

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1188

Thursday, December 7, 2023

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Construction begins on golf course accommodations



Paul Bender of MTH Contracting (in orange jacket) is pictured above discussing the site plan for the Penrose Suite development at St. Marys Golf & Country Club on Tuesday, December 5. (Stewart Grant photo)

By Stewart Grant

Construction activities have recently commenced on Phase 1 of "The Penrose Suites" at St. Marys Golf and Country Club ("SMGCC").

This new short-term housing complex will help "address a critical need for accommodations in St. Marys," said Matt Staffen, who is President and General Manager of SMGCC. "The Penrose Suites will host wedding guests, stay and play golfers, businesses, and tourists."

Phase 1 of the project includes 9 suite

style units, each with a veranda overlooking the golf course valley. There is a combination of two-bedroom units (which sleep up to six guests) and one-bedroom units (which sleep up to four guests).

"Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we plan to have rooms available in August 2024," said Staffen. Of course, exact timing of project completion will depend on many factors including winter weather.

The contractor on the job is former St.

Continued on page 2

Getting Physical in the Stonetown

By St. Marys Independent Staff

At the November 22 meeting of the Recreation and Leisure Advisory Committee, St. Marys Recreation Operations Manager Doug LaPointe highlighted a number of positive trends with regards to participation in sports and recreation within the town.

In terms of soccer, LaPointe shared that both youth and adult soccer have seen a significant increase in registration, noting that minor soccer registration has more than doubled in size since 2019.

For youth ice sports, such as hockey, ringette and learn to skate programs, there's been an across-the-board increase in registration numbers, with "prime time" ice generally being fully booked at the Pyramid Recreation Centre.

A trend towards outdoor activities that emerged during the pandemic has continued. "Tennis participation in town has increased, and pickleball participation has exploded," said LaPointe, who noted that each sport benefits from a vibrant and passionate social club. Attendance at the St. Marys Quarry has also risen considerably in recent years, buoyed by the introduction of the Super Splash Waterpark.

LaPointe reported that minor baseball registration numbers have remained steady in recent years, though adult slo-pitch numbers have not completely recovered from the pandemic disruption. The Hall of Fame diamonds and Teddy's Field are fully booked for the entire season, reflecting a strong overall demand for ball in St. Marys.

Finally, LaPointe noted that programs and scheduling of the indoor pool has changed as staff adapt to current needs as well as work through required updates to the pool infrastructure as it ages. A consultant has been hired to make recommendations for council to consider regarding repairs and maintenance required over the next 2-3 years to ensure the facility remains in good condition for its expected 50-year lifespan, which opened in 2008.

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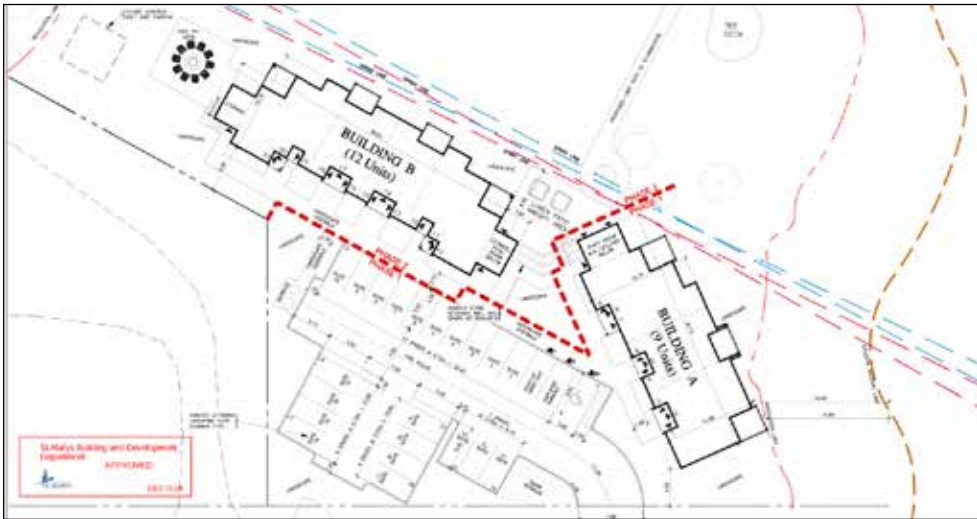


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COMMUNITY —

Construction begins on golf course accommodations



The above drawing shows the differentiation of Phase 1 (lower right hand side) and Phase 2 (upper left hand side) of the Penrose Suite development at St. Marys Golf & Country Club.



Pictured above and below are the East and West Elevation drawings of "Building A" which is the central feature of Phase 1 of the St. Marys Golf & Country Club's Penrose development which just began construction.

Continued from page 1

Marys resident (and current Shakespeare resident) Paul Bender of MTH Contracting.

Staffen said of the various companies involved in the project, "we are leveraging local relationships, sourcing the majority of construction products and

trades from St. Marys, Stratford, and Perth County."

Phase 2, which will begin at a future date to be determined, includes an additional 11+ units and additional outdoor amenities.

Booking is open to the public. More information on booking will come in the Spring.



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December 11th 2023
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Takeout orders are available at 5 pm, Sit down dinner will be served at 6 pm

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0°C	5°C	8°C	9°C	9°C	0°C	2°C
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COMMUNITY —

Kainz taking part in Mackinac Bridge crossing

By Spencer Seymour

For decades in St. Marys, snowmobiling and Rob Kainz have been virtually synonymous with each other and this Saturday, December 8th, Kainz and the chariot that helped first foster his love for the craft will write the next chapter in their story.

Kainz will be travelling to St. Ignace, Michigan to participate in the annual 'Snowmobile the Mighty Mac' crossing of the Mackinac Bridge. The eighth installment of the bridge crossing will see antique snowmobiles, at least 25 years old, cross the Mackinac Bridge from Mackinaw City to St. Ignace.

The event is put on by the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum in Michigan and the proceeds will be donated to charity. According to Kainz, the crossing provides a riding opportunity that isn't as frequent as it used to be.

"They have had as many as a hundred or so snowmobiles cross the Mackinac Bridge which is a huge bridge," Kainz noted. "When I first learned about this and saw that this was happening, I really wanted to participate. This kind of thing isn't happening around here anymore so I'm really looking forward



The machine on the right is being restored for Andy Forman and had been previously owned by Forman's grandfather. (Photo by Spencer Seymour)

to being a part of it."

His participation in the crossing comes with heightened personal importance for Kainz as the machine he will be using is the very first snowmobile that made him fall in love with the craft

back when he was 10 years old. Kainz told the Independent that restoring old machines has always been a passion of his, but this particular snowmobile holds a deeply special place in his heart.

"For me, it's a labour of love. It's amazing that I've owned this snowmobile as long as I have because I don't keep things, generally. I like bringing in new things because as long as I'm holding onto the same things, I'm not always moving forward. But this one is so sentimental and it goes so far back in my childhood that it's really a part of me at this point."

In addition to his 56-year-old snowmobile that he will take across Mackinac Bridge this Saturday, Kainz is also currently restoring a snowmobile for Andy Forman, which had been owned by Forman's grandfather. Kainz said that the machines that have been such a big part of his life, whether he's riding or restoring them, still give him the same thrill.

"It takes me back to my childhood and, when we moved from St. Marys to Prospect Hill, which was like the snowmobiling mecca at the time. My dad had also got me a brand new Ski-Doo and I drove the wheels and track off that and never stopped. My family wants me to do it because they know it's good for me now that I'm retired and it keeps me in a good place."

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ST. MARYS GIVES 2023: WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOUR?



St. Marys Giving Tuesday 2023 is dedicated to Sheila Greason - a true giver and a neighbour to many

Thank You... Thank You... Thank You St. Marys!

Giving Tuesday, November 28th, 2023 was beyond amazing! In St. Marys groups, churches, businesses, service clubs, charities, schools, individuals and friends worked together to be part of the World's Largest Generosity Movement - in fact there were more than 120 different initiatives happening in our Town on Giving Tuesday! In a time when things are challenging you answered the call "Won't You Be My Neighbour".....the Town of St. Marys shouted loud and clear YES!!!!

We dedicated Giving Tuesday 2023 to Sheila Greason - a true giver and a neighbour to many, you would have made her proud St. Marys. The day was magic, you could feel the love in the air and you proved that if we all do it a little it will mean a lot!

On behalf of your St. Marys Giving Tuesday Committee - Marilyn, Julie S., Ellen, Karen, Jackie, Heather, Jean, Maureen and Julie DJ - thank you so very much! Better Together Always!



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Santa....works one day a year but spends the other days judging you.

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



HOW TO LISTEN TO ST. MARYS RADIO

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Bravo

We have 7 Bravos this week.

- 1) To an evening of music with "Harmony of Friends" at the First Baptist Church of St Marys. A most enjoyable time spent with great musicians and friends.
- 2) The newly paved parking lot at the north end of the flats is great! Very much appreciated.
- 3) Bravo to the library staff who helped out the Royal Canadian Legion when they needed a hand with converting documents to a different format. Their help was greatly appreciated.
- 4) Bravo to all the coaches, and managers, and volunteers who are running the Thursday night basketball program at the high school. It is one of the best things to happen, for kids, in St. Marys. The coaching is great- the kids are learning great skills, and having a lot of fun. Thank you!
- 5) Bravo to the wonderful & caring young couple that came to my rescue last Wednesday afternoon. After our first major snow fall, I was visiting my sister & her family in the Meadowridge area & I slipped & fell on some ice/snow. An anonymous young couple drove by & stopped, as they saw me lying on the pavement at the end of the driveway. They both helped me up, as I couldn't get up on my own after I hit my head!
- 6) Bravo to the Independent Newspaper! To Stew and all of the Independent Newspaper staff thank you so much for your generosity in sharing the Giving Tuesday message. You have proved time and again that you are amazing neighbours, thank you so very much! "Won't You Be My Neighbour"
- 7) Bravo to our local Canada Post Office. I ordered a parcel and noticed too late the company had cut off the last 3 digits of my P.O. Box. It had my name and my street address, but I thought there would be some sort of mix-up. Imagine my surprise when the parcel was delivered properly, without any delay. This time of year they are so busy and I didn't think I would get such personalized service.

Boo

We have 2 Boos this week.

- 1) Boo goes to when the booth at the arena during minor hockey games is not open.
- 2) Boo for not having names on the back of jerseys anymore for Minor Hockey games.

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

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

Quote of the Week

"I would like to sincerely apologize to the entire Chicago Blackhawks organization, including ownership, management, coaches, trainers, employees, and my teammates. I would also like to apologize to my fans and my family. I am embarrassed and I have let you all down".

- Corey Perry apologized on Thursday to the Chicago Blackhawks organization after the team cut ties with him earlier this week for what it called "unacceptable" conduct.

St. Marys Independent

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The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS
OF THE WEEK

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Strength doesn't come from what you can do, it comes from overcoming the things you once thought you couldn't.

Courage is not having the strength to go on, it is going on when you don't have the strength

December is a month to forget ourselves for the sake of helping others.

To appreciate the beauty in a snowflake, it is necessary to stand out in the cold.

COMMUNITY —

Giving Tuesday Initiative



In support of Giving Tuesday, Harris-Greig Automotive recently collected new mitts, toques, reusable water bottles, chapstick, and glove warmers for Winter Care Kits for those in need in our Community and surrounding area. As a recent new initiative, the Perth County Emergency and Outreach Team assemble the kits to distribute to individuals who can benefit from them. For more information about this program, you can contact the City of Stratford Social Service Department at 519-271-3773 ext 200 or the Town of St. Marys Community Outreach Worker, Brittany Petrie at 226-261-0098. Pictured above from left, Candice Harris, Judy Greig and Brittany Petrie. (Contributed photo)

STONETOWN

CRIER The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



HOLIDAY BREAK DAY CAMP

Pyramid Recreation Centre

The Pyramid Recreation Centre is offering a Holiday Break Day Camp weekdays between December 27, 2023, and January 5, 2024!

townofstmarys.com/activenet or 519-284-2160



SHOWER PROGRAM

Thursdays, 9 AM - 1 PM | Pyramid Centre

This program provides free showers to those in need. Showers are private, secure and accessible for individuals of all abilities.

Visit Guest Services or call 519-284-2160



HOLIDAY FOOD & TOY DRIVE

December 1 - 15 | Pyramid Centre

EarlyON will be accepting food and toy donations from December 1 - 15. You can drop off your contribution during programs or contact to set up a time.

jkurtz@town.stmarys.on.ca or 226-374-6544

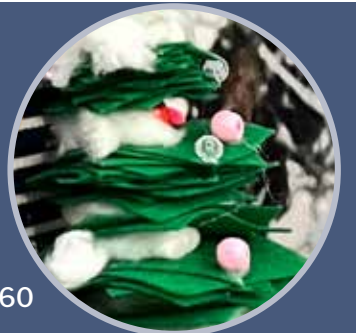


CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT CRAFT

December 7 | Pyramid Recreation Centre

Join the PRC and Stone Home Creatives from 4 - 5:30 PM for a festive evening of making your own ornament to hang on your tree or gift to someone special!

townofstmarys.com/activenet or 519-284-2160



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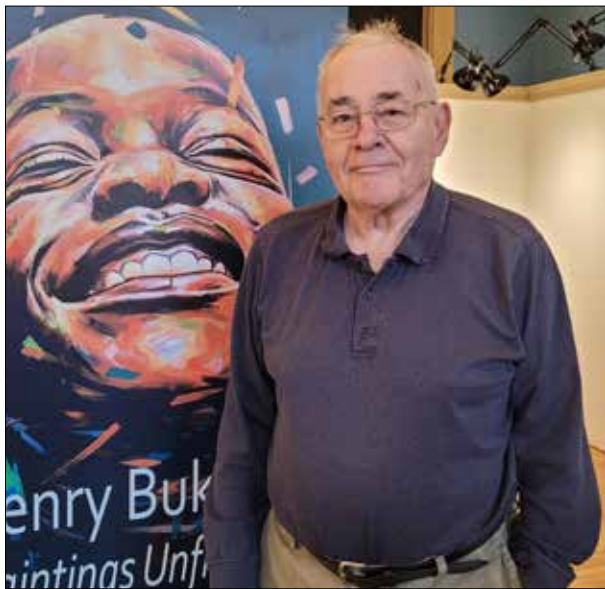
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Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Cameron Porteous. Cameron was born in Rosetown, Saskatchewan. He has been married to Tracy for 31 years. He has four children and eight grandchildren. Cameron has lived in St. Marys for 13 years and is the present curator for the Station Gallery. He worked in production design in theatre, film and television and spent 20 years of his career at the Shaw Festival. His hobbies include model railroad trains and he loves to cook.

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

Weekend Quiz

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- 1) Who was the first U.S President to be assassinated?
- 2) What country has the most natural lakes?
- 3) Which Austin Powers character loved gold?
- 4) Which planet is known as the "Red Planet"?
- 5) What is the square root of 16?
- 6) In 2004, what became the first Morse code characters to be added since WWII?
- 7) What country does curling originate from?
- 8) Which bird has the largest wingspan?
- 9) How many herbs and spices are in Colonel Sanders' original KFC recipe?
- 10) What is the most common eye color in humans?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

COMMUNITY —

Kruz Dumontier named Firefighter of the Month for December

The St. Marys Fire Department is pleased to announce Kruz Dumontier as its "Firefighter of the Month" for November.

Kruz joined the department as a firefighter in 2022. He came with numerous certifications and qualifications that made him a prime candidate for the role.

Kruz grew up in Drayton, Ontario with his parents and three siblings. When asked how he became interested in firefighting, Kruz responded: "My high school shop teacher, Mr. Howells, inspired me. He would talk about his time as a volunteer firefighter and how safety is a priority."

These conversations encouraged Kruz to apply to Pre-Service Firefighting at Conestoga College in 2016.

"I love helping the community, working through challenges with others, and being there to assist during difficult moments," says Kruz. "I am fortunate to be part of a close and knowledgeable crew who hold themselves to a high standard. There are always opportunities to learn from other members of the department."

Off duty, Kruz dedicates his time to his fiancé Jessica, their two dogs and his active lifestyle. Kruz is employed at Toyota Fire Services as an Industrial Firefighter/Fire Prevention Inspector.

"Kruz was selected as Firefighter of the Month for



his ability to learn and his dynamic approach to self-development," said Fire Chief Richard "Andy" Anderson. "He is open to opportunities for improvement and took the initiative to complete the Ice Rescue Technician, Pumper Operations and Auto Extrication Technician courses."

"Kruz consistently demonstrates the ability to learn and adapt to new situations" said Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Edwards. "It's exciting to see new recruits develop into fully qualified firefighters as they are the future of the department."



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COMMUNITY —

To St. Marys With Love



The 2nd annual "To St. Marys With Love" Community Christmas gathering is happening December 17 at the Pyramid Recreation Centre. Organizers Gwen Ament and David Steward are grateful for all the help that makes this event possible and are seen here receiving a wonderful donation from Maggie Whitcroft of Quadro Communications. It is donations and help from so many local businesses and individuals alongside community service clubs like the Rotary Club of St. Marys, Inner Wheel, Kinette Club of St. Marys, United Way Perth-Huron, St. Marys Volunteer Firefighters, and local politicians that make the community event possible. Tickets are free and a few are still available at St. Marys Library, The Sunset Diner, and The Friendship Centre. (Contributed photo)

Library Pantry & Friends Fridge

Take what you need, leave what you can.

Looking to make a difference in your community this holiday season?

Consider donating to the Library's Pantry and Friends Fridge!

Located in the Library building next to the drop-box, the Pantry and Fridge are open to anybody, anytime during our open hours—no questions asked. **Take what you need, leave what you can.**

Monetary donations can be made at the circulation desk, or by contacting the library at 519-284-3346 or

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COMMUNITY —

After a 42 year career, Paramedic Jeff Sager retires

By Wendy Lamond

Jeff Sager, who was born and raised in St. Marys, has recently made the difficult decision to retire from his role as a paramedic, leaving behind a long career of compassion, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the community.

Jeff's career started when he graduated with honours from Conestoga College Ambulance and Emergency Care program as well as the Advanced Emergency Medical Care Assistant program. This would be the beginning of a long, dedicated career that would take him from early days in Warton as an Ambulance Officer to Stratford General Hospital and Stratford Ambulance Service where he was a paramedic and Assistant Operation Manager.

Throughout that time, Jeff graduated with honours from Humber College's Ambulance Management Program showing a commitment to continuous learning that would help his career and be able to better assist those in his path that he could help.

The next 23 years, he was Paramedic Commander then acting Deputy Chief/Commander for Perth County Paramedic Services but also took on various roles from fleet vehicle maintenance to scheduling, asset inventory and public relations assignments. Jeff was not only a paramedic but also a face of Perth County Paramedic Services in the community. He participated in special events like the International Plowing Matches, concerts, career days, Evan's Touch the Truck events bringing ORNG to the event, mock disasters and emergency management exercises.

Although Jeff's career has many highlights, a paramedic's job also has many challenges and emotional traumas as



they are often first on the scene for a variety of situations.

Jeff, reflecting on his career commented, "We work with the ill, the injured, the dying, mental health cases, undesirable conditions and people of all sorts, the families and relatives, other care givers and yet death-defying acts sometimes really do end in death". The emergency services job is a 24 hour, 7 days a week operation that never stops and will often lead to PTSD in this line of work.

He has had a couple of defining moments in his career that stand out the most. One being a tragic accident involving a church group of children that left a lasting impact and emotional toll on him emphasizing the importance of mental health support needed for those that dedicate their lives to helping others.

The other was when he was at a presentation at the Mitchell High School and met student Jenna Chappel. Jeff

noticed that Jenna was very emotional and following the presentation he approached her and asked if he could assist. Jenna told the story of how her father and younger brother were killed in a car accident the year earlier and as it turned out, Jeff was the Commander on duty for that call. A connection was made between the two and they have stayed in touch since then.

In his career Jeff has delivered six babies, saved four lives from cardiac arrest, and has assessed and treated more than 22,000 patients which has involved many neighbours, friends, and family during those calls.

What is next for Jeff? In 2021 and 2022, he completed the Wedding/Funeral Officiant, Pastoral Chaplain Course and was then after completed the Lay Pastoral Minister Course. He will be taking part in baptisms, weddings, elopements, renewals, funerals, and celebrations of life. He will also be helping at Andrew Hodges Funeral Home and Greenwood Court in Stratford.

One of the next steps for Jeff is that he is now the Chaplain for the Town of St. Marys Fire Department.

Drawing on his experience from his career, he acknowledges the challenges and stressors faced by First Responders and traumas that remain hidden beneath the surface and can now help others. He will be leading talk sessions with the fire department and will be there for them after coming back from emergency responses where some extra support and guidance is needed to help cope. One of his passions is picture taking which he will help with training and different events for the fire department.

Fire Chief Richard "Andy" Anderson commented on having Jeff at the fire-hall "Having Jeff as Chaplain was the missing piece of the puzzle. He is 24/7 and he takes care of the firefighters and has brought so much wealth of knowledge from his career and is an integral part of the department".

Leaving a long, challenging career such as Jeff's makes one want to give out many thanks as this work not only affects the paramedic themselves but co-workers, family, and friends.

Jeff would like to thank his wife Deb, their kids Ryan, Amanda, Tyler, families and siblings for their love and support. Also, all the Allied Agencies that he has worked with over the years and the hospitals in Perth County especially the ER departments. A special thanks goes out to Julie Jeffrey, who Jeff worked with for years, her husband David and family for their on-going love and support.

In retirement, Jeff will also be spending some quality time at his happy place in Sauble Beach. He leaves behind not only a professional legacy but a testament to the resilience of the human spirit in all the lives that he has touched. Thank you for your commitment to our community.

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COMMUNITY —

London Pro Musica Choir to Bring Handel's Messiah to St. Marys as a pre-Christmas Musical Treat

By Natasha Regehr

If you have never heard the Hallelujah chorus sung live by an accomplished choir, your holiday season is not complete. Fortunately, London's Pro Musica Choir is coming to St. Marys on Saturday afternoon, December 16, to fill that gap.

Founded in 1970, London Pro Musica is London's oldest unaffiliated choir. Led by Artistic Director Paul Grambo and accompanied by pianist Hayoon Kim, the choir has been bringing fine choral music to the community for over 50 years. Having been directed by some of Canada's most renowned conductors, the Choir has recorded nine CDs and has won the prestigious CBC Choral Competition Award. It has performed often with Orchestra London/London Symphonia and has premiered many new works by Canadian composers. In addition to its regular concert season, London Pro Musica Choir has been involved in various outreach projects over the years. Its December 16th Messiah performance is a fundraiser for St. Marys United Church.



The familiar and popular Hallelujah Chorus is part of an English-language oratorio called Messiah, which George Frideric Handel composed in 1741 using text from the King James Bible and the Cloverdale Psalter by Charles Jennings. It depicts the anticipation and realization of the coming of Christ to bring peace and goodwill

of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, and Part III celebrates his glorification in Heaven.

Although Handel's Messiah was written over 300 years ago, it bears a timely message for us today. As we look at current events around the world, and the dire circumstances of many people closer to home, it is easy to feel that we are living in a time of great darkness. With tragic wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, devastating natural disasters on several continents, and a housing and cost-of-living crisis here in Canada, there are many who are suffering great loss right now. Handel's Messiah brings with it messages of hope during an age of despair: All is not lost; There is still goodness in this world; There is still light; There is still reason to raise a collective "hallelujah" to the universe in celebration of the comfort and peace that is to come.

London Pro Musica Choir's presentation of Handel's Messiah will be at St. Marys United Church, 85 Church St. South, on Saturday, December 16 at 2:00 pm (doors open at 1:30 pm). Advance tickets are \$25 and are available at www.londonpromusica.ca and from St. Marys United Church (519-284-3016), or at the door on the day of the concert.

on earth.

This work is similar to an opera in that it uses soloists and a choir to tell a story, but it does not include costumes, acting, or dialogue. Rather, it uses contemplative and narrative texts to invite the listener to reflect on the spiritual significance of the life of Jesus Christ. It begins with a tenor solo promising comfort to a downtrodden people and continues with the angelic announcement to the shepherds that the Prince of Peace is to be born. Part II details the events



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COMMUNITY —

Amnesty International's Write For Rights Event a Success

By H. L. Meakin

Last weekend saw the kickoff of Amnesty International's annual Write for Rights event occurring throughout the month of December. Snapping Turtle Coffee Roasters generously offered their premises this past Saturday.

About a dozen people turned out to the café to join millions around the world, writing letters on behalf of people whose human rights have been violated as they carry out peaceful activism and protest. At time of publication over 100 letters have been written by the St Marys community!

Every year in early December, Amnesty highlights 10 cases of people who urgently need the global community to shine a light on their plight: unjust prosecution, imprisonment, torture, death sentences, extrajudicial killings. Here are brief accounts of just 3 of these people.

Thapelo Mohapi works with a grassroots organization in South Africa to better the lives of impoverished people, but he has had to go into hiding after threats were made on his life. Three of his fellow activists have already been murdered.

Twenty-one-year-old Sawyeddolah is a Rohingya living in a Bangladesh refugee camp after fleeing the ethnic cleansing campaign of the Myanmar government. He is calling on Mark Zuckerberg and Meta, the company that owns Facebook, to make reparations for the algorithms that amplified anti-Rohingya content on Facebook and resulted in the rape, torture, murder and exile of thousands of Rohingyas.

In Alabama, USA, Rocky Myers, an intellectually disabled man, has been on death row for over 30



years after a judge in 1991 overruled a jury verdict (this is now illegal). The trial was deeply flawed with coerced testimony and no evidence of him being at the crime scene. Amnesty and its members are petitioning Governor Kay Ivey to commute Rocky's death sentence.

Millions of people from dozens of countries write on behalf of these courageous individuals who work for peace and justice knowing they could lose their freedoms or their life. People write directly to the oppressors to let them know the world is watching. We respectfully urge them to immediately release

and drop all charges against these individuals. We write letters to heads of government: kings, presidents, generals, prosecutors. We also write letters to the prisoners themselves to give them hope.

I asked letter writers why they participate in Write For Rights. Paul King explained, "Many of us naively think that our freedoms are guaranteed rights, but freedoms (such as freedom of the press, speech, assembly, thought, and movement) are fragile and are denied throughout the world. When writing Amnesty letters, we learn about persecution and the need to vigorously, courageously but peacefully lobby for freedoms. Thousands of 'Write For Rights' Amnesty letters effectively speak up for oppressed people worldwide."

Nancy Vermond had this to say: "Participating in this event is such a good reminder of injustices going on in people's lives in so many places in the world. There is power in numbers; receiving 1000's of letters on behalf of a particular person cannot be ignored or dismissed so easily as it would if there were only a few. This is such important collective work. Thank you to people in town who keep this going."

It's not too late for you to sign a petition, sign your name to a sample letter, or write your own heartfelt letter and make a real difference in someone's life.

Go to <https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/write-for-rights/> and read about the cases, follow the writing prompts, watch the videos, make use of the toolkits, and write a couple of letters! You'll feel great and it's free! And your letter might join millions of others in restoring freedom to a fellow human being.

St. Marys Museum Holiday Open House



Visitors to the St. Marys Museum Holiday Open House were entertained by Chet Greason and Aimee Jesso of the Bone Radlers. There were many activities including children's crafts, a silent auction, door prizes and festive treats. (Nancy Bickell photo)



One of the children's crafts was creating a "make and take" Christmas ornament. Pictured are the Sharp family - mother Darcy, Della, Charlie and father Jeff who participated in this activity. (Nancy Bickell photo)



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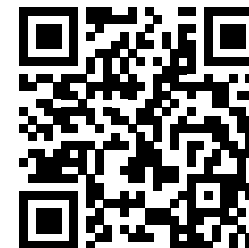
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ARTS & CULTURE —

Art Secrets at St. Marys Museum: Part 1



Emily Taylor, Curator Assistant with former Curatorial and Programming Assistant, Sophie Thorpe.

By Emily Taylor, Assistant Curator, St. Marys Museum, Edited by Alice Rixson

Throughout the years, St. Marys lays claim to many talented artists. *St. Marys Museum's exhibit Painting the Past: Artists of St. Marys* explores the history of some local artists who worked to capture this picturesque town on canvas. In particular, several women are highlighted.

Historically, ladies have been underrepresented in public spheres, including the art world. Many female painters are absent, have simply been erased from history due to the lack of biographical information, anonymity, or by misattributions. Art historians continue to research the lost histories of these artists, eager to place them into the spaces they fought so hard to fill.

One artist highlighted in our exhibit is Mary D. Moscrip (1848-1930). She became a beloved figure within the St. Marys community for her tireless efforts to aid the town's underprivileged children. Mary often raised money by holding benefit concerts and was even known for calling on wealthy neighbours with lists of the supplies for those in desperate need.

Caroline Sparks once remarked that Mary practically snatched the petticoats off her daughters while saying, "My children need these clothes much worse than your girls because there are plenty more from where these came, thank you."

It is conceivable that Mary organized an Art Loan Exhibition in St. Marys, which included many of Mary's pupils. Art exhibitions were special shows most commonly initiated by women in the latter half of the 1800s to benefit the poor.

Acknowledging her philanthropy and generous contributions to the town, Mary was awarded a writing desk, on display at the Museum.

Supplementing her charity efforts, Mary was an accomplished artist and taught art locally. Her name also filled the newspaper; she won numerous art exhibitions throughout southern Ontario.

Another featured artist is Julia Ford (1859-1949). Raised in St. Marys in a notable family, she was studious, well-read, with a passion for astronomy. One of her pastimes was painting, as was many young women of her generation.

There was a time when the Ford family was prominent on St. Marys' social scene. However, the life of the Fords took a tragic turn when Julia's father, Adam, a doctor, was accused of poisoning a patient. Although he was never charged, that allegation ruptured the Ford household and the scandal drove the doctor from town.

Consequently, the doctor was forced to negotiate a mortgage on the home, apparently to finance the relocation of him and his son Arthur to Denver, Colorado. The doctor then transferred ownership of the family home and its entire contents – along with the mortgage – to his daughter Julia to provide a place for her and her mother, Jane, to live.

The family continued to suffer financial burdens for the rest of their lives. Julia was forced to carry this entire financial burden alone. Forced to deal with the monetary chaos and the care of her mother, she repeatedly approached relatives for loans, including the famous violinist Nora Clench (1867-1938), who was also St. Marys born.

Likewise featured in this exhibit is Rachel Amanda Morphy (1846-1927). Throughout her life, Rachel worked as an artist and became a local art instructor, operating her business out of her home studio on Station Street. Twice a week Rachel provided lessons in oil and pastels to eager students. It might be there that young William Greason, another prominent artist, received his first art lessons.

Rachel gained distinction for her contributions to local art shows and exhibitions including those organized by the Women's Art Club of London. She often painted quaint scenes of St. Marys with a technique that gave her artistic interpretations a pleasant, soft atmosphere. She taught many over the years and fostered a community of art enthusiasts in the area.

These are just a few of the artists who have contributed to the collections that can be found in the St. Marys Museum. To learn more, visit *Painting the Past: Artists of St. Marys* during the Museum's open hours of Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



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ARTS & CULTURE —

Station Gallery Exhibits Paintings Unframed by Henry Bukenya



By Cameron Porteous, Curator

No one knows why we choose to go down a particular path in life. Sometimes it is intentional and at other times it is accidental; others will say that it is a "Calling". What is a Calling? A Calling is a pull toward something you need to do; it is an inner voice that you feel you must follow. Such is the case of Henry Bukenya.

Growing up as an orphan in Uganda, Henry was not doing very well at school. He had no parental guidance, and for that matter very little guid-

ance from anyone. Henry spent his school hours daydreaming and doodling images in his notebooks. He was floundering and getting further behind. Then a new art teacher saw Henry's drawings and seeing that this boy had a "calling" opened Henry's eyes to the world of Art. It was infectious and Henry now found his way. While still in the orphanage Henry completed primary school, and eventually enrolled in the Michelangelo College of Creative Arts in Kisubi, Uganda. He had found his dream and this dream kept him going.

Henry Bukenya does not have much of anything, only his talent. His paintings are not created on expensive canvas but on curtain material, old bedsheets or found fabrics.

Regardless, in viewing the works, one is struck by the pure joy in the faces of his subjects. A self portrait shows a young man wearing a pair of broken sunglasses.

The joy of owning sunglasses, even though they are broken, is evident in his beaming smile. Out of the darkness of a hopeless existence one can

only say: "thank-you for the teachers in the world who recognize the 'calling' in a young person and guide them toward the avenues to a meaningful life".

St. Marys Station Gallery will exhibit Paintings Unframed by Henry Bukenya. The exhibition will preview on Friday, December 8, and opens on Saturday, December 9. There is a reception from 1pm to 4pm December 9, 2023. Everyone is welcome!

The exhibition will close on Sunday, December 31.

Cascades

CASCADES AND I.P.C. LOCAL 1: A HOLIDAY TRADITION AND CHALLENGE TO OTHER LOCAL BUSINESSES

It is the holiday season in St Marys, and Santa Claus is not the only one in the giving spirit for another year. Cascades Containerboard Packaging and its union, I.P.C. Local 1, have had a tradition that goes back many years of collecting and donating to the local Salvation Army. Our tradition demonstrates the togetherness and exceptional kindness our Cascades and Local 1 Union have for each other and the community. Additionally, that everything the employees raise is doubled, as Cascades matches the donation drive. Both I.P.C. Local 1 and Cascades have each committed \$2,000 to the Foodbank and \$1,500 to the Toy Drive, resulting in a fantastic donation of \$7,000 this holiday season. In addition to this, we have set up a donation box for our employees to donate food/toys to.

Cascades and I.P.C. Local 1 are working together to challenge other local businesses in, and around, St. Marys to donate to a local charity and give a little bit more cheer to our community. If your business needs a donation box, Cascades is willing to provide one, free of charge. Please stop by the plant between 9am-3pm to coordinate. Cascades Containerboard Packaging and I.P.C. Local 1 wish everyone a happy holiday season and holly jolly donating!

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SPORTS —

Hard work inspires magical late-game comeback by U13 A Boys

By Spencer Seymour

The results to start this season have not been what the St. Marys Firefighters U13 A Boys St. Marys Rock may have hoped for, but if their performance this past Monday against the Strathroy Jr. Rockets is any indication of the kind of effort they are going to bring for the rest of the season, their fortunes could change sooner rather than later.

On a night when they played a very solid overall game but fell behind 3-1 late in the third period, the U13 A Boys dug deep and pulled off a miracle comeback to tie the game at three apiece and avoid the loss.

Head Coach Bob Davis, much like the rest of his squad, was beaming as they came off the ice on Monday night, with Davis praising the group for their much-improved tenacity and mental resolve.

“At times, our aggressiveness has been lacking,” began Davis. “Our timing has been off, the other team would take the puck away from us, and we wouldn’t be first to the puck. So the last six weeks or so, we’ve been working on those elements and we’ve seen constant improvement. Attitude, effort, and not giving up when we’re down have been big things for us that I think they did a much better job of tonight.”

The only goal of the first two periods came off of a Strathroy stick, whose 1-0 lead created at the 6:36 mark of the first period lasted four minutes and 59 seconds into the third until

Hayden Barker evened things up for the Rock on a point shot.

St. Marys continued to push but momentum suddenly and dramatically flipped when the Jr. Rockets scored twice in 29 seconds to take a two-goal lead with under three minutes left in the game. There was a refusal to surrender displayed by the Rock, however, who first got a goal from Landon McDonald, once again on a long-range shot, with a minute and 23 seconds left on the clock. That was followed up by Luke Simons banging home a loose puck right on the doorstep with just 18 seconds remaining.

Although the Rock didn’t come away with the win, it was an incredibly positive outing that Coach Davis believes can be built on in the coming weeks and months.

“At every practice in the last week, we worked the boys hard. We were always teaching them things but we worked really hard and we pushed them to the point of being more tired than they’ve ever been and they responded to it. They were dead tired but they were okay with it. That’s what we saw tonight. Even though it’s only been one week of that, they saw some results from their hard work.”

“They are in the dressing room thinking ‘if we keep doing this, in two and three weeks, we’re going to be better than we are,’” Davis continued. “That’s what we’re building on. It’s like baby steps, you work really hard and then you see positive results from it, it spurs you on to do it again.”



Will Richardson tries to tuck in a wraparound during this past Monday's St. Marys Firefighters U13 A Boys St. Marys Rock game. (Photo by Spencer Seymour)



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SPORTS —

Luke and Rick Debrabandere win Doubles Spiel



Tom and Marjie Westerveld negotiate their stone into the house while Michael Visser and Kevin Rops look on. (Stewart Grant photos)

By Stewart Grant

Curling is one of those sports where experience really counts. First cousins Luke and Rick Debrabandere each took up the game at St. Marys District Collegiate (Luke in Grade 9, and Rick in Grade 11), and six decades later they still throw a good rock. These two gentlemen, now ages 71 and 73, managed to win all three of their games on

Saturday and prevailed with the highest point total at the Remax Doubles Spiel at the St. Marys Curling Club. One of their victories came at the expense of last year's spiel champions, Tom and Marjie Westerveld.

Saturday's draw of eight teams was an "international" field, with Bret Jackson and Julie Benson of the Detroit Curling Club making the drive to St.



Rick and Luke Debrabandere, the oldest team in the field, won this year's Remax Doubles Spiel at St. Marys Curling Club.

Marys for the competition. The couple also played here last week as one of the 32 teams from the United States, Ontario and China competing in the Ilderton & St. Marys Mixed Doubles Spiel.

For the second straight year, Pat Murray and Jeff Jackson were also undefeated in the Remax Doubles Spiel but were edged out on points and



Pat Murray and Jeff Jackson also went undefeated and finished second place for the second year in a row.

thus finished second.

Many local sponsors made the prize table at Saturday's event a win for everyone. These included Cowbell Brewing, Broken Rail Brewing, Premier Equipment in Tavistock, Foundation Poultry, Stonetown Artisan Cheese, Towne & Country Cheese Shoppe, The Hitching Post, Delmar Foods, and Ken Levy.

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SPORTS —

Lincs make statement with blowout wins over Nationals, Stars

By Spencer Seymour

After being shut out by the Chatham Maroons on November 26th, everyone expected the St. Marys Lincolns to bounce back, at least in terms of finding the back of the net. However, very few expected the overwhelming response that the Lincolns had when they travelled to London last Wednesday and trounced the Nationals 9-2.

Head Coach Jeff Bradley told the Independent that his team adhered to the gameplan and took advantage of the increased time and space of the larger Western Fair Sports Centre rink.

"We stuck to what we know makes us successful," said Bradley. "We were responsible on the defensive side of the puck. It was nice to play on the bigger ice which gave us a bit more freedom. We've been moving the puck well but it's a bit tougher to do that on the smaller rinks so it was nice to have more space on the ice."

Going into the game, the Nationals were tied for first place in the Western Conference and their starting netminder, Hayden Sabourin, had won nine of his 10 games with a save percentage of 0.923. The shocking turn of events didn't take long to begin with the Lincolns scoring on each of their first three shots. First, it was Owen Voortman assisted by Matt Prendergast, followed by a powerplay goal by Cohen Bidgood assisted by Chase MacQueen-Spence and Ethan Weir, the latter of whom then scored to make it 3-0 just six minutes and 40 seconds into the game.

In the second, Jaden Lee potted his seventh of the year before James Sigmon scored his first as a Lincoln to make it 5-0 heading into the third.

In the final frame, Nolan Milne got the Nationals off to a hot start with a goal just 25 seconds into the third. The Lincolns answer came fast and furious with Ryan Cornfield scoring twice in 67 seconds. Just a couple minutes later, the Lincs got two goals in 53 seconds from Adam Barkley and Bidgood, the latter of whom also had assists on both of the goals by Cornfield. Overall, the Lincolns went two-for-five on the powerplay and successfully killed off all nine London powerplays.

Bradley noted that the nature of the game allowed St. Marys to give the marquee names a bit more rest and in turn, the younger players more playing time, which guys like Bidgood and Cornfield took full advantage of.

"We have our two top lines but all of those guys played under 15 minutes and that was a credit to the entire lineup having really strong games. Part of it was having to kill off quite a few penalties and trying to get more ice time for guys like Ryan Cornfield and Cohen Bidgood. Those two play a style that is really important for our team. They are always going to the dirty areas so it was really good to see both of them get rewarded."

The bench boss was also very pleased with the play at both ends of the ice by what is typically considered a shutdown trio.

"The Hodgkinson, Voortman, and Prendergast line was really good. It

felt like every time they were on the ice, they had the puck and they were making something happen for us. They started in the defensive zone quite often and Ryan was doing a good job winning faceoffs and Owen and Matt were always in good positions to get the puck out of our end."

Bradley also mentioned what such an explosive night did for the players on the bench.

"We believe in ourselves. We think that we are a very good team. But, you look at our record so far this year against London and LaSalle, it's not as good as we'd like it to be. You can say you're a good team but until you start beating other top teams, you can't call yourself a contender. To beat London like that, it's good for our confidence and a good reminder of the things that we are doing properly."

With fans still riding high 48 hours later, the Lincolns returned home to begin a home-and-home series against the St. Thomas Stars and put forward one of the team's most dominant performances of the entire season, routing the visitors 6-2. According to the official gamesheet available online, the Lincs outshot the Stars 66-27 with the attempted shots, according to the team's stat-tracking software, were even more lopsided.

"We had 103 shot attempts so we definitely were pretty dominant. The big thing for us right now is continuing to make sure that we're treating every game the same way. Whether we're playing the first-place team, the fifth-place team, or the eighth-place team, we want to have habits of playing 60 minutes and I think we've

really started to do that night in and night out."

The first period was the most lopsided in terms of shots on net, with the Lincolns leading 23-5 on the shot clock. Those shots only led to one goal, the ninth of the year for Bidgood, which also helped Noah VandenBrink hit the 100-point mark in his GOJHL career thanks to an assist on the powerplay marker.

"I check that stuff all the time and after the game, we taped the puck and gave it to him," Bradley mentioned. "I was fortunate enough to coach Noah when he was a 16-year-old and you could just tell that he was going to be an amazing player. For him to come back to the place where his junior career started and see him have some personal success and hit a milestone like that is great to see and we're really happy for him."

In the second stanza, Josh Cornfield's second of the year put the Lincolns ahead 2-0. Just 39 seconds later, Jared Woolley got St. Thomas on the board but less than a minute later, Hodgkinson put St. Marys back up by a pair. Later in the period, at the 16:39 mark, Prendergast recorded his eighth of the campaign assisted by Voortman and Jimmy Schiedel.

The third period saw both Ryan's, Cornfield and Hodgkinson, find the back of the net again. Both players were mentioned by Bradley as some of the many players who had great efforts.

"It's hard to pick out any individuals when everyone plays such a great

Continued on page 17



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SPORTS —

Lincs make statement with blowout wins over Nationals, Stars

Continued from page 16

game collectively. But to see a guy like Ryan [Hodkinson] who does so many things well but doesn't always get rewarded with goals. Something he and I have talked about is that he needs to shoot more and he started doing that but the puck wasn't going in for him. Now it seems like the puck is going in a bit more for him and it's all down to him doing so many things right."

"I love that kid," Bradley continued regarding Cornfield. "Ryan is an absolute maniac. I love him. He wants to shred through opponents. He loves this team and he bleeds for this team. It's hard to find kids who are willing to bleed for their team the way that Ryan is for us and we always appreciate it."

Bradley also noted some of the less flashy players who turned in incredibly solid but important games.

"Voortman was great. He just had that extra fire about him. It seemed like he was on a mission. Every loose

puck, he was getting it. Owen was keeping guys outside and holding onto the puck and, most importantly, he's making the guys around him better. Ryder [Livermore] was outstanding. Ryder has been such a great defenceman for us. Mike [Herman] loves that kid because he does everything we ask him to do. Any system, any task we give him, he just goes out and does it."

As a whole, Bradley said that the team's recent surge in both goals and wins has been thanks to the entire team finding their stride when it comes to playing complete games, as well as the players collectively finding another level from within.

"We have been trying to instill in everyone what we think is 'St. Mays Lincolns' hockey. Some guys have known how to do it from the first game and others needed to be taught how to do it. Our leaders have done a great job helping to get everyone where we needed them to be. I've said before that I think the big turning point in our play was when our

leadership group held a players-only meeting. Since then, playing 60 minutes has been a constant mantra that everyone in that room has been playing with."

The Lincolns are on the road this Friday, first in St. Thomas for a rematch against the Stars, then in Komoka for their second visit to the Kings of the year.

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SPORTS —

Minor Sports Scrapbook



Deanna Muir drives towards the opposing net during last Saturday's U14 St. Marys Snipers game.



Trinity Greene battles for a loose ring during the U19 St. Marys Snipers game at the PRC last Saturday.



Evelyn McAllister stops an incoming shot last Saturday during the St. Marys Land-scaping U11 B Girls St. Marys Rock game.



Clark Monteith scoops up a loose puck during last Saturday's U11 LL Boys St. Marys Rock game.



Naomi Maxwell maneuvers the puck through the opposition's zone during this past Sunday's U13 B Girls St. Marys Rock game.



Gavin Terpstra carries the puck over the opposing blueline during the U13 LL Boys St. Marys Rock game last Saturday. (Spencer Seymour photos)

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HISTORY —

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: A “Home Child” Success Story

By Mary Smith

The Friendship Centre offers a program, the Genealogy Support Group, held on the last Tuesday evening of each month except in July, August and December. The group is coordinated by genealogist extraordinaire, Elizabeth Webley, who has many creative ideas for monthly discussion topics. She understands that genealogy is more than learning the names of your great-grandparents – although that, of course, is important. It can lead a researcher down many other interesting paths, such as discovering the social and cultural reasons for immigration, the history of the owners of your old house, or the intricacies of DNA testing.

The topic of discussion at the most recent meeting on November 28 was the “Home Child.” Between the 1860s and the 1940s, more than 100,000 children from the United Kingdom were sent to Canada under various charitable child immigration schemes. Dr. Barnardo’s program was the most famous but there were a number of other philanthropic organizations that also arranged the immigration of the children in their care. Not all of these children were orphans; many were from families who for some reason, such as an illness or a death, were no longer able to provide for them. When they left for Canada, the children were unlikely ever to see their families again.

The organizations believed that they were giving these young boys and girls a chance for a better life in a new country. Canada was growing and was seeking immigrants. In reality, many of the home children were made to work as indentured farm labourers or domestic servants. At first, the programs failed to provide sufficient resources to follow up on the children’s welfare in their new homes. Many were bullied and abused and certainly most would have been very homesick and lonely in strange surroundings. As the programs continued, more care seems to have been taken with placements. Follow-up visits of inspection were made more frequently. Some of the home children’s stories did have happy endings.

This was the case for Carrie Dixon. Readers of the Historic St. Marys column were introduced to Carrie in June 2020 when her granddaughter, local resident Ann Pedley, shared some very interesting documents and photographs explaining how Carrie had arrived in this country. It was right in the midst of the pandemic and Ann was taking advantage of the lockdown to organize her research into her family’s history. However, some potential archival sources for more information were also closed for the duration. Still, Ann persisted, and her inquiries directed overseas were eventually answered. At last week’s genealogy meeting, she reviewed Carrie’s background and updated the group on her latest discoveries.

Caroline Nethel Dixon was born on December 12, 1896, in Dublin, Ireland, the daughter of George Dixon and Elizabeth Quincy who had been married in September 1870 in Dublin. Carrie was the youngest of their children, with one older brother and five older sisters. Her mother, Elizabeth, was 17 when she was married and 43 by the time Carrie was born. Her father, George, died sometime after Carrie’s birth. Ann has yet to discover the cause or exact date of his death. However, by the 1901 National Census of Ireland, Elizabeth was a widow. She and her five youngest children were living with a married daughter, Catherine, Catherine’s husband, Martin McEvoy, and their three-year-old daughter – nine people representing three generations living together in one small house. Two of Elizabeth’s children, George and



Frances, were old enough to work and so were able to bring in some money for their family’s support. But then George lost his job. In early 1903, Elizabeth’s health was poor and the situation was desperate. She made a difficult decision: she applied to have her three youngest daughters accepted into a Smyly Home.

The Smyly Homes of Dublin were established ca 1860 by Mrs. Ellen Smyly, the wife of a Dublin surgeon and the mother of five children of her own. She was appalled by the suffering of the many needy children in the city and set up group homes where both boys and girls could be fed, clothed and educated. By 1900, Smyly Homes were accommodating up to 1500 children. Ann Pedley has copies of the application forms that her great-grandmother had to complete to have each of her three young daughters placed in one of these Homes: “I, Elizabeth Dixon, hereby apply to the Committee of the Girls’ Home to admit my child as an inmate of said Home.” These applications were accepted and Maggie, age 12, Alice, age 10, and Carrie, not yet 7, were admitted to a home called the “Birds Nest.”

The children remained in the Smyly Homes until they were 14 years of age. Maggie, therefore, left first but she kept in touch with Carrie. Several affectionate letters have survived and so Ann knows that Maggie’s married name was Hart and that she lived in Dublin. Her husband was badly injured in France during World War I. Alice was the next to leave. By this time, the Smyly Homes had made arrangements for some of their boys and girls to emigrate to Canada. In 1909, Alice, now 16, was one of a group who departed from Liverpool, arriving in Quebec City on July 12. She then travelled by train to the Coombe Home in Hespeler. The Coombe was an old, lime-

stone mansion, purchased by the Smyly organization as a receiving home for immigrating children. They stayed there long enough to be prepared for their Canadian placements on farms or as house servants. Ann was able to discover that after leaving the Coombe, her great-aunt Alice eventually married and lived in the Guelph area for the rest of her life. She and Carrie kept in close touch.

In 1910, Elizabeth Dixon made another difficult decision about Carrie. She signed an application “that my child may be emigrated to the Coombe Home in Hespeler, Ontario, and remain there for such time as the Manager sees fit, and I agree to be content with such provision as the Manager of this Home may hereafter make for my child’s welfare.” Carrie was not yet 14. The photograph with this week’s column was taken in Ireland before she left – perhaps so that her mother would have a keepsake. Carrie was sent with a group of other children, sailing from Liverpool and arriving at Quebec on July 29, 1910. From there, the Smyly children were delivered to the Coombe Home in Hespeler.

Canadian families wishing to have a Smyly child filled out an application and paid a \$3 fee. There were conditions. For example, employers had to make sure the children attended church and Sunday School regularly. Applicants were required to provide a letter of reference from their minister. If the child did not suit, he or she could be returned to the Coombe on two-week’s notice, the employer paying train fare back to Hespeler and also sending back “clothes as good and valuable” as the ones the child had arrived with. In fact, Carrie’s first placement in a home where she had the care of young children did not work out. She was returned to the Coombe for disobedience.

The second placement, however, was successful – rather surprisingly, since this young city girl was sent as a domestic to the farm home of Hugh and Annie Russell near Motherwell. Their two sons, Roy, age 20, and Hubert, age 19, were also members of the household. Carrie found herself helping Mrs. Russell in the house but also learning to milk cows and to handle a team of horses in the field. An inspector from the Coombe visited yearly, each time sending back positive reports. “Carrie is well and happy and giving every satisfaction.” “A good home. Mrs. Russell is a motherly person.”

On June 9, 1914, Carrie Dixon married Roy Russell, Hugh and Annie’s older son. They had four children, three girls and one boy, Art Russell, Ann Pedley’s father. Ann estimated that there are currently 15 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren and 45 great-great-grandchildren, all owing their existence to Elizabeth Dixon’s decision in 1910 to send young Carrie to Canada.

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Four Decades of Dedicated Service

By Nancy Abra

After 40 years on the Thorndale Fire Department, Dave Cove of Thorndale is returning his 'pager' and retiring.

Dave Cove joined the Thorndale Fire Department in April 1983. One of his jobs was the maintenance of the equipment and annual safety checks of trucks which he did in his automotive shop in Thorndale. "The trucks back then were simpler," he said. "Now they are much more complicated. We even take courses to run them."

In those early years on the fire department, Cove said he manned the hoses, then took over running the 'rescue unit'. "We have a very difficult job to do but we have fantastic equipment to do that job. I have worked with the best crew," added Cove. "It is like a brotherhood. We mesh as a team and rely on each other in the life and death circumstances to serve our community. Speaking as

a mechanic, the Thorndale Fire Department is like a well-oiled machine."

Being a 'tiered response' fire department since 2008, the majority of the calls are vehicle collisions with personal injury or calls when someone is in cardiac or respiratory arrest, vital signs absent or are unconscious. "I mostly have good memories," Cove remarked, "the bad or troubling calls you work through them, just like grief and we support and help each other to get through them too."

District Chief, Ken Armstrong said, "Dave has always been an asset working in town with his own business and has one of the best attendances to both training and calls. When his pager goes off during working hours, he was out the door and the first guy at the fire hall to answer the radio. And I am sure he sleeps with his boots on too. We all will miss Dave, especially all his stories. He is one of a kind."



Christmas Market Show supports beyond the Community

By Nancy Abra

The 'Shake-the-Sugar-Tree' Christmas Boutique Market show held at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre on Saturday November 19th benefited the local economy and beyond. Approximately 1500 people attended to do some Christmas shopping from over 80 local vendors, selling their wares from Christmas décor, clothing, jewelry to sweets and wooden toys. This market also supported the school, groups, and organizations of the area.

With each vendor donating a gift for the raffle, people purchased tickets which raised \$690.00 for ChildCan, London chapter. This social service organization helps families with children who are affected with cancer providing personalized and compassionate programs and services to them through their child's cancer journey from diagnosis to post-treatment care, or bereavement.

"I would like to thank everyone who came out to support our Christmas Market," stated organizer,

Sharyl Vandendries. "Thorndale may be a small town, but it has a huge heart when it comes to supporting local. And I know there were lots of people from London and beyond who also attended. I am delighted that we raised \$690.00 for ChildCan."

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COLUMN —

HOSTING UKRAINE: A Ukrainian Christmas

By VJ Knutson

To accompany the countdown to Christmas, I bought Ric and Lesia an advent calendar. Two days into the month, Ric asked me if Lesia understood the concept. She hadn't, so together we worked it out. Advent calendars, I realized, would not work with Ukrainian tradition, as they celebrate Christmas in January. Or, they did...

Breaking from Russian influence, and responding to a government decree, many Ukrainians are opting to embrace Western customs and will be celebrating on December 25th. Others are not so quick to change, preferring to celebrate according to tradition on the 6th and 7th of January. Either way, as my friend Svitlana explained to me, Christmas is a religious holiday, so not the day of gift giving. Gifts are given on December 31st, which explains to me why all Ukrainians call wrapping paper, New Year's paper.

Decoding Ukrainian traditions is not as easy as it might seem. Many have happily shared with me their rituals, but I'm not sure I can do it justice. I'll piece together what I do know.

Caroling is a big part of the Christmas holidays. Going door to door, the carollers (adults and children) offer wishes for peace and prosperity for the upcoming year. In



exchange, children are given candy and coins to bring them good luck. In some regions, Nataly writes, children dress up and make a comic nativity scene. This, I am interested to see.

Food also plays an important role in celebrating Christmas. As I understand it, leading up to Christmas, fasting is involved. On Christmas Eve, there is a 2-hour church service, following which, Ukrainians feast. 12 dishes adorn the Christmas table,

representing the 12 apostles. One of these dishes, Kutya, our community was introduced to at last year's Ukrainian Christmas celebration. Kutya is boiled wheat, poppy seeds, honey and dried fruit, although I'm told now, it is served in many variations of the traditional.

Didukh, made from the stalks of grains, is given a place of honour in the house, symbolizing prosperity. Dumplings are also served, and for one guest, a coin found in their

dumpling foretells luck.

"Christmas is when everyone is expected to travel home," my friend Svitlana tells me. "This is why it is so difficult right now, as few are able to do that." It is why I've been following up to make sure everyone has a place to go for Christmas.

Christmas, not unlike our New Year's, is a time of reflection for Ukrainians. Reflecting on all the good things that happened in the past year, and wishing one another all the best for the year ahead.

I hope that I have been able to capture the rich tradition and spirit of a Ukrainian Christmas. I know that we all wish our newcomers joy and peace as they settle into life here in Canada. If you have questions, I am pretty certain our Ukrainian friends will be happy to educate you further. Don't be shy to ask.

Just a reminder that Friday is Alina and friends' cirque performance. 7 pm at DCVI. Tickets, \$25, available at the door. Fans of Cirque de Soleil will be awed by jaw-dropping feats. A perfect show for the whole family to attend.

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COLUMN —

FROM THE GARDEN: Aromatic and versatile



By Nancy Abra

One of my favourite herbs is Rosemary, maybe because it is very aromatic and very versatile in both savory and sweet recipes. But it also has a long and interesting history.

Rosemary is a native of the warm Mediterranean countries, growing wild along their coasts. So, it makes sense its Latin name, 'rosmarinus' means 'dew of the sea'. In the northern areas of the United States and in Canada, rosemary is considered a tender perennial, meaning it should be potted up and brought indoors to survive our cold winters. I have found rosemary a little tricky to over winter, as it needs to have good drain-

age, good airflow, little watering but likes to be misted occasionally.

In January or early February, it blooms whorls of delicate small pale blue or light pink flowers. I have been growing rosemary in pots to bring indoors for many years trying to keep it healthy from one season to the next with some successes and disappointing failures with only a handful of times my 'indoor' rosemary has delighted me with its blooms.

Legends and folklore for rosemary dates back thousands of years. The ancient Greeks believed this herb improved memory. Rosemary was also believed to have strong powers against evil in the Middle Ages. People put sprigs of this herb under their pillows to ward off evil spirits and protect them from nightmares. So great was this believed power, churches would hang rosemary on the walls, and burned it like incense at the altar. Being a strong antiseptic, it was used to purify and cleanse the air of bedcham-

ing.

Rosemary has been used as a flavouring herb since the time of the early Greeks and Romans. It adds amazing taste to roasted meats especially lamb, soups, stews, and potatoes, but its many uses go beyond culinary. The pungent scent of rosemary is excellent in moth-repellent sachets and makes a marvellous rinse for dark hair that stimulates the scalp to help prevent dandruff. A strong infusion of rosemary and water can be used as a mouthwash to kill bacteria, or gurgle to sooth a sore throat.

Besides being the herb of remembrance, rosemary was considered a symbol of love. Young brides would wear wreaths of rosemary and flowers, sprigs in their hair or in their bouquets as a symbol of their dedicated love.

As I mentioned, Rosemary is one of my favourite herbs and I have created this delightful Rosemary Cake recipe, so I hope you get a chance to make it to enjoy with friends and family over the Christmas season.



Nancy's Rosemary Fruit Cake

- 1/2 c softened butter
- 2/3 c white sugar
- 2 beaten eggs
- Zest of a med orange & its juice (1/4c)
- Beat together until creamy
- Then mix in the following:
- 2c all purpose flour
- 1 1/2 tbsp baking powder
- 2 tbsp finely chopped fresh rosemary

1 c of sultana raisins plumped (in warm water for about 10min) & drained

1 c of roughly chopped red & green glazed cherries

Combine well, then fold into a 9x9 or 10x10" greased pan, spreading the batter out evenly. Bake in 350F oven for 30 to 35 min or when pricked with a toothpick comes out clean. Cool. Then ice with a glaze consisting of icing sugar, orange juice and 1tsp of finely chopped fresh rosemary. Enjoy with friends over a cup of tea or coffee.

CHRISTMAS REGISTRATION IS OPEN
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Solutions on page 31

- Word Search -

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Word List

- Texas Rangers
- Remembrance Day
- Vegas Baseball
- Stonetown Arts Show
- Town Hall renos
- Santa Claus Parade
- Avonbank tractors
- Hospital Foundation
- Corey Perry released
- Giving Tuesday
- Pay It Forward
- Nainas Indian Kitchen

THE WEEK AHEAD

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PRC & Friendship Centre events - See the Stonetown Crier on Page 5
 Thorndale Library events - See Page 29

- Friday, December 8**
- St. Marys Cement community liaison committee meeting at the Municipal Operations Centre - 10 am
 - Royal Canadian Legion hot dog/sausage lunch at Noon
 - A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 pm
 - Cirque performance at DCVI - 7 pm, Tickets are \$25 available at the door
 - St. Marys Lincolns vs St. Thomas Stars at Joe Thornton Community Centre - 7:30 pm
- Saturday, December 9**
- Thorndale Community Christmas open house at Thorndale Farm Supplies - 10 am to 2 pm
 - Natural Healing Learning Academy open house at 196 King St, Thorndale
 - McCully's Hill Farm photos with Santa - 11 am to 2 pm
 - Station Gallery opening reception of Henry Bukenya exhibit - 1 to 4 pm
 - Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 pm
 - St. Marys Lincolns vs Komoka Kings at Komoka Wellness Centre - 7:15 pm
- Sunday, December 10**
- McCully's Hill Farm photos with Santa - 11 am to 2 pm
- Monday, December 11**
- Benefit dinner for the Salvation Army Food Bank put on by Campbell's Catering at St. Marys United Church - Takeout meals available at 5 pm, Sit down dinner at 6 pm. Tickets available at Wine Lab, Indy newspaper, TD, Lyric, Zenfire, Delmar, MacPherson Barber Shop, Campbell's Catering



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OF THE WEEK

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Maclean Ross (7)

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PET OF THE WEEK

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



Our Pets of the Week are two Berner (Bernese Mountain Dogs) girls who love their daily pack walks with their humans, the Middleton Family. Even though they are getting old, Yemi 13.7 and Malaika 10.6 years old, and Yemi's hind legs are giving up, the walks in the stroller, such as here on the Grand Trunk Trail, are always appreciated.



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

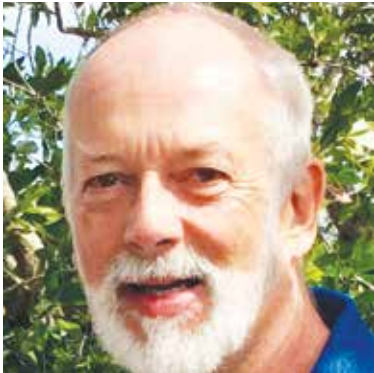
Pet Safety in Cold Weather Week #1
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COLUMN —

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: A tale of two Abbeys



By Paul Knowles

Living in southwestern Ontario, it is not a frequent occurrence to run into a monk or abbot. In fact it has never happened to me. So when, during our road trip through parts of Québec in August, I was offered the chance to visit not one, but two abbeys, I jumped at the chance.

While we visited and toured both Abbaye Saint-Benoit-du-lac on the shores of Lake Memphremagog and Abbaye d'Oka, in the community of Oka in the Laurentians, we actually got to stay at the latter for a couple of nights.

The Abbaye Saint-Benoit-du-lac is the real deal. It is a functioning monastery inhabited by monks and lead by an Abbot who we encountered during our tour. Oka Abbey is no longer home to a religious community. It has been converted into an event space, open for weddings and other celebrations, with plenty of rooms for overnight guests and a very fine restaurant.

But both were fascinating destinations. And both, coincidentally, have been known for their production of local cheese. That continues at Saint-Benoit-du-lac where we completed our tour with a cheese tasting but at Oka,

the brand that still bears the iconic name is actually produced nearby, at a huge Agropur plant.

Both abbeys are well worth a visit for very different reasons. I have studied church history but still managed to learn a great deal more from our in-depth tour of Abbaye Saint-Benoit-du-lac. We

thought we had come to taste cheese but that was almost an after-thought to the lengthy, informative tour of the place. It was essentially an "everything you ever wanted to know about monastic life, but were too uniformed to even ask" tour.

Saint-Benoit-du-lac was founded in 1912 by two Benedictine monks from France (along with two brothers). Today, 30 monks continue to live at the Abbey following the monastic rule of St. Benedict.

The tour introduces visitors to St. Benedict and the 73-chapter "Rule" that guides the daily lives of the monks.

The building itself is an architectural gem and visitors get to see much of it, including the very modern church. Prior to the cheese tasting (and inevitable stop at the gift shop), you will watch a video in which a number of frankly charming monks explain their reasons for choosing their celibate, monastic life.

And finally, the cheese – excellent stuff. In 1943, the monks at this abbey made the first blue cheese produced in Canada and continue today to make five varieties of blue cheese, as well as Gouda style, a goat milk cheese, and more... 350,000 kilos of cheese annually. All overseen by one of the monks who also

must find time to attend the eight or so religious services every day.

On the other side of the St. Lawrence and a 177-km, two-and-a-half hour trip including a stretch through the heart of Montréal is the Abbaye d'Oka, now, more properly called the Auberge de l'Abbaye d'Oka, because it is a hotel and event space, no longer an abbey.

But the presence of the monks and brothers is never far removed as you walk through the place and especially as you stay in one of the not-very-renovated rooms. Most have no bathroom. You share one, including private showers, just down the hall although there is a sink. However, and this is important, there are robes in the rooms to render your hallway trek to the bathrooms more modest.

There's no TV and hovering over the king size bed (undoubtedly a luxury the monks would not have enjoyed) is a giant photograph of a priest and a monk, peering down at you. A tad disconcerting but it quickly morphs into part of the charm of the place.

And I cannot mention this soon enough. The abbey's "Sacre'-Bistro" is a superb restaurant, highlighting the local products of this "foodie" paradise in the southern Laurentians. My mouth-watering dessert came from Fays Terroir Chocolaté just down the road.

One morning at the Oka Abbey, abbey team member Julie Provost Beauregard guided us through the enormous facility. Founded in 1891, Oka at one point was home to 180 monks. That era ended



The Abbaye Saint-Benoit-du-lac, on the shores of Lake Memphremagog in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. (All photos by Paul Knowles)

in 2008 when the eight remaining monks moved to the Abbaye Val Notre-Dame in St.-Jean-de-Matha, 121 km. north-east of Oka.

The abbey is decorated with huge photographs illustrating the history of the monastery.

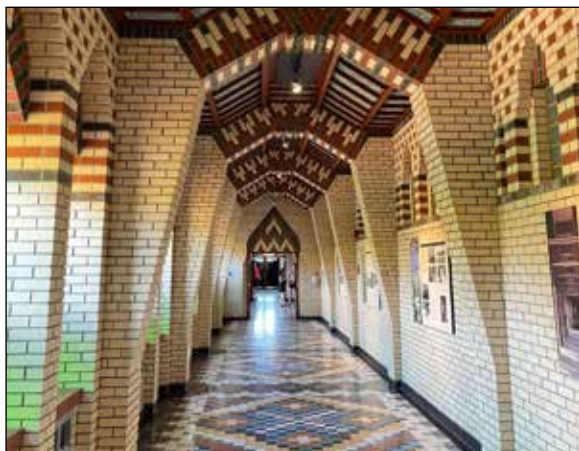
Ten years after the monks moved out, the current owner purchased the sprawling property and opened it as a wedding and event venue and inn. Last year, Beauregard told us, there were 42 weddings in the beautiful, but now deconsecrated, chapel.

And about that chapel – when this version of the monastery

was built (after fire destroyed the original), the Vatican had mandated that a chapel in an abbey had to have walls of black marble. So it does. But the monks didn't like the look and covered the marble with oak – as it is still seen today.

So maybe the monks' well-known vow of "obedience" had a little wiggle-room after all.

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and President of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.



One example of the amazing architecture at Abbaye Saint-Benoit-du-lac.



L'Abbaye d'Oka, in the community of Oka, Québec.

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COMMUNITY —

Kettle Volunteers



The U11A team spent a few hours collecting donations for the Salvation Army this past Saturday and had the opportunity to meet and thank their team sponsor, Social Thirty- One Restaurant. Thank you for your support of the Salvation Army's kettle campaign and of your ongoing sponsorship of St. Marys Minor Hockey.

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COLUMN —

What's on at the Thorndale Library

Let it snow! The weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful at the Thorndale Library and there is always lots to do at the library in the month of December.

Don't Worry, Be Crafty! is the adult paint night. It meets on December 13 at 6:00pm. Registration is required. On December 29th at 11:30am create intricate paper snowflakes with hidden pictures using our snowflake templates. Registration is required. Please visit library.middlesex.ca/events or contact library staff at 519-461-1150.

There are also drop-in programs at the Thorndale Library. On Tuesdays at 10:30am, it is 'Storytime' for little ones and their caregivers. The last 'Storytime' for 2023 will be December 19 but it will be returning on January 2, 2024. School-aged children are invited to

Afterschool Hangout on Thursdays from 4:30-5:30pm with the last Afterschool Hangout of the year being December 21 but will return on Thursday, January 11, 2024.

December is the last month of Middlesex County Library's 2023 Reading Challenge. Visit bit.ly/MCLnovelist and log in with your library card number and PIN. Find the prompt "I'm in the mood for books that are..." and select an age group: "Ages 0-8" or "Ages 9-12." Happy reading!

The library will be closed on Monday, December 25, Tuesday, December 26 and Monday, January 1 for the holidays. For programming hours call 519-461-1150, or email thorndale_staff@middlesex.ca with any questions or to register for upcoming programs.

LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

Population nears 4,000

25 years ago (1998)

Some downtown merchants, including Colonial Plates, M&M Variety, and Damen's, are demonstrating strong civic responsibilities from evidence of their weekly piles of cardboard left at curbside for recycling.

Transportation Technology students at St. Marys DCVI have had a more realistic classroom experience thanks to the donation of several lawnmowers and marine outboard engines from area residents. The program also recently received two vehicles from Fanshawe College.

Bottled garlic or bottled botulism? It's up to you! The Perth District Health unit reminds residents that while gifts from the kitchen can be thoughtful and welcome presents, please be aware of food-borne illnesses.

50 years ago (1973)

Last week friends and comrades of the Salvation Army Home League met to honour Mrs. Mamie Green, 27 Salina Street, in the Salvation Army Hall. Mrs. Green was at the opening of the Salvation Army in St. Marys in 1908 and was one of the first members of the Home League when it started in 1911.

A local Cub Scout had an opportunity to carry out a rather unusual good deed recently when he released a small dog from the clutches of a muskrat trap along a local stream near the downtown area.

Due to the large number of entries, a minor change has been announced for the Santa Claus parade route this Saturday afternoon. The parade will depart from the Collegiate parking lot at 2 p.m. and will travel down James to Queen Street, and down Queen to Water Street south where it will disperse at the arena.

75 years ago (1948)

The roofers were busy this week laying the tar and paper roofing materials on the new Gleeson Motors showroom and the Nelson Bonis garage building.

On Monday evening, Manager Art Fort of the St. Marys PUC received a telephone message from the local H.E.P.C. sub-station advising him that another five percent increase in power quotas was granted, effective immediately.

Most readers are not perhaps aware that the Journal-Argus has a carrier boy in Thorndale. He is John Hogg, 10 years old. John, who is in grade 6 at school, is often accompanied on his rounds by his faithful dog, "Skipper".

100 years ago (1923)

According to the Assessor's report to Council on Monday night, the Stone Town's population is 3,971.

Doctor and Mrs. J.C. Bryan have given us a glimpse into their recent travels to Bethlehem, Cairo, Luxor, Rome, Monte Carlo, Paris, Brussels, and cities in Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. They noted that the Dead Sea certainly was dead enough. The water had a horribly salty, bitter taste and not a fish nor a bird of any kind was to be seen about.

Thomas Young, veteran moulder of the Richardson foundry, had his foot painfully burned on Tuesday afternoon while engaged in pouring off a cast. A ladle full of molten metal was accidentally upset upon his foot. A doctor was called, and the injured man removed to his home. Owing to the serious nature of the burn, Mr. Young will probably be laid up for some considerable time.

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Monday to Saturday noon - 6pm
Deadline is December 16th

MEAT DRAWS EVERY FRIDAY 6PM

Community Liaison Committee

The next Community Liaison Committee Meeting will be held on Friday, December 8th at 10am at the St. Marys Municipal Operations Center. Members of the public who wish to observe are welcome to attend.

Residents who wish to speak in front of the Committee may submit a detailed request in writing at least 3 days prior to the meeting in writing to the Committee. The request will be considered by the Committee and approved prior to the meeting. Please submit all requests, questions, and concerns for the meeting to kara.terpstra@vcimentos.com by December 6th, 2023.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Seeking newspaper boxes and stands

Looking to buy old newspaper distribution boxes or display stands. Please contact stew@granthaven.com or text or call 519-868-1290. Send picture of item(s) if possible.

Wanted

\$ Cash Paid \$ for your RECORDS and LPs. Jazz, Blues, Rock, Pop, Fold, Soundtracks, and more. Selectively buying CDs, Cassettes, Turntables, and Stereo Equipment. For more information: Diamond Dogs Music 114 Ontario St. Stratford/ 226-972-5750

Wanted

A working camcorder that will play Hi-8 digital tapes. Phone 519-284-3774

Wanted to buy

All collectibles including sports cards, beanie babies, Funko pops and stamps. Highest prices paid. Free appraisals. Call or text Stan anytime 519-868-3814.

For Sale

2 Men's Winter Coats
1 -Black Leather Coat
1 -7 in 1 Coat (which means can be changed into different types of coats)
Both Size 2XL
Phone 519-284-4068

For Rent

Bright One Bedroom Apartment. Completely renovated, new kitchen, new bathroom, insuite laundry.
Downtown St Marys - \$1500 / month plus hydro
Call or text Ann 519-501-9190

For Sale

611T Tempo Treadmill - \$ Make an Offer
Call 519-393-5576 after 6pm

For Sale

Barbie Doll - Pink Label, Rose Splendor in Box - \$ Make an Offer. Call 519-393-5576 after 6pm

For Sale

1 7ft step ladder
1 10ft extension ladder
3pc couch/ chair/ loveseat -green
4 Tires 245R4518 Motormaster Winter Edge with rims
Negotiate call Lorne 519-275-1885

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SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

OBITUARY

Smith



Gordon L. Smith passed away at Woodstock Hospital on November 20, 2023 at the age of 86.

Husband of Darlene (King), married 66 years. Father of Frederick (Kellie Thistle), Stephen (Lynn Worte), Elise Vervoordeldonk, Lee (Susan), and Karl (Donna). Missed by

20 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Predeceased by his parents Ellis and Sadie Smith.

Gordon worked his life farming and trucking.

Visitation was held at the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, 47 Wellington St. S. St. Marys, on Friday, Nov. 24, from 2 – 4 & 7 – 9 pm. The Funeral Service was conducted at the funeral home on Saturday, Nov 25, at 11 am. Reception to follow at Purple Hill Country Hall, 20903 Purple Hill Rd, Thorndale.

Interment in Grove Cemetery at a later date.

Memorial donations may be made to Grove Cemetery or the Coffee Group at Browns United Church.

IN MEMORIAM

Deery

In memory of Ron Deery

In loving memory of a husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather who passed away Dec. 3rd, 2011

Never more than a thought away

Quietly remembered every day

Forever in our hearts

Love Dianna and family

THANK YOU

Huge THANK YOU to the neighbours of Ontario St North and Widder St West who came to our "Won't You Be Our Neighbour" gathering on Giving Tuesday bringing donations for the women and children of Optimism Place. Your generosity was overwhelming. St. Marys is a truly giving community.

Marilyn, Laurie, Laura and Diane thank you for participating in our meet and greet, and Optimism Place of Perth County thanks you for your generous donations.

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1)Abraham Lincoln | 6)The "@" symbol |
| 2)Canada | 7)Scotland |
| 3)Goldmember | 8)Albatross |
| 4)Mars | 9)11 |
| 5)4 | 10)Brown |

OBITUARY

Smale



Stuart Smale passed away at Stratford General Hospital on Saturday, Dec 2, 2023 in his 97th year.

Survived by his children Blake (Margaret), Gary (Sandra), Ken (Wendy), Karen McLagan (Jim), Lori Ward (Don), Ellen Haid (Al), Marvin Hartwick (Orrie) and son-in-law Jim

Dickenson. Also survived by 26 grandchildren and 42 great-grandchildren. Predeceased by his parents Harry and Vera Smale, wife Joyce (nee Mason) 1963 and Ilene Hartwick (nee Sherritt) 2004, daughter-in-law Dianne (nee Kemp) 2021, son-in-law Robert Morris 2005 and daughter Shirley Morris (nee Hartwick) 2021.

Stuart established his Holstein herd at Downiedale Farms and he enjoyed every single day. His family and his cows were his pride and joy. Visitation at the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, 47 Wellington St. S. St. Marys, on Tuesday, Dec. 12, from 2 – 4 & 7 – 9 pm.

The Funeral Service will be conducted at the ST. MARYS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 147 Widder St. E. St. Marys, on Wednesday, Dec 13 at 11:30 am. The Funeral Service will be livestreamed on the St. Marys Presbyterian Church Facebook page. Interment in St. Marys Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to St. Marys Presbyterian Church or the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation. Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

THANK YOU

Herbert

I would like to thank the doctors, nurses, family, friends, neighbours for all the help they have done for me since my fall and still are doing. Anyone I didn't mention I am sorry. Also thank you for all the cards and phone calls. Thank you again.

Carol Herbert

THANK YOU

Boscarato

It was a cold, wet night, but hearts were warm on Tuesday, November 23, 2023 at the pork dinner I hosted at the St. Marys United Church in honour of the Richards family.

Many thanks to everyone who bought a ticket or helped out at the dinner. In particular, I want to thank Delmar Foods for their generous contribution of vegetables and dinner rolls, Sunset Diner for whipped butter, and Gilly's Pub for some take-out containers.

We sold approximately 325 tickets, and after expenses, were able to present Young and Lincoln with a cheque for \$6,500.

St. Marys is a wonderful place. I am honoured to be able to live and work in such a caring, committed, and charitable community.

Sincerely, Sergio Boscarato

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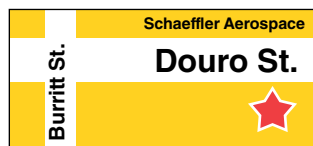
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