

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1153 Thursday, April 6, 2023 FREE

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A successful "Historic" open house



Well over 250 people showed up Saturday to view the historic Mercury Theatre building. Many of the Town staff were on hand to answer questions and also to listen to suggestions for future uses for the building. Among the Town staff to welcome people were (left) Amy Cubberley, Cultural Services Manager and Brett O'Reilly, Corporate Communications Manager. See article on pg. 3 and more pictures on pg. 16.

Town hosting Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste disposal events

The Town of St. Marys is continuing with its Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste (MHSW) disposal days following the success of the program in 2021 and 2022. The Town will host three disposal days this year, with the first happening on April 15, followed by one on July 22 and another on October 21. Events will run from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. St. Marys and Perth South residents can dispose of their hazardous waste at the Municipal Operations Centre, located at 408

Continued on page 3

What's open or not this weekend

With Friday being Good Friday and Sunday being Easter Sunday, we have a great variant of openings and closures this weekend. To start with, Foodland and the Independent Grocer and Canadian Tire are closed Good Friday and Easter Sunday but are open Saturday. Delmar Foods is closed Good Friday and Easter Sunday but are open on Thursday until 8 PM and are open on Saturday. The Post Office is closed Good Friday and Easter Monday and the banks are closed Good Friday but are open on Monday. The Beer Store is closed Good Friday and Easter Sunday but is open Saturday and Monday. The LCBO is closed Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday but open on Saturday.

The following hours will be in effect for Town of St. Marys facilities for Good Friday (April 7, 2023) and Easter Monday (April 10, 2023).

- Child Care Centre, Before/After School Programs and EarlyON Centre**
Closed Friday, April 7 and Monday, April 10
- Curbside Collection**
Garbage and recycling will be collected as normal on Friday, April 7
- Fire Hall:** Closed Friday, April 7 and Monday, April 10
- Friendship Centre:** Closed Friday, April 7 and Monday, April 10
- Landfill:** Closed Friday, April 7, Saturday, April 8 and Monday, April 10
- Library and Adult Learning**
Closed Friday, April 7 and Monday, April 10
- Mobility Services**
Closed Friday, April 7 and Monday, April 10 (rides must be booked by 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 6)
- Museum and Archives**
Closed Friday, April 7 and Monday, April 10
- Pyramid Recreation Centre**
Arena and Youth Centre closed Friday, April 7 and Sunday, April 9
- Pool** closed Friday, April 7 and Monday, April 10
- Town Hall and Municipal Operations Centre**
Closed Friday, April 7 and Monday, April 10

29 Wellington St. St. Marys (Post-Office Building)

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COMMUNITY —

Changes at 36 Water Street

Food Station 39 closes, Campbell's Canteen moving in

By Stewart Grant

Two announcements within the past week have brought further changes to the restaurant landscape in St. Marys.

Food Station 39, which opened for business in August 2022 at 36 Water Street South, has now closed, following a recent announcement by owner Sara-Jane Aitken that was posted to Instagram.

"After much consideration, and for a variety of reasons, I have made the difficult decision to close Food Station 39. A big thank you to all those who supported the business and believed in the vision! ... Please continue to support all the amazing small businesses in our town, it's a labour of love!"

Days later, a new tenant was announced for the space, and it came from a familiar name: Chris Campbell, who most recently has operated Campbell's Canteen from his food truck located in central St. Marys. Campbell also plans to relocate his food truck to the 36 Water Street venue.

The Independent reached out to Campbell for comment on his new location, which he hopes to have

open in May.

"I am super excited about having a brick and mortar spot... and right on the Thames! We are planning to take full advantage of the patio, offering up some crazy mocktails using fresh seasonal local ingredients. We are also hoping to have a live fire table on the patio as well as our smoker to put out some tasty eats," Campbell said.

The menu will be forever changing with the exception of our staple Smash Burgers, smoked meats and gourmet poutines. We are working on a lighter side menu to include fresh bowls using local greens and colourful vegetables making sure there is something for everyone. We are also planning to do packaged frozen meals and smoked meats for those who just want to grab and go," he added.

Campbell echoed Aitken's comments about the importance of supporting local businesses.

"We pride ourselves on the fact that we use local ingredients and support local farmers as well as using eco friendly take out containers to ensure our carbon footprint is as small as possible. As I like to say, 'eat local because local is where we live.'"



The price to be elected

Under the Elections act, all candidates, whether they were elected or not, have to submit a report on their election expenses. If you do not submit your expense report, the consequences are that elected members must vacate their seat and if you were not elected you are disqualified from running in the next election.

There were no massive amounts spent either in St. Marys or Perth South.

In St. Marys because Mayor Al Strathdee was acclaimed he had zero elections expenses. Three Councillors, Jim Craigmile, Robert Edney and Fern Pridham, also reported zero dollars spent. Dave Lucas spent \$282.50, Marg Luna spent \$301.70 and Brogan

Aylward spent \$536.66.

For those not elected

For the not-elected in St. Marys Barry Brebner spent \$0, Lori Heinbuch \$236.80 and Mark Horner did not submit his report and thus is disqualified from running in the next election.

In Perth South, Mayor Jim Aitchison

was acclaimed and had no expenses. Three Councillors, Sam Corriveau, Jaime Martin and Robert Wilhelm, also reported zero dollars. Mark Bell spent \$395.50, Sue Orr, \$499.63 and Jim Van Nes reported \$536.75

For the non-elected in Perth South, Dennis Manarey reported \$463.96 and Adrienne Tuling \$640.47.

Happy Easter
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5 yr - 5.17%	5 yr - 4.46%	5 yr - 4.24%

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COMMUNITY —

Town hosting Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste disposal events

Continued from page 1

James Street South (enter off South Service Road).

Please note that the MHSW depot that was located at the St. Marys Landfill has now been closed, and MHSW material will no longer be received at the landfill.

Items that will be accepted at the disposal event include:

- Acids, aerosol cans (full), anti-freeze
- Bases, batteries, bleach
- Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs), fluorescent tubes
- Fertilizers, fuels, garden and pool chemicals
- Household cleaners, motor oil,

paints, pesticides

- Propane tanks/cylinders, solvents, stains, Varsol

All materials must be sealed and in their original containers with labels. Materials should be transported in the rear of vehicles (trunk, truck bed, etc.), and contained in boxes for safe transport and unloading. Vehicles with materials in the back or front seat will be re-directed to a separate area of the parking lot where they can be moved to the trunk or tailgate. Residents are asked to remain in their vehicles as materials will be unloaded by trained staff.

For more information about waste disposal services in St. Marys, visit townofstmarys.com/MHSW.

Residents asked to provide feedback on downtown municipal services

Survey follows successful open house at 14 Church St. N

This Saturday, nearly 300 St. Marys residents braved the cold to explore the historic halls of 14 Church St. N. The public was invited to visit the former Mercury Theatre building as part of an open house for the Town's Downtown Service Location Review.

The review is being done to determine the best use of 14 Church St. N and the Town's other downtown service locations: Town Hall, the St. Marys Public Library, and the St. Marys Train Station.

The Town is now running a survey to dig deeper into the thoughtful ideas and suggestions that were shared at the open house. The survey can be completed online at www.townofstmarys.com/dslrsurvey; hard copies are available at all Town facilities.

"We were absolutely blown away by the attendance at Saturday's open house," says St. Marys Mayor Al

Strathdee. "Our residents clearly have a deep emotional attachment to the building. We hope they will channel that passion into providing meaningful input through our survey."

He continues: "The feedback we gather now will help make us make practical, community-minded decisions about how we use our downtown facilities in the future."

The survey is open until April 22, 2023. Completed copies of the paper survey can be submitted at Town facilities or by mail (Town of St. Marys, P.O. Box 998, St. Marys, ON. N4X 1B6).

For more information about the Downtown Service Location Review, visit www.townofstmarys.com/servicereview. Questions about the project can be directed to Brent Kittmer, CAO at 519-284-2340, ext. 216 or bkittmer@town.stmarys.on.ca.

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COMMUNITY —

United Way breaks fundraising record, celebrates the spirit of community

United Way Perth-Huron (UWPH) had a reason to celebrate. After a successful campaign raising \$2,292,557, it was time to honour the spirit of community at the Best Western Plus, Arden Park Hotel.

"We appreciate the incredible support of our region throughout the campaign," said Ryan Erb, UWPH executive director. "Despite the economic challenges our community faced, donors stepped up to help us not only reach, but surpass our goal of \$2.289 million. Another record-breaking year! We are humbled by the generosity and caring of Perth-Huron and see a brighter future ahead for the people we help support and the organization."

"It was great to celebrate our campaign, as well as the volunteers, donors and communities who gave so much to UWPH," said Rob Edney, UWPH campaign co-chair. "It takes a collective effort to ensure vulnerable people get the help they need, and the spirit of Perth-Huron was really on display

tonight and throughout the campaign."

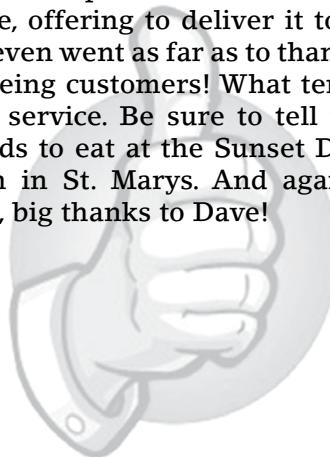
"Thank you to everyone who attended tonight's event," added Leslie Edney, UWPH campaign co-chair. "To hear firsthand some of the ways UWPH's work positively impacts local lives thanks to the generosity of our community is inspiring. We're looking forward to returning next year as co-chairs and continuing UWPH's work across our region."

Two hundred and fifty-six guests enjoyed dinner generously provided by the Hayter family and heard about the positive impact their support has on local lives from speakers including Elise Metcalf, Andrea Loohuizen, Gwyneth Woods, and Tanya Hefkey from the United Way Connection Centres in Exeter, Listowel, Stratford and Wingham. UWPH executive director Ryan Erb spoke about the organization's Community Renewal Company initiative. Singer-songwriter Stephanie Sellers also performed.

Bravo

We have one Bravo this week.

1) Bravo and thank you to Sunset Diner Dave who went above and beyond in response to an urgent late night call for help. The night before a 5:30 am departure to the airport I realized I'd left my phone at the Sunset and Dave made a VERY early morning trip to the diner to get it back to me in time for our trip. He went over and above, offering to deliver it to me and even went as far as to thank us for being customers! What terrific local service. Be sure to tell your friends to eat at the Sunset Diner when in St. Marys. And again, a huge, big thanks to Dave!



Boo

We have two Boos this week.

1) Boo to my neighbour who constantly lets their barking dog out between 5-6 am every morning with total disregard for the neighbours. I understand dogs need out but they do not need to wake up the neighbours every morning.

2) Boo to drivers who high speed left hand corner turns. This is very dangerous for those walking, especially mothers with young children. Slow down.



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

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

Quote of the Week

"I cannot believe how many stories and memories I heard from people today about this building."

- Mayor Al Strathdee at the Mercury Theatre Open House on Saturday.

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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In the spirit of Easter, I have decided to keep my dust bunnies as decorations.

The Riddle Kid gets a milkshake, the Pet of the Week gets a treat bag and the Senior of the Week gets older.

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

St. Marys Independent

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The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS
OF THE WEEK

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Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal, and new life.

For I remember it is Easter Morn and life and love and peace are all new born.

There would be no Christmas if there was no Easter.

Blessed are those who have not seen and have yet believed.

COMMUNITY —

Donation from Tradition Mutual Insurance to SMHF



Tradition Mutual Insurance Co recently donated \$25,000 to St. Marys Healthcare Foundation Capital Campaign. Nikki Powers and Laurel Poirier (middle) from Tradition Mutual Insurance presented a cheque for \$25,000 to the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation! The SMHF has raised \$2.5M of their \$3M goal! Thank you for this generous donation! Pictured from left, Bernice De Decker (Communication and Fundraising Coordinator, SMHF), Nikki Powers (Tradition Mutual Insurance Co), Laurel Poirier (Tradition Mutual Insurance Co), Cindy Bilyea (Board Chair, SMHF)

FARM FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION



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Legal: PT LOT 6 CONCESSION WEST OXFORD ROAD DOWNIE GORE AS IN R97893; PERTH SOUTH
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Sale Date: April 22nd, 2023, at 11:00am. Onsite at 2944 Road 115, Perth South.
 Terms of Sale: Property to be sold to the highest bidder, subject to seller approval; \$50,000 deposit required; Property being sold "AS IS"; Closing Date: May 26, 2023. Selling on behalf of the estate of Maizie Jacobs. Full terms of sale and viewing by appointment only.
For full terms of sale and viewing by appointment only Contact:
 3715 Perth Road 113, R. R. #2, Stratford On
 Phone: 519-271-2646
 Email: brent@shackletons.ca

Stonetown Crier



The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys

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 April at the Pyramid Recreation Centre.

Take advantage of our discounted spring rate - just \$89.25 plus taxes per hour!

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

Details: townofstmarys.com/skating or 519-284-2160



Swim Instructor Course

Want to become a swim instructor?

Our Swim Instructor Course will equip you with all the skills you need to lead swimming lessons!

You'll learn teaching methods, planning skills and a variety of stroke development drills and techniques.

Spaces are still available for this three-day course, which starts April 14.

Register: townofstmarys.com/activenet or 519-284-2160



Summer Camp Registration

Registration for summer camp is now open!

Designed for Grades 3 to 7, Camp PRC will keep your child happy and engaged with a variety of activities for every interest. It's time to create new adventures and lasting memories!

Campers will enjoy new themes each week, like travel, science, Disney, superheroes, space and more!

Sign up for specific days or a full week with our new FlexReg process. Search "Camp PRC" on ActiveNet to learn more.

Details: townofstmarys.com/activenet or 519-284-2160



Youth Birding Event

Keep your eyes on the skies!

Join us on April 17 from 4 - 5:30 PM for a FREE Youth Birding Event!

Participants will hike through Sparling Bush, looking for local bird species and learning how to use binoculars.

Register online today!

Register: townofstmarys.com/activenet or 519-284-2160



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





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Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Patsy Fowler, who will be celebrating her 90th birthday on April 15th. Born in St. Marys this lifelong resident enjoys time with family and a good book, and keeping up with the people and happenings in her hometown. Happy Birthday Patsy

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

COMMUNITY —

OSPACA Cupcake Day at Veterinary Purchasing



Veterinary Purchasing recently participated in OSPACA cupcake day by baking for the animals. Employee donations totaled \$1569.50, which VP matched, bringing our total donation to \$3,139. All proceeds were donated to the Stratford Perth Human Society. (Contributed photo)

Weekend Quiz

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- 1) Which country started the tradition of the Easter bunny?
- 2) The first Easter eggs were dyed what colour?
- 3) What is the tradition behind the hot cross bun?
- 4) In Switzerland, what animal delivers Easter eggs to children?
- 5) What is the Sunday before Easter Sunday called?
- 6) What is the official flower of Easter?
- 7) Besides bunnies, what animal is considered an Easter symbol?
- 8) What popular game is traditionally played at Easter?
- 9) Where is Easter Island located?
- 10) When was the first recorded use of decorated Easter eggs?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27



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COMMUNITY —

Eight St. Marys businesses nominated for Chamber's Excellence Awards

By Spencer Seymour

The Stratford & District Chamber of Commerce announced the nominations for their annual Business Excellence Awards and eight St. Marys businesses are included among the list of nominees.

In the Non-Profit/Charitable category, the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation was one of seven businesses in the area that received a nomination.

St. Marys Optometry earned a nomination in the Service category.

In the Hospitality category, Broken Rail Brewery picked up a nomination.

The Retail category had the largest St. Marys contingent, with three local businesses in the running for that award. The trio of St. Marys businesses in this category include Betty's Bookshelf, Lyric Flowers, and The Flour Mill Food Shop.

Two of the three businesses vying for the Manufacturing award come from St. Marys, with the nominees including Delmar Foods and St. Marys Cement.

Congratulations and good luck to all of the St. Marys businesses nominated! The 2023 Business Leader is former Labatt Brewing President Don McDougall. The Business Excellence Awards Gala takes place at the Best Western Arden Park Hotel in Stratford on May 4th, 2023. More details on the Gala and a full list of nominees can be found at www.stratfordchamber.com.



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COMMUNITY —

Wintery month of March leads to April melt



Gord Barnett captured these photos of recent flooding due to a combination of warmer April weather and fresh rainfall.

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COMMUNITY —

Angela Dawn Aesthetics Expands with Government Funding

Angela Dawn Aesthetics & MediSpa 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.

With the My Main Street Local Business Accelerator funding, owner Angela MacPherson was able to expand and renovate her new location on Water Street. She can now provide services such as aesthetics treatments, microblading, paramedical tattooing, cosmetic injections and laser hair removal.

“My Main Street helped us achieve growth,” says MacPherson “Thanks to this initiative, we were able to renovate our new space so that we could accommodate the growing business. This grant took a stressful endeavour

and made it manageable.”

Angela Dawn Aesthetics & MediSpa is located at 26 Water Street South and open Tuesday/Wednesday 9-5, Thursday/Friday 10-7 and Saturday 9-1. Look online at adpermanentmakeup.com and on Instagram @angeladawn_medispa.

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.



Owner Angela MacPherson.

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 LOW KMS
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 4-Wheel Drive

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 52 km
 All-Wheel Drive



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 General Manager



Jason Brown
 Sales Manager



Craig Webb
 Used Car Manager



Kenny Soobrayen
 Business Manager



Muaavia Sani
 Sales Consultant



Jordan Ritsma
 Sales Consultant



Litto Tom
 Sales Consultant



Shyam Sasidharan
 Sales Consultant



Ben Chester
 Sales Consultant



Trish Millson
 Fixed Operations Manager

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SPORTS —

Lincolns drop first three games of West Final

By Spencer Seymour

Despite plenty of strong play, the St. Marys Lincolns found themselves heading into Tuesday's game against the Leamington Flyers on the brink of elimination.

The first three games of the series have all been closely contested despite the Flyers heading into Tuesday's game at the PRC with a 3-0 series lead. The Lincolns have stifled the highly potent Flyers' offence in a way that Sarnia and LaSalle didn't come close to doing in the quarter- and semi-finals.

In their first eight playoff games, Leamington scored five goals or more in seven of those contests. In the Western Conference Final, the Flyers haven't scored five goals in any of the first three games.

Additionally, in the first two rounds, Leamington only had two periods in which they didn't score at least one non-empty-net goal. In this series, the Lincolns and Matteo Lalama have kept the Flyers from scoring with the Lincs' netminder in goal in six of the nine periods.

Sleepy first sinks Lincolns in Game One

With one of the best periods played by any GOJHL team this season, the Flyers scored three in the first period of Game One, en route to a 4-0 victory over St. Marys. Adrian Bosev scored at the 7:32 mark of the opening frame, followed a few minutes later by goals from Hayden Reid and Connor MacPherson. Reid and MacPherson's goals came just 18 seconds apart.

Head Coach Jeff Bradley told the Independent that it seemed as though the Lincolns were playing with a bit too much respect for the Flyers in the first.

"We played as if we were in awe of them in the first period," said Bradley. "Before the game, they get a bunch of awards presented to them and we treated them as if they were the best team to ever play the game. Leamington, just as expected, came out and played like they let something slip last year and wanted it badly this year. Basically, we were just spectators in the first."

The Lincs were able to bounce back after their disappointing opening pe-



St. Marys Lincolns' Captain Ethan Lamoureux gets a scoring chance in front of the Leamington Flyers net during Game Two of the Western Conference Final. (Photo credit: Mike Chennette/McGinny Photography)

riod and play a better second and third period, but they weren't able to create many high-danger scoring chances. Bosev added an empty netter with nine seconds left in the third. Bradley said his team struggled to get their forecheck operating at the degree they needed it to.

"Against Strathroy and London, we established a really good forecheck. Our first forward in chases the puck and our second and third forwards add pressure. When we have a good forecheck, I know we're engaged. We did a better job in the second and third periods, but we just couldn't score."

Bryce Walcarius earned the shutout in goal for Leamington with 29 saves.

Puck bounces favour Flyers in Game Two

A highly competitive, evenly-matched Game Two seemed like it could go either way 24 hours later back at the PRC, but once again, the Flyers came away with the win. Bradley said he couldn't have asked for much more from his players.

"We played good enough to win. Our guys played their guts out and got some opportunities but some unfortunate bounces didn't go our way. Their two goals both came off of some unfortunate bounces and we had some really good opportunities that we just barely missed on."

The Head Coach said that there wasn't anyone who he felt had a poor game for the Lincs.

"Our whole team was really good. Matteo [Lalama] had a great game. The second goal was definitely unfortunate but I didn't think it was his fault. It looked like he tracked it well and the puck skipped on him. He made some critical stops for us. Our penalty killers came up big. Cole [Schnitker], Adrian [Stubberfield], and all of our penalty kill guys were really good. Luca [Spagnolo] and Ethan [Lamoureux] were awesome and created some really good chances."

"I have no issue with how anyone played and how our team played as a group. We played a really good game for pretty much 60 minutes. We were

a post away in the first and a crossbar away in the third from that being a different result."

In response to a first period that saw the Lincolns giving up too much time and space in centre ice, the team changed their protection strategy before their blueline which Bradley felt worked very well.

"We made an adjustment in the neutral zone after Game One. We thought they sliced right through us in the first game in Leamington and we gave up the red line way too easily. We adjusted how we were defending the neutral zone and it really helped us."

Just under halfway through the first period, Luca Spagnolo got the game's first goal with his second of the playoffs. Ethan Lamoureux knocked the puck out of the air near the Flyers' blueline, which Chase MacQueen-Spence was able to hunt down on the right wing before feeding it into the slot where Spagnolo tipped it in behind Walcarius.

Both Walcarius and Matteo Lalama had 39-save performances in Game Two.

Spagnolo's goal drew a huge reaction from the jam-packed PRC, which saw 1,153 spectators filling the arena. Bradley credited the Lincolns' fans as being a major factor in this team getting this far in the playoffs.

"It's exciting for the players and coaches but I'm sure it's just as exciting, if not more, for the fans. It's April and St. Marys is still getting to watch meaningful hockey, I hope they're enjoying it as much as we are. We enjoy the atmosphere they create for us and really appreciate the support. The guys get up for that and honestly, the fans are a huge part of us getting to this point."

In the second period, Owen Holmes had a loose puck find him in centre, springing him for a breakaway which he buried for his eighth of the playoffs. Nine-and-a-half minutes later, Bosev slapped a bouncing puck towards the net which appear to take an unexpected bounce off the ice and get past Lalama.

The Lincolns continued to push until the last moment of the third period but the Flyers managed to hang on for

Continued on page 14



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SPORTS —

St. Marys' Bender part of Sabrecats' National Track & Field team

By Spencer Seymour

St. Marys DCVI student and track and field athlete Ezra Bender earned strong results at the Athletics Canada National Indoor Track and Field Championships earlier this month.

During the weekend of March 18th and 19th, Bender along with three other Stratford Sabrecats teammates travelled to Saint John, New Brunswick for the National Championships. Bender set new indoor personal bests in two events including the U-20 3000-metre, in which he placed fifth, and the 1500-metre, in which he took seventh.

Later this year, Bender will race in the U-20 5000-metre in the Ontario Championships.

The other members of the Sabrecats' team include Daniel Ogilvie of Sebrinville, as well as Luke Feltham and Noah Feltham from Stratford.

Noah Feltham won the 1200-metre/2000-metre double and set a new Championship record in the

2000-metre event. Ogilvie and Luke Feltham finished second and third in the U-18 3000-metre. The latter two also finished the indoor season ranked in the top 10 U-18 athletes in Canada in both the 1500-metre and the 3000-metre.

Matt Feltham, the Sabrecats' Coach, believes the success the four athletes found is them just scratching the surface of what they can do.

"To have four podium performances at a national championship was outstanding," Feltham told the Independent. "Given that we haven't done much track-specific speed work yet this season, I'm expecting big breakthroughs this Spring and Summer. These guys are just getting started in their running careers and with their talent and work ethic, they all have the ability to compete at the next level. It's going to be very exciting to watch them develop and see what they can achieve as they progress to post-secondary track and beyond."



St. Marys resident Ezra Bender was part of the quartet of Stratford Sabrecats athletes who competed at the Athletics Canada National Indoor Track and Field Championships in Saint John, New Brunswick earlier this month. Bender earned personal bests in two different events. Pictured above, from left to right, are Noah Feltham, Daniel Ogilvie, Luke Feltham, and Ezra Bender. (Contributed photo)

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SPORTS —

Tenacious U13 B Boys win Shamrock Playoffs

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys Fire Department U13 B Boys St. Marys Rock took the Shamrock Playoff Championship last Monday at the PRC with a 2-1 win over the Strathroy Jr. Rockets.

With 1:19 left in the first period, Strathroy broke the ice with the first goal of the game. The Rock managed to respond before the intermission with Luke Showers jamming home the equalizer with seven seconds left in the period. Ryder Blight picked up the lone assist.

In the second period, Blight potted a powerplay marker assisted by Showers and Graeme Froud. The goal, which came with two minutes and eight seconds left in the middle frame, went on to be the game-winner as goaltender Landon Lichti and the Rock held on for the 2-1 victory.

Rick O'Donnell ran the bench in the absence of Head Coach Bob Davis, who was on vacation. Following the win, O'Donnell told the Independent that the team's commitment to their structure and work ethic allowed them to come away with the win.

"The boys played hard all game and Landon helped them with a good

game in net," said O'Donnell. "It's certainly nice to end this season on a win."

O'Donnell also mentioned that being the more aggressive team in both ends of the ice was the key factor in coming away with the Shamrock Playoff title.

"They played as a team. They all were working really hard and attacking the puck. Each player really stayed focused on what they were responsible for and did their jobs the best they could. Their defensive play was really good. They were protecting the front of our net really well. They were aggressive going after loose pucks and putting pressure on the puck carrier."

Even though he wasn't able to make it to the final game, Davis gave a glowing review about his players and the work they put in all year.

"This has been one of the most satisfying seasons for me," Davis said. "This team finally came together in late February and March to play as a team. Their actions proved that you can overcome many disadvantages by working together. They didn't lose one game in the Shamrock playoffs. They didn't get down on themselves. They deserved the championship and we are very happy for them."



The St. Marys Fire Department U13 B Boys St. Marys Rock won their Shamrock Playoff final last Monday. Pictured laying on the ice, from left to right, are Landon Lichti and Braydon Wheeler. In the kneeling row, from left, are Owen Harris, Luke Simons, Dominic Marzailli, Bowen Hillman, Will Richardson, Landon McDonald, Ryder Blight, and Ben Graham. In the back row, from left, are Sean Porter (manager), Luke Showers, Graeme Froud, Rick O'Donnell (Assistant Coach), Owen Muir, Quinn Porter, Jacob Saville, and Brett Graham (trainer). Absent were Head Coach Bob Davis and Assistant Coach Michael Davis. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

U9 HL Girls finish season strong

By Spencer Seymour

The Harris-Greig Automotive U9 HL Girls St. Marys Rock dominated the WOGHL Championship Tournament hosted at the PRC last weekend.

With three wins in four games, including their final game, the U9 HL Girls enjoyed a winning conclusion to their season. The win was made extra special with the U15 C Girls team presenting the U9 HL girls with their medals.

Head Coach Amber Wakem said the 1-0 victory over the Huron Heat was a fantastic way to end the year.

"We had an incredible year and we watched this team leap towards improving their game every week," Wakem explained. "Coaching this group was an absolute blast and the way they encouraged and supported each other this weekend was an amazing thing to watch. Before the games, we ask every teammate for words of encouragement and we quickly started to see these words constantly being put out to one another during every game."

In their final game, Ella Stacey scored the game's only goal while Aubrey Forrester earned the shutout in between the pipes. Wakem said that there was a litany of reasons to be impressed by the progress of the girls over the course of this season.

"It's hard to narrow down what we are most impressed about this season. I would have to say the way these girls built an unbelievable bond as a team. Hearing them on the bench, building each other up and celebrating each teammate's success. Whether it was a good pass, a good effort, a hard skate, a good shot, a good save or a goal. Our bench was loud and full of the kind of support that would make any coach proud."



The Harris-Greig Automotive U9 HL Girls St. Marys Rock finished their season with a win in their last game at the WOGHL Championship Tournament last weekend with a 1-0 shutout victory over the Huron Heat. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Addison Poetker, Jacklyn Kittmer, Savannah McGill, Aubrey Forrester, and Siana Sicila. In the second row, from left, are Hailey Wilson, Mya Grose, Adelyn Laidlaw, Alaina McDonald, Ella Stacey, Alex Harlton and Coach Matt Grose. In the back row, from left, are Coach Sarah McGill, Coach Mike Kittmer, and Coach Amber Wakem. (Contributed photo)

SPORTS —

U15 C Girls win Gold in WOGHL tournament

By Spencer Seymour

The incredible, undefeated season for the Home Hardware Building Centre U15 C Girls St. Marys Rock continued with another feather in the team's cap last weekend when they won the WOGHL tournament.

The U15 C Girls cruised to the final game against Wallaceburg with Regan Jones scoring the game's first goal at the 5:36 mark of the first period. Jones' goal came as part of a fast-paced start by the Rock who were taking on their stiffest competition of the year with only 10 skaters.

In the second period, their play became a bit sloppy, leading to the Rock giving up a goal with just under five minutes left in the middle period.

In the final frame, the Rock re-focused and tightened their play back up, clamping down on Wallaceburg's offence. Meanwhile, Valentina Linares buried a rebound after an electrifying play by Marin Chateauvert, finding Madeleine Monisit Brown on a

one-timer that created the second opportunity that Linares banged home.

Chateauvert extended the lead to 3-1 with a goal midway through the third with Brown later adding an empty net goal. Courtney Linton, Libby McCurdy and Leah Hachler turned in fantastic shutdown defence while Marta Rintoul stood tall in net.

With 3:40 to go, Wallaceburg took a timeout. According to Head Coach Nathan Brown, the message to his team was simple and mostly delivered by one of the team's many leaders.

"Our message to our girls was to just take a breath and keep doing what you are doing," Brown told the Independent. "Sophie Richardson then spoke up and said 'Girls, they have lots of time to come back and win this so we have to skate hard and everybody needs to play defensively in order to win.' It really demonstrated her leadership ability that she has shown all year long."



The Home Hardware Building Centre U15 C Girls St. Marys Rock won the Gold Medal in last weekend's WOGHL Championship Tournament. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Tegan Mace, Regan Jones, Valentina Linares, "Team Superhero" Melissa Rintoul, and Marta Rintoul. In the back row, from left, are Coach Jeff McCurdy, Cortney Linton, Georgia Edwards, Libby McCurdy, Madeleine Monisit Brown, Marin Chateauvert, Sophie Richardson, Leah Hachler, Cammie Lobb, Coach Scott Lobb, and Head Coach Nathan Brown. (Contributed photo)

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SPORTS —

Lincolns drop first three games of West Final

Continued from page 10

the 2-1 victory.

Flyers storm back to take Game Three

In the first two periods of Game Three, the Lincolns outplayed Leamington, with smothering defence and continued lockdown play in the neutral zone. However, penalty trouble in the third period allowed the Flyers to take control of the game.

"The powerplays allowed them to get a wave of momentum in their favour and they were able to ride it and exploit one or two mistakes that we made," said Bradley. "I'm happy with the way we're playing, we just are having a hard time getting a lot of good scoring chances because Leamington does such a good job in front of their net preventing those opportunities."

"Every game, we've gotten a bit better. In the first two periods, I thought we really outplayed them and we probably deserved better than what we got. But, when you're playing a team of that calibre, you know there's going to be some pushback and in the third, they capitalized on their chances and we didn't."

Bradley said that, in the first two peri-

ods especially, the team's revised neutral zone structure was executed to a tee, which was even more impressive considering the larger ice surface in Leamington.

"We started making that adjustment in the neutral zone in Game Two and it worked well for us but to see our guys be able to execute on the bigger ice in Leamington was great to see. We made it hard on Leamington to take the red line and dump it in."

Once again, the Lincolns got the game's first goal, with Ethan Lamoureux burying a rebound just 16 seconds into the second period after a pair of strong drives to the net by MacQueen-Spence and Jacob Chantler.

In the third, however, the Flyers surged back. A powerplay marker goal by Connor MacPherson tied the game at one apiece just one minute and 19 seconds into the period. Almost exactly 12 minutes later, William Van Sumeren shook off his defender and roofed the puck over Lalama's shoulder to make it 2-1. Trevor LaRue added an empty-net goal with 1:50 left in the third to seal the 3-1 win for the Flyers.

Game Four took place on Tuesday night after the Independent went to press.

U14 Snipers' tenacity, offensive growth on display



Aryn Sheldon takes a shot during the U14 St. Marys Snipers game against London Mara on Sunday night at the PRC. The Snipers, despite falling 5-2, turned in a very competitive effort, playing with plenty of aggressiveness and intensity in their battles for the ring. Assistant Coach Erin Thomson said the team was executing on many key parts of the game. "They were really digging and passing well. They were shooting a lot which was really good to see. Overall, they really played well as a team." Isabella Fluttert, in her first year playing as a goaltender, was excellent for the U14 Snipers in goal, drawing plenty of support and praise from her teammates and coaches alike. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)



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SPORTS —

Murray, Jackson win Doubles Championship



Pictured above are Pat Murray and Jeff Jackson, who last week won the St. Marys Curling Doubles Championship. Murray and Jackson won in exciting fashion, taking a one-point final game by a score of 8-7. The Independent will have photos of more of the curling champions in next week's edition. (Contributed photo)

'A' League curling champs crowned last Friday



The St. Marys Curling 'A' Championship was awarded last week to the team, pictured above, of Morris Vanderwalle, Helen Thomson, Michael Visser, and Betty Visser. The championship game was tied going into the final end and Vanderwalle's team was able to steal two points for the win for a final score of 8-6. (Contributed photo)

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COMMUNITY —

Inside the Mercury Theatre



The Town of St. Marys opened up the former Mercury Theatre on April 1st for a rare viewing opportunity to the public. Pictured above is the former theatre seating area, while the below photos from the basement show an old drum set and costumes storage. (Gord Barnett photos)




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Thorndale Family Restaurant marks 35th anniversary

By Nancy Abra

A couple of months ago, George and Anastasia Mouselimis marked their 35th anniversary of Thorndale Family Restaurant on King Street, which they purchased in 1988 from the Fox's in the village of Thorndale. This restaurant, like its name suggests, has developed into a family business with their son Andy working on the weekends, along with their grandsons, Luka and Marko taking a few shifts also.

Their daughter, Maria mentioned that her parents love the small community atmosphere of Thorndale which reminds them of their small village in Greece. "They are here everyday at 7am to open up." Maria added, "They have been part of the Thorndale community for years and know the people here better than their neighbours where they live in London. Besides

an extended family business, it also has become a gathering place of multigenerational patrons in the community of family and friends coming here for a meal or a conversation over a coffee."

For many young people in the area, the Thorndale Family Restaurant was their first job. Over the years, the Mouselimis have witnessed these young former employees grow up, get married and have children of their own, with a few of those children coming to work at the restaurant.

The Thorndale Family Restaurant has been the keystone of the 'downtown' part of Thorndale for over three decades that serves up good food, and warm smiles. The Mouselimis would like to extend a thank you to the community for their continued and valued patronage".



It starts with Dental Hygiene

By Nancy Abra

April is 'Oral Health Month' which is supported by the Canadian Dental Association to promote better dental health.

Dr. Nicholas Massé, of Thorndale Dental Centre, remarked by saying good dental hygiene is essential as it is connected to our general health and quality of life. He explained, that, "often some people ignore problems like bleeding and tender gums, pain, and mouth infections. These issues can affect a persons' quality of life. Oral problems can also affect how and what a person eats, speaks and social interactions. But also, oral health problems can be the first indications of other more serious health problems."

The London & District Dental Society (LDDS) is a non-profit voluntary professional association for area dentists, which Dr. Massé is a member and their upcoming president. It is one of 38 active component societies of the Ontario Dental Association, supporting the advancement in dentistry, upholding the professional character and continued education of dentists. It is also committed to advocate oral health of their community. (www.ldds.ca).



This year, to promote Oral Health Month, the LDDS is providing tooth brushes and tooth paste to the Ronald McDonald House of London. These kits will then be provided to families utilizing their services, who sometimes do not get the chance to pack essentials when their children are transferred to the Children's Hospital

on an emergent basis.

Dr. Massé said that the LDDS wants their members to reach out to their patients and their community to endorse good oral practices, like brushing and flossing, through education and tools to encourage good dental hygiene.

"Years ago," Dr. Massé commented, "the only reason someone went to the dentist was if they had a bad tooth ache. So, therefore people associated the dentist with painful and expensive appointments. But that stigma is changing," he added, "Most people have regular dental check-ups. And the relationship with their dentist is improving with those regular visits becoming more of a positive outcome rather than a painful experience. With these regular visits, we more than often can catch a dental problem before it becomes a painful and expensive issue."

There is a shift in dental care, as families start to bring their young children in for regular visits. This early introduction to the dentist chair for check-ups becomes the normal routine for families and will hopefully help to suppress the scary experience for children.

"Getting children to brush their teeth can be a struggle", Dr. Massé said. "I understand that as I am a father with young children too. But don't give up! Good hygiene practices of brushing and flossing are essential. What we do at home reflects a positive experience at the dentist, no matter what the age."

HISTORY —

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: The Morphy Family

By Mary Smith

This week's photograph will look familiar to many. It was the March photograph on the 2023 Rotary Club's Historic St. Marys calendar. It shows the buildings along Station Street, just west of Church Street, looking across Trout Creek from the south bank. The ice in the creek has broken up and the water is very high. The photograph was taken during a major flood in early April 1947 that did significant damage in St. Marys. The major blow to the town's infrastructure was the loss of the Park Street Bridge, swept away early Sunday morning, April 6, by the force jammed ice and high water. There was also considerable damage to property along the banks of Trout Creek.



Trout Creek during the April 1947 flood.

Station Street in the 1940s was a mix of residential and industrial buildings. D. C. Baird's planing mill and lumber yard was just beyond the frame of this photograph, east of Church Street. The business was situated on floodplain between Station Street and Trout Creek. During the 1947 flood, much of its inventory was swept away. Some of Baird's lumber, salvaged from the flood waters, can be seen, piled on the bank on the left side of the photograph. The building on the right, Watt Chick Hatchery, was opened soon after World War II, occupying the former C. Wright's Planing Mill building. The hatchery was destroyed by fire ca 1950 and rebuilt in another location. The Royal Canadian Legion Perth Regiment Branch 236 is currently on this site. The residential part of this area is on the north side of Station Street and up the north ward hill. The backs of the houses along Widder Street can be seen at the top of the photograph. The house at the centre with the distinctive arched entrance, 155 Station Street, and the house behind it, 84 Church Street North, in the last part of the 19th century, belonged to members of an early St. Marys family, the Morphys.

The Morphy family came to Canada from Ireland in 1819. Edmond and Barbara Morphy and their eight children settled in Lanark County west of Ottawa and by 1824, Edmond and his three oldest sons had title to 400 acres of land that they planned to farm. The village that developed on the banks of the Mississippi River near their property was originally named Morphy's Falls and later renamed Carlton Place. Many members of the Morphy family stayed in Lanark, farming or

engaging in business or skilled trades. Some, however, decided in the 1840s to relocate to better farmland opening for settlement in southwestern Ontario. By 1851, several Morphys were recorded in the census for Blanshard Township. (This census included St. Marys, not yet a separate municipality.)

In fact, the census shows representatives of four generations of the Morphy family living in or near St. Marys. Barbara Morphy, age 76 and now a widow, had left her pioneer home in Lanark to live with her daughter, Eliza Morphy Sparrow. Other members of the household were William Sparrow, Eliza's husband, their seven children, and Alvina Morphy, age 20. Although she is identified as a servant, Alvina was Eliza's niece who had come from Lanark to help with the many Sparrow children and perhaps assist in the care of her grandmother, Barbara. Alvina married John Guest in 1852 and moved to her own home.

Two of Alvina's brothers, Edmond and John, and their families, were also listed in the 1851 census. Both were shoemakers, a trade that seems to have been very profitable in early St. Marys. Edmond Morphy was married to Susan Nowlan. According to the census, they were the parents of three children: a daughter, Rachel Amanda, age five, and two sons, Harcourt, age four, and William, two years old. They would eventually have two more sons, Edmond and Hugh. Edmond's brother, John, lived nearby with his wife, Mary, and their children.

In the years that followed, Edmond Morphy changed his occupation to

tavern keeper, becoming the proprietor of the British Hotel on Queen Street, just east of the town hall. This occupation had its ups and downs. Some items in the St. Marys Argus of the time suggest that there were problems with license violations. In the 1871 census, Edmond was listed once again as a shoemaker. There had also been some changes in the family structure. Edmond and his 16-year-old son, Edmond, were living in one household; Susan, her daughter, Rachel, now 22, and 12-year-old Hugh were living in another. The two oldest boys were away and on their own. One of them, Harcourt, eventually became a lawyer in Bosanquet.

Today, there is no way of knowing why Edmond and Susan separated. Edmond, however, was not well. He died in May 1, 1873, age 49. He did not mention Susan in his will but he divided his estate among his five children: Rachel, Harcourt, William, Edmond and Hugh. There may have been a previous settlement with Susan because she had the resources to buy property. The 1875 assessment roll shows her as the owner of two lots in the north ward: Lot 5 on the east side of Wellington Street and Lot 5 on the west side of Church Street. There were houses on these back-to-back lots. She rented out the Wellington Street property and lived in a house with a modest assessment on the Church street lot with her children, Rachel and Hugh.

In February 1879, Susan Morphy married Dr. James J. Hall, a local physician. Dr. Hall was born in Belfast, Ireland, ca 1820 and had established a practice in St. Marys in the early

1870s. He and Susan seem to have had a happy marriage. They were able to replace Susan's smaller house with a large, two-storey, brick house, still standing at 84 Church Street North. In this spacious house, they could offer a home to Rachel and those of her brothers who were still at home from time to time.

Rachel also bought property in 1875 – Lot 4, Church Street North. This deep lot ran along Station Street, just south of Susan's property. The east half of the lot was severed and added to the Church Street property, providing access to Station Street. On the west half of the lot, facing Station Street, there was a modest house that Rachel rented out during the years that she lived with her mother and step-father on Church Street. Throughout her adult life, Rachel worked as an artist. Unfortunately, no record has been found to indicate where or with whom she might have studied. She did earn some recognition, showing her work in exhibitions held from time to time in the area. A local newspaper item, reprinted from the London Free Press in 1895, notes that Miss R. A. Morphy had some pieces in the spring exhibition of the Women's Art Club in London.

Dr. Hall died in June 1896 and Susan Morphy Hall died in 1903. The big house on Church Street was sold. Rachel moved around the corner into the Station Street house. An increase in assessment in the early 1900s indicates that the house was renovated and enlarged. Possibly the wing to the east was added at that time. Rachel not only painted but also gave art lessons. A small advertisement in the Journal in August 1899 announced that Miss R. A. Morphy offered at her Station Street studio "Oil Painting, Pastel, etc. classes on Wednesdays and Saturdays." Some paintings by Rachel and her students are in the St. Marys Museum's collection. In the 1911 census, age 63, she was still listed as an artist. However, by 1921, there had been a sad change. The property records indicate that sometime during the years of World War I, Rachel could no longer manage. Her brother, Harcourt, took over the administration of her affairs and her property on Station Street was sold. The 1921 census placed Rachel as a patient in the Ontario Hospital in Hamilton where she still declared herself to be an "artist." She died in that institution a few years later.

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Household

2 cast iron sausage stuffers: store scales: couch: meat grinder: 8' worktable w/sink: meat slicer: old and new lanterns: Carmor wood stove: Snowshoes: solid wooden table: wooden swivel chair: folding chairs: 2 dressers: stainless steel water kettle: Stove: Maytag ringer washer: China hutch: Singer Treadell sewing machine: A few firearms

Antiques

Bell collection: Old butter churns: Hand crank sewing machine: Clocks: Toy steam engine: Kids sleds: Toy tractor collection: BROAD ax

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1 8' x 10' green house: 1 10' x 8' ice house: Sap equipment: Sleigh and 2 holding tanks: 36' Tubler elevator on steel wheels: 2 cast iron seats: Calendar dated 1914: 2 crossbows: 1 6 gun solid oak gun cabinet: 272K Husguarna concrete saw: Honda generator 5,000 watt: Campbell Hausfield gas powered air compressor – twin tank: 2 Stihl chain saws: Bostitch air nailer, coil with nails: Makita nailer: Makita Sawsall: 3 string trimmers: Electric Band Saw: Central Oneumatic steel blast unit (like new): RT 1000 Router & table: Scroll saw: Toyang drill press: Bench grinder: American Inc. Industrial air compressor (mint condition): Oscars 12" table saw: Ryobi scroll saw (mint cond)

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COLUMN —

LENTEN REFLECTIONS: Who has seen the wind - and Easter



By Mark McKim

In the classic Canadian novel, *Who Has Seen the Wind*, Brian O'Connell, a young boy, is growing up on the prairies in the 1930's. He struggles with successive experiences of death: first a baby pigeon, which he discovers at age four, later his dog, Jappy, and, most significantly, Brian's beloved father and grandmother. Toward the end of the

novel, O'Connell asks, "Why [do] people die? Why [do] they finish up? What [s] the good in being a human?"

If this life is all there is, if we "finish" at the moment we draw our last breath, what point or meaning is there to our existence? If everything I have ever accomplished, all the sacrifices I have made for, and love I have extended to others, if all I am just stops, frankly there really doesn't seem to be any point. And the oft-expressed banality, "he will live on in our memories," will do a fat lot of no good for me, since, eventually, the people who know me will die too. There won't be any memories for me to "live on" in!

The Bible teaches that humans do survive physical death: our "essence," if one

may put it that way - the soul - continues. Moreover, we can, according to Scripture, right now, begin to experience purpose and meaning, a purpose and meaning which will eventually find their completion and fulness after death. This is what Jesus meant when he said he had come to "bring life and bring it abundantly" - starting right now.

This week Christians commemorate both the execution of Jesus (on Good Friday) and also his rising from death (on Easter Sunday). NOT, let's be clear, some kind of vague "rising in the memories of the disciples" resurrection, but a honest-to-goodness, physical resurrection. In some mysterious way no one has ever fully understood - but then we should expect a lot of things

about God to be beyond human understanding - the death and resurrection of Jesus made abundant life possible for us. BUT for that life to happen, we, by God's grace, must choose, individually and consciously, to commit to following after Jesus, to putting our lives utterly at his disposal.

You may, of course, choose to ignore all this Christian "stuff." But that would be intellectually dishonest because the questions Brian O'Connell asks in *Who Has Seen the Wind*, are desperately important and real questions. To borrow from C. S. Lewis, the answers which the Bible gives to these questions, if they are not true, are of no importance whatsoever, but if they are true, they are the

most important thing in all of life. I strongly recommend that you honestly investigate rather than ignore. If you do so, I think you will find yourself joining with multiple hundreds of millions of Christians who proclaim: CHRIST IS RISEN. HE IS RISEN IN-DEED.

Dr. Mark G. McKim is a published theologian who has taught in Canada, the United States and Asia. He has also, twice, been a Visiting Fellow at Oxford University, England. The minister of First Baptist Church, he holds a doctorate in theology and church history from Boston University. "Matters of Meaning" is an opinion column in which he will reflect, as a Christian theologian, on contemporary life.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am not a regular attendee at St. Marys United Church. Sometimes I "go to church" online through Facebook. Once in a while I show up in person, and often I am amazed. I feel a deep change is happening in the congregation as we share a challenging journey of faith with Rev. Jason Richards and his family, as he continues to guide

the congregation, even with stage four cancer.

Have I ever known someone who embodies and boldly celebrates God's love more than Jason does? I don't think so.

On Sunday he celebrated confirmation with nine young people whom he had mentored. Each of them shared their

understanding of God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and declared their faith goals, like being kinder and more compassionate to others and continuing to grow in their Christian understanding and practice. It was inspiring.

I am writing to invite the larger St. Marys community, and whoever is reading this, to pray for Rev. Jason and his family, especially his wife Young,

his small son Lincoln, and his parents Margaret and Bruce. Miracles do happen; Jason may heal from his physical illness. And yet, his life and his commitment to being a messenger and conduit of God's love are already a blessed miracle! Please include Jason in your prayers.

Nancy Vermond

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Gardening in St. Marys

Monday, April 10th at 7:00 pm

St. Marys Legion Hall

Speaker: Jim Fitzgerald

Topic: Fresh and Tasty: Grow Your Vegetables



Everyone Welcome

This meeting is for YOU! Come out and enjoy.
Reminder to bring a mug if you'd like to enjoy a beverage at our meetings.

Riddles

- Why do you paint eggs for Easter? **Easter?**
- Can you imagine trying to wallpaper them? **Tired.**
- Why did the duck get fired from his Easter job? **What kind of bunny can't hop?**
- He kept quacking the eggs. **A chocolate bunny.**
- What does the Easter bunny do after he takes a shower? **What kind of beans won't grow in your garden?**
- He uses a hare dryer. **Jelly beans.**
- What kind of story does the Easter bunny like best? **What kind of jewelry does the Easter bunny wear?**
- The ones with hoppy endings. **14-carrot gold.**
- What do you call the Easter bunny the day after **How many Easter eggs can you put in an empty basket?**
- Easter?**
- Tired.**
- What kind of bunny can't hop?**
- A chocolate bunny.**
- What kind of beans won't grow in your garden?**
- Jelly beans.**
- What kind of jewelry does the Easter bunny wear?**
- 14-carrot gold.**
- How many Easter eggs can you put in an empty basket?**
- Only one—after that, it's not empty anymore.**
- What is the Easter bunny's favorite sport?**
- Basket-ball.**

- Word Search -

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

Word List

- Gillys Pubhouse
- Womens Day
- Seaweed blob
- St Patricks Day
- March Madness
- Lincs beat London
- Japan wins WBC
- Frauds and scams
- Legion mini putt
- Celtic Choir
- Lingering winter
- Trump indicted



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

How do you send Easter greetings?



By hare mail

Austin Bennett (5)

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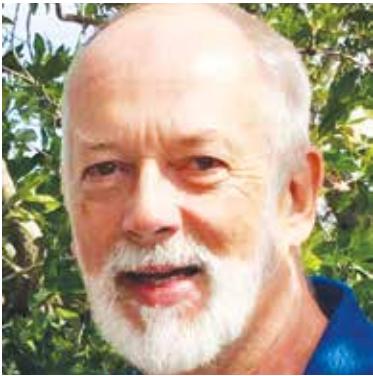
PET OF THE WEEK

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COLUMN —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Buses and trains... not automobiles



By Paul Knowles

The coincidence was odd to say the least. I was reading a novel by Katherine Govier, entitled "The Three Sisters Bar and Hotel". The plot involves the founding of Parks Canada and the action is partly based in Ottawa.

The odd coincidence? I was reading it while travelling by train to Ottawa to an event sponsored by Parks Canada. It gave the story a certain extra resonance, I thought.

But I'm not here this week to talk about novels. I do want to talk about trains and buses while we're at it.

Canadians, at least many of us, are resolutely independent when it comes to transportation. We like to drive our own vehicles. And let's be honest. The powers that be in this country haven't done much to discourage that energy-wasting tendency. If you compare the availability and convenience of public travel in Canada to comparable countries in Europe, we in Canada fail miserably.

By the way, there is an argument that states that Canada is just too spread out for efficient, long-distance train or bus travel. But while I know that Canada is vastly larger than most European countries, I think there is another way to look at this. The distance from Montreal to Windsor (which Google tells me is 900 km) is comparable to some European destinations. Paris to Nice is about 1000 km; Dover to Edinburgh is 790; Hamburg to Munich is 800.

What I am suggesting is, while you can easily travel any of those European routes by public transit, probably with several options every day, Canada has failed to provide similar choices in our most densely populated corridor where it could work with equal efficiency.

Which, again, is not really what I intend to talk about today. Sorry. Although, it is a shame, isn't it?

But while daily travel on public transit is not very convenient for most Canadians (big cities perhaps being the exception), there is one situation in which we could all opt to leave the car at home and that's when we are on vacation.

I know that coach trips or leisure travel by train are often considered options for old folks and maybe that's why I have come to like them? But I think they have value way beyond that particular demo-

graphic.

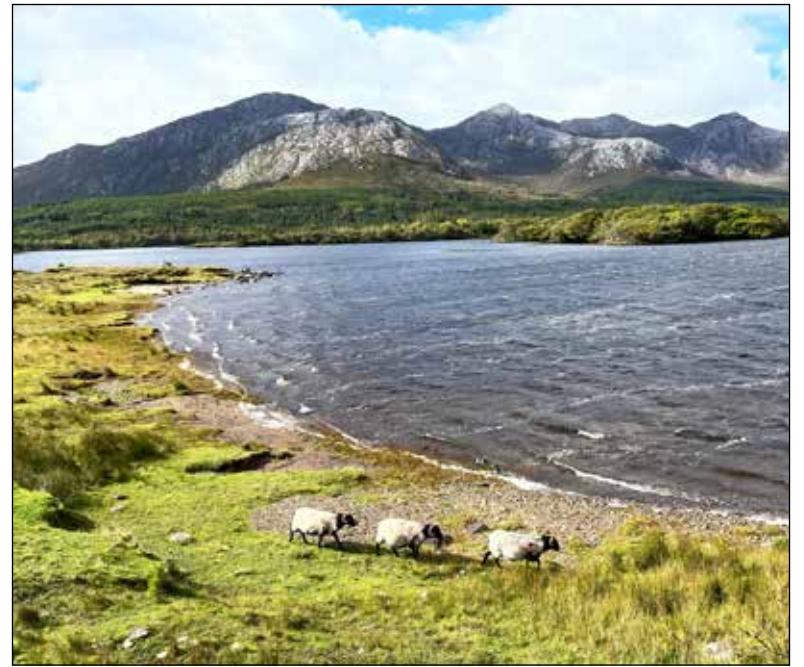
My trip to Ottawa was the first time I had travelled by train in quite a while. I have to admit I enjoyed every minute. It was relaxing, I was able to access wifi to do some work (and some on-line shopping), and I didn't have to worry about 401 traffic for one moment.

I have travelled much more frequently by bus in recent times although only once lately on public transit. But when travelling as a tourist, I have to say that going by coach can't be beat.

I've travelled through Ireland and England both in private car (with me as the driver) and as part of a group by coach. Coach wins, hands down. You get to watch the scenery instead of the road; getting sleepy is not an issue; and you face little or no chance of getting lost.

Closer to home, I am part of a group that rents a bus once a year to do a wine tour in Niagara. The advantage there is pretty obvious beyond those mentioned above. We get to sample all the wine we want to taste with no worry about driving. Because, of course, we're not driving.

I am more and more a fan of letting someone else get me there so I can enjoy the journey, and then be fresh, eager and actually at the intended destination at the end of the trip. The late, lamented coach line, Greyhound Canada, had the motto, "Leave the driving



Another view you would probably miss if you were the driver.

to us."

Well, they were the ones who did the leaving but the concept is still a good one.

This idea works in many settings. It's the secret behind the wildly successful river cruise companies, not only do they do the "driving" but you take your hotel room with you. It's a great package.

In a couple of months, as you may have read in an earlier piece, I am leading a group of two dozen people through the south of England. I have had a great deal of fun setting up the itinerary, choosing the hotels, and figuring out how long it will take to get from, for example, the town of Rye to Churchill's country home.

The good news is, once that is

all in place, I turn the responsibility over to a professional English coach driver and I can sit back and enjoy the views just like everyone else.

So if you happen to be one of those independent, my-car-only folks who has done your travelling with two hands on the wheel and eyes on the road, I encourage you to reconsider. A comfortable seat by a big window on a Via train or a luxury coach is a really good alternative.

You'll thank me, I promise you.

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.



A history-themed mural at the Brockville train station – which you would see only if you were travelling by train. (Paul Knowles photos)

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

Friday, April 7

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

Saturday, April 8

St. Marys Farmers Market pop-up indoor market at
the PRC - 8 am to Noon

St. Marys Kinettes Easter Egg Hunt at Lions Park
(Milt Dunnell field) - 10 am to Noon

Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm

Monday, April 10

St. Marys Horticultural Society meeting at the
Legion hall - 7 pm

Thursday, April 13

Community Coffee & Chat at the St. James
Anglican Church hall - 1:30 to 3:30 pm

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LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

Fabulous donation declined

25 years ago (1998)

Town Council is seeking members for a new tourism committee. The Town would like the committee to include one operator of a hotel or B&B, one member who operates a restaurant, a retailer, a member from a tourist attraction, a member from the public at large, a Town Councillor and a Town of St. Marys employee.

The St. Marys Journal Argus took two top prizes in the Ontario Community Newspaper Association's competition. The St. Marys newspaper was awarded first place in the General Excellence category for this class. There were 29 newspapers entered in this class. It also won the Milt Dunnell Award for best sports coverage.

It appears that Rob Smink's entertainment equipment is headed to Mitchell and a proposed youth centre in that town. The \$3,500 worth of equipment that Smink is offering includes a coin-operated pool table, a video game, and a 10-foot television screen. It's the same equipment Smink offered to the proposed youth centre in St. Marys but committee members unanimously rejected the donation in early February. Smink owns the Fabulous Forum in London which features exotic dancers.

50 years ago (1973)

The P.U.C. is installing traffic lights at the Water-Queen intersection to match those at Wellington-Queen installed last fall.

A guardrail is under construction along the Widder Street curve at Trout Creek, south end of James Street North.

One of Perth County's largest road projects this season will be rebuilding Perth County Road 19, north of Avonton, at a cost of \$146,000. The work will include a new base and raising of the road level.

Ted Podsadecki and Don Touzel of R.R. 1 St. Marys paddled their way to a first-place finish in the men's open class at the Seaforth canoe race last Sunday. John Hotson of Motherwell won the kayak class.

75 years ago (1948)

Some farmers on higher, rolling land were engaged in plowing as early as last week.

The Crosthwaite Pharmacy took immediate advantage of the order lifting the restrictions on window and sign lighting on Wednesday. Those interesting displays created by Jack Crosthwaite will now shine forth in the night.

Dr. John Dearness, London, aged 95, dean of Western Ontario educationists, who spent his boyhood at Prospect Hill, attended the Ontario Educational Convention in Toronto this week, as he has for every convention but one in the past 77 years.

William Wright, son of Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Wright, left Monday for missionary duty in Nigeria. Bill was to fly from New York and on arrival at his destination will serve with the Sudan Interior Mission. He is a member of the St. Marys Baptist Tabernacle.

100 years ago (1923)

At this week's Council meeting, Coun. Richardson, in referring to the Fair Board grant, said the Finance Committee had recommended the sum of \$250 for this purpose. Couns. Whetstone and Brown thought that \$300 should be given because they had given Mr. Dunbar that impression when he had addressed the Board. After a lively discussion on the matter was settled, a motion was made that the sum of \$250 be granted to the South Perth Agricultural Society.

Last Wednesday evening a very enjoyable time was spent when a few of the friends and neighbours of Mr. J. Young and family met at their home and presented them with two beautiful chairs as a lasting remembrance, prior to their departure from the farm to take up residence in the house purchased from Thomas Johnson, Queen Street West.

Several dogs were poisoned during the past week. Among those who lost their canines were Mr. T. Conley, P. Howell, R. Dettmar and Miss Gray.

A citizen asks why it was that two young people coming to St. Marys to get married this week were unable to secure a marriage license in the town and had to postpone their function, or go elsewhere.

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OBITUARY

Jane

Doris Jane (nee Kitching) - Passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 26, 2023, two weeks after her 93rd birthday. Doris is pre-deceased by her husband of 62 years, Kenneth Ivan Baker. Loving mother of Keith (Kelly) and Lori/Elizabeth. Proud grandmother of Cadence, Skyla, Nicole, and Keir. Doris and Kenneth were also pre-deceased by two of their young children, Karyn and Warren.

As a Social Worker, Doris spent her entire career working in social services and healthcare, advocating for those who needed it. Many friends, nieces, and nephews will miss hearing her voice. Friends may visit with family at the Brock & Visser Funeral Home, 845 Devonshire Avenue in Woodstock, Ontario on Thursday, April 6, 2023 from 6:30-8:30 pm and Friday, April 7, 2023 from 1:00-2:00 pm. Funeral Service will be held at Brock & Visser on Friday, April 7, 2023 at 2:00 pm, followed by a reception. Interment of ashes will follow on April 7, 2023.

The family wants to send their thanks and appreciation to the staff at Oxford Gardens in Woodstock, Woodstock General Hospital, Wildwood Long-Term Care Home in St. Marys and the staff in W1 at St. Marys Memorial Hospital. If desired, memorial donations can be made to your favourite charity, or to St. Marys Hospital Foundation in Doris' name. Personal condolences may be sent and shared at brockandvisser.com

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) Germany
- 2) Red
- 3) The bun represents the cross on which Jesus Christ died
- 4) The Easter Cuckoo (bird)
- 5) Palm Sunday
- 6) White Lilies
- 7) A lamb
- 8) An Easter egg hunt
- 9) The Southeast Pacific
- 10) In the 13th century

IN MEMORIAM

Hales

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February 3, 1927 – April 5, 2022**

*We thought of you today
But that is nothing new
We thought of you yesterday
And days before that too.
We think of you in silence
We often speak your name
Now all we have is memories
And your picture in a frame.
Your memory is our keepsake
With which we'll never part
God has you in His keeping
We have you in our heart.
Love, Alice and family*

IN MEMORIAM

Inch



**In loving memory of William Inch
July 28 1954 - April 10 2017**

*They say there is a reason
They say time will heal
Neither time or reason
Will change the way we feel.
Gone are the days
We used to share.
But in our hearts
You are always there.
The gates of memories
Will never close
We miss you more than
Anybody knows.*

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