

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1154

Thursday, April 13, 2023

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U15 B Boys enjoy OMHA Championship wagon ride



A wagon ride and fire truck procession made its way through St. Marys on Monday night with the centrepiece being the A.N.A.F U15 B Boys St. Marys Rock. This past weekend in Barrie, the U15 B Boys capped off their strong season with another banner, and the biggest one to date, winning the OMHA Championship. (Wendy Lamond photo)

Town issues Cyber report with costs

At the Council meeting this week, the following report was issued by the Town regarding the Cyber attack.

On Wednesday, July 20, 2022, the Town experienced a cyber security incident in the form of a ransomware attack. The threat actor deployed LockBit 3.0 onto the Town's systems, encrypting various servers and files.

The infiltration was discovered quickly by IT staff during their routine Wednesday morning back-up of systems. Town staff responded by immediately disconnecting all servers, which prevented the ransomware from further infiltrating the Town's systems. Because of quick actions of the IT staff, the ransomware did not fully encrypt all the Town's systems.

This action, combined with a strategic decision in 2020 to begin migrating the Town's operating environment to the Cloud, meant that none of the Town's critical services like fire, police, transit, and water/wastewater were impacted. From the public's perspective, there was little, to nothing, in the way of perceived service disruption with the exception of some online and in-person services being unavailable (i.e. bookings, payments). Internally, staff maintained about 80% functionality following the attack.

The Town initiated its emergency response plan and called together an internal response team on July 20, 2022. Siskinds LLP was retained on July 21, 2022 to act as the incident response director due to complexities related to data security. The Town further retained Deloitte LLP on July 25, 2022 to act as the Town's technical lead and forensic auditor for the incident to provide overall management of the incident response, ensure that incident response processes were sound and aligned with good practices and investigate the incident to determine its nature, scope, and impact, to inform containment, remediation and recovery.

From a technical perspective, Deloitte determined the cyber incident to be contained by July 28, 2022.

Continued on page 2

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Recreational & Competitive Programs

Do you know someone who is "Strong As Stone"?

Town encouraging nominations to celebrate National Volunteer Week (April 16 - 22)

With National Volunteer Week nearly upon us, the Town of St. Marys is encouraging residents to recognize those who give back through its Strong as Stone program.

The program allows residents to nominate individuals whose selfless deeds contribute to the quality of life

in our community. Eligible nominees are publicly recognized at Town Council meetings, celebrated in the media, and given an official certificate.

"We are incredibly grateful to all who give their time, talents and en-

Continued on page 6



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COMMUNITY —

New Infill Development for St. Marys

By June Grant

St. Marys has a mix of housing styles from older brick or limestone dwellings to new builds that are for the most part clad in brick or vinyl siding.

Steven Manicom, director of Hillside Property Developments, has brought a new style to St. Marys. He built his own Mid-Century Modern home in 2022 and is now in the process of constructing two additional houses in the same style. These properties are located in the private Skunk's Hollow area of town, on St. Andrew Street North.

A tour of his own 4,200 square foot home, called the "St. Andrew Residence", revealed many high-end finishes and roof top balconies with a spectacular view of the ravine at the rear of the lot. Beside this house is the first of two more homes being built for resale. It will be a 2,000 sq ft one floor unit that should be ready for occupancy in May. Steven has named this structure the "Hollow Hill House". Once completed, Ste-

ven will commence construction of the second resale home which will be another 1 floor dwelling with approximately 3,000 square feet.

Steven grew up in St. Thomas and moved to London to attend Fanshawe College for their business program. Upon graduation, he entered the real estate business. His education background also includes the real estate development program at Cornell University. His company prides itself on creative properties that focus more on the "form following function" approach. They believe that the shape of a property or "space" should primarily relate to its intended function or purpose, also keeping in touch with nature on each design.

These cedar or wood sided homes certainly fit in well with their natural environment.

If you are interested in learning more about this infill development, please contact Steven at admin@hillside.com or call his direct line 519-495-5168.



Town issues Cyber report with costs

Continued from page 1

In August, Deloitte's scope expanded to include a design and rebuild of a new IT network for the Town. The rebuild of the new network was completed by Deloitte and was handed over to the Town at the beginning of November 2022. Deloitte's cyber monitoring services continued until December 31, 2022.

Regarding data security, on July 22, 2022, the threat actor sent communication to the Town's cyber security experts asserting they had exfiltrated sensitive data from the Town. This claim was investigated and was determined to be credible enough to warrant legitimate concern about a breach of privacy if the threat actor released the data on the Dark Web.

Faced with this information, Council negotiated a ransom payment with the threat actor for the return of the Town's information. A third-party negotiator was retained and a ransom payment

of \$200,000 US (\$290,000 CDN) in bitcoin was agreed to. The ransom was paid to the threat actor in exchange for decryptor keys to be provided for encrypted systems, and for the stolen data to be destroyed. After the ransom was paid, the decryptor keys were received and, as of December 31, 2022, Deloitte's monitoring for evidence or information of hacker correspondence "chatter" of the incident, references to St. Marys' vulnerabilities and exposures, ongoing or future attacks against St. Marys and attempted sale or data dumps containing St. Marys information confirmed that nothing was released in the public realm or on the Dark Web.

The Town's goal has always been to have strong and safe technology systems and data management processes. Staff are now accelerating efforts to achieve this, using strategies and tactics recommended by Deloitte and Siskinds. The Town is also undertaking regular cyber security assessments to identify further steps that can be taken

to enhance security. This will include revisions to policies and continued staff education. Furthermore, Council has approved the hiring of additional staff resources to assist with our data management and retention processes.

Financial Implications: The costs for the incident are broken down into two categories: Incident management and investigation: \$860,970.49; Network system rebuild: \$440,133.37; Total costs to date: \$1,301,103.86 * Note: all costs are net of the Town's HST rebate.

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

Wednesday Apr-12th	Thursday Apr-13th	Friday Apr-14th	Saturday Apr-15th	Sunday Apr-16th	Monday Apr-17th	Tuesday Apr-18th
Mainly sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sun/cloud	Showers	Cloudy showers	Rain/snow
24°C	24°C	23°C	22°C	18°C	6°C	4°C
Feels Like 26	Feels Like 26	Feels Like 24	Feels Like 23	Feels Like 20	Feels Like 2	Feels Like 1

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COMMUNITY —

Bungalow Renovating with Help From Small Business Funding

Bungalow 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.

Bungalow sells high-quality home furnishings and décor and offers design consultation. The store quickly shifted to maintain business with the outbreak of COVID-19 shortly after opening in December 2019. After the initial disappointment, the lockdowns began to work to the owner's advantage as people were spending more and more time at home. "Customers were constantly reaching out looking to improve their space and wanting to make purchases," said owner Andrea Salenbien. "We are constantly growing and reaching more customers and clients thanks to marketing on Instagram, and we are seeing lots of tourists traveling from surrounding areas to come shop at our store."

Bungalow is undergoing exten-

sive renovations to its retail space, including repairs to walls and ceilings, flooring and improved lighting for the back showroom. This will create a more welcoming environment and visually pleasing space in which to display products.

Located at 142 Queen Street East, Bungalow is open Wednesday 10-5, Thursday 10-7, Friday/Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 11-4. Find design inspiration on Instagram @bungalowstore.

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.



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COMMUNITY —

HPPH opens COVID-19 vaccination clinics for spring boosters

HPPH has launched its April COVID-19 vaccination clinics to meet Ontario's new spring booster recommendations.

As of April 6, individuals in specific high-risk groups are recommended to receive a spring booster dose if at least six months (168 days) have passed since their last dose or confirmed COVID-19 infection. These high-risk groups are:

- Individuals aged 65 years and older
- Residents of long-term care homes, retirement homes, elder care lodges, and other congregate living settings for seniors
- Individuals aged 18 years and older living in congregate care settings for people with complex medical care needs
- Pregnant individuals
- Individuals aged 18 years and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised
- Individuals aged 55 years and older who identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Metis, and their non-Indigenous household members aged 55 years and older.

If you are not a member of one of the above groups, and you have already received a COVID-19 booster on or after September 1, 2022, there is no current recommendation to receive a spring booster. However, if an individual aged five and older wishes to receive an additional booster dose they may do so, with informed consent, if at least 6 months (168 days) have passed since their previous dose or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

HPPH vaccine clinics

HPPH will hold vaccine clinics across Huron and Perth counties in April. Dates and locations are available at www.hpph.ca/getvaccinated.

Individuals may book a spring booster now for an appointment time when they are eligible. Individuals ages six months to four years can continue to book for first and second doses. Those aged five and older can continue to book for first, second or booster doses.

Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) uses the provincial booking system.

Book your appointment for an HPPH clinic online at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>

Bravo

We have one Bravo this week.

Bravo to the current and past owners of "The Independent" for providing a 10% discount on most food products on Tuesdays to seniors. Those in need can stretch their food dollars. Those in more comfortable situations could convert their savings by donating to their favourite charity which could include the Salvation Army Food Bank or the Nourish Market. A charitable receipt would reward their generosity even further.



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

Boo

We have one Boo this week.

Boo to those dog owners who let their pets poop on the sidewalks in the downtown, and do not pick it up. What disgusting behavior. This is really disturbing to all the young families who use these sidewalks on a consistent basis.



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

Quote of the Week

"We are incredibly grateful to all who give their time, talents and energy to help others. The Strong as Stone program recognizes those that have gone the extra mile to make St. Marys a stronger community."

- Mayor Al Strathdee.

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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You can go to the PRC for an April Shower at no cost.

The joys of Spring - sunshine and warmer weather but unfortunately all that yard work.

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

St. Marys Independent

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The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK

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You will hate a beautiful song if you sing it too often.

Words have no wings but they can fly a thousand miles.

The bad plowman quarrels with his ox.

Even a sheet of paper seems lighter when two people lift it together.

A turtle travels only when it sticks its neck out

COMMUNITY —

All Wheels Park Donation of the Week



Thank you to the Optimist Club of Downie for their generous donation of \$5,000. They are enthusiastic early supporters of the rotary All Wheels Park on James Street, for which the community are very grateful. Pictured, from left, Jeff Rolston, Alex Gibson, Steve Coulthard, Jeff Bell, Manny Peutz and Ian Camden



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Stonetown Crier



The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys

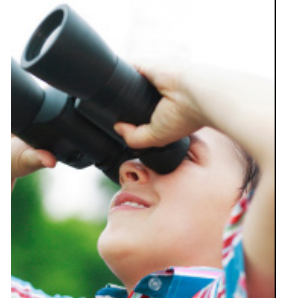
Youth Birding Event

Keep your eyes on the skies!

Join us on April 17 from 4 - 5:30 PM for a FREE Youth Birding Event! This program is aimed at children and youth in Grades 3 to 10.

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

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



PD Day Program

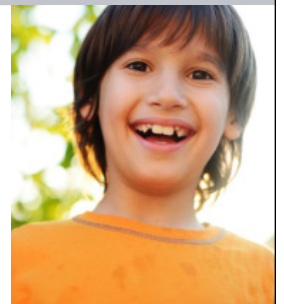
Swing into spring with our PD Day Program on May 5!

Spend the day:

- Exploring nature
- Creating a masterpiece
- Swimming in the pool

Spaces are limited - sign up today!

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



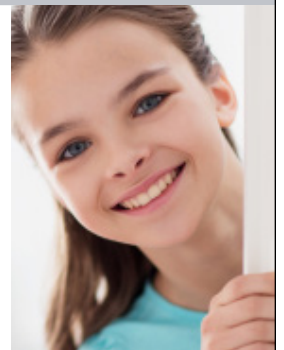
Home Alone Course

Staying home alone can be a scary prospect - for kids AND parents!

The St. John Ambulance Home Alone course is designed to equip kids with the skills and confidence they need to be on their own.

This program is aimed at kids 10 and older and is happening on Saturday, May 6 from 9 AM - 3:30 PM.

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



Babysitting Basics Course

Babysitting is a great way for youth to learn responsibility, gain confidence and earn a little spending cash!

The St. John Ambulance Babysitting Basics course teaches youth aged 11 - 15 all they need to know to care for younger kids.

Course content includes:

- Basic First Aid
- Diaper changing
- Healthy meal prep
- Handling emergencies
- And more!

The course is running on May 7 from 9 AM - 4 PM.

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



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Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Helen Lucas who will be celebrating her 80th birthday on Monday April 17. Born in St. Marys, Helen and her husband, Chuck, who have been married for over 61 years, have 4 children, 11 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren with another due in May. Helen's favourite thing to do is spend time with her family and she provided childcare to local families for over 30 years before retiring. Happy Birthday Helen!

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

Weekend Quiz

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- 1) Which former US Secretary of State took up a new post in 2009 teaching at Stanford University?
- 2) The world's first vaccine was created against which disease?
- 3) Wine barrels are most commonly made from which wood?
- 4) Which Book of the Old Testament tells the story of the birth of Moses?
- 5) What measure is equivalent to 2 standard bottles of champagne?
- 6) Scallions is another name for which vegetable?
- 7) English poet William Wordsworth wrote about which flowers?
- 8) Cartoon character Fred Flintstone is a fan of which sport?
- 9) MICEX is the stock exchange in which country?
- 10) Which cereal crop is used to make Scotch malt whisky?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

COMMUNITY —

Do you know someone who is "Strong As Stone"?

Continued from page 1

ergy to help others," says Mayor Al Stratheed. "The Strong as Stone program recognizes those that have gone the extra mile to make St. Marys a stronger community."

St. Marys residents of any age, or those from outside of the community whose actions benefit St. Marys, are eligible for nomination. Only volunteer and voluntary service can be nominated; elected officials and those who do good as part of their

job cannot.

The nomination process is ongoing, and people can be nominated for deeds that have occurred from March 2020 to the present.

The application form can be completed online at www.townofstmarys.com/StrongAsStone; paper copies are available at Town Hall by advance request to Corporate Communications Manager Brett O'Reilly at boreilly@town.stmarys.on.ca.

AMDSB Releases Workforce Census Data

In the fall of 2022, the Avon Maitland District School Board (AMDSB) conducted a Workforce Census (the Census) and invited all employees to participate.

The Census was a voluntary, confidential self-identification survey that aligned with their commitment to the principles of equity, diversity and inclusiveness across all areas of the organization, as outlined in the AMDSB Equity Action Plan. The Census was informed by provincial legislation including the Ontario Human Rights Code, Ontario's Anti-Racism data standards, and the Ontario Ministry of Education's Equity Action Plan.

The Census was open to all AMDSB staff between October 24 and December 31, 2022. An overall response rate of 75% was achieved, one of

the highest rates of participation of any district school board in Ontario.

This level of employee engagement provides a more accurate demographic data capture and provides the baseline data needed to compare the AMDSB workforce demographics with student demographics and the demographics of the Huron Perth communities. Moving forward, AMDSB will use the Census data to develop plans and strategies to recruit and retain a diverse workforce.

The data will support an evidence-informed approach in human resources planning as we examine our employment practices for the extent to which they create barriers for staff and seek to eliminate employment-related inequities across our board.



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COMMUNITY —

Business Profile: Ultimate Foot Care

By Stewart Grant

Eileen Stacey calls the feet the “foundation of the body”. Feet is also the foundation of her new business, Ultimate Foot Care, that she opened just over a year ago - a business that has since expanded beyond the feet to include skin tag and wart removal services.

An RPN with years of experience in nursing homes and as a visiting nurse, Eileen decided in 2022 to start her own business and says it’s been a wonderful experience. “I took the course to become a foot care nurse and it is the best thing that I’ve ever done. I love it,” she told the Independent.

“The thing that I love the most is the one on one that I get to have with people. I think what I’ve learned the most from being a nurse in a nursing home and with palliative care as well, is that people want to be heard and they want to be validated. A smile goes a long way... a caring hand on the shoulder. That’s the biggest thing that I’ve learned so far and it’s spilled over into this business.”

Eileen provides a mobile service in that she goes out and visits people in their homes: St. Marys, Stratford, Mitchell, Tavistock, and anything in between. Every Monday, she works from Alliance Wellness Centre at 50 Water Street in St. Marys.

Eileen said that following an initial question-

naire and assessment, most foot care appointments are 30 to 45 minutes in duration. “I will address any issues concerning your feet including nail clipping, calluses, corns, bunions, excess buildup of skin on heels, and ingrown toenails,” she summarized. She also provides health teaching in regards to diabetics, neuropathy, toe fungus, and more.

“Most people think that I have a lot of older people as clients, and I do, but not as many as people would think. There are a lot of people with ingrown toenails, with calluses, with corns that need to be removed. If you were to go and get a pedicure, they wouldn’t do that, so ours is a little more in-depth.”

Sometimes, people have warts on their feet that need to be removed. It was in dealing with this issue that Eileen derived that the same state-of-the-art cryotherapy methods could be used to remove warts and skin tags from other parts of the body as well. This has proven to be a very popular service that complements her foot care activities and has helped to further broaden her client base.

To book a home service appointment with Eileen, contact her via phone or text at 226-921-0692 or email eileen@ultimatefootcare.ca. To make a Monday appointment with Eileen at Alliance Wellness in St. Marys, call 226-661-0130. For more information on Ultimate Foot Care, please visit www.ultimatefootcare.ca.



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COMMUNITY —

Stunning watercolours at the St. Marys Station Gallery



St. Marys Station Gallery is hosting a stunning exhibit of watercolour paintings by local artist Renee Knight.

Renee Knight's studies in coloured pencil or watercolour are intimate reflections of a rural lifestyle. Embracing the familiar and everyday she coins the extraordinary. A dramatic interplay of light and shadow, the il-

lusion of the third dimension is created.....therein lies the essence of this award winning artist's inspiration.

"In this fast paced world, I find myself increasingly drawn to the peaceful harmony offered by nature" states Knight, and her work certainly reflects the love of the natural world.



• Originally from England, Renee received her early art training in Ontario Canada, obtaining a degree in Fine Arts at UWO London Ontario.

• By 1991 she had published a series of 4 nature studies from the original coloured pencil images as fine quality Limited Edition Prints.

• As well as showing in a juried exhibition and co-ordinating studio tours, Renee has won critical acclaim partic-

ularly for her coloured pencil work.

• Her paintings and drawings, many commissioned works, hang in corporate and private collections in Canada, the UK, and the USA.

Renee Knight's exhibition at the St. Marys Station Gallery is previewing Friday April 14 and opens on Saturday April 15 with a meet and greet at 1pm to 4pm. The artist will be in residence to greet all visitors.



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COMMUNITY —

Come make some noise

Sit. Shhhh. Don't make a sound for two hours. That would describe a regular trip to the theatre.

But it seems that the "sit quiet & listen" model of theatre has been tweaked a bit by St. Marys Community Players (our award-winning local theatre group) for its latest production.

"It's a perfect evolution!" says Co-Producer, Stephen Brockwell. "THE 39 STEPS began as a best-selling novel, then an Alfred Hitchcock film, then a smash Broadway comedy, and now we've incorporated 'experience' into the mix!" Director, Liane Gregory-Sterritt had a very particular motivation for tweaking the regular 'sit quiet & listen' model for this show. She explains, "Our community - like so many others - became wilted by the isolation generated by the pandemic. We've been separated, siloed, disjointed, disconnected. So, when I was presented with the opportunity to direct this show, I jumped at the chance to create a production where everyone - cast, crew, and audience - could have the opportunity to do it together."

So, what does that actually mean? Ray Doerksen, Co-Producer has the answer, "It means that the audience participates throughout the show. Liane has envisioned THE 39 STEPS with tons of the sound effects coming from the audience! Plus, there are opportunities for audience members



Pictured are Jake Petrie and Jessica Ducharme. (Contributed photo)

to sign-up to be a part of the show every night!" Of course, there's also the opportunity to just sit back and relax, for those that prefer a traditional theatrical experience.

Whether you are up for actively participating, or enjoy the more traditional approach, Gregory-Sterritt predicts "Audiences are going to thoroughly enjoy the riveting plot twists, dozens of characters, and ingenious creativity. Did I mention there's an

airplane chase on stage?!"

Gregory-Sterritt adds that there was another very important reason to bring this play to St. Marys. "Despite the wackiness of the script, there is a beautiful uplifting message to THE 39 STEPS. As our hero madly dashes around trying to outsmart the bad guys, he comes to realize the importance of neighbours, friends, and communities. There's a great speech he gives about working together and

people helping each other out, doing the best they can. It's quite touching. And again, I felt it fit right into how we are emerging from the pandemic and what we learned because of it."

So, if you are curious as to how comedy, audience participation and uplifting heartfelt themes can all come together in one show for a unique and entertaining theatre experience, better get your tickets before they're gone!

THE 39 STEPS runs Thursday, April 27 - Sunday, May 7. St. Marys Town Hall Theatre,

175 Queen Street East. Directed by Liane Gregory-Sterritt. Starring Karen Ballard, Jessica Ducharme, Edie Pedersen, Jake Petrie, Bob Shannon, John Stevens, and Don Van Galen.

Tickets \$20-\$25. www.stmaryscommunityplayers.ca, or in person at Sun Rayz downtown. Matinees 2pm. Evenings 8pm.

For online tickets visit www.stmaryscommunityplayers.ca or purchase tickets at the box office located at Sun Rayz, 113 Queen Street East or call 519-284-4826 during business hours.

SMCP would not be able to produce shows without the dedication and hard work of many volunteers and with the assistance of our sponsors. To learn more about SMCP visit their website at www.stmaryscommunityplayers.ca.

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THE 39 STEPS

ADAPTED BY
PATRICK BARLOW

APRIL 27 - MAY 7
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COMMUNITY —

Easter Egg Hunt at Lions Park



On Saturday, the St. Marys Kinettes held their annual Easter egg hunt. Since the pandemic, this was the first year that the club was able to host an in-person hunt at the Lions park with the Easter Bunny getting lots of hugs and was attended by more than 265 kids. Nancy Riddell, the project chair, commented "We would like to thank the high school students who volunteered their time and to the Easter Bunny for making it to our event again this year. We appreciate all of the food bank and monetary donations. We hope everyone had a good time and we will see you again next year". (Wendy Lamond photos)

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COMMUNITY —

Lieutenant Justin Dundas named Firefighter of the Month for April

This April the St. Marys Fire Department is pleased to announce Justin Dundas as its "Firefighter of the Month".

Dundas joined the St. Marys Fire Department (SMFD), as a firefighter in 2009. Through the Fire Officer Program, he obtained Fire Service Instructor Level I and Fire Officer Level I accreditation. He was promoted to Lieutenant on September 1, 2019.

Lieutenant Dundas was selected as Firefighter of the Month for his 14 years of loyal service to the department," said Fire Chief Richard "Andy" Anderson. "Over the years, Dundas has demonstrated his dedication to not only the St. Marys Fire Department but also to the men that have worked with him. This dedication is evident in the way those under his leadership are willing to jump in behind him."

Lieutenant Dundas is a proud member of the SMFD serving the residents of St. Marys and Perth South. Dundas comes from a long line of firefighters, as both his grandfather and father were volunteer firefighters. "It's a privilege to be recognized as Firefighter of the Month around the same time as my father, Brent Dundas (retired Deputy Fire Chief), was honoured with his retirement after serving 40 years," said Lieutenant Dundas. "I am lucky to serve with my brother Brandon as well and who knows, one day

maybe even my two children will carry on the tradition!"

Dundas said, "I knew going into high school that firefighting was something I was interested in doing. Watching my dad do it for so many years made me want to be a part of the department in town as well. Putting water on fire achieves the same result it did 60 years ago; what has changed are the materials that burn, the tools, and equipment used in the response. Better gear, better tactics, increased knowledge of fire behaviour, and an understanding of the link between firefighting and physical and mental wellness have helped to create a safer work environment."

Justin is married to his lovely wife Steph. They have two children, their daughter Kaydan who is 3 and their son Chase who is 9 months. He has been employed as Spare Assistant Control Room Operator at the St. Marys Cement plant for just over 2 years.

"Justin is one of the finest firefighters I have ever had the pleasure of working with," expressed Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Edwards. "He is a respected leader, an incredibly hard worker, and he has a great attitude towards helping those around him. You can tell he cares about making a difference and he is most deserving of Firefighter of the Month recognition."



Lieutenant Justin Dundas named "Firefighter of the Month" for April.

Meet Me in St Marys: A day of unfettered fun

A group of eight innovative women, sparked by a brilliant idea of one, decided in 2019 to launch a special day's event in our beloved town – an event that would bring people together for a spring day of celebration and shopping in St. Marys. Since it truly is an idyllic small town, St. Marys invites visitors from near and far to discover its beauty, and to experience its unique shopping district.

Meet Me In St. Marys is now being planned for a 2nd time on May 6th. Get your tickets early – as there are only 60! Call your friends, your sisters, your daughters, your mothers, your aunts, your nieces, your grand-daughters and plan a day of fun, shopping, food, art and exploration. Or bring your partner - if he does not like to shop, he could take a long walk along the Thames, relax in a local coffee shop with a good book or take a look around the well-stocked hardware stores in town, or Jacobs Liquidation – always full of surprises.

This is a chance to introduce your family and friends to St. Marys, which is found at the centre of Southwestern Ontario, a central meeting place offering a multitude of amazing bou-

tiques and shops, selling everything from spices to yarn to fine fabrics to flowers to beautiful clothing to chocolate to coffee to books to baked goods to gifts to arts & crafts to specialty crokinole boards to children's clothing to cannabis products to eclectic treasure of all kinds. You want to know how to make your own wine? The Wine Lab. You want good food? There are some great options in town for dinner in the evening including Social 31, TuttCo, O'Leary's Bar & Grill, Gilly's Pubhouse or Chris Campbell's Canteen.

So shake off the winter doldrums and decide to play hooky for a day... who do you know that you have been meaning to invite? Invite them! Live a little...dream a little...enjoy yourself! Take in the local art exhibit on the upper level of the The Flower Shop and More where some of the local artists will be on hand. Book a yoga session at The Yoga Chapple or bring your mat and do some yoga by the Little Falls. Book a manicure! Who is going to stop you?

With ticket in hand, you will meet at the United Church at 9:30 AM to enjoy morning refreshments, and to

pick up your handmade fabric bag containing your coupon book, map and other information. Meet back at the Church at 12:30 for a delicious catered lunch by Cherie Thompson of Beyond the Kitchen Door, as well as for a fabulous fashion show featuring local clothing shops: O'Grady's - clothing and accessories, Sun Rayz, Lauren Whitney LifeStyles, and The Boutique at S.M.M.H. [Hospital] with the newest spring fashions modelled by local residents. You could even stop in first at the opening day of St. Marys Farmers' Market in Milt Dunnell Field, open from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The park along the river is a lovely spot to sit and enjoy a morning coffee with friends. Bring your lawn chairs and later in the day, you could perhaps enjoy takeout and dine by the riverside.

There are two options for the afternoon after the fashion show. There is a historical walking tour of the North Ward of St. Marys, led by local heritage expert, Paul King, who is extremely knowledgeable of local lore and many fascinating facts about St. Marys. Wear comfortable shoes and dress for comfort as we have many hills, which offer some distinctive views of

the town. The other option is a presentation of Come Into My Kitchen, a culinary history over the years, given by St. Marys Museum. To top off your day, discover blooming spring flowers and blossoms as you walk, hike or bike along the river trails ... or view the river from the trestle bridge, part of the Grand Trunk Trail, encircling our town with over 10 kilometres of trail. Perhaps stop in at Broken Rail Brewery for a refreshing pint ... they have both indoor and outdoor seating. Come meet with friends, both new and old.

TICKETS are \$60 for the day. To purchase:

1] Send e-transfer to: celebratestmarys19@gmail.com using the security answer: Celebrate

2] Visit Julie at The Flower Shop and More @ 147 Queen St. East in St. Marys

3] Mail a cheque, payable to Celebrate St. Marys, to: P.O. Box 2721, St. Marys, ON N4X 1A4

Deadline for tickets sales: April 28

More information: celebratestmarys19@gmail.com

SPORTS —

Lincolns' lose West Final in five games

By Spencer Seymour

The St. Marys Lincolns gave their fans one more thrilling win on home ice last Tuesday night but back on the road, with their Captain suspended, the Lincs simply were overpowered by the incredibly skilled Leamington Flyers, who came away with the Bill Weir Trophy as this year's Western Conference Champions.

Leamington will now advance to the Sutherland Cup Championship round-robin to meet the Midwest Champion Stratford Warriors and Golden Horseshoe Champion Hamilton Kilty B's. The teams who finish first and second in the round-robin will then battle in a three-game series for the Sutherland Cup.

Stratford defeated the Kitchener-Waterloo Siskins in six games to win the Cherrey Cup, while Hamilton swept the underdog Caledonia Corvairs to claim the Golden Horseshoe Championship. Caledonia got to the Golden Horseshoe Conference Final by upsetting the defending Sutherland Cup Champion St. Catharines Falcons.

Veterans shine in Game Four comeback

With the season and their junior careers on the line, several overage players dug deep and found a way to get the Lincolns into the win column, with three late goals that not only evoked the loudest response from the St. Marys fans of the season but also handed the Flyers their first and only loss of the playoffs.

It seemed as though the Flyers might find a way to once again narrowly hang on for a victory as the clock ticked down and a second-period goal by Owen Holmes remained the only goal on the board, while Bryce Walcarius continued to be stellar in the Flyers' net. However, with five minutes and eight seconds left in the third, a hard-working shift by Adrian Stubberfield allowed Cole Schnittker to pick the puck out of a board battle and take it in front, firing it by Walcarius to tie the game at one apiece.

Head Coach Jeff Bradley admitted that, while he didn't envision the tying goal coming in the form that it did, he was very relieved to get it nonetheless.

"I didn't think that was going to be the shot that tied it," said Bradley, alluding to his feelings that it would have taken more traffic in front or high-end puck movement to beat Walcarius with how well the former Lincolns' netminder played throughout the series. "When that one went in, it opened things up for us and gave us some belief that we could score on this team."

Schnittker's goal began a momentum shift in the Lincolns' favour that continued when William Van Sumeren took a penalty for head contact. On the ensuing powerplay, a point shot created havoc in front of the Leamington net with Jacob Chantler and Ethan Lamoureux on the doorstep. Eventually,



Members of the St. Marys Lincolns watch as the Leamington Flyers celebrate their Western Conference Championship after the Flyers won the Bill Weir Trophy last Thursday night. (Photo credit: Mike Chenette/McGinny Photography)

Lamoureux buried the loose puck to put the Lincs ahead 2-1.

With 11 seconds left in the game, Nathan Small lofted the puck from his own zone into an empty net to seal the deal and give the Lincs a 3-1 victory. Matteo Lalama was fabulous for the Lincolns, making 40 saves in the winning effort.

Bradley, who was happy with his team's performances throughout the series, said that it felt good to finally get in the win column, especially when the series could have easily been tied or even led by the Lincolns through four games.

"Both teams play extremely well defensively. It's a really tight battle that could quite conceivably be tied at two or 3-1 for us. It's not like the first two rounds when Leamington was scoring five, six, or seven goals every game and most of the games were blowouts. It's a different story when every game is 3-1 with an empty netter."

In their first two series against Sarnia and LaSalle, the Flyers scored four goals or more every game and only had two periods in which they failed to score a non-empty-net goal. In the Conference Final against St. Marys, Leamington had 10 periods in which they didn't score a goal with Lalama on the ice. The Lincolns also held Leamington to three goals or less in four of the five games.

Flyers claim West title in Game Five

Lamoureux wasn't available for Game Five in Leamington due to a four-game suspension for a hit into the boards on Flyers' forward Kale Couvillon in Game Four. Bizarrely, the request for a re-

view of the hit was made after the league-mandated deadline of 8:00 a.m. the following day, and yet, the GOJHL appeared to disregard their own policy and proceed with suspending Lamoureux.

The Lincs had to try to shake off their Captain's absence and despite having two periods in which they held the Flyers scoreless, a feat that St. Marys managed every game of this series not including empty-net goals, Leamington's three-goal second period was enough to propel them to a 3-1 win and the Bill Weir Trophy.

Once again, Holmes scored for the Flyers, this time just 57 seconds in the middle frame for the game's first goal. Hayden Reid followed that up at the 5:18 mark of the period to make it 2-0 Flyers, before Connor MacPherson banked a pass off of the stick of a crouching Grayden Strohack, who was attempting to block MacPherson's pass into the slot, and into the net at 14:44 of the second.

In the third, the Lincolns, refusing to give up, got on the board thanks to a powerplay goal by Michael Elliston. Lalama made 30 stops in between the pipes.

After having time to digest the final result, Bradley talked to the Independent and while he was sad that the season was over, he wasn't at all disappointed in his group.

"I don't like to say 'proud' because I'm not sure that I'm old enough to say that, but I am really, really happy with the way our team played and our year as a whole. There was no team in our area in the conference that came close to the post-season success that we had, and that's huge for this organization. Honestly, with all that these guys have battled through, I'm in awe of the players."

Bradley also had high praise for the Flyers, who he has seen first-hand pushing harder and trying to reach this level of success for several years.

"They're truly a great team. I reached out to Dale [Mitchell, Leamington's Head Coach] the day after we got beat as I didn't get enough time after the game to tell him what I felt about his team. I needed a bit of time to reflect on it first and you look at the way that team played top to bottom, there was never an easy shift against Leamington. You had to bring your best every single shift and if you didn't, you would be in trouble.

"When you look at professional, amateur, or junior sports teams, you respect greatness and teams who are able to achieve greatness. It's also a good lesson for us. I've been in this league for seven years and I've seen them continuously building up and getting to the point they reached on Thursday. They were always knocking on the door and they finally achieved their goal, and hopefully, we can look at that as a lesson for us going forward."

Continued on page 15

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SPORTS —

Lincs can hold heads high after great season



Ethan Lamoureux (left) and Jacob Chantler (right) in the heat of the incredible battle that was this year's West Final. For the first time in 17 years, the St. Marys Lincolns advanced to the Western Conference Championship Series against the Leamington Flyers. The five-game series was an incredibly close and competitive battle, with every game seeing the Lincolns and Flyers each play well enough to win and both solidify themselves as true powerhouses.



Bill Bourne getting the crowd fired up during the Western Conference Final while Chris Collins and Shari-Ann McHardy run one of the ticket gates. The Lincolns can't operate without the support and dedication of a bunch of volunteers such as Bourne, Collins, and McHardy.



The entire Lincolns' team, from the four forward lines, three defence pairs, and starting goaltender Matteo Lalama, played their hearts out all post-season long. (All photos by Mike Chennette/McGinny Photography)

SPORTS —

'The perfect end' – U15 B Boys are OMHA Champions

By Spencer Seymour

The A.N.A.F. U15 B Boys St. Marys Rock are your OMHA Champions after defeating the South Muskoka Bears this past weekend in Barrie.

To open the tournament, the U15 B Boys defeated the Napanee Stars 1-0 in their lone game on Friday. Head Coach Gord Cookson said the team had to shake off some rust in their closely-contested tournament opener.

"In the first game, we had to find our feet and our legs again a little bit, just because we hadn't played in a while. We had a long layoff between our last playoff game and this tournament so the boys were just trying to get their reps in again. Each game we played, we started getting better, and by the third game, we were playing three full periods and we found our game again."

The Rock opened the Saturday slate of games with an 8-5 victory over the Lindsay Jr. Huskies, led by a four-goal third period by St. Marys which included two shorthanded markers. Later in the day, St. Marys finished their round-robin schedule undefeated with a 4-0 victory over the Ingersoll Express. Their third-period scoring proficiency against Lindsay carried into the opening frame against Ingersoll, with the Rock scoring three of their four goals in the first period.

In the semi-finals, the U15 B Boys battled the Fort Erie Jr. Meteors for a birth in the Championship game. After two periods, St. Marys and Fort Erie were deadlocked at two goals apiece. But a pair of third-period



powerplay goals and a dominant final frame in which the Rock outshot the Meteors 14-4 propelled St. Marys to the finals.

With South Muskoka downing Ingersoll in the other semi-final matchup, the Bears and Rock squared off for the title. Cookson said that the team's intensity and aggressiveness on the puck which they've developed and honed all year long was the deciding factor in the end result.

"This team just knows how to play and how to win," Cookson raved. "They played hard, every loose puck, they were the first ones on it. When they other team had the puck, they always put a body on them. They moved

their feet really well, which all year has been a big thing for us. Our conditioning was giving us an advantage and it felt like, by the third period, we were dragging the other teams into the deep end."

The third period was once again where the Rock truly took the game over. Through two periods, the Rock held a 2-0 lead but the Bears remained right in the contest. However, a three-goal third period by St. Marys allowed Cookson's squad to cruise to a 5-1 win and an OMHA title.

Cookson described the atmosphere on the bench as the conclusion of the game drew near.

"As we got closer and closer to the end, obviously, it felt great, but the boys did a good job at staying focused on playing right to the last whistle. As we got to about 10 seconds left, everyone on the bench really started jumping up, making noise, and getting excited."

"I just thought to myself, 'we did it,'" Cookson added regarding his thoughts after the final buzzer sounded. "We ended the perfect season in the perfect way. Obviously, it was very exciting for me, for the coaches, and most importantly for the players. Similar to when we won Internationals, this weekend was a feeling you can't replicate."

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St. Marys Minor Hockey announces new U21 Division

A new U21 Division of St. Marys Minor Hockey is being introduced in St. Marys for the upcoming 2023/24 season. 2003 to 2005 birth year players will be eligible to play body-checking hockey in the Shamrock U21 Division. The Executive established three requirements prior to making a decision: sufficient player interest, confirming a Head Coach, and a good number of surrounding centres intending to join the division. All three requirements appear to have been met and the Executive approved the introduction of U21. If tryouts are required, these would be held in the fall. Registration for U21 is now open with a deadline of April 23rd.



SPORTS —

Seven SKC members advance to National Tryout

By Spencer Seymour

This year's World Karate Championship National Team Tryout running from May 19th-21st in Ottawa will include seven participants from the Stonetown Karate Centre (SKC) after a strong performance by the St. Marys students at the Provincial Team Canada Qualifier on April 1st in Brampton.

In total, the SKC contingent brought home six gold medals, three silvers, and two bronzes, as well as qualifying in 15 different divisions.

Beginning with Fox Houston in the 11-12-year-old division, the St. Marys native qualified for the Traditional Weapons, Creative Weapons, and FreeStyle Forms National divisions.

The 42+ Ladies Point Sparring divisions were dominated by St. Marys, with Shannon Campbell taking first in the Under-65kg branch, while Lisa Sheldon earned the top spot on the Over-65kg side. Both Campbell and Sheldon will also be trying to qualify for Team Canada during the National event in the Light Contact Sparring divisions.

Isabelle Lariviere picked up several strong results, including third place in the Under-55kg Point Sparring, third place in FreeStyle Forms, and



Seven members of the Stonetown Karate Centre (SKC) are going to Ottawa on May 19th-21st for the National Team Tryout. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Nathan Campbell, Fox Houston, and Jalyne Lorentz. In the back row, from left, are Shannon Campbell, Lisa Sheldon, and Isabelle Lariviere. Not pictured is Darren Campbell. (Photo credit: Spencer Seymour)

National qualification for 15-17-year-old Ladies Traditional Weapons.

In the 11-12-year-old Under-40kg Point Sparring, Nathan Campbell came away with a strong sec-

ond-place finish.

In the Under-75kg 42+ Mens Point Sparring, Darren Campbell collected a Gold with a first-place result.

Jalyne Lorentz was all over the top of the 15-17-year-old Ladies' leaderboards in a variety of different events, with her accomplishments including first place in HardStyle Forms, first in Classical Forms, first in FreeStyle Forms, second in Traditional Weapons, and second in Creative Weapons.

Sensei Jeremy Lorentz told the Independent that it's a mix of pride and excitement seeing so many local students come back home with so many strong results.

"Our students have put in many extra hours of training preparing for this Provincial tryout," said Lorentz. "Seeing their focus and dedication to be their best has been absolutely amazing. Every member should be extremely proud of their accomplishments and we look forward to the next few weeks of training and their performances at the WKC Canada National Event in May."

The Canadian WKC National Team tryouts draw competitors from all over the country for the chance to be on this year's Canadian squad. Only the top four competitors in each division will make the Canadian National team. The World Karate Championship global event takes place later this year in Orlando, Florida.

Lincolns' lose West Final in five games

Continued from page 12

Bradley also admitted that the absence of Lamoureux hurt the team, but that he was impressed with how rookie forward Jimmy Schiedel was able to play despite having less time than usual to prepare.

"Losing our Captain and one of our best players was definitely a tough pill to swallow and a tough way to go into an elimination game, but the nice thing about our team and the way we play is everyone knows how we need to play and we did as best we could."

"Having to wait as long as we had to on the suspension news put us at a bit of a disadvantage preparation-wise, but I was really impressed with Jimmy's ability to step in and be a solid contributor on such short notice."

In next week's Independent, we'll have an expanded look-back on the Lincolns' season with the Head Coach.

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COMMUNITY —

U9 MD Boys finish season with Gold Medal

By Spencer Seymour

The U9 MD Boys St. Marys Rock finished their season by earning a Gold Medal at the year-end Shamrock Tournament this past week-end.

The U9 MD Boys started the tournament with a close game against Dorchester 2 that the Rock ultimately won by a score of 3-2. The Rock then faced off against Belmont, one of their biggest challenges from this season. Going into the third, the Rock once again found themselves down 2-1. Despite a strong final frame by St. Marys, they weren't able to pull ahead with the game ending 3-2 in favour of Belmont.

The last game of the round-robin was also a must-win for both St. Marys and Mooretown. The Rock rose to the occasion and powered to a 7-1 win. Kane Douglas led the charge offensively with a three-goal performance.

With the win over Mooretown, St. Marys advanced to the semi-final of the tournament with Lambton Shores waiting for them. A slow start saw the Rock down 4-1 at the end of the first. The U9 group, according to Head Coach Jared Stokes, "showed resolve beyond their years," battling back to tie the game at four apiece by the end of the second.

In a hard-fought third frame, neither team was able to pull ahead, sending the game to overtime. In the extra frame, it took just 15 seconds for Cameryn Stokes to fire home the game-winner that sent the Rock to the final.

The Gold Medal contest was a rematch between Belmont and St. Marys. An energized and confident St. Marys squad got Belmont back on their heels with a quick start. The game became a back-and-forth battle with Jaxon Wittig netting the eventual game-winner just under a minute-and-a-half into the third period giving the Rock a 4-2 lead.

Not to be outdone, however, Belmont scored with just 1:20 left in the third, forcing fans back onto the edge of their seat for the rest of the game. In the end, St. Marys; defence and the goaltending of Ryan Pickel held off Belmont for the tournament win and held on to a 4-3 victory to claim the Gold.

Stokes told the Independent that winning the tournament against a team that gave them such great battles all year long was a great way to end the year.


"It was a fantastic tournament all around with some close and hard-fought games," said Stokes. "It was a great result for this group of boys who have put a lot of effort in this



The U9 MD Boys ended their season in winning fashion, claiming the Gold Medal in their Year-End Shamrock Tournament. Pictured above laying in front is goaltender Ryan Pickel. In the first row of skaters, from left to right, are Cameryn Stokes, Edwin Froud, Jaxon Wittig, Logan Masselis, Franklin Anderson, and Jacob Hahn. In the second row, from left, are Aiden Hibbert, Jakob Kittmer, Ashton Ropp, Jack Bilyea, Finnley Harburn, Kane Douglas, Kyle Johnson, and Dean Feeney. In the back row, from left, are Brent Kittmer, Mike Johnson, Jaden Ropp, Mark Feeney, and Jared Stokes. (Contributed photo)

season to improve their skills and their ability to play as a team. Belmont has played us really hard all year long and given us some trouble

this season, so to be able to battle them again and finally come out on top was a great thing for our team."



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SPORTS —

St. Marys Curling's Year-End Champions (Part Two)

'B' Division Champs:



Pictured above (from left to right) is the 'B' Division Championship team consisting of Pete Trumper, Rich White, George White, and Brian St. Clair. Last week, the Independent covered the 'A' Division and Playoff Champions. (Contributed photo)

'C' Division Champs:



Pictured above (from left to right) is the 'C' Division Championship team consisting of Jim McCutcheon, Linda McFadyen, Ann Aarts, Dale Walden, Merlin Leis and Neil Hemingway. (Contributed photo)

'D' Division Champs:



Pictured above (from left to right) is the 'D' Division Championship team consisting of Doug Ranton, Sandra Ranton, Marjie Westerveld, Tom Westerveld, and Alan Johnston who is not pictured. (Contributed photo)

Regular Season Champs:



Pictured above (from left to right) is the Regular Season Championship team consisting of Gerald Weersink, Lindsay McLeod, Deb Weersink, and Barb Seaton. (Contributed photo)

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SPORTS —

Reynen part of strong Wheelchair Curling teams events

By Spencer Seymour

St. Marys resident Tony Reynen was part of Team Ontario 2, which finished first in their pool and seventh overall at the Wheelchair Curling Championship at the end of last month in Moose Jaw. The rest of Ontario 2 included Paul Grose from Ilderton, Jim Law from Lucan, Shannon Wilcox from London, and Jillian Hopkins from Toronto.

Reynen told the Independent that getting back onto the ice was a great feeling after the long pandemic-induced break.

"It felt great to get back to playing the game after the three-year hiatus due to Covid-19," said Reynen. "We faced some great competition. The venue had great accessibility. The volunteers and staff were very helpful and went above and beyond. Moose Jaw is nicknamed the 'Friendly City' and they certainly lived up to it."

Reynen's squad finished the tournament with a 5-3 record and placed seventh out of the 12-team field. In their pool play, Ontario 2 finished first in their group. Reynen added that the team was feeling encouragement from people close to them even when they

were halfway across the country.

"The support we received from our families, friends, communities, and our sponsors, to help get us there was very much appreciated, and we really felt the support throughout our journey."

Then, this past weekend, Reynen and Wilcox reunited in Oshawa for the CurlION Wheelchair Doubles Curling Provincial Championship. The duo came in second place after a strong tournament and 4-2 record, ultimately falling in an exciting final game that came down to the last stone in the eighth end.

Carl Bax and Alec Denys of Peterborough narrowly came away with the 6-5 victory and the title, but Reynen said that he and Wilcox still felt proud of their performance and enjoyed the experience.

"Once again, we had a great experience in Oshawa," Reynen said. "The organizers and volunteers put together a really good event and to get to battle for the championship against such a good team like Carl and Alec, we had a great time. This season ended on a pretty good note and we look forward to next year when we'll be looking to get another shot to compete for the National title."



Pictured above are Tony Reynen of St. Marys and Shannon Wilcox of London, who teamed up to compete at the CurlION Wheelchair Doubles Curling Provincial Championship in Oshawa this past weekend in which they came away with a strong second-place finish after narrowly losing the final game. Late last month, Reynen and Wilcox, along with Paul Grose, Jim Law, and Jillian Hopkins, came in first in their pool and seventh overall at the Curling Canada Wheelchair Curling Championship. (Contributed photo)

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THORNDALE WEEKLY NEWS

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Thorndale's 160 King St.

By Nancy Abra

The large brick building at 160 King Street, Thorndale was originally a school, built in 1924 for both elementary and high school classes. It closed in the mid 1960's, but that wasn't the end for this building. Over the years, it has continued to serve the community as the municipal offices for the Township of West Nissouri until 2001, the Thorndale Fire Department until 2018, a church and a few different businesses.

Today, at almost 100 years old, 160 King is still a vibrant part of Thorndale's commercial area, housing many different businesses and services.

In the former home of the Thorndale Fire Dept, the Thorndale Repair Shop is located. Their service includes everything from general vehicle maintenance to heavy equipment repairs. Tim Muir, owner of Thorndale Repair Shop, a supporter of 'I Love Thorndale', believes "it is important to stay involved with the community."

PrimpHaus, a full-service beautician studio offers a wide range of makeup artistry and cosmetic services. Owner, Michelle Coghlin uses Canadian

products from female owned and operated companies and has a few merchandise items for sale at this studio. Michelle stated, "I chose to open in Thorndale because I saw an opportunity to bring something great here. As a resident of Thorndale, I wanted to be close to my home but also have a location that is convenient for the people of Thorndale and area." Michelle, also a photographer for 12 years, opened under the Effervesce brand 2 years ago. She offers styled photography sessions for newborns to families as well as having a mobile 1964 vintage trailer photobooth for special events. Both PrimpHaus and Effervesce Photography studios are located together in a spacious room upstairs at 160 King St.

Rising Lotus Yoga Studio is an intimate cozy space to express the self and soul through yoga.

Their yoga classes focus on community and aspire to celebrate the unique beauty of each student shared through the practice of yoga. They also offer Pilates, children's and youth yoga. Rising Lotus opened February 2020, right before the beginning stages of Covid. Owner Christine believes that

yoga is a restorative and healing form of self care for your body, mind, and spirit. "This small town has been so warm and welcoming," she remarked. "I believe in the growth of Thorndale and supporting local. I also want to invest in the well being of my community".

Therapy Worx opened at 160 King in September 2020. Sheena Ball has been a Registered Massage Therapist since 2011 and in good standing with the College. She is passionate about providing the best treatment for her patients, each treatment is individualized to help achieve the patient's goals and outcomes in a comfortable environment. Being a country girl at heart and raised on a farm just outside Embro but now lives in London, she remarked, "the comradery of being neighbourly connects us all. A community that extends a proverbial hand to each business ensures we all reach our goals. We are the bragging rights of this town: look what we have, look at our successes. And the businesses support the community in return via event or team sponsorships and prize donations."

The Balloonery and Gift Shop have

been in business in Thorndale for about two years and in January moved into 160 King. Owners, Lori and Christine's passion is balloons, and they also pride themselves on excellent customer service. Christine stated, "We chose Thorndale as this is where I live, and we knew our business would be a great addition to our small town and surrounding community. Everyone of any age always has something to celebrate. From birthdays, graduations to holidays, we are here to help them make their event special. And we love seeing all their smiles when the balloons arrive!"

These businesses mentioned are 'I Love Thorndale' members and for more local businesses, check out www.ilovethorndale.ca/businesses/.

The Thorndale Youth Clubhouse, which opened two years ago, is also located upstairs at 160 King. It is a meeting place for young people with various activities there as well as other programming offered through the Boys & Girls Club of London in the community of Thorndale. (www.ilovethorndale.ca/boys-girls-club-of-london/)

'I Love Thorndale' Easter Egg Hunt a big hit

By Nancy Abra

Last Saturday morning, April 8th, 'I Love Thorndale' hosted and sponsored their annual Easter Egg Hunt. Meagan Graham of Thorndale volunteered to help organize this event. She said, "this is a big hit with our community with more than 250 children of all ages registering but seeing we didn't want to turn anyone away this morning, we were prepared for more, and had just under 300 area children come out." Toddlers to elementary age children gather up the bright coloured eggs out on the grounds around the Thorndale Lions Community Centre to trade them in for an Easter treat bag.

The community centre was a buzz of excitement with lots of fun activities. The Laughing Goat Yoga Studio had a couple of their little goats for children to pet. The Angels Childcare of Thorndale sponsored and managed a children's Easter activity, and Sassy's supplied free coffee outside. Even the Easter Bunny was there for photos. Thorndale Lions were also on hand serving and selling a breakfast sandwich to the hungry event attendees.

The 'I Love Thorndale' (ILT) team is very grateful to all the volunteers who came to help and the businesses for making the Easter Egg event extra special. Many thanks also to the Municipality of Thames Centre for supplying access to the community centre and fairgrounds.

For information on upcoming Thorndale community ILT events and businesses, check out www.ilovethorndale.ca/



Pictured, from left, Arden McClean from I Love Thorndale and Meagan Graham.

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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

Consignments

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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COMMUNITY —

St. Marys Celebrates National Poetry Month, with the theme of "Joy"



Members of the St. Marys Poetry Circle gathered at Barista's last Thursday before a morning of writing poetry in cafés and stores around town. From left to right in the photo: John A. Cull, V.J. Knutson, Susan Snelling, Rosemary Radcliffe, Beverly Blair, Alizon Sharun, Kate Orland Bere and Mary Maika. This coming Friday, April 14th at 7pm, join us for a special Living Library Event at The Friendship Centre, PRC. We are excited to present the first public reading of "The Minimalist Eye", a collection of poems by the Poetry Circle, inspired by colourful minimal photos by Tim Young. This had its first airing as an exhibit at The St. Marys Station Gallery, in March 2022. The Friends of the Library have generously supplied refreshments. Books of the collection will also be for sale. All are welcome.



Joy Is a Bird by VJ Knutson

How is it, Little One,
that you evoke such joy,
unaware that I stand idly by,
too preoccupied to care?

You flit about as if seconds
matter, and standing still
is blasphemy, and my lens
aches to capture you.

Stay with me, but a moment,
sing to me of wings and light,
let our hearts be one – two
souls in fleeting communion.

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COMMUNITY —

HOSTING UKRAINE: We Are Better Than This (Part I)

By VJ Knutson

(Warning: The content of this post may be disturbing to some. Names have been changed to protect the innocent.)

When 41-year-old Igor heard about the Canada-Ukraine Authority for Emergency Travel (CUAET) program, he did his research, filled out the paperwork, and waited. As a tradesperson, he was sure to get work, he'd read. He would come to Canada, get established, and then send for his wife and his daughters. They would no longer live under the shadow of war.

An optimistic Igor landed in Toronto while the buds were just sprouting on the trees. Even though Igor had failed in finding a host, he knew himself to be industrious, and with a little sweat equity, was confident he would succeed. He located a hostel and scoured the work sites for jobs. A chance meeting with another Ukrainian man and he found a job renovating houses. The \$24 per hour cash he earned wasn't enough to rent an apartment, but it

was a start. He would apply for other work, and be turned down again and again – his qualifications were not transferrable in Canada, and without a better grasp of English, employers were reluctant to hire him.

Spring turned to Summer, and then the cold of Winter. Work dried up, and Igor, who had been sending whatever extra money he had back to Ukraine, found himself struggling. What to do? Igor began to suspect his dream would never become a reality.

And then he met Stan. Stan showed up at the hostel in a work truck, asking around about skilled workers. When Igor shared his work history, Stan invited him for coffee and bought him a meal. He had a proposition.

"Leave Toronto," he said. "No one can afford to live here. I need men like you in my town – good workers, willing to get their hands dirty. I've even got a house you can live in, if you're ready to work."

A house. Igor shared his story: how his

wife and daughters were waiting to come. How difficult it was to find work, and housing.

"Not in the country, man," Stan reassured him. "Why don't you just come with me, and check it out?"

What did he have to lose?

Turns out everything.

Without language, or an understanding of our employment regulations and human rights, Igor was ripe for exploitation.

"He was afraid of the police," I was told later. "We found him huddled in a dirt basement, hiding from authorities. The homeowner had warned him to stay out of sight or he'd be in trouble."

Turns out Fire, Police, and Immigration had been investigating Stan. This wasn't his first run-in with the law. Isolated, Igor was working without pay, in exchange for living in a house deemed unsafe for habitation.

This could have been a very different

story, if it wasn't for authorities.

You see, Igor was a victim of Labour trafficking. Traffickers control where a person lives, and create a bond of debt. They make false promises about an employment opportunity and use people who may not know their rights.

According to the Ontario Government, About Human Trafficking page: "There have been labour trafficking cases involving construction, manufacturing, mining, hospitality, salons, agriculture, domestic work, sales and other industries." (<https://ontario.ca/page/about-human-trafficking>)

The Employment Standards Act (ESA) outlines the rights and obligation of employees. If you are in immediate danger or suspect someone is in danger of trafficking call 9-1-1 or your local police service. If you or someone you know is need of support or want to report a potential case, call the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-833-900-1010. It's confidential, free, and available 24/7.

Happy April from the Thorndale Library

Middlesex County Library's 2023 Reading Challenge for April is to read a book that has been or will be adapted into a movie or TV show. NoveList is an online resource that is free to you through the library—it can help you pick a book for this challenge. Visit bit.ly/MCLnoveList and login with your library card number and PIN. Click on "Advanced Search." Then, select "GN Genre" from the "Select a Field (optional)" dropdown list and type "page to screen" in the corresponding search bar. This will generate a huge list of adaptations that you can narrow down using the "Refine Results" feature.

This month, we invite our youngest patrons to join us for Storytime

on Tuesdays at 10:30am. Afterschool hangout is on Wednesdays at 4:00pm. Come play games, make crafts, and spend time with friends. Need tech help? Make an appointment for a Tech Friday appointment at 10:30am (cancelled April 28). Those who love to build will be excited to come to our Lego Party on Saturday, April 15. Tweens are invited to our next Between the Bookends book club meeting on April 20 at 4:00pm. On April 28, we're hosting PA Day Mindfulness and a Movie at 10:30am—join us for popcorn, a movie, and some mindfulness activities.

For more information about our events, or to register, please visit the library or

check out library.middlesex.ca/events. As always, feel free to drop in, call

(519-461-1150), or email (thorndale_staff@middlesex.ca) with any questions. See you at the library!

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Pancake Breakfast

South Nissouri Presbyterian Church



WHAT: Annual Pancake Breakfast

WHEN: Saturday, April 15, 2023 - 7:30 to 10:30 am

WHERE: South Nissouri Presbyterian Church

COST: Adults: \$10.00; Public School aged children \$5.00; Under 5: Free **Tickets available at the door**

MENU: Pancakes & Maple Syrup, Sausages, Eggs, Toast, Muffins & Jam, Juice, Coffee, Tea

INFO: Nancy Fedyk 519-453-5236
Janet Thomson 519-808-1933
Scott McKay 519-614-2268

South Nissouri Presbyterian Church located at the corner of Heritage Road and Oliver Road, Thorndale

HISTORY —

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: 14 Church Street North

By Mary Smith

On Saturday morning, April 1, several hundred St. Marys residents took advantage of the open house in the long-abandoned 14 Church Street North to see this new town asset. Many people had memories of the interior during its previous uses. There was considerable discussion, for example, about the location of the entrance, the seats and screen in the old Lyric Theatre. Those who had been to movies at the Lyric when they were children all seemed to remember a much larger space with vast rows of seating sloping down to a giant screen. Perspectives change as the years pass by.

No one, of course, is now alive to remember the building's first intended purpose. It was the north portion of a large general store that faced Queen Street. In 1858, Samuel Dusty (1826-1912) built a two-storey limestone commercial block on the northwest corner of Queen and Church Streets, just across from the village's market square and municipal building. Dusty had his own shoe and boot-making business in the north part of the block – the portion that today still has a limestone façade on Church Street. By 1860, Dusty had a tenant for the south part of the building with main doors opening onto Queen Street. For the next four decades, the A. Beattie & Co. general store was in this location, selling everything from groceries to clothing to household furnishings. Established by Alexander Beattie, it was continued after his death in 1888 by his partner, Robert Dickson.

A serious fire in 1903 destroyed much of the store's interior. Robert Dickson bought the damaged building from Samuel Dusty and had the store rebuilt, creating an up-to-date department store with red pressed brick walls and two stylish entrances. The main entrance faced Queen Street with a supplementary entrance facing Church Street. (This entrance was used by the visitors to the open house on April 1.) Dickson's business, however, did not thrive in the increasingly competitive 20th century. It was declared bankrupt in November 1917 and closed for the last time at the end of the year. A section on the corner of the building was sold to the Toronto Bank, as the TD Bank was then called. In 1919, Herbert and Florence Sutherland acquired the rest of the large commercial block, gutted the store's interior and made extensive renovations.

The Sutherlands opened a movie theatre in 1920, originally named "The Allen," soon changed to "The Lyric." The floor in the theatre sloped down to the stage at the north end of the remod-

eled interior. There were two aisles, separating the rows of seats, and a proscenium arch to set off the movie screen. The screen could be rolled up, leaving a shallow stage for the occasional live event. Patrons entered the theatre from Queen Street into a foyer where they bought tickets and waited for the movie to start. Then they entered the large theatre. An article in the Journal Argus in July 1933 noted: "In 1930 the Lyric was turned into a modern talkie playhouse with sound picture equipment equal to the best in metropolitan centres." With cowboy shows appealing to youngsters for Saturday matinees and more adult fare in the evenings, the Lyric Theatre was a local entertainment mainstay for 40 years.

The Sutherlands, who lived in an apartment on the second floor overlooking Queen Street, were astute entrepreneurs and owned several movie theatres in southwestern Ontario. In 1952, with Herbert's relatives, George and William Thompson, they established a theatre distribution business – candy, pop, chocolate bars, popcorn, etc. – supplying many area theatres. Their concession business operated from the Garnett House at 18 Church Street North, across the alley from the back entrance to the Lyric Theatre. This business grew into Thompson Confections, and ultimately, through many business takeovers and name changes, became Richardson Foods, the large St. Marys plant that closed in 2016. Florence Sutherland died in 1956. By that time, interest in small town movie theatres was declining because of increasing competition from television, now a fixture in almost every home. Herbert Sutherland retired and although the theatre's projectionist, Charles Stanyon, tried to keep going for several more years, the Lyric shut down permanently in 1961.

The vacant building was purchased by partners Frank Dewdney, a Stratford businessman, and Bert Dalrymple, a local contractor and property owner. Bert Dalrymple had already bought the Garnett House from Sutherland Theatres Limited in 1960. In 1978, Dewdney and Dalrymple sold the theatre portion of the building to Mabel Cline, a well-known St. Marys realtor. She had also been involved in municipal politics, serving as mayor of the St. Marys in 1967, Canada's Centennial year. With Bert Dalrymple as contractor, Mabel's husband, Cardiff (Cy) Cline once again gutted the building, removed all traces of the old movie theatre and, in 1978, opened Stonetown Antiques at 14 Church Street North. The renovations created a beautiful store. Cy Cline had collected antiques for many years and had an



Cy Cline in Stonetown Antiques, 1978. R. Lorne Eedy photographer

impressive inventory, including many pieces from Quebec. A staircase and balcony were built against the south and west walls, providing two levels for display. The large, east-facing windows were opened up and the store was filled with natural light.

The Clines, however, decided to leave St. Marys and move to British Columbia to be closer to family members. James Howgego then took over Stonetown Antiques for several years. In 1985, the building was sold to Martin Humphrys and 14 Church Street North was vacant again. But in the summer of 1988, this location found an entirely new use when it was purchased by the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. Once again the interior was renovated to become a home for the local Pentecostal congregation to meet and worship. They remained at this site for more than a decade.

In 2002, local residents were intrigued to learn that 14 Church Street North had been purchased by John Colm Leberg of Stratford. Leberg was a professional designer who had worked at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival. He and his theatre colleagues were looking for a small venue to use for off-season performances and 14 Church Street North offered this space. Once again, the interior was renovated and seating was created for studio performances. It was given a historic name – the Mercury Theatre, and, while it lasted, it was marvelous. Douglas Campbell and actor friends performed in a Christmas review, for example, and Brad Rudy appeared as Stage Man-

ager in Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*. All this, right here in St. Marys! But, sadly, the venture wasn't viable and it didn't last. The Mercury Theatre closed, and although the space was used for a few more years for occasions, such as art shows and story-telling events, that chapter in the building's history ended.

The open house at the beginning of April was not just about reliving old memories. The town has now invested in the building and there is a great deal of work ahead – not only in repairs and renovations. Town council and administration want input from the public about how best to use 14 Church Street North, along with other municipally-owned buildings, to provide efficient services. Everyone is invited to fill out the survey concerning the Downtown Service Location Review. Find it on line at: www.townof-stmarys.com/dslsurvey. Hard copies are available at all municipal facilities. Also, if readers have photographs to share of the interior of 14 Church Street North during one of its many uses, please contact the St. Marys Museum, 519-284-3556.

SPRING IS HERE!

So is our Spring session of children's meetings!

Where: St. Marys Gospel Hall
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When: Fridays 7.30 PM starting April
14 for 10 weeks

Sing songs, learn Bible stories and verses, Earn prizes
All welcome - rides available

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COLUMN —

FROM THE GARDEN: Sacred plants of Egypt



By Nancy Abra

Our growing admiration of horticulture and gardens can be stemmed back thousands of years to the ancient Egyptians. They were successful growers of grain and fruit crops. Horticulture and agriculture were very important in the lives of these ancient people and their culture.

Queen Hatshepsut, who ruled as Egypt's first female pharaoh over 3400 years ago was one of the most successful rulers, bringing wealth and inventiveness to Egypt. She also is famed for increasing trade relationships with other countries. These trade expeditions consisted of gold, ebony, treasured incenses of frankincense and myrrh but also living plants, flowers and collected seeds. The success of these trade missions was recorded in paintings on the Deir el-Bahri temple Queen Hatshepsut had built on the west bank of the Nile, opposite the city of Luxor.

There are two plants that are

revered sacred in Egypt. The papyrus was the symbol of Lower Egypt and the lotus, the symbol of Upper Egypt. These plants are incorporated in numerous tomb hieroglyphics of hunting scenes and floral offerings. After the unification of Upper and Lower Egypt, these plants were expressed on the head-dresses of the pharaohs but also the intertwining of these two plants were carved into the designs of columns of the ancient temples. (<https://hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/plantexpl.pdf>)

Papyrus of Lower Egypt, *Cyperus papyrus*, belongs to a large family of sedge plants. It is also called the paper plant. It is a grass like aquatic plant native to riverbanks and marshy areas. The papyrus has a thick and tapering triangular shaped stalk that measures approximately 5-8cm in diameter at its base to the wide umbrel flower head, growing to a height of approximately 4m. It grew wild in the Nile Delta region of Egypt. It was long-cultivated and collected for its stalk whose central pith was cut into thin strips, pressed together, and dried to form a smooth, thin writing surface.

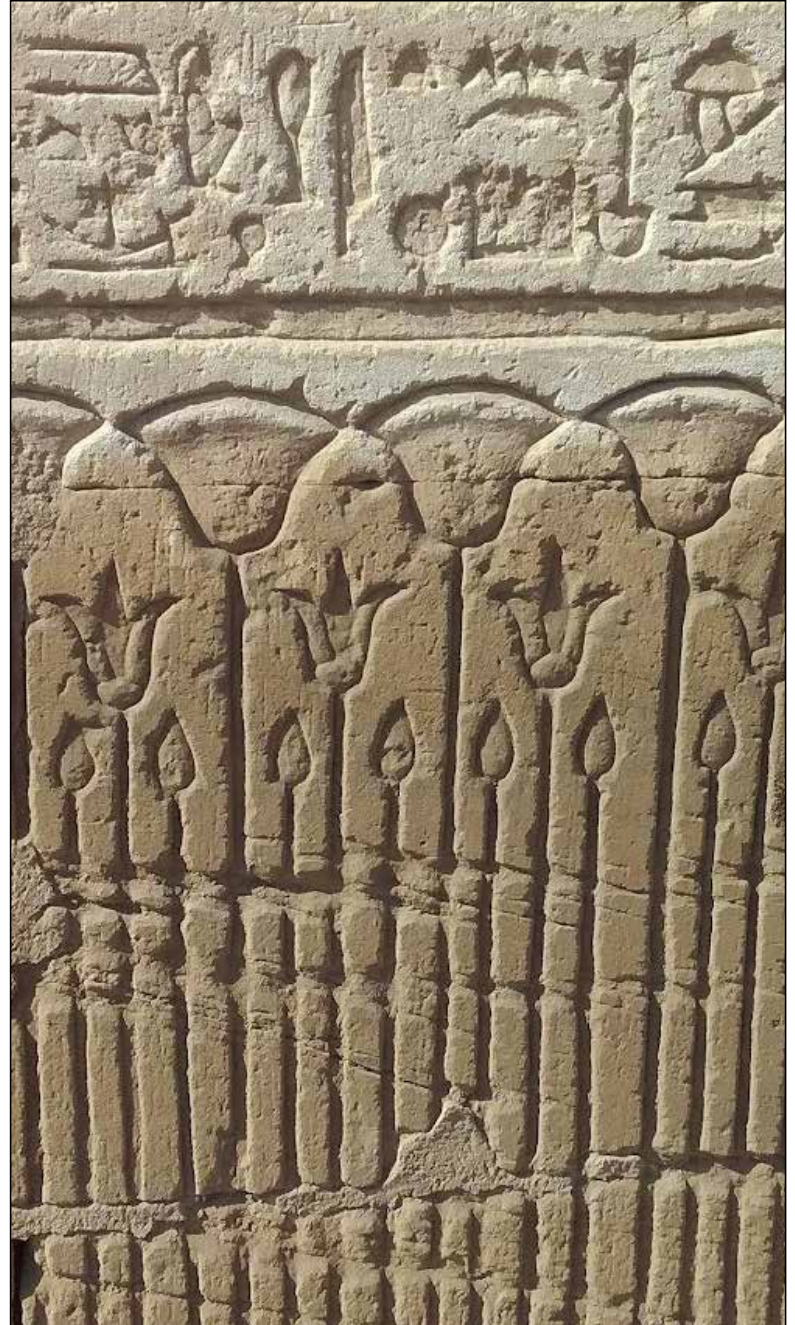
The blue lotus flower was another sacred plant important to the ancient Egyptians. They believed it was

the origin of life – creation and rebirth. They revered it as a symbol of the sun because at nightfall it closes and sank beneath the water. Then at dawn, it rose to appear up above the water to reopen in bloom. The blue lotus (*Nymphaea caerulea*) belongs to the Nymphaeaceae (Water Lily) family. It has several common names including Egyptian lotus, blue water lily, and sacred lily of the Nile.

The blue lotus, a tropical day-bloomer, is a floating aquatic plant that is known for its colorful and aromatic flowers. The leaves are waxy, leathery, and dark green with a reddish-purple color underneath. It had a delightful fragrance and was used to make perfumed oils. It was also used in traditional medicine for thousands of years as a natural aphrodisiac, sleep aid, and anxiety reliever. Painted scenes of the lotus flower and its vessels of perfumed oils are depicted on many of the walls in ancient Pharaohs tombs, showing the importance of this sacred flower.

Sources: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/papyrus-writing-material>

<https://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi>



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 Address: 962726 Road 96 Zorra Township, Oxford County



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THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Thorndale Library events - See Page 21

St. Marys Library events - See Page 29

Friday, April 14

- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog/sausage lunch at Noon

- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 pm

- St. Marys Poetry Circle/Living Library poetry reading with projected photos at the Friendship Centre, PRC - 7 pm

- St. Marys Gospel Hall (632 Jones St E) children's meeting - 7:30 pm, runs for 10 weeks

Saturday, April 15

- South Nissouri Presbyterian Church (corner of Heritage Rd & Oliver Rd,

Thorndale) pancake breakfast - 7:30 to 10:30

- Town of St. Marys hazardous waste disposal at the Municipal Operations Centre, 408 James St S - 8 am to Noon

- A.N.A.F. Bob Lang & Butch Hammond Memorial Pool Tourney - Register 10 am - 10:30 that day

- St. Marys Station Gallery - Renee Knight exhibit meet & greet - 1 to 4 pm

- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm

Monday, April 17

- IG Wealth Management retirement planning event at the Broken Rail Brewery - 7 to 9 pm

Thursday, April 20

- Piecemakers 2023 Quilt Show at the PRC - 10 am to 5 pm, \$10 admission



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Riddles

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|---|--|
| What is the greatest worldwide use of cowhides?
To cover cows. | What do lazy dogs do for fun?
They chase parked cars. |
| What do sea monster eat?
Fish and ships. | What city has no people?
Electricity. |
| What can you catch but not throw?
A cold. | What has forty feet and sings?
The school choir. |
| Which word in the dictionary is spelled incorrectly?
Incorrectly. | Why was the belt arrested?
For holding up the pants. |
| What time is it when 12 cats chase a mouse?
12 after 1. | What is the best thing to do if a bull charges you?
Pay him. |
| What is so fragile even saying its name can break it?
Silence. | What gets bigger and bigger as you take more away from it?
A hole. |
| What goes up but never goes down?
Your age. | What starts with a P, ends with an E & has a million letters in it?
Post office. |

- Word Search -

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

Word List

- Robins
- Easter
- Planting
- Lawn raking
- Summer tires
- Daffodils
- Earth Day
- Tulips
- Daylight saving
- Income tax
- Maple syrup
- Sunshine



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

Why are Teddy Bears never hungry?



Because they are always stuffed.

Colton Blackler (3)

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

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PET OF THE WEEK

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This is Ziggy, a 19 month old golden doodle with the best personality traits of both breeds. She loves to wrestle and run with her friends at the dog park. She loves "love" - gives it and gets it. Ziggy is a member of the Romeril family.



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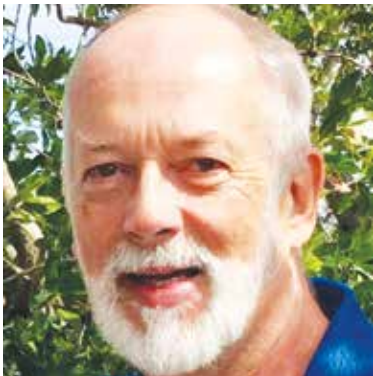
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COLUMN —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: A Nova Scotia golf getaway off the beaten track



By Paul Knowles

Listen... do you hear that? It's the sound of moaning and gnashing of teeth as golfers wait impatiently for the opening of golf season! Soon it will be replaced by the sound of breaking hearts and the smashing of drivers as golfers realize that all of their hopes for a better game this year have once again been shanked into the underbrush.

I can personally attest to this as a dedicated and fairly incompetent golfer.

The bottom line is, golf season is almost upon us. Some courses may already be open. And many golfers will be planning a buddies' golf get-away. Some will dream of iconic courses in Ireland or England; others will look within the borders of this country. Many will say the words "Cape Breton" with a certain reverential tone but a simultaneous concern for the balance on their credit cards.

Well, if you are thinking "golf in Nova Scotia", I have a suggestion – or three to be precise. There is no doubt that the Cape Breton courses de-

serve their well-earned reputations. But last year, I played some really interesting golf courses at the opposite end of the province – less expensive and welcoming clubs in the Yarmouth and Acadian Shores region. They ranged from the West Pubnico Golf Club, a real bargain at about \$35 for 18 holes, to the charming Clare Golf & Country Club (week-day green fees, \$42 for 18), to the iconic Digby Pines where 18 costs between \$70 and \$85 but where you can also stay in a beautiful, heritage inn with terrific cuisine.

All three courses are worth playing. West Pubnico is a municipal course in very good shape. Water is a factor on 10 of the 18 holes, clear evidence of the amount of thought and planning that went into the course design. That amount of thought is also reflected in the challenging greens and by challenging, I mean "devilish" at times.

A real highlight is the island green on the 15th hole.

But what struck me most about West Pubnico was the friendliness and hospitality offered by staff members and local golfers alike. In the clubhouse, in the typical bin of used clubs for sale, was an ancient fairway wood. I commented on its heritage and the manager immediately suggested I take it out and have fun with it on my round. Which I did and it did not improve my game one whit.

One other amenity intrigued

me. West Pubnico players are given a very handy, 48-page course guide with illustrations of every hole and spaces for player's notes. That's a bonus that would usually be associated with courses that cost more like two hundred bucks a round.

Clare Golf & Country Club is a fine course and an obvious bargain. The layout is good. The club has hosted several major provincial championships. Clare was founded 50 years ago but retains a focus on continual improvements to its facilities (like the up-to-date clubhouse) and to the course itself. An interesting side note is that, being in the heart of Acadian Nova Scotia, everything at Clare is thoroughly bilingual – English and Acadian French.

Clare plays 6102 yards from the back tees; 5415 from the reds. As an avid but less than brilliant golfer, I found that the course plays long so swallow your pride and enjoy 18 from the red tees.

And speaking of enjoyment, this is Acadian Nova Scotia so the cuisine in the clubhouse is terrific; seafood chowder (lobster, scallop, haddock and shrimp), lobster poutine, and clam burgers are on the menu and should be on your plate at the 19th hole. Enjoyed with, of course, Clare's house brand of cream ale.

Digby Pines is admittedly the jewel in south-west Nova Scotia. This is a Stanley Thompson course, designed prolif-



The rolling fairways at Clare. (All photos by Paul Knowles)

ic Canadian course designer who also did Banff Springs, Cape Breton's Highland Links and Westmount in Kitchener-Waterloo. But the secret to Digby Pines is that no one has messed with the design since Thompson first began to build it in 1929. It is a beautiful, pristine course and challenging with the usual Thompson touches that create undulating fairways and subtly maddening greens.

There have been plenty of tournaments at Digby Pines, attracting top golfers, but undoubtedly the best-known fan of the course was baseball legend Babe Ruth. The story of the Babe connection is proudly displayed in the lobby of the resort.

In addition to playing the course, I had the opportunity to stay at the Digby Pines Resort. It's a classic. The guest rooms, Churchill's Restaurant and comfortable lounges are

all in a Norman-style chateau built circa 1929, and there are also Maritime cottages around the grounds.

Even if you're not a golfer – although, why not? – Digby Pines is an attractive destination, replete with heritage, yet boasting amenities like a modern spa, superb cuisine, and easy access to all of the fascinating sights in south-west Nova Scotia.

And for golfers looking for something good off the beaten track and a genuine bargain, you could not do better than to plan a golf getaway in this beautiful and culturally diverse part of our country.

Tell 'em Paul sent you. And that he's sorry about all the divots.

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



West Pubnico proudly flies the Canadian flag, the Nova Scotia flag, and the Acadian flag.

FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER IN PERTH SOUTH



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COLUMN —

Straight from the Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

Things are getting crafty here at the St. Marys Public Library with Crafternoons and Crafterdark! Crafternoons are every Tuesday afternoon from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Bring your current projects or work on something new and prepare to be inspired as you craft with company. The Makerspace will be open for use during this time and adult colouring pages will also be available. Crafterdark is much the same as Crafternoons, except that it runs only once a month from 7:00pm to 9:00pm on the third Tuesday of the month. Let's get crafting!

This Week's Recommendation

Crafting and making art is an activity beneficial to

the heart and soul. It can tell a story, convey emotion, and change lives. All three of those things are accomplished with Lenni and Margot's ambitious one hundred years project in the art room of the hospital. Although both terminally ill, Lenni (aged 17) and Margot (aged 83) are determined to create something that can show the world who they are and what they've accomplished. Be equal parts moved and inspired by reading "The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot" by Marianne Cronin, found in our adult fiction section and on Libby.

Up This Week

Friday, Apr. 14th: Crafty Tales (9:30am), A Poetry Celebration with the St. Marys Poetry Circle (7:00pm @ the Friendship Centre)

Saturday, Apr. 15th: Open 10:00am-4:00pm

Monday, Apr. 17th: Open 10:30am-8:00pm

Tuesday, Apr. 18th: Crafternoon (2:00pm-4:00pm), Makerspace Demo Day (2:00pm-4:00pm and 6:00pm-8:00pm), Crafterdark (7:00pm-9:00pm)

Wednesday, Apr. 19th: Play and Read (9:30am), Mahjong! (2:00pm), Writing Club (6:00pm)

Thursday, Apr. 20th: Open 10:30am-8:00pm

LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

Hodge dodge

25 years ago (1998)

Perth and Huron County parents and students prefer a longer summer break than a winter break. Last week, the Avon Maitland District School Board and the Huron Perth Roman Catholic Separate School Board approved a one-week March break for 1999.

The Grand Trunk Trail committee will be selling name plaques for walkway planks, and other Trail memorabilia, downtown during Moonlight Madness this Friday evening.

This Sunday marks the debut concert of the Stonetown Choral Society's newly formed community choir. Numbering 33 singers from Kirkton, Wellburn, Stratford and St. Marys, these singers have been rehearsing for ten weeks to prepare for this concert.

Ron Marriott and daughter Kaitlin of St. Marys were the big winners of a Harley Davidson Heritage Softtail Springer in the St. Marys and District Association for Community Living's annual draw.

50 years ago (1973)

The St. Marys Retail Merchants, as a good-will gesture to shoppers, provided free parking on two blocks downtown last Saturday, and plan the same operation this Saturday. Two youngsters, Chris Glen and Robbie Keast, were employed to keep the meters plugged with nickels from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Local interest in the NHL playoffs is getting an added boost with three former Lincolns in the various series: Jean Paul Parise with Minnesota, Terry Crisp with Philadelphia and Don Luce with Buffalo.

Building permits issued until the end of the first week in April indicate St. Marys may be in for a record year of construction. Over \$600,000 in new construction has been authorized as of April 6. Commercial Courts of London has been issued a permit to erect a 23-unit apartment building on Church Street North, at the site of the former Ruthig Mill. Value of this permit is \$18,000.

75 years ago (1948)

Several local citizens have been sending butter to their butter-less friends in Toronto.

The St. Marys Euchre Club, sometimes familiarly called the "Bull Pen" has been moved from the office space in Savage's chopping mill to the former ladies' beverage room in the Oddy Hotel.

White & May Limited are not waiting for another flood to come along before they protect their basements from the water. Several thousand of brick have been built into the downstairs windows to prevent a recurrence of this spring's damage.

A service station lunch counter in the West Ward was the location of a series of fistic encounters at an early hour Sunday morning. According to local police, some ten persons were involved, half of them being motorists from Sarnia who were believed to be on their way home from a hockey game in Waterloo. Blackened eyes and bruised faces testify to the potency of the punches delivered during the fracas which is said to have followed a verbal harassment. The Police Chief is laying charges, it is understood.

100 years ago (1923)

Mr. Wesley Hodge of the Fullarton town line, while working in the stable on Saturday, was suddenly attacked by an infuriated bull. After attempting to gore him several times, Mr. Hodge finally escaped into the feed passage but not before sustaining a fractured arm and severe bruises. He is now doing as well as can be expected.

The press these days is filled with warnings to the housewife to beware the stranger calling at her doors, soliciting subscriptions for some imaginary fund. Many of these are simply frauds playing upon the sympathies of the public.

A meeting of a number from the different churches who were interested in lacrosse met at the St. Marys Hardware Limited on Thursday evening, with plans to organize the Inter-Church Lacrosse League for the coming summer.

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OBITUARY

Pieroni



With great sadness, we share that Giuliano Gerald (Gerry) Pieroni passed away suddenly at St. Marys Memorial Hospital on April 8, 2023, at the age of 67. Gerry was proud to be born in St. Marys and was the son of the late Vittorio and Iolanda (Peretti) Pieroni.

Gerry will be deeply missed by his family, wife Laura (Mathewson) and children Georgina (Peter), Dante (Naomi), and Dominic (Rachael). Beloved brother of Mary Ruppel (John) and Lorraine Hansen (Brad). Lovingly remembered by his many nieces and nephews, his extended family in Italy, and the Mathewson family.

At a young age, Gerry found community by participating in sports, especially hockey. He enjoyed coaching and supporting his children through soccer and hockey, and was a goalie at heart until the end.

He worked for Habitat for Humanity ReStores for over 24 years, and was very committed to their values of sustainability and affordable housing. As expressions of sympathy, donations may be made to Habitat for Humanity or St. Marys Memorial Hospital, directly or through the W. G. Young Funeral Home site.

Please check www.wgyoungfuneralhome.com for details of the visitation.

OBITUARY

Baker

Baker, 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

OBITUARY

McGregor



Rob Roy McGregor passed away peacefully on April 5, 2023 with his family at his side. Survived his father Robert and step-mother Georgina, sisters Dawn McGregor, Bonnie McArthur (Lee), Nancy Clark (Mark), Terry Hymers (Tony), brother-in-law Gary Milani, step-sisters Sheila Standen, Marg Jordan (Ernie) Mary Ridley, Sherri Hull, step-brother Tom Hunking and several nieces and nephews. Pre-deceased by his mother Gail, sister Kim Milani and step-brother Ronald Hunking. Cremation has taken place. Rob's family will host a Celebration of Life Open House in the Community Hall at the St. Marys Pyramid Recreation Centre, 317 James St. S., on April 30, 2023 from 1 - 4 pm. Memorial donations may be made to Jessica's House Hospice in Exeter or the Canadian Cancer Society. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca

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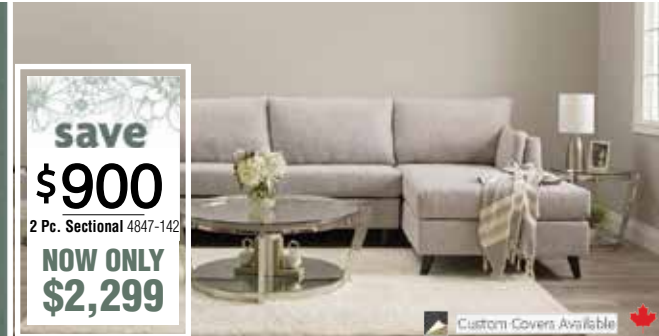
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