

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1150 Thursday, March 16, 2023 FREE

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Gilly's Pubhouse coming to St. Marys



By Stewart Grant

As small towns go, St. Marys has a lot of things going for it. However, we locals know that there are certain voids, and we share these frustrations all the time. We'll say things like, "Nothing in this town is open past 8 or 9 p.m." or "There's nowhere to eat downtown on a Monday."

Therefore it will come as very welcome news that, in about six weeks' time, local couple Mike and Cathy Bayer will be expanding their popular Stratford-based restaurant, Gilly's Pubhouse, to St. Marys. Gilly's will be based out of the historic Customs House building at 17 Water Street South.

"We're here for the locals, seven days a week, with extended hours," Mike Bayer told the Independent. Since taking over the former Sid's Sports Pub at 94 Downie Street in Stratford and rebranding it as Gilly's Pubhouse in 2017, the Bayer's have built a successful business there that has always focused on meeting the needs of the local population above all else. They look to bring this same concept to St. Marys to meet the perceived demand in our growing community.

Pictured above is a sampling of what's available at Gilly's Pubhouse at 94 Downie Street in Stratford. The business is expanding to St. Marys this spring, projecting to open at 17 Water Street South in late April or early May. (Contributed photo)

"Everything we're doing in Stratford we will be bringing over here," he explained. This includes promotions such as half-priced burger days, cheap wing days, and Sundays where kids eat free (must purchase one adult meal per one kids' meal). "We're going to have pool tables and a jukebox in the back room. On Sundays, bring the kids out for a free meal and play some pool. It [Gilly's] is not going to be a bar per se; we're going to be more family oriented, catering to everybody and where everyone feels comfortable".

"From a price-point perspective we're reasonably priced, we're not high-end by any means," he added. "We're just trying to provide good service, good value. A lot of our success in Stratford is the attitude too - when you come into Gilly's, you feel like you're coming home - you get treated like fami-

Town launching free shower program at the PRC

The Town of St. Marys is trying to wash away stigma with a new program at the Pyramid Recreation Centre.

people of all abilities. Toiletries - like shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, and toothpaste - are also available at no cost.

Members of the public can visit the facility on Tuesdays between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 pm to access the free shower program. The program offers safe, private, and secure showers for

The program was developed by Town's Community Services Department, along with Brittany Petrie, St. Marys' Community Outreach Worker.

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COMMUNITY —

International Women's Day celebration

By Wendy Lamond

On Wednesday, March 8th a crowd of approximately 100 people attended the 6th annual International Women's Day celebration at the Friendship Center.

Pauline White, Wellness Coordinator, welcomed the crowd and discussed gender equality and the roles of women in the world and the fight for equal pay, jobs and personal pronouns to support LGBTQ.

The three inspirational guest speakers all caught the interest of the audience and spoke of embracing and promoting equality, and how to have the proper mind-set to age with grace.

Brittany Petrie, who is the St. Marys Community Outreach worker, was the first guest speaker. Brittany spoke of life as a journey which is affected by living experiences and external influences and the challenges and barriers that still exist for women in our society and how as a group we can work towards change. Other topics discussed were violence against women, Indigenous issues, and mental health.

Brittany, as a social worker, works along many local community organizations like Stratford Police, MHA, Optimism Place, Emily Murphy Center, City of Stratford Social Services



Pictured, from left, Pauline White, Wellness Coordinator; Aileen Burgin, fitness class participant; Brittany Petrie, Community Outreach Worker; Jill Simpson, Healthy Aging Specialist; Friendship Centre volunteers Connie Douglas, Helen Miron & Kathy Holden; Hillary Bennett, activity coordinator. (Nancy Bickell photo)

and the Health Unit and more. "Individuals are the driver in your journey and as a social worker, I am a passenger helping them navigate to their final destination" is how she describes her role to help those in our community.

The second speaker to inspire the crowd was Aileen Burgin. Aileen

spoke of her life journey, staying active, and her experiences that led to her competing in the Masters Indoor Track competition in Toronto and breaking records.

At the age of 81, she entered the 100m dash and finished much to her surprise. This year, at age 84, she competed in a 60m indoor dash

and broke the old record and the one for Ontario. She also competed and broke a record in the 200m dash and she happened to be in the same heat as her husband, Harold.

Having a supportive family and staying active has helped her be a good example to her age group. Aileen's advice to the crowd is "Just keep active, don't sit down and just wait for other things to happen to you, you make them happen."

The keynote and final speaker of the day was Jill Simpson. Jill is a fitness and aging specialist that inspires seniors on how to change your mind-set when it comes to aging gracefully and how we view the aging process.

Jill discussed tenacity, mind-set and knowledge as tools that will help make the aging process easier.

The topic of negative stereotypes of seniors and how seniors are treated in other countries was addressed and how we are taught at a young age to view the elderly.

Jill's message is to view our elders as community members full of knowledge and life wisdom and that aging should not be viewed as negative.

The messages that were shared from all three speakers were inspiring and fitting for the crowd on such an important day for equality.

Town launching free shower program at the PRC

Continued from page 1

Part of Petrie's role is to support residents experiencing homelessness, some of whom may not have regular access to a shower.

"Most people take having a hot shower for granted," said Petrie. "But there are individuals in our community who simply don't have access to shower facilities. This program is designed to fill that gap for anyone who needs it, for any reason."

Those who want to use the shower can visit the Guest Services desk

at the Pyramid Recreation Centre during program hours. Staff will provide toiletries upon request and direct patrons to the private shower. While there are no strict time limits, patrons are encouraged to keep their shower to 30 minutes or less. Towels are not provided.

For more information about social services in St. Marys, visit www.town-of-stmarys.com/stonetownsupports. Questions about the shower program can be directed to Petrie at 226-261-0098 or bpetrie@town.stmarys.on.ca.



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COMMUNITY —

GoFundMe launched for local family in need



One of the great things about living in a small town is that everyone comes together in a time of need and this is no exception.

Many people will remember Ivan, Michelle and Ethan when they had the restaurant Tropical Flavours in downtown St. Marys.

Unfortunately for this family, tragedy struck as Ivan passed away suddenly in his sleep. To compound their situation, Michelle has been off work for close to a year while undergoing treatments for her own personal cancer battle. This meant Ivan was working around the clock to help provide for his family in order to make ends meet.

Michelle and Ethan need your

help to raise funds to help cover the costs to help them navigate through the coming weeks which will be very difficult. We also hope to start an education fund for Ethan to help with future costs for Ethan to attend post-secondary school.

Your support is greatly appreciated, let's show them how a small town can come together to support a family in need.

To donate, you can go to the link at <https://gofund.me/ee6b64ab>

In-person donations will also be accepted at Barista's Cafe during regular business hours located at 14 Water Street South, St. Marys, ON

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I never thought of election interference when I found a "vote for Justin" in my Fortune Cookie

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

Bravo

We have two Bravos this week.

1) Thank you to the St. Marys Independent for your photo of the "Kissing" planets in last week's paper. I had noticed these planets in the night sky but had no idea whether they were stars or planets. You are a unique paper always giving us information we truly care about. Now I know they are Jupiter and Venus.

2) Bravo to Andrew Hodges and family at the funeral home. You have gone above and beyond in our time of grief. Words cannot fully express how grateful we are for helping us through this difficult time.



Boo

We have two Boos this week.

1) The first Boo goes to those motorists in the downtown who do not give pedestrians the right of way and just about run them over.

2) Boo to those who do not sign Boos that are submitted. We do not publish names but we do try to check facts and cannot do it if we do not know who we are dealing with.



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

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

Quote of the Week

"Most fatal fires occur at night when people are asleep. Smoke alarms provide an early warning in the event of a fire, allowing residents to escape their homes safely."

Chief Fire Prevention Officer Brian Leverton

St. Marys Independent

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The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS
OF THE WEEK

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May you live as long as you want, and never want as long as you live.

Trouble hates nothing as much as a smile.

A good retreat is better than a bad stand.

You will never plough a field if you only turn it over in your mind.

A good laugh and a long sleep are the best cures in the doctor's book.

COMMUNITY —

Rotary All Wheels Park donation of the week



Jackie Cousins was one of the first community members to support the Rotary All Wheels park and we thank her for her enthusiastic generosity.

Donation from Community Dinners



Pictured, from left, Shirley Porter (United Church) gives Jen Morris (Manager of Community Family Services/Salvation Army) a cheque from the proceeds of the Community Family Dinners. The Meals are put on by different Service Clubs, Churches and Businesses within the Town. The Dinners are held at the United Church every other Monday night starting at 5:00pm, the next one being March 27. (Nancy Bickell photo)

Stonetown Crier



The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys

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

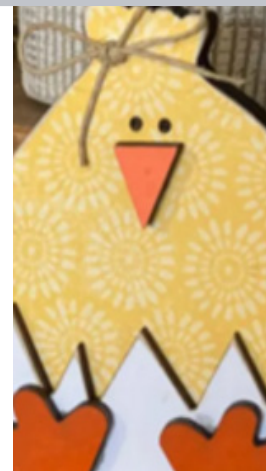
Time: 4 - 5:30 PM

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 or 519-284-2160



Pet Licenses

Have you paid your 2023 animal licensing fee yet?

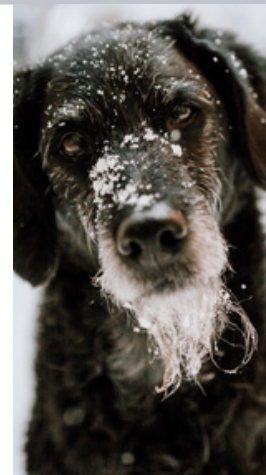
By licensing your pet, you are helping to ensure that they are returned to you promptly if they ever get loose and are picked up by Animal Control.

Beyond just peace of mind, the registration fees also help maintain the dog park in St. Marys.

The deadline for the \$25 animal license fee is March 31. After that, the fee will increase to \$35.

Pay before March 31 and save \$10 to put towards a treat for your pet!

Details: www.townofstmarys.com/petlicences



Museum Seminars

The St. Marys Museum's Spring Seminar Series is back!

Topics include:

- History of theatre (March 16, 7 PM)
- Birds (April 20, 7 PM)
- Heritage renovations (May 18, 7 PM)

The cost per seminar is \$12 (\$10 for museum members). These engaging evenings always fill fast - register in advance to secure a spot!

Register: museum@town.stmarys.on.ca or 519-284-3556



Events Calendar

Planning a community event? We want to hear about it! Add your event to our online calendar. It's free, easy to use, and will help spread the news about your event to residents and visitors.

Details: www.townofstmarys.com/calendar or 519-284-2340, ext. 249



Contact us: 519-284-2340 | townofstmarys.com





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Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Tom Benny, who will be celebrating his 69th birthday on Saturday March 25. Born in Thorndale Tom has 4 children, 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Happy Birthday Tom!

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

Irish Quiz

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- 1) A traditional Irish stew contains which meat?
- 2) To make an Irish coffee, what alcohol ingredient would you use?
- 3) Which Irish Saint is said to have discovered America a thousand years before Columbus?
- 4) During which years did the Irish Potato Famine take place?
- 5) In what year was the Easter Rising?
- 6) What is the Capital of the Republic of Ireland?
- 7) Which Irish poet was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1923?
- 8) Lady in Red is most famous for which Irish singer-songwriter?
- 9) Name the only Irish cyclist to have won the Tour de France?
- 10) How long is a presidential term in Ireland?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27

COMMUNITY —

Gilly's Pubhouse coming to St. Marys

Continued from page 1

ly. We're not a high-end service, we're relatable in our food and in our service. We certainly enjoy what we're doing, and the people seem to like what we offer, so hopefully that'll translate over here as well."

Gilly's menu has a full range of options including traditional pub appetizers, share platters, chicken wings, burgers, sandwiches, wraps, and pasta dishes. Gilly's "Favourites" section of the menu lists schitznel, pulled pork poutine, fish & chips, chicken finger dinner, and saucy baby back ribs.

The restaurant/pub will be open seven days a week, with closing time of "11 or 12 o'clock" during the week, extending to midnight or 1 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays if warranted. Gilly's will also offer takeout and delivery in St. Marys, as this service has continued to be popular in Stratford even after social distancing restrictions have been lifted.

"We pivoted really well through the pandemic with delivery and takeout in Stratford, so we were able to maintain most of our staff throughout that period. That's paid off now, as we have a well-established staff."

Bayer noted that their head chef in Stratford will

be looking after both kitchens to make sure that the quality and consistency translates from their existing restaurant to their new location. Another important piece of the culture of Gilly's is operations manager "Sparky" who will be hands-on in St. Marys to get things up-and-running smoothly.

"We have enough people so that we can train staff on our concept and do everything, but we're looking to hire locally for about 15 positions," Mike said. Job applicants can send their resumes to gillyspubhouse@gmail.com.

The next six weeks will be abuzz with activity at 17 Water Street, not just with interviewing new staff but also making improvements to the interior to create the same feel as the Stratford location. "We're going to make some changes, but there's a lot of features here that we love, such as the wood aspect. We're going to add a raised level here to change the seating and the whole feel of the place and we're basically cloning the Stratford concept in a sense because it feels cozy and warm."

These winter days seem to be dragging on, so if you can't wait until end-of-April or beginning-of-May to see what Gilly's Pubhouse is all about, you can see for yourself at their location at 94 Downie Street in Stratford or check out their menu options online at www.gillyspubhouse.online.



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COMMUNITY —

Zenfire Gets Fired Up with My Main Street Funding

Zenfire Pottery 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.

Zenfire sells a variety of handmade products, ranging from clay mugs to purses, bags and accessories. All products are Canadian-made, and the shop features space for over 50 local makers, artists and artisans. The studio also hosts a variety of workshops and classes for all ages and abilities.

“The My Main Street funding has helped us improve efficiency in running the studio,” says owner, Angela Patterson. “The funding is helping us run more classes now that we can process our repurposed clay easier, allowing more people the opportunity to try pottery. Additionally, we are excited that we are now able to upgrade

our street-front signage to increase visibility. We are very grateful for this opportunity to enhance business at Zenfire Pottery & Mercantile.”

Zenfire Pottery is located at 114 Queen Street East and is open Wednesday to Friday 10-5 and Saturday 10-4. Look online at zenfirepottery.ca and on Instagram @zenfirepottery.

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.



Zenfire Pottery owner Angela Patterson.

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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.

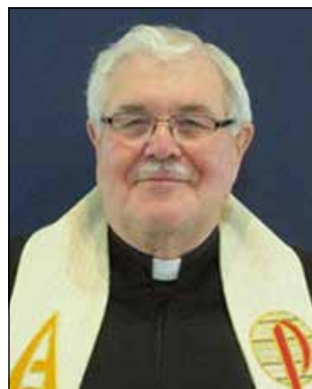


Tenders will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. on March 29, 2023.

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

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ASK THE PREACHER IS NOW ONLINE!

Many of readers of the Independent have indicated that they enjoy the “Ask the Preacher” column by Rev. Pirie Mitchell. Fans of Pirie’s column will be pleased to know that he has established a blog at www.askthepreacher.ca where he will regularly post his thoughts as he continues his journey of faith.



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COMMUNITY —

Canadian Celtic Choir upcoming performance

By Ian Davies

The Canadian Celtic Choir is looking forward to its concert at St. Marys United Church on Saturday, March 25 at 2:00 p.m. sponsored by the Rotary Club of St. Marys. Special guests are The Three Baritones. Tickets are \$25 and available online at www.celticchoir.ca and from Rotary Club members, at St. Marys United Church, and The Flower Shop & More. This will be the Canadian Celtic Choir's second performance in St. Marys with the first being in October of 2017. This concert is a fundraiser for St. Marys United Church and the Rotary Club of St. Marys.

The Canadian Celtic Choir is a London-based SATB choir that was founded in 1996 by Dan Surman, BFA, B.Ed, to sing and promote Celtic choral music and culture. The CCC has built a solid reputation as one of the most in demand choirs in Southern Ontario. The Canadian Celtic Choir's repertoire features songs from Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales, and the Canadian Maritimes ranging from the traditional (including a few songs



sung in Irish and Scots Gaelic) to the more contemporary. The Choir is led by conductor Paul Grambo, BMus, MMus (appointed March 2020). Pri-

or to his appointment as conductor, Paul has also served as the CCC's voice coach, emcee, and alternate conductor. In addition to leading the CCC, Paul is a member of the Grammy Award-winning and Juno nominated

The Elora Singers, and Artistic Director of London Pro Musica Choir. Renowned pianist Stephen Holowitz is the CCC's accompanist.

The Canadian Celtic Choir has performed both nationally and internationally including a tour of Maui, Hawaii in 2008, Scotland & England in 2014, and the Maritimes in 2017. The Choir is looking forward to its next tour in Newfoundland that is being planned for June 2025. The Choir has opened for the Men of The Deeps, The Irish Descendants, John McDermott, Lighthouse, and John Tesh.

The CCC won the Best Classical Vocal Group category of the London Music Awards in both 2008, 2009, and 2010. In 2010 the CCC was inducted into the London Music Awards Hall of Fame. In 2012 the CCC was nominated for the Most Popular Choir at the 2012 Forest City London Music Awards and won the award in 2015.

The Canadian Celtic Choir has produced a series of videos that are available for all to enjoy on our YouTube channel and can also be viewed through our website and Facebook page. More information on the Choir is available at www.celticchoir.ca

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celtic choir

Conductor: Paul Grambo ~ Accompanist: Stephen Holowitz

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St. Marys United Church, 85 Church Street South, St. Marys

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QR Ticket Link



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SPORTS —

Lincs meet Nationals in semis after sweeping Rockets

By Spencer Seymour

For the first time since 2017, the St. Marys Lincolns and London Nationals will go head-to-head in the Sutherland Cup Playoffs after the Lincs eliminated the Strathroy Rockets in four games.

St. Marys' semi-final began this past Wednesday with Game One in London, with Game Two at the PRC this Friday.

In round one, the Nationals swept the St. Thomas Stars in four games. The other Western Conference semi-final pits the Leamington Flyers against the LaSalle Vipers. Leamington earned a four-game sweep over the Sarnia Legionnaires while the Vipers downed the Chatham Maroons in five games.

Lalama shines, third-period comeback helps Lincs take Game Three

The Lincolns brought a solid effort in Game Three but for the first two periods, their execution didn't match the effort. Thankfully for the Lincs, goaltender Matteo Lalama was marvellous, stopping 22 of 24 Rockets shots in the first 40 minutes.

Head Coach Jeff Bradley said there were "mixed emotions" about the team's performance in Game Three.

"Everyone except Matteo wasn't ready to go, especially in the first period," Bradley told the Independent. "It wasn't an effort issue or a 'want-to-win' thing, sometimes your brain just isn't there. It didn't look like it was there for us before the third. It looked like it was there for Strathroy, they played like they were backed into a corner and they gave us everything we could handle."

Both teams got on the board with a powerplay goal in the first period, first with Michael Elliston at 5:25 followed by Ethan Facchina tying the game for the Rockets just under six minutes later.

Midway through the second, the Rockets made it two straight games with a shorthanded goal when Dylan Richter capitalized on a St. Marys powerplay breakdown and put Strathroy ahead 2-1.

"When we are in this mode of wanting to win so bad and things don't go right, there's a level of frustration," Bradley explained. "In the second intermission, the message was all about focusing that frustration in the right way. We knew if we got one, we'd put them on their heels and that's exactly what happened."

In the third, the more experienced Lincolns stormed back, starting with a 10-second swarming that resulted in a goal by Ethan Lamoureux. Approximately five-and-a-half minutes later, Nathan Small threw the puck in front of the net and a fortuitous bounce saw it hit off the skate of a Rockets' defender and deflect into the net, putting the Lincs up 3-2.

A stunned and deflated Strathroy side couldn't find the equalizer, with an empty-netter by Adrian Stubberfield eventually clinching the 4-2 final score and



Michael Elliston battles for the puck along the board during last Thursday's playoff game between the St. Marys Lincolns and Strathroy Rockets. Elliston scored a natural hat-trick in the first period to help the Lincolns take Game Four and sweep the Rockets. (Photo credit: Mike Chennette/McGinny Photography)

3-0 series lead. Lalama made 11 more stops in the third. The former Barrie Colt is third among Western Conference goalies in shots against and last week, it was announced that Lalama had committed to play for Wilfred Laurier University next year.

Bradley credited several of his 20-year-old players in leading with their work ethic and determination to get the game back in St. Marys' favour.

"Guys like Lamoureux, Chantler, Schnittker, Stubberfield, and Lalama of course, they pulled guys into the fight. Those are five 20-year-olds who put the team on their back and it got a lot of the younger guys to step up. That's what quality leadership can do. Schnittker and Stubberfield played really well. They were effective and they worked their tails off, which is exactly how those guys need to play for us to be successful."

Lincolns dominate Game Four

Elliston, on a line with Jacob Chantler and Jaden Lee, began a luminescent night for the trio just 52 seconds into the game when the former Rocket banged home a loose puck to go up 1-0. Just under 10 minutes later, a steal by Matt Prendergast caused the Rockets to fall out of position and Michael Elliston fired home his second of the game. Elliston's natural hat trick was finished off two minutes later when the London native potted another one on the powerplay.

Bradley felt that not only did the team demonstrate a strong ability to remain focused, but that each of his 13 forwards, five defenders, and starting netminder turned in strong performances.

"We didn't take our foot off the gas pedal and showed a really good killer instinct," said Bradley. "We started hot and nobody was taking a backseat. Strathroy did a good job trying to get us off our game in the

second so it was a good test for us and we did a good job for pretty much a full 60 minutes in handling that test."

"The powerplay was back to being what we want it to be. The penalty kill continued to be great. I thought everyone played really well and did what we needed them to do in order to win."

Less than three minutes into the second frame, Lee found his first of two goals in the contest. The game's next goal wouldn't come until the dying moments of the middle stanza, with Caden Faulkner scoring to make it 4-1 with 35 seconds left on the clock. The Rockets came out pushing hard in the third, getting another one just 26 seconds into the final period.

However, the Lincolns displayed their mental resolve and weren't phased by Strathroy's effort to save their season. Almost exactly 15 minutes after Strathroy cut the deficit to two, Lee finished off a two-on-one to make put the Lincs up by three goals on a feed by Chantler.

Chantler, Elliston, and Lee finished the contest with a combined five goals and 11 points. Chantler, with eight assists in the first round, leads the Lincolns in playoff points, while Elliston leads in the goal column with five.

Perhaps the most excited reaction the Lincolns' faithful had was on the team's sixth goal of the game scored by St. Marys' own Jimmy Schiedel. Not only his first goal of the playoffs, it was also the first goal on home ice in front of his hometown fans for the third-generation Lincoln and put the Lincs on track for the 6-2 final score.

Lincs set to battle Nats in round two

Arguably the Lincolns' biggest rivalry will be re-kindled with their second-round series against the Nationals. According to the St. Marys bench boss, a former Assistant Coach with the Nats, the Lincolns are excited about the heavyweight tilt.

"We're going up against a really good team so we need to play the way we're capable of playing. It's a great challenge for us. There is obviously no lack of motivation for many members of this team. It's a big city against a small town and the script kind of writes itself."

"We have to limit our mistakes because London can make you pay every time. We have to be disciplined because their powerplay is among the best in the league. It's going to be a tough series and there is a lot of pressure but that pressure is a privilege."

Bradley made it clear that the goal of this series is to earn an opportunity to battle for a Western Conference title.

"At the end of the day, we're going to look at this as another strong opponent. St. Marys hasn't been to a conference final in a long time and that's what this series is about in our eyes. For us, this isn't about beating London. It's about doing something great for St. Marys."

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SPORTS —

Lincs sweep Rockets with 6-2 win last Thursday



Jaden Lee had two goals and an assist in Game Four of the St. Marys Lincolns' first-round playoff series last Thursday. The 18-year-old's three-point night was part of an incredible effort by the line of Lee, Jacob Chantler, and Michael Elliston, who combined for five goals and 11 points in Game Four. The trio also led the Lincolns' forwards in points in their first-round series, with Chantler averaging two points per game and leading the entire team in points, while Elliston led the team in goals.



Goaltender Matteo Lalama, who last week announced a commitment to play for the Wilfred Laurier Men's Hockey program for next season, was outstanding for the St. Marys Lincolns in the opening round of the playoffs. Lalama faced an average of approximately 37 shots in the four first-round games against Strathroy and his 0.940 save percentage ranked sixth in the entire GOJHL among goalies who have played at least four playoff games.

In the first two games of the St. Marys Lincolns' first-round series of the Sutherland Cup Playoffs, the Lincolns played with only four defencemen. That increased to just five blueliners in Games Three and Four. That meant that 20-year-old Nathan Small has been tasked with eating a ton of minutes. In Game One, which went to overtime, Small logged over 40 minutes of ice time. The rearguard from Dorchester leads all Lincolns' defenders in goals and points and is third overall in points on the team.



Arguably the highlight of Game Four for the Lincolns' players and fans was the goal scored by third-generation Lincoln and hometown boy Jimmy Schiedel. It was the first goal scored on home ice this season by the St. Marys native and earned one of the most excitable reactions from both the Lincolns bench and fanbase alike. It also highlighted the depth scoring the Lincs received in the first round, with Schiedel becoming the fifth player outside of the traditional top-six forwards to score a goal in the series. (All photos by Mike Chennette/McGinny Photography)

SPORTS —

Dragon Boat Race offers great team-building opportunity

By Spencer Seymour

Whether its a group of friends looking for a fun way to spend time together or a business looking to build the camaraderie of its employees, this year's Dragon Boat Race at Wildwood Conservation Area on May 28th is an excellent opportunity to get out of the house, develop relationships, and support local causes.

Dragon Boat racing is a sport dating back over 2000 years and consists of 41-foot boats paddled by a crew of 20 paddlers plus a drummer to keep the rhythm and a steersperson. The Wildwood Dragon Boat Challenge is a unique setup where each round of racing counts towards the final point tally. Different distances and styles are held throughout the day, teams can expect to do between four-to-seven races.

Ben Gerber, President of the Thames River Paddling Club, talked to the Independent about why he believes the



event is one that people should want to participate in.

"As the weather gets nicer, people want ways to get outside with friends. Social groups and businesses are always looking for ways to build teamwork with their members and employees. That, along with the thrill of the experience, is what the Dragon

Boat Race offers."

"St. Marys is a place that, when there's a way to help the community, the Town seizes opportunities to do that. Whether it's the Paddling Club or the Fire Department giving their proceeds back to Muscular Dystrophy research and local sports teams, we hope that people feel inspired to

come out and be part of a community-centred event that also gives them a fun day on the water."

Paddlers will be provided with a coach, a practice session, and all necessary equipment as part of their registration package. The event will also feature games and activities as well as a barbeque which will be run by Joe's Diner.

Registration for the Wildwood Dragon Boat Race is open now and teams that register by March 31st get a \$100 discount. Registration after March 31st will cost \$850 per team. Teams must have between 16 and 24 paddlers with at least eight female members and all of whom must be at least 11 years old.

You can register online at thamesriverpaddlingclub.com/wdbc or attend an information and registration session on March 25th running from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Pyramid Recreation Centre.

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SPORTS —

U13 B Boys tied for first in playoffs with win, tie

By Spencer Seymour

A tie game last Thursday's game against the Strathroy Jr. Rockets meant that the St. Marys Fire Department U13 B Boys St. Marys Rock were also tied with Strathroy for first in the Shamrock playoffs.

One day earlier, the U13 B Boys defeated the Dorchester Dragons 3-1 at the PRC. Head Coach Bob Davis told the Independent that, heading into the game against Dorchester, his team had been trending in a positive direction.

"We had been playing well the last four games and came out strong again for this game," Davis said. "We controlled most of the play from beginning to end. Dorchester was strong and never gave up but our forechecking was very good and very consistent. The boys really didn't let Dorchester get started at any point. We were able to get the puck out of our end much better which is something we have been working on for some time and this decreased Dorchester's offensive chances considerably."

Davis also mentioned that one of his fellow coaches was especially pleased with the Rock's play in their own zone, which was backed up by a strong game by goaltender Landon Lichti.

"Our defensive coach Rick O'Donnell felt our defence played their best game of the year. We cleared the front of the net and consistently found the wingers with good passes. Our passing game was probably the most important piece as it allowed us more quality shots on the net."

The momentum and energy of their victory carried over into the game one day later against Strathroy, with the U13 B Boys getting off to a strong start, controlling much of the play in the first period. However, the game remained scoreless until the second frame, when the Rock "lost their focus" according to the Head Coach and fell behind 3-0.

In the third, the team stormed back, erasing the three-goal deficit and finishing the game with a 3-3 tie. Davis illustrated how one of the group's best qualities allowed them to fight back into the game. "We gathered ourselves between the second and third and never gave up. The one factor that has been present all year is the work ethic of our group. We rallied and scored three unanswered goals to finish with the tie. Braydon Wheeler made some huge stops in the third period to keep our flow intact. Our boys were ecstatic. As coaches, we felt that a comeback from being down 3-0 was as good as a win."



Goaltender Braydon Wheeler surveys the play during a recent St. Marys Fire Department U13 B Boys St. Marys Rock game. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

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SPORTS —

U15 C Girls finish season unbeaten, assist Wingham charitable event

By Spencer Seymour

The Home Hardware U15 C Girls St. Marys Rock have their sights set on competing for a Provincial title after their incredible season finished last weekend. Including their regular season, playoffs, and playdowns, the girls managed to go undefeated all year long with a 25-0-9 record.

The end of their season was incredibly busy with four games in as many days but the hard-working girls came away with three wins and one tie. In all four of their games, the U15 C Girls squad didn't allow a single goal. The Rock finished with 155 goals for and just 31 goals against, with starting netminder Marta Rintoul earning 15 shutouts this season.

Last Thursday saw the beginning of the team's four straight days of games, all of which were on the road, and the Rock defeated Central Perth 3-0. One day later, they visited South Huron and came away with a 4-0 victory, followed by another 3-0 win in Wingham on Saturday. Their last game ended in a scoreless tie on Sunday against Chatham-Kent.

Head Coach Nathan Brown told the Independent that the team's intense desire to win and commitment to each other has driven them to never fail to bring an incredibly strong

work ethic.

"There is no quit in these girls," Brown said. "Even if they get down by two or three, they feel comfortable that they can always come back. They just never stop working and never stop playing for each other. That compete level is what sets them apart and makes them a great team."

In the midst of all the hockey they had to play, the U15 C Girls also participated in a personal hygiene product drive put on by the Wingham-Lucknow 86ers on Saturday afternoon. The products collected along with monetary donations made the event by all accounts a big success. Brown described what it said about the team's character that, with how busy their end-of-season schedule was, they still were eager to help a good cause.

"Alicia de Jong reached out from Wingham if we were interested in collaborating with them. This team is learning they are a huge part of our community and can make a positive impact as a group. Yes, they are competitive, but they (and the families of this team) are always super generous in everything. It was a great teaching moment for our ladies to step up and support another community in need in our league."



The U15 C Girls joined the Wingham-Lucknow 86ers last Saturday to help with their personal hygiene product drive, which all involved called a big success. (Contributed photo)

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SPORTS —

High-scoring finish helps U16 A Snipers claim second place

By Spencer Seymour

The U16 A St. Marys Snipers have finished their regular season in second place after defeating Waterloo and Forest last weekend. The latter of which took the top spot and only lost two games all year, both of which came at the hands of St. Marys.

The weekend back-to-back began in Waterloo last Saturday and it took just two minutes and eight seconds for Leah Van Straaten to open the scoring. After the home side tied the game at one just under two minutes later, the Snipers scored three straight goals to take a 4-1 lead into halftime. Trinity Greene, Adrianna Hollestelle-Black, and Payton Blight had the goals to put St. Marys up by three.

Each team found the back of the net once in the second period, including a goal by Raella Brodhagen which put the Snipers on the course for a 5-2 victory.

Head Coach Samantha Henderson told the Independent that her team's aggressive pressure on the ring al-



Charlee Henderson fires the ring behind the Forest goaltender during the U16 A St. Marys Snipers' game last Sunday, which the Snipers won 6-3, handing Forest just their second loss of the season, both of which came at the hands of St. Marys. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

lowed them to come away with both victories.

"They fought to get the ring at all times," said Henderson. "They never gave up on the ring. They were com-

municating with each other really well and it helped them make their stabs and passes crisper."

The Snipers' strong play continued on Sunday when they returned home

and downed the visitors from Forest 6-3. This time, St. Marys got on the scoresheet even quicker than the day before when Hollestelle-Black made it 1-0 just 1:18 into the game. Just 58 seconds later, Forest found the equalizer before St. Marys once again took charge of the scoreboard much like they did one day earlier, this time scoring four more times to make it 5-1 by the end of the first. The Snipers' goals came from Blight, Chloe Bouchard, Charlee Henderson, and Emily Deighton.

Henderson potted her second goal of the game in the second period while Forest found the back of the net twice in what was a penalty-filled final half, finishing with a 6-3 final score in St. Marys' favour.

"We played together as a team the whole way through again," an excited Henderson remarked after the win over Forest. "Even through the penalties and in the locker room before, the girls were really positive and motivated and they clearly really wanted the win."

U13 B Girls Provincials-bound after OT win in last playoff game

By Spencer Seymour

A hard-fought playoff series for the U13 B Girls St. Marys Rock ended in thrilling fashion with the team beating a Huron Heat squad that has given them trouble all year long by a final of 2-1 in overtime in Game Five last Friday.

Head Coach Dan Gracey said the series was eye-opening for the group who learned how to battle through the rigours of playoff hockey.

"Huron is a really good team who played us really tough all year," Gracey told the Independent. "During the regular season and during the tournaments, we couldn't seem to figure them out. During the last two games, our girls could see that games this time of the season were going to be tighter."

"Playoff hockey is just different no matter what level you're playing at and until you experience it, it's just someone else talking about it. The girls learned it first-hand and they also learned how to get through it when there isn't as much time and space."

Last Thursday, the two teams battled to a 1-1 tie with the lone St. Marys goal being scored by Kayla Visneskie assisted by Lauren Pfaff.

The team was back in Seaforth the following night for the final game of the series and it didn't disappoint. After a scoreless first period, each team found the back of the other's net just two minutes and 21 seconds apart. Brooklynn Roth scored for the Rock. The 1-1 score carried through the third period, requiring overtime to determine a winner.

At the 3:46 mark of the extra frame, Emma Carradine tipped a shot past the Huron netminder to secure the victory. According to Gracey, Game Five felt like a "crescendo" to a season where the team always seemed to come so close but just never seal the deal.

"We have had some high points that were really high and never any terrible lows. We earned a few silver medals during some tournaments and we finished second in the division, so while it was a season that this group should be proud of, it always felt like a season of almosts and second-place."

"This win felt like a vindication for our team. For them to see that sticking to our play and our commitment to highly engaged, high-energy hockey, was the right thing to do for this group because, in doing so, we punched our ticket to Provincials, I hope they feel

vindicated because they've been great students of the game and every time the coaching staff asked something more from them, they delivered, and punching our ticket to Provincials was the reward."

HISTORY —

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: The Prospect Hill Scrapbook

By Mary Smith

In 1981, a beginning was made to create a local history research area within the St. Marys Museum. In early summer of that year, the last Museum tenants moved to a new home in Stratford and the apartment in the south wing of the house became available for Museum use. The historic copies of the St. Marys Journal and the St. Marys Argus had recently been microfilmed and for several previous summers, student employees had been working to create an index to these old newspapers. The students had been working in cramped quarters in the Journal Argus building at 142 Queen Street East. Now they could move into the more spacious vacated area at the St. Marys Museum.

The students left for school in September but the microfilm reader, the reels of microfilm and the index stayed at the Museum. This was a very positive development as it created another reason for people to visit: to use the historic newspapers to research any number of topics, including, of course, their own family genealogy. One such visitor was Eva Macke, shown in this week's photograph, looking up, a bit surprised, from the Museum's earliest microfilm reader. A Journal Argus photographer had interrupted by taking her picture during the annual Christmas open house in December 1981. Eva was not particularly interested in the Museum's seasonal decorations or even the cookies and cider that staff and volunteers had prepared for the occasion. But she did take advantage of the Museum being open on a Sunday afternoon to slip in to do a bit of research.

She was an excellent researcher, ready to take whatever time was required to track down a date or an event. She was also ready to help others with their research problems and became a good friend. Born in 1925 on a farm in the northwest corner of West Nissouri Township just south of Prospect Hill, Eva had been raised to appreciate the history of her family and her community. Her mother, Mary (1900-1970) was originally from Kintore in East Nissouri Township, the daughter of William Edward and Sarah Pearson. In 1921, Mary married Warner Seaborn Hudson (1897-1955) from Granton whose family had been in Canada for several generations. Warner and Mary settled on a farm near Prospect Hill, had a daughter, Eva, and a son, William. They were soon an active part of the community.

Mary Hudson not only became involved in Prospect Hill life, she also took care to preserve records of the events that concerned the families in the community – their genealogy, their marriages and deaths, particularly the obituaries that contained the life stories of the oldest residents. She collected photographs, programs, and newspaper clippings relating to the two area schools – Fish Creek in Blanshard and Revere School in Biddulph. She also preserved information on the churches, the Prospect Hill Cemetery, the community hall and the general store. Her daughter, Eva, sharing her interest, helped her collect the newspaper items, recording them in the course of her own research. As mentioned in last week's column, in 1990, Eva had the scrapbook pages photocopied and bound into



volumes to preserve the information more securely. Her introduction on the opening page stated: "This book is not intended to be a complete history of the community of Prospect Hill. It contains bits and pieces of this history, gathered over the years that may be added to..."

The first scrapbook entries are significant. From late 1896 to early 1897, former Prospect Hill resident Samuel Ranton wrote a series of nine lengthy articles for the St. Marys Journal, titled "Prospect Hill Reminiscences." Ranton, living at that time in Stratford, had been born in 1849 in Darlington Township but his family had moved to the Prospect Hill area when he was still a baby. The Rantons had a farm in Biddulph Township, just west of the village. Samuel's father, John, died in the early 1860s and, at the age of 15, Samuel left home to make his way in the world. He died in Stratford in 1922 and a short obituary describes him as a school teacher and newspaper editor. He was apparently a friend of John W. Eedy, publisher of the St. Marys Journal, and perhaps wrote the articles at Eedy's request. Ranton mentions in an early article that it had been 32 years since he lived in Prospect Hill and the Journal " Rambler" (John W. Eedy) had promised to help him with some of the details he may have forgotten. Also, in the 1890s, Samuel's mother, Jane, was still alive and he could ask her for information. The articles were meant to be gathered into a booklet, a permanent record of the earliest years in

Prospect Hill.

Ranton began his first article by quoting the opening lines from "The Old Oaken Bucket," a popular nostalgic song: "How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood / Which fond recollections present to my view." He remembered "standing upon the townline between Blanshard and Biddulph, a little west of Prospect Hill in the latter part of the 1850s or the early part of the 1860s (and) a grand panorama of agricultural country presented itself to my boyish eyes." He could see "the beautiful undulating land of Biddulph," Fish Creek flowing between two "majestic" hills in Blanshard, and also catch "a glimpse of London and West Nissouri Townships." He had an excellent memory for the names of the families that lived on the farms in all four townships near the village and, with his mother's help, could name those who stayed and those who moved on and were replaced by new farm families. In the 1850s, land just south of Prospect Hill had been abandoned with only a few acres cleared. For several years, until the farm was properly leased again, one cleared field became the "the playing ground for the village – pitching quoits, old fashioned baseball, throwing the stone and the hammer being the favourite pastimes."

Ranton described trips to St. Marys, sent alone on foot for supplies when he was "not a very big boy," or travelling by wagon with his father. The wagon was pulled by the family oxen, Paddie and Charlie. The Rantons purchased their goods at Edward Long's original general store near the northeast corner of Queen and Water Streets. Ranton also recalled that at one time there were three taverns in Prospect Hill. Before the temperance movement began to gain strength, along the road between St. Marys and Ryan's Corners (Elginfield) via Prospect Hill, there were "at least 13 places for the vending of strong drink in a distance of 14 miles."

The scrapbook entries also contain information about many of the families that lived in Prospect Hill, particularly those who had been residents from the early days. These include the Hayes, Dykes, Perrin and Mills families and many more. The Hudsons – Eva's family – are, of course, represented. The marriage notices copied from area newspapers include Eva's own wartime wedding to LAC Orville William Macke from Mildmay. During World War II, Eva served in the Women's Division of the Royal Canadian Air Force and that is how she and Orville met. The article describing their wedding concludes: "Following a wedding trip to Detroit, Windsor and points east, Mr. and Mrs. Macke will resume their duties at the Centralia Airport."

Eva and Orville Macke eventually moved to St. Marys where Orville worked for many years in the local post office. Eva died in 1996 and Orville in 2003. Their only daughter, Marlene Macke, had an interesting life, working first in market development in the federal tourism agency and then in community development with the Bahá'í National Centre in Thornhill. She retired to St. Marys and was responsible for donating her family's valuable research material to the St. Marys Museum. Marlene Macke died in January 2021.

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COLUMN —

WHAT'S FOR DINNER: Lá Fhéile Pádraig Sona Daoibh!



By Lauren Eedy

Or, 'Happy St. Patrick's Day'...A favourite Irish dish of mine is called bangers and mash; it's hard not to love sausages that are slow cooked in a creamy stout, atop creamy mashed potatoes and smothered in a rich gravy.

The term 'bangers' dates to the early 20th century during WWI where meat was in short supply and sausages were seen as a popular dish for the working class. To keep up with cost and production, cheap fillers and a high amount of water were used in the sausages which caused them to pop and explode rather violently while cooking. Hence, giving them the name 'bangers. If you cannot find bangers, (Irish or English sausages), substitute bratwurst or any pork sausage (breakfast sausages are fitting as well). Sides can include roasted broccoli, mushy peas, Irish Soda bread and so on.

Following is a recipe the wee ones and young at heart will appreciate. A cheeky spin on a rice crispy square.

Bangers and Mash with Milk Stout Gravy

Prep: 30m Cook: 30m Total: 1hour Serves: 6

Bangers:

1lb bangers sausage, bratwurst, weissworst, good quality breakfast sausage, etc.

1 tbsp olive oil

3oz stout or other dark beer, or replace with beef broth

Stout Onion Gravy:

2 tbsp butter or olive oil

1 medium onion, sliced thin

2 tbsp all-purpose flour (or GF substitute)

1c stout (Guinness, Porter, etc) or beef broth

1c beef broth

Kosher salt & pepper

Garlic Mashed Potatoes:

5lbs russet potatoes peeled & diced (try Yukon Gold)

½ onion, sliced thin

5-6 cloves of garlic, smashed, skins removed

1 tsp salt

1 bulb of garlic, roasted

1-2 tsp olive oil

1 bay leaf

¾c butter

8oz cream cheese, softened

½- ¾c Half & Half

½ - 1 tsp seasoning salt

½ tsp black pepper

Method:

-Heat a heavy skillet over medium to med-high heat,

pour in oil. Carefully add in sausages and stout and prop a wooden spoon to vent just slightly, allowing steam to escape. Cook covered for 5 minutes.

-Turn the bangers and continue cooking covered, for another 5 minutes. After they've cooked 10 minutes and are nicely browned, remove lid and allow the liquid to reduce slightly, thickening and coating the sausages.

-When liquid is almost gone, lower the heat with lid on, continue cooking sausages, rotating occasionally until evenly browned and cooked through, around 10 additional minutes.

-While sausages are cooking, in a medium saucepan heat butter over medium heat. Add sliced onions and cook, stirring occasionally until slightly browned, soft and fragrant. About 10-15 minutes.

-Sprinkle browned onions with all purpose flour (or substitute with GF flour), stirring and cooking for 2-3 minutes until brown bits collect in the bottom of the pan.

-Increase heat to med or med-high heat and pour in stout (or broth), scrapping pan to deglaze. Add in beer broth and allow to simmer until no longer foaming, about 10-15 minutes. Stirring occasionally until thickened, reduced slightly and glossy. Remove from heat, set

aside and cover.

-Peel and cut the potatoes in similar sized pieces, place in a large pot filled with cold water covering potatoes. Slice onion and smash garlic and toss in with potatoes. Add bay leaf and salt bringing to a boil for 30-35 minutes until they are just about falling apart.

-While potatoes are boiling, preheat oven to 375° and cut off tips of a garlic bulb revealing the cloves. Drizzle olive oil over the top. Seal in foil and bake for 30-40 minutes until soft and caramel coloured.

-Drain potatoes in colander, discard bay leaf. Return potatoes, onion and garlic to the same pot.

-Mash potatoes, onions and garlic over low heat, allowing steam to escape before adding other ingredients. Turn stove off and add 1 ½ sticks of butter, cream cheese and about ½ c Half & Half.

-Mash, add seasoning, squeeze out roasted garlic cloves, mash some more and serve hot. Potatoes may be made ahead of time but reheat with a little milk or water, stirring often until hot again.

-To serve; place 1-2 bangers over potatoes and smother in onion stout gravy.

Easy Lucky Charms Bars

Prep: 3m Cook: 6m

Cooling: 1 hour Serves: 18 squares

1 stick - 8 tbsp butter (can be salted or unsalted)

10 oz bag mini marshmallows

1 tsp vanilla bean paste or extract

½ tsp salt (optional and I wouldn't add if using salted butter)

6 c Lucky Charms

Method:

-Line an 8x8 or 9x9" square pan with parchment paper for easiest cleanup or butter the pan well.

-Melt butter over medium heat in a large pt. If browning butter, continue over medium heat, swirling the pan occasionally. The butter will foam up and get really quiet, then as you swirl the pan you will notice some brown flecks. Continue until butter smells nutty.

-Pour in mini marshmallows and stir over medium heat until just about melted. Remove from heat. Stir in salt if using and vanilla.

-Add cereal all at once and stir until all coated. Transfer to prepared pan and using plastic wrap or buttered hands, gently press mixture into pan allowing to cool about an hour before cutting. Store airtight for up to one week. Best eaten within 2-3 days.

Sláinte!

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COLUMN —

HOSTING UKRAINE: It's Cultural

By VJ Knutson

I want to say that our lives were once sedate, but that would not be totally true. Perhaps sedate, punctured by doctor's visits, or worse, hospital stays. Not overly exciting. When we sold our beloved motor home, we knew that our travelling days were over. We had no idea that the world would come to us.

Hosting Ukraine is not just a column heading, it is a venture into cultural enlightenment. We have experienced new foods, dabbled in a new language, and become intimate with the politics and societal workings of a nation we might have otherwise overlooked. Apart from actually seeing the sights, we are experiencing the best that travel has to offer.

Amid the anxious scramble to compile documents for tax season, and endless speculation regarding Permanent Residency, International Woman's Day happened on March 8th.

"Do you celebrate this holiday?" Nataly asked me the night before, as she was cutting my hair.

The question caught me off guard. The word 'holiday' conjures images of family gatherings, or sojourns to warmer climates, so I had to pause and ponder her meaning. Such is the challenge of communication, when language is secondary to the speaker's tongue. What



exactly did she mean by 'holiday'?
 "Not really," I responded. Then: "The Pyramid Centre is holding an event."
 "We are taking a day off. Going to London."
 "Really? What will you do?"
 "Trampoline," she laughed.
 I didn't give it much more thought.

Wednesday morning, I drove Ric to an eye appointment, and then returned home to find flowers and a large gift bag waiting – one for me and one for Lesia. The "for Mom" on my bag suggested that it was from Nataly. I texted her my thanks. We always congratulate our beloved girls, she messaged

back with a kissy face emoji. Later, she'd confess that Ruslan and Demian bought the gifts for the important women in their lives.

"I've never had such a Woman's Day," I expressed to Ric, feeling like a truly blessed woman. Little did I know, there was more to come: flowers, chocolates, and many phone messages.

"We view Woman's Day as more of a reminder of the inequities still suffered by women world-wide" I explained later, to which Nataly offered that they did too, before it became more of a celebration of women close to home.

As an observation, I would say that Ukrainians are much more adept at

celebrating life than we are. In my family, in particular, we are leaning towards minimalism – eliminating the exchange of gifts in favour of time spent together. While delighted by the outpouring of love, I am a little embarrassed that I barely acknowledged the day.

Something else I've learned about Ukrainians, on the topic of celebrations, is that they are superstitious when it comes to giving. Birthdays, for example, are never mentioned ahead of the actual date. It's fine to celebrate for weeks after, but a 'Happy Birthday' before the day is bad luck. And flowers must always be given in odd numbers, unless a funeral is involved, then the bouquets must be even.

I was careful to count the bouquets of tulips. All odd numbered, I'm pleased to report.


Easter is fast approaching, and there will be new rituals to learn about. I've heard mumblings of a special sweet bread which each family will bake. How we will celebrate is still in the works. All are hoping for warmer weather.

Till next time, hoping your lives are as rich as ours – culturally speaking.

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

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 27



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PRC & Friendship Centre events – See the Stonetown Crier on Page 5
 St. Marys Library events – See Page 23

Friday, March 17

- Royal Canadian Legion mini golf fun – 10 am to 4 pm
- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog lunch at Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw – 6 pm
- St. Marys Lincolns vs London Nationals at the PRC – 7:30 pm

Saturday, March 18

- 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 London Nationals at the Western Fair Sports Centre – 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 19

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

Tuesday, March 21

- St. Marys Lincolns vs London Nationals at the PRC – 7:30 pm

Wednesday, March 22

- St. Marys Lincolns vs London Nationals at the PRC – 7:30 pm

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THORNDALE WEEKLY NEWS

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New Rector welcomed in Thorndale



By Nancy Abra

Growing up in a small village in a rural area southeast of Saskatoon, Rev. Quenton Little is happy to be back in a rural community doing what he loves.

Rev. Little came to London, Ontario from Saskatchewan to attend Huron College for his theology studies in 2007. Here he met Martha who was working on her music degree as a concert harpist. After completing his degree in 2010 and marrying Martha later that summer, they returned to Saskatchewan where he was assigned a parish northeast of Saskatoon.

In 2014, he and Martha moved back to London where he was assigned to an Anglican church southeast of the city. Rev. Little also took on the position of chaplain at Wolseley Barracks in London and has continued this standing as the civilian chaplain.

In January 2023, Rev. Little was appointed by the Diocese of Huron the four-point charge of St. Peter's Anglican Church, Dorchester; Christ Church, Lakeside; St. John's Anglican

Church, Thamesford; and St. George's Anglican Church, Thorndale. With four churches in a broad area, Rev. Little remarked, "scheduling can be a challenge, but it has worked out so far. Working together is most important and besides, I enjoy the busyness of it all."

"Thorndale has a great community", Rev. Little remarked. "Even though St. George's has a small congregation, this church takes an active role in the community, and I would like to grow on that as I get involved in this community as well."

Rev. Little said, "We have several children in this congregation including my two. And with many young families moving to Thorndale, I would love to have someone from this community come and help with a children's program. Also, I welcome anyone in the community who has musical talents to share with us."

"I am looking forward" Rev. Little stated, "to my long-term position here, to be involved in the community of Thorndale but mainly to help fulfill people's faith needs."

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Annual crop meeting held at Thorndale Farm Supplies



Thorndale Farm Supplies hosted their annual crop meeting and lunch on March 7th with approximately 40 farmers and representatives from Pride Seeds & BASF Canada. Nineteen area farmers participated in the 2022 high corn yield challenge and the winners were Pat & Shawn Elliott. The father and son cash crop operation in Middlesex County grew Pride Seeds corn and has won the challenge several times. Pictured is Olivia Noorenberghe, Pride Seeds Market Development Agronomist, Gord Johnson, Thorndale Farm Supplies Seed Salesman and Shawn Elliott, Yield Challenge Winner. (Contributed photo)

Informative speaker at Thorndale Horticultural Society's meeting

By MaryLou Bontje

Thorndale Horticulture Society was pleased to have guest speaker Cathy Nesbitt from Bradford at their March 8th general meeting. Cathy Nesbitt is a worm advocate and founder of Cathy's Crawly Composters. Established in 2002, this environmental business specializes in vermicomposting (indoor composting with worms) and organic diversion. Cathy feels that vermicomposting is a leading-edge to our organic waste problem.

Cathy's Crawly Composters' endeavours will help to reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill. Her system recycles organic material by vermicomposting with worms and produces black worm castings. According to Cathy, these castings are a high-grade natural soil enhancer, one of the best nitrogen rich fertilizers.

In addition to Red Wiggler Worms, she also offers worm workshops, complete vermicomposting systems, education books and videos. <https://www.cathyscomposters.com/> Cathy is also a Laughter Yoga teacher and leads workshops online and in-person. Her presentation on worm composting was informative, entertaining, and inspirational.

Thorndale & Area Horticultural Society's next meeting is Wednesday, April 12th at 7:30pm at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre and everyone is welcome. Stratford Master Gardener, Lesley Glover, will talk to the TAHS about Keystone Species, namely: Oak, Beaver, and Seastar--what do they have in common? Lesley will present examples of key-stone species and emphasize their importance and how we can use them in our gardens.

COLUMN —

LENTEN REFLECTIONS: Quench our thirst



By Rev. David Butler

During the season of Lent, we hear about people who are thirsty. The people in the des-

ert cry out to Moses for water. Jesus asks the woman at the well for a drink.

While thirst is a natural part of our daily lives, in the Scriptures it is sometimes used to speak to the longing in our spirits for union with God. Our bodies naturally hunger and thirst, but so do our souls. It makes perfect sense if we really think about it.

The Church teaches that the very reason we were created is to know, love, and serve

God. If we are not striving to fulfill that purpose, then there will be a lack, or emptiness, in our hearts.

Throughout history, as we have considered the human experience, we have learned that full bellies and mugs full of drink are not enough to make a person truly happy. While we have physical needs that occupy much of our attention, we also seem to have a common longing for something beyond our appetites

that can only be satisfied with something larger than ourselves..

Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well to reveal to her that he is the only one who can satisfy the thirst that drives her. (John 4:5-42) However she ended up in this place, she has clearly not found peace and fulfillment in her life. Jesus draws upon the image of thirsting to share with her that he is the Messiah; if she becomes his

disciple, she will never thirst again.

All her life she had been longing for someone who would bring actual love and joy to her. Jesus reveals to her, and to us, that he is the only one who can quench that consuming thirst deep within our spirit.

During the season of Lent Jesus calls us to drink from the well of Jesus' love. It is only in his love that we can quench our thirst and find our lives fulfilled.

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Riddles

- What do you call a fake Irish stone?
A sham-rock
- Why do leprechauns enjoy recycling?
Because they like to go green
- What happens when you do an Irish dance at McDonald's?
You become a Shamrock Shake
- Why do most people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day?
Because you can't wear real rocks... they are too heavy
- Why is St. Patrick's Day a frog's favorite holiday?
Because they wear green all the time
- Where will you always find gold?
In the dictionary
- What is a leprechaun's favorite cereal?
Lucky Charms
- What does Ireland have more of than anywhere else?
Irish people
- Why do you never want to iron a four-leaf-clover?
Because you don't want to press your luck
- What is Irish and sits on the back porch?
Paddy O'Furniture
- What kind of coin did the leprechaun put in the vending machine?
A lepre-coin!

- Word Search -

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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

Word List

- Ireland
- Shamrock
- Pot of Gold
- Holiday
- Green
- Rainbow
- Seventeenth
- Jig
- Blarney stone
- Clover
- Tradition
- Celebrate
- Emerald



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What is a cat's favorite colour?



Puurrrple

Avery Smith (9)

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

TONS OF FUN FOR KIDS EVERY WEEK!

PET OF THE WEEK

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



This is Winston, a 12 week old Miniature Schnauzer. Winston is a sweet, clever, mischievous puppy who loves his pal, Scott Mackie. His proud owners are Lori and Rob Linton.



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

April is the beginning of Parasite Prevention Month - including Fleas/ Ticks/Heartworm & Intestinal parasites. Stay tuned each week for valuable facts to keep your pet safe.

500 Water Street South St. Marys
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COULMN —

Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

St. Patrick's Day gets many of us thinking about our heritage, whether we're Irish or not. A great way to learn more about your ancestry is by checking out Ancestry: Library Edition. Easily navigate this amazing database that contains millions of records, from birth and death certificates and boat passenger lists to military enlistment forms and marriage licenses. When you've found something of

interest, you can email it to yourself for access at home. You can also print off helpful charts and forms that are great for organizing data by hand. Ancestry: Library Edition is free to use, but must be accessed within the Library building. Start exploring your heritage with Ancestry today!

This Week's Recommendation

If you have Irish heritage (or want to find out if you do) another avenue to explore is "The Family Tree Irish Genealogy Guide: How to Trace your

Ancestors in Ireland" by Claire Santry. This comprehensive book gives you tips and tricks for beginning your research as well as guidance on how to put your information together and how to forge ahead if you get stuck. The book also details how to decipher various kinds of records that you may come across in your search. You can find "The Family Tree Irish Genealogy Guide" in our adult non-fiction section.

Up This Week

Friday, Mar. 17th: Open 10:30am-5:00pm

Saturday, Mar. 18th: Open 10:00am-4:00pm

Monday, Mar. 20th: Open 10:30am-8:00pm

Tuesday, Mar. 21st: Open 10:30am-8:00pm

Wednesday, Mar. 22nd: Play and Read (9:30am), Mahjong! (2:00pm)

Thursday, Mar. 23rd: Open 10:30am-8:00pm

Letter to the Editor:

First, I would like to thank the Town for installing the new staircase at the end of Elgin Street East going down into the Foodland Parking lot. It is used by many and is greatly appreciated. It shows that the town is dedicated to keeping people fit and healthy.

I do have one concern. That being, the

small staircase that used to come off of main street down onto St. George Street South (by Kingsway Lodge).

For some reason, when they installed the new gaurd rails on the bridge, the staircase was ripped out - no notice or warning given - and now judging by the large number of footprints going around the end of the gaurd rail, it was well used and missed greatly.

Looking at the placement of the original staircase, I can see that it would have intersected two of the crossmembers in the new gaurdrail, but by moving the staircase just 4 feet down slope, it would only intersect one crossmember.

Another option would be to install a new staircase where all the footprints are located in the snow - a sure sign

of where it should be ??

On behalf of all the walkers, hikers and joggers who are slipping on the wet grass, or sliding down the wet snow covered hill trying to get to where they want to go, I look forward to seeing what the future brings.

Thank you,

Dave Lotte

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OBITUARY

Niessen



It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we must announce the passing of our little baby girl. Ava Grace Niessen Born on February 6, 2023, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on March 3rd, 2023, at 25 days old. She was the beloved daughter of Courtney (Smith) Niessen and Mark Niessen

of Mitchell ON. In her short life Ava brought so much love and joy to the lives of those whom she touched. In her short time with us, Ava only knew love and was surrounded by family and friends.

Ava spent lots of her time in the arms of her parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and friends. Ava experienced many kisses and hugs. She loved to hold your finger at any chance she could get. If she thought you weren't giving her bottle to her fast enough, she would even try to grab that. Ava loved bedtime stories! Our brave little girl was a champion in all that she did. She was bright, and sweet, and touched the lives of all of those around her. We were blessed with an angel on February 6th. Although our time was cut far too short, our hearts will forever be filled with love, honor, and joy because we were graced with her beautiful presence.

Ava is survived by her parents Courtney and Mark Niessen, grandparents Brenda Smith (Greg Van Tassel) Digby, NS, Susan Swanson (Gary) AB, Eric Niessen (Kerry) New Hamburg ON, Great grandparents, Diane Haynes Digby, NS, Margaret Niessen, Ancaster ON, Uncle Shane (Aunt Cheryl) Smith Kirkton ON, Uncle Andrew (Aunt Deanna) Smith St Marys ON and cousins Sophie, Aiden, Addilyn Smith and Zoe & Hunter Smith. Ava was blessed by her chosen family also, who are the many close friends of her Mommy and Daddy. Ava was predeceased by her Papa David Smith.

We would like to send our appreciation to the Opp Officer and Ambulance Drivers, first on site along with the other OPP officers, West Perth fire Department, and the countless number of Doctors and nurses at Stratford Hospital. The Funeral service was held at the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home on March 12, 2023 officiated by Pastor Gail Kavelman.

A video of the service can be viewed on Ava's page at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca. Memorial donations can be made through the funeral home to Ronald McDonald House, London ON, Ava's parents Courtney and Mark Niessen or to a charity of one's choice.

OBITUARY

Burley



Ann Marie Burley (Iredale) passed away peacefully with her husband by her side at Spruce Lodge, Stratford, on March 6, 2023 at the age of 71. Beloved wife of Bill, married for 52 years. Mother of Shaun Burley (Mary), Tammie Jorna (Steven), and Shelly Burley. Grandmother of Hannah, Noah, Matthew, and Meaghan. Sister of Grace Kinberger and sister-in-law of Jackie Iredale (Melville) and daughter in-law of Marg English. Predeceased by her parents Orville and Myrtle Iredale, siblings: Robert Iredale, Norman Iredale, Orville Iredale Jr., brother-in-law Fred Kinberger, and father-in-law Albert English. Ann Marie loved her family, baking, and animals.

She had many chosen children, and no one ever left her home without a full heart and full belly. A special thank you from the bottom of our hearts to the staff at Spruce Lodge for their compassion, support, and care of our loved one. Cremation has taken place. Burial will take place on April 29th at 1 pm in the St. Marys Cemetery, 150 Cain St. St. Marys. An Open House Celebration of Life will follow at the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, 47 Wellington St. S. St. Marys, from 2 - 4 pm. Memorial donations may be made to Alzheimer's Society or Spruce Lodge in Stratford. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

OBITUARY

Barnett



BARNETT – Eric Davidson passed away peacefully at Hardy Terrace Long-term Care on Monday March 6, 2023 in his 100th year. Much loved father of Lyn Fraser (Don), the late Wayne (Jeannie), Barbara Oldenburg (the late Gus), the late Cathy Cook (Ernie), David, Bob (Mary-Anne), Michael (Judy) and Donna Thomas

(Pat). Eric is survived by many grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren. He is predeceased by his parents Isaac and Mary Barnett, sister Leona Jamieson (Elmer), and by brothers Gordon (WWII) and Robert Barnett (Margaret). Eric was a special friend of the late Irene Minshall and family for over 33 years. He will be forever remembered by his nieces, nephews and extended family members through-out St. Mary's and Toronto. The family will receive friends at the McCleister Funeral Home, 495 Park Road N. Brantford on Saturday March 11, 2023 from 1-2 pm. A funeral service will be held in the chapel at 2 pm. Cremation to follow. Donations may be made in memory of Eric to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.mccleisterfuneralhome.ca

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OBITUARY

Griffiths



It is with great sadness we announce that on March 13, 2023 at the age of 100, Art Griffiths, a WWII Veteran, passed away from this weary old world to enter his Father's rest and the beautiful presence of his Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ.

Art joins his wife Jean, who predeceased him last July 23. Also predeceased by his brother Ron, his parents, and brother-in-law Ches. He is survived by his children Claudia (late Doug), Dave (Bonnie), Laraine, and Tara, 6 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren, in-laws Watts (Marilyn), Greta, and Olga (Phil). We will sorely miss our very precious Dad and Grandpa. Till we meet again.

Special thanks to his favourite Dr. Gatfield and the caring nurses at St Marys Hospital. A private family funeral will be held through Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

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Thur. March 09 - Verlyn Kittmer, Lakeside	\$50.00
Fri. March 10 - Kevin Whaling, Stratford	\$50.00
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LOOKING BACK



By AMY CUBBERLEY

Girls hockey champs

25 years ago (1998)

The Salukis girls hockey team celebrated with a St. Marys Fire truck ride after arriving home from their OFSAA DD victory in Toronto last Tuesday. The girls are the first DCVI hockey team to claim the Ontario title. They defeated Earl Haig (North York) 3-2 in the championship final at York University.

Take your pick, you can have a one-week March Break in 1999 and begin the school year after Labour Day, or you can have a two-week March Break but return to school before Labour Day on September 1. Trustees of the Avon Maitland District School Board will be facing this decision at their next meeting. Either way, the Easter Monday in 1999 will be a regular school day for students.

St. Marys is finally making it to the big screen. Toronto production company Outcast Pictures Limited will shoot scenes for its move "Sun Devils" in St. Marys in April. Their four-week shoot will include a week in St. Marys, a week on Six Nations Reserve near Brantford, and two weeks in studio.

50 years ago (1973)

The Board of Works has completed the lifting of the guard rails on both sides of Water Street South at the twin quarries. The rails have been much too low for several years, ever since the new roadbed was laid through the area.

Former Lincoln Terry Crisp was traded to Philadelphia Flyers from the New York Islanders in a recent N.H.L. player deal.

North Ward residents must live right. The Town sweeper covered the streets in that ward last week before snapping the power-take off drive-shaft. Repairs are not expected to take long.

The price of hair cuts in St. Marys is due for a small increase effective this coming April 3. Regular cuts for adults are to be \$1.75 and children under 14 years is \$1.50. Local barbers point out that this is the first increase since March 1968. A notice concerning the change in prices has been posted.

75 years ago (1948)

The front of the Lyric Theatre has been recently renovated with resulting improved appearance.

One local housewife who believes in having fresh eggs from the farm in her larder, got a real surprise one day this week when she opened an egg containing a partially developed chick. Spring is certainly on its way.

In the lingerie display case of the White & May Ltd. Store stands a lovely little bride. She is gowned in white taffeta, trimmed with tiny, pinked flounces, lace mittens, veil held in place with orange blossoms, and her bouquet is one of roses with shower streamers and rose buds. This doll was dressed by Miss Margaret Hemphill, an employee of the firm.

100 years ago (1923)

About 500 residents of Western Ontario are on the black-list of the federal income tax department at the present time and are now being hailed to court to tell why and wherefore of their failure to file the return demanded by the Government, or pay the tax levied upon them for the privilege of earning a revenue in the Dominion.

Ridgetown is the latest place to join the ranks of one-news-paper cities and towns, the Plaindealer having been taken over by the Dominion for the same old reasons - increase in the costs of paper, machinery, type labour, etc., and limited patronage.

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

THANK YOU

Kittmer

To everyone who reached out with kind words and encouraging visits, delivered meals and treats, sent flowers, donated to charities (or blood) in memory of Jane, drove Finn or Nolan to various arenas, attended Jane's celebration of life, or helped in some other way, thank you. Your kindness and support will always be remembered and cherished.

Special thanks to our friends at OES Inc., Arden-ton Capital, Timberland Equipment Limited, the City of London as well as our St. Marys U18 and U13 hockey families. The family would also like to recognize the medical team that helped Jane beat cancer 13 years ago: Dr. Tracey Crumley, Dr. Ward Davies, and Dr. Kylea Potvin. A heartfelt thanks to Jane's oncology nurse Jen as well as the staff of St. Marys emergency department who cared for Jane on her final day, Dr. Skylar Van Osch and nurses Christine, Stacey, and Marcy. We will be forever grateful for the professionalism and level of care you provided to Jane.

A final thank you to David Ayers and Young's Fu-neral Home for their compassion and guidance.
Jeff, Finn, Nolan, Bob, Verlyn, Peggy, and family.

THANK YOU

Paton

We deeply appreciate your expression of sympa-thy. Thank you for all the prayers, thoughts, cards, flowers, visits, and kind messages. They were so very much appreciated.

Thanks to family, friends, the support of Andrew Hodges and our church family at Grace Community and Kingsway Lodge.

Thank you - Joy, Cindy, Debbie, Karen and family.

THANK YOU

Woosnam

I would like to thank Drs. Lansing and Hepburn, the PSW's and nurses, the two lab girl technicians from Stratford, the ambulance paramedics and the kitchen staff, when I was a patient at St. Marys Me-morial Hospital.

Sincerely
Judy Woosnam

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1)Lamb
- 2)Whiskey
- 3)St Brendan
- 4)1845-49
- 5)April 1916
- 6)Dublin
- 7)WB Yeats
- 8)Chris de Burgh
- 9)Stephen Roche
- 10)7 years (Maximum 2 terms)

THANK YOU

Little

Thank you for everyone's kind words about Ernie Little during this difficult time. Thank you to every-one who sent food, flowers and condolences.

Thank you to Dr Berta, Dr Foster, Dr Wilson, Dr Hepburn and the nursing staff at SMMH.

Thank you to Andrea and the rest of his community nursing team.

Thank you to Marge and Aunt Ruth for taking "hos-pital" shifts, whenever asked.

Thank you to Gander and Bob for being the best medicine EVERY time he was in the hospital.

Thank you to ALL our first cousins, who used planes, trains and automobiles to see Uncle Ernie off!

Thank you to the staff at Kingsway Lodge, espe-cially for the ROCK solid send off!

Thank you to the Lincoln's for the tribute during their playoff game, it was terrific and he would have been truly honoured.

And thank you to Bev for always being there.

We look forward to seeing everyone and hearing your favourite Ernie stories on May 27 at the Pyr-amid Centre, from 1-4. Dress code will be hockey and casual!

See you there!

The Little's

THANK YOU

Vanderschot

The family of Ernie and Marga Vanderschot extend their heartfelt thanks and deep gratitude to all those who offered their love, concern and support since the passing of our son and brother, Paul.

Thank you sincerely for all of your condolences, sym-pathy and caring words in texts, messages, emails, cards and prayers. The family greatly appreciates the donations of food and flowers as well as the gen-erous contributions to charity in memory of Paul.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to Andrew and Andrea of Hodges Funeral Home for their support and kindness during a difficult time. Ev-erything was greatly appreciated by all of us.

Ernie, Marga, Julie, Vera and Ingrid Vanderschot



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