colton Hawkins. The Thunder cut the lead in half later in the first by a goal by Colton Henderson in the final minutes restored the two-goal deficit.

In the second period, Nate Schiedel found the scoresheet followed by the second of the game for Brintnell. In the third, Jayden Tipping also potted a goal to make it 6-1, which held up as the final.

On Saturday, the Rock played their first of two back-to-back road games, with their first stop coming in Stoney Creek against the Warriors and left with a 4-1. According to Head Coach Dan Schiedel, even though they got the win, the team knew they had another gear they could get to.

"We got the job done in terms of getting the win but we were back on our heels early on after giving up the first goal," Coach Schiedel explained. "We took some undisciplined penalties so we never really got our flow or momentum for a long period of time. We're happy because we found a way to get the job done but we definitely knew that we needed to bring more



Hayden Brintnell finishes off a great forehand-to-backhand move to score a goal during last Wednesday's 6-1 win for the St. Marys Legion U16 A Boys St. Marys Rock. Going into their game on Wednesday of this week, the Rock had won three straight after dropping the first playoff game against Milton last month. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

energy and elevate our compete level."

Just 49 seconds into the game, the Warriors drew first blood, getting on the board. That was the last goal allowed by goaltender Cyler Pickering, who shut the door the rest of the way in the St. Marys net.

In the second period, Jonah Lariviere tied the game at one apiece, followed almost exactly two minutes later by a goal from Brintnell. In the third period, the Rock's lead was extended to

two goals by Nate Schiedel, with Lariviere adding his second of the game with just 1:15 left in the game to make it 4-1, the eventual final score.

One day later, the compete level that the Head Coach wanted from his group was delivered in spades in a 6-2 victory over the Orangeville Flyers.

"We challenged our team after Saturday's game," said Schiedel about the coach's messaging heading into their game in Orangeville. "We talked

about how we finished first in our division because of the way we played and how we needed to get back to playing with that compete level. The entire coaching staff was happy to see how they responded on Sunday."

"It says a lot about our team and their character that they're able to get challenged by their coaches and respond to it in a positive way. We are a team that has success when we play with lots of effort, energy, and controlled aggression. We really took the game to Orangeville and were a very hard team to play against."

St. Marys went into the first intermission with a commanding 3-0 lead, which started less than three minutes into the game with a goal by Callum McIntosh. Brintnell added another goal later in the first followed swiftly by Adam Turner scoring less than two minutes later.

The second period saw three goals scored, all of which came in the final two minutes. Turner fired home his second of the game with 1:59 left in the middle period, followed by Schiedel finding the back of the net 42 seconds later. The Flyers managed to get on the board before the period was done, however, cutting the St. Marys lead to 5-1 with just 13 seconds left.

Both teams added a goal in the third frame to make it 6-2, including Tipping getting on the scoresheet for the Rock. Trevor Aarts gave the Rock a strong showing in between the pipes, backstopping St. Marys to their third straight playoff win.

## The Friends of the St. Marys Museum

### Notice of Annual General Meeting

#### Presentation of Annual Reports

Monday, March 27, 2023 at 7 p.m.

St. Marys Museum, 177 Church Street South (in Cadzow Park)

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An advertisement for 'the Hitching Post (2019) Ltd.' featuring a grey cat on the left and a dog on the right. The cat has a 'CHRISSEY APPROVED' seal. The text reads: 'Keep it local!', 'Pet Food, Cat Litter, Pine Shavings, Dog Treats', '480 Queen Street W', '519-284-2360', and '8am-5pm : Mon-Fri 8am-Noon : Sat customerservice@thehitchingpost.ca'.

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## COMMUNITY —

# Nine SKC members compete at provincial martial arts tournament

By Spencer Seymour

The Stonetown Karate Centre (SKC) was well-represented at the Ontario Provincial Martial Arts Tournament held in Burlington on February 25th, with nine St. Marys students participating.

Jalyne Lorentz had an incredible day, with two first-place finishes and two second-place results. In the 15-17 Black Belt division of Traditional Kata and Freestyle Kata, Lorentz took first. Her second-place finishes came in the 15-17 Traditional Weapons and Creative Weapons divisions.

It was the first tournament competing in a black belt division for Nathan Campbell, Fox Houston, and Isabelle Lariviere, who all turned in solid efforts. Campbell took second place in the 11-12 Junior Sparring division. Houston finished second in 11-12 Junior Traditional Weapons and third in 11-12 Junior Traditional Kata. Lariviere placed third in both the 15-17 Sparring and Creative Forms divisions.



Stonetown Karate Centre had strong representation at the Ontario Provincial Martial Arts Tournament in Burlington on February 25th. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Shannon Campbell, Marieke van Lierop, Fox Houston, and Jalyne Lorentz. In the back row, from left, are Darren Campbell, Geoff Holdsworth, and Isabelle Lariviere. Missing from the photo are Nathan Campbell and Lisa Sheldon. (Contributed photo)

In the 13-14 Advanced Girls' Traditional Kata division, Marieke van Lierop earned a third-place finish.

Sensei Jeremy Lorentz told the Independent that he was incredibly happy with how all of the students carried

themselves in Burlington.

"Win or lose, watching the way our students carry themselves through kindness and respect for others at these tournaments is what makes us most proud," said Lorentz.

Geoff Holdsworth earned a first-place finish in the 35+ Adult Novice Traditional Weapons division. It was Holdsworth's first-ever tournament appearance. In the 35+ Adult Women's Black Belt Sparring division, Lisa Sheldon took the top spot.

Shannon Campbell finished second in the 35+ Adult Women's Advanced Sparring division, while Darren Campbell took third in the 35+ Adult Men's Advanced Sparring division.

Nathan Campbell, Shannon Campbell, Darren Campbell, Fox Houston, Isabelle Lariviere, Jalyne Lorentz, and Lisa Sheldon will all be trying out at the WKC Canada Provincial Tryouts in Brampton on April 1st. Each member will be competing for a chance to compete at the WKC National Canadian Team tryouts in Ottawa this May.

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Andy has always believed in giving back to the community that has supported him. Over the years, FORMAN ELECTRIC has generously donated locally to the St. Marys Arena, St. Marys Curling Club, Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame, Friends of the Library, St. Marys Memorial Hospital Foundation, various sport teams, Lind Sportsplex, St. Marys Community Players and more.

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### The view from up there

Andy Forman (in the cherry picker, at right) and Kevin Thomson of Forman Electric were busy last Thursday, putting the decorative Homecoming bunting on town hall. Reporter Andrea Macko took the opportunity to get buckled into the cherry picker and take a few shots of the downtown, beautifully decorated for both the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame's Induction Weekend and Homecoming. (Macko photos)



### A banner day for healthcare

Kyle Smith of Forman Electric — which donated the lift truck — was given the vertigo-inducing part of the job early Tuesday morning as the St. Marys Memorial Hospital Foundation erected a Queen Street-traversing banner promoting the hospital's first-time participation in the annual CKNX Healthcare Heroes Radiothon. The three sister signals of the Wingham-based station will broadcast the Radiothon all day Saturday, Oct. 15, in support of hospital foundations across Huron, Perth, Wellington, Grey and Bruce Counties. (photo submitted)



### Lighting the diamond

Workers with Forman Electric were busy Friday installing the new light posts and fixtures at the Rotary ball town's public works department expected workers to install the wiring this week. The project, which costs approximately \$92,000, will provide the town's slow-pitch teams another diamond, as one of the diamonds at the Pyramid Centre will soon be the site of the new elementary school. The Canadian Baseball hall of Fame is pitching in \$26,000 to the project cost. (Heuchert photo)

St. Marys Journal

## Forman Electric continuing to provide top notch electrical service

In March 2003 Andy Forman left the employment of Lloyd's Electric to start his own business. The company rented a small space off of Paul Smith's while developing a customer base. The customer base and number of employees has grown to now require Andy's current shop location, 185 King Street South.

The process of building the business was very important to Andy, getting the right team together and properly servicing his customers has always been the number one priority. Constantly building on the customer base and never taking keeps the Forman Electric team busy even in the slower times. Andy keeps his team motivated to satisfy customers by sharing all positive feedback he receives. He makes a point of passing along all thank-you notes to employees, Luke Smith, Kyle Smith, Tom Flessetti, Kevin Thomson and volunteer Ron Hicks,

therefore everyone can be aware of the "job well done!" and continue to provide top notch service.

Andy feels that what has set his business apart from many others is his prompt courteous service. Call backs are done as quickly as possible, everyone is treated equally and if there are any problems, they are corrected. The organization and cleanliness of his shop is bar none, which is a true example of the careful business.

Forman Electric works locally but are not confined to the immediate area. They also specialize in electric motors, repairs and sales. If you are planning a project or have immediate electrical needs, the Forman team would be happy to speak to you to offer a free estimate. His shop is located at the bend of King St. S. and Park St., where you will see his tidy building and fleet of trucks ready to serve you!



From left to right: Kyle Smith, Tom Flessetti, Kevin Thomson, Andy Forman and Luke Smith.

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**SPORTS —**

# Girls' Minor Basketball team earns two impressive wins



Adi Jones works the ball into the paint during the St. Marys Minor Basketball Girls' first of two games last Saturday. The Girls' team turned in two excellent performances, beating Stratford and Goderich in convincing fashion in back-to-back games on Saturday afternoon. In their first game against Stratford, the girls rode a dominant first half to victory, with Head Coach Tim O'Connor calling their play in the paint "excellent." In the second game, O'Connor said the team's ball movement combined with improved defensive play allowed them to cruise to victory over Goderich. The team is undefeated through five games this year. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

# Minor Basketball hosts annual awards night

By Spencer Seymour

St. Marys Minor Basketball held its awards night last Thursday for the Grade 5/6 age group, as well as the Grade 7/8 Boys and Girls divisions.

Each of the four teams in the Grade 5/6 division had a Most Valuable Player (MVP) and Most Improved Player (MIP). Team Red's MVP was Jacob Savile and their MIP was Derek Vernooy. Team Blue's MVP was Jude Schlotzhauer and their MIP was Bryce Martin. Team Yellow's MVP was Luke Showers and their MIP was Nate Hearn. Team Green's MVP was Noah Diehl and their MIP was Isiah Omel.

In the Grade 7/8 boys category, Team Black's MVPs were Henry Switzer

and Donovan McGregor. Team Yellow's MVPs were Parker Levy and Harper Murrell. Team Blue's MVPs were Ben Ewing and Greyson Gilbert. Team Green's MVPs were Peyton Wynands and Quinn McDonald. McGregor also received the boys' overall MVP award.

In the girls' category, the overall MVP award went to Charlotte Richardson. The All-Star awards of the girls' division went to Ella Haight, Emma Hodkinson, Sparrow Mund, Alanna Saville, and Abi Strubin. The MIP awards went to Kaitlyn Foster, Lily Hollestelle-Black, Abby Posthumus, and Sierra Vandeloo.

Volunteer Recognition Awards were also presented to Rachel Hoyles, Helena Lennon-Archer, and Jack Switzer.



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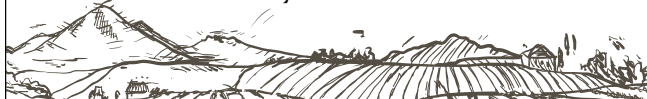
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## SPORTS —

## St. Marys bowlers take sixth at Provincials



St. Marys Bowling Lanes' YBC senior bowlers Rory and Sophie Brockman placed sixth at the Senior Girls Doubles Provincial Tournament at Hopedale Bowl in Oakville on Sunday, March 5th. While the girls were on the road, St. Marys Bowling Lanes hosted their first-ever Provincial tournament for the Bantam Girls Doubles. No St. Marys Bantam bowlers qualified for this tournament. Pictured, from left to right, are Rory Brockman, Coach Jesse Brockman, and Sophie Brockman. (Contributed photo)

## U16 Snipers win Gold in Niagara Falls tournament



The U16 St. Marys Snipers were in Niagara Falls this past weekend for a ringette tournament and came away with the top prize! After dropping their first game of the tournament 2-1, the St. Marys team exploded for 18 goals in their last two round-robin games, both of which they won. This earned the team a rematch in the finals against St. Catharines, the same team to whom they lost in the opening game. According to Assistant Coach Stacey Anderson, "relentless pressure" by the Snipers gave their opponents no room to make anything happen. Forward Emma Carr was mentioned as having particularly strong back-checking efforts with Erin Sterkenburg serving as a defensive force for the Snipers. St. Marys got goals from Ella Taylor, Leah Van Straaten, and Jill Sterkenburg, while Arielle Barber slammed the door shut in goal, earning a shutout as the Snipers won the Gold medal with a 3-0 victory. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Stacey Anderson, Ella Taylor, Charlee Henderson, Arielle Barber, and Emma Carr. In the back row, from left, are Jennifer Ament, Rudy Taylor, Jill Strekenburg, Natalie Taylor, Leah Van Straaten, Kylie Robertson, Meg Richardson, Abby Martin, and Erin Strekenburg. (Contributed photo)

## U9 C Girls win Gold at Oshawa Winter Classic



A strong tournament by the St. Marys Kinettes U9 C Girls St. Marys Rock culminated with a 4-3 win in overtime at the Oshawa Winter Classic last weekend. Head Coach Sarah Ewing "couldn't say enough about the total team effort" put forward by the whole team over the whole tournament, overcoming exhaustion in the final game to defeat Carleton Place for the Gold medals. After some early adversity in the form of a 0-0 tie and a 4-1 loss to start the tournament, the girls bounced back and won three straight games, punctuated with their overtime victory to claim Gold. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Sidney Hawkins, Aspen Bond, Kylie Blake, and Ellie MacDonald. In the back row, from left, are Addison Hudson, Ian Johnston, Emily Chateauvert, Emily Ewing, Brynlee Pickel, Jaynie Johnston, Samantha Matheson, Jessica Zwambag, and Sarah Ewing. Absent were Audrey Parsons and Jamie Matheson. (Contributed photo)

## High-octane U12 Snipers claim Silver in Niagara Falls



The U12 St. Marys Snipers were in Niagara Falls this past weekend for a ringette tournament and the hard-working group brought home a Silver medal. In their first three games, the U12 Snipers' offence was firing on all cylinders, outscoring their opponents 24-12, leading them to an undefeated record en route to the finals, where they met Elora-Fergus, which the Snipers came up short in, falling 11-7. Head Coach Kari Stokes praised the squad's overall drive and teamwork, both on and off the ice, with Assistant Coach Evan Habermehl also making note of several excellent offensive efforts, including by Madison McCutcheon, who posted 12 goals in the tournament, Meredith Stokes who had eight goals, Maelle Hachler who played some of her best hockey of the season between the pipes, and Lily Garniss, Lily Johnston, and Brenna Bearss, all of whom had five assists in the tournament. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Mary McCutcheon, Madison McCutcheon, Olivia McCutcheon, Maelle Hachler, Kenzie Shackleton, Meredith Stokes, Lilly Garniss, and Kari Stokes. In the back row, from left, are Adriana McCutchen, Georgia Hunter, Brenna Bearss, Evan Habermehl, Lyla Habermehl, Lily Johnston, Trainer Laurie McCutcheon, Ava Bastein, and Olivia Hendriks. (Contributed photo)



# HISTORY —

## HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Prospect Hill

By Mary Smith

The town of St. Marys is located in the heart of some of southwestern Ontario's most productive farmland. In the countryside surrounding the town, there are a number of communities – some large enough to be classified as villages, others crossroads hamlets. Through the years, residents of these communities considered St. Marys their closest market town and their entertainment centre. There would be expeditions into town to shop, to attend a sporting event or, in the first decades of the 20th century, to see a movie. If the denomination of their choice had no country church nearby, families came into St. Marys for church on Sundays. But while these rural centres may have needed a larger town for various social and commercial reasons, within each village, there was a strong sense of individuality, a special closeness to neighbours, friends and relatives who made up the immediate community.

As the years passed, everything became more centralized. Car ownership meant increased mobility. One-room rural schools were replaced by consolidated schools for entire townships and children travelled to both elementary and secondary school by bus. Many country churches closed as well, perhaps merging to form more sustainable congregations. Rural mail delivery replaced village post offices. But even as all this was taking place, these small communities found ways to retain local connections. One such community is Prospect Hill.

Located about ten kilometres southwest of St. Marys, where Perth County Road 139 meets the Whalen Line, Prospect Hill is on the boundary between the townships of Perth South (previously Blanshard) in Perth County and Biddulph in Middlesex County. The photograph with this week's column, taken about 1900, shows a very snowy street view of Prospect Hill. The unnamed photographer was looking north and the buildings in the picture are on the west side of the road. Today this scene has changed. Some people who travel between St. Marys and London prefer, from time to time, to go by the much more scenic "old" Highway 7 – now County Road 139 – instead of taking the current Highway 7 that bypasses Prospect Hill. Today's traveller through the village sees a pleasant residential area with sever-



al quite substantial homes along with somewhat older frame buildings. It would be a struggle to find any resemblance to the 1900 photograph.

The early history of Prospect Hill has been kept alive in a number of books about the former Blanshard Township. In his 1899 book, *Pioneers of Blanshard*, William Johnston describes the village of Prospect Hill at the most southerly end of Blanshard Township: "Its situation is all that could be desired, standing as it does on perhaps the highest elevation in the township, and from which an excellent view can be obtained over a large section of country." Johnston approves of the name, Prospect Hill, as suitable for a village "of some importance."

He explains that the first post office in the township west of St. Marys was established in 1852 near the village, on the banks of Fish Creek, just down the hill, about a mile to the north. The post office was later moved right into the village of Prospect Hill, more convenient for those who travelled there for their mail. For many years, however, it was still called the Fish Creek post office. Johnston points out in his later book, *The History of Perth County*, published in 1903, that when the Grand Trunk Railway's Sarnia line was opened between St. Marys and Granton, "it diverted its trade to other channels." The village did not advance as much as had been expected although at the beginning of the 20th century, it had a general store, blacksmith's shop, and one (un-

licensed) house of public entertainment "to accommodate the travelling public."

In 1951, to mark the centennial of the township's establishment as a municipality, the historical committee, chaired by Duncan McVannell, published *The History of Blanshard in Review*. The book contains a chapter on each school section, showing that neighbourhoods were formed with the school as the central point, a gathering place not only for the children of the section to get their elementary education but also for adults on occasions such as political meetings, card parties and wedding showers. Everyone in the area tried to attend the school's annual Christmas concert.

For Prospect Hill, the school was S. S. # 6, also known as Fish Creek School. It was situated on the northwest corner of old Highway 7 and Concession 10 in a red brick building constructed in 1873. Mrs. L. Hardie described some memories of S. S. # 6 for Blanshard in *Review*. She mentioned the windstorm on Good Friday 1913 that carried away part of the roof and the belfry. Mrs. F. Dykes provided a description of the village itself. She particularly noted the grocery store, once also the Prospect Hill post office. The store is the frame building at the centre of the photograph with this week's column. It is winter and horses, harnessed to sleighs, are tied in front of the store. The sleigh's occupants may have driven to Prospect Hill to get some groceries or to check for mail.

However, most of them at this point seem to be standing still and looking at the camera, making sure that they are part of the photograph. Only the dog in the foreground couldn't hold his pose.

In 1989, Blanshard Township published a second history book, *My Roots are in Blanshard*. This time the book committee decided on a different date for the beginning of Blanshard. They chose 1839, the year that the Canada Company surveyor, John McDonald, completed the survey of the township, laying out the lots and concessions. This choice of date meant that 1989 was the 150th anniversary or sesquicentennial of Blanshard. Although school sections no longer existed in the township with the opening of South Perth Centennial School in 1967, the history book partially followed the format of Blanshard in *Review*. The chapters on education were divided into the old school sections. Joan Marshall provided the memories for S. S. # 6, Fish Creek School. She recalled the "super" Christmas concerts that were held each year. "Teachers and students worked for weeks on decorations, advertising, posters, songs, recitations, lines of plays and costumes. What a production!"

The book also provided a map of the former school district and listed the families that now were living in the Fish Creek/Prospect Hill area. Other Prospect Hill memories recorded in *My Roots are in Blanshard* include good times at the community hall with dances, social evenings and euchre parties. There were memories of fishing in the creek, swimming in the summer and skating in the winter. There was also Mildred Blatchford's Jersey cow that enjoyed drinking Coca Cola.

Prospect Hill not only has been incorporated into these published histories of Blanshard Township, it also has had individuals who have helped preserve its history. One of these local historians was Mary (Mrs. Warner) Hudson, who kept clippings and items of interest relating to Prospect Hill for many years. Her work was carried on by her daughter, Eva Macke, who photocopied her mother's scrapbook pages and had them bound into two hard-cover volumes. The Prospect Hill Scrapbook is among the resources at the St. Marys Museum. Next week's column will describe its contents more thoroughly.

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# COLUMN —

## MATTERS OF MEANING: Lent and Hypocrisy



By Mark McKim

Hypocrisy means claiming to have an ethical or moral standard which one's own behaviour does not match. We have all met hypocrites: people who say or advocate one thing while they themselves actually do the opposite, often secretly, and behind the scenes. It's not at all unusual today to hear people say they don't go to church, or they aren't Christians because "the church is full of hypocrites." As a Christian, and a clergyman, how do I respond to

this?

Well, there's no point in denying what is obvious. It's true! Every church has hypocrites; people who might be outspoken about what the Bible teaches, but whose own lives contradict that. BUT, there are several other important things which need to be said.

First, hypocrisy was something Jesus himself condemned over and over. He was especially severe if hypocrisy involved misusing faith to defraud or take advantage of the poor, or vulnerable. No hypocrite, whether inside or outside the church, can find support or comfort in the teaching of Jesus.

Second, whether or not Christianity is true has absolutely nothing whatever to do with how well - or how poorly - people in the church

do or don't live out following Jesus and what he taught. Jesus claimed to be God come among us, the rightful Lord of all things, the one in whom all things hold together, and that following him was the only way to joy, meaning in life, peace, wholeness, and eternity with God. Whether any of this is true or not has no relationship whatever to Mrs. Mabel-Ida Feeblefester, who goes to church every Sunday, but is a notorious gossip, acts like she had been weaned on pickel juice, and, completely contrary to what Jesus actually taught, is well known for her lack of compassion and pinch-lipped, squinty-eyed criticism of everyone and everything.

Third, it's not as if Christians have cornered the market on hypocrisy. If we're honest about it, we ALL have to admit, that every one of us

has at some point or another been a hypocrite.

Finally, can you think of a better place for hypocrites to be than in the church? After all the church isn't intended for those who are morally perfect. It's for those who realize they are very far from God's standard of perfect love. The church is a gathering of people who, together, learn they have a long way to go. In the church we learn about God's standard, and we are urged over and over to confess our sins and shortcomings, to pray for grace, and to make every effort, more and more, to live according to God's expectations.

This brings me to Lent - which is what these weekly columns are all about. It is just in the church that people are encouraged, to spend the several weeks of Lent - EVERY year - especially and

intensely focused on examining our lives. It is a time to reflect on our speaking, thinking, or acting in ways which are contrary to God's will as it was revealed to us in Jesus - what the Bible calls sin. And that INCLUDES the sin of hypocrisy. It seems to me the church is exactly the place where hypocrites - and every other kind of sinner - needs to be. Here our sins are called out, wrong is named as such, and we work to help each other, slowly and painfully, to becoming more obedient followers of Jesus. Most importantly, it is here, in the church that we also hear the good news: God waits, longingly, for his children to come to their senses, turn back toward home, and follow his Son Jesus.

The Rev'd Dr. Mark G. McKim is the minister of First Baptist Church, St. Marys.

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# A local teen's parliamentary experience

By Nancy Abra

For the past three weeks, thirteen-year-old Harry Langford who resides southeast of Thorndale with his parents Laura and Matt Langford and his younger brother and sister has had a unique job outside his community. Harry's school is Holy Family Catholic French Immersion School, Woodstock and like many grade 7's he likes sports, playing games with friends and family activities. He also enjoys playing soccer, is an avid competitive cyclist and is member of the 201 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron, Dorchester. But unlike most area teenagers, he has a job at Queen's Park in Toronto as a Legislative Page.

Each year approximately 150 young students from across Ontario are selected through an application process to participate in the Ontario Legislative Page Program. The term of 'duty' is established according to the Parliamentary Calendar which is typically from two to four weeks in length. Students chosen outside the Toronto area are responsible for their accommodations in Toronto, either staying with a family member or friend or billeted with another Page that is within an easy commute to Queen's Park. During their term of duties, Pages are reimbursed for their daily travel expenses on public transit.

Before starting their duty as a Legislative Page, they are required to recognize all the MPP faces, know their names, the ridings they represent and



if they have a cabinet position. There are 124 members in the Ontario Legislature.

Harry found out on February 10th that he was accepted to the Page Program. His mom, Laura said, "Harry stud-

ied very hard matching up the MPP faces to their ridings and where they sit in the Chambers. But on the first day of his 'duty' there were a couple of changes in the seating and he had to quickly learn where the Members were now sitting."

Harry said, "Early in the morning, another Page and I meet up and take the subway to Queen's Park. We usually get there at 7:40am. We get dressed in our uniform and go to the Chambers for our briefing at 8:15am for our duties of the day. Our duties range from getting MPPs water, deliver messages to the various MPPs or to their particular parliamentary office." Harry went on to explain, "we are usually told where we are stationed that day too, either sit at the base of the Speaker's Chair or stand at the back of the Chambers."

When the Pages are not in the Legislature Assembly, they are in class learning about the parliamentary procedures, doing the math their schoolteacher at home has sent them or participating in a special meeting or activity.

"This has been a great experience to see how the Ontario parliament works," Harry said, "And to see all the other jobs that support parliament. Being a page, I see and hear how passionate MPPs are about what they are saying and what is being debated."

Harry's Mom mentioned that Ontario has the youngest Page Program in Canada and in the other Commonwealth countries such as Britain, Australia, and New Zealand. "I was also a Page when I was a teenager. This was such a wonderful learning experience for Harry and I encourage other young people to look into the Page Program at Queens Park."

# Thorndale Ag Society 'Ladies Night' a roaring success

By Nancy Abra

After a three year break because of Covid, and despite Mother Nature's nasty winter blast, the Thorndale Ag Society's 'Ladies Night' was a roaring success last Friday evening. There were over 185 ladies in attendance to enjoy a special evening of delicious catered dinner and prizes. Also, part of the night's entertainment was Canadian comedienne and voice actress, Laurie Elliott as well as music and dancing.

Thorndale Ag Society's past president, Ian Ferguson said, "it has been a long-time tradition that the guys serve and clean up after

dinner. Of course, we had to dress up to impress the ladies and had fun doing so."

Ferguson also remarked, "this was a fundraiser for our Thorndale Agricultural Society, but we also feel that it is very important to have public presence and engagements throughout the year. Besides the Thorndale Fair in September, our other events include Thorndale Dinner Theatre, this Ladies Night, the Back Forty Bash in July, and our Seasonal Social in December. All of these events help raise money for our fair and we have a continual connection with the community of Thorndale."





**COLUMN —**

**FROM THE GARDEN: Excited about Spring**



**By Nancy Abra**

The anticipation mounts for Spring as the countdown in March begins. I was excited to see my first robin this year, only to have that feeling deflated by Mother Nature's blast of winter the following day. But gardeners are one collective group that get excited for Spring no matter what Mother Nature throws at us.

Last weekend the London Middlesex Master Gardeners held their annual 'Seedy Saturday'. It was a fantastic day for over 650 people of all ages and of various garden expertise in attendance to browse and shop seventy vendors of seeds, plants and anything garden related as well as take in three very interesting and knowledgeable speakers throughout the day. Non-profit groups related to horticulture and the environment were also there to share their information about their

groups and organizations. And we can't forget about the 'Seed Swap' table which always creates a hub of activity throughout the day.

So, what is 'Seedy Saturday'? Many horticultural groups across Canada organize a 'Seedy Saturday'.

Seedy Saturdays are fun, inexpensive events where you can swap and exchange seeds, get excited about varieties that other seed savers are sharing (as well as the stories that come with them), attend workshops and presentations, meet vendors, and buy seeds from seed companies. Whether you are a first-time or master gardener, seed enthusiast or expert seed saver, there really is something for everyone at these 'Seedy Saturdays'. Each are individually and uniquely organized under the same general theme of encouraging the use of open-pollinated and heritage seeds, enabling a local seed exchange, and educating the public about environmentally responsible gardening practices. They usually occur on a Saturday, hence the name, but also occur on Sundays and other days. <https://seeds.ca/seedy-saturday/>

I mentioned that there was



lots of activity around the 'seed swap' table at this London Middlesex Master Gardeners event. There was a steady buzz around the table all day with people dropping off seeds that they had saved from last year's garden to exchange for some other seeds. Many folks took a seat and spent time to help package up seeds that were donated. Of course, the round-table con-

versations were about what other gardeners like to grow and why. This 'seed swap' table was a continuous conversation of gardeners sharing stories about their experiences, all learning from each other and the master gardeners stationed there.

There were also steady lineups at the various vendors at 'Seedy Saturday'. When I

chatted with a couple of the seed vendors, they basically said the same thing, "people were looking for vegetables to grow and flowers to help attract pollinators."

Soon gardeners' windowsills and shelves under grow lights will be bursting with little green shoots, as we start to grow for the upcoming garden season. Spring is so exciting.



<https://gardenontario.org/society-listing/entry/534/>

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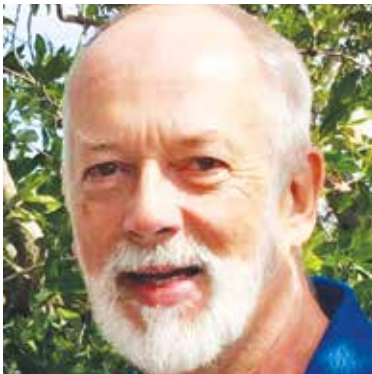
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## COLUMN —

## OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Some tips and options when you fly



By Paul Knowles

A few weeks ago, I had the great privilege of speaking to the Cambridge Third Age Learning group which is organized through Cambridge's "Idea Exchange", the clever name that is now the brand of the public library in that city. They had asked me to talk about travel in Canada – a broad theme that included the state of the travel industry, trends and great places to visit in Canada. I was delighted to join them, and even more so after they were a terrific audience and very interactive in the Q&A part of the presentation.

So, thanks, CTAL folks!

As I thought about tourism inside our borders, I made a list of the reasons more people are opting to travel within our own country instead of venturing outside of our borders. There are several significant factors of course, but one of them I believe, is the perception that air travel has become too much of a hassle.

That perception is not entirely wrong. There are far too many stories of delayed

flights (sometimes with significant consequences), lost luggage, and diminished services.

But this is not always the case. As I told my new friends in Cambridge, I have flown many times in the last few months on at least five different airlines and the only one that presented a moderately stressful problem wasn't a Canadian company – it was an island hopper in the Caribbean.

So, either I have been lucky, or things aren't quite as bad as anecdotal evidence might suggest.

The truth is – have ten good experiences flying and you probably won't mention it to anyone. Have one bad experience – and tell the world. Not entirely fair, but mostly true, right?

My suggestion to the Cambridge group was to travel in Canada for sure, but to build a travel menu that includes trips both at home and abroad. And that will probably mean getting on a plane or two. If you do, here are a few pieces of advice:

Try to take only carry-on if you can. It's surprisingly doable.

Don't build an itinerary that relies on being precisely on time. Let's face it – your arrival time may change, so you don't want timed tickets to Stonehenge three hours after you land in Gatwick. Leave your first day as flexible as possible.

As well, if you can avoid big airports, do so. There are some fine airlines, many of them discount carriers, flying out of Waterloo, Hamilton or London. And I have to tell you, using one of these smaller centres is an absolute pleasure, compared to navigating Pearson International or any other air travel behemoth.

Case in point: a couple of months ago, I flew to Cancun, Mexico out of London, Ontario. It was the inaugural Swoop Airlines flight from London to Cancun and I was invited to come along. I did so happily.

To tell the truth, I wondered if there would be special treatment related to this flight but I don't think so. Our departure was actually delayed by a few minutes, which made it feel pretty "normal", and our wait in customs in Mexico was lengthy. I didn't get the VIP treatment – and that's good, because I believe I am able to give you the straight goods about flying Swoop to Cancun.

It was very pleasant. As noted, it is a discount flight, so don't expect free food or booze. But seats on the Boeing 747 were comfortable and there was certainly enough legroom (a continual complaint from travellers on various airlines).

And the best news was on the ground. This was London airport, a small, accessible, modern facility where the entire process of arriving, parking, clearing security (and cus-



London Airport CEO Scott McFadzean, with Swoop Airline representative Julie Pondant, before the inaugural Swoop flight to Cancun.

toms on return), and getting to the gate is almost enjoyable!

Swoop flies to three destinations in Mexico, as well as two in Jamaica and the Dominican Republic and Cuba. You can also fly Swoop to Florida, Las Vegas and Arizona. Not all are direct flights from London (right now, only Cancun and Orlando), but Swoop flights and connections depart from 12 Canadian cities, in eight provinces. They are in expansion mode – already in 2023, they have added services like Hamilton to Montego Bay and Toronto to Varadero, Cuba. A recent statement from the airline says, "Swoop has expanded its winter schedule to include over 100 sun flights per week to destinations across the U.S., Mexico and the Caribbean."

Swoop describes itself as an "ultra-not-expensive airline". In other words, you get what you pay for and you

can choose to pay for only the services you need. That's where the amount of luggage you take comes in, and food, and choice of seats. You can add what you feel you need or want but you don't have to.

I read a comment recently that suggested that over the past few decades air travel has morphed from being a romantic, high-end adventure to simply sitting on a flying bus.

It's true and unless you are paying the big bucks for first or business class, that will be your experience on any airline.

That being the case, there is something pretty attractive about boarding your flying bus through a small, friendly airport like London.

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



A Swoop 747.



A mariachi band in the Riviera Maya (Paul Knowles photo)



# Riddles

- How do you make soup rich? **Put 14 carrots in it.**
- What fruit always travels in groups of two? **Pears.**
- What two things can never be eaten for breakfast? **Lunch and Dinner.**
- What gets bigger and bigger as you take away from it? **A hole.**
- What has a beginning, no end, and nothing in the middle? **A doughnut.**
- What does a pickle say when he wants to play cards? **Dill me in**
- What do you call a nervous celery stalk? **An edgy veggie.**
- Did you hear about the actor who fell through the floor? **It was just a stage he was going through.**
- What's black and white and red all over? **A penguin with a diaper rash**
- What did the mayonnaise say to the refrigerator door? **Close the door, I'm dressing**
- What do grown up dogs say to their puppies? **Hush, puppies**

## - Word Search -

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 O N T A R I O G S Y X C Z L G A X N X Q  
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### Word List

- Budweiser Gardens
- London Ontario
- Team Canada
- Alberta
- British Columbia
- Manitoba
- New Brunswick
- Nfld Labrador
- N Ontario
- Nova Scotia
- Ontario
- PEI
- Quebec
- Saskatchewan
- NWT
- Nunavut
- Yukon
- Wild cards



## The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What do you call a bear with no teeth?



A gummy bear

**Kelson Smith (3)**

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

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



Our Pet of the Week is Mishka, a 6 year old Siamese. Her owner, Steven Manicom, says Mishka loves to interact with people and is an avid talker. She loves watching the squirrels in the wooded area behind their residence.



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COLUMN —

# HOSTING UKRAINE:

By VJ Knutson

It's an odd place I've found myself in this past year, and I'm not really sure what to make of it all. It began last March – as many of you know – with the decision to host a family fleeing the war in Ukraine. A year later, struggling once again with illness (an ongoing issue), I am reflecting back on all that has happened.

Our decision to open our home was driven by compassion and a need 'to do something'. We didn't think about it much beyond what we needed to make the available space comfortable – furnishings, linens, etc. When a water leak revealed that we needed foundational work, Braden Furtney came to our aid, recommending a contractor who could do the outside work, and making time to refinish the inside renos. Ric also arranged to have the windows switched out to align with the fire code. We were invested in this progress.

We connected with others similarly motivated. Ian and Beverley Grant attended the first fundraiser/ information session with us, hoping to find answers. Through Richard Hone's group (Ukraine Help Middlesex) I met Bonnie Forron. We formed a support group for those wanting to host. Bonnie and I volunteered to help Richard's Facebook movement. Before long, I was part of a growing group of volunteers. What you don't see is the well-oiled machine working behind the scenes, of which I am one small cog.

A month in, I was drawn into a larger effort, starting with a woman in Barrie, who was helping an international relief organization. I recruited others. I joined a Facebook chat for administrators across Ontario, and liaised with other grassroots movements across Canada.

Everyone I met was passionate about helping,

and overwhelmed. Few of us had training in how to proceed or adequately meet the needs of the thousands of Ukrainians looking for support.

Things have changed now; we have established guidelines, learned about the ins and outs of the CUAET visa, and gained experience. It makes our job – volunteers all – easier, which is a good thing, but the need continues to pour in.

When this is all over, I hope to write a book, not just about the tragic stories of those forced to uproot and immigrate, but also about the many heroes, who reprioritized their lives in service to a greater calling. I will write about my neighbour, Monika Hertzen, who rises extra early every day to paint greeting cards so that she can donate the funds earned to support Ukrainians in our town. I will write about the unknowns – the volunteer drivers who make sure newcomers get to work on time, no matter the weather; or the couple who made Ukrainian cookies at Christmas to make our newcomers feel at home; or those who quietly donate to the cause – too many for me to ever properly thank in a single post.

Being on the frontline, I receive much praise and gratitude for what I do, and while I appreciate that, I am also acutely aware that none of what has happened here is my doing alone. I hope that we are able to feel to the enormity of what has been created collectively.

The Little Town That Could, and Did! Maybe that should be the title of the book.

Oh, and another thing I'll be writing about: the three new Canadians about to be born in March, April, and May.

Till then. You can reach me at english.knutson@gmail.com



## THE WEEK AHEAD

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

St. Marys Library events – See Page 29

### Friday, March 10

- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog lunch at Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw – 6 pm
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Strathroy Rockets at the PRC – 7:30 pm

### Saturday, March 11

- McCully's Hill Farm Maple Syrup Festival brunch & tours – 10 am to 2 pm
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw – 5 pm
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Strathroy Rockets at the West Middlesex Memorial Centre – 7:30 pm

### Sunday, March 12

- McCully's Hill Farm Maple Syrup Festival brunch & tours – 10 am to 2 pm

### Monday, March 13

- St. Marys Horticultural Society meeting & seed exchange at the Legion hall – 7 pm
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Strathroy Rockets at the PRC – 7:30 pm

### Thursday, March 16

- Royal Canadian Legion mini putt fun – 10 am to 4 pm
- St. Marys Museum Spring Seminar on the history of theatre in St. Marys – 7 pm

## Sudoku

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				3				9

Solutions on page 31



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**OBITUARY**

*Sgariglia*



It is with deep sorrow and much love that we mourn R. Granville Sgariglia who at the age of 94 passed away peacefully at University Hospital to meet his Lord on February 10, 2023.

Born and raised in St. Marys, Ontario, he was the eldest son of the late Attilio (Jack) and Florence (Switzer) Sgariglia.

Granville was predeceased by his beloved wife Margaret Ann (Jones) Sgariglia in 2014. Also predeceased by his first wife Marion Eva (Darling) Sgariglia in 1961, as well as his brother Maurice D. Sgariglia.

Survived by his sisters-in-law Beverley and Shirley as well as several cousins, nieces and nephews.

Cremation has taken place. There will be no visitation or funeral service at the request of the deceased.

Prayers will be said at Granville's interment in St. Peter's Cemetery and Holy Family Mausoleum, 806 Victoria St., London, Ontario on Monday, March 13, 2023 at 11:30 am. Guests will meet at the Three Bells Tower door entrance prior to proceeding to the niche.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the charity of your choice, or in keeping the memory of Granville alive we kindly ask that you honour him by doing a kind deed to others.

**OBITUARY**

*Little*



Ernie Little passed away peacefully at St. Marys Memorial Hospital on March 2, 2023 at the age of 85. Survived by his wife Erna (Constable), married 63 years. Father of Michelle Jeffrey (Ed), Michael (deceased, 1973), and Micheline "Missy." Grandpa of Mike Kittmer (Lisa) and Geoff Kittmer (April). Papa Ernie of Lainey, Jacklyn, Myles, Natalie and Beau. Brother of Brenda Marshall (Ross), Judy Brady (Danny) and brother-in-law of Jack Constable (Ruth). Also survived by many nieces, nephews, many many cousins and several great friends.

Ernie was an original goalie for St. Marys Lincolns and a long-time employee at the St. Marys Cement Plant. He devoted his life to his family, hockey and his work. A private family service was held with interment in St. Marys Cemetery.

A Celebration of Life Open House will be held in the Community Hall at the St. Marys Pyramid Recreation Centre, 317 James St. S., St. Marys, on May 27th from 1 to 4 pm. Memorial donations may be made to St. Marys Minor Hockey, St. Marys Healthcare Foundation or to a charity of choice. Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

A Celebration of Life Open House will be held in the Community Hall at the St. Marys Pyramid Recreation Centre, 317 James St. S., St. Marys, on May 27th from 1 to 4 pm. Memorial donations may be made to St. Marys Minor Hockey, St. Marys Healthcare Foundation or to a charity of choice. Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

**OBITUARY**

*Van De Walle*



Magdalena Zulma Van De Walle, born in Oostakker, Belgium on May 30, 1931, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on Feb. 26, 2023 at the age of 91.

She was the beloved wife of the late Maurice Van De Walle and dear mother of Beatrice Crowley (Dave), Paul Van De Walle (Maureen), Jerry Van De Walle, Morris Van De Walle (Irene), and Betty Visser (Jeff). She is predeceased by her husband Maurice and twin sons Martin and Anthony. She will be greatly missed by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well as extended family members in Canada and Belgium.

Our mom was a woman of strong faith and prayer who loved her family deeply. She was a devoted wife to our dad for their many happy years together and a hardworking partner on their dairy farm until their retirement to St. Marys. She had a passion for sewing, knitting and crocheting and created many beautiful items for her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She also sewed curtains as a retirement job and made many items for homeless shelters, church bazaars and the poor in Haiti. Her door was always open for a visit and a pot of coffee was ready. We know she will continue to watch over and pray for us all just as she always has.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated at Holy Name of Mary Parish on March 8, 2023. Burial in St. Marys Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Cystic Fibrosis Canada, Crohn's and Colitis Canada or Diabetes Canada. Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

**IN MEMORIAM**

*Rudd*

In loving memory of Donald Ernest Rudd  
April 11, 1932 – March 8, 2010

If I could get another chance,

Another walk, another talk

Another dance with him

I'd play a song that would never end,

So I could dance with Dad again.

Love Bonnie

**LOCAL MATTERS.**



Remember that time when Amazon sponsored your church fundraiser?



Remember when Facebook bought a case of Girl Guide cookies to support your daughter?



Remember when Google provided free pizza to your child's soccer team when they won the championship?

**OBITUARY**

*Agar*



Patricia Marilyn Agar (Heinbuck), passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, at her home in St. Marys on February 26, 2023 at the age of 79.

Wife of Brian Agar. Mother of Jim, Carol Chircop (Mario), and Gerry. Grandmother of

Victoria (Owen), Paul, and Bailey. Sister of Rene Smith, Sue Rolfe (Jim), and Sara Trott (Fred). Also survived by many nieces, nephews and extended family members. Predeceased by her sister Chris McCauley and niece Jenny Smith.

Cremation has taken place with private family arrangements. Memorial donations may be made to the London Regional Cancer Centre. Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

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COLUMN —

# Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

For many of you, March Break begins tomorrow! So does our special Nintendo Reading Challenge on Beanstack for school-age children (4-18). Log reading from the 10th to the 17th to unlock exclusive badges featuring some of your favourite Nintendo characters. The more you read, the better chance you'll have of winning the prize: a \$30 Indigo gift card! Tune in to our Facebook page on Saturday, Mar. 18th at 10:00am to see who our lucky winner will be! Track your reading here: [stmaryspubliclibrary.beanstack.org](http://stmaryspubliclibrary.beanstack.org)

**This Week's Recommendation**

We have many Nintendo games available for the Switch, especially if you're a fan of Mario and his friends. Just some of the many titles we have in our

collection are "Super Mario Bros. U Deluxe", "Super Mario 3D World: Bowser's Fury", "Mario + Rabbids: Sparks of Hope", and "Super Mario Odyssey". You can see our full selection of games by searching "switch games" in BiblioCommons.

**Up This Week**

- Friday, Mar. 10th: Crafty Tales (9:30am)
- Saturday, Mar. 11th: Open 10:00am-4:00pm
- Monday, Mar. 13th: Open 10:30am-8:00pm
- Tuesday, Mar. 14th: Stuffy Sleepover (6:30pm)
- Wednesday, Mar. 15th: Mahjong! (2:00pm-4:00pm), Writing Club (6:00pm)
- Thursday, Mar. 16th: Nintendo Party (1:00pm, movie starts at 2:00pm)

# LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

## A dog's breakfast

25 years ago (1998)

St. Marys Lions Club is pleased to announce that they will be erecting their signs at the Lions Park at the north end of the Flats this Saturday. Their work party will arrive around 9 a.m. The town works department has been kind enough to allow the Lions the use of their wood chippers.

Work on a 7,500 square foot, \$400,000 addition continues at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club, with a completion date estimated to be the first week of April, says vice-president/general manager, Rick Fifield. The renovated facilities include a new banquet hall, pro shop, bar, offices, and expanded outdoor patio.

Anette, Yvonne, and Cecil Dionne, and the two children of the late Marie Dionne, will be compensated fairly by the provincial government, to the tune of \$4 million. Ontario Premier Mike Harris had initially offered the sisters \$2,000 a month, nothing less than an insult considering how the province had profited from the Dionnes. Tourist revenues alone all those years ago brought in an estimated \$500 million.

50 years ago (1973)

Local trappers report a considerable increase in the price offered for fur this spring. Some sources indicate muskrat hides could be worth near the \$4 mark.

The local weatherman has been something less than cooperative for the local Lions Club and their snowmobile races. The event was postponed for the third time as the snow all but disappeared over the past weekend.

The possibility of tragedy through children playing on unsafe ice surfaces has been greater than usual with this changeable weather. Last Thursday, a 10-year-old girl went through the ice on Trout Creek at the St. George Street footbridge while walking to North Ward School. Fortunately, she was hanging onto the bridge. The water was about three feet deep, but the girl sank into the muddy creek bottom and had to be held up by several companions. They pulled the girl free and took her to a neighbour. She escaped with no more than a soaking and a scare, plus the loss of her boots in the creek mud.

75 years ago (1948)

At least two residents celebrated their birthdays on February 29, the first time in four years. They were Mrs. P. Munnoch and Mr. C.A. Vessey.

Des. Baker and Jim Bartless, two young St. Marys men, left on Monday on a hitch-hiking trip to Texas. They expect to visit the southwest and may take a peek into Mexico if all goes well.

One local retail merchant who is an ardent dog-lover got a surprise the other day. His canine friends came into the store from a garbage can snooping expedition and deposited half masticated tainted sausages over a good portion of the store floor, much to the dismay of customers who happened to be present.

100 years ago (1923)

Nothing of very great importance was dealt with at Monday night's Council meeting. Wm. Barrett's cemetery report showed internments for February to be 13 and the sum of \$98 collected for grave digging fees.

The big event in St. Marys the past week was the Firemen's Annual bazaar, concert and auction sale on Friday night. For the past few weeks Chief Moyes and his men had been on the alert arranging every detail of the procedure and when the donations were all gathered on Wednesday last, the fruits of their untiring efforts were amply awarded. The proceeds of the bazaar amounted to nearly \$60 with an additional \$80 raised by the silent auction.

Much preparation is being made for the Public School concert and operetta, "Princess of Poppyland." Owing to the difficulty of staging in the Town Hall, Music Master Bishop has secured the Sunday school room at the Methodist Church.



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| 3) Here's my story it's sad but true | 7) 10 Downing Street        |
| 4) Joint Photographic Experts Group  | 8) Spain                    |
|                                      | 9) Love                     |
|                                      | 10) Cassius Clay            |

**SUDOKU ANSWERS**

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

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*Thank you to all applicants who apply.*

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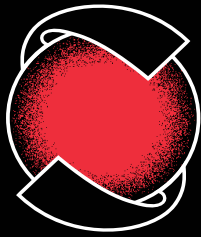
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