

St. Marys Independent

36 Water St. S., St. Marys ON | 519.284.0041 | info@stmarysindependent.com | www.stmarysindy.com

Issue #1272

Thursday, July 24, 2025

FREE

Black's Financial Services Inc. Call us for details 519.284.1340

TERM	GIC	GIC INSURED	Are you taking advantage of the TFSA?
1 year	4.10	*All rates subject to change without notice*	1 YR 3.40 - 3 YR 3.62 - 5 YR 3.79
3 years	3.83		
5 years	3.90		

For more products and Financial Advice call us today!

AROUND THE WORLD WITH STONETOWN TRAVEL

JOIN US ON ONE OF OUR GROUP TRIPS



EXPERIENCE DUBAI WITH GOWAY
JANUARY 16-27, 2026



BALTIC CRUISE
AUGUST 11-22, 2026



CHRISTMAS MARKETS ON DANUBE
NOV. 26 - DEC. 5, 2026

Main Office: 150 Queen St E, St. Marys, ON N4X 1B4
519-284-2332 agent@stonetowntravel.com TICO#50010159

www.stonetowntravel.com

RIVER VALLEY

FRIDAY 9 & DINE

9 holes, cart & dinner \$46
(Fish & Chips)
Live music with Jess & Andrew Damen

THURSDAY SWINGS AND WINGS

9 holes, cart & wings \$46

CALL US FOR INQUIRIES AT
519.225.2329
WWW.RIVERVALLEYGOLFANDTUBE.COM

Minor ball asked to relocate from East Ward Park as Town of St. Marys looks to take ownership



FIELD OF DREAMS

Pictured is East Ward Park, formerly the site of three of St. Marys' oldest settler cemeteries, as it appears today.

(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Delays in Wellington and Victoria reconstruction project leave area residents frustrated

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Last week, the St. Marys Independent received a submission to our weekly Bravos and Boos section from a local resident frustrated over the impact delays in the final stages of the Wellington Steet and Victoria Street reconstruction project have had on their property and that of their neighbours.

The Boo, published in this week's paper, reads as follows:

"Boo to the town in regards to the construction project at Wellington and Victoria Street. This project has been going on for close to a year. Nothing has been done for weeks now. Everybody's front yards are all torn up. One would think that for the amount of taxes we have to pay, that the town would at least show some respect and finish what was started. St. Marys residents take pride in our community and we expect nothing less from you."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 8

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As the town works to take ownership of the properties known collectively today as East Ward Park, the land's former purpose as three of the town's earliest settler cemeteries is coming back to haunt current park users.

East Ward Park, once known as the Elgin Street Cemeteries or The Old Cemetery, has long been registered as three separate parcels, with St. Marys' Anglican, Presbyterian United and Wesleyan Methodist churches each owning a parcel. Now, as the town works to take ownership of the land, staff brought in the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO), a government-delegated authority and not-for-profit corporation administering provisions of the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act.

As part of the process for taking ownership of the properties, the town had to inform BAO that the land was being used for active recreational purposes, including St. Marys Minor Baseball's use of the two small ball diamonds at the park and the children's play structure. BAO then opted to inspect the site and notified the town that "active use of a cemetery is in violation of the 'quiet dignity' the souls resting at the property are legally expected to enjoy."

"We will not be able to confirm the specific implications to the cemetery lands at East Ward Park until we receive our direction from the BAO," town CAO Brent Kittmer told the Independent. "However, during the BAO inspection, we were advised to do what we could to relocate active uses from the cemetery as soon as we could, which is why minor baseball was relocated to Milt Dunnell Field. At the moment, we are proceeding with the assumption

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

BIG NEWS

STONETOWN KARATE IS GROWING

NEW!

SECOND LOCATION ALERT

THORNDALE
OPENING SEPT. 2ND

STK
Karate - Cardio Kickboxing

WWW.STONETOWNKARATE.CA



Heidi James

Sales Representative for Coldwell Banker Homefield Legacy Realty, Brokerage
150 Queen Street East, St. Marys, ON
Cell: 519-274-2234 | Email: hjames71@live.com

*Each office is an independently owned & operated member broker of Coldwell Banker Affiliates of Canada



COLDWELL BANKER

COLDWELL BANKER HOMEFIELD LEGACY REALTY, BROKERAGE

COMMUNITY

Minor ball asked to relocate from East Ward Park as Town of St. Marys looks to take ownership

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

tion that the baseball diamonds and the playground will physically need to be removed, and that no further active uses will be permitted in the park going forward (including) sports, hosting of events, etc.

"We won't be able to fully develop our plans for the cemetery lands until we have received the BAO direction and secured ownership of the land from the three churches. After that, what we would like to know is what constitutes a 'passive' use. If amenities like trails, seating areas, etc. fit the definition, I could reasonably foresee the town coming up with a masterplan to add these types of amenities to the property over the coming years."

For now, however, the current users of East Ward Park will need to relocate to other parks in town, including St. Marys Minor Baseball, which has used the two ball diamonds at the park for its under-five and under-seven divisions. Dan Murrell, president of St. Mary minor ball, says the move won't cause too much of a disruption and noted he appreciates the town's support in relocating the two divisions to Milt Dunnell Field.

"The move to Milt Dunnell Field will only affect a couple weeks of our age groups that play at East Ward Park, and we have appreciated the town's support in facilitating this transition. Our primary focus is ensuring that our young players continue to have a safe and enjoyable environment to play and develop their skills," Murrell said, noting the East Ward Park diamonds had been well-suited for the organization's younger players.

"The Milt Dunnell diamonds are suitable for our needs in the short term for this age group. We are grateful for the town's assistance in making this transition as seamless as possible."

When reached for comment by the Independent, BAO manager of communications David Brazeau said the BAO thanks the town for alerting the regulatory organization to the history of East Ward Park and it is working with the municipality on restoring the land to its intended purpose as a cemetery.

"As the regulator, we have no further comment on this matter while we work

with the municipality," Brazeau said.

Mayor Al Stratthdee also offered his apologies to St. Marys Minor Baseball and the public for any inconveniences resulting from this process.

"We are working with the BAO to become compliant with the regulations and respect the provisions of the Ontario Cemetery Act. We will have more information regarding plans in the near future," Stratthdee said.

Information contained within this article was presented to town council at its regular meeting July 22, which happened after the St. Marys Independent went to press. Any updates or agreed-upon actions from that meeting will be reported on in next week's edition of the Independent.

With land set aside for the settler cemetery as early as the late 1840s, it was left to fall into disrepair by as early as 1857. By the 1880s, the three protestant cemeteries were in trouble; after three decades of burials, they were running out of space. Through the early 1880s, town council formed yearly committees to study the situation and called for the establishment of a new cemetery.

The cemeteries were ordered closed on Dec. 31, 1885, and council decided a new cemetery would be owned and operated by the municipality. That new cemetery was ultimately established on farmland owned by the Guest family, adjacent to the Catholic cemetery at Cain Street. The cost of 23 acres for a new cemetery was \$3,500 and council held a bylaw referendum to approve that expenditure.

Meanwhile, The Old Cemetery was established as parkland, but for a long time, neither the churches that owned the property or the town maintained it. Over the next 80 years, gravestones for some of the town's earliest settlers with names like Hutton, Iredale, Guest, Lancaster, McLarty, McVannell, Birtch, Falconer and more were frequently vandalized, stolen or left in piles.

It wasn't until the 1960s when local service clubs and the town's recreation department pulled together to clean up The Old Cemetery and turn it into a children's play area that included playground equipment, benches and two small ball diamonds.



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

This plaque at the East Ward Park was installed by the St. Marys-on-the-Thames Historical Society in 2003. It describes the early history of the St. Marys Cemeteries.



STONETOWN
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Unit 1, 60 Water Street South
St. Marys, ON | 519.284.4448

GIC	RRSPs	TFSAs
1 year - 4.10	1 year - 3.91	1 year - 3.50
3 year - 3.83	3 year - 3.68	3 year - 3.62
5 year - 3.90	5 year - 3.81	5 year - 3.79

*Rates subject to change without notice *Minimum may apply

INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO REVIEWS - CALL TODAY

PROVIDING SOLUTIONS TO MEET YOUR ESTATE, FINANCIAL & RETIREMENT NEEDS!



Jeff Swan
BRE, CFP



Greg Swan
Investment Representative



Cheryl Campbell, CFP
Life Insurance Specialist

jeffswan@stonetownfinancial.com

7 Day Forecast - Weather Sponsored by



The HITCHING POST



Wednesday
July-23rd

Sunny



28°C

Feels Like
33

Thursday
July-24th

Mainly sunny



30°C

Feels Like
41

Friday
July-25th

Thunderstorms



27°C

Feels Like
37

Saturday
July-26th

Thunderstorms



28°C

Feels Like
37

Sunday
July-27th

Mainly sunny



29°C

Feels Like
38

Monday
July-28th

Sunny



30°C

Feels Like
38

Tuesday
July-29th

Mainly sunny



29°C

Feels Like
37

MOTORTREND

MOTORTREND'S
#1 COMPACT SUV
FOR 3 YEARS
IN A ROW.

NISSAN
60th ANNIVERSARY

2025 ROGUE

FINANCE FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS AT

0%

APR

OFFER APPLIES TO SL, PLATINUM
AND PLATINUM TECH TRIMS

**LIMITED
TIME
OFFER**

FREE DASHCAM WITH
EVERY NEW VEHICLE
PURCHASE

Stratford NISSAN

2001 Ontario Street, Stratford ON

519.273.3119

www.stratfordnissan.com

STRATFORD NISSAN

STORE HOURS SALES: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00-8:00; Fri.-Sat. 9:00-6:00

PARTS AND SERVICE: Mon.-Sat. 8:00-5:00. FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, OUR SERVICE DEPT IS NOW OPEN ON SATURDAYS

*She doesn't care about apps
or updates. She just wants
to hear your voice.*

**Stay connected with a landline
that's simple, reliable, and always
there.**

- No dropped calls.
- No passwords.
- No confusion.

**Because sometimes,
simple is just better.**

QUADRO

WWW.QUADRO.NET | 1-800-265-4983

EDITORIAL

Colbert’s cancellation the latest sign of media manipulation

STEWART GRANT
Publisher

“Folks, I’m just going to go ahead and say it: Cancel culture has gone too far,” joked Stephen Colbert at the start of his late-night monologue on Monday.

CBS announced last week that the network will end “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert” and retire “The Late Show” franchise in May 2026, which was stunning news for the highest-rated show in late-night television. The Late Show has run successfully for over 30 years (David Letterman was its first host back in 1993).

“This is purely a financial decision against a challenging backdrop in late night. It is not related in any way to the show’s performance, content or other matters happening at Paramount (CBS’ parent company),” CBS said in a statement.

Many people are not buying CBS’ explanation, including myself. Powerless to do much else, I canceled my Paramount+ streaming subscription over the weekend, as did thousands of others.

On Monday’s Michael Smerconish “Stuck in the Middle” radio show, the question of the day was, “Why was The Late Show with Stephen Colbert cancelled?”. Of the 39,879 votes tabulated online, 79.04% chose “Politics” while only 20.95% bought the CBS’ official reason of “Ratings and revenue”.

One person who was certainly de-

lighted with CBS’ Colbert announcement was U.S. Donald Trump, who has long been called out and ridiculed by the popular comedian.

“I absolutely love that Colbert got fired,” wrote President Donald Trump on his social media platform, Truth Social. “His talent was even less than his ratings.”

Chances are, Paramount has decided that it is better to appease Trump than to stand by Colbert, who recently spoke out against his corporate bosses in settling a \$16 million lawsuit against CBS’ “60 Minutes” that was put forth by Trump. Paramount is hoping that Trump won’t stand in the way of its proposed \$8 billion sale to the Hollywood studio Skydance Media.

“I believe this kind of complicated financial sentiment with a sitting government official has a technical name in legal circles. “It’s a ‘big fat bribe,’” Colbert told his audience. “Because it all comes as Paramount’s owners are trying to get the Trump administration to approve the sale of our network to a new owner, Skydance!”

All things considered, there seems to be much more to this Colbert decision than what CBS is letting on.

As Colbert’s time at CBS comes to a close in 2026, hopefully he will reach an even greater audience through other channels in the future. A democratic society cannot allow media messages to be influenced by the desires of politicians.

Bravo	Boo
We have 1 Bravo this week. 1) Bravo to Spencer Seymour for his editorial in the July 17/25 Indy. He said what needed to be said - the current system is not working, especially for young people, and we should not be pretending that it is. I don't know what the solution is but the first step is to recognize that change is necessary.	We have no Boos this week.
*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

Congratulations to all the volunteers and Scott Crawford who put on a fantastic tournament this weekend honouring Jim Lutton for his many years of contributions to baseball in Ontario. Jim was a former scout for the Montreal Expos and has been a tremendous contributor to minor Baseball. 52 teams played in this year's tournament, which was a fabulous event for our town.

- Mayor Al Stratthdee, July 20, 2025

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

Proudly sponsored by: *Tim Hortons*
in St. Marys

201 Queen St E, St. Marys, ON • (519) 284-4555

What an awful way to learn that your husband likes Coldplay.

Summer should get a speeding ticket!

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!

GRANT HAVEN MEDIA

Restoring small-town journalism, one community at a time!

St. Marys Independent

Publisher
Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Regional Editor
Galen Simmons • galen@granthaven.com

Graphic Design / Sales Inquiries
Tyler Carruthers • info@stmarys-independent.com

Business Development
Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Billing Administrator
Cindy Boakes • boakescindy1576@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant
Wendy Lamond • wendylamond74@gmail.com

Contributors
June Grant, Nancy Bickell, Mary Smith, Nancy Abra, Lauren Eedy, Spencer Seymour, Sarah Cairns, Paul Knowles, Jake Grant, Julia Paul, Emily Stewart, McGinny Photography

36 Water St. St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2
info@stmarys-independent.com | 519.284.0041 | granthaven.com

**OCNA**
Ontario Community Newspaper Association

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

**Canada**

The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK

Sponsored by:

**RADAR**
AUTO PARTS
395 Queen Street West

When all else fails, take a vacation.

When you can't find the sunshine, be the sunshine.

Trust is the hardest thing to gain, and easiest to lose.

If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything.

Another great fireworks display put on by the Rotary Club of St. Marys



(SCOTT STROUD PHOTO)

The Stonetown Heritage Festival fireworks display was a huge hit this year.

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

One of the main highlights of the Stonetown Heritage Festival each year is the Rotary Fireworks Display, which is an incredible finish to a fun, busy day.

One question that always gets asked: Is it possible to donate online towards the fireworks? There are always Rotarians collecting money the night of the event but not everyone carries cash anymore, so is there another option to contribute?

The answer is, yes there is. It can be found online at rotarystmarys.ca. Once on the website select "Donations," scroll down to "fireworks" and then click "donate now." The club greatly appreciates all the support it receives from the community.

Local Rotary president Ed Parkinson shared with the Independent that the Rotary Club is very supportive of the town and vice versa, and when it comes to a project of this size, a lot of factors need to be taken into consideration, including environmental issues.

"Heritage Festival is a great weekend and the fireworks are an outing that everyone of all ages can go and enjoy," Parkinson said. The club will meet in September to resume their regular meetings, and the fireworks will definitely be on the agenda where a decision will be made whether to continue with them.

"One thing all of us can agree on is how beautiful they are over the water and how it brings a community together from a collaboration of our town and a great service club."

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



DOORS OPEN August 9 | 9 AM - 11 AM



Explore a variety of historic sites and discover the unique architectural gems of our charming town! Participation in this event is free. Head to the information tent outside Town Hall on the morning of the event to grab a tour map and further details.

discoverstmarys.ca/doorsopen

LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN

Help plan for the future!

The St. Marys Public Library Board is actively gathering feedback on its Strategic Plan, seeking insights from individuals. Their aim is to identify areas of focus to help meet the needs of the community.

townofstmarys.com/librarystratplan



SAY NO TO ROAMING PETS

Residents are required to license pets and prevent them from roaming freely to ensure safety and compliance with the Animal Control By-law. Pets at large face dangers such as predator encounters, vehicle accidents, and causing disturbances to neighbours, which may lead to fines or citations.

Allowing or failing to control a roaming animal incurs a \$150 penalty.



SUMMER IN ST. MARYS PASSPORT

The Summer in St. Marys Passport is back! Visit at least seven of the eleven passport sites before September 1, 2025 to get your passport stamped for a chance to win \$100 in St. Marys money. Passports are free to pick up at any of the eleven participating locations.

Contact the St. Marys Museum to learn more!
519-284-3556



SHOWER PROGRAM Pyramid Recreation 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



Contact us

519-284-2340
communications@town.stmarys.on.ca





566 Queen St. E. • 519.284.4348

Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is John Ruppel. He was born in Listowel and moved to St. Marys when he was 13. He celebrated his 79th birthday in May and his 57th wedding anniversary with Mary on July 6. They have three children and six grandchildren. For many years he enjoyed golf, travelling and puttering around the house. He was proud to be a part of Ruppel Home Hardware for many years. John now resides at Wildwood Care Centre.

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

Weekend Quiz

SPONSORED BY



16 Water Street South
519-284-3288

1. What Canadian province has the most earthquakes?
2. Alphabet Inc is the parent company of what corporation?
3. What two colors is Poland's flag?
4. What is the name of the bear in The Jungle Book?
5. In tennis, what word is used for a score of zero?
6. Which U.S. state was the first to join the Union after the original 13 colonies?
7. Which band released the 1967 album Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band?
8. What color is Mike Wazowski?
9. What vitamin is commonly found in citrus fruits like oranges?
10. When was the first Academy Awards held?

By Jake Grant

This week's answers are found on pg. 27

Engines rev and spirits soar at St. Marys Lions Club annual car show

Hundreds gather at Little Falls Public School for a Day of Cars, Community, and Charity



Many people came out to check out the variety of unique, antique vehicles.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

CHEYENNE CLIFFORD

Contributed Article

The parking lot of Little Falls Public School was transformed into a showcase of automotive history on Saturday, July 19, as the Lions Club of St. Marys hosted its popular Annual Car Show, drawing the attention of many spectators and around 100 classic and custom vehicles.

From shiny muscle cars and vintage trucks to lovingly restored antiques, car lovers of all ages had plenty to admire as chrome sparkled in the summer sun and engines rumbled to life throughout the morning.

The school grounds were packed with activity. In addition to the impressive vehicle lineup, attendees enjoyed live music, a delicious pancake breakfast, a 50/50 draw, and raffle.

Organizers handed out awards for:

Best in Show: Winner Dough Beath with his 1932 Ford B Roadster.

Furthest distance: Winner Darcy John all the way from Nashville Tennessee with his Mustang Mach 1,

Oldest car: Winner, John McIntosh with his 1924 Model T.

All proceeds from the event go toward local initiatives supported by the Lions Club of St. Marys, including youth programs, community accessibility projects, and support for vision care and other health services.

The Lions Club expressed heartfelt thanks to local sponsors, volunteers, and Little Falls Public School for providing the space to host the growing event.

With perfect weather and a strong community spirit, the 2025 edition of the car show was another clear success — and already has people looking forward to next summer.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

The organizers of the car show handed out awards. The winners' were as follows, the oldest car went to John McIntosh with his 1924 Model T. Best in Show went to Doug Beath with his 1932 Ford B. Roadster and the Furthest Distance Winner Darcy John from Nashville Tennessee with his mustang Mach 1. Accepting the award was dad Ralph Scheuerman.

Elder copper beech tree at Westover Inn receives restoration work



(EMILY STEWART PHOTO)

Tim's Tree Care Crew members performed restoration work such as removing deadwood from an elder copper beech tree at the Westover Inn on July 18.

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

The historic Westover Inn's elder copper beech tree had some pruning work done to extend its life, thanks to the Stratford Perth Tree Trust.

The Stratford Perth Tree Trust invited community members from Stratford and St. Marys to watch tree restoration in action at the Westover Inn on July 18. Certified arborist Tim Lott of Stratford-based Tim's Tree Care and his crew removed deadwood and pruned areas of the copper beech tree susceptible to damage from ice storms. Representatives from Stratford-Perth Tree Trust, as well as vegetation specialist Brenda Gallagher from the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA), spoke about copper beech trees, the origins and folklore of the 2025 tree of the year, as well as the importance of trees for their environmental and community impact.

Throughout the event, there was emphasis on preserving elder trees to support the environment, especially as the amount of trees and wildlife decreased in the past two decades.

"These big old legacy elder trees are irreplaceable," said Toni Ellis, Tree Trust acting executive director. "You can't grow a tree like this in the current

environment that we've got, so it's really important that we hang on to them whenever we can by giving them some TLC, well-deserved."

Geoff Love, chapter manager of the Stratford Perth Tree Trust said that the organization fixed about seven to eight trees in the area over the past five years. Love added that the organization aims to encourage municipalities to expand their tree canopy.

"We're making some progress. It's a bit harder with rural areas, but in the cities we're doing pretty well," he said.

The organization relies on donations to provide tree care to public legacy trees. The Stratford Perth Tree Trust also restored trees in Stratford including ones at the Falstaff Family Centre, St. James Church, and the Stratford-Perth Museum. The restoration of the elder copper beech tree at Westover Inn was the first St. Marys visit for the Stratford Perth Tree Trust.

"This is a beautiful place, and you can see what a spectacular tree it is," Love said to the Independent on-site.

Stratford Perth Tree Trust will return to St. Marys in September to plant trees with Grade 7 students.

More information about the Stratford Perth Tree Trust can be found online by visiting <https://treetrust.ca/stratford-perth>.

**THIS WEEKEND ONLY!
FRIDAY - SUNDAY**

BUY IT TODAY...TAKE IT TODAY!
SOURCE FLOORING



**CLEARANCE CENTER
BLOWOUT**

3 DAYS ONLY

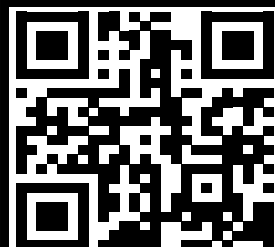


**ALL STOCK IN
THE CLEARANCE
CENTER ONLY**

**99¢
/SQFT**

**JAMMED WITH
INVENTORY!**

**LAMINATE • PORCELAIN
TILE • HARDWOOD & MORE!**



SOURCE FLOORING

BROWSE ONLINE
SOURCEFLOORING.COM

1362 VICTORIA STREET NORTH KITCHENER
MON-FRI 9AM-8PM SATURDAY 9-6 SUNDAY 10-5

St. Marys Independent

SCAN TO READ THE ONLINE PAPER



www.granthaven.com

GRANT
HAVEN
MEDIA



Delays in Wellington and Victoria reconstruction project leave area residents frustrated

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

For transparency, we at the Independent opted not to print the above Boo in last week's paper and instead decided to follow up with the town to help area residents understand the delays to this project. We reached out to St. Marys infrastructure services manager Jeff Wolfe, who provided details about the \$1.6-million reconstruction project and reasons as to why work has slowed in recent weeks.

Last year, the Independent reported that the town was working with OMEGA Contractors Inc. to reconstruct a section of Wellington Street South, spanning from Park Street to St. Maria Street, and Victoria Street spanning from Church Street South to Water Street South. The project is a continuation of the highly successful Wellington Street reconstruction project that spanned from the Wellington Street Bridge to Park Street East completed in 2023 that focused on making the downtown more accessible for people with disabilities.

Improvements in this second phase of the project included replacing a water main and copper water services, improving drainage with grading, installing new storm sewers and catch basins, and replacing the asphalt roadway.

"Topcoat asphalt and associated work was planned for June 2025, and all other works were originally to have been completed in fall 2024," Wolfe told the Independent.

"The project was delayed in the fall of 2024 and pushed into early winter, and turf restoration was postponed until spring 2025 as a result. Concrete sidewalk deficiencies developed over the winter, and the associated re-work delayed the anticipated turf restoration. All underground and hard surfaces are now complete, topsoil has been prepared and turf is to be installed by

July 18, weather pending."

Wolfe explained the delayed start to the project last year was because of other projects the contractor was working on at the time.

Town staff expect all remaining work to be completed by the time this newspaper comes out July 24, and the town and its engineer will continue monitoring the project area for another year for any issues that develop post-construction.

While that may sound promising, at least one resident in the project area, Marlene Mackenzie, the owner of Wellington Street Guest House, is fed up with what she describes as shifting project timelines and the extended impacts of the project on her property and business.

"He'll say next week; well he told me two weeks ago it was supposed to be done by that Friday," Mackenzie said, describing a conversation she had with Wolfe. "I told him that my property would be on the (St. Marys Horticultural Society) garden tour. It's been going on for three weeks; every time I talk to him, he goes, 'Oh yeah, it will be done by this date.'"

Mackenzie said doesn't understand why work hasn't moved quicker when she believes there has been ample opportunity for it to be completed. The work is supposed to include the replacement of sod and the repair of a portion of her brick walkway leading up to her short-term accommodations business, however she said she has received mixed messages as to who will actually repair her walkway.

As summer is her busy season, she said this project has impacted her business as she's been forced to require her guests to park on the street, and the uprooting of a portion of her walkway has also impacted accessibility for guests.

"This is the second summer that we've gone through this," Mackenzie said.



(MURRAY GRANT PHOTO)

The front walkway of Marlene Mackenzie's Wellington Street Guest House has been partially torn up for nearly a year now as she awaited the completion of the delayed Wellington Street and Victoria Street reconstruction project.

Drowning incident at Wildwood Conservation Area

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

On Sunday, July 20, 2025, shortly before 7:00 p.m. the Stratford Police Service was contacted regarding a young female being lost in the water at the beach located within Wildwood Conser-

vation Area, located at 3995 Line 9, in the Township of Perth South.

A search for the female was conducted by the Stratford Police Service and St Marys Fire Department.

Approximately one hour later the female was located under the water within the designated swimming area.

Lifesaving efforts were made; however, the female was unable to be saved, and she passed away as a result of drowning.

The female has been identified as a 13-year-old resident of Hamilton who was visiting the Conservation Area with family.

The Stratford Police Service would like to thank everyone present last evening for assisting with the search and recovery of the victim.

Condolences to the family, friends, and loved ones who have been impacted by this tragedy.



Concrete Services

Done Right - Book Now!

Excavation
Demolition
Driveways
Sidewalks
Patios
Foundation Repair

TEXO TERRA
CONTRACTING
WWW.TEXOTERRA.COM

Interior/Exterior
Big & Small
Call Today
(226)
766-8284



- Full automotive repair services
- Diagnostics
- Alignments
- Safeties
- Tire Sales
- Honest and Friendly Service

Road trip?

Book a pre-trip inspection in advance

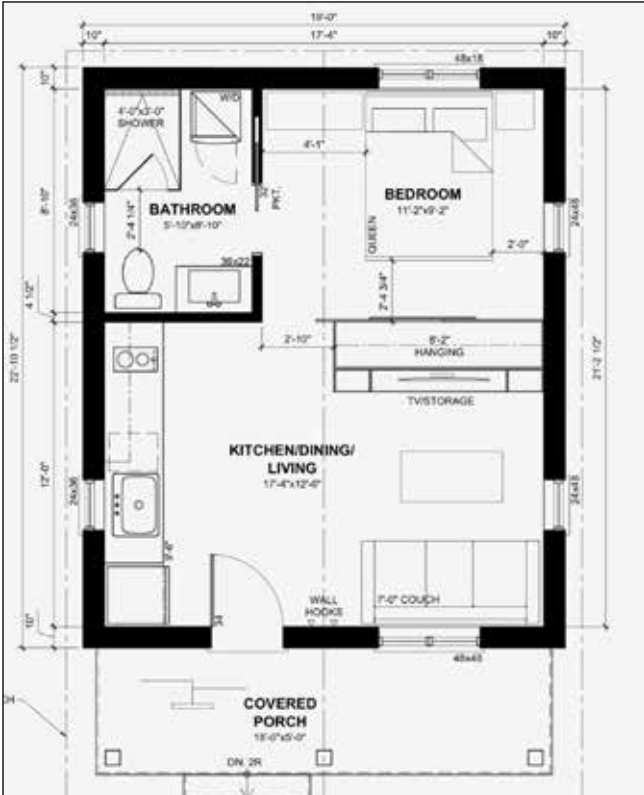
Ph: 519-284-1302 | info@harrisgreigauto.com

Hours: M-Th 8-5:30, Fri 8-5 | 402 Queen Street W., St. Marys, ON

Home Suite Home building its first tiny home in St. Marys



Visualization of the completed pocket home.



Layout of the pocket home being constructed in the backyard of a Millson Crescent home in St. Marys.

WENDY LAMOND
Independent Reporter

The week of July 14 brought an exciting happening for a St. Marys resident and her family as building started on the new pocket (“tiny”) home in her backyard, providing an affordable residence for her daughter thanks to a charitable organization called Home Suite Home Affordable Housing (“HSH”).

HSH was founded in 2024 by Jeff Murton and Vicky Devocht, who were later joined by Bernie Vandonk. Their organization focuses on an issue that sometimes get brushed under the rug and that is hidden homelessness. This refers to people that couch-surf, are experiencing poverty, with low income, and those who could use a hand with below-market-rate rentals. The trio have been raising money through events and all media channels which have gone towards start-up costs and planning. A 527 sq ft affordable rental home is currently in the works in North Perth.

The St. Marys resident came across a Facebook post for HSH and wondered if this would be a great solution for her current situation and reached out to the company to get some more information. She had space on her Millson Crescent property for a pocket home and after completing due diligence and confirming eligibility, the building plan was confirmed and put in place.

HSH had to meet with the Town of St. Marys Planning Department and have permit drawings prepared for the detached structure. The inside living space, which features a bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen/dining/living room, measures 368 square feet, while a covered porch represents an additional 90 square feet. The overall footprint is approximately 19’ x 28’. The build will be completed by local contractor Teahen Construction Ltd.

There are several steps required to ensure a tenant is eligible, including income or support verification, non-relative references, and an in-person consultation with HSH.

The property owners must have land ownership and clear land title confirmed and will sign agreements with HSH. In compliance with current regulations, there is not an option of a rent-to-buy. For a single-bedroom dwelling, the unit rental cost is between \$500 to \$600 per month while a double-bedroom unit is between \$700 to \$800.

Once the home is complete, the committee may continue its assistance through a program called Step Up (Supportive Transitional Empowerment Program for Unhoused People) providing on-going support.

HSH has named their campaign “Strike Ya Match” inspired by the song “Fight Song” by Rachel Platten with the line, “I might only have one match, but I can make an explosion”.

Murton told the Independent that he was moved by this line from a personal experience. He was in a subway station where he saw a father and daughter laying on the floor. As many people

walked by, Murton went and bought them something to eat. The young girl replied, “You see me.” This was the start of what pushed Murton to help the homeless.

Watch for some upcoming events hosted by HSH to bring awareness to the issue of hidden homelessness and this tiny home alternative as a way to help those in need.

Going forward, the charity will be actively raising money to help others. There is another project in Woodstock waiting on the assessment process to proceed, and other requests have started in the Stratford and St. Marys area. The organization hopes this is just the beginning of some real change to help those that are low income, providing a light for their future while keeping their dignity in place.

For more information on HSH affordable rental pocket housing, including donation options, please visit www.homesuitehome.org.



Home Suite Home Affordable Housing committee Jeff Murton, Vicky Devocht and Bernie Vandonk provided some information to interested parties at Snapping Turtle Coffee Roasters regarding the new pocket home being built in St. Marys.



Construction of a tiny home starts at a St. Marys residence. Teahen Construction has been the lead local contractor involved with the build.

Donation expands AED access in Perth County

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Independent Reporter

Perth County Paramedic Services was honoured to receive a generous donation of three automated external defibrillators (AEDs) from Kickstart My Heart earlier this year.

An AED helps restart a heart that has stopped beating properly during sudden cardiac arrest. It analyzes the heart's rhythm and, if needed, delivers an electrical shock to restore a normal heartbeat.

"The earlier you can do it, the better the survival rate," said Mike Adair, Perth County's chief of paramedic services. "Having accessible AEDs in the community is essential to cardiac safety."

The donated AEDs will be added to Perth County's regional Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) program, which places and monitors AEDs in publicly accessible locations across the region.

The latest AED model now includes a screen that displays visual prompts to guide users through each step. This can be particularly helpful for individuals who are hearing impaired or overwhelmed in an emergency.

"When someone is going into cardiac arrest, it can be very overwhelming with everything going on around you," said paramedic services commander Scott Rutherford. "Some people may not hear the prompts. With the new device, the screen is able to walk you through using the AED with visuals. It's just that one extra step to support people in using the AED efficiently."

Through the PAD program, AEDs are currently placed at 94 locations across Perth County, including city halls, recreation centres, pools, libraries and other public buildings.

"More AEDs translate to a better chance of survival for people in our communities," said Rutherford. "If it's available, it can be used. If it's not available, it can't. We know that the chance of survival significant-



(AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE PHOTO)

ly increases when people have access to AEDs. That's why a program like this is so important."

Though using an AED can seem intimidating, Rutherford said paramedics want the public to feel confident using them because it could mean the difference

between life and death.

"If you come across someone who's unresponsive, just go get (the AED)," he said. "The machine, once turned on, is very easy to use and walks you through each step. I'm not worried about the cost of replacing the system, I'm worried about the person you could save. So just get it and use it."

Adair added there's no harm in using one, even if you're unsure.

"You don't need to worry about using it wrong or on someone who doesn't need it," he said. "Each machine only shocks two of the most fatal heart rhythms, so it cannot hurt anyone who doesn't need it."

Kickstart My Heart is a charitable organization formed in 2024 by the Otto family to raise funds for public defibrillators. The initiative was inspired after an AED saved 18-year-old Cole Otto's life during a cardiac event at the Mitchell baseball diamonds in 2023.

"After the incident with Cole, we felt compelled to take action to ensure more people can benefit from access to life-saving AEDs," said the Otto family. "It was important to us to make a positive impact out of a frightening experience that could have ended much differently had an AED not been available."

Adair said the PAD program is always looking to expand and improve.

"We are grateful for this generous donation to our PAD program," he said. "It is our goal to make these life-saving devices readily available across the region."

Future plans include modernizing the program and creating a digital map so community members can easily locate AEDs in their area.

Perth County Paramedic Services also offers an AED loaner program for special events. For more information, contact Perth County Paramedic Services directly.



(226) 661-0192

Accepting New Smiles

60 Water Street South St. Marys

www.waterstreetdentistry.ca

waterstreetdentistry@gmail.com

Find us on



Wednesday Night Wings!

\$1 wings / eat in only

Thursday Night Sangria / Salad

STIR-FRIDAY starts at 4pm



519.284.3621

info@sciencehillcountryclub.com

www.sciencehillcountryclub.com



**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
PERTH REGIMENT VETERANS
BRANCH 236 ST MARYS**

HOURS

TUES - FRI: 3PM - CLOSE

SAT: NOON - CLOSE

SUN AND MON: CLOSED

**HOT DOG FRIDAYS CLOSED
UNTIL SEPT 5**

**MEAT DRAW EVERY SAT AT 5 PM,
PLUS A 50/50 DRAW**

**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE HALL FOR RENT
66 CHURCH STREET NORTH,
ST. MARYS 519 284-2267**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT GRANTHAVEN.COM

West Perth woman killed in single-vehicle crash at Prospect Hill

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

On Monday, July 21, shortly before 7 a.m. the Stratford Police Service responded to a report of a single-motor-vehicle collision on Perth Road 139 at Line 2, in the Township of Perth South.

Upon arrival at the scene, a black GMC Sierra pickup truck was observed to have left the roadway where it crashed into a tree.

The driver of the vehicle, who was identified as a 28-year-old female resident of West Perth, was pronounced deceased at the scene.

As a result of the collision, the roadway was closed to allow for the Stratford

Police Service Collision Reconstruction Team to investigate. The roadway has since been reopened, and the public's consideration in avoiding this area during the investigation was appreciated.

At this time, it is known that the vehicle was travelling south on Road 139, weaving within its lane, when it suddenly veered off the roadway and struck the tree. The female driver was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the collision but was not ejected from the vehicle.

The Stratford Police Service is asking for anyone who may have witnessed the incident to contact 519-271-4141, extension 2.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

During the Heritage Festival Myla Petrie and her grandma set up a lemonade stand to keep people hydrated during the hot weather. Myla made \$75 from the stand which she has generously donated to the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation. What an amazing gesture for a six year old. Myla Petrie donates \$75 to Bernice De Decker from the Foundation.

“Hot Summer Savings” @ Stratford Nissan

2019 Nissan Sentra SV FWD



iQ GREAT PRICE

\$16,495 OR \$154 B/W
LOW KMS - 62,480 KM + HST & lic

2021 Hyundai Venue SE FWD



\$21,999 OR \$178 B/W
LOW KMS - 56,882 KM + HST & lic

2020 Honda Civic LX FWD



\$23,495 OR \$190 B/W
MILEAGE - 90,005 KM + HST & lic

2020 Toyota Corolla LE FWD



\$23,495 OR \$190 B/W
LOW KMS - 57,131 KM + HST & lic

2024 Nissan Sentra SV FWD



iQ GREAT PRICE

\$25,495 OR \$183 B/W
LOW KMS - 20,842 KM + HST & lic

2022 Hyundai Tucson SEL



\$26,495 OR \$190 B/W
MILEAGE - 109,437 KM + HST & lic

2022 Ford Bronco Sport BIG BEND AWD



PRICE DROP

\$28,999 OR \$208 B/W
LOW KMS - 62,673 KM + HST & lic

2022 Nissan Murano S AWD



iQ GREAT PRICE

\$29,500 OR \$212 B/W
LOW KMS - 29,898 KM + HST & lic

2024 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross LE AWC



\$31,999 OR \$230 B/W
LOW KMS - 28,525 KM + HST & lic

2022 Toyota Prius Prime Upgrade FWD



\$32,999 OR \$237 B/W
LOW KMS - 34,265 KM + HST & lic

2023 Toyota Corolla Cross LE



\$33,999 OR \$244 B/W
LOW KMS - 82,646 KM + HST & lic

2021 Mazda CX-5 SIGNATURE AWD



\$35,495 OR \$287 B/W
LOW KMS - 38,072 KM + HST & lic

2024 Jeep Wrangler SAHARA 4WD



PRICE DROP

\$54,999 OR \$395 B/W
LOW KMS - 35,892 KM + HST & lic

*While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, we are not responsible for any errors and omissions. Please see your dealer for current pricing. Plus tax and licensing. Bi-weekly payments are based on an interest rate of 7.99% O.A.C. Some terms and conditions may apply.

🔥 Find Your Perfect Match: Pre-Owned Cars for Every Taste and Budget! 🔥

BAD CREDIT... NO PROBLEM! All Credit Approved with \$0 Down.

T&C APPLY, O.A.C.

NISSAN **Stratford NISSAN**

STORE HOURS SALES: Mon.-Thu. 9:00-8:00; Fri.-Sat. 9:00-6:00 PARTS & SERVICE: Mon.-Sat. 8:00-5:00

2001 Ontario Street, Stratford ON
519.273.3119
www.stratfordnissan.com

Our Service Department is Now Open on Saturdays

STRATFORD NISSAN



St. Marys Independent **SPORTS**

Longtime teacher, coach Ian Moore retiring from DCVI

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

One of St. Marys DCVI's longest-tenured teachers and coaches, Ian Moore, announced that this past school year would be his last, with Moore retiring from the school after over two decades.

Moore explained the people around him made his career a special journey.

"What stands out to me is just what a great school DCVI is," said Moore. "I thoroughly enjoyed what I did on a daily basis. The kids, the staff, and the families, it all made me love coming to work every day. I looked forward to going to work, I enjoyed what I did, and I liked the people I worked with, and I think when you can say that about your career, that's very special."

According to Moore, who came to St. Marys after starting his career in Big Trout Lake and Moose Factory, the reason he found DCVI to be a special school was because it reflected the community in which it was located.

"It's just such a wonderful community," Moore told the Independent. "My wife Tracey and I moved here in 1999, and it was the best decision we ever made. It's such a nice community that it can't help but create an incredible school because you have good families with good kids. For a teacher, that's the type of place you want to work."

Moore's career was highlighted by a tenure as the school's athletic director, which naturally coincided with a devotion to high school sports. Moore was heavily involved in numerous sports programs at DCVI, and noted he saw immense value in all forms of extracurriculars.

"It's another way of connecting with kids," said Moore. "School can be tough for kids, but when they have things to do outside of the classroom, it creates opportunities that they may not get anywhere else in their life. We have a lot of kids who play high school sports who have never played volleyball, basketball, soccer, badminton, or cross-country skiing outside of school."

"When I look at the success of my own kids and their lives now, I think, in large part, it is because of the teaching and coaching staff and the extracurricular opportunities that they received at DCVI. And it doesn't have to be sports, it can be band, it can be student council, it can be drama club. Those are the things that kids are going to remember."

Moore's commitment to athletics at DCVI didn't just stop with the sports he had an interest in. Moore was often



(TURNER ROTH PHOTO)

Ian Moore, pictured, announced his retirement earlier this year. Moore served as a teacher, coach, athletic director, and administrator at St. Marys DCVI for over two decades.

known to take up the mantle of running sports outside of his comfort zone, just to ensure there would be someone to run those sports.

"There were times when there wasn't someone who could run a certain team, and I didn't want that program not to happen, so I would do it," Moore explained. "I ended up coaching badminton, soccer, and track and field. A lot of things that I wouldn't say were in my wheelhouse, but there was a need, and I enjoyed doing it. It was good learning them, and it was important to me to create those opportunities for kids to do something they may not otherwise do."

With that said, Moore was a constant in several sports that he was most passionate about.

"Volleyball was definitely my passion. That was always my first love. That's what I played in high school, and I went to OFSAA two times. I always really enjoyed the purity of volleyball. You have to pass a certain way. There is a very clear etiquette in terms of how everyone behaves. Volleyball to me has always been very pure."

"I also really enjoyed badminton,"

Moore continued. "That was in between the winter and the spring seasons, and the type of kids who came out for badminton and the atmosphere around badminton was always very light. There wasn't the intensity that sometimes comes with volleyball or basketball."

DCVI has always punched above its weight when it comes to both the number of athletes and their success, something that Moore has never failed to appreciate about the school's sports culture.

"We are the second smallest school on the board and probably one of the smaller schools in WOSSAA, and yet, we're typically in the top three in our board for number of athletes. I think it comes back to how we created an atmosphere where kids could go and do something, and felt like they had such good coaches who coach the skills well, but even more importantly, they created an environment where kids wanted to go and have fun."

Moore noted the culture of DCVI athletics stemmed from prioritizing fun and personal growth over the end result of each game.

"If you look at my win-loss record,

you would see that it was absolutely skewed higher in the loss column than the wins," Moore admitted. "But for me, it was always about the process. I just loved being in the gym. I loved going to games. I just loved the atmosphere of being involved in sports, and winning and losing wasn't the priority for me. If we lost every game but the kids had a great time, I didn't care about those losses."

Of course, Moore did have plenty of success, as evidenced by the number of banners lining the walls of DCVI's large gym from teams who finished in medal positions at countless Huron-Perth, WOSSAA, and OFSAA events. Annette Wrigley, a longtime coworker in the school's athletic department, talked glowingly about Moore in a speech delivered at the school's athletic awards night earlier this year.

"If you stroll through the large gym, you will see countless HP and WOSSAA banners from championship teams that Ian has supported," Wrigley noted. "He cares deeply about students and has high expectations of himself and of his athletes. His success is attributed to enjoying every aspect of coaching, from the practices and games to travelling with the teams."

His involvement in high school sports didn't just live inside the walls of DCVI, however, with Moore being an active member of the regional bodies that govern secondary school athletics.

"I did a lot of stuff with Huron-Perth, WOSSAA, and OFSAA throughout my career and the transformation from being this rookie coach who just got to the board, to having a leadership role, was something I was really happy about. Those roles gave me the opportunity to have an impact on athletics around our region, and the fact that I get to continue doing that with OFSAA as the Director At Large, it makes me very proud."

As Moore approaches the end of his teaching career, he can't help but take a moment to reflect on his incredible 29 years in the education field. He's so grateful for all the amazing experiences he's had in every school he's been in, especially at St. Marys DCVI for the past 24 years. Whether he was in the classroom, coaching an team, or leading athletics, Moore can say with absolute certainty that he's loved every minute of his journey, experiences, and career.

"I want to express my deepest gratitude to all the students, staff, families, and community members who have made the past 24 years at DCVI such a joy and privilege. It truly is a 'small school with a big heart' indeed."

FOR SPORTS TIPS CONTACT SPENCER SEYMOUR
CALL OR TEXT 519-859-1049 OR EMAIL SPENCER.SEYMOUR88@GMAIL.COM

Mike Hitchcock captures SOO silver in Brantford

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

Mike Hitchcock, a native of St. Marys who currently resides in Stratford, won a silver medal at the Special Olympics Ontario (SOO) Provincial Summer Games' golf competition, hosted July 11-12 at the Wayne Gretzky Municipal Golf Course in Brantford.

Hitchcock, who competed in the M2 division, one of three divisions in the competition, described the experience of the weekend in glowing terms.

"It was awesome to win another medal," Hitchcock told the Independent. "It was really hot all weekend. It felt like 40 degrees, but I don't mind (golfing in that heat)."

Everyone who knows Hitchcock knows he is a very bright personality who is seldom seen not in a positive mood, which he carried onto the golf course, leading to his strong performance.

"You just go out there and do your best. When I went out the first day, I shot 48 on the front nine, and then on the back nine, I shot 43 to get me to 91, and I was in first place in the M2 division. And then, the second day, I shot a 96 to bring home the silver medal."

Hitchcock's friend and caddy Ross Snider commented on Hitchcock's well-known positive vibe.

"Mike has a nice confidence, which has served him well," Snider said. "His demeanour on the course helps him do well. He had two very good playing partners, and they all kept each other focused and positive. He's able to keep that positivity when things aren't going his way, and he's obviously gifted athletically. He always tries his best and never gives up. He's an awesome young man, and great to be around."

While there were some ups and downs during the two-day tournament, Snider cited several aspects of Hitchcock's game that led him through it.

"His chipping and putting were very good," Snider said. "They saved Mike (Hitchcock) many times. The first day, he got started well on hole number one. He teed off well and got onto the fringe of the backside of the green. Then, he had a few double bogeys, which were



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Pictured is Mike Hitchcock with the silver medal he won at the Special Olympics Ontario (SOO) Provincial Summer Games' golf competition, hosted July 11-12 at the Wayne Gretzky Municipal Golf Course in Brantford.

frustrating, but he held his composure well. Then, he made a par, and he got all of his confidence and swagger back, and from there, he played very well. He also made a birdie on hole 15, which I think carried him the rest of the way."

Snider added the silver medal-winning performance was a significant improvement from the last time Hitchcock played the Brantford course, even though he sensed Hitchcock was feeling a bit of pressure.

"He won't say he was, but I think that he was a bit nervous," said Snider. "All actions told me he was a bit nervous. He knew that he was in tough in the division that he was in. It was a struggle all day with the heat. Mike likes to move fast. But, he was the leader in the M2 division, and he shot 13 strokes better than

he did in his provincial qualifier."

According to Hitchcock, he didn't have to look very far to find the inspiration to keep battling through adversity.

"I got a little bit upset sometimes, but all I had to do was look down at my arm," Hitchcock said, pointing down to the words 'never give up' tattooed on his left forearm. "And I never gave up and did very good because of it. Just keep working, look at the arm, and I say, 'never give up.'"

That demeanour has led to Hitchcock being one of the most universally beloved figures in St. Marys and Stratford, which leads people to make incredible efforts to show their support. One such example involved Dave Cassone, who

formed a friendship with the silver medalist through their involvement with the Stratford Fighting Irish hockey team.

"Dave (Cassone) is involved with the Fighting Irish, and he was keeping track of how Mike was doing through Ross (Snider)," said Larry Hitchcock, Mike's father. "On the Saturday, Dave drove down to Brantford just to see Mike, wish him good luck, and watch him tee off, and then Dave said, 'Well, I've got to go home.' He drove all the way down just to wish him good luck, and Dave said, 'What Mike does for (the Fighting Irish) in terms of morale, this is nothing for me to come down here.'"

Both Snider and Hitchcock mentioned two coaches, Chris Peixoto of the Stratford Country Club and Chris Dickenson of Whistle Bear Golf Club in Cambridge, as having helped develop Hitchcock's game.

"Chris (Peixoto) is a very good coach for me," Hitchcock noted. "He took his time and helped me with new swings and a new stance. He helped me straighten the ball out."

Dickenson and Hitchcock became acquainted during Dickenson's time at the Stratford Municipal Golf Course, with the two continuing to work together after Dickenson moved to the Stratford Country Club. The connection remained when Dickenson began working at Whistle Bear Golf Club in Cambridge, where he continued to help Hitchcock develop his game.

"Chris (Dickenson) really helped with my short game," explained Hitchcock. "He helped with my chipping and putting. He really helped me get my chipping going and my play from the bunkers."

Hitchcock made sure to mention the people and businesses whose support allowed him to compete at the SOO Provincial Games; his sponsors.

"If I don't have the sponsors, I would not be able to go and win the silver medal," said an appreciative Hitchcock. "I wouldn't be able to go to any sport without sponsors. A lot of people donate a lot of money and time to help me, and to all my sponsors, I say thank you."

Windmill Family Campground Proudly Presents

28TH CLASSIC & ANTIQUE CAR SHOW

**SUNDAY AUGUST 3RD
FROM 12:00 - 4:00 PM**

2778 PERTH COUNTY RD 163, FULLARTON, ON

\$10 ENTRY FEE AND \$10 SPECTATOR FEE

DASH PLAQUES FOR FIRST 150 VEHICLES, 50/50 DRAWS, RAFFLES, DJ & PARTICIPANT
DOOR PRIZES & FOOD VENDORS

PROCEEDS TO GO TO THE ST. MARYS SALVATION ARMY. RAIN DATE: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 1ST
WWW.WINDMILLFAMILYCAMPGROUND.COM | CONTACT JIM 519.461.1449 OR THE PARK 519.229.8982

**GRANT
HAVEN
MEDIA**

St. Marys Independent



**BE IN THE KNOW!
Get the Latest
Edition Delivered
Straight to Your
Inbox!**

granthaven.com/st-marys-independent

Parks Lawn Bowling Club celebrating 100 years at the Flats

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

On August 2, the Parks Lawn Bowling Club in St. Marys is inviting the community to help celebrate 100 years of lawn bowling at the Flats with an Open House at the Club's greens, located at Milt Dunnell Field.

The 100th Anniversary Open House event begins at 10:00 a.m. and runs to 2:00 p.m., with games, refreshments, and club information available. Several speakers will also be on hand as part of the celebration, including St. Marys Mayor Al Strathdee, District Rep Brian Blair, and Ontario Lawn Bowls President Karen Atkin, who will present the Club with a 100-year recognition plaque.

Plans for the first lawn bowling green in St. Marys were established in 1889, with two clubs – the St. Marys Lawn Bowling Club and Granite Lawn Bowling Club – starting over the next two decades, with a combined membership of 172 members between the two rival clubs.

After the Granite Club closed in 1920 the St. Marys Club sold off four of their greens, creating a demand for a larger venue for St. Marys' lawn bowlers. According to a 2009 article in the St. Marys Journal Argus, this led John Lind, then-head of the Parks Board, "to urge that new greens be created to accommodate the demand and popularity of the sport."

Those new greens ended up being located at the Flats, then known as Athletic Park, with construction beginning in 1926. The seed for the next 100 years of the Parks Lawn Bowling Club had been planted.

President Larry McLellan, who has been a fixture with the club for 55 years, explained the highs and lows he has witnessed over the last five decades, leading to a relatively healthy present-day state.

"Right now, we're at a little over 70 members, and it's gone up and down over the years," McLellan told the Independent. "It was as low as 19 at one point. We were close to closing down, but thanks to the



people involved with the Club, we've been able to get it going up in a great direction."

McLellan described the most recent such upswing in the Club's membership.

"As strange as it is to say, the COVID-19 pandemic has been a big help to our membership. We were at roughly 35 members before the pandemic hit, and then, when everything reopened, people needed something to do outside, and it led to us growing by 20 members in one year. We also went to the curling club, and they came out in big numbers for us."

Despite having periods when membership dipped, the Parks Lawn Bowling Club has managed to hang on to a constant presence in St. Marys and avoid shuttering. According to McLellan, its continuous survival highlights its value to the community.

"I believe the Club means a lot to the town. We're keeping people coming to the grounds and coming to the Flats. We're hosting a tournament (on Aug.

3) as part of the anniversary weekend, and it's full, with people coming from as far away as Niagara and Windsor. We get these quite often because our greens are among the top five in Ontario.

"It's a great exercise and great for people of all ages," McLellan continued. "We have seven new members who are under 19 years old, so we are getting younger, but we still have bowlers in their 80s, so it's something that families can enjoy together."

With the game becoming more and more popular across generations in St. Marys, more and more people are having memorable experiences with family members. One such experience was a personal story McLellan described when talking about what the game offers family members of all ages as one of the Club's most notable successes.

"My fondest memories are playing and winning a few championships with my son Jamie," said McLellan. "It was very emotional when we won the Ontario Championships in Sarnia in 1996. We had to win six games to win it all. We started at 8:30 in the morning and went until midnight, so it was a long day. We played the top team in the final, and my son said, 'Don't worry Dad, we'll win it.' And he was right, and I broke down after it was all over. I'll remember it for the rest of my life."

While the 100th anniversary event is celebrating the history of lawn bowling in St. Marys, it is not the only avenue through which the Parks Lawn Bowling Club has honoured the past foundations of the game's evolution in St. Marys.

"We have a Wall of Fame that we constructed last year," McLellan said. "There are a number of bowlers who are no longer with us and who won district championships who are on there. Myself and Len (Boreham) are on there. It's very important as it keeps the history alive. I hope when people see it, it makes them want to participate in district championships themselves. It's a sport that I love, and seeing the Wall of Fame recognizing our Club's history makes me want to continue playing as long as I can."



Preserve of the Month

10% off McCully's Raspberry based Jams & Jellies

McCully's Makes Meal Prep Fast & Simple

Check out our selection of ready made meals. We offer a wide variety of meat pies, soups, baked beans, chili, shepherd's pie, pulled pork, smoked beef brisket and beef stew. Don't forget to pick up a freshly baked fruit pie or maple butter tarts.

Hardwood Smoker Pellets

McCully's carries hardwood smoker pellets locally produced by Gildale Farms. The 40 lb bags come in four blends - Apple, Cherry, Hickory and Competition blend.

McCully's Pork Products

McCully's has a wide variety of Aarden Farms pork products, including smoked chops, bacon, hams, maple garlic breakfast sausage, various flavours of farmers sausage and more. We also have prepared schnitzel and pulled pork for easy meal planning.

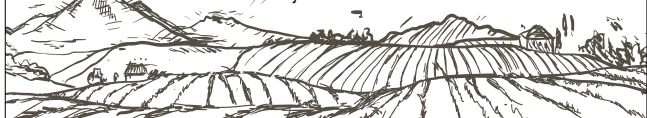
Local Fresh Produce Available

McCully's has lots of fresh local produce at the store, including raspberries, blueberries, new potatoes, fresh mixed greens, peas, tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers.

Store Hours in July

Now Open Daily - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

4074 Perth Line #9, St. Marys, ON, N4X 1C5
www.mccullys.ca • 519-284-2564



HENDERSONYOST
INSURANCE
est. 1957
HOME FARM COMMERCIAL AUTO



HOME • FARM
AUTO • COMMERCIAL
519-283-6614

info@hendersonyost.com | www.hendersonyost.com

www.samshomehardware.com



WEARABLE PERSONAL AIR COOLER

SAVE 20%

Wearable Personal Air Cooler
3 speeds.
Rechargeable.
Lightweight.
3828-201



Was \$39.99
31⁹⁷

Check us out of Facebook and Instagram
www.homehardware.ca

63 Wellington St. N, St. Marys, ON, N4X 1A6
Phone: (519) 284-4142 | Fax: (519) 284-3592

CBHFM grounds hosts Jim Lutton House League Tournament



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Pictured on the left are Jim Lutton and St. Marys Mayor Al Strathdee. Strathdee presented Lutton with a recognition certificate as part of the Jim Lutton House League Tournament at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum (CBHFM) ball diamonds on July 18-20. On the right, one of the 52 teams who came to St. Marys for the tournament explore the artifacts and history housed inside the Hall of Fame's Museum.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Pictured on the left are the U9 Mitchell Astros, who won the tournament championship for the U9 division. On the right are the U11 Mississauga Dodgers, who claimed their age group's gold medal.

Hubbard Pharmacy Limited

Your locally owned and family run Pharmacy

- Pharmacist Consultations
- Medication Reviews
- Compliance Packaging

- Chronic Disease Management
- Immunization and Injection Services
- Free Delivery

Hubbard Pharmacy

155 QUEEN STREET EAST, ST. MARYS ON | PHONE: 519 284 1380

VISIT US ON:

RxPharmaChoice

MAGIC MINZ

**Algaecide, Clarifier,
Floc & Stabilizer**

ALL IN ONE!

100% natural minerals to reduce
the use of pool chemicals

*MAKE YOUR POOL CHORES
DISAPPEAR*

480 QUEEN ST W, ST. MARYS
519-284-2360
MON-FRI: 8AM - 5PM
SAT: 8AM - NOON

the
Hitching Post
(2019) Ltd.

MINOR SPORTS **SCRAPBOOK**



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Grace McLean gets a hit during the St. Marys Cement Company U9 HP Blue St. Marys Rockies game last Thursday.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Maeve Monteith tosses the ball from the outfield during last Wednesday's Royal Canadian Legion U9 HP Red St. Marys Rockies game.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Cory Vansteelandt steps into a shot from in close during last Tuesday's U12 Boys Tier Three St. Marys Storm game.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Emerson Borg fires the ball across the field from the wing during the U16 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm game last Tuesday



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Vienna Beckett launches the ball on goal during last Wednesday's U18 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm game.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Josh Gerber makes a throw to first base during the Veterinary Purchasing Ltd. U15 WOBA St. Marys Rockies game this past Monday.



ST. MARYS A.N.A.F. VETERANS UNIT 265 SUMMER-FUN-RAISER

**Saturday, August 9th, 2025
2 p.m. - 6 p.m.**

(Rear Parking Lot - 23 Wellington St. N)

Entertainment: Rod Knockers Blues Band
(Mix of Classic Rock, Country Rock & Lively Blues)

COVER CHARGE \$10 (CASH ONLY EVENT)

Food available to be purchased
(Hot Dogs, Sausage on a Bun, Corn on the Cob)

**COME OUT FOR A GREAT TIME AND GREAT FOOD
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL VETERANS CLUB**

Teddy Bear Reunion

NEW LOCATION!
LIONS PARK AT MILT DUNNELL FIELD

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17TH

**PARADE STARTS
AT MILT DUNNELL
FIELD 1PM**

Teddy Bear Judging at 2:30

- Best Dressed Teddy
- Best Teddy look alike
- Sportsman Teddy
- Largest Teddy
- Teddy with the most friends



**COME AND JOIN US
FOR A DAY OF FUN**

**PARK ACTIVITIES | PONY RIDES
FACE PAINTING | TRAIN RIDES
AND GAMES TO PLAY**

Share moments, not measles.

Measles is a contagious virus and it's spreading.

But there's good news, the measles vaccine is safe, highly effective and can provide life-long protection from measles.

Vaccination doesn't just protect you, it also protects your family and your community, especially at-risk groups like babies or people with weakened immune systems.

Contact your local public health unit to check your vaccination status or book a vaccine appointment today.

ontario.ca/measles

Paid for by the Government of Ontario

Ontario

COLUMNS

UKRAINIAN CORNER: A Canadian staycation is the perfect alternative to the stresses of summer travel



(ALONA VASYLIEVA PHOTO)

A trip to Blue Mountain with friends.**ALONA VASYLIEVA***Independent Columnist*

July and August. For many, these months conjure images of idyllic getaways, but they also bring a predictable surge in travel costs and crowds. Gone are the days when my vacation dreams centered on exotic destinations and perfect travel companions. Now, my primary goal is simply to avoid the throngs of other tourists.

Canada has the perfect solution to our travel dilemmas: the staycation. With recent global events, it's a trend that makes complete sense. There's no need to travel far when Canada offers an abundance of natural wonders and trails to explore. Just be prepared with plenty of bug spray and a strong sense of adventure.

I've noticed a distinct fondness for camping here. Back in Ukraine, our idea of "camping" was decidedly old-school: a tent, nature and an aggressive swarm of mosquitoes. It always sounded less like a holiday and more like a wild adventure requiring seriously strong senses of humour.

But then I discovered the mystical recreational vehicle (RV). Oh, the dreams! Imagine, if you will, setting your own course, customizing stops based on urgent snack needs or sudden urges for a boardgame showdown, and enjoying the open road with your favourite people. Pure bliss, right?

Then reality, as it often does, tap-danced into my fantasy. Apparently, you can't just park your colossal home-on-wheels wherever the mood strikes. Nope, it's all about booking spots months in advance, keeping a vigilant eye on water tanks and sewage systems and of course, the ever-present cost of fuel. For our little family, I'm still pondering if the RV dream is worth the plumbing logistics and gas receipts. But rest assured, it remains firmly etched on my Canadian "experiences-to-try" bucket list!

As a former flight attendant from Ukraine, my heart still yearns for the friendly skies. My biggest hope? That the war ends, the sky reopens and I can once again enjoy a direct flight from Toronto to Kyiv. Bliss!

Since landing in Canada, we've tackled a few long-distance road trips. They were fun, truly! But add a couple of kids to the mix and "road trip" quickly transforms into "meticulously planned snack-and-tantrum-management extravaganza."

Then there's the peculiar enigma of Canadian airfares. Logic, as I understood it from my aviation days, dictated that booking far in advance meant cheaper tickets. Years in advance, even! But here in Canada? Not so much. A quick Google revealed the truth: while dynamic pricing is universal, Europe's competitive airline market often forces early bird discounts. Canada, with its less-crowded skies and higher operating costs, can simply shrug and keep prices steady no matter how eager beaver you are to book.

And for newcomers like us, there's the added thrill



(ALONA VASYLIEVA PHOTO)

Alex and Valeri's first experience selling lemonade in Canada at Cadzow Park.

of pre-holiday border paperwork bingo. Before venturing outside Canada, we must triple-check every document, ensuring we can prove our legal right to return. It sometimes feels a bit like living in a luxurious, ocean-surrounded trap. But hey, it is what it is!

A few weeks ago, we embarked on a delightful adventure to Blue Mountain Village with friends. And let me tell you, we had an absolute blast! Despite my usual skepticism about popular tourist spots during peak season, going on a Friday and staying overnight was a stroke of genius. Active days, charming evenings – it was the perfect summer kick-off.

I'm also a huge fan of the Canadian "day trip" philosophy. Explore nearby fun spots without the hassle of overnight bags! Just an early start and a spirit of adventure. After our rather robust winter (seriously, my shovel got a workout), I'm determined to squeeze every last drop of sunshine from this summer and prepare my body for the next season of snow removal.

My son, Alex, has his own summer agenda. He recently launched his first lemonade stand with his friend, Valeri, and it was an unforgettable entrepreneurial debut. A huge thank-you to everyone who stopped by to support these budding business moguls! And a special shout-out to Duncan MacDonald, the curator and educator at Station Gallery in St. Marys whose art classes are a true gem. Duncan even helped Alex and Valeri create a magnificent poster to entice customers!

As for me, my personal summer ritual involves seeking out the best sunset spots in St. Marys and its surroundings. There's something incredibly grounding about watching the sky paint itself in fiery hues.

Here's hoping everyone is enjoying every single, glorious moment of this Canadian summer!

168 SPA
Nails & Waxing
Acrylic/Gel
Shellac
Manicure
Pedicure

Phone 226-661-4168
104 Queen St. E. St. Marys, On. N4X 1A3
Monday - Friday 9:30am - 5pm, Saturday 9:30am - 1pm., Closed Sunday

**RESIDENTIAL SNOW
REMOVAL**

Call or email for a free quote!

GRAYDEN MILLS

306-630-8209
graydenmills@yahoo.ca

Enjoy the
winter without
the hassle.

**Support the local
businesses that keep
your community and its
newspapers thriving.**

**ADVERTISE
LOCAL**

Canada

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Animalia

MARY SMITH

Independent Columnist

We're in the dog days of summer – a season that presents two good reasons for a trip to the St. Marys Museum. First, the beautiful old limestone house at 177 Church Street South is comfortably climate-controlled and a relief from hot, humid weather. Second (speaking of dogs,) a creative new exhibit, Animalia, is in place through the summer months. Researched and developed by Curator Assistant Emily Taylor, the exhibit explores the historic connections between people and animals – connections that are still relevant today. And, of course, as is made clear early in the exhibit, humans are also part of the taxonomic kingdom Animalia!

Emily was inspired by a 2024 donation from the estate of Sheila Greason – a large oil painting of a collie dog standing guard over a pair of kittens. It was painted by Sheila's uncle, the artist, William Greason (1884-1945.) The friendly dog in this large painting seems almost life-size, its beautiful, golden-brown coat in contrast to the dark shadows of the background. One of the tiny kittens is playing with a ball of yarn. It may have been Greason's nod to the 19th century English painter, Sir Edwin Landseer, who specialized in commissioned portraits of favourite dogs and horses. In the Animalia exhibit, the painting emphasizes the high value that owners give to their animal pets.

The Museum holds an impressive number of photographs showing people, places and events related to St. Marys and area and many of these pictures include animals. In 19th century studio portraits, it was common to have dog lying in front of a family group or posed beside a single adult or child. Did people really bring their pets downtown with them and into the photographer's studio? Or did the studio come equipped with some well-trained dogs or, perhaps, several taxidermy specimens, that customers could choose as props? The dog in this week's photograph, taken by Milton Reesor ca 1900, is certainly not a prop. Part of the Animalia exhibit, this picture shows the dog is relaxing with two friends on the beach at Grand Bend, looking out over Lake Huron. Reesor gave this photograph the title: Taking Life Easy.

These photographs, along with ar-



(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ST. MARYS MUSEUM'S DIGITAL COLLECTION)

Taken ca 1900 by Milton Reesor, this photograph shows a dog, its owner and a friend relaxing on the beach at Grand Bend. It is part of the Animalia exhibit at the St. Marys Museum.

tifacts from the Museum's collection, demonstrate some of the ways that people and animals interact. Sometimes animals were kept just to be pets. There are some charming pictures of adults and children with their companion animals. But animals were also important for human survival. In the earliest days of European settlement in this area, healthy domesticated animals were essential to newcomers' success. One section in the Animalia exhibit has several photographs by Carter & Isaac, the outdoor photographers from the early 1900s, showing barnyards with cattle, horses and poultry – all necessary for a successful mixed farming operation, and all turned out of their stalls and pens to be included in the picture. Artifacts include a poke to keep a "breachy" pig or sheep from breaking through a fence, and a fly-net to discourage those persistent insects from annoying a working horse. There's a wooden egg tray and milk tokens from Hoopers Dairy as well as some trophies awarded to their prize-winning herd of Holstein cattle.

Animals were also used for clothing – sheep shears and a pair of wool carders are on display from the Museum's collection. So is a lovely mink stole, a reminder that this area was one of the first in Canada with a concentration of profitable mink ranches. Although attitudes toward wearing furs are currently mostly negative, there are still several

mink operations nearby. The Museum's collection includes photographs showing people dressed in heavy coats, hats, mitts and muffs – all made of fur. In the 19th century, people had no crisis of conscience about wearing these warm garments during a cold winter. Good fur clothing was also a sign of prosperity, and their owners were happy to show off new coats and hats in their formal portraits. This part of the exhibit includes some ladies' summer hats, decorated with feathers, several dyed in colours never seen on any living bird. Feathered hats remained popular well into the mid-20th century.

Fishing and hunting were also traditional activities in this area and, of course, they remain popular today. The Animalia exhibit includes a wooden fishing pole, a metal reel painted black with gold scrolling, and two brightly painted, century-old wooden lures. One artifact, obviously not hunted locally but maybe purchased in a St. Marys store, will cause conservationists to cringe. It is a lady's large purse, made from the hide of an alligator, featuring two of the animal's feet with the claws intact. In the 19th century, some people collected birds and animals in this area as a hobby. Good specimens were prepared by a taxidermist and mounted for display for both ornamental and educational purposes. A large case of stuffed birds that stood in the hallway of Central School

up to the 1950s is now on display in the Museum's "Bird Room." Some smaller specimens were used as home decoration. The Animalia exhibit includes a small, intricately mounted, blue and green bird inside a glass dome. It once sat on a mantle or side-table in a parlour for all to admire.

Emily Taylor points out that in the closing years of the 19th century and at the beginning of the 1900s, animal images were very popular and represented in a wide range of items intended to beautify the home. For example, a large, three-panel fire screen is part of the Animalia exhibit. Each panel is a hand-painted scene including animals or birds. Animals also appear on items that a family would use every day – images on plates and cookie jars or in needlework on cushions. The exhibit suggests that, as people moved from rural to urban areas, they retained a nostalgia for the birds and animals in the countryside they had left behind and sought out these representations. Children's toys owe a lot to animals – teddy bears, piggy banks and rocking horses have always been popular. A section of the exhibit displays some old wind-up and push-and-pull toys from the collection that replicate animal movements. Children still enjoy seeing them demonstrated today.

This column has described some of the features of the Animalia exhibit, but it contains much more to enjoy. And, of course, there are other exhibit and activity areas within the Museum that make it a great place for families or individuals to spend an hour or so on a summer day. It's an excellent supplement to a visit to Cadzow Park. The Museum is one of the 11 local stops on the Summer in St. Marys Passport program. Museum staff can explain this program and issue visitors a passport, or stamp ones they already hold.

Our local Museum is also one of the 15 attractions for Doors Open St. Marys. This event, to be held this year on Saturday, August 9, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., will welcome visitors from all over Ontario to our town. Whatever the occasion, the Animalia exhibit will be in place for all to experience when they visit the St. Marys Museum this summer. For more information, contact the Museum by telephone: 519-284-3556 or by email: museum@town.stmarys.on.ca.


ST. MARYS
DENTISTRY
 520 WATER ST, S. P.O. BOX 1650 | ST. MARYS, ON N4X 1B9 | 519-284-2660
 Dr. Michael Nixon, Dr. Karl Weselan and Dr. Reem Amayem
ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!
 We offer early morning appointment times, and have later appointment times three days per week.
 520 Water St. S., St. Marys, Ontario N4X 1B9
 Ph: 519-284-2660 | www.stmarysdentalclinic.com






H
MONEY
WORKS™
Education & Solutions

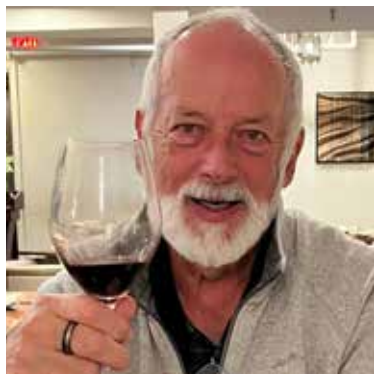
- Financial Planning
- Investments
- Insurance & more!

 Tara Firby, Financial Representative
 St. Marys and Area
 519-275-1108 | tfirby@primerica.com
www.livemore.net/tarafirby

ST. MARYS FARMERS' MARKET
Peaches, raspberries and blueberries
 New vendors welcome!
 Speak to our Market Manager to learn more
 Saturday, July 26
 8 a.m. to noon
 1 Veterans Circle | Milt Dunnell Field



OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Halifax has converted its waterfront into a welcoming destination



PAUL KNOWLES

Independent Columnist

Fun fact; no point in Nova Scotia is more than 60 kilometres from the sea. And that geographical reality translates into innumerable delights for visitors to this Maritime province.

From Cape Breton – where the Cabot Trail is a must-do for all visitors – to the Acadian Shores; from Digby on the Bay of Fundy coast to Lunenburg, home of the Bluenose on the Atlantic, the sea is an intrinsic part of so many visits to Nova Scotia.

And nowhere is the connection with the sea more beautifully realized than in Halifax, where inspired vision and incredible effort has gone into transforming the waterfront into one of the most visitable destinations in Canada.

Visitors can walk the entire waterfront and it will take a while because there is so much to do here. Major attractions include the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, and the HMCS Sackville, the last remaining “Flower-class Corvette” from World

War II, and now a National Historic Site and a naval museum. The Sackville is permanently moored in Halifax Harbour.

And speaking of boats and Halifax Harbour, a terrific way to get a waterside perspective on the scene is by taking the unique Halifax Harbour Tours cruise. What’s so special about this particular cruise? It truly is unique. The boat is 105 years old, built in England and once used in Florida’s Everglades. But while it has all of this history, it’s also thoroughly modern, having been retrofitted as “Halifax’s only all-electric harbour cruise.”

Captain Glenn Fraser told us that the retrofit, which was admittedly expensive, has meant the operating cost of each 90-minute cruise is about \$1.

The cost to passengers is \$40 per adult – in my opinion, quite a bargain when compared to a lot of tourism experiences.

The cruise not only provides wonderful views of the entire waterfront including ships ranging from luxury yachts to imposing military vessels, it also provides a good look at Georges Island, home to Fort Charlotte. A few years ago, Parks Canada opened Fort Charlotte to the public with its maze of underground tunnels. Guided tours are available and visitors to the island may also encounter the unique, black and white species of garter snake that has evolved on the island.

The harbour tour is really worthwhile, but you will also want to spend time strolling along the waterfront, taking

in all the attractions big and small. These will range from unique sculptures commemorating the history of Halifax as the first port of call for immigrants to buskers offering live entertainment along the way.

There are play areas for kids including the iconic and accessible sculpture, “The Wave,” which is continually populated by climbing kids and which gives me the willies as I wait for someone to fall off the crest. This does not seem to happen, though!

You can find the entire spectrum of dining experiences along the waterfront. There are plenty of pubs and craft breweries, as well as higher-end dining. And there are food shacks selling every variety of fast food, including, of course, beaver tails, donairs and ice cream.

A fairly recent addition to the waterfront is the luxury hotel, the Muir. It’s an attraction in its own right and the development created an amazing waterfront space that includes an event area, sculpture gallery, a vast staircase into the sea and lots of spots for boutiques and restaurants.

One of my favourite shops on the waterfront is the Peace by Chocolate boutique. Peace by Chocolate has an inspiring story – a business founded by Syrian refugees to Canada committed to making a positive difference in the world, and also to producing some of finest chocolate I have ever tasted! The founding Hadhad family – who still own the business – are based in Antigonish, N.S., the



(PHOTOS BY PAUL KNOWLES)

The 105-year-old, now-electric boat of Halifax Harbour Tours.

location of their factory, but the Halifax waterfront shop certainly offers all the best of their admittedly addictive products.

The developers of the waterfront had the brilliant idea of making sure every visitor has an opportunity to simply relax. So, there are innumerable chairs provided for lounging with a great view of the sea – perhaps even for napping?

There is a lot more to do in Halifax away from the water: the famous Citadel, one of the most visited history attractions in Canada; the Nova Scotia Art Gallery, which includes the highly decorated home of primitive painter Maud Lewis; and not to be forgotten, the Alexander Keith’s Brewery. But I have a confession to make:

during our two-day stay in Halifax, we never actually left the waterfront. We stayed at the Westin Nova Scotia, spent hours and hours at the Museum of Immigration, and the rest of our days strolling, cruising and exploring along the waterfront. It was a wonderful, relaxing visit.

Next time, Halifax, I will try to pry myself away from your amazing waterfront to enjoy everything else in this welcoming city, but it won’t be easy.

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

**A view of The Muir hotel from the harbour, including the mysterious steps into the sea.****There are innumerable opportunities to simply relax along the Halifax waterfront.**

EAT AT OUR HOUSE: Seasonal offerings



LAUREN EEDY
Independent Columnist

Minimalizing time spent in the kitchen during the summer is a personal goal of mine. The recipes this week feature the best of our local and seasonal produce with very limited preparation time yet yield the freshest flavours so you can spend more time appreciating what the following months have to offer.

Quick & Easy Pasta with Sweet Corn & Bacon

Tip for corn: purchase a pineapple corer to easily and effectively remove kernels from cobs. A straightforward and satisfying pasta dish for summer evenings. The sweetness of corn in pasta is a perfect companion to salty bacon. You will need about 2 tbsp of remaining bacon grease for the pan.
Serves: 4 Prep: 10m Cook: 20m

4-6 slices of bacon, finely chopped
1 medium shallot, finely chopped
2 large garlic cloves, finely chopped
Salt & freshly ground black pepper

12 oz spaghetti, or long pasta of choice
Kernels from 3 cobs of sweet corn
Juice of ½ lime
¼ c freshly grated parmesan cheese, plus more for serving
2 tbsp minced chives
Extra virgin olive oil for drizzling

- Method:**
- Bring a large pot of water to a boil
 - Put bacon in a large skillet and place over medium heat, stirring occasionally until bacon is crisp
 - Add shallot and garlic, season with salt and pepper. Cook stirring often until tender. Set aside.
 - Season boiling water with salt and add pasta. Set a timer for 1m for al dente. Add corn kernels and cook until pasta is al dente. Reserve 1c of cooking water and drain.
 - Slide cooked pasta and corn into skillet with bacon and turn up to medium. Add about half of the reserved cooking water or more as needed. Season generously with salt and pepper. Remove from pan and add lime juice, parmesan and chives. Drizzle a tablespoon or two of olive oil. Taste and season with additional salt, pepper and/or lime juice.
 - Serve with additional parmesan and chives.

Crab Legs with Garlic Butter
Steamed to perfection: this is a simple way to enjoy served as a great appetizer or main. Crab

doesn't have to be a luxury, you can purchase at most grocery stores and of course fish-mongers.
Prep: 10 Serves: 4 Cook: 10

6 pounds crab; Dungeness, king, snow or combination
½ c butter
1 tbsp garlic, minced
Salt and pepper to taste
2 tbsp chopped parsley
Lemon wedges for serving

- Method:**
- Place 3 inches of water in a large, deep pot over medium heat. Bring to a boil.
 - Crack crab legs with seafood cracker or shears (be careful, shell is sharp). This helps to cook the meat and flavour with butter garlic sauce.
 - Place crab legs in the pot and cover. If you have raw crab, cook for 10-12m until flesh is red/orange and opaque.
 - Drain crab and cover to keep warm.
 - Melt butter in the pot. Add garlic and cook for additional 30 seconds. Turn off heat and season with salt, pepper and parsley.
 - Return crab to pot and toss to coat with garlic butter. Serve immediately with lemon slices.

Easy Peach Crisp
Peach season is here! Sweet and soft peaches topped with a crispy, brown sugar and cinnamon filled crumble, then served with ice cream. Refreshing and delicious.

Filling:



5-7 peaches
2 tbsp all-purpose flour
2 tbsp sugar
½ tsp pure vanilla extract

Crumble:
½ c all-purpose flour
2/3 c brown sugar
½ tsp cinnamon
¼ tsp salt
½ c unsalted butter, softened
1 c old-fashioned oats

Method:
- Preheat oven to 350°F

- Peel (optional) and cut peaches into cubes. In a large bowl, combine cubed peaches with all other ingredients under 'filling'. Mix well and pour into a 9" pie pan or square pan.
- In a medium bowl, combine all crumble ingredients. Mix well.
- Optional: refrigerate crumble for 30m and mix well again.
- Layer crumble onto peach filling. Bake for 40-45m.
- Remove from oven and serve with vanilla ice cream.

Straight from the Shelves

LAURA MCASH
St. Marys Public Library

This Friday, drop into the Library between 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. for our next Service Canada pop-up. Available services include Public Pensions, EI Benefits and Leave, Wage Earner Protection Program (WEPP), Social Insurance Numbers (SIN), and more. Please note that Passport Renewal will NOT be offered.

This Week's Recommendation

24 years before Katniss Everdeen volunteers as a District 12 tribute, we follow her mentor, Haymitch Abernathy, into the arena for the 50th annual Hunger Games. In recognition of the Quarter Quell, it is declared that double the number of participants will take part. 48 kids. 1 winner. May the odds be ever in their favour. Read on by picking up "Sunrise on the Reaping", the latest "Hunger Games" novel by Suzanne Collins, avail-

able physically and digitally.

Up This Week

Fri., July 25: Service Canada Pop-Up (10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.), Ocean Art Adventures with Stone Home Creatives*^ (1 p.m.)

Sat., July 26: Dungeons and Dragons (10 a.m.)

Mon., July 28: Crafty Kids (10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.), Euchre Mondays (10:30 a.m.), SMPL: Adventure Zone (1:30-3 p.m.)

Tues., July 29: Reading Help* (10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.), Discovery Den (1:30-3 p.m.)

Wed., July 30: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30-10:30 a.m.), Summer Book Club* (10:30-11:30 a.m.), Mahjong! (1-4 p.m.), Reading Help* (1:30-3 p.m.)

Thurs., July 31: Reading in the Park~ (10-11 a.m.)

*Registration Required

^Town Hall Auditorium (175 Queen Street)

~Kin Park (109 James Street North)

Ask the Arborist

By Joel Hackett | 519 272 5742 | jtsquote@gmail.com



Dear Arborist,

I have a maple tree and due to construction, the roots have been dug up fairly close to the trunk. I have been keeping the roots wet and watering regularly. What should be done when digging around trees?

Thanks, Hannah

Dear Hannah,

Normally, when digging around trees, the recommended minimum is 15 ft. from the trunk. Unfortunately, that is rarely followed and often not even possible. Watering and keeping the roots damp is a good practice to follow.

One thing to consider is that the tree is less stable having lost a portion of its support system, so don't overwater it, as this might increase the chances of it falling over. You could also try fertilizing with high potassium and phosphorus in the fall. Other than that, there is not much you can do but hope for the best.

Sincerely,

The Arborist

Joel Hackett is a certified Arborist residing in the St. Marys area. Currently, he spends most of the year running Joel's Tree Service. For contact call 519 272 5742 or email jtsquote@gmail.com

Riddles

- What animal can you always find at a baseball game?
A bat!
- What do you call a sleeping bull?
A bulldozer!
- Why are fish so smart?
Because they live in schools!
- What do you get when you cross a snake and a pie?
A python à la mode!
- What do cats eat for breakfast?
Mice Krispies!
- Why did the duck get a time-out?
Because he was being a wise-quacker!
- What do you call a pig that knows karate?
A pork chop!
- Why did the orange stop rolling?
Because it ran out of juice!
- What did one slice of bread say to the other before the race?
You're toast!
- What kind of beans never grow in a garden?
Jelly beans!
- Why don't eggs tell jokes?
Because they might crack up!
- Why was the banana so good at gymnastics?
Because it could do the splits!

- Word Search -



SPONSORED BY:
Adult Learning Programs of Perth, Upstairs at the St. Marys Public Library
(700 Church Street North, St. Marys, ON) | Phone: 519-284-4408 | Cell: 226-374-8231
alearning@town.stmarys.on.ca | www.adultlearningperth.ca | Facebook: @AdultLearningProgramsofPerth

DOORS OPEN SUMMER 2025

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

- August
Historic
Fifteen locations
Flour Mill
Riverside
Central School
Manor
Four churches
Museum
Hall of Fame
Station Gallery
Public library
Mercury building
Broken Rail
Town Hall
Heritage district
Maps available



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What kind of lion never roars?



A dandelion!

Ben Culliton (2)

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

St. Marys Veterinary Clinic is pleased to be the sponsor of the

PET OF THE WEEK



Dog parks offer off-leash play and socialization, but risks include dog fights, disease, and parasites. Watch your dog's behaviour, observe the environment, and keep vaccinations and parasite prevention current to stay safe.



OSCAR

Our Pet of the Week is Oscar, an American bulldog who will turn two on August 1.. Oscar, for his young age, is pretty laid back. He enjoys his daily walks but loves his naps. He shares the Waugh household with his canine companions, Stella and Max.



Thorndale News

*A section within the
St. Marys Independent*

The Good Neighbour Project

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

2025 marks the 31st year for the Good Neighbour Project. This project is part of the 'Canadian Foodgrains Bank', a Christian-based charitable organization that facilitates the collection and distribution of cash, grain and other agricultural commodities to the world's hungry through its member agencies.

Since 1994, when the Good Neighbour Project began, they have planted corn, soya beans and wheat on a couple of acreage plots in the Thorndale area. Planting is donated by committee farmers; spraying, harvesting, drying, and trucking are extra costs. Share cropping with the landowner has been an accommodating way to keep expenses to a minimum. As in recent years, Pioneer Seeds has generously donated the seed for this project. This year, wheat is being grown on 35 acres located southeast of Thorndale, in a share-crop arrangement with the landowners, the Stubgens family.

The Good Neighbour Project committee, consisting of fourteen local farmers, residents and area churches – Thorndale United, St. George's Anglican, Brown's United, South Nissouri Presbyterian, and two churches from London, Riv-



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

Pictured in front is Pat Jones, committee secretary; middle row left to right: John Elliott, chair of the Good Neighbour Project committee, Glenn Waterman, 'Giving Lead' for the United Church of Canada, and committee members George Wonnacott and Bob Duffin and in the back, Henry Reinders, Ontario director of the Canadian Food Grain Bank.

erside United and Trinity Lutheran Church in Mississauga. Chair, John Elliott reported this year's wheat crop looks promising and he has lined

up a couple of custom combiners with hopes one of them will be available in the next couple of weeks to harvest the crop. Elliott also added, he expects a healthy yield and is setting up a buyer for the straw. This wheat harvest will be sold locally, with the proceeds of this crop sent in the fall to the Canadian Food Grains in Winnipeg, which will be matched by 4 to 1 by the Canadian Federal government for this charity.

Elliott stated, "I hope we can generate another substantial donation to send to Winnipeg, like we did last year." remarking, "the world's hungry needs this even more as the United States government drastically reduced all foreign aid earlier this year."

There is a way for people to contribute to the Good Neighbour Project. As in the past, the committee has organized a Pork BBQ and corn roast on August 17 at Brown's United Church, (west of Hwy 19, on Plover Mills Road) with entertainment at 5:30 p.m. and supper at 6 p.m. Everyone is invited. There is no admission charge, but people are asked to bring a salad or dessert to share along with bringing their own dishes and a lawn chair. There will also be a donation jar for contributions for this 'Good Neighbour Project' with receipts given for their donations.

Refreshing for those sizzling summer days

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

As his family was waiting to leave the Thorndale Splash Pad, Josh VanDenBerg, age 11 had to take one last refreshing splash from this towering shower before leaving the park.

The Thorndale Splash Pad became a reality when it was initiated by a few members of the community in 2012. They believed this would make a valuable addition to the Thorndale community park area. The estimated cost was \$250,000.00 with the Municipality of Thames Centre budgeting \$125,000 for their portion, an Ontario Trillium grant of \$50,000, with the rest of the cost up to the community to raise. A committee was formed for the Thorndale Splash Pad project and an active fundraising campaign was set in motion in June 2012.

Community groups – Thorndale Revitalization, Thorndale Lions and Thorndale Optimist collectively

donated \$31,000.00 to the Splash Pad project. Seeing that the Canadian penny would be obsolete later that year, the committee encouraged the community to donate their pennies along with paper notes too. Also a part of this fundraising, the committee sold engraved stepping stones for the landscaped park area. During the next few months, funds generated from the Thorndale Women's Institute fashion show, together with contributions from an Irish-themed event were allocated to support this project.

With an ambitious Splash Pad committee and the support and generosity of the community, they raised their required amount in just over six months with construction of the new Thorndale Splash Pad started in the Spring of 2013.

Since the official opening in June 2013, the Thorndale Splash Pad has been a hit especially on those sizzling summer days, delighting area children with refreshing water fun.



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

Pictured is Josh Vandenberg enjoying a refreshing shower at the Thorndale Splash Pad.

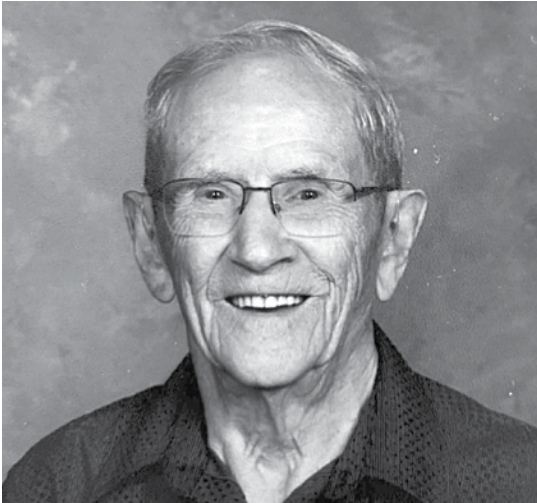
**THE ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT AND ITS WEEKLY
"THORNDALE NEWS" IS AVAILABLE WITHIN THORNDALE
AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:**

160 King, ACE Hardware, Nissouri Manor, Sassy's, Thorndale Community Centre, Thorndale Family Restaurant, Thorndale Farm Supplies, Thorndale Food Market, Thorndale Pharmacy or online at www.granthaven.com

**GOT A THORNDALE STORY IDEA OR ADVERTISEMENT? CONTACT US AT
INFO@STMARYSINDEPENDENT.COM**

CELEBRATION

Ron Smith is turning 90!



Please join us in celebrating at a special birthday
Open House
July 27, 2025 from 1-4 pm
 at St. Marys United Church Hall,
 85 Church St. S. St. Marys

it's a triple

Celebration!

Celebrating 201:

Bob's 75th

And they've been married 53 Years!

Marnie's 73rd

Please join Bob and Marnie Ready at the:

Downie Optimist Hall

3185 Line 122, Perth South, St. Pauls

July 26, 2025

3:00 to ? pm

Light meal 5:30 to 6:30 pm

Come enjoy a casual evening with lots of visiting!

Your presence is your gift.



Raspberries & Blueberries

are both ready!

Open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday

276347 27th Line, Lakeside ON

Call for daily picking conditions 519-283-6025

Or check our website sheldonberries.com

Andrew L. Hodges

FUNERAL HOME



Helping you design affordable and personal services including:

- burial
- cremation
- donation to science
- celebrations of life
- open houses
- religious services

DID YOU KNOW

You can begin pre-arranging your funeral by scanning this QR code or visiting www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca and clicking on "Resources" then "pre-arrange online" to complete a basic information form.



47 Wellington St. S., St. Marys

519-284-2820 | www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca

THANK YOU

Cook

The family of the late John Cook would like to thank friends, family, neighbours and co-workers for the cards, phone calls, hugs, flowers and donations. We would also like to thank Hodges Funeral Home and Gary Mallalieu for the lovely service. It is all greatly appreciated.

Sherrill Bradley, Sylvia Richardson and families



A.N.A.F. Unit 265

23 Wellington St. N.

519-284-4390

Saturday Aug. 9th

Cornfest with Live Music
 More information to come.

NEVADA TICKETS AVAILABLE

MEAT DRAWS EVERY FRIDAY 6PM

SHERWIN

LAW

LAWYER & MEDIATOR



Real Estate: Buying, Selling, Mortgages



Wills and Estates



Family Law



Mediation

SERVING ST. MARYS FOR OVER 25 YEARS

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

519-284-0898 • info@sherwinlaw.ca

Are You A Newcomer To The St. Marys Area?

The friends of the library has a FREE Welcome Package for you to pick up at the library!

• Recreation Info

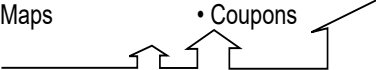
• Gifts + MORE

• Local Services

• Health & Wellness

• Maps

• Coupons



St. Marys Public Library, 15 Church St. 519-284-3346

Maximize your return.

Conservative Advice for Intelligent Decisions



Donna L. Hinz



Franklin E. Hinz

196 Ontario Street

Stratford, Ontario N5A 3H4

519-273-1633 franklinehinz.com

St. Marys Independent

SCAN TO READ THE ONLINE PAPER

FREE

www.granthaven.com

GRANT HAVEN MEDIA



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are that of their authors and do not reflect the opinions of the St. Marys Independent or Grant Haven Media.

In response to Spencer Seymour's Globe and Fail editorial

I love the enthusiasm that Spencer Seymour puts into his writing and radio play by play. If I'm not mistaken, he will likely get a bit of flack from senior citizens like me over his Globe and Fail editorial.

I don't know his family history, but it might be a case of not going back another generation to see that not everything was as rosy as he suggests for previous generations. My grandfather came from England at the age of 19 because there were no opportunities for him in his home country. He worked 14-hour days every day but Sunday for years to save \$5,000 to buy his own place when he was in his 40s, then continued to work the same hours all his life until he died in his early 60s. He took only one trip back to England, but his parents had died so he never saw them after coming to Canada.

I never got to see him as he had worked himself to death before I was born. Don't get me wrong, he died a prosperous man and future generations have benefited from his hard work, but he would be dumbfounded by the extravagance of the cost of internet, cell phones and yearly trips to the south.

Actually, I'm a little dumbfounded at my grand nieces and nephews not going just once a year to the Caribbean but multiple times a year. Housing costs are nuts, but young people having "bidding wars" and paying

more than asking price is not helping. Also, just drive through London and check out the wartime houses that are the size of the garden sheds of many new houses being built.

I'm not saying there isn't room for improvement, but maybe expectations of youth would be tempered a bit by studying history more closely. Education and industry do share some blame, in Seymour's defence, as my 10-years-old brother and all his friends got good-paying jobs straight out of high school in the 1960s and all bought brand-new cars when they were 18 years old.

Things were booming then; maybe they will again.
Paul Jackson, St. Marys



For Hall Rentals
call 519-271-5343

Sun. July 13 - Matt Coulthard, St. Pauls	\$50.00
Mon. July 14 - Tricia Holmes Storey, Milverton	\$50.00
Tues. July 15 - Fred Keller, Shedden	\$50.00
Wed. July 16 - Welby Keir, London	\$50.00
Thur. July 17 - Marlene Gibson, St. Marys	\$50.00
Fri. July 18 - Brian Boyes, Stratford	\$50.00
Sat. July 19 - Greg Wicke, Stratford	\$200.00

FRASER ASPHALT PAVING INC

FREE QUOTES 519-271-5690
www.fraserpaving.ca

Support the local businesses that keep your community and its newspapers thriving.

ADVERTISE LOCAL

Canada

Sudoku

Sponsored by:



SHACKLETON'S
Real Estate & Auction Co. shackletons.com

FERN PRIDHAM - Real Estate Broker
519 274 2885
fernpridham@gmail.com

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

Solutions on page 27

LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

Taylor Bats

25 years ago (2000)
Town Hall staff collectively sang "happy birthday" to Ontario Liberal leader Dalton McGuinty, MPP for Ottawa South for the past 10 years, when he arrived in St. Marys last Wednesday morning.

Jack and Nicole Taylor have found a unique and rewarding way to help raise money for the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame. About two years ago, they started a company called Taylor Bats which manufactures chairs and stools made of ash baseball bats. For each sale, \$50 is donated to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

50 years ago (1975)
Renovations at Town Hall, underway for several years, could be completed this week. The main hall of the business floor received its six chandeliers last week. Be sure to have a look up when passing, especially when chandeliers are lit up in the evening.

Several weeks ago, the Journal-Argus carried an item concerning the disappearance of plants from the local cemetery. The latest word on the subject is that a rural resident, on a Sunday evening some three years ago, chased a herd of eight cattle back through the fence south of the cemetery. That could well account for the missing petunias.

75 years ago (1950)
Mrs. Ben McGiveron is very proud of the Queen Elizabeth Cactus she has at her home on Queen Street East. It has already thirty-five blooms on it, and more that are coming.

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Robinson successfully completed a four-month motor journey through the U.S. and Canada when they arrived safely home in St. Marys this week. These travelers have pictures galore. Ken seemed to be greatly impressed by their trip to Vancouver Island and various experiences fishing there.

100 years ago (1925)
The weekly dance in the St. Marys Armouries was well patronized on Friday night.

The horrible stench that pervades the Avon River about the Avonton district has caused complaints to be made to the Stratford City Council. The smell is caused by the city sewage disposal system which has its outlet in the meagre waters of the once beautiful Avon River. The writer has passed through the village of Avonton on several occasions recently and, well, let's just say it is indescribable.



THE GROOMER
Grooming Service
& Pet Sitting
Available



— WELLINGTON STREET —
GUEST HOUSE



A modern and charming guest house for the perfect getaway - book your stay today!

 wellingtonstreetgh.wixsite.com/mysite

 wellingtonstreetguesthouse@gmail.com

255 WELLINGTON ST. S., ST. MARYS
519-284-0036

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Call 519-284-0041 or email
info@stmarysindependent.com
to inquire about our directory

BARBER

MACPHERSON'S BARBERSHOP
EST. 2000
YOUR ST. MARYS ON.
BARBERSHOP
108 QUEEN ST. E.
macphersonsbarbershop.ca
226-661-0222
FIND US AND BOOK
ONLINE @   

EAVESTROUGH

SURE SEAL EAVESTROUGH
519.701.8838
eavestrough@sure-seal.ca
Seamless Eavestrough
Steel and Aluminum
Gutter Guard • Heavy Built
Fascia • Soffit • Trim Bending & More
WES BENNET • ST. MARYS ON

CLEANING

Spotless Cleaning Plus
Office & Residential
St. Marys and Surrounding Area
Sheila Leblanc
519-630-2665
Sheila Leblanc
spotless@write.com
Call or email for an
appointment today

REAL ESTATE


LUCIE STEPHENS
SALES REPRESENTATIVE
519-703-0333
RE/MAX  
SOLD!

HOME CARE

 **Cricket Care**
Where your at home
care comes first
Personalized Home Care
Providing specialized care for:
Stoma - Cancer - Diabetes - Neurological Disorders
Epilepsy - Spinal Injury
In addition to every day care
Call 519-301-7791 (PSW1)
Serving St. Marys and Area since 2022

CONSTRUCTION

 **MCC CONTRACTORS LTD.**
485 James St S, St Marys
Email: mcc@quadro.net
Ph: 519-349-2256
General Contracting • Design-Build (A-CAD)
Renovations • Additions • Doors & Windows & More!

The Deckman's

Professional Services Limited

Deck Sanding and Staining,
no peeling
Kim Moore
519-817-8952
decksanding@yahoo.ca
31 YEARS EXPERIENCE

DISPOSAL

 **DIAMOND DISPOSAL**
BIN RENTAL
OR FULL JUNK
REMOVAL
519-284-2221
www.diamonddisposal.ca
info@diamonddisposal.ca

Robson Scrap Metal
Open 8 to 4:30
Monday - Friday
519.284.2800

206-211 Carling St., St. Marys

**CALL 519.284.0041
TO INQUIRE ABOUT
OUR BUSINESS
DIRECTORY**

ELECTRICAL

FORMAN ELECTRIC LTD.
Celebrating **20+ YEARS** in business
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
AGRICULTURAL • INDUSTRIAL
BACK-UP GENERATOR SYSTEMS
Work with someone
you know you can trust!
519.284.0833
St. Marys

STONETOWN S/E ELECTRIC
RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL,
INDUSTRIAL & AGRICULTURAL
YOUR LOCAL, FULL-SERVICE ELECTRICAL
CONTRACTING COMPANY.
Contact Us Today or Visit Us Online
519-301-8411 • stonetownelectric.ca

 **Hughes**
ELECTRICAL SOLUTIONS
GREAT SERVICE
QUALITY WORKMANSHIP
EXPERT KNOWLEDGE
Full Service Electrical Solutions
226-921-1739
info@hugheselectricalsolutions.com
ECRA/ESAB 7016671

TREE SERVICE

JOEL'S TREE SERVICE
519-272-5742
www.joelstreeservice.com
Trimming, Removals, Stumps, Fertilizing

PLUMBING

 **CUBBERLEY**
Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning
ST. MARYS
519-349-2420
Service from our Family to Yours since 1979

INSURANCE

SIG
St Marys Insurance Group Inc
Offering Insurance Services for:
PERSONAL, COMMERCIAL,
FARM, RESIDENTIAL, BUSINESS,
TRANSPORTATION & MORE!
Give us a call today!
199 Elgin St E • St. Marys ON • 519-284-1900
inquiries@stmarysinsurance.ca

HEAT / COOL

FORMAN ELECTRIC LTD.
Celebrating **20+ YEARS** in business
GAS WORK • HEAT PUMPS •
DUCTLESS SPLITS • AIR CONDITIONERS •
HOT WATER HEATERS • FURNACES
Work with someone
you know you can trust!
519.284.0833
St. Marys

LANDSCAPING

Linda Vandermolten
Landscape Artist
Weeding, Mulching, Leaf Raking,
Transplanting small plants
519-276-7712

 **PEAK**
each brokerage independently owned & operated
SELECT REALTY INC., BROKERAGE
163 Queen St. E.
Downtown St. Marys
519-284-4646
peakselectrealty@gmail.com

 **Home & Company**
REAL ESTATE CORP. BROKERAGE
Toni McLean Sales Representative
519-274-1120 Direct
245 Downie St, Stratford, N5A 1X5
tmclean@homeandcompany.ca
Proud St. Marys resident!

MUSIC

 **Rob Edney's**
The World's
Coolest
Music Store
226-688-8385
worldscoolest@hotmail.ca

PAINTING

Painting and Handyman
in and around St. Marys
Call Alex at 519-636-5874
for more information

SEAMSTRESS

Stonetown Alterations
Professional Seamstress
Ingrid Voermans
www.stonetownalterations.ca | stonetownalterations@gmail.com
519-703-2007

TAKE OUT FOOD

 **KIPPY'S PIZZA**
Mon CLOSED
Tues to Thurs 11-9
Fri and Sat 11-10
Sun 3-8
519-284-1864
118 QUEEN STREET, ST. MARYS

WATER TREATING

 **medinasoft**
A FULL LINE WATER TREATMENT COMPANY
SALES
SERVICE
RENTALS
Call Dave for more info
at 519.349.2040


SENIORS

Better Ways For Seniors Ltd.
519.868.3021
 **Don Ewert**
don@betterwaysforseniors.com
www.BetterWaysForSeniors.com
BetterWaysForSeniors

**CALL 519.284.0041
TO INQUIRE ABOUT
OUR BUSINESS
DIRECTORY**

CLASSIFIED ADS

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 to buy

All collectibles including sports cards, beanie babies, Funko pops and stamps. Highest prices paid. Free appraisals.Are you downsizing or need an estate clean out? We can help. We are at the Pinery Market at Grand Bend every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call or text Stan anytime 519-868-3814.

Wanted

I will pay cash for antiques and collectibles. Coca Cola, Pepsi or any pop company. Brewery items - Kuntz, Huether Labatts, etc.
Old radios and gramophones, wristwatches, pocket watches, old fruit jars - Beaver Star, Bee Hive etc. Any old oil cans and signs - Red Indian, Supertest etc. Any small furniture. If you are moving or cleaning out stuff please contact me - 519-570-6920.

For Sale

Hundreds of shade trees, fruit trees, apples, pears, peaches, plums, sweet and sour cherries, apricots, nectarines, blueberries, haskapp grapes, raspberries, elderberries etc. Lots of spruce, pine, cedars for windbreak and privacy hedges. Sizes 1-8 ft. in containers ready to go. Flowering shrubs and much more. Mon-Sat 7:00am to 6:00pm. Martin's Nursery, 42661 Orangehill Rd Wroxeter, ON N0G 2X0 (1 Conc. North of Wroxeter on Belmore Line)

For Rent

Large 3 bedroom downtown apartment in 3 story walk up above Gilly's, includes all utilities, wifi, laundry, parking. References required. Available July. Please call 519-697-4985

For Rent

Room for rent in condo, working male preferred - \$900 per month. Contact 226-301-4442

For Rent

Wildwood Care Centre (Retirement Living). Private room accommodations for Senior living available, can accommodate couples. Price \$2800 to \$4600 monthly. Meals, basic care, medication management and staff available 24/7. For tours call Lisa at 519-284-3628.

For Sale

2007 Jayce Jayflight fifth wheel trailer RKS model for sale as is. Asking \$7000 or closest offer. Call 519-860-8862.

For Rent

Apartment for Rent - Private entrance, all utilities paid. Available Sept 1/25. Call 226-661-0788

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

HELP WANTED



Stratford Police Service

We currently have openings for the following position:

PART TIME
CLERK - COMMUNICATOR
(DISPATCHER)

Please refer to the City of Stratford website at www.stratford.ca for details of the duties for this position, minimum qualifications, and application submission process.

Application forms will be available at the Stratford Police Service Administrative Centre at 789 Erie Street, Stratford, Ontario or via email at recruitment@stratfordpolice.com.

Completed application packages for this Part Time Clerk-Communicator position will be accepted until August 8, 2025.

Please mail or deliver completed applications to Stratford Police Service, 17 George Street West, Stratford, ON N5A 1A6 OR email to recruitment@stratfordpolice.com.

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those selected for testing will be contacted.

LOCAL MATTERS.



Remember that time when **Amazon** sponsored your church fundraiser?



Remember when **Facebook** bought a case of Girl Guide cookies to support your daughter?



Remember when **Google** provided free pizza to your child's soccer team when they won the championship?

Neither do we!

Local businesses live here. They play here. They invest here. They need our support, now more than ever.

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

CANADA'S NEWS MEDIA
CHAMPION
THE TRUTH.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. British Columbia
2. Google
3. White and Red
4. Baloo
5. Love
6. Vermont
7. The Beatles
8. Green
9. Vitamin C
10. 1929

St. Marys Independent
THE WEEK AHEAD

SPONSORED BY:  **McDonald's St. Marys**
752 Queen St E
Founding and Forever partner of
Ronald McDonald House

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

St. Marys Public Library – See Page 21

Friday, July 25

- A.N.A.F. meat draw – 6 p.m.

Saturday, July 26

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field – 8 a.m. to Noon

- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw – 5 p.m.

- Bob & Marnie Ready birthday & anniversary celebration at Downie Optimist Hall – 3-?? p.m.

Sunday, July 27

- Ron Smith 90th birthday open house at St. Marys United Church hall – 1-4 p.m.

Wednesday, July 30

- Station Gallery “Summer art for Kids” – Ages 6-12, 9 a.m. to Noon, Ages 13+, 1-4 p.m. Call 519-274-1074 to reserve a spot

Thursday, July 31

- Heeman's Cider Gardens at 20422 Nissouri Road – 4-8 p.m. An East Coast kitchen party

PUT YOUR
MONEY
WHERE
YOUR
HOUSE IS

Keep your dollars in Canada to support local businesses and strengthen communities.



News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada



BLYTH
FESTIVAL
original.canadian.theatre.

Added Performances!



The Wind Coming Over the Sea

BY EMMA DONOGHUE

**Due to popular demand,
we've added extra performances!**

SEPTEMBER 25 - OCTOBER 5

Tickets on sale July 24th

Presented by Carlyle Peterson Lawyers LLP
Co-sponsored by Bi-Ax International Inc.

Playing This Season:

Sir John A: Acts of a Gentrified Ojibway Rebellion | By Drew Hayden Taylor
The Wind Coming Over the Sea | By Emma Donoghue
Quiet in the Land | By Anne Chislett
Powers and Gloria | By Keith Roulston
Radio Town: The Doc Cruickshank Story | By Nathan Howe

**Reserve your seats:
1-877-862-5984 or
blythfestival.com**



CHECK OUT OUR 2026 CANADIAN GROUP TRIPS

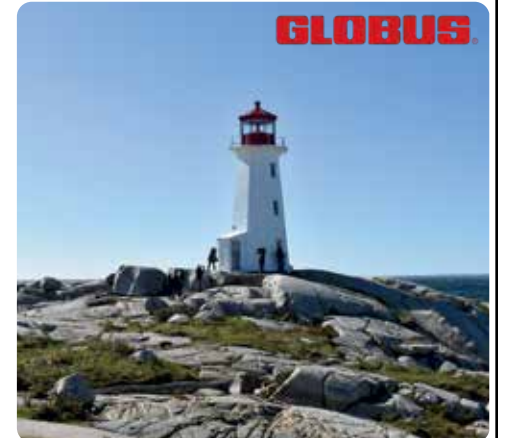
**ROCKY MOUNTAINEER
PASSAGE TO THE PEAKS**

JUNE 15 - 24, 2026



**MARITIMES AND
CAPE BRETON**

AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 6, 2026



HOSTED BY

Head Office:

150 Queen Street East,
St. Marys, ON N4X 1B4
© 519-284-2332
agent@stonetowntravel.com
TICO #50021282

**STONETOWN
TRAVEL**

www.stonetowntravel.com

Branch Office:

210 Mill Street,
New Hamburg, ON N3A 1P9
© 226-333-9939
newhamburg@stonetowntravel.com
TICO #50025796



FOR ALL YOUR SITEWORK NEEDS

- Excavating/Grading
- Retaining Walls
- Concrete Breaking
- Servicing
- Septic Systems
- Trucking
- Hydroseeding



Bryn Luckhardt

519-272-3408 • bryn@luckhardtlandworks.com

www.luckhardtlandworks.com

St. Marys, Ontario