

# St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1151

Thursday, March 23, 2023

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## Lincolns open GOJHL playoffs with wins in 7 straight games



Jacob Chantler and Michael Ellison, pictured above, are two of the veteran leaders of the St. Marys Lincolns' playoff success in 2023. The hockey club has taken a 3-0 series lead against the London Nationals following an opening round sweep of the Strathroy Rockets. St. Marys hosted London on Tuesday, March 21st in their first attempt at closing out the semi-final series and advancing to the GOJHL's Western Conference Finals. (Photo by McGinny Photography)

## Victim of Scam Loses Over \$70,000

On Wednesday, March 15, 2023 the Stratford Police Service received a report of an individual falling victim to a Publisher's Clearing House scam.

The initial report came to police by way of a family member of the vic-

tim who approached an officer and expressed concerns regarding the incident.

The officer attended the victim's residence in the Town of St Marys and learned that on January 27, 2023,

*Continued on page 2*

## Council approves budget

Average increase \$130 per household

By Frank Doyle

In his final budget report to Council, Town Treasurer Andre Morin, announced that the final tax levy will be \$13,566,544 which is a 3.69% increase over the previous levy. Morin said that this represents an average \$130 for each household for the year. The three main income components for the tax levy are 53.7% from Taxes, 29.5% from User Fees and 5% from Grants. The main components for the expense spending are Capital Financing 21.85%, Public Works 13.95%, Health 10.25%, Police 7.65% and Community Service/ Recreation 9.71%.

As part of Capital spending, the Town has allocated \$400K for the Waste Water project and will spend \$70 million over the next ten years on capital projects. Also included in this years budget is \$412, 450 for a new roof at the Town Hall and \$9,452 for a new sign for the VIA Station and the Station Gallery. The PRC will also see a new sign at the entrance on James Street at a cost of \$38K

Mayor Al Strathdee thanked staff for "doing a great job in keeping it a reasonable increase" but he added that he has concerns for the future going forward because of outside agencies. He noted that the numbers submitted by outside agencies are beyond the Town's control due to inflation and downloading from the Province on some of these agencies. Coun. Luna said she agreed with Mayor Strathdee noting that downloading from the Province will be an unknown factor and will have an effect on the Town in the future.

The budget was passed by Mayor Strathdee, Couns. Luna, Craigmile, Pridham and Alward with Couns Lucas and Edney absent from the meeting.

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MLS

COMMUNITY —

# Heritage Property Grant program to expand beyond Central Commercial District

By Stewart Grant

At the regular Town of St. Marys Council Meeting of March 14th, Councillors voted unanimously in support of the recommendation from the Heritage and Cultural Advisory Committee to expand the Heritage Property Grant Program to include designated heritage properties located outside of the Central Commercial District.

Cultural Services Manager Amy Cubberley presented to Council on behalf of the Committee, providing background on the Heritage Property Grant Program and how our program in St. Marys differs from other jurisdictions across the province.

The Heritage Property Grant program was first implemented by the Town of St. Marys in 2009, in accordance with Sections 39 and 45 of the Ontario Heritage Act. Through the program, two streams of funding have been available to qualifying properties: façade painting, and repair or restoration of architectural elements. The Heritage Property

Grant can fund up to 50% of a project, capped at \$2,500 for painting and \$7,500 for repair or restoration of architectural elements. In addition, funding is also available to improve properties under aspects of the Community Improvement Plan ("CIP"), such as the Façade Improvement Grant, provided that Town funding does not exceed 50% of total project costs.

Among the 152 designated properties in the Central Commercial District, a total of 32 projects have been funded in the past eight years, with combined Heritage Grant and CIP funding issued of \$153,782. This yearly average of \$19,223 falls well short of the \$50,000 that has been allocated by the Town for annual funding under the combined programs, to be provided on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Cubberley's report noted that there are 24 designated properties in St. Marys that are located outside of the Central Commercial District. "These properties are held to the same upkeep, maintenance, and heritage

permit requirements as designated properties within the Central Commercial District, but there is no municipal financial support to assist property owners with these endeavours," the report read. Of these properties, three owners have inquired with the Town about possible funding within the past two years.

"I have surveyed the 21 different municipalities in Ontario that also offer Heritage Grant Programs, and currently the Town of St. Marys is the only one that has a geographic restriction on their grant funding," Cubberley said to Council.

Cubberley also noted that the new Bill 23 makes it more challenging for municipalities in Ontario to designate properties as Heritage Properties, therefore she hopes that the Town's Heritage and Cultural Advisory Committee "can shift their focus from designating more properties to investing in and supporting those properties that are already designated in the community."

Councillor Jim Craigmile was first

to speak up in favour of the recommendation, recognizing that it is important to support our heritage properties throughout the community, not just in the Central Commercial District. "I think it's extremely important ... I'm very happy that the Committee has brought this to us, and I fully support it."

In regards to the 24 properties outside the Central Commercial District which would now be eligible for Heritage Property Grants, subject to the Town staying within its \$50,000 annual cap, Cubberley's report closed, "Many of these heritage properties are considered tourism assets that are highlighted in the heritage walking tour brochure and including on tour routes for various bus tours. They have also been an attraction for film companies. Providing a financial incentive for upkeep and heritage restoration of these properties would demonstrate an investment in the properties that the Town of St. Marys has deemed worthy of heritage designation."

# Victim of Scam Loses Over \$70,000

Continued from page 1

the victim received a phone call and was advised that he had been randomly selected as a prize winner for Publisher's Clearing House, winning over \$5,000,000 and a new Mercedes.

The victim was directed to send funds through e-transfer to various individuals to cover the taxes for both the United States and Canada.

Since that date, repeated communication was held between the victim and several individuals who identified themselves as employees with Publisher's Clearing House, with the victim sending over 25 e-transfers, for a total of \$73,000.

The Publisher's Clearing House Scam is a great example of a Sweep-

stakes or Lottery Scam. In these types of scams fraudsters will contact potential victims to tell them they have won a prize.

The victims are then told they need to pre-pay taxes, or administrative fees in order to claim their winnings. Please be aware of these types of scams and learn how to protect yourself.

Here are a few tips: If it sounds too good to be true, it likely is! If you have not entered a contest, you cannot be a winner. You will never be asked to pay money in advance of receiving a prize. Don't let fraudsters pressure you to make a decision, take your time by hanging up the phone and doing some research on what is being offered. Most importantly, share

this information with others. By creating awareness, we can all play a

part in fraud prevention!

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

<b>Wednesday</b> Mar-22nd Cloudy showers 7°C Feels Like 3	<b>Thursday</b> Mar-23rd Rain 10°C Feels Like 7	<b>Friday</b> Mar-24th Mainly cloudy 6°C Feels Like 4	<b>Saturday</b> Mar-25th Rain 5°C Feels Like 0	<b>Sunday</b> Mar-26th Sun/cloud 7°C Feels Like 4	<b>Monday</b> Mar-27th Rain 7°C Feels Like 3	<b>Tuesday</b> Mar-28th Mainly cloudy 4°C Feels Like 0
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## COMMENTARY —

# Fraud Prevention Month Investment Scams

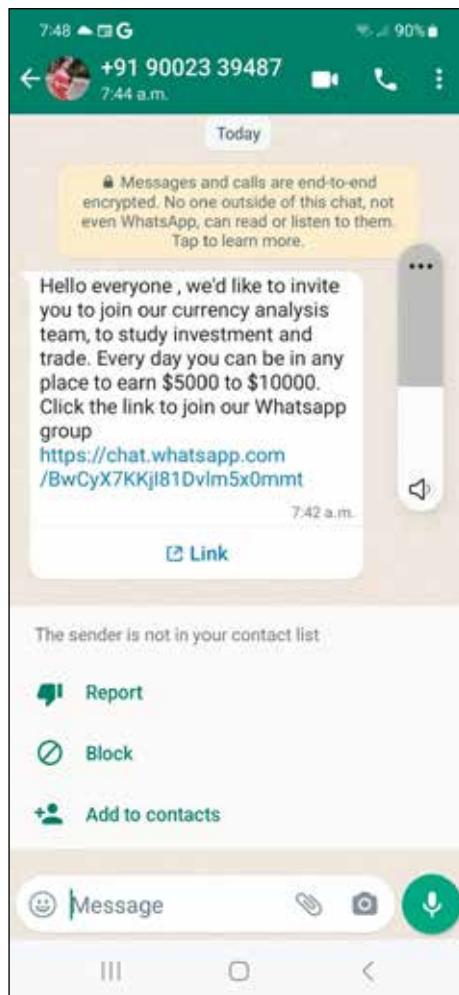
It's Fraud Prevention Month!

Pictured at right is a great example of an Investment Scam! Have you received a message similar to this? These types of scams can be sent through social media sites such as Whatsapp and Instagram, through text message, by email, or even ads on the internet. If you receive a message like this, do not click on the link!

With reported losses of \$308.6 million to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre in 2022, investment scams produced the highest losses of all types of scams!

Always be careful when investing, specifically when using crypto currency; do your research to ensure you are using reputable and trustworthy services; and check to see that the company is registered with our Provincial Securities Regulator by using the National Registration Search Tool [www.aretheyregistered.ca](http://www.aretheyregistered.ca)

Remember, investment scams are only one type of scam and there are many others designed specifically to deceive you out of your money. Help us create awareness throughout this Fraud Prevention Month by sharing this message and talking about Frauds and Scams with your



family, friends, and loved ones.

By creating awareness, we can all play a part in fraud prevention!

## Bravo

We have two Bravos this week.

- 1) To the St. Marys Independent for having such a wonderful online version. This way when you are travelling to distant lands, you can keep up on what's happening here.
- 2) Bravo to Spencer Seymour for outstanding commentary on all the Lincs games. He certainly is bringing them plenty of luck so far in the playoff race.



## Boo

We have two Boos this week.

- 1) Boo to the lady driving the (grey or silver) Ram truck last week at 9.15 on Monday morning. I was walking across Queen St at the Wellington intersection and you almost hit me half way across. Pedestrians have the right of way when the light shows the walking man. You need to slow down and obey the lights before you do hit someone.
- 2) Boo to some people who insist on throwing empty beer bottles away especially late at night on weekends



\*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

*"For those Canadians who feel the bite of rising prices the most acutely, for our most vulnerable friends and neighbours, our government will deliver additional targeted inflation relief. The truth is we can't fully compensate every single Canadian for all of the effects of inflation or for elevated interest rates. To do so would only make inflation worse and force rates higher for longer."*

- Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland says next week's budget will offer targeted measures but she warns the federal government can't afford to help everyone.

## Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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I used to have winter fat, now I just have spring rolls

Is this the year for the Lincs and the Leafs?

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

## St. Marys Independent

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## The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS  
OF THE WEEK

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Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground

Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.

The only exercise some people get is jumping to conclusions, running down their friends, side-stepping responsibility, and pushing their luck.

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give

## COMMUNITY —

# Rotary All Wheels Park donation of the week



Kingsway Lodge/Fairhill Residence: \$563.00 was raised on Giving Tuesday by selling soup! Soup helpers from Fairhill Residence left to right Georgina McGregor, Reta Young, Ruth Millson (standing) and Sharon Smith. (Contributed photo)

# Stonetown Crier



The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys

## Pet Licenses

Have you paid your 2023 animal licensing fee yet?

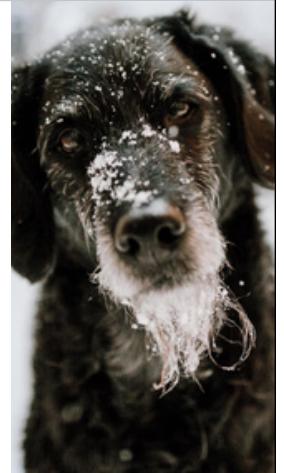
By licensing your pet, you are helping to ensure that they are returned to you promptly if they ever get loose and are picked up by Animal Control.

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: [townofstmarys.com/petlicences](http://townofstmarys.com/petlicences)



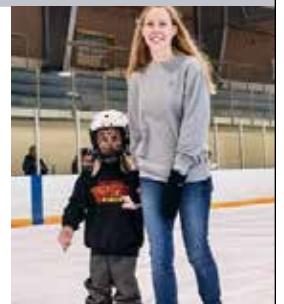
## Ice Rentals

Spend your next party, event or celebration at the coolest place in town - our ice rink!

There are plenty of ice rental times available in March and April at the Pyramid Recreation Centre.

Visit our website for availability, then call our Guest Services team to book your slot.

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



## Museum Seminars

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

Topics include:

- 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](mailto: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.

You can also subscribe to the calendar to get a weekly email about exciting events happening in St. Marys.

Visit our website to learn more.

Details: [townofstmarys.com/calendar](http://townofstmarys.com/calendar) or 519-284-2340, ext. 249



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## 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)

Take entrance off Tracy Street to parking lot beside Museum.

Please note: All are welcome but only paid members are entitled to vote or to stand for executive positions.

Memberships are \$15 per year and will be available at the meeting.

For information or for an agenda package, contact the Museum 519-284-3556 or [museum@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:museum@town.stmarys.on.ca)

# ACTION

## HEALTH CARE

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## Seniors of the Week



Our seniors of the week are Clare and Nancy Bickell. Nancy and Clare were born in Stratford General Hospital. They have two sons, 4 granddaughters and 1 grandson. Clare has been a great sports fan and coached hockey and ball for many years. Nancy has a passion for photography among other hobbies. One of their favourite jobs is working for the Independent Newspaper. Next year they are planning on celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

**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).**

## Weekend Quiz

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- 1) What is a person who tastes wine called
- 2) Who was the first Canadian born Governor General?
- 3) What name was given to the movement to bring American slaves to freedom in Canada?
- 4) Who was the first female to lead a national political party in Canada?
- 5) What is Canada's most southern provincial capital?
- 6) After leaving "The Guess Who", this singer's first album included "Stand Tall" and "I'm Scared"?
- 7) Which province was the first to allow women to vote?
- 8) What did Sanford Fleming design in 1851?
- 9) Who was the first Canadian astronaut to enter space?
- 10) "Aquaman" is from which city under the sea?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27

## COMMUNITY —

# St. Marys Public Library a hub of activity in 2022

By Stewart Grant

At the St. Marys Public Library Board meeting on March 2nd, various statistics were reviewed for the calendar year of 2022. The wide variety of programming offered by the Library was evident, with 2022 attendance noted of 3,603 across various regular, special, outreach, and summer programs.

### Regular Programs

The Library offered several regular programs during the year to stimulate its young patrons, including a Cookbook Club, Kids Trivia, Storytime, Book Club, Spice Club, and a Writing Club. Four classes also made field trips to the Library during 2022.

### Special Programs

Of the Library's special programs in 2022, the Movie in the Park events were particularly well attended, with an average of 190 in attendance for each of the six sessions offered between June and September. Two guest presenter / Living Library events also attracted good crowds, with 90 people in total taking in the two events held.

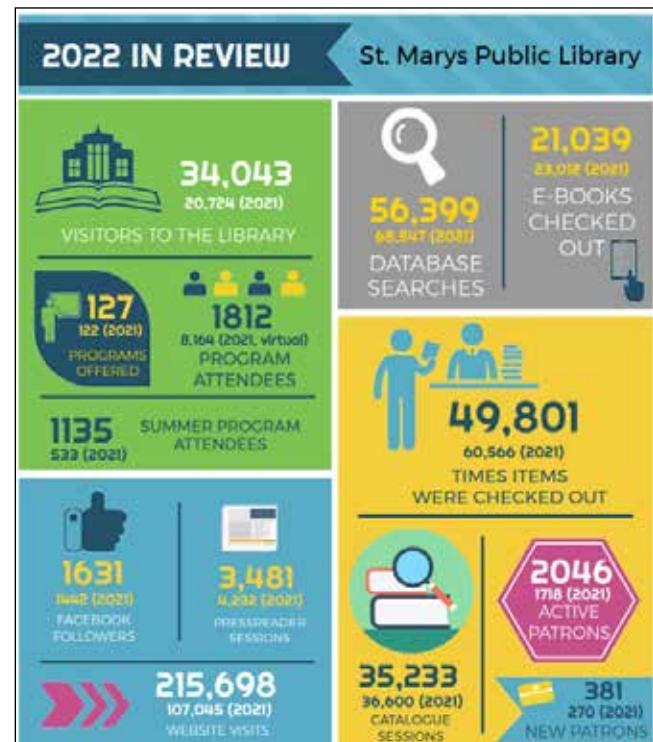
### EarlyON Visit, Play and Read

From March to December of 2022, 40 sessions of EarlyON Visit, Play and Read were held, with total attendance of 408, or roughly 10 per session.

### Summer Program

Eight weekly programs were held during the 8 weeks of the Library's summer program in 2022. These were particularly well attended – an average of 18 youngsters per session meant that total 2022 Summer Program attendance was 1,135.

### Kayak Rentals



Over and above the Library statistics mentioned above, the Library facilitated the Kayak rental program during 2022 which proved very popular. Available from May 24 to September 4, a total of 975 users (an average of 10 per day) took advantage of this unique offering to explore St. Marys from the water.

The St. Marys Public Library offers so much more than you might expect. Consider stopping by and seeing for yourself at 15 Church Street, just north of the Town Hall. Hours of operation are Mondays through Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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Our Annual Maple Syrup Festival, including tours of the sugar shack and the barn and a horse drawn wagon ride through the woods (weather permitting) and our Pancake Brunch will run every Weekend in March.

Brunch and tours run 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Pancake Brunch can again be enjoyed in the greenhouse or we can box it up for you to eat at home.

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## COMMUNITY —

# The Raes hope to be contestants on Family Feud Canada



Above is their creative team photo.



The Raes during their video interview. From L to R Natasha, Ryan, Brent, Kathy, Shauna, Don. Below is Lindsay, one of the producers for Family Feud Canada.

By Wendy Lamond

A local family may have the opportunity to represent St. Marys on the popular game show Family Feud Canada hosted by actor and comedian Gerry Dee.

The game show originally aired on December 16, 2019, and was based on the American version of the game where contestants try to find the most popular answers to survey questions asked to other Canadians.

When Natasha Rae was on maternity leave, she started watching Family Feud regularly and got hooked on the popular game show.

One day while watching, an ad came up on how to become contestants on the show. Natasha thought this would be a fun thing to do with her family and decided to go through the process without telling them.

The process to apply was very simple. Questions like "Where is your hometown, What Family members would you include and Why do you think your family would be great for Family Feud" were included on the application form. Natasha mentioned that they also needed to include a few photos and a short 2-3 minute application video for them to learn more about

each member. When Natasha told her family about the application, they were all very excited.

Lindsay, one of the producers of the show reached out to Natasha to set up an interview with her family via zoom.

The family was sent an email with "homework" that included needing a creative team photo, an introduction prepared for them to meet each member and to learn about their jobs and they also needed three funny stories to share. The more creative, the better.

When asked how she picked her family members to go on the show, Natasha said "I thought about who in my family enjoyed the show, would be fun to play with and also who would be good at the game."

She chose her brother Brent, her mom Kathy, dad Don and sister-in-law Shauna. Natasha's husband, Ryan, is an extra in case someone cannot make it.

If picked, the filming would take place between August and September at the CBC building in Toronto and the family would take a family trip so that all siblings and in-laws would get to partake in the fun of the experience.

When it comes to the next steps, the

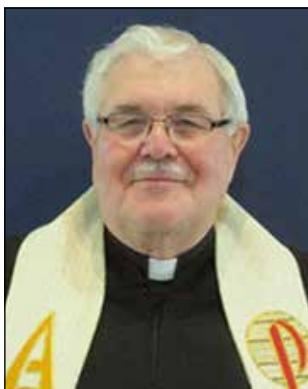
game-show reps told the family that they like to play hard to get and if they want to use social media to get their attention, they are on TikTok, Instagram, twitter and Facebook.

The Rae family have shared their story on social media.

What can the public do to help? Natasha commented, "Let Family Feud Canada know they would love to see the Rae Family on the show. This can

be done by sharing and tagging us to let them know others would be excited to watch us on the show."

Readers can go to all of the social media platforms mentioned above, look up Family Feud Canada and tag #Rae-Family. Also, a picture of this article attached will also help the family and show the producers that the community is behind them.



## 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](http://www.askthepreacher.ca) where he will regularly post his thoughts as he continues his journey of faith.



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## COMMUNITY —

# Save the date for the Stonetown Heritage Festival

Local talents combine with landscape for a memorable July weekend

The Stonetown Heritage Festival is back and better than ever this July, with three days of fun for everyone from Friday, July 14 to Sunday, July 16.

Many traditional festival favourites are returning, including street performers, food trucks, heritage tours and children's activities. But attendees can also expect a new focus on arts, culture and St. Marys' impressive natural landscape.

"St. Marys has an incredible arts scene: musicians, artists, studios, a community arts group, live theatre, photographers, poets, craftspeople and more," explains Town of St. Marys Events Coordinator Alanna Bowes. "We're excited to showcase these many talents through this year's Heritage Festival programming."

These local talents will be showcased primarily on Saturday. Creative workshops will be offered along the shaded banks of the Thames River, in Milt Dunnell Field. Also, The Riverview Walkway will host an "art walk" show. Look for more information on how to participate in the coming months.

Milt Dunnell Field will also play host to live music on Saturday evening and serve as the ideal viewing location for the Rotary Fireworks once the sun sets. This beloved show will again originate from the centre of the

Grand Trunk Trestle.

The festival will also begin with live music on Friday night. Headliners for both evenings will be announced soon!

"In addition to showcasing our natural landscape and arts scene, the festival will highlight our historic downtown and our heritage," says Bowes. On Saturday, the downtown will feature a kids' zone, vendors, shopping and community tents promoting non-profit initiatives. Heritage fans can also hop on an air-conditioned bus for a 45-minute tour of heritage sites. New this year is a "sneak peek" of select locations that will be part of the popular Doors Open tour in September.

Look for more exciting announcements on this St. Marys summertime staple as the festival approaches, and be sure to visit [www.discoverstmarys.ca/festival](http://www.discoverstmarys.ca/festival) for the full festival schedule and application forms for food trucks, vendors and the community tent.

In the meantime, sponsors and volunteers are needed to make this community event a success. For details, please contact Events Coordinator Alanna Bowes at 519-284-2340, ext. 249 or [abowes@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:abowes@town.stmarys.on.ca).



## Streams and Rivers expected to rise in response to rain and changing temperatures

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) expects streams and rivers to rise as forecast of rain and changing temperatures might melt the snowpack.

The UTRCA reminds parents to keep children and pets away from all watercourses and off of frozen water bodies. As water levels rise, it is not safe to take shelter along riverbanks or in low lying areas that are prone to flooding. Banks adjacent to rivers and creeks are very slippery and, when combined with cold, fast-moving water, pose a serious hazard.

The public is also reminded to exercise extreme caution and stay off all frozen water bodies. Any ice cover will be weakened and unstable. Flood

control reservoirs will be especially hazardous due to fluctuating water levels.

This week a low-pressure system is expected to move into the province, bringing 20-25 mm of rain to southern Ontario. Temperatures reached double digits last week, before returning to below freezing this week. The incoming weather conditions will begin to melt this snowpack, which the UTRCA estimates contains approximately 30-35 mm of water equivalent.

Water levels in streams and rivers will respond to the runoff from the rain and melting snow. The UTRCA expects water levels to remain above normal over the weekend. Serious flooding is not expected at this time.

The UTRCA's flood control reservoirs at Fanshawe, Wildwood, and Pittock Conservation Areas are at seasonal

levels and will be operated to reduce downstream flooding if required.



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# COMMUNITY —

## Family fun at the St. Marys Legion



Lily, Dalila, Jorja, Stella (front), and Sophie Rae-Stephens

By Wendy Lamond

On Thursday and Friday of March break the St. Marys Legion hosted their annual mini putt 18- hole course. As of Thursday afternoon approximately 100 kids came through to try out their mini putting skills and have

some fun with family and friends.

This is the 4th year that the Legion has put on the fundraiser having to take a break for two years during the pandemic.

President Bim Graham commented that they have many volunteers that



Dalila and Lily Rae-Stephens patiently waiting for the balloon animals made by Kate Gregg

help with set-up, take-down, running the door and making sure things run smoothly.

"Everything is donated making this a fun, fundraiser for the Legion" Graham commented.

Hotdogs and fries were available for

purchase and Kate Gregg shared her creative skills by making balloon animals for the kids.

For only \$5 a round the Legion provides the community with a cost efficient family activity for March break all while supporting a great cause.

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## SPORTS —

# Lincolns stifle Nats to win first three games

By Spencer Seymour

Even the most ardent supporter of the St. Marys Lincolns likely didn't foresee having the chance to end their series against the London Nationals in four straight games heading into Tuesday, but that was precisely the situation heading into Game Four after the Lincolns won the first three games.

In the other Western Conference semi-final, the Leamington Flyers had a chance to sweep the LaSalle Vipers on Wednesday.

Lucas Chard, who posted 19 goals and 66 points this season, didn't have a point in the first three games of the series. Izayah Luddington, Nolan Milne, Talan Palmer, Tanner Ryan, Bradyn Santavy, Brayden Thompson, and Tanner Winegard also all entered Game Four without a point in the series. Rylan Bowers and Riley Wood, who had 21 and 26 goals this season respectively, didn't have a goal in the first three games.

## Lincs weather early storm, win Game One 3-1

In the first period of Game One, the Nationals had an early jump, controlling the play for extended periods of time. However, despite the lopsided advantage in puck possession time and leading in shots 14-8, London wasn't able to find the back of the net. This was due in large part to the lead in possession time and shots not translating into very many high-end scoring opportunities.

As the game progressed and the Lincolns' offensive play started clicking a bit more, their defensive structure also got even stronger. On the bigger playing surface in London, one of the Lincolns' keys to victory was shrinking the ice, which Head Coach Jeff Bradley thought the team did very well.

"Taking away their time and space is a big key for us," Bradley told the Independent. "We didn't give up any odd-man rushes which is key against any team but especially against London. We knew that in the first round, they scored a lot of their goals in the slot so we knew that we had to clog up the space in front of our net."

One of the only high-danger chances in the opening period was created by Luca Spagnolo and Ethan Lamoureux, who later picked up assists on the first goal of the game scored by Josh Tidgwell at 10:11 of the second. Bradley credited the two forwards as driving the offensive pressure from the front.

"Spagnolo and Lamoureux were our two best players up front. Young players can get nervous in big situations like this but Luca was unflappable. Ethan reminded us why he's our Captain. He played like our leader and players feed off of guys like him. Even though it took us a little bit to find our footing, we never folded and to me, that's the sign of a mature hockey team."

A little less than three minutes later, Lucas Carson wired a shot past the glove of Matteo Lalama for his



Defenceman Nathan Small plays the puck from the point during a recent St. Marys Lincolns' game. Heading into Game Four of the Lincs' semi-final series against the London Nationals on Tuesday, Small had a point in every playoff game this year. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

third of the playoffs. Overall, Lalama was excellent in goal, making 32 saves to backstop the Lincs to victory.

In the third, with the Nats pushed back on their heels, Austin Keleher continued his strong playoff performance with his second of the post-season and the eventual game-winner. With just 64 seconds left, Michael Elliston made it 3-1 with a powerplay marker.

## Complete team effort leads Lincs to Game Two win

The excellent play the Lincolns managed to forge in Game One was displayed even more consistently throughout Game Two with everyone pulling their weight en route to a 3-2 St. Marys victory.

"Top to bottom, we were really good. The guys weren't deviating from our game plan at all. Pretty much the whole game was exactly what we wanted from our group. The goal at the end of the first sucked the life out of us a little bit but we regrouped very well in the intermission."

Just under halfway through the first period, Austin Keleher dug the puck out of the corner and found

Owen Voortman in front who potted his second of the playoffs to give St. Marys a 1-0 lead. With half a second left in the opening frame, Sam O'Reilly scored the first of two goals he put up in the game to tie things at one apiece heading into the intermission.

After a scoreless second period, Keleher and Elliston buried goals in the third for the second consecutive game, the latter of which increased his goal streak to four games. As for Keleher, while Bradley made it clear that he was pleased with everyone's play in Game Two, the Cambridge native was one of a few players who especially stood out.

"It was a really good team game, there wasn't anybody who didn't play well. Chase MacQueen-Spence had a really strong game. He made a really good defensive play in our zone and we don't score our third goal without that play. The Keleher, Voortman, and Prendergast line was fantastic. Keleher in particular, the playoffs are his type of hockey. He can play any type of hockey and when the game ramps up, he does too."

Shortly after O'Reilly cut the deficit to one late in the third, controversy broke out when the Nationals requested that the officials examine Lalama's goalie mask, taking issue with the legality of Lalama's cage due to what London argued were oversized eyeholes. The challenge caused a stoppage exceeding 10 minutes.

The officials determined that the mask was legal. As a result of the lengthy stoppage, with the mask found to be permissible, London was assessed a two-minute penalty for delay of game.

## Lincs put Nats on the brink with 2-1 win in Game Three

Riding high, the Lincolns went back to London for Game Three and continued to play smothering defence, fending off a late London powerplay to secure a 2-1 win and a 3-0 series lead.

For the first time in the series, the Nationals were able to find some consistent scoring chances in high-danger areas in the second period, but in the first and third frames, the Lincs' defensive pressure continued to be excellent. Bradley said that the team's ability to withstand the opposition's push-back says a great deal about the mental resolve of the Lincolns.

"It was a testament to how mature of a team we have. You've seen it during this series and in moments during the Strathroy series, we've faced adversity and we bent but never broke. Matteo was great when he had to be, we won some key draws, and blocked some key shots. It was a combination of those three things and our ability to not panic or get overwhelmed that helped us hold on at the end."

The Head Coach also talked about how much he

*Continued on page 10*



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## SPORTS —

# U9 MD Boys capture gold in Huntsville tournament

By Spencer Seymour

The U9 MD Boys St. Marys Rock returned from the ninth annual Knights of Columbus Tournament held last weekend in Huntsville with Gold Medals around their necks.

The tournament started for the U9 MD Boys with a Friday afternoon game against Campbellford. A long car ride caused the Rock to be a bit slow to start, resulting in Campbellford leading 3-0 at the end of the first period. However, St. Marys came alive in the second and held Campbellford off the score sheet for the rest of the game while scoring four unanswered to win 4-3.

An early morning game the next day against Douro was a new experience for this group and led to another slow start to the game. Once again, though, the Rock regrouped and battled back, ultimately coming away with a 5-4 win for the Rock.

Game Three was played later that day against Huntsville who put up a strong fight against the Rock team but ultimately fell 3-1, giving St. Marys an undefeated round-robin record.

The Gold Medal game was a rematch

between Campbellford and St. Marys. According to Head Coach Jared Stokes, the Rock put in their strongest game of the tournament.

"The team has been improving with each game of the season and all of that came together in the final," Stokes said. "The defence controlled the play in our end and limited their chances while the forwards were taking advantage of fast break opportunities and getting strong shots on the net."

Backed up by the excellent goaltending of Franklin Anderson, the Rock won the game 3-0 to claim the Gold Medal. In total, St. Marys scored 15 goals in the tournament coming from eight different goal scorers.

"Every player found a way to contribute with and without the puck," Stokes added. "We fielded two goalies throughout the tournament and both provided more of the outstanding goaltending they have throughout the season. It has been fantastic to watch these boys evolve throughout the season and push harder with each game and it was great to see that growth result in a big tournament win."



The U9 MD Boys won the Gold Medal in the ninth annual Knights of Columbus tournament in Huntsville this past weekend. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Ryan Pickel, Jake Kittmer, Franklin Anderson, Cameryn Stokes, Jacob Hahn, and Kyle Johnson. In the back row, from left, are Jack Bilyea, Ashton Ropp, Edwin Froud, Aiden Hibbert, Logan Masselis, Finnley Harburn, Jaxon Wittig, and Dean Feeney. Absent was Kane Douglas. (Contributed photo)

## Lincolns stifle Nats to win first three games

Continued from page 11

trusts every member of the lineup, highlighted by a specific moment in the game.

"There was a point when we had Eric Smith, Adrian Stubberfield, and Jimmy Schiedel out against London's top line, and I remember thinking in that moment 'we have complete trust in our guys.' And they showed why because they got a scoring chance on that shift. It's not often that you have four lines, three defence pairs, and two goalies, all of whom you trust completely, and we have that with this group."

Bradley added that the ability of the Lincolns' youngest players such as Schiedel to stay ready and give great efforts despite not always taking a regular shift is a huge part of the

team's success.

"It speaks to their character and maturity. Look at Jimmy, for example, he cares a lot and when he's called upon, he does his job. Role recognition is really important in the playoffs and to be able to understand and respect that you as the coach are trying to do what's best for the team, it's a sign of an incredibly mature person. Guys like Jimmy and Rourke [McEwan] are going to be key to this team's success for years to come."

"Montesi, Voortman, Prendergast, Spagnolo, and Strohack are the same way. Sometimes they play a lot, sometimes they don't, but they never complain. They just want what's best for the team."

Like Game One, neither team got on the board in the first period, before

both managed to strike once in the second. Owen McGowan opened the scoring with a powerplay goal followed by St. Marys earning a powerplay goal of their own. Elliston carried the puck to the high slot and fired a shot that Jacob Chantler tipped by Joseph Ranger.

In the third, the Lincolns refocused their defensive play and got back

to being totally stifling, locking the Nats out of the slot and preventing grade-A scoring chances. Meanwhile, a point shot by Nathan Small deflected through a maze of bodies and beat Ranger. Small's goal held up as the game-winner, but not before the Lincs staved off a Nationals' powerplay in the final minute.

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**SPORTS —**

# U11 B Boys go undefeated in round-robin of Warriors Tournament



Head Coach Josh Becker discusses the gameplan with the U11 B Boys St. Marys Rock during a recent game. Strong play at both ends of the ice allowed the U11 B Boys to go undefeated in the round-robin of last weekend's Warriors Tournament in St. Catharines. Becker told the Independent that his team "controlled the majority of play" throughout the round-robin by "limiting chances and working the play deep in the offensive zone," along with good goaltending by Gavin Russel when called upon. In the semi-final matchup against Newcastle, both teams played a great game but an unfavourable bounce late in the third allowed Newcastle to take the victory. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

# Lots of heart displayed by U13 B Boys in St. Catharines



Captain Graeme Froud operates behind the net with the puck during a recent U13 B Boys St. Marys Rock game. Froud had a goal in the Warriors Tournament in St. Catharines this past weekend. Despite the Rock falling in the semi-finals, Head Coach Bob Davis said that the experience was a great one for his team and that the entire coaching staff was happy with the way the team performed. After dropping their first round-robin game against Halton Hills, the Rock found their stride and won their next two games thanks to "intense forechecking and defensive zone coverage." Penalty trouble caused the Rock to stumble in their last round-robin game but their two wins were enough to advance to the semi-final. In a rematch against Halton Hills, a "fast and furious" pace saw both teams turn in great efforts but the tenacious Rock ran into a dialled Halton Hills netminder. "Our last game against Halton Hills was probably our best game both technically and emotionally," Davis told the Independent. "The boys played the kind of hockey we knew they could play. They executed better, they thought the game better, and they played with heart and discipline. Overall, this was an excellent experience for our team. We are very proud of every one of them." (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

**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.

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**SPORTS —**

# Hall of Fame hosting Blue Jays' Academy Clinic

*Contributed Media Release*

The Toronto Blue Jays Baseball Academy has announced their 2023 Instructional Clinic schedule, including a clinic in St. Marys. The Instructional Clinic takes place on Saturday, May 6th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hall of Fame on King Field.

The Blue Jays Baseball Academy hosts one-day, four-hour Instructional Clinics throughout Ontario for beginner baseball players aged 8-12.

Players rotate through drills covering infield, outfield, hitting, throwing, agility, and baserunning skills. Instructional Clinic registrants will also participate in a Baseball Athletic Training station which serves as an introduction to fundamental athletic movement.

Instructional Clinics are taught exclusively by Blue Jays Baseball Academy Instructors. Academy Instructors are NCCP-registered, ex-

perienced coaches, who have been trained in the 'Blue Jays Way' of teaching baseball to youth.

The cost of the clinic is \$65 plus HST per participant. Participants receive a Blue Jays hat, t-shirt, and digital baseball skills manual. Registrants also receive one free kids' ticket to a Blue Jays' game.

Instructional Clinics also serve as a fundraising opportunity for the host baseball association or little league, as \$25 from each registration is donated back to the host organization after the first 25 registrations.

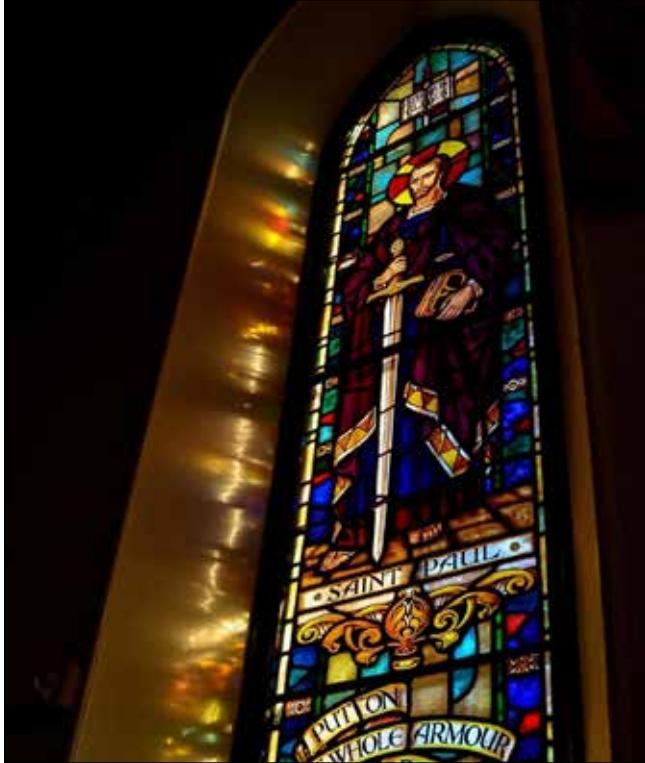
To register, go to [www.mlb.com/bluejays/community/baseball-academy/instructional-clinics](http://www.mlb.com/bluejays/community/baseball-academy/instructional-clinics).

For the St. Marys clinic only, each registered participant will receive 50 percent off a Hall of Fame admission pass to use that day or any day the museum is open until August 31, 2023.



# COMMUNITY —

## St. Marys Clicks March winners



The St. Marys Clicks contest for March was 'window' and our winner was Mary Ann Rosser with 'Inspirational Reflection' (above left). There was a tie for runner up and that honour goes to Darlene McBride with 'Still Standing' (above right) and Christina Switzer with 'Broken Window' (right). The next meeting will take place on Thursday, April 6th at the St. Marys Presbyterian Church, 147 Widder St. East. Guests are always welcome! (Contributed photos)

### CALL FOR BOARD NOMINATIONS 2023

STRATFORD PERTH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SEEKS CANDIDATES FOR ITS

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STRATFORD PERTH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Visit [spccf.ca](http://spccf.ca) for more information and to complete the online application form.

**Applications are due April 3, 2023.**



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**COMMUNITY —**

# My Main Street Program Helps the Flour Mill Grow

The Flour Mill Food Shop 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.

Having Opened in June 2021, The Flour Mill Food Shop is a local food retailer that has quickly become a destination food shop. The store offers premium groceries, prepared foods, celebration cakes and specialty nutritional products. All products are made from scratch in small batches from raw organic materials. Nutritional integrity, quality and taste are always at the forefront.

Co-owner Alex O'Shea notes the importance of opportunities like the My Main Street Local Business Accelerator program. "Small businesses are not often granted the financial help they need. My Main Street recognizes the value of community-driven business. We are grateful for the support and belief in our project"

The Flour Mill Food Shop is located at 6 Water Street South and can be found online at [theflourmill.ca](http://theflourmill.ca) and on Instagram @the\_flour\_mill.

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.



Co-owners Alex O'Shea (left) and Tracey Pritchard.

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**FARM LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER PERTH SOUTH**

**Property:** Part Lot 22, Concession 10 Blanshard; Part Lot 23, Concession 10 Blanshard as in R383527; s/t BLN15976, Municipality of Perth South

**Municipal Address:** Line 2, Perth South, no Municipal 911 number is assigned. The property is beside 5126 Line 2, Perth South.

Total of 76 acres including 56 workable acres (more or less) and 20 acres of bush and an old gravel pit sown in hay, systemically tiled. This property contains no buildings and is subject to a hydro easement.



Tenders will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. on April 5, 2023.

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

For tender forms contact:  
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**COMMUNITY —**

**Rae Appointed PA to Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing**

On March 10, Matthew Rae, Member of Provincial Parliament for Perth-Wellington was appointed to the role of Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

“It is a great honour to serve the people of Perth-Wellington and Ontario in this role,” said Rae. “As a first-time homeowner and one of the youngest members of the Government Caucus, I know first-hand the pressing need to build more homes.”

MPP Rae was elected on June 2nd, 2022 and has served as one of the

two Parliamentary Assistants to the Minister of Education, the Honourable Stephen Lecce.

Parliamentary Assistants principally assist their respective minister in their legislative duties but may also assist in extra-parliamentary activities such as engaging in policy formation.

“I look forward to working with Premier Ford, Minister Clark, Associate Minister Parsa, and our entire team on getting more homes built in every community across Ontario,” said Rae.

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# HISTORY —

## HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Microfilm at the St. Marys Museum

By Mary Smith

In the late 1970s, the newly formed St. Marys Historical Society and the St. Marys Journal Argus received a grant to have the surviving back copies of the local newspapers microfilmed. These old newspapers, representing decades of publishing, were stored on the third floor of the Journal Argus building at 142 Queen Street East. The issues for each year had been bound within protective cardboard covers or wrapped in brown paper. Each binder or bundle was labelled. Then these heavy packages had been placed, more or less in order, on shelving along the walls. When the space on these shelves had run out, the bundles were stacked on any available surface – mostly old desks or tables, rejected from the offices on the lower floors.

The commercial block that was home to the Journal Argus had been constructed in 1868. The third floor of this historic building was uninsulated – cold in winter, almost unbearably hot in summer. Visited infrequently, it was dusty and home to the various pests that inhabit all old attics. As storage for these old newspapers, it did have the advantage of being dry and mostly undisturbed. However, newsprint does not age well. Produced from wood pulp, it is an inherently unstable paper. After all, it was used to print the news of the moment and intended to be expendable. As the earliest newspapers came off the presses in St. Marys, there was no expectation that the information on their pages would be of great interest to people 150 years into the future. The weekly papers were sold and, as long as someone remembered, one good copy was kept and set aside for the record.

In the earliest years, this was done reasonably consistently by the Argus staff. The earliest copies of the Journal did not survive. However, from 1895 onward, after John W. Eedy purchased the Journal, a copy of each issue was saved conscientiously. The Journal purchased the Argus in 1920 and from then on, the local weekly was called the Journal Argus. These newspapers combined meant that the microfilming project included issues of the St. Marys Argus from January 1857 until 1920 (there were a number of missing issues), the St. Marys Journal from January 1895 until October 1920, and the Journal Argus from the date that the two newspapers combined up to December 1980.



Museum Intern Sophie Thorpe loads the Museum's microfilm reader.

When the initial microfilming project was completed, there were 90 boxes of reels, representing the years 1857 to 1980. Later microfilming updates added 30 more reels, covering the Journal Argus up to 2006. Microfilming transferred the contents of the newspapers onto continuous reels of readable film. Microfilm is stable, an excellent medium for preserving information on newsprint. All that is needed to read this information is a bright light and a magnifying lens. These are the basic components of a microfilm reader. The first models were mechanical, projecting the image onto a screen which was part of the reader itself. The modern versions show the pages on a computer screen where they are read and, if desired, sent to a printer for reproduction. Either way, the contents of the newspaper can be read without disturbing the original fragile newsprint.

When the microfilming was underway, for several consecutive summers, grants were available to hire students to create an index to the content of the newspapers. The first two summers, they worked in a crowded office space on the second floor of the Journal Argus building, carefully reading through the papers, issue by issue and making notes. The index entries came under a variety of headings. Births, Marriages and Deaths were important, of course, but this very complete index also included Acts of Nature, Accidents, Businesses/Industries, Churches, Clubs, Crimes, Social Events, Sports, and more. Organizing the informa-

tion was a massive project and the student team did excellent work.

In the spring of 1981, the last tenants in the apartment in the south wing of the St. Marys Museum moved out. The microfilming project moved from the Journal Argus offices into part of this vacated space. By the end of that summer, the newspapers had been indexed as far as 1913 – just before the beginning of World War I. When the students returned to school, their indexing work stayed at the Museum, along with the reels of microfilm and the film reader. This was a great advantage. Staff found it was an excellent resource for learning about the local provenance of many of the items in the collection. For instance, it became possible to find a marriage announcement to help date a donated, 19th century wedding dress.

Another bonus was the increase in visitor numbers as individual researchers came specifically to use this great, local history resource. One older gentleman, for example, enjoyed visiting just to look through the index cards under the heading "Crimes." He sat at a table, occasionally chuckling and making comments such as: "I knew that old fellow! That whole family was a bad lot!" Of course the most frequent visitors were genealogists, looking for details to add to their family trees. Other researchers were working on school projects, or were interested in the history of one of the town's many historic buildings. The newspapers and the index are always regularly used by Museum volunteers for

property history reports and for seminar preparation.

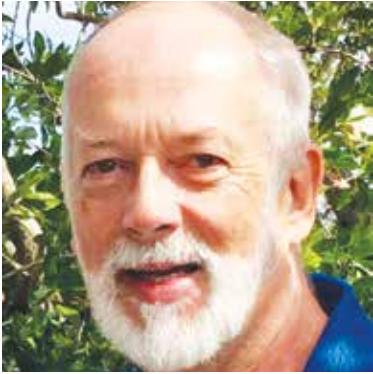
Until 2006, most of the original newsprint bundles remained on the third floor of 142 Queen Street East. By then, the Journal Argus had been sold to Metroland Media and moved to another downtown location. But R. Lorne Eedy, the last member of the Eedy family to own the Journal Argus, still owned the building where the newspapers were stored. However, the building was up for sale. What would happen to the old newspapers? Coincidentally, in June 2006, the St. Marys Museum had just completed the first stage of its addition/renovation project. It now had an archival vault with controlled humidity and temperature. The first donation of archival material to be placed directly in the new vault came from Lorne Eedy. Just a few days before the official opening of the addition, all the many, heavy bundles were transported from the attic at 142 Queen Street East and placed on the new compact shelving in the vault. Since then, the papers have been placed in acid-free boxes and are kept in this secure environment. Since the St. Marys Independent began publication, the weekly issues of these newspapers have also been preserved and kept in acid-free boxes, organized by date, beside the issues of the Journal Argus. When Metroland terminated the Journal Argus in November 2017, the issues of the Independent became even more important for local history records.

It is still preferable to read these old newspapers on microfilm but the original copies have proved important. It was discovered that the newspapers from the 1930s had been poorly microfilmed and were extremely difficult to read. That decade of newspapers was sent again for filming and much more readable microfilm is now available. The St. Marys Independent now keeps a digital archives. However, there are plans to microfilm the earliest issues sometime when funds are available.

This may be a future project for the Friends of the St. Marys Museum, an organization that supports the activities and projects of our local, community museum. The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Museum will be held this coming Monday, March 27, at 7 p.m. at the Museum. Everyone is invited to come and learn about the past years' successes and the plans for the year ahead. For information call 519-284-3556 or email [museum@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:museum@town.stmarys.on.ca).

## COLUMN —

## OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: A dual commitment to the environment and to the arts



By Paul Knowles

Costa Rica is one of my favourite countries. It's a nation with a heart, a place where education and literacy is vastly more important than military might, where the environment is given the importance it deserves – and absolutely requires – and where a wide variety of eco-systems exist within a relatively small area.

Literacy? The country has no standing army, investing instead in education and universal health care. The literacy rate tops 98%!

The environment? Costa Rica has set a 2050 target of total decarbonization. It has re-grown large areas of rainforest in the past three decades.

As a nation that is home to about half a million unique species – about 5% of the species on earth – Costa Rica celebrates, nurtures and defends biodiversity.

You have got to love a country like that. And you have to respect people like Pedro Belmar and Vera Zeledon, founders of Hotel Belmar, who have led the way in this emphasis on environmental sustainabil-

ity. They opened their boutique hotel in 1985, well before international attention was so focused on protecting the environment, with a firm commitment to sustainability.

Hotel Belmar is situated in the cloud forest mountains of Monteverde. When it opened, it was the first eco-focused hotel in the region. Today, it's still a family business, now managed by the couple's children, Pedro and Soledad. The hotel is dedicated to creating opportunities that first honor the environment and then allow guests to connect with nature.

The hotel property also includes the country's first carbon-neutral farm.

Pedro Belmar, son the founders, and today's General Manager, talked about the inclusive vision that led to the creation of the hotel. "As the first upscale eco-hotel in the Monteverde region, it has always been important to integrate sustainability practices into our hotel's operation from the very beginning. It was clear to us that the wellbeing of our business, the natural surroundings and the community were all intertwined. Monteverde is our home, and for my family and the community it is important to see children grow up in a healthy environment."

The Belmar's commitment to sustainability has meant an on-going and up to date focus on innovation. Pedro told me, "For the past seven years, Hotel Belmar has received the Carbon Neutral Certification and the property was actu-

ally carbon negative in 2022, meaning we effectively sequestered more carbon than we emitted. As carbon becomes an ever-increasing concern, we plan to continue to build on the already advanced practices we employ."

And he pointed to the latest innovation. "Our robust regenerative dining program has recently incorporated Cerveceria Belmar, our onsite brewery, using the grains brewed for the beer as feed for the farm animals at the hotel's farm, Finca Madre Tierra. In addition, food waste from the hotel's juice bar, its restaurant Restaurante Celajes and Cerveceria Belmar are composted and used as fertilizer in the property's onsite organic gardens and Finca Madre Tierra."

The environmental emphasis is impressive but the Belmars have found a way to combine sustainability with luxury. All of the 26 guest rooms and suites include private terraces or balconies with views of the cloud forest and the Nicoya Peninsula. What they don't include are televisions. "Guests are invited to disconnect from their busy lives and enjoy nature and the beautiful surroundings."

Not surprisingly, given the focus on wellness, the Hotel Belmar includes a glass-walled spa and yoga classes.

I was delighted to discover that, in addition to the Hotel Belmar's focus on the environment, the Belmar family is also committed to supporting the arts. The hotel hosts an "Artist Residency Program"



The Hotel Belmar, nestled in the cloud forest.

through which local and international artists are invited to live at the hotel for a period of two or three weeks. Pedro says, "We welcome artists with a particular interest in nature; in the cultural realities of Monteverde; and/or in the particular social experience of a Hotel. Artists could be seeking to work in drawing, painting, sculpture, writing, performance or other art forms."

The program is rooted in the fundamental philosophy of the hotel. "Our belief is that art is wonderfully beneficial for the advancement of knowledge, and for community-building through creative experimentation. Therefore, our artists in residence will be encouraged to offer workshops and hold open studio hours to share their work with our diverse international clientele and with the local community."

At the end of the program, artists are expected to present their work in a public exhi-

bition or a similar activity to display their completed work. The hotel reserves the right to select two works to keep for its archives.

I love the idea – and no, I have not applied to the program. Not yet, anyway.

I know the place sounds something close to ideal, but Pedro Belmar says there is still more to come: "We are very excited about sustainable food systems and all the opportunities we see ahead to deepen practices surrounding it. In addition, we will be integrating cutting-edge sustainable architecture as part of our upcoming projects."

If you would like to know more about Hotel Belmar, check out <https://hotelbelmar.net>.

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).



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## COLUMN —

# LENTEN REFLECTIONS: God's love makes us new



**By Rev. Jason Richards**

Nicodemus is seen one more time after today in the Gospel of John when he accompanies Joseph of Arimathea to ask for Jesus' body after He is crucified. Once more, we see Nicodemus stepping out of his comfort zone for Jesus. Peter is off betraying Jesus, others are hidden and scared. What propels Nicodemus to risk the dangerous fate that would surely await him if he is seen wanting to help Jesus – even a dead Jesus?

Could it be that, by the end, Nicodemus understood Jesus' teaching? Did he now understand that eternal life is not about a destination, but about a way of life about here and now and continues throughout eternity? Jesus did not so much show us a roadmap to get to

heaven when we die. Rather, Jesus gave us a roadmap to find heaven while we live. This understanding shifts the conversation of salvation from fear to love based... A love based conversation that during the season of Lent we have with ourselves. A metaphorical mirror we hold up and gaze into.

We gaze and we see that which we like, that which can bring eternal life to the here and now, and yet we also see what might be weighing us down on this journey to the cross.

For me, it is to try to stay positive. As I meander through this stage iv cancer diagnosis, there are moments of anger, depression, and just a general sense that I will fail at things people expect me to do because my health keeps me from being the 'me' I remember.

We all have internal struggles, realizations, and baggage that we carry. When Jesus' turned all of Nicodemus's grandiose questions back at him on the personal level, we can see ourselves in those questions.

Eternal life isn't a far off goal, it's about looking at that mirror,

directly into its eyes, and saying 'Today I will live God's love.' 'Today, all those other things don't matter, because I am loved today, I am loved tomorrow, and the next and the next.' We live an eternal life based on our daily choices, and sure we will stumble and fall sometimes, trust me, but tomorrow is another day.

Salvation (eternal life) begins when we place our faith in Jesus and allow the love of God into our lives. When we receive God's love as a response to our brokenness, we are saved. It's not about the water or the flesh; it is about God's love. God's love makes us new. God's love can make new all that is broken in our life; our bodies, our jobs, our marriages, our relationships. Whatever is broken, God can and will make new. God steps into our broken humanity and overcomes our sin with His love. When we receive God's love, we begin to change – not physically, but spiritually. God's love in us opens us up to see the world differently, too. Our hearts are changed, and we are simply never the same. Never the same. Amen.



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

*St. Marys Library events – See Page 27*

### Friday, March 24

- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog lunch at Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw – 6 pm

### Saturday, March 25

- Stratford Home & Leisure Show at the Rotary Complex, Stratford – 9 am to 5 pm
- McCully's Hill Farm Maple Syrup Festival brunch & tours – 10 am to 2 pm
- Canadian Celtic Choir at St. Marys United Church – 2 pm
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw – 5 pm
- Thorndale Lions Social Gaming Night at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre – 8 pm to 1 am

### Sunday, March 26

- McCully's Hill Farm Maple Syrup Festival brunch & tours – 10 am to 2 pm
- Easter Craft Sale at the St. Marys Legion – 11 am to 3 pm
- Stratford Home & Leisure Show at the Rotary Complex, Stratford – 11 am to 4 pm

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# Heeman's Hard Cider a growing success

By Nancy Abra

The hard cider division at Heeman's grew from the passion of Susan Judd and Tom Heeman. Judd obtained her work experience at Burning Kiln Winery in St. Williams, ON and she and Heeman visited and toured many wineries while they were dating. They got inspired to create a product that was sustainable using local fruit, including the Heeman's strawberries. During their courtship Judd developed a gluten allergy and the pair redirected their focus to hard cider.

It took Judd and Heeman's teamwork, as well as her marketing experience to create a hard cider. Their first batch of Heeman's Original Hard Cider was launched in November, 2019. This cider is a mix of local cooking and eating apples, giving it a light (4% alcohol) and easy drinking cider with a hint of sweetness.

Another hard cider which they developed is their 'Berry Blush'. This 5% alcohol beverage features Heeman's strawberries. It has grown in popularity and quickly sells out. To date, there are over a dozen varieties of hard cider which are produced at the Heeman cider facility.

Besides the hard cider, Heeman and Judd also produce mead – an alcohol beverage made from fermented hon-



ey. Tom Heeman has 115 beehives and he stated, "it only made sense to branch into making mead." They currently have nine different types of mead from berries and other fruit with an alcohol content ranging from 4% to 12%, depending on the kind of mead.

Heeman remarked that the cider industry is growing. Twenty years ago, the craft beer industry developed.

Over the past two decades, these craft breweries which do not mass-produce their product but are focused on the taste, make them very popular with beer drinkers. As for the hard cider industry, it has been coming into its own since about 2012 with sales and popularity steadily growing in Ontario.

Even though mead has been around for thousands of years, it is now start-

ing to grow in status. "With good marketing and public education", Heeman said, "it too will continue to increase in recognition. There is a niche market for mead."

When asked about the beer/wine/spirits federal excise tax increase of 6.3%, which amounts to \$0.0078 per 355ml to begin April 1st, Heeman replied, "we shouldn't be affected that much. The hard cider association which they are part of hired a consultant to work on the producers' behalf last fall in regard to this tax increase."

Heeman Hard Cider has consistently grown in recognition since their launch in the fall of 2019. Various kinds of their famed hard cider and mead, depending on the season, are available at Heeman's Greenhouse, in approximately 25 London area bars and grilles, at the Creamery in St. Marys and most recently, Tom Heeman announced their hard cider will be available in some 'Beer-town' restaurants in Ontario. They also have a subscription 'Cider Club' with a membership of 85. Heeman said, "This club has an exclusive and unique opportunity for our customers to be the first to taste our new products, such as our new PawPaw Cider and our Hazelnut Chicory Latte. It inspires us to be creative and test the market as we continue to grow."

# Register for 'I Love Thorndale' Easter Egg Hunt

By Arden McClean

I Love Thorndale (ILT) is preparing for another annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 8th at 9am at the Thorndale Lion's Community Centre. This year they have invited some new partners to join in the fun!

Meghan Graham, the volunteer who is championing this event for the I Love Thorndale organization, has

been busy reaching out to local businesses and groups to add some exciting features to this fun family event, including an animal petting area run by Laughing Goat Yoga, coffee donated by Sassy's, and the crafting area is back thanks to the team at Angel's Daycare.

As well, I Love Thorndale is happy to include the Thorndale Lions, who will

be serving up bacon on a bun, so families are encouraged to bring a few dollars and get their breakfast from the Lions before or after they hunt for eggs. And of course, the ILT Easter Egg Hunt wouldn't be the same without a chance to visit and get a picture with the Easter Bunny, who will be there all morning.

Families can register before March

25th at [www.ilovethorndale.ca/event/i-love-thorndale-easter-event](http://www.ilovethorndale.ca/event/i-love-thorndale-easter-event). There are already over 100 families registered and the ILT team expects over 250 children to attend this event! This is a free event, sponsored by the local businesses that subscribe to a listing on the I Love Thorndale business directory at [www.ilovethorndale.ca](http://www.ilovethorndale.ca). However, donations will be accepted at the event.

# Trivia night at Thorndale United Church

By Sarah Smith

Earlier this month, an enthusiastic group of trivia lovers gathered in the Fellowship Hall at Thorndale United Church for our bi-annual Trivia Night. Approximately 70 people attended. We were happy to bring this

event back for the first time after covid shutdowns. The night included a wide range of trivia questions, lots of laughs, snacks, and a late meal.

Thank you to local establishments, Thorndale Farm Supply and the Thorndale Family Restaurant for do-

nating to our prizes, and to our church congregation for the generous donations of food and door prizes. All proceeds from each Trivia night go to a different cause. This year we raised \$1,000 for ELUCO (East London United Church Outreach).

If you like trivia, or just want to have a good time with friends, come join the fun! Save the date for our next Trivia night on Saturday November 4th at 7:30pm. Call 519-609-6132 or email [tickets@tzuc.ca](mailto:tickets@tzuc.ca) to reserve tickets.

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# Filled the Container: A Community to Love

By *Stu McCutcheon*

One can only feel grateful. I am proud to be a small part of this generous community. Wow, you did it again. Your donations have filled another container that is heading to South Sudan.

South Sudan is the newest country in the world, located in Northern Africa. It received its independence in 2011. It ranks very high as the poorest country in the world.

The container is stuffed full of new clothes and shoes. Many of the people in our South Sudan community have only the rags on their backs until your gifts of clothing come to them. Everyone of the 500 children in the school need a pair of shoes. The kids will love the sports balls sent for them to play with. You made it possible for us to meet the girls soccer team's request for uniforms.

The roof steel and lumber will be

used to build the roof for homes that had a ripped tarp as its way of stopping the rain.

Your local library provided bookshelves and you provided the books to fill them. Thank you from the children that will be reading the books. A few more people will enjoy the luxury of pedal transportation because of the bikes donated to go into the container. The medical supplies help boost the care the medical clinic offers.

Your financial support makes the container travel possible. It also provides the VOW Project (Vulnerable, Orphans, Widows) with funds to meet some of the needs of those that get missed. Those gifts help the most desperate of the poor in the community.

God Bless your generosity. The funds donated also help provide a teaching - training center in our twenty acre garden. I am truly blessed to live in this community.



# Thorndale area man recognized by UTRCA

Recently at their Annual General Meeting, the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) recognized three area residents for their outstanding contributions to improving the environment. This award recognizes community members who embody the spirit of conservation and, through their actions and accomplishments, create a more livable and resilient watershed. One of these award recipients was Ken McCutcheon from Thorndale, who has worked with UTRCA staff for more than 40 years on a wide range of innovative projects designed to control erosion and improve water quality in the watershed.

McCutcheon remarked, "Your achievements by yourself are never anywhere as close to what they are if you can do them as a team. I've been fortunate to be able to team up with people to deal with some issues that have bothered me a lot in my career. I've developed quite a concern for being able to leave something in a better condition than what we've accepted it to be. I get extremely upset when I drive by our streams during heavy runoff and see them change from clear water to brown — because we all know it doesn't have to be that way. We have the ability to do it right."

Source: <https://thamesriver.on.ca/utrca-recogniz->

es-three-local-residents-at-annual-meeting-media-release-march-2-2023

# Thorndale Lions Social Gaming Night returns

By *Matt Adams*

The Thorndale Lions Club annual social gaming night, on Saturday, March 25th, has been an annual fundraiser for the club for decades. This year is extra special as the Lions are celebrating over 75 years of service to the community of Thorndale.

Besides the games of Blackjack, Crown & Anchor, horse races and a penny raffle, this is their elimination draw. The evening will also include DJ mu-

sic and live performances by Ron Seaward, a solo artist playing songs from the 60s to 90s, a licensed bar and late night buffet. The proceeds from the evening will go back into the community and support local projects and community groups.

Tickets can be purchased from any Thorndale Lions member in advance but tickets purchased that evening at the door will be considered as admission only and will not be entered in the elimination draw.

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# Riddles

- What did the mom corn ask baby corn?
- "Where is pop corn?"**
- Why did the kid put the mail in the oven?
- Because he wanted to have hotmail**
- What kind of mail does a superstar vampire get?
- Fang mail**
- What did Dracula's teacher say when he failed his math test?
- "Can't you count, Dracula?"**
- What did one math book say to the other?
- "Don't bother me,**
- I have my own problems"
- What kind of light did Noah use on the ark?
- Flood lights**
- What goes up but never goes down?
- Your age**
- What happens when you throw a green rock in the Red Sea?
- It gets wet**
- What part of a computer does an astronaut like best?
- The space bar**
- Q: What did the beach say when the tide came in?
- Long time no sea**

## - Word Search -

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### Word List

- Annual event
- March weekends
- Weather permitting
- Saturday
- Sunday
- Sugar shack
- Horses
- Wagon rides
- Pancake brunch
- Greenhouse
- Barn tour
- Family fun
- Shop local



### The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What has a face but no head?



A clock

Alex Orekhivskyi (4.5)

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 Hamish, a 4 1/2 year old Cairn Terrier.....(Terror, lol) who is ALWAYS ready to chase a ball, chase the squirrels that run along the backyard fence line or hang out with the cemetery walking 'pack' (especially when Uncle Bruce brings those delicious homemade treats!). Proud owners of "Wee Hamish" are Paul & Kate Young.



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.

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COLUMN —

# HOSTING UKRAINE: Change

By VJ Knutson

Change hovers. It threatens; it excites; it unsettles. End dates are approaching and all of us involved in the movement to help Ukrainians are feeling the stress.

The IRCC (immigration) has set a deadline of March 31, 2023 for displaced Ukrainians to apply for the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel program (CUAET). After June 4, 2023, the one-time Federal funding will no longer apply. The millions of Ukrainians forced to leave their homes and flee an unwanted onslaught are now having to face the reality that war may not be over any time soon. Those who postponed decisions about their future now must roll the dice.

Sadly, families and individuals are arriving in Toronto without a plan. Funds that previously helped those stranded to at least find a few nights of accommodation are running out. People are left in precarious situations, and that means vulnerable people are finding themselves in danger.

On Ukraine Help Middlesex Facebook page, where this journey started, we are receiving several posts a day from Ukrainians hoping to come to Canada or are already here. Our volunteers, tired from heroic efforts, are waning. There are not enough hosts to handle the influx. We need a renewal of energy to keep this movement going.

If you have been thinking about hosting, but have hesitated, here a few

**ESL in St Marys**

**Mondays 6:30-8:00 pm Beginner class with Sonia**  
**Location: St Marys United Church, 85 Church St S**

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday 6:30 - 7:30 pm with Barb**  
**Class is for building skills (not beginner)**  
**Location: St Marys Presbyterian Church, 147 Widder St E**

**Wednesdays at 5:00 Conversation circle with Sonia**  
**Location: St Marys Presbyterian Church. All welcome**

**Saturdays 1:00 - 2:30 pm Beginner class with Tetiana**  
**2:30 - 4:00 pm Intermediate**  
**Location: St Marys United Church**

points to ponder:

- Settlement services are in place to help newcomers with paperwork, so hosts no longer need to take on this burden. Knowledgeable settlement workers can also help Ukrainians access financial assistance.
- Most newcomers are anxious to move into their own place, so stay times are short, and as always, negotiable. There are, of course, some exceptions, but people like myself are here to advise.

- St. Marys has a large community of hosts, guests, and organizations who will embrace and support.
  - You control who you are willing to help in terms of numbers, ages, groupings, etc.
- My home base is Ukraine Help Middlesex, which operates from Facebook. Huron Perth County Helps Ukraine is a Facebook site that I and some others created to promote open lines of communication between ourselves and

others in the area. I am also a member of the Waterloo Region Grassroots Response to Ukraine who are now expanding their efforts to support hosts and guests. They have many volunteers from all professions and offer a highly organized and professional approach, if you would rather work through someone else.

Huron County Immigration Partnership also reached out to me this week as they are expanding their support for Ukraine and search for hosts. Based in Goderich, their services can be accessed through: [huroncounty.ca](http://huroncounty.ca)

Should you make the decision to host, please be advised to do so through a trusted organization. Newcomers, as well as hosts, need community support and resources to be successful. Ask about Settlement services, English classes, and support groups. Communication and trust are key to giving any person fleeing war a safe and healthy restart.

St. Marys ESL classes are an excellent example of how a community, working together, creates success. The Rotary Club, St. Marys Presbyterian Church, and St. Marys United Church, and of course, their members, as well as community volunteers: Barbara Reinwald, Lorna Parkinson, and Sonia Waind and others, are all much appreciated cogs in this important service.

As always, I'm happy to answer your questions. You can reach me at [english.knutson@gmail.com](mailto:english.knutson@gmail.com).

Till next time.

## Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 27

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**OBITUARY**

*MacPherson*



G. Lloyd MacPherson  
February 15, 1937  
It is with great sadness that the family announces the peaceful passing of Lloyd MacPherson, of Burlington, Ontario, on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, in his 87th year.

Lloyd was the beloved husband of Kathleen (Kaye)

for 61 years, loving father of Brent, Gregory (Belinda), and Paul (Lori). Cherished grandpa of Christopher (Tiffany), Camille (Joe), Ian, Adrienne, James and Ryan.

Lloyd is also survived by his sister-in-law Ruth Rice, niece Sandra Smith (Ed), niece Debra Parker and nephew David Rice (Diane) as well as several great nieces and nephews.

Lloyd was predeceased by his parents Kenneth and Elda MacPherson, his parents-in-law David and Hazel Rolston, his sister Shirley Ramsbottom (Caughill) and his brothers-in-law Donald Caughill, Ed Ramsbottom and Douglas Rice.

Lloyd was a 70 year active member of East Plains United Church, where he served in many capacities. Lloyd had a successful 35 year career with Bell Canada. After retiring from Bell, he returned to work in communications with Fonorola, Optel and Ontario Hydro. He was a member of the Probus Club and the Ham Radio Club.

Lloyd's favourite place was the Muskoka family cottage, which he built. He loved a good time and fun with friends and family. He liked to go fishing and enjoyed a good game of golf. His special hobby was woodworking, building many lovely pieces of furniture.

Lloyd was a kind and considerate person who adored his family and loved spending time with his grandchildren. Lloyd will be greatly missed.

The family will be forever grateful for the kind and compassionate care, Lloyd received from the caregivers at Oaklands, Tansley Woods.

A Service of Remembrance will be held at East Plains United Church, Burlington, on Saturday, March 25, 2023. Visitation will be from 1:00 P.M. to 2:30 P.M., and service at 3:00 P.M.

In lieu of flowers a donation to East Plains United Church, The Alzheimer Society, or a charity of your own choice would be appreciated.



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Saturday April 22 Fish Fry details to follow

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**OBITUARY**

*Tryssenaar*



Judith Elaine Tryssenaar, nee Kew, aged 69, passed away surrounded by family on March 14, 2023. Judi was born in St. Marys Ontario in 1953 and was a dedicated public servant for over 20 years with the City of Stratford. She was a creative and independent person which was never more evident than

in the way she adapted to the various challenges that living with ALS brought.

Judi loved to go on adventures around the world with friends and family, she cherished her time in nature, and always made time for anyone in her life who needed support or guidance.

Judi is survived by her mother Donna Langdon (Willmore), her three children Jason Patterson (Rebecca), Stephanie Patterson, and Kelsy Flewitt (Brandon), her siblings Rick, Jane Riordan (Bill), Cindi Jones (Wayne), Lorne (Wendy), Steven (Melinda), and Peggy, as well as her beloved grandchildren. She is predeceased by her father James Samuel Kew.

The family would like to thank the PSWs who provided home care, the staff in Emergency and Palliative care departments at the Stratford General Hospital for their professional and supportive care, and to Dr. Thomas and Janet Taylor for their support.

Cremation has taken place. A celebration of life will be held for family only. As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Childcan or to MS Society of Canada through W. G. Young Funeral Home. 519.271.7411 [www.wgyoungfuneralhome.com](http://www.wgyoungfuneralhome.com)

**OBITUARY**

*Robb*



Robb, Helen of London, passed away peacefully at St. Joseph's Hospice, London on Monday, March 13th, 2023 at the age of 86. Beloved wife of the late John Robb and loved mother of Sean (Mary) and the late Faith Green. Helen was the last of her family.

Helen was born in Tillsonburg on November 2nd, 1936, daughter of the late George Kostendt and Katherina (Fleischer). She was a retired Teacher and formerly a Lieutenant in the Navy.

Cremation has taken place with a private entombment of ashes in Elmdale Memorial Park Cemetery at a later date. Remembrances may be made to St. Joseph's Hospice, London. Williams Funeral Home, 45 Elgin St., St. Thomas entrusted with arrangements.

**Have you been affected by someone else's drinking?**

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**OBITUARY**

*Weir*



With sadness and gratitude for his life, we announce the peaceful passing of William Ivan Weir on March 15 2023. Bill was born February 29 1928 in London ON, the son of the late Mildred (McNiece) and Roy Weir.

He was predeceased in April 1995 by his beloved wife of 44 years Barbara Jessiman Weir

(Isaac). He was also predeceased by his brother, the Rev. James Weir.

He was the beloved father of John Weir (Patti Goodwin), Isaac Weir, and Nancy Weir (David McPherson), and cherished grandfather of Leah, Chloe, Sylvie, Keaton (Ana) and Alden.

Bill was a graduate of the University of Guelph receiving his BSc in 1951 and his MSc in 1971. He spent his career as a high school science and biology teacher. After two initial teaching years at Amherstburg High School and Medway High School, Bill taught at Clarke Road Secondary School in London ON until 1986. A two year leave allowed Bill and his family to live in Soest, Germany where he taught for NATO on a Canadian army base (including family travels in Europe).

In 1968, he and Barbara bought a farm at RR3 Thorndale, Ontario where he enjoyed living right up until his passing.

After dreaming of flying all his life, Bill earned his pilot's license in 1978. He was very involved in the Recreational Aircraft Association.

Bill maintained a life-long passion for life, science, flying, and learning until his passing. His keen intelligence, broad-based knowledge and affable personality and wit made him a well-loved person by all who knew him.

A private funeral service will be held at Knox Presbyterian Church in Harrington ON where Bill will be interred beside Barbara.

A celebration of Bill's life for all Bill's friends and family will take place in his hangar on May 27 beginning at 2 pm at his farm (email [john@taplinweir](mailto:john@taplinweir) for details).

If desired, donations may be made in Bill's memory to The University of Guelph or to the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation via the funeral home. Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

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

## OBITUARY

### Batch



*Elsie Marguerite Rose Batch (nee Berry), passed away peacefully at the St. Marys Memorial Hospital on Thursday, March 16, 2023 at the age of 87. Born in St. Marys, Ontario on June 19, 1935 and daughter of the late James Berry and Dorothy Hicks. Beloved wife of the late George Batch, who were married in 1954. Loved mother of Lorraine McDonald (David) and Roger Batch (Tracey). Loved grandmother of Christopher, Aaron (Danielle), Ethan and great grandmother of Alexander.*

*Elsie was a passionate gardener, who you would see on many sunny summer days planting and weeding in her rose gardens. Elsie had many hobbies including knitting sweaters and children's clothing, dress making, sewing, crocheting and stitching. Her kitchen was often busy with baking a variety of meals and desserts including baking for the St James Anglican Church. Elsie could also be seen swinging the golf club with her husband George now and again, when they were not on one of their weekend getaways. These getaways often saw them driving around Ontario, west to Michigan or east as far as New Jersey (Cape May).*

*The funeral service was held at St. James Anglican Church, on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 with interment in St. Marys Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made in Elsie's memory to the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation via the funeral home. Online condolences at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).*

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## LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

### 1-900-SCAM

25 years ago (1998)

A Granton man, who is passionately determined to see the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame's success, was officially named its new executive director Tuesday afternoon at a news conference at St. Marys Town Hall. John Harlton, 50, has been involved with the St. Marys committee for almost a year now, predominately in a fundraising capacity.

Morris Van De Walle, who organized the recent St. Marys Knights of Columbus bonspiel, presented a cheque for \$500 to the Youth Centre last Thursday. Accepting on behalf of the Youth Centre committee was Lonna Arnold. In other Youth Centre news, over 70 young people took part in recreational curling last Thursday at the Lind Sportsplex, and an estimated 180 attended the youth dance on March 17 at the Community Centre.

Scam Alert! Recently St. Marys and area residents have received "Tic Tac Toe" or similar cards in the mail, reports St. Marys OPP. When scratched, everyone is a winner and is instructed to call a 1-900 number to claim a prize. "This is not a criminal offence and there are prizes, but the organizers win by collecting huge profits from your call. The longer you talk, the more they win. If you receive one of these cards, do yourself a favour and throw it away" says OPP Sgt. Chuck Beatty.

50 years ago (1973)

The local station waiting room was filled to near capacity on Sunday evening as the St. Marysites and visitors were waiting on the Toronto train.

Almost anything is liable to appear when partitions are removed in one of the town's oldest buildings. For example, Roly Tonks reports finding a small sample bottle of vaccine while renovating for an addition to the Goal Crease. The premises were at one time occupied by Dr. Taylor. Last "safe" date for the vaccine was given as June 22, 1928.

A few deficiencies are beginning to show up in contract work carried out during 1972. The most obvious is a large crack in the downtown sidewalk, south side. Such repairs are the contractor's responsibility, we understand.

75 years ago (1948)

Discarded Christmas trees are still in evidence about many yards.

Fifteen construction men who will be coming to St. Marys to aid in the installation of the giant new kiln plant at the St. Marys Cement Co plant will have to be accommodated in town where hotel rooms are at a premium. Citizens are being asked to relieve this situation.

Ice blasting operations on Trout Creek on Tuesday cracked a few panes of glass in nearby windows and also is alleged to have dislodged a piece of building material which fell from a Queen Street block, breaking the windshield of a car owned by R.A. Kennedy of Toronto.

100 years ago (1923)

The first annual sale of the Perth County Shorthorn Breeders Association was held in Stratford on Thursday last and measured well up to the expectations of the members. The average price received by the breeders was \$100.77, higher than that obtained in recent sales in Guelph, Huron and Bruce.

Mr. Mike Shepherd, a former resident of St. Marys who has lately lived in Ingersoll, is again opening up a junk business in town. His yards will be on Water Street South.

Nelson Adair, oldest son of Mr. Fred Adair, Elizabeth Street, was painfully injured while tobogganing on Jones Street hill, near the Baptist Church on Friday night. The bobs on which he was riding skewed into a tree and the boy received severe scratches about the face and hands and injury to his back.

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Full time veterinary receptionist needed for Thorndale Animal Hospital. Veterinary experience preferred. Starting May 15, 2023. Email resume to yourpet@thorndaleanimalhospital.com

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**QUIZ ANSWERS**

- 1) A Sommelier
- 2) Vincent Massey
- 3) The Underground Railroad
- 4) Audrey McLaughlin
- 5) Toronto
- 6) Burton Cummings
- 7) Manitoba
- 8) Canada's first postage stamp
- 9) Marc Garneau
- 10) Atlantis



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 520 Water St. S., St. Marys, Ontario N4X 1B9  
 Ph: 519-284-2660 | www.stmarysdentalclinic.com

**COULMN —**

**Straight from the Shelves**

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

Attending book clubs are a must-do for many avid readers. We run a monthly book club here in the Library on the last Tuesday of the month at 11:00pm and we are always looking for new members. Most meetings are structured around a series of discussion questions to help participants explore the book with different viewpoints. To join each month, simply visit the circulation desk and ask for a copy of the current book club book. There are a limited number of copies available each month, so we ask that you only check out a copy if you intend to attend the respective meeting.

**This Week's Recommendation**

"Fifteen Dogs" by Canadian author Andre Alexis was a book club read from 2021. In it, a group of dogs staying the night at a Toronto vet clinic are

the unlucky pups caught in a bet between gods. On a whim, these 15 dogs are given human consciousness and language. Will Apollo be right that this 'gift' will make these dogs even more unhappy than a human? Find out by checking out a copy of "Fifteen Dogs", available as a hard copy and as an eBook.

**Up This Week**

- Friday, Mar. 24th: Open 10:30am-5:00pm
- Saturday, Mar. 25th: Open 10:00am-4:00pm
- Monday, Mar. 27th: Open 10:30am-8:00pm
- Tuesday, Mar. 28th: Book Club (11:00am)
- Wednesday, Mar. 29th: Play and Read (9:30am), Mahjong! (2:00pm)
- Thursday, Mar. 30th: Open 10:30am-8:00pm



ST. MARYS Legion 66 CHURCH STREET N  
**Easter Craft Sale**  
**OVER 25 LOCAL ARTISANS!**  
**March 26 11am-3pm**  
 Free entry

**SUDOKU ANSWERS**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

*Congratulations!*



The Family of Bentley Dundas is proud to announce that effective January 1, 2023, Bentley has joined the Partnership of Marcus & Associates Chartered Professional Accountants in London Ontario.

Bentley, is a graduate of St. Marys DCVI high school, has earned his honours of Bachelor and Commerce degree from the University of Guelph, diploma in accounting from the University of Wilfred Laurier, and passed the Uniform Final Exam in 2013 to earn his CPA, CA designation.

We are very proud of all your accomplishments and hard work.  
**Love, Mom and Dad, Stacey, Stefan, Morgan, Kiefer, Pierce, Neve, Grandma Ann and Grandma Roberta**



**For Hall Rentals**  
**call 519-271-5343**

- Sun. March 12 - Lynn Bailey, Fergus \$50.00
- Mon. March 13 - Scott & Jessica Nijenhuis, Durham \$50.00
- Tues. March 14 - Sara Gio Vannini, Stratford \$50.00
- Wed. March 15 - Laurie Ehgoetz & Scott Cook, Sebringville \$50.00
- Thur. March 16 - Sharyon Ruston, St. Pauls \$50.00
- Fri. March 17 - Bill Richardson, St. Marys \$50.00
- Sat. March 18 - Tessa Deighton, Stratford \$200.00

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#1 PHYSICIAN<sup>†</sup> REFERRED



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2023 Kia Telluride

2023 Kia Carnival



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General Manager



**Jason Brown**  
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**Craig Webb**  
Used Car Manager



**Kenny Soobrayen**  
Business Manager



**Muaavia Sani**  
Sales Consultant



**Jordan Ritsma**  
Sales Consultant



**Litto Tom**  
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STORE HOURS SALES: Monday-Thursday 9:00-8:00; Friday-Saturday 9:00-6:00  
PARTS AND SERVICE: Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00