

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1284

Thursday, October 16, 2025

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TAKING A SPIN AROUND THE FIRE HALL

(EMILY STEWART PHOTO)

Evan (right) stays focused like he's driving the fire engine. He's pictured with Sofie Altimimi.

St. Marys BIA agrees to 50/50 partnership with town on new banners and designs

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Residents of St. Marys and visitors to downtown could see new banners with brand-new designs adorning downtown streetlights next year.

After deciding last year to do away with the annual hanging-basket program to save money on watering and the purchase of flowers, the St. Marys BIA board recently voted to partner 50/50 with the town on having two local artists develop four new

designs – two designs per artist – for new banners that would take the place of the hanging baskets next year. The banners would be hung from July 1 to Oct. 1 annually.

“Because we’re not having hanging baskets anymore, we’re looking to replace the hanging baskets with colourful banners in the style of the (utility boxes) that the two artists did downtown,” said BIA board member Lisa Fewster.

Earlier this year, the designs created by

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

St. Marys Fire Dept. open house closes off Fire Prevention Week

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

Families flocked to the St. Marys Fire Department just minutes after their open house began.

The St. Marys Fire Fighters Association held an open house at its station on Oct. 11 for Fire Prevention Week. The event featured demonstrations, displays of fire trucks and fire safety education. Perth County Paramedic Service and Stratford police were also present at the event.

Fire Prevention Week ran from Oct. 5-11 with a focus on safety around lithium-ion batteries found in laptops, cell phones, remotes, watches and hearing aids. The St. Marys Fire Department paired up with the National Fire Protection Association to promote safe use of lithium-ion batteries. The local firefighters shared safety tips on social media, such as unplugging devices when fully charged, keeping batteries away from flammable materials and charging devices only at room temperature.

“Every day, there are more and more lithium-ion batteries being used out there in the community and just showing the importance on how to properly use them and properly charge them is probably the biggest thing we could put an emphasis on this year,” said fire prevention officer Chris St. Clair.

The fire department also recommends checking batteries and changing batteries at least once a year, and having a proper fire-escape plan.

Earlier in the week, the St. Marys Fire Fighters Association also held its annual pigtail dinner and a meet-and-greet with the firefighters at Your Independent Grocer, with a firetruck and swag bags, as part of Fire Prevention Week.

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COMMUNITY

From yoga studio to country daycare: How a St. Marys mother found her calling

ALEX HUNT
Independent Reporter

What began as a dream at a yoga studio turned into a full-time passion for Megan Annett. Her new daycare offers five children room to run, learn and explore the countryside.

Little Homestead Daycare is located in Megan Annett's private residence on the 4th Line just outside of St. Marys. The countryside property is 1.2 acres, which provides small children a place to be toddlers and have fun.

"I decided to start the daycare at the beginning of summer after leaving my job at a yoga studio," said Annett. "I've always wanted to create a warm, country-style space where children can feel at home, the kind of place I'd want for my own kids. I have two little girls myself, so building something that feels nurturing and family-oriented was really important to me."

Annett started developing the idea for a daycare just this past summer. She started advertising and posting on social media to gain some attention, and she opened the daycare at the beginning of the school year. Registration is only open for five spots, but she plans to accept new children once there's more vacancies.

"I'd say one small challenge is that some parents choose to enroll their kids



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Little Homestead Daycare, a newly opened rural daycare, offers children a safe, country-style space to play and explore, complete with a large sandbox, swing set and open fields. Pictured, Megan Annett, owner of Little Homestead Daycare, cherishes the feeling of operating a daycare on her property.

in the larger daycares in town," said Annett. "But overall, it really wasn't too hard to get things started. Most parents just message me on Facebook if they're interested in enrolling, and it's been a pretty easy process."

The daycare features activities such

as a trampoline, a playhouse, swing sets and a sandbox, which Annett noted is very popular with the children. Annett provides snacks and lunches for all the kids.

Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Annett says the daycare will operate year-round. Since the daycare

is located in the countryside, there's no concern from children playing too close to the road, and Annett said she is with the kids at all times to ensure the safety and wellbeing of each child.

"I love watching the kids learn new things and grow; it's the best part of my day. I provide all their snacks and lunches, and every day is a little different," said Annett. "There's always something fun on the menu, whether it's fresh fruit, cheesy perogies, or something new the kids want to try."

"We also have themed days throughout the year. For Halloween, everyone comes in costume and at Christmas, we'll have lots of festive activities and crafts. Since raising my own children, caring for these kids just comes naturally. It's such a joy, and with two friendly cats around, it really does feel like one big family."

Children at Little Homestead Daycare have plenty of room to explore, with a swing set, climber, trampoline and a large sandbox – a clear favourite among the group. Annett said she enjoys watching the children become more comfortable each day.

"They were definitely shy at first, but now they're coming around and starting to play with each other," she said. "We also have two cats on the property too so that adds to the fun."

Annett added she plans to continue running the daycare for years to come.

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EDITORIAL

The horrors of deviating from set plans

GALEN SIMMONS
Regional Editor

Now that Thanksgiving is behind us and we turn our full attention to spooky season, I'd like to share with you, dear reader, something that frightens me above almost everything else.

No, it's not spiders or puppets – though I'm not fond of either – and it's not the notion that we'll all die some day. For me, the thing that scares me more than anything else is a sudden and unexpected change in plans.

I don't think I'm alone in this. You know when you're planning a trip, be it a trip across town or one halfway around the globe, and you've got everything planned down to the most minute details. You know what time you need to wake up, when you need to hit the road, where you'll stop for coffee, what the parking situation is and what to expect when you arrive at your destination.

It's all planned out and you've even budgeted time in case something doesn't go exactly to plan, but then you hit construction or an accident on the highway and that time you budgeted slowly and painfully ticks down until you know there's no way you'll make it on time.

Or maybe at the last second, somebody falls ill or hurts themselves and they can't make it. Perhaps your

babysitter calls and cancels right as you're ready to head out the door. Then, your train is late or it doesn't arrive at all.

Sometimes, it seems the world is throwing every little inconvenience it can muster at you until your precious plans are nothing more than a distant hope, smashed to pieces on the floor of your flooded upstairs bathroom. There's no way you can fix a toilet and make your flight on time, right?

If I had to design a haunted house for adults, I wouldn't include ghosts, goblins and ghouls covered in blood and guts, I'd include missed deadlines, unexpected home repairs, forgotten bills, sudden trips to the hospital and so much backed-up traffic on the 401 even Google Maps' best reroutes can't turn the clock back enough to make it where you're going on time.

I guess that's why traditional horror movies and haunted houses don't really scare me all that much. How can I be afraid of those things when I face my true fears head on every day?

I guess what I'm saying is if you really want to scare me this time of year, don't jump out of a closet and shout "Boo," call me at the last minute and change a meeting time from 11 a.m. to noon.

I'm already here. What am I supposed to do with that extra hour?

Bravo	Boo
We have 1 Bravo this week. 1) Bravo to Jerry Ann from McDonald's who helped me out with my food order the other day. It was a very thoughtful and kind gesture.	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

"After so many years of unceasing war and endless danger, today the skies are calm, the guns are silent, the sirens are still, and the sun rises on a Holy Land that is finally at peace, a land and a region that will live, God willing, in peace for all eternity."

- US President Donald Trump, speaking to the Israeli parliament on Monday regarding the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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So sick of Thanksgiving leftovers that I am quitting cold turkey!

It's a shame that the playoff Blue Jays have suddenly turned into the Maple Leafs.

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



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St. Marys Independent

Thoughts of the Week
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395 Queen Street West

Gratitude is when the memory is stored in the heart, not the mind.

When I started counting my blessings, my whole world turned around.

Nothing can bring you peace but yourself.

Timing is everything. If it is meant to be... it will.

Celebrate the second annual Sports Wall of Fame induction ceremony on Nov. 1

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

On Saturday, Nov. 1, at 2 p.m., the Town of St. Marys is hosting the second annual Sports Wall of Fame induction ceremony.

This event will be held at the Pyramid Recreation Centre (317 James St. S) and will recognize the 2025 class of inductees.

Nominations are accepted annually in April, with the successful inductees announced in May of each year. For the second iteration of this recognition program, the recreation and leisure advisory committee has chosen three impressive representatives of athletic achievement and sport development in the community.

The 2025 inductees are Mike Craig, Rick Fifield and the St. Marys Junior B Lincolns (1962-1963). This group will be joining the distinguished class of 2024 inductees: Riley Hern, Mark Bell, Dale Levy, Ferris Stewart, Patrick Payton and the St. Marys Creamery Juniors (1988).



"This Sports Wall of Fame is a tribute to the athletes, teams and builders who have made a lasting impact on our community's sporting legacy," said St. Marys recreation manager Joannah Campbell in a press release. "We are proud to honor both the achievements and the dedication that help make St. Marys a vibrant sports hub."

Everyone is welcome to attend the ceremony. Free refreshments will be available in the EndZone upstairs at the Pyramid Recreation Centre following the event, courtesy of the town.

The next call for Sports Wall of Fame nominations will open in April 2026. An announcement will be made when nominations open through the local media, social media (facebook.com/pyramidcentre) and the town's website (www.townofstmarys.com/sportswall).



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SCARETACULAR ST. MARYS October 25

Get ready for fang-tastic fun!

- Dress up and trick-or-treat through Downtown St. Marys
- Howl-O-Ween Pet Parade & Costume Contest
- Cemetery Walking Tours by St. Marys Museum

discoverstmarys.ca/halloween



FALL FLUSHING October 6 - 31, 2025

Fall water main and hydrant flushing will occur from October 6 - 31. You may observe some water discoloration during flushing. If you experience discoloration, run cold water until it becomes clear. If your water does not run clear after five minutes, turn off the tap and wait 30 minutes before trying again. You should refrain from doing laundry until any discoloration has cleared.

townofstmarys.com/flushing



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November 3 | 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM | Fire Hall

Receive advice and guidance on choosing the correct car seat for your child. Experts from CPSAC will be available to check that your child's seat is fitted correctly and safely. This is a free event and appointments are not required.



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Seniors of the Week



Our senior of the week is Noreen Switzer (King). Noreen grew up in Medina and now lives in St. Marys. Noreen has two children, four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. She loves to play cards, read, crochet, knit and do day trips. Noreen celebrated her 90th birthday on Oct. 7. Happy Birthday!

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

Halloween celebrations will take place in St. Marys as part of the Scaretacular event

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

On Saturday, Oct. 25, the Town of St. Marys is celebrating all things fun and spooky from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Get ready for a fang-tastic day packed with spooky surprises and ghastly good fun!

The festivities begin at 8 a.m. at the St. Marys Farmers' Market located at the north end of Milt Dunnell Field. Visit local vendors and stock up on all those Halloween essentials – pumpkins, apples (perfect for bobbing) and more! Don't miss out on the final outdoor market of the season.

Join the Howl-O-Ween Pet Parade and Costume Contest. Those wishing to participate are asked to review the guidelines online and arrive outside town hall at 12 p.m. Participants and pets will strut down the sidewalk to Water Street and back up to town hall. Treat bags and pet costume prizes will be given out, generously sponsored by Pet Valu St. Marys, Pet Talk: Professional Animal Communicator and Kristine Tanner, Peak Select Realty Inc. Brokerage. There will also be a fantastic photo opportunity to capture an unforgettable moment with costumed furry friends!

Back by popular demand, The St. Marys Museum is hosting a Cemetery Walking Tour at the St. Marys

Cemetery at 2 p.m. Attendees can expect a brief history of St. Marys cemeteries, a walk through the cemetery highlighting unique and significant graves and a tutorial on how to research ancestors using cemetery resources. The cost of the tour is \$10 per person; pre-registration is required by contacting the museum at museum@town.stmarys.on.ca or 519-284-3556.

Families are welcome to dress up and participate in downtown trick-or-treating. Show off those costumes and collect sweet treats from local shops between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Look for participating businesses with a festive Halloween decal on their window! Don't forget to stop by the St. Marys Public Library for more candy and an excellent opportunity to contribute to the local community pantry through donations of cash or gift cards.

Enjoy local talents from the St. Marys Community Players' and see a matinee performance of Hildas' Yard. The 2 p.m. show takes place at the Town Hall Auditorium. Visit www.stmaryscommunityplayers.ca for tickets and more information.

For more information on Scaretacular St. Marys, visit www.discoverstmarys.ca/halloween and follow the Town of St. Marys' Facebook and Instagram accounts for updates.

St. Marys BIA agrees to 50/50 partnership with town on new banners and designs

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

local artists Heather Poechman of St. Marys and Liz Emirzian of Stratford were used to create art wraps and installed on utility boxes downtown. Now, the BIA board is hoping the same two artists will develop banner designs that tie in with their utility box designs with themes of nature and heritage specific to St. Marys.

While St. Marys tourism and economic development manager told the BIA board she hadn't gauged the artists' interest in the project yet, she did inquire about the cost for the designs. According to her report to the BIA board, the cost of the banner designs would be \$1,000 per design or \$4,000 in total. On top of the designs, printing costs would be \$63.32 plus HST per banner for an order of 30 banners or \$59.80 plus HST for an order of 60 banners.

"I suggest 30, myself. I think that's really good coverage," Deeks-Johnson said. "It gets the bridges and the majority of the main retail district and downtown."

Deeks-Johnson estimated there were roughly 40 hanging baskets in the downtown area prior to the cancellation of that program, and she said when the town prints new banners, she often orders 25 at a time. According to her report, the banners will be more widespread than previous banner programs, with the addition of banners to the Queen Street bridge, Church Street bridge and the Queen Street block to Peel Street.

Should the town's tourism and economic development department and the BIA board determine more banners are needed after next year, there would be the

option to print more banners with the same designs.

With an estimated total cost for the banners being \$5,950, the BIA board voted to set aside up to \$3,000 from the BIA reserves for this project. The remaining cost would be covered by the town's tourism and economic development department, subject to council approval.

Should Poechman and Emirzian agree to do this project, designs would be presented to the BIA board and council for final approval. Should the artists decline, the BIA board would offer the project to other local artists.

Weekend Quiz

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1. What musical is the sequel to "The Phantom of the Opera"?
2. Who saves the girl in the first printed edition of Little Red Riding Hood?
3. What is the Hawaiian word for "hello"?
4. How many days are there in a fortnight?
5. What was Norm's last name on the TV show "Cheers"?
6. What rock band is led by Bob Dylan's son, Jakob?
7. Acadia was the original name of which Canadian province?
8. Which four US states share a border with Mexico?
9. What was the first video game to be played in space?
10. What was London Airport renamed to in 1966?

By Jake Grant

This week's answers are found on pg. 24

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Annual downtown parking permit renewal and application notice

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT
Staff Contribution

The Town of St. Marys is reminding annual downtown parking permits holders that permits will expire on Oct. 31.

Downtown residents who do not have access to overnight parking may apply for a parking permit. The annual fee is \$78.84 plus HST, effective from the date of approval until Oct 31, 2026. Permit holders are assigned a designated parking stall in an approved municipal parking lot.

Visit townofstmarys.com/parking for more information and to apply for or renew a parking permit.

Bylaw enforcement will be monitoring

the parking and responding to non-compliant vehicles. Residents may call the non-emergency line of the Stratford Police Service at 519-271-4141 to report non-compliant vehicles.

Residents of the Town of St. Marys are also reminded that overnight street parking is prohibited on all municipal roads and overnight parking is prohibited in all municipal parking lots for those without an annual downtown parking permit approved stall between 2 and 6 a.m. from Nov. 1, 2025, to April 30, 2026. The removal of vehicles during these hours ensures the safe, effective and efficient removal of snow from local roads, making St. Marys safer and more accessible.



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Explore St. Marys' history on a guided cemetery walking tour

ALEX HUNT

Independent Reporter

What do a local cemetery, a centenarian born in the 1700s and the Titanic have in common? They all have ties to St. Marys, and people can uncover these fascinating stories on a cemetery walking tour this month.

The St. Marys Museum will be running its fifth annual walking tour at the St. Marys Cemetery on Oct. 25. The tour will cost \$10 per person and will last 60-90 minutes.

Emily Taylor, curator assistant at the St. Marys Museum and facilitator for the cemetery walk, says the tour will focus on the historical people who share a connection with the broader and international events of history.

Three notable people featured on the St. Marys Cemetery Walking Tour illustrate the town's unique historical connections. George Graham, who perished on the Titanic, offers a link to one of the most iconic global events in history, demonstrating St. Marys' surprising connection to the wider world.

Cornelius Kennedy, a centenarian born in the 1700s who passed away in 1901, lived across three different centuries, a rare and remarkable lifespan. The cemetery is also the final resting place of Arthur Meighen, former prime minister of Canada.

"From a genealogical perspective, the cemetery is such a rich resource, it tells us so much about the early St. Marys history from the people that are buried here," said Taylor. "It uncovers those stories for the community to learn about



(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

Emily Taylor, curator assistant at the St. Marys Museum, stands next to the headstone of St. Marys local George Graham, who died on the Titanic.

how people used to live in this town. There are a couple grave markers that we have found over time that have a high interest from people."

Taylor says cemeteries in the 1800s served as important public gathering

spaces, reflecting the central role that death played in everyday life. With advances in medical technology making death less common, communities have gradually become more removed from this idea. For historians and locals alike,

cemeteries remain a vital link to the past, offering insight into the social and cultural history of the era.

"It was a collaborative experience when doing the research for this tour. In our findings, we discovered these stories that connect St. Marys with broader and international history so we wanted to show how this community was connected to those well-known events," said Taylor.

Taylor said once the graves are selected, staff delve into the museum's archives, examining family records, newspaper clippings and other historical documents. The burial register provides details, including dates of birth and death, church affiliations, and causes of death, allowing the team to build a more complete picture of each person's life and the community they were part of.

"We focus on 1885 and afterwards; a lot of people are really interested in the symbols on the graves. If you see a grave with a lamb on it, unfortunately it's very common for children's graves," said Taylor.

"When I started at the museum five years ago, this was one of the first programs that we were doing outdoors. I really do love this tour; it's fascinating and I love the connections that we discuss, and this is a beautiful location for a Saturday afternoon. This gives people the opportunity to dive into the history within our community."

Pre-register for the Cemetery Walking Tours by emailing museum@town.stmarys.on.ca or by calling the museum at 519-284-3556.

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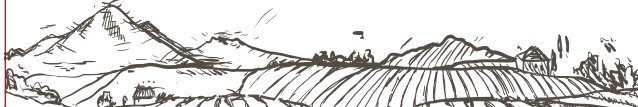
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New staff office and meeting room included in planned renovation at Perth South township office

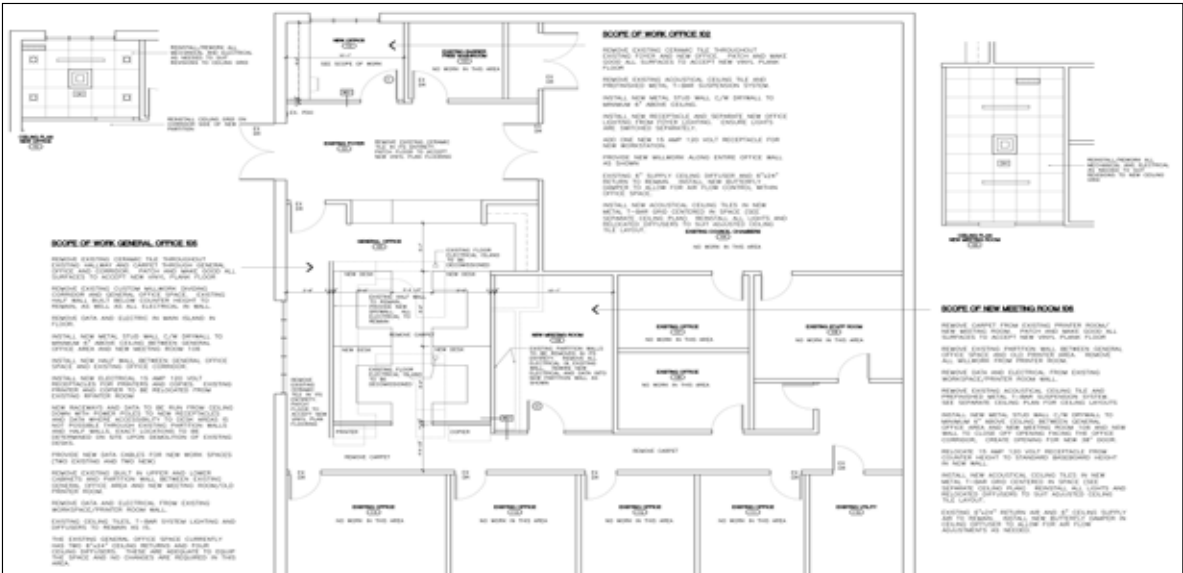
GALEN SIMMONS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Perth South council recently got its first look at the preliminary design drawings for planned renovations inside the township municipal office building set to begin later this year.

At council's Oct. 7 meeting, chief building official Martin Feeney presented the draft design for councillors' input and told them the drawings were nearly finalized and ready to put out for requests for proposals (RFP).

"The renovation to the front foyer and reception area was approved as a capital project for 2025," Feeney said. "I've included the preliminary drawing for this project. ... Once the initial drawings are fine-tuned and we're satisfied with the way it looks, we'll go out for an RFP. We're hoping to get that project started either in late fall or early winter this year."

According to Feeney's report to council, now that the town-



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The preliminary design drawing for planned renovations to the Perth South township office interior set to begin later this year.

ship is transitioning away from a paper-based records-storage system, the renovations are intended to repurpose space within the municipal office building that was once used for the storage of paper documents into two new spaces within the reception area: a new staff office in the front foyer and a meeting room in the area currently used for file storage adjacent to the general office.

Included in the scope of this project is the replacement of ce-

ramic tiles and carpeting with vinyl-plank flooring, the installation of new electrical and data infrastructure, the removal of some partition walls, the installation of new acoustical ceiling tiles in the new meeting room and office, the painting of walls, doors and trim, and the purchase of office furniture for the new spaces. The project was budgeted at \$100,000 for this year.

"Council, if you have any preferences to expand the scope of the work or if you wanted any other painting done or anything like that, now would be the time to do it before we send it out for RFP and come back with the final scope of the project," Feeney said. "So, if council wants anything done with council chambers or anything like that, I'm just putting that out there."

While councillors asked a few logistical and clarifying questions, they did not make any recommendations to change the scope of the planned renovations.

Feeney told council he expects the project to take between two and a half to three months to complete, and there would be provisions made that would allow the office to remain open and staff to continue working during the project's duration.

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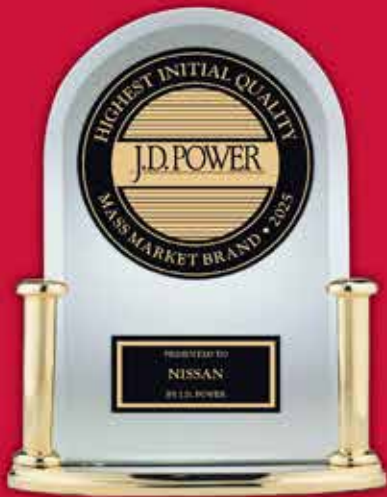
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Speed cameras work whether Doug Ford likes them or not

MIKE FERGUSON

Contributed Article

Premier Doug Ford has latched onto the speed-camera debate with the same fervour President Trump reserves for the 51st state. And while the similarities between the two leaders are a commentary for another day, Ford's stance on speed cameras deserves immediate attention.

Ford's claim that "speeding should never be tolerated" is admirable, but his insistence that speed cameras are ineffective and merely tax grabs is flat-out wrong. The evidence is clear: speed cameras work. Experts know it, communities know it – and frankly, Ford knows it too. What he likely doesn't appreciate is the backlash from his buddies who've been caught speeding and don't like being held accountable.

His suggestion that infrastructure

changes alone can eliminate speeding is another falsehood. Sure, infrastructure improvements like speed bumps and road narrowing can help reduce speeding, but eliminate it entirely? Not a chance. Installing speed bumps on every road in every community is unrealistic, both logistically and financially. And let's be honest; any infrastructure solution that slows drivers down will be met with the same intolerance as speed cameras.

Even if you combine speed bumps with cameras to measure speed between them, drivers will simply try to make up lost time between bumps. That's not eliminating speeding, it's just containing it to short stretches of road.

But there's a smarter way forward. We already have a system that encourages safer driving: the demerit point system. Since speed cameras are essentially

computers with lenses, it would be simple to develop a similar system specifically for speed camera infractions. The faster you're going over the limit, the more points you receive. For example:

- 11–15 km/hr over: three points – no fine, just a warning letter
- 16–20 km/hr over: six points – no fine, just a warning letter
- 21–25 km/hr over: nine points – no fine, just a warning letter
- 26+ km/hr over: 12 points – immediate fine appropriate for that speed
- Accumulation of 12+ points within 12 months – fine
- After any fine, points reset by one each month unless another infraction

This approach adds a layer of accountability and grace. It sends a clear message to speeders while aligning with existing traffic enforcement practices.

As for the "tax grab" argument – it's

short-sighted. Yes, ticket revenue may spike initially, but once drivers start paying attention and slowing down, that revenue will drop. Chicago's experience with red-light and speed cameras is a great example. The city initially budgeted for high revenue from automated fines, but as driver behaviour improved, violations dropped sharply. Between mid-2024 and mid-2025, Chicago issued 120,709 fewer red-light tickets, resulting in a \$12 million revenue decline. Speed camera revenue also fell by \$11.3 million in the same period. The lesson? These tools work, and when they do, revenue drops.

Speed cameras aren't perfect, but they're effective, and if we're serious about road safety, we need to stop pretending otherwise.

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St. Marys Independent **SPORTS**

Lincolns hit stride in best stretch of young season

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

In one week, the St. Marys Lincolns re-inserted themselves in the conversation for best in the Western Conference by quelling one of the west's hottest teams, dismantling the top-ranked squad and walking into a difficult arena and eating the home side's penalty kill alive.

Head coach Jeff Bradley told the Independent the Lincolns faced different obstacles in each of their three games in four days.

"All three games gave us different challenges," said Bradley. "The long bus trip and the Vipers' talent are factors against LaSalle. The game against London is a big game against a top team in our conference that has a lot of skill. And then going into Strathroy, you're playing in a shoebox there, plus you've been on the ice every day from Tuesday to Saturday. We had very different challenges in all three games, and we overcame them all."

The Lincolns opened their busy schedule on Oct. 8 when they visited the LaSalle Vipers. Not only had the Vipers defeated the Lincolns in the first meeting of the season on Sept. 19, but the Vipers also entered the game on a six-game winning streak. That streak came to an end at the hands of the Lincolns, who managed to capitalize on a late-game man advantage to secure a 3-2 win.

One notable struggle the Lincs had been experiencing was a lack of offensive production by the team's big-name talent. Thankfully, Lincoln Moore got the team's first goal of the game five minutes and 25 seconds into the opening period. Ian Inskip tied the game with under 90 seconds left in the first.

A hot start to the second by the Vipers led to a goal by Kade McGeen under five minutes into the period, but one of the players Bradley credited as a standout performer, Chase McDougall, buried on a one-timer set up by Blake Elzinga for his first goal of the season, which also came on the powerplay.

"Chase (McDougall), Devun (Colebrook) and Declan (Ready), those guys specifically, I thought were really good for us," Bradley said. "They brought energy and physicality that we desperately needed. When we needed them to share a lot of the load, they stabilized everything for us and were a huge part of us winning that hockey game."

The Lincolns' powerplay came up clutch when the unit centred by Ryan Hodgkinson and featuring Elzinga, Ethan Weir, David Heath and Owen Kalp potted the eventual game-winner with just a minute and 14 seconds left in regulation, with Weir finishing off on a feed from Hodgkinson.

With the Lincs going two-for-five on the powerplay and killing off all three



(MCGINNY PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

Chase McDougall delivers the biggest hit of the season so far during the St. Marys Lincolns' remarkable 5-1 win on Oct. 10 over the London Nationals.

LaSalle man advantages, Bradley emphasized the importance of St. Marys' special teams in getting the two points.

"Our special teams stepped up. The night before going into LaSalle, we talked about the Vipers' penalty kill because it's very good and very high-pressure. So for us, it wasn't as much about attacking as it was keeping possession and having every one of our guys having at least two options when they have the puck, and we'll find a way to attack when there is an opening. That unit in particular; they were patient the way they needed to be, they worked the puck to where we needed it to go, and ultimately, they got us the game-winner."

Lincs destroy first-place Nationals with uber-physical masterclass

Just 48 hours later, the Lincolns, appearing shot out of a cannon, played one of the best games any Lincolns' squad has managed since Bradley took over as head coach, and he couldn't have raved more emphatically after the Lincs' 5-1 victory over the Nationals.

"We were so physical and so on top of them that London was letting us do whatever we wanted," Bradley said. "I was so happy with our team. It was one

of the best performances I've seen in a long time. We had an amazing team last year, but I don't know if we played like that in terms of the physicality at any point last year."

The Lincolns' hellhound-like intensity began from the opening puck drop,

with Bradley noting the line that started the game – Hodgkinson, Heath and Owen Voortman – followed by the trio of Moore, McDougall and Jack Clarke, got the Lincolns an early wave of momentum that they never let go of.

"The Hodgkinson line gave us a great first shift, they got us two scoring chances and then Jack (Clarke), Chase (McDougall) and Lincoln (Moore) really set the tone for us on the next shift. They go out there and start hitting guys into the parking lot. It was an unbelievable start and set us up to have an unbelievable game pretty much the whole night.

"Those guys are all big, physical guys," Bradley continued. "Lincoln has that elite skill and I think when you see a guy who has accomplished everything you can accomplish in junior hockey and then seeing two guys like Jack and Chase play the way they did with so much speed and physicality, it's infectious for the entire team. Jack and Chase were scaring the other team into giving them the puck, and they have plenty of skill themselves, but they wanted to get the puck to Lincoln because, more than anything, they want to beat the other team."

Clarke netted the first goal of the game, his fourth of the year, just 61 seconds into the opening period, while McDougall delivered the biggest hit of the season so far. Later in the first, Hodgkinson put the Lincolns up by two.

In the second, the Lincolns continued getting more production from their big-name talents, with goals by Voortman and Weir. However, arguably the biggest highlight of the period came in the form of a fight in which the Lincolns' player Declan Ready unequivocally lost. Ready, who is listed at under six feet tall and weighing 170 pounds, went toe-to-toe with the six-foot-three, 209-pound Braxton Mullins.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 15



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Lincolns hit stride in best stretch of young season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

But as the old adage goes, Mullins won the battle, but Ready won the war, as the fight gave the Nats nothing in the way of momentum, while the Lincolns were unanimously juiced by Ready's willingness to take the unfavourable matchup.

"What a kid Declan (Ready) is," Bradley said. "He didn't win that fight, and he knew it, but we were laughing about it. No one on our team cared that he lost that fight because he was giving up about six inches and 40 pounds, and he goes and grabs that guy and takes that fight without any hesitation. That kid has no fear at all, and he took that fight thinking he was going to do anything for his team. And you look at what that fight led to, London won the fight, but got absolutely no momentum out of it, but we got a lot of momentum from it. Our bench got a huge boost, seeing how fearless Declan was."

Ready explained his willingness to take the fight.

"It was a really emotional game," said Ready. "It was my first time playing in the London and St. Marys rivalry, and I loved every second of it. Chase got the puck and I was standing out front, and I just saw (Braxton Mullins) grab me and I knew something was going to happen, and we just looked at each other, and it went from there. In those games, you want to do everything for your team, and to be able to give the team a boost made me feel really good."

Aydan Doyle found the only goal of the game for the Nats on a third-period powerplay before Moore fired the puck into an empty net to seal the 5-1 win for St. Marys.

The ultra-physical effort by the Lincolns represented the best execution of the in-your-face identity the team has been trying to establish for months.

"We've talked all summer about being harder to play against, and being physical in all three zones," Bradley said. "That's what we've been trying to drill into the players and I feel like we've been building to a game like that. It really felt like we needed that game, and not just the win, but the way we played. London is big and they're fast, and they're good, and we needed to see if we could do that against a top team. I hope a light switch goes off with our guys and they understand that they can do that, and they can do it for 60 minutes because that's what we need them to do."

Not just outstanding offensively and physically, the Lincolns were also smothering on the defensive side of the puck.

"We shut everything down," said Bradley. "Mike (Herman) is so big on the defence shutting plays down early. I don't think we gave them a single two-on-one all night. We were suffocating defensively. London couldn't do anything. I watched the game back and every time their defenceman got the puck, they knew someone was barreling down on them and they would just give it right to us."

Arguably, some of the best performances on the back end came from first-year blueliners James MacGregor and Luke McMillan, both of whom associate coach Herman, who oversees the defence and penalty kill, had high praise for.

"The first thing that stands out about James (MacGregor) and Luke (McMillan) is the maturity they have as rookies," said Herman. "In our defence meeting before the game, I had picked up some things in our game to address and clean up a bit and play a more proactive type of defending. It's not easy to adapt, especially as a young player, but how quickly those two are able to adapt has been amazing."

Bradley further described the game as a shining example of what they want to play like every night.

"If we can consistently play like that, we have a really good chance to do something special. I want that game to be our standard going forward. I don't want it to matter who we're playing; we're going to play our way and dictate how the game is going to be played. That's what we did against London. We dictated what that game was going to be, and that needs to be what we do every night."

Powerplay dominates as Lincs take 4-2 win in Strathroy

With all four goals coming from the powerplay, including goals from both units and the end of a scoring slump for the captain, the Lincs' momentum continued to build on Oct. 11 when they doubled up the Rockets 4-2, extending the Lincolns' winning streak to four straight games.

Bradley explained why he was pleased with the team's effort, even though it wasn't identical to their stupendous game one night earlier.

"It was a different game than the night before, but I thought we played well," Bradley said. "In the first period, we certainly outplayed them and we had the lion's share of the opportunities, and that led to us getting rewarded a bit more in the second period."

Zachary LeBlanc took advantage of a miscue by the Lincolns in the first period to give the Rockets a 1-0 lead, but as the bench boss alluded to, the Lincolns took control of the scoreboard in the second, first on a one-time blast by Voortman, and then on a wrister from the point by Kalp.

The powerplay's white-hot night, according to Bradley, was the biggest factor in the team getting the victory on the road.

"We got powerplay goals from both units and they both have different setups. (Owen) Kalp's unit has the spread formation, and (Chase) MacQueen-Spence's unit is in the 1-3-1, and we got goals off of both looks. We did a fair amount of work on the powerplay this

past week at practice, and it was great to see our guys be focused and execute as well as they did. The powerplay played a role in all three of our wins this week, but especially (against Strathroy), our special teams won us that game."

In the third, MacQueen-Spence wired a shot by Rockets' netminder Mason Costa, snapping a seven-game goal drought.

Bradley described being thrilled for the team captain finally finding the back of the net.

"Chase (MacQueen-Spence) has had a really good couple of games for us, specifically against London and Strathroy," said Bradley. "He's been snake-bit lately scoring-wise, and I've been all over him about shooting the puck more. He loves passing the puck, but he's got an elite shot, so for him to let one rip and beat the goalie clean, I think that was big for his confidence and I hope it reinforces how amazing his shot is."

The fourth and final powerplay goal for St. Marys came in the form of an empty netter for Colebrook with just 1.5 left on the clock.

After a very busy stretch that went about as close to perfect as one could reasonably expect for the Lincolns, the head coach made sure to keep things in perspective as they head into a pair of games against two teams who are much better than they were last season, the St. Thomas Stars and Komoka Kings.

"It's four games in a row here where we've played some good hockey, and have been getting more consistent," Bradley said. "But it's just four games. We still have 39 games left, and we can't hang our hats on our last four games. We've got two tough games coming up this week against two teams on the up and up, and we want to keep trending in the right direction. If these last few games are an indication, our team is building some really good habits."

St. Marys Lincolns Player Stats
(as of Oct. 14, 2025)

Player	Pos	GP	G	A	PTS
Lincoln Moore	F	11	8	8	16
Chase MacQueen-Spence	F	11	3	13	16
Owen Voortman	F	11	6	6	12
Ryan Hodgkinson	F	9	2	6	8
Jack Clarke	F	10	4	3	7
Ethan Weir	F	9	4	2	6
Blake Elzinga	F	11	1	4	5
Devun Colebrook	F	10	3	1	4
Declan Ready	F	11	0	4	4
Owen Kalp	D	11	1	2	3
Chase McDougall	F	11	1	2	3
Jacob Montesi	D	11	1	2	3
Thomas Paleczny	F	7	1	1	2
Nathan Enwright	F	8	1	0	1
David Heath	F	10	1	0	1
Jakob Drobný	D	7	0	1	1
James MacGregor	D	11	0	1	1
Evan Roach	D	8	0	0	0
Will Wright	D	8	0	0	0
Luke McMillan	D	11	0	0	0

Goalies	Record	GAA	SV-%
Brogan Colquhoun	5-2-0-0	2.01	0.939
Vaughn Barr	2-1-1-0	2.20	0.922

GOHL Western Conference Standings
(as of Oct. 14, 2025)

Team	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS	GF	GA
London Nationals	9	2	0	0	18	50	35
Elmira Sugar Kings	8	2	0	0	16	53	23
St. Marys Lincolns	7	3	1	0	15	37	25
Chatham Maroons	6	2	0	2	14	47	33
LaSalle Vipers	6	4	1	0	13	36	35
St. Thomas Stars	6	4	0	0	12	44	29
Stratford Warriors	5	2	1	0	11	25	17
Waterloo Siskins	4	2	3	0	11	27	23
Komoka Kings	5	4	1	0	11	36	43
Strathroy Rockets	3	6	1	0	7	39	44
Listowel Cyclones	2	7	1	0	5	19	34
Sarnia Legionnaires	0	10	0	0	0	12	64



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U15 A Boys find ways to win, capture gold at South Simcoe Classic

TURNER ROTH

Independent Sports Reporter

The U15 A Boys St. Marys Rock won the gold medal at the South Simcoe Classic tournament Oct. 3-5.

Head coach Ryan Hewlett described the keys to his team's success in the tournament, which they wasted no time displaying.

"Right from the first game, we came out with a high level of intensity and were intent on setting the tone early," Hewlett told the Independent. "We controlled a lot of the play in each game, but we found a way to win differently in every game, which is pretty impressive this early in the season."

The tournament saw each team play four round-robin games, leading to the top two teams battling for the gold medal. In the first game, the Rock set a precedent for the rest of the weekend, with constant offensive-zone pressure and scoring from each line, leading to a dominant 4-1 victory over Burlington.

The second game against Stouffville saw the Rock struggle to catch any breaks, but still manage to control the play, and they finally began to solve the opposing goaltender to earn a 3-1 win.

Hewlett described the third round-robin game against Newmarket, the presumed tournament favourite, as a bizarre affair that St. Marys ultimately won thanks to their play in the defensive zone.

"This was a strange game," Hewlett said. "We controlled the play in the first two periods before playing shorthanded for almost the entire third, despite an ironically clean game. At one point, we had five players in the penalty box but kept battling on the penalty kill. We took a 2-1 lead midway through the third and held onto it while being shorthanded for most of it."

The fourth and final game of the round-robin was a high-scoring rout over the King Rebellion, with all lines contributing to an 8-0 win to advance to the championship game.

The numerous lamp-lightings were part of a theme for St. Marys, which had six of the top seven point-get-



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The U15 A Boys St. Marys Rock earned the gold medal at the South Simcoe Classic tournament Oct. 3-5. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Drew Bomasuit and Braydon Wheeler. In the middle row, from left, are Owen Pletsch, Quinn Porter, Ashton Elliott and Luke Simons. In the back row, from left, are Ryan Hewlett, Greg Wolfkamp, Evan Wolfkamp, Landon McDonald, Will Richardson, Ben Graham, Luka Verkuyl, Elliott Hudson, Luke Showers, Jacob Savile, Grayson Urquhart, Hayden Barker, Landon Hewlett and Sean Porter.

ters, and eight of the top 11. Evan Wolfkamp led the tournament in points with seven, while Landon Hewlett and Luke Showers tied for second with five each. Elliott Hudson, Quinn Porter and Luke Simons each posted four points in the tournament, tying them for fourth in scoring.

In the finals, the Rock had a rematch with Burlington, and it didn't go the same way as their previous meeting, with just one goal being scored throughout the contest. A powerplay goal midway through the third period allowed the Rock to hang on for a 1-0 nail-biting win to claim the gold medal.

Ryan Hewlett cited the team's ability to avoid the penalty box and execute on the finer details of their gameplan as being vital to their championship victory.

"We played a very disciplined game and didn't take any penalties," said Ryan Hewlett. "Our powerplay

scored when we needed it, and defensively, we did a great job of clearing the puck out of the zone. We had great puck support and we really hustled on the back-check. Giving the effort to these little things each shift proved to be the difference."

Ryan Hewlett added the team's play on the defensive side of the puck has seen a major step forward.

"Our defence has really progressed and they are buying into what the coaching staff is preaching. As a result, they are communicating more on the ice, using their strengths both with and without the puck. We were much stronger on the puck and our forwards were back supporting. Coupled with our elite goaltending, it proved that it really is goalies, defence and forwards that were working in cohesion, and with great puck support, that leads to success."

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(TURNER ROTH PHOTO)
Emily Chateauvert sends a long-range point shot on net during the U13 BB Girls St. Marys Rock game this past Sunday.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
Logan Thompson launches a shot from the point during this past Sunday's U13 B Boys St. Marys Rock game.



(TURNER ROTH PHOTO)
Greyson Gillespie rips a quick wrist shot off the rush during the U14 A Boys St. Marys Rock game last Thursday.



(TURNER ROTH PHOTO)
Emma Carradine releases the puck off her stick during this past Sunday's U18 B Girls St. Marys Rock game.



(TURNER ROTH PHOTO)
Evan Pym fires the puck on target from the blueline during the U18 A Boys St. Marys Rock game last Thursday.



(TURNER ROTH PHOTO)
Lilly Garniss whips the ring on target with a shot from in close during this past Sunday's U14 A St. Marys Snipers game.

COLUMNS

UKRAINIAN CORNER: The big couch theory – how I finally let go of perpetual waiting mode

ALONA VASYLIEVA

Independent Columnist

For many immigrants, the journey to a new country involves profound adjustments. It's not just about learning a new language or adapting to the weather; it's about subtle yet fundamental shifts in the very fabric of daily life, including how we inhabit our homes and host our friends.

As a newcomer to Canada from Ukraine, some of the most surprising revelations have been about space, comfort and the freedom to finally acquire a deeply coveted item: a big, cozy couch with equally big pillows.

In Ukraine, my family and I were accustomed to small, city apartments where every square foot was meticulously planned. In that environment, the dream of a sprawling sofa was just that, a dream, eternally constrained by the lack of space. Arriving in Canada, where even a "small house" often feels quite spacious by Ukrainian standards, was a revelation.

For nearly three years, we relied on the immense generosity of kind Canadians who donated various necessities, including a few well-loved sofas. These were true blessings, a tangible reminder of the community spirit that eased our transition.

But recently, the dream was finally realized: we got the new couch. And surprisingly, it felt like a significant immigrant achievement.

You don't buy nice, new things for a rented place. You save the good stuff for your forever home. You live minimally, you defer joy and you wait for some perfect future where you've achieved all your big goals. The war shattered that perfectly sensible, soul-crushing logic. Life, it turns out, is now.

So, when we finally bought this couch – this glorious, unnecessary, space-hogging piece of perfection – we were not just spending money; we were investing in our present happiness. And for an immigrant, choosing comfort and "living your best life now" is a truly revolutionary act.

The cultural contrast between Ukrainian and Canadian homes extends beyond furniture to the very layout and social use of the space, especially when hosting.

For instance, in Ukraine, houses typically lack basements and it's common for overnight guests to sleep in the living room. This necessity might explain a particular decorating norm: the couch must be against a wall, usually facing the TV. The idea of putting a sofa in the middle of a room, as is common here in Canada, looks wonderfully weird to my Ukrainian eye! Here,



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The unexpected symbol of settling in: How a big, cozy sofa helped a Ukrainian newcomer conquer old limitations and redefine "home" by letting go of formal hosting and embracing Canadian comfort.

with more space and often multiple seating options, the living room is truly designed for collective comfort during parties.

The approach to hosting itself is also radically different – and one I've come to love.

In Ukraine, a party often centres on the dining room table. Guests remain seated and the emphasis is heavily placed on the amount and variety of food. There's immense pressure on the host, who often feels exhausted before the guests even arrive because everything, literally everything, must be cooked from scratch. This cultural demand for perfection often drives people to

eat out to avoid the exhaustion and cleanup.

By contrast, hosting in Canada feels more like a casual, moveable buffet. Guests mingle, walk around with their plates and socialize more freely. I absolutely adore this system; it feels more energized, allowing you to easily talk to and see everyone. The Canadian home, often featuring an open-concept living room and kitchen, beautifully facilitates this kind of communal, relaxed gathering. This setup inspires a different kind of hosting – one focused on sharing a few tried-and-true recipes and the joy of connection, rather than an overwhelming feast.

While I cherish the newfound culture of relaxed home hosting, there is one aspect of the Ukrainian restaurant experience I sorely miss: the dedicated playroom with a babysitter.

Back home, my friends and I reached a point where we chose restaurants not by the quality of the cuisine, but by the quality of the supervised children's play area. It was the ultimate parental freedom! Unfortunately, I haven't seen these dedicated spaces in Canadian cities, which might be another reason why hosting at home is such a vital part of the culture here.

If anyone knows where the secret Canadian restaurants hide their playrooms with babysitters, please let me know.

Ultimately, setting up a life in a new country is a process of merging two worlds – letting go of old limitations and embracing new comforts. Our new, big couch is a monument to settling in, to letting go of the "waiting mode," and to the precious joy of simply being home. The joy of having a party during fall festive season is so inspiring. As an introverted person, I always need a day for solitude to recharge after every amazing party!

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HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Browns Corners

MARY SMITH

Independent Columnist

It's an easy drive to Browns Corners from St. Marys – about 15 minutes down the Cobble Hills Road, then east on Road 92 toward Medina. This part of Oxford County, the former East Nissouri Township, has strong ties with St. Marys and the development of our town. But it has a rich history of its own that predates the founding of St. Marys. Farmsteads were established in this part of Oxford County by the 1820s, two decades earlier than those in Blanshard Township. On Wednesday evening, October 8, 2025, the Browns community gathered to celebrate that history. This well-attended event, sponsored by the Browns Women's Institute, was held in Browns United Church, a church that is marking its 120th anniversary this year.

This was a highly appropriate venue. The Brown family were among the earliest settlers to this area and the most famous family member in those early years was the Reverend Thomas Brush Brown (1804-1893) who established the first Methodist congregation in that area. He was an early preacher in other cross-roads communities in Nissouri and surrounding townships and in the village of St. Marys. A great deal is known about Brown and his family, largely thanks to a small, 76-page book, *The Autobiography of Rev. Thos. B. Brown*. It was published by the St. Marys Journal in 1899, six years after Brown's death. Brown had been working on his memoirs until "the infirmities of old age came on." It was completed by a friend and colleague, John M. McAinsh, who believed that Brown's story was an important one to share, especially with other residents of East and West Nissouri.

The Reverend Thomas Brush Brown has been the subject of Historic St. Marys columns in the past but there are many reasons to consider his life again. His autobiography is remarkable because it places the story of the Brown family and the origins of the Browns Corners community in the context of the major events in the 18th and 19th century North America. The first Thomas Brown, a combmaker, was born in Northumberland, England, and emigrated to North America, settling in Rhode Island in the mid-1700s, later moving into Vermont. He fought and was wounded in the American War of Independence, but later, dissatisfied with the new American government, moved his family across the border into Lower Canada (Quebec) in 1789. He remained there for the rest of his life, farming along the Richelieu River near the northern tip of Lake Champlain.

One of his sons, Joseph, was born in Rhode Island, grew up there and, like Thomas, became a combmaker. He married Rebecca Brush in Vermont ca 1790. They also moved to Lower Canada, bringing their first three children with them. Thomas Brush Brown, their fourth child, was born on August 4, 1804, on his father's farm in Argenteuil, west of Mon-



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

Browns United Church is celebrating the 120th Anniversary of its dedication this October.

tre. Joseph and Rebecca later had two more daughters. Thomas Brush Brown was eight years old when the War of 1812 began. He remembered watching soldiers marshalling in Lower Canada, prepared to fight American invaders. His father, Joseph, fearing raids on their small and isolated community, moved his family back across the border into New York State where he believed they would be safer in a more densely populated area. At the conclusion of the war, Joseph decided to take his family back to Canada.

Today, with so much attention paid to border security, it seems remarkable that families 200 years ago appeared to move back and forth between countries as it suited them. For the Browns, it was a slow and difficult trek across New York State south of Lake Ontario, finally crossing by boat into Canada near Buffalo. Brown remembered his family's first sight of the magnificent Niagara Falls. After several years in the Smithville area, Joseph Brown purchased 200 acres of undeveloped land in Nissouri Township and set out with his family, an oxcart, some sheep and sparse belongings to make the journey to southwestern Ontario. Although it took years of hardship and privation, the Brown family became well established in Nissouri. Joseph's children married and set up their own households. In 1830, Thomas Brush Brown, age 26, married 17-year-old Amanda Harris. They eventually had 13 children – six sons and seven daughters.

The Brown children and their cousins, and one other family, joined together to establish the first school in the area. It was set in a clearing in the bush. Charles Brown, the youngest brother, remembered his oldest brother, Elisha, carrying him on his back when he started school. That backwoods school was just the beginning. The small school built there served the children of the community until school sections were organized in rural Ontario in 1850. Then a site was chosen on the corner of Lot 25, Concession 8, in East Nissouri. S. S. #3 Browns School was built on that site, and a school

building still stands on the southwest corner of Browns Corners. Thomas Brush Brown, by this time a highly respected Methodist Episcopalian preacher as well as a farmer, was appointed the first superintendent of schools for both East and West Nissouri Townships.

More than a century of children attended S.S. #3 Browns School until provincial legislation to consolidate rural schools meant its closure in 1964. From then on, the children of that district travelled by bus to Wildwood Park Public School. But the resourceful Browns Corners community found a use for the abandoned one-room school. It was purchased by the Trustees of Browns United Church and is used for meetings and community events. The Browns Women's Institute hold their regular meetings in the building. The schoolyard is now an attractive community park, filled with mature trees. Beside the school, the old swings remain for the enjoyment of visiting children.

When he first was licensed to preach, T. B. Brown was an itinerant minister, travelling on a circuit mostly in Nissouri

and Zorra. The meetings were frequently held in the section schoolhouse, every denomination taking a turn on Sundays. As Brown recalled in his memoir, "The same congregation generally attended every service, no matter what the denomination was. If any missionary came along, we all greeted him as a brother. In those days we all did our best trying to sustain them." But as the years went by, this ecumenical feeling passed away, and each denomination thought "they ought to have a church of their own." New Methodist Episcopalian churches were built with funds raised by subscription. Resources were scarce and there was competition from other denominations, including other branches of Methodism, but still T. B. Brown helped raise money to build churches in several area communities, such as Cherry Grove and Lake-side.

Building the church in his own neighbourhood, Browns Church, began in 1862 and finished in 1863, four years before Confederation. It was brick with a stone foundation, "the material being the very best. Several gave subscriptions of \$100 or \$50." Brown also solicited help in other places "where for many years I had laboured as a local preacher without fee or reward." The Reverend T. B. Brown was 59 years old when his church was completed. In 1905, 12 years after Brown's death, the church that stands today was dedicated, replacing the older building. A memorial window in the north wall commemorates the Reverend Thomas B. Brown and Amanda Harris Brown, donated by one of their daughters, Amanda Horsman. In 1925 it became a congregation in the United Church of Canada.

Unlike many other small rural churches that have closed, Browns United still has an active congregation. The Browns Women's Institute continues to work hard assembling information relating to the history of the community, filling many volumes of their Tweedsmuir Scrapbooks. Browns Corners residents, past and present, are right to celebrate their community.

Ask the Arborist

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



Dear Arborist,

My tree has carpenter ants, great big ones. They are eating the wood, the little pests are munching it. There is sawdust. What do you recommend?

Thanks, Michael

Dear Michael,

Carpenter ants do not actually eat the wood. They tunnel through it to create a nest. Normally, they only do this in decaying or moist wood. It would be pretty rare to happen in sound wood.

The bad news is your tree probably has some pretty serious decay. Carpenter ants are difficult to get rid of as they normally have

more than one colony. Also, they expand colonies every year.

Option one is to remove the nest, which probably means removing the tree.

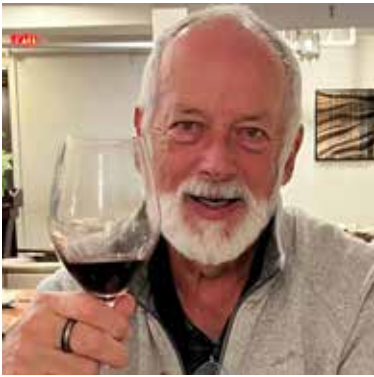
Option 2 is to try baiting. There are various ones you can try online, natural or otherwise. You should probably also assess the tree for safety.

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

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Standing in the footsteps of Vincent Van Gogh



PAUL KNOWLES

Independent Columnist

Over the years, I have become increasingly intrigued by the paintings of Vincent Van Gogh. His story is a terribly tragic one, as the artist struggled with mental illness and almost complete failure in a commercial sense. There is a myth that he sold none of his approximately 2,000 works while he was alive, but that's undoubtedly an exaggeration. But he most certainly was not a highly successful artist.

Multiplying the tragedy, he died, perhaps of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, at age 37. More of this below.

Today, of course, it's a whole other story. Van Gogh is recognized as perhaps the most important Post-Impressionist artist and his paintings have sold for more than \$150 million, none of which goes to Van Gogh's estate, of course.

The finest collection of Van Gogh paintings is on display at the Van Gogh Museum in Am-

sterdam – which seems appropriate enough since Van Gogh was born in the Netherlands. If you are in Amsterdam, it's a must see.

But I have enjoyed seeing Van Gogh paintings and sketches in locations as diverse as the Winnipeg Art Gallery, the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia, the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto and a very surprising small gallery in Solothurn, Switzerland, among other cultural institutions. Outside of Amsterdam, the best place to enjoy Van Gogh's work – and that of other Impressionists and Post-Impressionists – is the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, which we had the chance to visit a couple of weeks ago. (Hint to travellers: use the Paris City Pass, a great deal that admits you to many wonderful attractions).

My biggest surprise, though, was that I really felt I touched Van Gogh's life and times in a city in southern France, where no gallery, or anyone for that matter, owns a Van Gogh.

The city is Arles in Provence where Van Gogh lived for more than a year, creating a new painting or drawing nearly every day. Many of his best-known works, including two of the three "Starry Night" paintings, were created right here. We visited Arles as part of a wonderful Viking cruise on the Rhone River.

Our guide on the unusual, almost disjointed city tour – lots



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

The author's attempt to recreate Van Gogh's creation in 2025.

of Roman stuff and then lots of Van Gogh – explained that Van Goghs have become so expensive that there would be a taxpayer revolt if public money was used to purchase one. So, Arles has none.

But what Arles has done, and done well, is create a Van Gogh route, erecting poster boards with the images of his paintings in the precise locations where he placed his easel. And for anyone who is a fan of the artist, there is something magical in standing in the actual footsteps of Van Gogh.

Easily, my favourite location was Le Jardin de la Maison de Santé a Arles. It's an enclosed garden and the municipality has restored it to look precisely like it did when Van Gogh painted the scene in 1888. I could not resist grabbing my smart phone and trying to replicate the painting. Van Gogh did it better. (I will admit, it's wise to consider

the scene from Van Gogh's perspective. If you walk to the other side of the garden, the view includes a plethora of souvenir shops.)

There are plenty of other explanatory plaques along the route. Van Gogh's famous painting of his own house, "La Mainse Jeune" (The Yellow House), is erected at a busy corner. The house, sadly, is gone, but the other buildings in the painting remain, including a café that Van Gogh often frequented.

The locale that has changed even more is the site where he painted the hugely famous "La Nuit Étoilée" (The Starry Night). The view when we visited (admittedly not at night) showed mostly the top decks of docked cruise boats, impeding the view of the Rhone. But nonetheless, Van Gogh had produced his fabulous work right here.

Our very well-informed guide told us two stories that really caught my attention. First, despite overwhelming consensus, she said Van Gogh's death might not have been suicide. She suggested it could have been an accident involving some children playing with a gun.

The other story is both rather sad and rather amusing. She had led us to the exact café depicted in the artist's "Café Terrace at Night." It's now the Café Van Gogh, but it's closed. Why? Because after years of the owners asking to be paid in cash because "our credit card machine is broken," the authorities cottoned on, examined their books and the owners went to jail for tax evasion.

Our guide is sure the café is awaiting some clever entrepreneur as one of the most visited sites in Arles, but she cautioned there is undoubtedly red tape involved – which is something of a national sport in France.

Until then, art lovers can enjoy the scenes that inspired this brilliant, troubled, artistic icon. To quote songwriter Don McLean, "But I could have told you, Vincent, This world was never meant for one as beautiful as you."

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.

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LAUREN EEDY
Independent Columnist

With the unnaturally warm October we've had on its way out and the abundance of reasonably priced squash this time of year, why not cozy up to two seasonable recipes that will be sure to bring warmth and comfort to your kitchen. A bonus Halloween beverage is also included to send off or welcome back your goblins and ghouls.

Brie and cheddar butternut squash soup

Prep: 20 minutes; Cook: 25 minutes; Total: 45 minutes; Serves: 6

- 3 tbsp salted butter
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 yellow onion, chopped
- 2 tbsp fresh thyme leaves
- 1 tbsp fresh sage
- 2-3 cups cubed butternut squash
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- 3 cups bone, chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 bottle/can pumpkin beer/cider
- 2 cups whole milk

- 1 cup chopped broccoli
- 2-3 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 4 oz creamy brie, cubed
- ¼ tsp cayenne
- Kosher salt and black pepper

Method:

-Melt together the butter and olive oil in a large pot on medium heat. Add the onion, thyme, sage and cook until fragrant, about 5 minutes. Add butternut squash, toss, cook 1-2 minutes. Mix in flour and cook until golden, about 1 minute. Add broth, beer/cider and season with salt and pepper. Bring to a simmer, reduce heat to medium and cook uncovered until butternut squash is tender, about 15 minutes.

-Remove soup from stovetop and purée in a blender (carefully) or use an immersion blender.

-Return soup to stovetop and set over low heat. Stir in milk, broccoli, cheddar cheese and brie. Cook until melted and creamy. Add the cayenne.

-Ladle soup into bowls and garnish with extra cheddar or a wedge of brie. Season to taste. Enjoy ideally with soft pretzels on the side.

Stuffed acorn squash with sausage

Prep: 30 minutes; Cook: 1 hour 30 minutes; Total: 2 hours; Serves: 4

- 2 acorn squash, halved and seeded
- Kosher salt and black pepper

- to taste
- 1 tbsp fresh thyme leaves
- 1 lb ground sausage
- 1 cup celery, chopped
- 1 cup mushrooms, chopped
- ¼ cup onion, chopped
- 1 large egg, beaten
- ½ cup sour cream
- ½ cup grated parmesan cheese

Method:

-Gather all ingredients and preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

-Season cut side of squash with salt and pepper. Place squash halves cut side down, onto prepared baking sheet. Bake in oven until tender, about 1 hour. Remove from oven and turn squash over, set aside to cool leaving the oven on.

-Heat a large skillet to medium-high heat. Add the sausage; cook and stir until browned and crumbly, 5-7 minutes. Drain and discard grease. Add celery, mushrooms and onion, cooking until softened, 5-10 minutes. Remove from heat. Add fresh thyme.

-Beat egg in a large bowl, stir in sour cream and parmesan cheese. Spoon mixture into squash halves.

-Return to oven and bake until filling is cooked through, about 20 minutes.

Halloween extra-dark hot cocoa

Total: 20 minutes; Level: Easy; Serves: 6



(LAUREN EEDY PHOTO)

This Halloween extra-dark hot cocoa is a festive beverage for before or after trick-or-treating the whole family will enjoy.

Black-and-orange coloured nonpareils, for coating

2 oz semisweet chocolate plus more for melting

4 cups milk or lactose-free beverage of your choice. I use lactose-free milk.

2/3 cup sugar

2/3 cup black cocoa powder (can be found at Troyers Spices)

Pinch of salt

Method:

-Place nonpareils on a shallow plate. Microwave chocolate in a shallow plate until just melted.

Dip inverted mugs into melted chocolate to coat the rim, then dip in the nonpareils to coat. Let set.

-Heat the milk, sugar, cocoa powder and salt over medium-low heat. Cook, whisking until the sugar dissolves and the mixture is smooth and steaming with tiny bubbles around the end of the pan 8-10 minutes.

-Add the chocolate and whisk until fully dissolved and smooth. Pour hot cocoa into prepared mugs.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT WINGS!
\$1 wings / eat in only

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Sudoku

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3					5		2
				7	8		
5		4	3				6
				1			3

Solutions on pg. 27

Riddles

- What runs but cannot walk, has a mouth but no teeth, and has a bed but cannot sleep?
A river.
- There is one word spelled wrong in every English dictionary. What is it?
Wrong.
- What goes in your pocket but keeps it empty?
A hole.
- What has legs but cannot walk?
A chair.
- I sometimes run but cannot walk. You follow me around. What am I?
Your nose.
- What word begins and ends with the E but only has one letter?
Envelope.
- What do you find at the end of a rainbow?
The letter W.
- I'm taller when I'm young and shorter when I'm old. What am I?
A candle.
- What is always right in front of you, yet you cannot see it?
The future.
- What has a tongue but cannot talk?
A shoe.
- What is easier to get into than out of?
Trouble.

- Word Search -



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FALL GARDENING CHORES

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

- Pull annuals
- Clean up debris
- Compost
- Rake leaves
- Prune
- Clean tools
- Fertilize lawn
- Drain garden hose
- Mulch
- Plant bulbs
- Trim tall grass
- Transplant shrubs
- Remove vegetables



The **Riddle Kid**
OF THE WEEK



Henry Hayes (7)

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



IT'S VET TECH APPRECIATION WEEK!

A huge thank-you to our amazing vet techs — Lisa , Katie, Katty, Emily and Laura — for your expertise, dedication, and the compassion you show every animal who comes through our doors. From assisting in surgeries to calming anxious pets (and their people), your hard work shines. We're so grateful to have you as part of the St. Marys Vet Clinic family.



GOOSE

Our Pet of the Week is Goose. Goose is Tanner and Abby Harris's four-month-old golden retriever. He loves water, cuddling and causing trouble.



Thorndale News

A section within the
St. Marys Independent



Support
Local
Businesses



Check out our website for business and community info at ilovethorndale.ca

BGC offering youth programs in Thorndale

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

BGC London, formerly the Boys and Girls Club, is a community organization that provides “fun with a purpose,” offering hope, inspiration and opportunities to help our youth reach their full potential.

By promoting both physical and mental health, as well as emotional wellbeing, these programs help young people succeed in school, form positive relationships and develop into healthy, responsible and caring adults.

For more than a decade, BGC London has been offering programs in Thames



Centre, breaking down barriers for children and youth to participate in recreation close to home. Recognizing those opportunities in rural areas can be limited, the Rural Hubs initiative brings high-quality programs to communities like Thorndale and Dorchester, fostering growth, confidence and connection.

Through a strong partnership with

the Municipality of Thames Centre, BGC London offers programming at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre and the Flight Exec Centre in Dorchester. This fall, the Next Level Sports program, a signature initiative of BGC London, is offering volleyball for ages nine to 13 on Thursday evenings in Thorndale, providing skill development and competitive experiences focused on confidence, teamwork and sportsmanship.

Additional offerings include gymnastics for ages five to 10 with fun, mixed-level classes, building strength and coordination through playful floor skills and age-appropriate exercises.

BGC offers creative programs such as the Tik Treat Lab, exploring food treats and recipes, plus other life skills and leadership programs designed to build independence and confidence. As a Red Cross Training Partner, BGC London also delivers first aid/CPR, babysitting and stay safe courses in rural areas, complementing its Life Skills Academy programming and preparing youth for real-world responsibilities.

Registration is required. For more information, visit www.bgclondon.ca/ rural or contact Whitney Brown, rural program manager, at wbrown@bgclondon.ca.

Thames Centre Council meetings held in Thorndale twice a year

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

Since the beginning of the current Thames Centre council, which was elected in November 2022, councillors have made it their mandate to hold two official council meetings per year, one in April and one in October, in Thorndale.

The decision to do this was to increase accessibility to the community of the Thorndale and to more residents of Thames Centre.

On Oct. 6, the Thames Centre council held its regular meeting at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre. Kicked off by Mayor Sharon McMillian, the meeting continued with official announcements, a public session with a report for a zoning bylaw amendment application for Golden Pond RV Park on

Cromarty Drive, reports from the various departments and McMillian's report, including her county council report.

The council meeting was then adjourned with a break before a closed session so council could discuss personal matters of municipal or local board employees, potential litigation affecting the municipality including matters before tribunals and legal matters protected by solicitor-client privilege.

Thames Centre council meeting agendas as well as minutes from previous meeting can be found at www.thamescentre.on.ca/council-and-administration/council-council-calendar-agenda-minutes/. As well, these council meetings are also recorded and can be viewed at www.youtube.com/c/municipality-ofthamescentre.

Thorndale Lions celebrate 50/50 winner



(MATT ADAMS PHOTO)

The Thorndale Lions held their Thanksgiving Bingo last Monday, Oct. 6, at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre. It was the biggest crowd for their bingos with 185 people attending. The largest 50/50 jackpot of \$469 was won by Nancy Deveau. The next community event is the Lions Fall Community Breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 26, from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Pictured are Nancy Deveau and Thorndale Lions member Mel Lee.

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CALL 519-284-0041 OR EMAIL ADS@STMARYSINDEPENDENT.COM

OBITUARY

Vossen



With broken hearts our family announces that John P Vossen passed away after a very courageous battle with cancer at LHSC London in his 69th year surrounded by his family on October 7th.

John is survived by his wife of 44 years Cheryl and his children Phil & Brit.

Predeceased by his parents John Sr. (1998) & Helen Vossen (2000). Loved Brother of Wilhelmina Laurie (Joe), Mary Jane Elliott (Paul), Helen Brockman (Gerry), Peter (2023) (Barb), Stephen (Sharon), Kit Sheldon (Don), Christopher (Heather 2018) Paul (Cathy 2025) David (Heather). John also leaves behind a large extended family, including many loving nieces & nephews. John was predeceased by his father and mother in law Ken (2002) & Bess Pickering (2001) Ken (2010) & Madeline Parkinson (2019) were John's extended in laws.

John was born and raised in St Marys, retiring from 25 years at Shur-Gain a few years ago. John's passions were golf, baseball, billiards and riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle with his friends and travelling with Cheryl. John loved the Toronto Blue Jays, Toronto Maple Leafs and will be a Dallas Cowboys fan forever! Our family would like to thank all of the staff at LHSC as well as the Verspeeten Cancer Clinic for their ongoing support over the years.

In keeping with John's wishes a celebration of life with take place on November 15th at St Marys Golf & Country Club from 1 -5 pm. Cremation has taken place with inurnment in St Marys Cemetery. Donations to the Verspeeten Cancer Clinic c/o London Health Science Foundation or the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame would be greatly appreciated. Online tributes at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

IN MEMORIAM

White

In loving memory of a dear nephew and cousin
DAVID WHITE
June 25, 1986 - Oct 19, 2013

Those we love remain with us
for love itself lives on.

Cherished memories never fade
because a loved one is gone.

Those we love can never be,
more than a thought apart

For as long as there is a memory,
they will live on in our heart.

Love the Hughes Family

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Love Never Dies | 6. The Wallflowers |
| 2. Nobody | 7. Nova Scotia |
| 3. Aloha | 8. Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas |
| 4. Fourteen | 9. Tetris |
| 5. Peterson | 10. Heathrow Airport |

OBITUARY

MacPherson



Joan MacPherson passed away peacefully at St. Marys Memorial Hospital on Oct. 3, 2025 in her 92nd year.

Beloved wife of Richard "Dick" MacPherson, married 74 years. Mother of David MacPherson (Sandy), George MacPherson, Brenda Neufeld (Brad). Grandmother of Jay (Angela), Corey, Mike, Sam, Max, Josh (Jazmin), Andrew (Candice), Barbie, Sarah, and also survived by 9 great-grandchildren. Joan will also be remembered by nieces, nephews and extended family members and friends.

Joan was born in Edmundston N.B. and had many fond memories of attending Convent School in Newcastle. In 1951 at 17 years of age she married her Fredericton High School sweetheart Dick, moved to Ottawa, children quickly followed. She was always resourceful, decorating from whatever she could find, painting with oils and selling them at art studios. Joan has always shared her passions with others whether leading youth activities at her church, putting on drama presentations, taking groups camping or hiking and always included her family.

Joan's interest in "community living" inspired a group to move here, to a property on Thomas St. they called Westover. MacPherson Craft Store was born out of her desire to have a place for people to meet in a little store she called "The Common Place." Even working the crazy hours of the M&M variety store, Joan always found time to walk and talk with people she met. Thank you for all your Joan stories so far and please don't hesitate to tell us more.

A Memorial Open House will take place at the WESTOVER INN, 300 Thomas St, St. Marys, on Oct. 17, 2025 from 1 to 5 pm with Words of Remembrance at 3 pm. Memorial donations may be made to the Perth-Huron VON Day Program. Online tributes at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

Andrew L. Hodges

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THANK YOU

Near

The family of Charlie Near would like to express our sincerest thanks to family, friends and neighbours for cards, messages, donations and support.

Thank you also to EMS, ER and nursing staff and Dr. Donaldson and Dr. Schiedel. A special thanks to St. Marys Legion, St. Marys Fire Department and all who attended the Celebration of Life.

Finally, a thank you to Andrew Hodges Funeral Home for their compassion and guidance.

THANK YOU

Davis

Many thanks to family and friends for helping me celebrate my 90th birthday party at the Thorndale Community Centre on October 5th.

The many cards received, beautiful flowers, gifts and best wishes were all greatly appreciated. Thanks also to my daughters and their families for all the hard work for planning this party. It was a fantastic day and again, thank you all for coming.

Verna

THANK YOU

Slater

Thank you to my family and friends in this community. My 90th birthday celebration was one I will always remember. I had no idea that so many would come. I was made to feel loved and blessed. Thank you, thank you. You also donated over \$3000 to Canadian Foodgrains Bank and real food to our local food bank. We live in a special community.

Allan Slater

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St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary

BINGO NIGHT

50/50! Cash Prizes!

Wednesday October 29
7:00PM - 10:00PM

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FALL

in love with the St. Marys Farmers' Market

SATURDAY, OCT. 18

Harvest Soup Day!

Purchase chilled and ready-to-eat Chef-made soups starting at 8 a.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 25

Pick up your pumpkins and apples for Hallowe'en!

SATURDAY, NOV. 1

Final outdoor market at Milt Dunnell

Indoor markets at Pyramid Centre:
Nov. 8, Dec. 6, Dec. 20



Warm up with soup!



Milt Dunnell Field
8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Saturdays



HELP WANTED



Logistics Specialist – Food Ingredients NA

Are you on the lookout for a versatile role in international logistics where you can utilize all your talents? Where you can help build and develop FNF — and your possibilities are endless? Want to sink your teeth into this opportunity and grow together?

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FNF Ingredients is a full-service marketing organization and supplier for various feed and food ingredient producers. Our goal is to become a lifelong partner for end-users in the US and Canadian food, feed, and cosmetics industries. We achieve this by fully supporting our customers with the procurement and total delivery of quality products at competitive prices.

Within North America, we connect our customers with reliable manufacturers through exclusive agencies, consignment stock, and other attractive terms. We provide end users with prompt deliveries, eliminate their risk of price fluctuation, and solve their supply chain challenges. We are the ultimate partner for our customers — and help them succeed!

Over the past eight years, we have experienced tremendous growth globally, and we are continuing this expansion in the US and Canada. As an FNF Logistics Specialist, you will be an important part of building our shared future.

WHAT YOU'LL DO:

- Coordinate logistics with carriers, customs brokers, and warehouses to ensure smooth product distribution.
- Serve as the main contact for customers, providing updates and support.
- Source, negotiate, and book freight as needed, while tracking shipments globally.
- Manage sales orders, purchase orders, invoicing, and cashflow tracking within our ERP system.
- Collaborate with our warehouses and China team to streamline logistics processes.
- Support regulatory and customs documentation requirements.

WHAT YOU OFFER:

- Experience in logistics, supply chain, or international trade.
- Strong organizational and communication skills with attention to detail.
- Ability to manage multiple priorities in a fast-paced, global environment.
- A proactive, solution-driven mindset and team-oriented approach.

WHAT WE OFFER:

- Full flexibility in working hours and location — we value a healthy work-life balance.
- No fixed cap on holiday leave.
- Laptop, smartphone, and full reimbursement of business expenses.
- Opportunities for travel and participation in global industry events.
- A collaborative, growing company that welcomes your ideas and invests in your career.

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WANTED

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Large three bedroom downtown apartment in classic building. Three storeys walk up above Gilly's. Completely renovated, exquisite mahogany panelling, refinished wood floors, fresh paint. Includes all utilities. A/C, heat, wi-fi, laundry, parking etc. References required. Available Oct. 1st. Call 519-697-4985

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COIN SHOW

Stratford 62th Annual Coin Show - on Sunday October 19th 2025 from 9:00 am to 3 pm at the Best Western Arden Park Hotel 552 Ontario St. Stratford. Admission \$3.00 (under 16 free). 65th Anniversary Cake Celebration at 2 pm.

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Jacquie's Home cleaning and home interior painting. Call or text 519-274-5761

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St. Marys Independent
THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Friday, Oct 17

- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog lunch at Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw – 6 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns vs St. Thomas Stars at the PRC – 7:30 p.m.
- SMCP opening night of “Hilda's Yard” at the Town Hall theatre – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct 18

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field – 8 a.m. to Noon, Harvest soup day
- McCully's fall harvest festival – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Price range \$6.25 to \$7.50
- SMCP presents “Hilda's Yard” at the Town Hall theatre – 2 p.m.
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw – 5 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Komoka Kings at Komoka Wellness Centre – 7:15 p.m.
- Blue Rodeo Tribute at Harrington Hall – 8 p.m., advance tickets only, Call 519-536-0955

Sunday, Oct 19

- McCully's fall harvest festival – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Price range \$6.25 go \$7.50
- SMCP presents “Hilda's Yard” at the Town Hall theatre – 2 p.m.
- Exeter Eastern Star BBQ chicken dinner at Exeter Masonic Hall – Take out only, advance tickets only, Pick up 4-6 p.m., Tickets \$25, Call 519-235-1588 or 519-236-4134

Monday, Oct 20

- Community Dinner at St. Marys United Church – 5 p.m., Sponsored by St. Marys Kinette Club

Tuesday, Oct 21

- Royal Canadian Legion buddy check coffee – 10 a.m. to Noon
- St. Marys Legion cribbage – Starts 7 p.m. sharp

Thursday, Oct 23

- A.N.A.F. sausage on a bun lunch – 12-1:30 p.m.

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

Looking Back



AMY CUBBERLEY

Independent Columnist

Coming Up Rosie

25 years ago (2000)
David J. Sterrett, President of the Ontario Aggregate Resources Corporation (TOARC), presented Mayor James Muterer of Zorra with \$136,751 from the Aggregate Resources Fund. Zorra ranked fourth in the province for aggregate production in 1999, with a total of 4,100,000 tonnes produced.
Citizens of St. Marys will go to the polls on Monday, November 13 to choose six Councillors from a field of eight, while two men will vie for the title of Mayor. The following are candidates for Town Council; Kerry Campbell, Eugene Dufour, Stan Fraser, Margaret Luna, David Redfern, Bruce Symons, Sandra Tays, and Don Van Galen. Seeking the Mayor's position are incumbent Jamie Hahn and contender Tony Winter.

50 years ago (1975)
Local celebrity Rosemary Ratcliffe has been announced as the star of a new CBC TV series entitled “Coming Up Rosie”.

Vandals were active at Cadzow Park last Wednesday night, repeating what has become a familiar story during recent years. On this occasion, vandals emptied the sandbox, tipped over and smashed the welded joints on the monkey bars, and upturned every picnic table in the area.

75 years ago (1950)
District mink ranchers are looking forward to the fur auction sales, the first of which is in Montreal on November 30. The ranchers are having some difficulty in securing adequate supplies of frozen fish to feed their animals these days.

Three large tractor trailers bearing the name of O.R. Fuller, Tillsonburg, were noticed moving through town on Friday morning loaded heavily with well rotted manure from some local farms. This looks like good soil conservation for the tobacco district, but definitely poor practice for local district farmsteads.

100 years ago (1925)
On Monday, George Aldis, local gardener together with a representative of the Downham Nursery Co. of Strathroy, planted out the flower bed surrounding the soldier's memorial with annuals. The bed is edged with forget-me-nots and dotted with the occasional Iceland poppies, a poppy that closely resembles the Flanders variety.

Last Saturday, the temperature stood at 26.8 degrees Fahrenheit in Toronto, being the lowest recorded that day since 1853. From eight inches to a foot of snow fell in many parts of western Ontario. In fact, there was snow all around St. Marys while there was simply a dash of snowflakes in St. Marys in the early morning.

Sheldon BERRIES
est. 1993

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Finance example: \$30,000 @ 3.99% over 24 month term = \$1,302 per mo. Total interest \$1,262. Total obligation \$31,262. Plus HST & License. EyeSight® is a driver-assist system, which may not operate optimally under all driving conditions. The driver is always responsible for safe and attentive driving. System effectiveness depends on many factors such as vehicle maintenance, and weather and road conditions. See Owner's Manual for complete details on system operation and limitations. †Ratings are awarded by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS). Visit www.iihs.org for testing methods. Offers end October 31, 2025 and are subject to change or cancellation without notice. See your local Subaru dealer or visit www.ontario.subarudealer.ca for complete program details including details on our Loyalty rate reduction program.