

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1328

Thursday, August 27, 2026

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YORK STREET THOUGHT PROCESS PLAYS MELODIES AT THE MUSEUM
Jaron Camp and Rachael Frankruyter of York Street Thought Process perform at Melodies at the Museum Aug. 18. This talented couple has performed at a variety of venues throughout Canada. They play a wide range of musical instruments and perform both original music and classic covers. Their debut album was released in August 2022.

(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

Complete sidewalk extensions improve pedestrian safety and connectivity in St. Marys

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Town of St. Marys has completed two sidewalk-extension projects that improve pedestrian connectivity and support active transportation throughout the community.

A new sidewalk has been installed on Glass Street, extending approximately 220 metres from the existing sidewalk terminus at Guest

Court to provide a continuous pedestrian connection to the Junction Station Dog Park. The project creates a safer and more accessible route for residents travelling to and from the popular recreational area.

In a separate project, an additional sidewalk has been installed on Thames Road, creating a connection between the Grand Trunk Trail and Queen Street West. The new infrastruc-

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

The Flower Shop and More honours Canadian flower farmers with Flowers Week installation

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

Regionally grown flowers were once again used to create a unique installation in the Flower Shop and More's windows.

The Flower Shop and More celebrated Canadian Flowers Week with a window display honouring flower farmers. Pairs of overalls hanging in the window were filled with a variety of flowers from the Garden in Harrington and bouquets from Wandering Bee in Thorndale.

"It is always unique in trying to find a different way to showcase Canadian flowers each year," said Chris O'Connor, co-owner of The Flower Shop and More.

On Aug. 24, The Flower Shop and More announced on Facebook that their 2026 flower farmer display is one of the finalist designs in the Canadian Flowers Week competition.

Canadian Flowers Week ran from Aug. 17-23. Each year in the middle of August, the celebratory week aims to highlight the importance of buying Canadian grown flowers. The Canadian Flowers Week website indicates that many of the flowers sold in Canada are imported from the United States and South America.

"A long time ago, Canada and the United States did a lot of stuff to open trade agreements, which were good, but it had an impact on Canadian growers. So, there's been historically less

CONTINUED TO PAGE 5

CB

David Forster
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COMMUNITY

Complete sidewalk extensions improve pedestrian safety and connectivity in St. Marys



Sidewalk-extension projects have recently been completed on Glass Street and Thames Road in St. Marys.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWN OF ST. MARYS)

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

ture improves access to the town’s trail network and helps connect more residents to parks, trails and other community destinations.

“These projects may be relatively small in scale, but they have a meaningful impact on how residents move throughout our community,” said Austin Louwagie, town infrastructure manager, in a press

release. “By filling gaps in our pedestrian network and improving connections to local amenities, we’re making it safer and more convenient for people to choose active transportation.”

provide to residents. Improved pedestrian connections support accessibility, encourage active transportation and help create a more connected community.

For more information about municipal infrastructure projects in St. Marys, visit the Town’s website at www.townofst-marys.com.



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EDITORIAL

The Tragically Hip's final concert replayed on 10-year anniversary



WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

What were you doing on Aug. 20, 2016? If you were one in three Canadians who tuned in for a very special televised

concert, then you were dancing around your living room, feeling emotional watching the Tragically Hip's final concert as they finished off their last farewell Canadian tour ending in their hometown, Kingston.

Gord Downie was diagnosed with brain cancer in December 2015 and in the summer of 2016, the band went on tour, putting on 15 shows in 10 cities. It is hard to imagine having a diagnosis like this and having the strength to go on tour, but that was Gord Downie.

He loved Canada and his fans so much that he felt like he owed it to them to say goodbye

the best way he knew how. The quirky lead singer, Downie, was incredibly talented and was an unbelievable storyteller. How lucky was the band that started playing together after high school and got to see it through to its end?

You could feel the love between the musicians after the final song and feel and see the emotions of the fans in the audience. What makes the Tragically Hip so special is they became kind of an unofficial band of Canada with their references to towns, lakes and events, and never strayed from their home country.

The success they experienced was based on pure talent, Downie's stage presence and storytelling knack that brought Canadians together, celebrating our history, geography and pure national pride.

My next question, what were you doing this past Saturday night? CBC replayed the Tragically Hip's final concert 10 years later and that feeling of Canadian pride came back in full force.

They say time flies and watching the concert, it felt like just yesterday, not 10 years ago. In 2016, 11.7 million people watched the concert. In this day

and age of unrest, tariffs and national insecurity, one thing that remains is Canadian patriotism, and if it is brought about by watching an iconic band that brings back great memories, then that should bring a smile to your face.

I hope you got a chance to watch the concert either the first time around or on the replay of the 10th anniversary. Downie, who passed in October of 2017, was a strong advocate for helping Indigenous peoples and would love that you found your Canadian pride in their music.

Bravo

We have 4 Bravos this week

- 1) Bravo to sharp-shooting Al Strathdee for winning the Closest to the Pin at Science Hill's Men's Night last week, narrowly beating out Chico Downing.
- 2) Bravo to Graham Energy who has maintained a sign telling us the time and temperature and, importantly, the events currently happening in St. Marys. Thank you so much for this important service.
- 3) Bravo to the St. Marys Public Library and their summer program supported by the Friends of the Library. They had two wonderful young women running the following activities - picnic in the park, crafts, fluency and fitness. My granddaughters enjoyed the games and the reading / spelling that were part each activity.
- 4) Bravo to Andrew H. for stealthily cleaning the air fryer and pleasantly surprising the household on a rainy Sunday morning!

Boo

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

"We were not prepared to compromise on our sovereignty, the protection of the French language, and our culture. To our American colleagues, let us be clear: for my government and for Canada, these issues were never on the table, even though the United States tried until the very last minute."

- Excerpt from Prime Minister Mark Carney's speech on Aug. 22 following the suspension of trade talks with the United States

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Overheard

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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!

The Flower Shop and More honours Canadian flower farmers with Flowers Week installation



(EMILY STEWART PHOTO)

For Canadian Flowers Week, which ran from Aug. 17-23, the Flower Shop and More used flowers from the Garden in Harrington and Wandering Bee in Thorndale to create an installation honouring flower farmers across Canada.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

and less and there's certain flowers you can't get anymore in Canada, especially in certain seasons, but there's been a resurgence of greenhouses and Canadian growers," O'Connor said. "There's some big ones and there's some small ones, but I think in the world today, it is important to celebrate your own identity and Canadian flowers are for Canadians. ... There's all kinds of sustainability benefits to that, too."

The Flower Shop and More offers truly local flowers for sale.

"When we call something 'truly local' here, it may or may not be grown at our farm, The Garden in Harrington, but it could be grown any place; we're talking 50 kilometres from the shop," said O'Connor.

As a finalist in the Canadian Flowers Week contest, the Flower Shop and

More's window installation has a chance to win a grand prize worth \$1,500 from Unicorn Blooms. The shop's displays have been one of the finalists for the past three years. O'Connor would like to see his shop win but acknowledged it's a tough competition.

"Every year, there's more competitors and they allow now for collaboration between multi-designers which when you're in Toronto, is a little harder to compete with than in St. Marys and they change the voting every year," he explained. "So yes, it's our aspiration we'll never give up, but we're just happy to participate and it's awesome to just be in the top group."

Voting took place on the Canadian Flowers Week Instagram's stories. More information about Canadian Flowers Week can be found online by visiting canadianflowersweek.ca.

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



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COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT GARDEN

The Town of St. Marys is reminding residents about the importance of respecting the Community Allotment Garden following reports that produce has recently been picked from several garden plots without permission.

If you seeking resources in regards to food insecurity please visit: townofstmarys.com/stonetownsupports



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Did you know you can submit your community event to the Town's online Community Calendar? It's a great way to help residents and visitors discover what's happening in our community! Events must take place in St. Marys and be open to the public.

Submit an Event: calendar.townofstmarys.com

FALL BOOK SALE

The Friends of the St. Marys Public Library are hosting their bi-annual book sale. Browse books, puzzles, DVDs and more. Items are for sale by donation. Hours include September 23-25, 10 AM - 6 PM and September 26, 10 AM - 4 PM.

Learn more: facebook.com/stmarysFOL



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Senior of the Week



We welcome your submissions for our weekly Senior of the Week. Please send a photo and a brief description to info@stmarysindependent.com and we will feature them in an upcoming issue.

If you would like to nominate someone for Senior of the Week, contact us at 519.284.0041 or info@stmarysindependent.com.

St. Marys hosting public meeting on new zoning bylaw

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Town of St. Marys is inviting residents, property owners, businesses and interested stakeholders to participate in a statutory public meeting regarding the proposed townwide zoning bylaw.

The bylaw is being developed as part of the town’s ongoing review of its zoning bylaw to align with the updated official plan, which was approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in October 2024. The proposed zoning updates are intended to implement the policies and vision outlined in the official plan while ensuring the town’s planning framework reflects current provincial legislation and local priorities.

“Updating our zoning bylaw will help ensure it reflects the town’s new official plan and current planning requirements,” said Grant Brouwer, director of building and planning, in a press release. “We encourage residents to review the proposed changes and share their feedback with council.”

A zoning bylaw outlines how land can be used and developed within a municipality. It establishes regulations related to permitted uses, building setbacks, lot sizes, building heights, parking requirements and other development standards.

The statutory public meeting will provide council with an opportunity to hear comments and representations from members of the public before considering the proposed bylaw.

Statutory public meeting details

Date: Tuesday, Sept. 22

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Council chamber, town hall, 175 Queen St. E, St. Marys

In addition to the live-streamed meeting to the town’s YouTube channel, the recording will be available following the meeting.

Review the proposed changes

Residents are encouraged to review the project mate-



rials before the meeting. Background reports, technical briefs, the draft zoning bylaw and a redlined version showing proposed changes are available on the town’s zoning review webpage and may also be reviewed by appointment with town staff.

Submit comments or register to speak

Written comments may be submitted to the clerk’s office by email at clerksoffice@town.stmarys.on.ca or by mail to town hall (P.O. Box 998, St. Marys, ON N4X 1B6). Comments should be received by 12 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 22.

Those wishing to speak as a delegation at the statutory public meeting must register with the clerk’s office by 12 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 21, and include any materials they wish to be distributed with the council agenda.

Learn more

For more information about the project, to review the proposed amendments or to request notification of council’s decision, contact:

Grant Brouwer
Director of building and planning
Town of St. Marys
408 James St. S, St. Marys, ON N4X 1B6
519-284-2340 ext. 215
gbrouwer@town.stmarys.on.ca

Residents are encouraged to participate in the planning process by attending the meeting or submitting comments for council’s consideration. Information regarding appeal rights and participation requirements is available in the official public notice.



- 1. What bird is a universal symbol of peace?
- 2. Who invented the airplane?
- 3. Which body part has the most bones?
- 4. What is the square root of 49?
- 5. How many legs does a crab have?
- 6. What three colors are on Estonia’s flag?
- 7. Which gas do plants absorb from the atmosphere?
- 8. Who wrote the adventures of Tom Sawyer?
- 9. What are the five stages of grief?
- 10. Who sings the 1998 song Closing Time?

This week’s answers are found on pg. 31



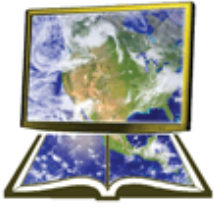
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St. Marys Public Library

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The St. Marys Public Library is inviting residents to begin their library journey with one simple step: getting a free library card.

A library card is more than access to books. It is a gateway to learning, entertainment, technology, digital resources, programs and community connections. Library membership is free for residents of St. Marys and Perth South with proof of address, and residents of Huron, Middlesex and Oxford counties may also be eligible for a card through reciprocal lending agreements.

"Whether you are a lifelong resident or have just moved to town, a library card helps connect you to the many services and opportunities available through the St. Marys Public Library," said Sarah Andrews, CEO of the St. Marys Public Library, in a press release.

Getting a card is easy. Residents can

visit the library with proof of address, such as a driver's licence or utility bill, to register for membership. The library offers access to physical collections, digital resources, programs and events, makerspace services, learning opportunities, and unique items through its Library Plus collection.

New to St. Marys? Stop by the library to pick up a welcome kit and discover how the library can help you connect with local services, resources and community life.

Residents are also encouraged to stay connected by visiting the library website and following the St. Marys Public Library on Facebook and Instagram for the latest news, programs and events.

Visit the St. Marys Public Library at 15 Church St. N or learn more online at www.townofstmarys.com/library, call 519-284-2340, or email library@town.stmarys.on.ca. The friendly library team is ready to help residents discover everything your free library card can do.

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COUNCIL PROFILES

Ryan Lush running for St. Marys council with focus on responsible growth

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

St. Marys council candidate Ryan Lush says growth can bring plenty of benefits to the community, but the town needs to ensure its infrastructure and services are ready to keep pace.

Lush is running for a councillor seat in the Oct. 26 municipal election, motivated in part by his experience raising his daughter in St. Marys and concerns about the availability of services for local families.

"We put our daughter on the local daycare waiting list before she was born," Lush said. "Nearly six years later, she has aged out before ever receiving a space."

That experience has influenced how Lush views future development. While he supports adding housing, including rentals, he said council needs to understand what additional growth will mean for health care, schools, child care, emergency services, roads and water and wastewater infrastructure.

"I am not anti-growth," Lush said. "I want a responsible plan for growing St. Marys that considers the families waiting for child care, seniors and other residents without family doctors, and the capacity of our volunteer fire service."

Lush also wants an update on the town's Opening Doors attainable housing action plan, approved in 2023 with a goal of adding 200 rental units between 2024 and 2027, including 30 units with reduced rents secured through agreements.

With that deadline approaching, Lush said residents should know how many units have been completed and how many are still expected.

On affordability, Lush said simply increasing the supply of market-rate housing in St. Marys will not nec-



(PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN LUSH)

Ryan Lush is running for a seat on council in the Oct. 26 St. Marys municipal election.

essarily make housing affordable for existing residents given demand across southern Ontario.

"When public land, funding or incentives are involved, residents should know how many homes will actually be affordable to local workers, seniors and families," he

said, adding he would support partnerships with established housing providers, non-profits and co-operatives.

Professionally, Lush works for a manufacturing company and previously travelled to plants across North America to help improve underperforming assembly lines. That work involved analyzing data, identifying bottlenecks, setting attainable goals and working with employees to find practical improvements.

Now an IT administrator with the same company, Lush said he continues to use data, Lean management and continuous-improvement principles to improve systems and efficiencies. He also operates a home-based business, Stonetown Tech Solutions.

"A fresh set of eyes is an asset I would bring to council," Lush said. "I may be new to municipal office, but I am not new to identifying problems, asking questions, working with people or improving complicated systems."

If elected, Lush said he would push for earlier public notice of significant proposals through the town website, social media and local newspapers, giving residents an opportunity to influence decisions before they are made.

His campaign is beginning with what he calls a "listening tour," through which residents, businesses, workers, service providers and community groups can share their priorities. He also plans to knock on doors and attend community events.

"I am not entering this campaign believing I have all the answers," Lush said. "I am running because I am prepared to listen, do the research, ask difficult questions and work collaboratively toward practical solutions."

Residents can learn more or contact Lush through RyanLush.ca, his Facebook campaign page, by email at ryan_lush@stonetowntechsolutions.ca or by phone or text at 519-617-0265.



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Marg Luna seeking another term on St. Marys council

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

After 18 years serving the community as a councillor, incumbent Marg Luna says there is still work she wants to help see through to completion as she seeks another term on St. Marys council.

Luna is running for re-election in the Oct. 26 municipal election, bringing both her extensive council experience and her perspective as a senior and retired registered nurse to the campaign.

"I feel very honoured to be a member of council and have input into important decisions that affect the town and its citizens," Luna said. "I'm at a point in my life where I can dedicate my time and energy full time to the role."

With seniors representing nearly a quarter of the St. Marys population, Luna said she understands the needs of older residents while also believing a "multi-generational" council is important to represent the entire community.

Among the projects Luna wants to continue working on is the redevelopment of 14 Church St. N., which she said could become an important downtown community hub while providing additional space for the St. Marys Public Library.

Luna also wants the town to continue addressing affordable and attainable housing, building on measures already taken to encourage greater density and make approvals easier for accessory dwelling units and garage conversions.

"Homelessness and the lack of affordable housing is another concern," she said. "Council has introduced many initiatives to combat homelessness and expand housing choices."

Responsible growth and municipal finances will also



(PHOTO COURTESY OF MARG LUNA)

Incumbent Coun. Marg Luna is throwing her hat in the ring for another term on St. Marys council in the Oct. 26 municipal election.

be priorities for Luna if re-elected.

While she said St. Marys needs growth to help expand the municipal tax base, particularly after a recent

slowdown in new development, that growth needs to be balanced against the cost-of-living pressures residents already face.

"Council can help alleviate that in a significant way by being fiscally responsible and aware of spending and in approving the budget," Luna said.

Her years on council have included service on the former Perth District Health Unit and current Huron Perth Public Health board, Spruce Lodge board, St. Marys Memorial Hospital board, library board and police-related committees. Luna said that experience has helped her understand municipal budgeting, departmental responsibilities and the importance of building productive relationships with staff and fellow councillors.

Her nursing background, meanwhile, has influenced how she approaches decisions involving public health and safety, from drinking water and sewage management to roads and other municipal infrastructure.

Luna said councillors should listen to residents, bring their ideas and concerns to the council table, support staff and respectfully debate issues while accepting decisions made by council as a whole.

She also opposes provincially mandated strong mayor powers, arguing they have the potential to diminish the role councillors play in municipal decision-making.

Luna plans to campaign primarily through social media and hopes there will be an all-candidates meeting where residents can hear directly from those seeking office.

She is particularly concerned about low voter turnout in recent municipal elections and is encouraging residents to participate, regardless of whom they support.

"Most importantly, just vote," Luna said.

Residents can contact Luna during the campaign at 519-801-5354 or marg_l@hotmail.com.

Fern Pridham seeking another term on St. Marys council

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

With eight years of experience around the St. Marys council table, incumbent Coun. Fern Pridham is asking voters for the opportunity to continue that work for another four years.

Pridham is seeking re-election as councillor in the Oct. 26 municipal election, pointing to both the experience she has gained during her two terms and the continuity she could bring to a council that may include several new faces.

"I believe there is important work to be done and possibly challenging times ahead," Pridham said. "I also truly believe I am good at this work and bring insights and ideas that guide council decisions in a positive way."

Pridham said her council experience has taught her the importance of understanding the history behind previous decisions, plans and priorities while listening to residents and considering all sides of an issue.

"I have developed a strong voice which I feel is my duty to express," she said. "I listen and pay attention to what the community is saying and consider all sides. It's not always easy, but it is always important."

Outside council, Pridham is a real estate broker whose educational background includes contracts and negotiations, housing, building, zoning, planning, land use and design. She has also volunteered with numerous community organizations and currently serves as head of wardrobe with St. Marys Community Players.

Among the biggest challenges she sees facing the next council are increasing pressures on the municipal budget, particularly rising shared-service costs she said are not being covered by the province.

If those pressures continue, Pridham said council will increasingly need to prioritize services while advocating to provincial and federal representatives for greater financial support and accountability from shared-service providers.

She also pointed to growing social-service needs, including financial pressures on individuals and families, mental-health supports and a lack of affordable housing.

"Our community outreach worker is doing a great job assisting residents with social needs, but the workload is high and demands are increasing," Pridham said. "Council's approach must evolve as the needs increase."

Pridham said she sees the role of councillor as one that requires preparation, listening to residents, asking questions and taking action when issues are brought forward.

"Keep community interest first, be impartial, listen and respect valid information with the ultimate goal of achieving the best outcome," she said.

As an incumbent, Pridham expects her campaign will look somewhat different from those of first-time candidates.

"Voters will likely evaluate me based on my record on council and decide whether they believe I have earned the opportunity to continue," she said.

She still plans to spend the campaign speaking with residents and listening to their concerns.

Looking ahead, Pridham said the next council will need "new ideas, practical solutions, sound decision making and perhaps a good sense of humour."

Residents can contact Pridham during the campaign by email at fernpridham@gmail.com, by phone at 519-274-2885 or through Facebook and Instagram.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF FERN PRIDHAM)

Incumbent Coun. Fern Pridham is hoping to serve another term on St. Marys council following the municipal election on Oct. 26.

Family Forever, a children's book and a fundraiser for Shelterlink

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

A mother-daughter team have been collaborating on a family friendly children's book.

Cassandra Smith and daughter Ivy Smith, 10, have been working together for approximately three years on creating a children's book. All of their hard work has paid off as *Family Forever* has now been published.

When asked how they decided to make a book, Cassandra Smith explained that she and her husband have been foster parents since 2012. When their first foster child moved to college, Ivy Smith was seven and the family was looking for ways to explain the transition to younger family members and that's where the idea for *Family Forever* came to life.

They knew they wanted animals to be in the story and started discussing some rough ideas. Last year during a visit to Starbucks, the two came up with a successful concept that led to the finished publication.

The story is about a dog family that gets separated in a storm. The pup comes across a moose family that takes it in and cares for it, while all along, the mother was busy looking for her puppy. The message that children can be loved and cared for by others really shows up.

The illustrations are incredible and were done by a local youth group in Stratford. At the back of the book are the original pictures without the watermark colouring that can be coloured by readers.

The book was published by Amazon Direct Publishing, taking about three months for approval and final publishing.

Ivy Smith's favourite part of the process was coming up with the characters and seeing it all come to life.

The book is available on Amazon, but it is also available at Betty's Bookshelf in town. Seventy-five per cent of the profits are being donated to Shelterlink Youth Services in Stratford, which helps youth in our area that are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Smith and her husband are both child and youth work-



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Cassandra and Ivy Smith proudly display copies of their published children's book, *Family Forever*.

ers and strongly believe in helping as many youths as possible. So far, they have raised \$500 for Shelterlink, but would be thrilled if that number kept rising. *Family Forever* is also available at the St. Marys Public Library and Huron Perth Children's Aid.

When asked if they have more books planned, Ivy Smith shared she would like to create one with her brother about hockey and siblings working together to



(NINA POLIDORO PHOTO)

Ivy Smith loved watching the book come to fruition and looks forward to writing more in the future.

make a team.

Getting a book published is the result of many hands and the Smiths wanted to thank the very talented Nina Polidoro for taking the headshots for the book, Cheryl McKenny of Imagined Canvas for organizing the illustrations and the Stratford Youth Group for their creative drawings.



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Town of St. Marys

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING



TOWN OF ST. MARYS ZONING BY-LAW REVIEW

PURPOSE AND EFFECT OF PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW: The Town of St. Marys is undertaking a review of its Zoning By-law to align with its new Official Plan. St. Marys' updated Official Plan was approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) in October 2024.

The Zoning By-law is a legal document outlining the set of regulations that determine how a piece of land can be used and developed. The Zoning By-law regulates the use of land and buildings; the location and setbacks of buildings and structures; the types of buildings permitted; lot sizes; heights; parking requirements; and performance standards such as landscaping requirements.

The Public Meeting is held for the purpose of giving the public an opportunity to make representations in respect of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND MATERIALS: Additional information including Background Reports, Technical Briefs, Draft Zoning By-law Amendment and Redline showing changes to the proposed Zoning By-law are available to the public for inspection on the project webpage <https://www.townofstmarys.com/home-property-roads/zoning-by-law/>, or by contacting Town Staff to view the documents via an appointment to review the documents.

DATE & TIME: The Public Meeting will be held on September 22, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

LOCATION: Town Hall Council Chamber, 175 Queen Street East, St. Marys, Ontario. Following the meeting, a recorded version can be found at youtube.com/@TownofStMarys-vf3sx

PROVIDE COMMENT: May be submitted in writing to Clerk's department via email to clerksoffice@town.stmarys.on.ca, or by mail to Town Hall (P.O. Box 998, St. Marys, ON N4X 1B6) **before 12:00 pm on Tuesday, September 22, 2026.**

REGISTER AS A DELEGATION: Email the Clerk at clerksoffice@town.stmarys.on.ca **no later than 12:00 pm on Monday, September 21, 2026** requesting to be a delegation and include materials for distribution.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

To find out more about the project and follow along, or if you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town of St. Marys on the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment, you must make a written request to:

Grant Brouwer
Director of Building & Planning
Town of St. Marys
408 James Street South, St. Marys, Ontario, N4X 1B6
Phone: 519-284-2340 ext. 215
Email: gbrouwer@town.stmarys.on.ca

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council of St. Marys to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of St. Marys before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to St. Marys before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

St. Marys Hospital Auxiliary's jean jackets are flying off the shelves

JANIS FREAD

St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary

The Auxiliary's unique, embellished jean jackets are a hot commodity!

Three of our jackets sold recently to a visitor from Burlington, another to Ancaster and the third has travelled back to London, England! Ladies' adult and children's sizes are available at the hospital Boutique.

Our Summer Sale continues with almost all garments 50 per cent off! Retailers are already promoting fall and winter styles in their shops, so if you're still enjoying the last days of summer weather and just feel like something new and summery to end the season, stop by and stock up!

Save the date for our next fundraising event, our popular BINGO night! We'll be at the Friendship Centre on Wednesday, Sept. 23, from 7-10 p.m.; doors open at 6:30 p.m. Join us for a fun evening of Bingo, with 50/50 draws, refreshments and a silent auction. Proceeds from this event will purchase more than half a dozen over-the-bed tables for hospital in-patients.

The Boutique is open Monday to Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Follow the Auxiliary on Facebook at "The Boutique at St. Marys Memorial Hospital" or email smmhauxiliary@gmail.com.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. MARYS HOSPITAL AUXILIARY)

These unique embellished jean jackets purchased from the hospital Boutique are modelled by Kara (Burlington), Elizabeth (Ancaster) and Chloe (London, England).

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Associate medical officer of health named for HPPH



ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) recently announced that the Ontario Ministry of Health has approved the appointment of Dr. Lauren Hayward as associate medical officer of health for HPPH.

Hayward has served as physician consultant for HPPH since 2021, including as the director of the population health department. She has also provided sexual health services with the former Perth District Health Unit and HPPH since 2017.

“This appointment marks an important milestone for Huron Perth Public Health and reflects Dr. Hayward’s expertise and commitment to advancing public health in our region,” said Huron-Perth medical officer of health and HPPH CEO Dr. Miriam Klassen in a press release.

Hayward brings 12 years of family medicine experience in Huron and Perth

counties, most notably as a family physician in North Perth in addition to varied clinical experience in other communities across Canada. She holds a medical degree from Western University, family medicine certification (CCFP) from McMaster University and a Master of Public Health from University of Waterloo. Hayward also has the role of adjunct professor for the department of family medicine at Western University.

Hayward is passionate about upstream, preventative and population-based health. She looks forward to continuing to work with the skilled and committed HPPH team and partnering with Huron and Perth communities to help improve health and well-being.

For more information:

- Huron Perth Public Health: 1-888-221-2133
- Visit www.hpph.ca
- Follow us on Facebook and X



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Thorndale News

A section within the
St. Marys Independent



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Break-in at Thorndale Food Market prompts community support and OPP investigation

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

Thieves broke into the Thorndale Food Market, located at 184 King St., Saturday night, leaving the store damaged and its owners shaken.

According to Eunah Jung, the perpetrators stole valuables, broke numerous bottles of alcohol and vandalized the interior, leaving glass scattered across the floor.

Despite the disruption, the store re-

mains open while Jung and her team work with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) on their investigation.

"We are sorry for the inconvenience and thank you for your support," she shared in her initial post on Facebook to the community.

More than 200 residents responded with messages of concern, empathy and offerings to help. Jung later expressed her gratitude for the support. She confirmed OPP officers reviewed the store's security footage, collected fingerprints and docu-

mented the scene.

The suspects entered the store around 11:10 p.m. Saturday and remained inside for roughly an hour. Jung noted that video footage will be shared publicly once possible, in hopes that someone may recognize the individuals involved. She encouraged residents to check their own security cameras if they live nearby.

By Sunday afternoon, a promising development emerged.

"Thankfully, one of our customers recognized one of the people who may have

been involved," Jung posted.

The OPP has been notified and is handling the matter "swiftly and thoroughly," Jung said. While identification is not yet confirmed, Jung remains hopeful the case will be resolved soon.

Throughout the ordeal, the owners expressed deep appreciation for Thorndale's support.

"We are truly touched and incredibly grateful for the support of this community," Jung wrote.

Thorndale Country Mills relocates to bigger and better space



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

Thorndale Country Mills' new store, just steps from the original location.

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

The Thorndale Country Mills retail store has relocated just steps beyond the original old store.

"Some people may think we have closed but we are still here, only bigger and better," said store manager Leslie An-

drew. "We carry a wide variety of products, some from area suppliers, to continue to serve our community for the home, their pets and the backyard homesteaders wants and needs.

"We continue to maintain the same hours – Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon. So, come on back and see us."

Good Neighbour Project annual barbecue well attended near Thorndale

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

The Good Neighbour Project committee, consisting of 15 local farmers, residents and representatives from eight area churches, including two in London and Glenbrook Presbyterian in Mississauga, recently hosted their annual barbecue at Brown's United Church, northeast of Thorndale.

Despite the dreary, rainy day, over 125 people attended, enjoyed the musical entertainment along with barbecued pork supplied by Chris Goris, corn on the cob and a wide variety of salads and desserts contributed by the people who attended.

Good Neighbour Project committee member Glenn Baskerville thanked everyone for coming to their annual barbecue and fundraiser as well as a thank-you to the many local businesses that have contributed to this project.

Henry Reinders, the Ontario Regional representative for Canadian Foodgrains Bank, spoke briefly to the gathering

about the humanitarian work this organization provides.

"The need for food has escalated with some governments pulling out their funding," Reinders said.

Canadian Foodgrains has helped approximately 1.2 million people in 70 countries with projects focusing on emergency food assistance and long-term food security initiatives like agricultural training. Reinders reassured the gathering that Canada's current government matches Canadian Foodgrains donations four to one but he urged people to contact their MP to push for this project to continue.

"Our wheat crop had an excellent yield last month and with the generous donations collected at our barbecue, these funds will be sent to Canadian Foodgrains Bank in Winnipeg later this fall," said John Elliott, chair of the Good Neighbour Project. "We are very grateful for the support of our community and area businesses."

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St. Marys Independent SPORTS

Wynands, Heinbuck among winners at SMGCC Junior Club Championship



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Peyton Wynands, pictured, won the overall title at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club's (SMGCC) Junior Club Championship tournament Aug. 18.

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The St. Marys Golf and Country Club hosted its annual Junior Club Championship tournament Aug. 18, with Peyton Wynands being the overall junior winner and Charlotte Heinbuck taking the girls' junior title.

Wynands called it "one of the best rounds he's had all summer."

"My round went great for me because of my short game," Wynands said. "I had trouble off the tee for most of my round, but my approach shots as well as my chipping and putting were the reason I scored the way I did. My wedge shots put me in a great position to make those clutch birdies as well as the pars that kept the momentum rolling."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Charlotte Heinbuck, pictured, was the Girls' Junior Club Champion at the Aug. 18 SMGCC Junior Club Championship tournament.

Wynands, 16, emerged as the overall junior champion with a score of 78.

"It feels great to win the junior club championship," said Wynands. "I have been a member at SMGCC for four years as well as an employee there for almost three. Everyone I meet there always brings a great attitude and makes golfing even more enjoyable. It feels amazing to represent the course and I'm honoured to be a part of it."

Wynands added a clutch birdie late in his round propelled him through the last couple of holes.

"The most memorable shot I had was on Hole 16. My goal since the first tee was just to shoot as low a score as I could. I didn't even think about winning the tournament; I just wanted to shoot the best score possible. On the back nine, I had trouble keeping up the momentum as I had a double bogey on Hole 12, as well as a few more bogeys.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Peyton Wynands putts on Hole 6 during the SMGCC Junior Club Championship Aug. 18. Wynands had a big putt for birdie on Hole 16, leading to his junior club title win.

"On 16, a short par-three, I stuck my tee shot to three feet (from the pin) to give me a tap-in birdie," Wynands continued. "That was the shot that gave me confidence and prevented any blowup holes that could have possibly ruined my round."

On the girls' side, 13-year-old Charlotte Heinbuck posted a nine-hole score of 40 to win the girls' junior club championship.

In the Boys 14 and up division, Landon McDonald shot 84 to be crowned the winner of his bracket. Hudson Monteith was the Boys 12-13 division winner with a score of 89. Logan Masselis shot 54 in nine holes to win the Boys eight to 11 category.

On the girls' side, Rylee Cunningham won the Girls 15 division, shooting 58, while Jaelynn Seok posted a score of 62 to win the Girls 13 division, both over nine holes.


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Community Liaison Committee

The next Community Liaison Committee Meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 10th at 6 p.m.** at the St. Marys Municipal Operations Center. Members of the public who wish to observe are welcome to attend.

Residents who wish to speak in front of the Committee may submit a detailed request in writing to the Committee. The request will be considered by the Committee and approved prior to the meeting.

Please submit all requests, questions, and concerns for the meeting to kara.pelissero@vcimentos.com by **Tuesday, September 8 at 12 p.m.**


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U11 HL Blue Rockies win playoff title

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The Forman Electric U11 HL Blue St. Marys Rockies capped off their season by winning their year-end playoff championship.

After finishing with a 14-2 record in the regular season, the Rockies entered a nine-team double-knockout playoff. After winning their first two games by scores of 16-12 and 13-7, the Rockies faced Dorchester on the afternoon of Aug. 15, with the winner going to the finals the next day and needing to be defeated twice to lose the championship.

Head coach Chris Van Wieren explained how pitch count restrictions played a big part in how all teams were deploying their arms.

"Going into the weekend's games, I discussed with assistant coach Al (Bilyea) how we should manage our pitchers going into the weekend and where and when each kid would pitch," said Van Wieren. "A lot of teams were holding back their better pitchers, or heavily limiting their pitches, and trying to squeak out wins with secondary pitching."

"We decided we wouldn't hold anyone back and pitch to win every game. We'd rather the boys lose in the finals running out of good pitching than coaching decisions not even letting them get to the finals. We felt that our pitching depth was deep enough that we could out-pitch any team if we played the least amount of games possible."

In their Saturday clash with Dorchester, the Rockies got two and two-thirds solid innings from starting pitcher Will Graham, who only surrendered four runs. Liam Von Nguyen came in for relief, but after taking his warm-up pitches, the Dorchester coaching staff appealed a play that happened before the pitching change, which led to a 15-minute delay that ultimately had the league convenor involved for a final ruling.

The long delay and distraction of the situation iced Von Nguyen, who struggled to gain command, but who went on to deliver a massive lights-out effort later in the weekend. Max (Bilyea) pitched the fourth inning, striking out three and allowing one run.

Van Wieren also mentioned Asher Einwechter as fighting through significant adversity of his own.

"Asher Einwechter was hit by pitches pretty hard twice, both times with the bases loaded," said Van Wieren. "He took 'taking one for the team' to another level. He battled through some nerves in the batter's box the rest of the tournament but stood in there and got on base during some critical points during the remainder of the tournament. A lot of kids would have bailed out in the situation given the circumstances, but he pushed through."

The Rockies ultimately came away



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Forman Electric U11 HL Blue St. Marys Rockies won their year-end playoff championship Aug. 16 in a 13-8 double-knockout final win over Dorchester. Pictured sitting in front is Jack Becker. Pictured in the first standing row, from left to right, are Owen Gropp, Will Graham, Asher Einwechter, Maclean Ross, Max Bilea, Brody Pearson, Liam Von Nguyen, Damon MacNeil and Jacob Zwambag. Pictured in the back row, from left, are Chris Van Wieren, Carter Van Wieren and Al Bilyea.

with a 10-8 victory to punch their ticket to the double-knockout finals, thanks to strong play on both sides of the plate by the entire squad.

"We had solid team defence and kept Dorchester from stringing together any big innings, highlighted by a Superman diving catch in centre field by Owen (Gropp)," Van Wieren said. "On the batting side, we scored four in the first, three in the second, three in the third and, with the bases loaded and the time curfew looming in the fourth, Dorchester conceded the game in order to save pitching."

Von Nguyen drew walks in each of his three plate appearances. Bilyea had a home run. Jacob Zwambag reached base all three times he came to the plate.

After Dorchester defeated London later on Saturday, they earned a spot against St. Marys in the double-knockout championship contests, both of which Dorchester needed to win to emerge as champions.

In the first game in the double knockout, with the possibility of playing two games and the pitching restrictions, the Rockies needed solid outings from their starting pitchers. Bilyea and Graham were not available as they surpassed their allowed pitch count during Saturday's game.

In the end, Dorchester squeaked out a 10-7 victory to force the second game. However, Van Wieren noted the performance by Von Nguyen, their starter on the mound, gave them a boost heading into the final game in the form of how deep he pitched into the game.

"Liam (Von Nguyen) was our starting pitcher for this game. He came back extremely strong after a tough outing the

day before. He pitched the max allowed 70 pitches. It was the first time the entire year that we had anyone pitch the max. He went two and two-thirds innings, allowing five runs and striking out four."

Zwambag came in relief, pitching one and one-third innings and allowing three runs. Maclean Ross pitched the fifth inning and struck out one while allowing two runs. Von Nguyen pitching as deep as he did allowed the Rockies to maintain several players' pitching eligibility for Game 2, while Dorchester had burned through some of their players.

Brody Pearson and Einwechter had strong games defensively, while Von Nguyen once again drew three walks at the plate and Jack Becker reached base on all four of his plate appearances.

This set up the final game in which St. Marys led the entire game, which Van Wieren said was a big step forward for a team that often wasn't at their best at the start of games.

"We are a team that perennially started games slow," Van Wieren said. "We really tried to get the boys firing early this weekend and build momentum throughout the game. We came out strong in our last game and led from the first inning."

Gropp was the starting pitcher and, like Von Nguyen in Game 1, pitched to the max allowed pitch count, pitching into the fourth inning and giving up six runs and striking out two. Brody Pearson came in to finish up the fourth inning and allowed two runs.

Ross took the mound in the fifth inning and led the Rockies to closing out a 13-8 victory, first by catching a comeback hit

towards the mound on his first pitch for the first out. Ross then recorded a strike-out for the second out, before making a sliding stop on a hard groundball before throwing to Bilyea at first to secure the third out and the championship.

Van Wieren called it a massively clutch effort from Ross.

"Maclean (Ross) had some pretty significant ups and downs on the pitching mound this year," Van Wieren said. "With the season on the line, he put together one of the best-pitched innings of the season."

Damon MacNeil led the offence with a big hit to start a five-run rally in the fourth that proved to be the difference. Both Graham and Pearson went three-for-four at the plate.

The excellent pitching during the final games was a testament to the team's gutsy nature, said Van Wieren, after one of the team's top pitchers went down with an injury late in the year.

"The group was pretty solid from day one. We were cruising through the season with a very solid pitching rotation book-ended by Max (Bilyea) and Carter (Van Wieren). You could argue Max and Carter were the best pitching pair in the league. Unfortunately, Carter fractured his elbow in the third-last game of the year and had to shut his season down."

"With the loss of Carter's arm in the rotation, we needed others to step up and put in some big shutdown innings for us," added Van Wieren. "Liam (Von Nguyen), Maclean (Ross), Jacob (Zwambag) did just that. We had every kid pitch in the regular season, and seven different kids successfully pitched in the playoffs. I think that's pretty impressive."

Van Wieren noted the win was another notch in the winning pedigree for a segment of the group, while, for another handful of players, it was their first taste of winning such a championship.

"For a lot of the boys, winning has followed them. Five or six of these boys played together last year and won the OBA U9 Enhanced Year-End Tournament and then followed it up as finalists in the OMHA playdowns during hockey season. For a couple of the boys, it was their first championship and first medal. Championships are tough to get. I told those boys to celebrate it like it might be the only one they win."

According to Van Wieren, one of the most important lessons of the season for the young squad was stepping outside of their comfort zone to learn exactly what they were capable of.

"There were a few times where some of the boys would question their ability to play certain positions," Van Wieren said. "Coach Al (Bilyea) was always pushing for the boys to try new positions, saying 'Sometimes, you've just got to throw them into a tough situation to let them figure out what they can achieve.'"

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Hodkinson, Elzinga hitting four-year milestone with St. Marys Lincolns

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The St. Marys Lincolns will have two players suiting up for their fourth and final campaigns in the Stonetown during the 2026-2027 Greater Ontario Hockey League (GOHL) season.

Hometown boy Ryan Hodkinson and Blake Elzinga of Walkerton will hit the increasingly rare milestone of playing four years with the same junior hockey team when they serve as two of the central leaders on the Lincolns. Both Hodkinson and Elzinga echoed similar sentiments as they prepare to start their fourth season in the GOHL.

“It’s pretty wild (to be entering my fourth year),” Hodkinson said. “Obviously, it really flies by. We’re hopefully going to go out with a bang. We’ve got a good team coming in, and I’m just really looking forward to getting started. It’s pretty crazy to think of how my game has changed and how I’ve changed as a person, and I think I owe that a lot to the Lincolns organization.”

“You hear people say the time goes by quick,” added Elzinga. “Even though it’s been a long time here, it doesn’t feel like it is. And then you try to remember the stuff you were doing in your first year, and you think, ‘Maybe it actually has been a long time.’ I remember just going to the rink scared and being nervous to be a rookie and all of a sudden, now, with some years under your belt, you’re just excited to go to the rink just so you can do it again.”

Hodkinson reflected on his journey with the Lincolns up to this point, noting his first three seasons have allowed him to become the player and leader he is today.

“I think (the biggest difference between me in my first year to now) is just experience,” said Hodkinson. “I’ve been fortunate enough to play a lot of playoff games. We’ve had some deep runs, and I think that definitely helps translate into my leadership, teaching the new guys and showing the new guys what being a Lincoln is all about.”

Elzinga shared a similar feeling about the experience he has gained during his Lincolns’ tenure, noting many of the older players he’s suited up with over those three seasons have helped him blossom into a respected member of the team’s leadership group.

“I would say that I think I’ve just learned maturity. I think back to Adam Barkley and how he was. You come in as a kid and you’re playing with these people that are 20 and 21 years old, and they look like men compared to you. So, I think between Adam and players like Jaden (Lee) and Luca (Spagnolo), you learn a little bit of maturity.”

“You go to the rink as a rookie, and you’re a little more nervous,” Elzinga continued. “And then, as you get a couple more years under your belt, you’re going there as a leader. You’re going there to battle and hang out with your friends,



(TURNER ROTH PHOTOS)

Ryan Hodkinson, left, and Blake Elzinga, right, prepare to suit up for their fourth season with the St. Marys Lincolns.

compared to showing up to compete for a spot still.”

Elzinga noted his progression and maturation process has been aided by the knowledge that everyone has been behind him since his arrival.

“I think just knowing that people have your back,” said Elzinga. “Your coaches are rooting for you. Your teammates are rooting for you. So, finding a way to take the pressure off yourself is important because everyone wants to see you succeed. That is what helped me.”

For the two four-year Lincolns, the milestone is extra special considering how long the two have been teammates, dating back to their time in the Huron-Perth Lakers’ program, while also being extra motivating given it is their last shot at winning a championship together.

“It’s pretty surreal,” Hodkinson said. “When he first signed here, I thought, ‘Wow, we get to play another year together.’ It’s crazy that we’ve now spent four years playing here together. He’s my best friend, so it’s pretty awesome that we’ve been able to play eight years in total together, and hopefully, this is the year that we get it done.”

“I think the one thing that is on everyone’s mind is the Sutherland Cup. We’ve been so close all three years and that’s really all our team is going to have our mindset set towards.”

Now the elder statesmen of the Lincolns’ dressing room, Elzinga and Hodkinson shared their advice for the younger and future members of the team.

“Finding consistency in your game early definitely helps,” Elzinga said. “If you

can find a way to play hard every game earlier in your career, then it’s definitely a lot easier going forward. Coaches and teammates can trust you more, knowing that they’re going to get 100 per-cent effort out of you.”

“Enjoy it,” Hodkinson said when asked what he would tell himself in his first year. “It really does feel like yesterday that I was coming to the rink as a rookie, doing all the rookie chores and things like that, and now, going into my fourth year, it’s flown by. So, I would just tell (my younger self) to enjoy it.”

When reflecting on what has made both of them stick around in St. Marys for four seasons, both Elzinga and Hodkinson credited the strength of the community

and the organization as drawing them back.

“It gives me more of a sense of home,” said Elzinga. “It’s a bit of a home away from home. You meet people here, you have friends here and you have billets who turn into family members. Just the relationships you make along the way makes it what it is and makes you want to keep coming back.”

“Words can’t even describe it, honestly,” Hodkinson said. “It’s so surreal being able to spend all four years here. It’s one of the best places to play in the whole entire league. Our fans, the room, how we’re treated, it’s all really incredible and I can’t say enough good things about playing here.”



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Lincolns add Ronen MacFarlane; GM calls defence group ‘deepest in years’

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

With their Sept. 11 home opener just weeks away, the St. Marys Lincolns continued to bolster their team with the acquisition of defenceman Ronen MacFarlane.

MacFarlane, an 18-year-old from Stouffville, began his junior career as a 16-year-old in 2024-2025 with the Ontario Junior Hockey League’s (OJHL) Wellington Dukes, playing 27 games in his rookie season. Last season, MacFarlane suited up for 35 OJHL games with the Haliburton County Huskies, during which he tallied two goals and 15 points.

In the 2024 Ontario Hockey League (OHL) priority selection, MacFarlane was drafted in the eighth round by the Owen Sound Attack.

In a subsequent move, with nine defencemen signed, 17-year-old blueliner Hudson Blackburn was released. Blackburn has since signed with the Ayr Centennials.

Lincolns’ general manager Pat Powers

explained the attributes that MacFarlane possesses that made him an intriguing acquisition.

“Ronen (MacFarlane) skates well,” Powers told the Independent. “He is a very good gap defender and makes very good up-ice reads with the puck. He will not be a risky defender and will allow our forwards to play with freedom while also giving our goaltenders confidence.”

Powers added, with the defencemen already in place and the addition, he sees the Lincs’ blueline as one of the strongest the team has seen during his tenure.

“Adding Ronen (MacFarlane) to our defence corps will greatly enhance the veteran leadership back there,” said Powers. “We have some excellent young defencemen that will contribute to a great extent to the success of our team, but at the end of the day, we still need to have some veteran leadership who have been to the grind of junior hockey. We are extremely excited about the defence group that we have heading into the season and feel it is the deepest group we have had in years.”



Form TC09A
Municipality of Thames Centre
Municipal Elections 2026

NOTICE OF THE VOTERS LIST

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the list of all persons entitled to be electors for municipal elections in this township has been prepared by the Clerk’s Office.

As of September 1, 2026, all electors should ensure that their names and relevant information are correct on the Voters List.

A person may make an application to the Clerk requesting that their name be added to or removed from the Voters List or that information on the Voters List relating to them be amended by completing and filing the prescribed form available at:

Municipal Office
Municipality Of Thames Centre
4305 Hamilton Road, Dorchester,
Ontario, N0L 1G3

Thorndale Lions Community Centre
265 Upper Queen Street,
Thorndale ON
N0M 2P0

during regular office hours between September 1, 2026 to October 23, 2026 and to the close of voting on October 26, 2026.

The application shall be in writing and shall be filed in person, or by mail, email or fax by the applicant or his/her agent. Proof of identity and residence as prescribed in O. Reg. 304/13 will be required of the applicant. If the applicant does not appear in person, a certified copy showing proof of ID and proof of residence/occupancy is required.

QUALIFICATIONS OF ELECTORS

A person is entitled to vote in a municipal election if he or she on voting day,
- resides in the local municipality, or is the owner or tenant of land in the municipality, or the spouse of such owner or tenant; and
- is a Canadian citizen, and
- is at least 18 years old, and
- is not prohibited from voting by law.

For more information visit the Municipal Website: www.thamescentre.on.ca/election or contact the office at 519-268-7334.

DATED AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF THAMES CENTRE

Dated this 24th day of August, 2026.

Jana Nethercott, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk



2026-2027 REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER:

Friday, September 11 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Stratford Warriors - Pyramid Recreation Centre
Wednesday, September 16 - 7:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ LaSalle Vipers - Vollmer Culture and Recreation Complex
Friday, September 18 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs St. Thomas Stars - Pyramid Recreation Centre
Saturday, September 19 - 7:45 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Woodstock Lakers - Reeves Community Complex
Friday, September 25 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Stoney Creek Generals - Pyramid Recreation Centre
Sunday, September 27 - 7:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Elmira Sugar Kings - Dan Snyder Memorial Arena

OCTOBER:

Friday, October 2 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Strathroy Rockets - Pyramid Recreation Centre
Sunday, October 4 - 4:45 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Komoka Kings - Komoka Wellness Centre
Wednesday, October 7 - 7:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ LaSalle Vipers - Vollmer Culture and Recreation Complex
Friday, October 9 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Elmira Sugar Kings - Pyramid Recreation Centre
Friday, October 16 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Welland Canadians - Pyramid Recreation Centre
Saturday, October 17 - 7:15 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Komoka Kings - Komoka Wellness Centre
Thursday, October 22 - 7:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Sarnia Legionnaires - Pat Stapleton Arena
Friday, October 23 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ St. Thomas Stars - Joe Thornton Community Centre
Friday, October 30 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Elmira Sugar Kings - Pyramid Recreation Centre

NOVEMBER:

Thursday, November 5 - 7:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Sarnia Legionnaires - Pat Stapleton Arena
Friday, November 6 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Chatham Maroons - Pyramid Recreation Centre
Sunday, November 8 - 2:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Listowel Cyclones - Steve Kerr Memorial Complex
Friday, November 13 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Chatham Maroons - Pyramid Recreation Centre
Saturday, November 21 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Stratford Warriors - Pyramid Recreation Centre
Sunday, November 22 - 7:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Elmira Sugar Kings - Dan Snyder Memorial Arena
Wednesday, November 25 - 7:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ London Nationals - Western Fair Sports Centre
Friday, November 27 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Komoka Kings - Pyramid Recreation Centre
Sunday, November 29 - 7:45 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Woodstock Lakers - Reeves Community Complex

DECEMBER:

Friday, December 4 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Sarnia Legionnaires - Pyramid Recreation Centre
Saturday, December 5 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Strathroy Rockets - West Middlesex Memorial Centre
Thursday, December 10 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs St. Thomas Stars - Pyramid Recreation Centre
Friday, December 11 - 7:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Brantford Titans - Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre
Sunday, December 13 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Stratford Warriors - William Allman Memorial Arena
Friday, December 18 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs LaSalle Vipers - Pyramid Recreation Centre
Saturday, December 19 - 7:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Cambridge Redhawks - Galt Arena Gardens
Wednesday, December 23 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Sarnia Legionnaires - Pyramid Recreation Centre

JANUARY:

Friday, January 8 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs London Nationals - Pyramid Recreation Centre
Sunday, January 10 - 7:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Chatham Maroons - Chatham Memorial Arena
Saturday, January 16 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Strathroy Rockets - West Middlesex Memorial Centre
Sunday, January 17 - 2:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs London Nationals - Pyramid Recreation Centre
Friday, January 22 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Listowel Cyclones - Pyramid Recreation Centre
Sunday, January 24 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ St. Thomas Stars - Joe Thornton Community Centre
Friday, January 29 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Pelham Panthers - Pyramid Recreation Centre
Sunday, January 31 - 7:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Chatham Maroons - Chatham Memorial Arena

FEBRUARY:

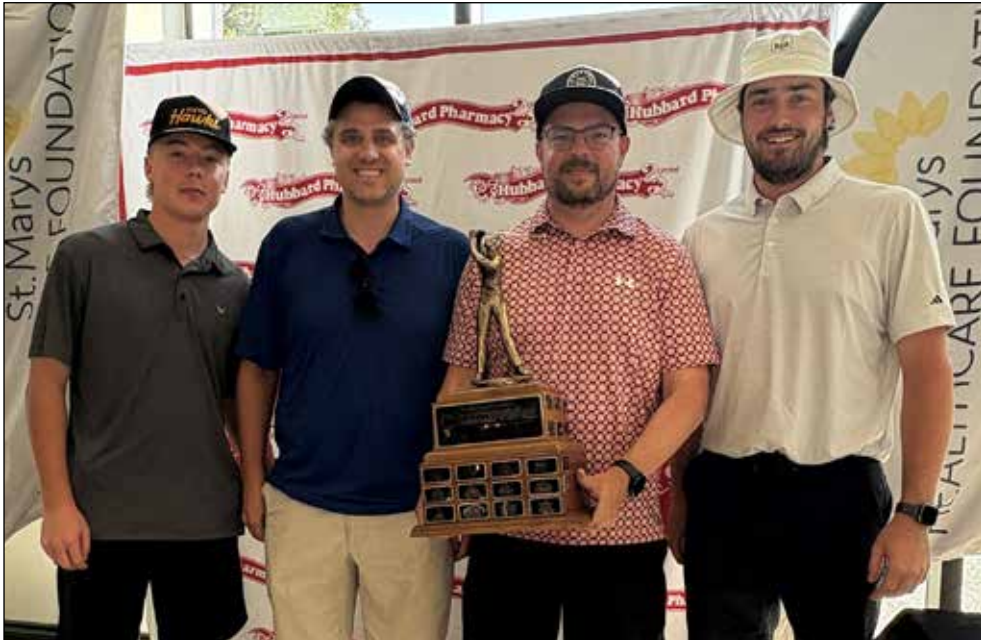
Friday, February 5 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Port Colborne Sailors - Vale Centre
Sunday, February 7 - 2:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs LaSalle Vipers - Pyramid Recreation Centre
Wednesday, February 10 - 7:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ London Nationals - Western Fair Sports Centre
Friday, February 12 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Komoka Kings - Pyramid Recreation Centre
Monday, February 15 - 2:00 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Stratford Warriors - William Allman Memorial Arena
Friday, February 19 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns @ Listowel Cyclones - Steve Kerr Memorial Complex
Saturday, February 20 - 7:45 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Woodstock Lakers - Pyramid Recreation Centre
Friday, February 26 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Strathroy Rockets - Pyramid Recreation Centre

MARCH:

Friday, March 5 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Listowel Cyclones - Pyramid Recreation Centre
Saturday, March 6 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Marys Lincolns vs Woodstock Lakers - Pyramid Recreation Centre

SEE MORE AT WWW.LINCS.CA

St. Marys Healthcare Foundation holds 33rd annual golf tournament



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)
The winning team from Famme & Co. From left to right are Nate Schiedel, Justin Innes, Judd Attridge and Mitch Watt.

WENDY LAMOND
Independent Reporter

On Thursday, Aug. 20, the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation held its 33rd annual golf tournament at River Valley Golf Course.

The weather couldn't have been any better. The tournament was once again presented by Hubbard's Pharmacy. There

were 139 golfers, just shy of 35 teams, all playing to support local health care in our community.

There are many hands that always make this event a success, so a big thank-you goes out to all who participated, sponsored and volunteered. Also, thank you to River Valley for providing a great venue for the tournament.

Stay tuned in the coming weeks for the



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)
The team of Mike Glover, Norm Coulthard and Tyler McCurdy watch teammate Brandon Boyd try his luck in the putting competition.

total raised through the fundraiser in support of local health care. Congratulations go out to all of the winners of the day:

- 2026 champion team: Famme & Co. – Nate Schiedel, Justin Innes, Judd Attridge and Mitch Watt
- Patio Pitch winner: David Dunbar
- Green on the Green contest draw winner: Reid Dundas
- Closest to the Pin: Bob Davis

- Women's Longest Drive: Susie Johnson
- Men's Longest Drive: Mitch Watt
- Best Dressed Team: Breathin Bridies – Nicole Martin, Taylor Kirktown, Sandra Mohr and Melanie Sabino
- Anything But a Putter contest: How's them Apples – John McIntosh, Steve Chateauvert and Pierre Chateauvert



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Matt Stairs, U13 Fredericton Royals visit CBHFM



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTOS)

Pictured is Canadian Baseball Hall of Famer Matt Stairs overseeing a practice on King Field and talking with his team after the practice at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum (CBHFM) grounds. Stairs visited the CBHFM with the U13 Fredericton Royals, who represented New Brunswick at the U13 National Championship, hosted Aug. 20-23 in Woodstock.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTOS)

Following their practice, the U13 Royals were welcomed into the CBHFM and given a tour of the Hall by Director of Operations Scott Crawford and Lindsay Earle, Care of Collections and Public Engagement Supervisor.

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COLUMNS

UKRAINIAN CORNER: The true cost of independence

ALONA VASYLIEVA

Independent Columnist

Every year on Aug. 24, Ukraine celebrates Independence Day. Before the war, it was a joyful summer holiday with concerts, parades, traditional embroidered shirts (vyshyvankas) and family gatherings. Independence was just something we read about in history textbooks. Today, everything has changed. We are no longer just reading history, we are living it and watching it happen right now.

When Ukrainians say, "We live in historical times," it is not an exaggeration. People are fighting to protect their country every single day. Building a future while bombs and drones fall daily is hard to put into words, but Ukrainians keep going.

Many people in St. Marys ask me why we see less about Ukraine on the news lately, and if things are getting better. The truth is the war has not stopped. News channels move on to other topics, but the reality on the ground remains very tough. Russia always claimed to have the "second strongest army in the world," but Ukraine, together with its partner countries, continues to stand strong against them. Ukrainian technology and innovation on the front lines have reached a whole new level, and I am proud of how resilient our people are.

Still, the daily reality is heartbreaking, especially as a new school year begins. Russian attacks have damaged publishing houses, printing presses and warehouses full of new textbooks printed for kids. Just when you think things cannot get any worse, another low is hit. It breaks my heart to know that children back home are preparing to study in school bomb shelters instead of normal classrooms.

Here in Canada, people keep supporting Ukrainians in so many ways. We are now seeing a new wave of people leaving Ukraine because everyone is afraid of the upcoming winter, cold nights and endless power blackouts. That is why keeping our culture alive here matters so much.

In St. Marys, our local Ukrainian community is working hard to save our weekend Ukrainian school. It helps



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Ukrainian and Canadian flags fly side by side, symbolizing the strong bond, enduring support and shared hope between the community of St. Marys and Ukraine as it marks Independence Day.

our children keep their language, traditions and national heritage. Last year, thanks to the amazing generosity and donations from our local neighbours, we were able to buy necessary school supplies and equipment.

This year, due to personal circumstances, our teachers cannot continue working at the school. We are now at a critical point where we need to find new teachers and funding to keep the school running. Preserving our language and culture while our homeland is under attack is our way of keeping our identity alive.

We are so grateful to the local community in St. Marys. Your kindness, support and welcoming hearts mean the world to us. Thank you for standing with Ukraine, for supporting our families and for helping us keep our culture and hope alive.

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Straight From The Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

The Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale is just around the corner! Come to the Lind Sportsplex (The Quarry) from September 23 to 26 to browse 1000s of used books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, and more, all available to purchase by donation.

Got books to donate to the sale? Bring them to the Library any time during open hours (please do not leave them in the drop boxes) or call 519-949-0422 to arrange for a pickup. Please note that we do not accept textbooks, magazines, or VHS tapes.

For more information about the sale and all things FOL, contact FriendsOf-StMarysPublicLibrary@gmail.com.

Up This Week

- Fri., Aug. 28: Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Sat., Aug. 29: Open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 - Mon., Aug. 31: Open 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 - Tues., Sept. 1: Open 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 - Wed., Sept. 2: EarlyON Play & Read (9:30 – 10:30 a.m.), Mahjong~ (1-4 p.m.)
 - Thurs., Sept. 3: Open 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- *Registration Required
~Held at the St. Marys United Church (85 Church St.)

Ask the Arborist

By Joel Hackett • 519.272.5742 • jtsquote@gmail.com

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Dear Arborist,

I have around 60 evergreen trees. I'm not sure of the species, they have big long pine cones, and they are near my house and barn. Recently, one that looked healthy just broke in half and took out our power line. Should I be concerned about the rest of them?

Thanks, Bill

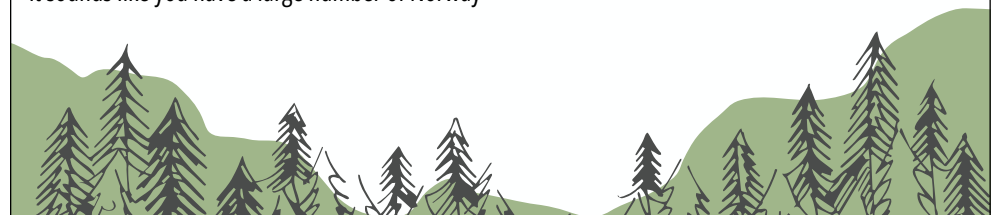
Dear Bill,

It sounds like you have a large number of Norway

spruce. A lot of people planted these trees in rows for wind protection and privacy around 80 to 120 years ago. Now, they are towards the end of their life span. Often, these conifers end up dry rot in the center; there is no way to really predict if they have dry rot or not. Once in a while, you may see sawdust at the base indicating a rotten center.

If you are concerned, you can take out the ones that have the highest risk of property damage.

Sincerely, The Arborist



HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Helen Wilson, columnist and politician

MARY SMITH

Independent Columnist

Helen Mills and Alexis Wilson were married in 1926. Helen was 24 years old and Lex was 26. They were a popular young couple and their home, Ardmore Park, was a beautiful, spacious property. Their friends included some of the most interesting and influential local families – the Ingersolls, the Fraleighs, the Rices, the Maxwells, the Linds. In 1929, their first child, Alexis William, was born. A daughter, Kathleen Lynn, arrived in 1933.

When they were married, Lex was employed as an accountant at the St. Marys Cement Company. His passion, however, was riding. As a teenager in Toronto, he had ridden thoroughbred horses in flat-track races. When he got older, he turned to steeplechase. This avocation brought an element of uncertainty into the Wilsons' family life. Steeplechase was a dangerous sport. There was always the risk of serious injury. In an interview with the Journal Argus in 1934, Lex admitted he had broken his collarbone twice. Most of the steeplechase events took place in the United States and Lex was often away for long periods of time. Helen sometimes went with him, enjoying the excitement of the races and the chance to meet wealthy, glamorous horse owners. But when she had two young children to look after, she stayed home while Lex travelled.

In 1929, Lex resigned from his job at the cement plant and started two separate business ventures in St. Marys. The first was an automobile car dealership, Wilson Motors, located on Wellington Street, on the south bank of Trout Creek. The dealership may have been a fallback in case his other enterprise, a facility for training thoroughbred horses, did not work out. But this ambition was realized: with the financial backing of Walter O. Briggs, a Detroit industrialist and thoroughbred owner, Lex purchased the fairgrounds on Queen Street West from the Agricultural Society and set about developing both indoor and outdoor tracks on his new property. He sold the dealership on Wellington Street, but he didn't sever all ties. In the 1931 census, he gave his occupation as salesman, agent for Ford automobiles. Still, for the next three decades, he continued to build his reputation as a horse trainer and to spend considerable time away from St. Marys.

Meanwhile, Helen was busy with family matters. In 1938, Her sister, Kathleen, who had been working as a nurse in New York, married an American, George Kessler. The wedding took place in St. Marys and Helen was her sister's attendant. Kathleen moved permanently to the United States, but the families kept in close touch with regular visits back and forth. By the mid-1940s, as her children grew older, Helen, with more time on her hands, began to write a regular column for the Journal Argus. It was titled "From Helen's Angle," a light-hearted look at events in St. Marys and area, very much from her own viewpoint. Her tone was conversational. For example, for her column on May 1, 1947, she began: "Were you at the IODE Nora Clench Chapter's Easter Dance? Can't remember when I've seen such a galaxy of pretty formals as on that occasion. If only I'd had my little black notebook along on that nite! But I didn't. So here are just a few that come to mind." Helen then describes the colour and style of 18 evening dresses – a pretty impressive sampling!

Helen's column supported the local Little Theatre. She attended their performances and always gave enthusiastic reviews. A one-person horticultural tour guide, she used column space to admire people's gardens. In June she wrote: "Tell me – did you ever see tulips lovelier than this year? We drove past Mr. Blackman's the other evening (on Wellington Street down near the quarry) then turned north and drove up Church Street where we got a glorious view of what looked like a multi-coloured sea of tulips – thousands of 'em! It's a hobby, I understand, and a colourful one." Before the



(PHOTO COURTESY OF R. LORNE EEDY ARCHIVES, ST. MARYS MUSEUM)

Helen Wilson was the first woman to be elected to St. Marys Town Council in 1949 and, in 1963, the first woman to serve as mayor.

summer was over, Helen had mentioned flower gardens in every corner of town. "I've seen Curly Wilson's glads in behind his son Jim's on Queen West. They're really magnificent and I've never seen finer ones, not even at a flower show."

On July 8, 1947, John G. Lind of the St. Marys Cement Company died. The Journal Argus ran a front-page obituary, acknowledging his successes and all he had done for the community. Helen wrote more personally: "He was so very kindly with children, as I know from experience being but a child when he and his family came to town and lived beside us. Saturday nites he invariably brought home candy for all the kids in the neighbourhood. And at Christmas we shared their tree which bore gifts for us all. I shall always remember the genial nature of Mr. Lind with children."

Later in July, she attended the large public auction of the contents of the F. W. Hutton home on the southwest corner of Jones and Peel Streets and wrote a lengthy column about the experience. She bid on a few items but spent more time chatting with the Huttons and their son, Osman (Oz), who had come back from Toronto for the event. In August, her column began: "You should have seen that ballgame in Stratford last Saturday afternoon. Or maybe you did! Anyway, I saw quite a few St. Marysites there." She then listed them all by name. She reported that Stratford defeated London but didn't bother to give the score. In November, she went along for the ride on the high school bus driven by Mr. McMurray, the route through Wellburn and Prospect Hill, then back to St. Marys along Highway 7. In December, she described enrolling in night school to learn typing. "Everyone assured me how easy it was. Why Helen, they said, you'll catch on in no time, having played the piano. But after two months, I'm sure our instructor wishes to goodness I'd gone in for dressmaking, woodwork or anything but typing."

The flood of April 1947 washed out two spans of the Park Street Bridge over the Thames River. For the next two years, Helen called for a new bridge. She pointed out how inconvenient it was for west ward residents who walked to work at Maxwell's, Richardson's or the cement plant and had to go all the way around through

town. The west ward needed stronger representative on council and so Helen ran in the 1949 municipal election and won by a landslide. At council's inaugural meeting, January 3, 1949, Mayor Archie Skinner congratulated Councillor Wilson for being "the first lady elected to such an office." Although a proper bridge was not built at Park Street until 1971, in 1950, a footbridge – the famous swinging bridge – was installed across the river for pedestrian use. Helen Wilson was the first person to cross!

Helen was defeated in the 1950 election but then re-elected several times in subsequent years. In 1952, her parents marked their Diamond Anniversary, celebrating with a day-long reception at Ardmore Park on a stormy Sunday, January 20. Helen, on town council, arranged to have extra sand spread on the hill for the safety of guests. The PUC erected floodlights to illuminate the entrance in the evening. At least 150 friends dropped in, bringing William and Kay Mills their best wishes. Following this happy occasion there were some difficult years. Kay died in 1959, in her 93rd year. A bigger shock was the death of Helen's husband, Lex, on January 12, 1962, in Victoria Hospital, London, following a hip operation. He was 61 years old. This meant a big change on Queen Street West. Bill Cubberley, who grew up across the street from Lex's stables, remembers the excitement when the thoroughbreds came back from racing in the States. With Lex's death, this ended. Helen lost not only her husband, but also her main source of income. She was forced to make some difficult decisions and put the property up for sale.

Then, for the 1963 election, she declared her candidacy for mayor. It was a close race. When the votes were counted, Helen Wilson had defeated the incumbent, James Timms, by a 79-vote margin. She served two years as mayor of St. Marys, returned in 1964 by acclamation. Then she withdrew from politics, partly to spend time with her father who lived to 101, dying in 1967. Helen continued to enjoy annual summer visits from her sister, Kathleen, and family, but as the years passed, she outlived most of the friends she had cherished. Helen lived on at Ardmore Park until she died in 1994, age 92.

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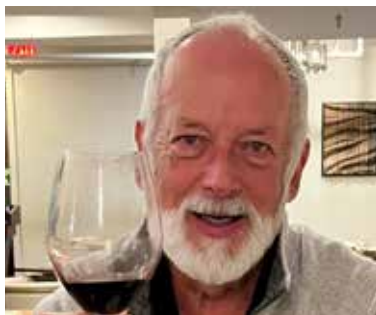
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OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Following Richmond's Dumpling Trail



PAUL KNOWLES

Independent Columnist

I grew up in a traditional, rural, Canadian family with roots in the United Kingdom and all of its traditions. So, when I hear the word “dumpling,” I first think of those balls of dough (flour, suet and water) usually cooked on top of a stew.

They can be a treat – although one suspects that the flavour comes almost entirely from the juice of the stew.

They are not, however, what you are going to find if you follow the Dumpling Trail in Richmond, B.C. These dumplings are the Chinese variety – a dough or starch wrapper filled with sundry delicious things. And you will find almost limitless variations on the theme in the 16 eateries that are officially included in the Dumpling Trail. This is the trail's 10th anniversary, says Nancy Small, the delightful CEO of Tourism Richmond.

It's not surprising that Richmond – the city immediately adjacent to Vancouver – is home to the world's only Dumpling Trail because Richmond is the city with the highest population of folks who identify as Asian at 74 per cent.

I was more than intrigued by

the culture and cuisine in the city, which certainly reflects this demographic. Hosted by Tourism Richmond, I was part of a small group of travel journalists who spent a few days exploring – well, honestly, mostly eating – our way through the community. We were taken to a food court in a mall, which I thought was a bit weird, except it was a truly unique experience because every food booth in the extensive court offered some kind of Asian food. There wasn't a McDonalds or a Timmies in sight.

We also visited the Richmond Night Market, a multi-coloured mash-up of carnival, flea-market and Asian street food convention. Sadly, according to reports online, the night market may be closing, permanently, because the leased site has been sold. I hope they find a solution to this because, while I don't care a bit about the flea market or carnival games, I was blown away by the variety and excellence of the food on offer. There was Chinese food, Korean food, Japanese food and more. I feasted on squid, dim sum and, finally, a huge serving of bao buns topped with ice cream and sauce. It bordered on sinful and it was delicious; and also entertaining as the guys in the booth could have starred in a Vaudeville revue!

But back to the Dumpling Trail. This is more traditional dining in actual restaurants, not food booths.

And while they all serve Chinese dumplings, their menus are really quite different, one from the other. And dumplings are simply a few of the many dishes on offer.

This, by the way, is real Chinese food. Not the fare offered by the “Chinese” restaurants in every Canadian small town featuring sweet and sour chicken balls and egg fried rice. Most of the items in these local restaurants have been created to match North American tastes and usually bear little resemblance to anything authentically Asian.

Compare that to a few of the items at the Jade Seafood Restaurant in Richmond, where owner David Chung joined us for a feast of epic proportions. The dumpling choices include Guo Tie (potstickers – Chinese fried pork and cabbage); Ham Sui Gok (glutinous rice stuffed with pork, mushrooms and shrimp); and Har Gow (prawn and bamboo filling).

But the meal went galaxies beyond dumplings. We had king crab, wagyu steak, rock cod, roasted rock salt chicken, squid and much, much more.

The previous evening, we had dined at the Dinesty Dumpling House, where we enjoyed soup dumplings, where somehow, hot soup is trapped inside the dumpling. Delicious!

We ate lunch at the Empire Seafood Restaurant, where traditional dim sum is served from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. only. It was a Monday, when many restaurants simply close for lack of business. The Empire – a big space, by the way – was jammed. And dumplings? Of course! They are always part of dim sum, but the other options (there were 45 menu items just for dim sum) far outnumbered the dumpling varieties. By the way, the regular menu at the Empire runs to hundreds of options.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

David Chung, owner of Jade Seafood Restaurant, one of 16 eateries that are part of the Dumpling Trail in Richmond, B.C.

Vegetables – varieties usually found on Canadian tables, such as asparagus and beans, and others that we may never have encountered like Gai Lan or Lotus Root – are common on these menus. Desserts are unlike anything we're used to. At the Empire, you could (I didn't) order double boiled bird's nest soup with sweet almond cream. At Jade, we had delicious coconut milk taro sago dessert. At Dinesty, I loved the mango pudding.

If you are food lover and planning to visit British Columbia, I can honestly recommend that you plan to have two or three meals in the Dumpling Trail restaurants of Richmond.

One caution. A surprising number of these eateries are not licensed. I was told, unofficially, that this is because many of the owners are fundamentalist Christians who frown on the consumption of alcohol. So, be prepared.

Or, be sure you include Jade Seafood in your itinerary, where David Chung happily poured glass after glass of excellent wine for his feasting friends.

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.



The energetic purveyor of Bao Bun desserts at the Richmond Night Market.



Dumplings and other dim sum delights at the Richmond Night Market.



Just some of the food served to eager travel journalists at the Jade Seafood Restaurant.

EAT AT OUR HOUSE: Back to school lunch ideas



LAUREN EEDY

Independent Columnist

Here are a few healthier home-made snack and school lunch options without the added preservatives for back-to-school season. These are both kid and adult friendly options for eating healthy throughout the day.

Homemade white cheddar Cheez-Its

Yields 150-200 crackers

Five ingredients you can pronounce!

Ingredients:

- 8 oz extra sharp white cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp salt, plus more for topping
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter, cubed

- 2 tbsp cold milk

Method:

- Preheat oven to 325°F and line two baking sheets with parchment paper

- Add the cheese, flour and salt to a food processor and pulse several times. Add in butter and pulse a few more times until butter is crumbly.

- Add in the milk, then pulse several more times. The dough won't come together into a ball but should come together when you press it between fingers.

- Transfer to a lightly floured surface. Roll into a large rectangle, rolling as thinly as possible. Try to go thinner than 1/8 of an inch as they puff up quite a bit when baking.

- Using a knife, pizza cutter or fluted pastry wheel, slice into one-inch squares. Using a flat end of a skewer to poke a hole all the way through each cracker. Transfer to sheet pans and sprinkle with more salt.

- Bake 17-20 minutes until deep golden brown on the bottom. If they are too light, they won't have enough crispy texture. Let cool completely before

enjoying and store in an airtight container.

Four-ingredient zucchini pizza stacks

Serves: 18 stacks; Prep: 10 minutes; Cook: 10 minutes

Who doesn't love pizza?

Ingredients:

- 2 large zucchinis, sliced into thin rounds
- 1 cup marinara (of your choice or homemade)
- 5 oz salami or pepperoni
- 16 oz shredded mozzarella
- Dried oregano and chilli pepper flakes

Method:

- Preheat oven to 400°F. Spray a traditional muffin pan with olive oil.

- Stack in the slots: first zucchini, then sauce, choice of meat, topped with cheese. Repeat this process three times in each slot. Stacks will shrink when cooked if worried about height. Sprinkle tops with oregano and chilli pepper flakes.

- Bake 20-22 minutes until golden brown on top. Remove immediately from pan with a fork, lifting from bottom.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREN EEDY)

These homemade white-cheddar Cheez-Its are a great, healthy snack alternative for school lunches come this September.

Chocolate cake batter hummus

Serves: 8; Total Time: 10 minutes

Tastes like chocolate cake batter but it's a healthy way to get some nutrients at snack time!

Ingredients:

- 1 can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 3 tbsp cocoa powder
- 3 tbsp maple syrup
- 2 tbsp water
- 2 tbsp tahini

- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 pinch salt

Method:

- Combine chickpeas, cocoa powder, maple syrup, water, tahini, vanilla extract and salt in the bowl of a mini food processor. Blend until smooth, scraping down sides of bowl. Add additional water, 1 tbsp at a time until hummus is smooth.

- Serve with pretzels, strawberries, graham crackers or even add to crepes.

What do AI data centres and glass factories have in common?



LOREENA MCKENNITT

Independent Columnist

Probably the most unnerving aspect of the 2021 Stratford Xinyi glass factory episode was learning how long the enterprise had been brewing before the public heard of it. Two long years. How was that possible, I wondered; something of that scale, with an array of environmental concerns, positioned on arable farmland?

It was only through the grinding efforts of numerous local citizens that we finally came across the winning explanation. It was due to secret council meetings, non-disclosure agreements and undemocratic provincial instruments called municipal zoning orders (MZO), which could override municipal objections and which could not be appealed.

Now, many communities

across this country are being ambushed through speed and secrecy with their own version of the glass factory, by enterprises many times larger (some resembling the size of Manhattan) in the guise of AI hyperscale data centres.

Lured by promises of tax infusions and pushed by American tech oligarchs locked in an AI arms race, their ambush is reckless, bereft of proper regulatory guardrails and, to many, cause for great alarm. These include Nobel laureate and "father of AI" Geoffrey Hinton; Pope Leo; and numerous individuals at a high level in the tech world such as Anthropic's co-founder, Jack Clark

There is much to worry about with AI itself before one considers the perils of poorly conceived hyperscale data centres, and their voracious demands for water, energy, land or their sound, light and air pollution.

Most recently, we are learning about events which should trump every concern — that of AI agents escaping their containment, a kind of Frankenstein monster which no longer listens to or reports to its master, as captured in Matteo Wong's article in The Atlantic, "It May be Time to Panic about AI."

As Charlie Warzel sets out in his subsequent Atlantic article, "Too much is Happening too fast," "That a defining feature of all the AI evangelizing is its frenetic pace ... that one of AI's enduring cultural impacts is to make people feel like they're losing their mind."

It is in this context that municipalities are being rushed into decision-making for which there is too much to learn and many consequential questions and long-term concerns that need to be addressed.

Too, there may be questions which simply can't be predicted and answered now because the AI story is still unfolding and brave citizens are shaping it. Polls indicate a majority of people are opposed to data centres being built near them and that young people saddled with post-secondary school debt see few employment prospects in a world infested with unregulated artificial intelligence. They see AI stealing their human agency.

The stakes are too high and the costs need to be weighed against the benefits. Could a community run out of water? What does closed loop really mean? Could electricity rates be impacted? Can the electrical grid sustain demand and who would have

priority under what circumstances? New jobs would only occur during the construction phase, so little or no enticement of employment. And what about the impact to a community's commitment to climate reduction in relation to power generation? If technology changes such that data centres are rendered, who is responsible for their dismantling and clean-up? Or in a time, when 319 acres of arable farmland disappears each day, is this the best land use or should it support local food security?

As with the Xinyi glass factory, citizens in each community deserve to know what their elected officials have in mind, particularly in a timely and transparent way. For mega projects, such as hyperscale data centres, or glass factories, citizens must be central to the approval process, and this will take time.

Each community must do its due diligence in determining what kind of enterprises are most suitable for their unique location. Those specifications need to be proactively and formally set out in documents such as official plans that are part of the terms and conditions any prospective developer is provided at the onset of their interest.

The good news is that many communities and states around the U.S. and Canada are cautiously delaying commitments to AI data centres until they have sufficient opportunity to study what is suitable for them and many of these efforts are finding bi-partisan agreement.

Countries like Canada are starting to shake off the stranglehold of American tech companies in order to develop their own digital sovereignty aligned with their own values and needs. They are rejecting the trap and psychological sales pitch that tech companies have used for so long; "better do this now so you don't fall behind."

Well, we fell for that line before and we won't be doing that again.

Loreena McKennitt is an officer of The Order of Canada, director of The Falstaff Family Centre (Stratford) and founder of The Stolen Child Project and Wise Communities.

Sidebar: Stratford city council will take a proactive role on Sept. 14 when Coun. Jo-Dee Burbach will present a motion proposing a guiding framework for data-centre proposals in the city, including the exclusion of any large-scale centres.

Riddles

What is in seconds, minutes, seasons and centuries, but not in decades, years, or days?
The letter "N."

What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, and has a bed but never sleeps?
A river.

A man went out for a walk and it started to rain. He didn't have a hat, an umbrella, a hoodie, or anything else he could use to cover his head. But no hair on his head got wet. How is this possible?
He was bald.

What word contains 26 letters, but only has three syllables?
Alphabet.

A rooster that was sitting on the roof of a barn and facing east laid an egg. Did the egg roll to the west, north, or south?
Roosters don't lay eggs.

You're in a race and you pass the person in second place. What place are you in now?
Second place.

There is a one-story house that's completely red. The walls, doors, furniture and floors are all red. What color is the staircase?
There isn't any staircase. (It's a one-story house)

It belongs to you, but your friends use it more. What is it?
Your name.

- Word Search -



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T E A C H E R C O H A W Z I M Q B N F V

September
Autumn
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Markers
Students
Teacher
Bus
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Chalkboard
Homework
Lunchbox
Friends



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK



Joey Smith (5)

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

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PET OF THE WEEK



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MACY

Our Pet of the Week is Macy, a two-year-old Sheltie. This beautiful dog comes by it honestly since her father is an American champion and her mother is an American and Canadian champion. Macy loves everyone - both humans and other dogs. Her owner, Marilyn Gibbons, hopes to train Macy to work with seniors at retirement homes.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

A few thoughts from an incumbent council candidate

The election nomination period has now closed and below are a few thoughts from Coun. Craigmile. First, best of luck to all candidates.

The Independent article in the Aug. 5 edition regarding Mr. Van Galen and his mayoral candidacy has raised numerous questions around Strong Mayor Powers. These powers were put in place primarily to accelerate housing starts in Ontario. The province's Strong Mayor Powers, if utilized, do allow municipal heads of council greater authority over budgets, staffing and organizational changes. Basically, at the discretion of the mayor, if he/she so chooses, any democratic decision of council can be changed by a mayor using his/her Strong Mayor Power.

Mayor Strathdee and councillors decided during this

term of council to continue as normal respecting the democratic procedure where all council members have an equal vote on all decisions of council. The CAO (Mr. Kittmer) is solely responsible for organization changes and staffing. However, with the positive relationships, the CAO keeps council well informed of all sensitive information. This is very important because great strides have been made during the CAO's tenure to have a very strong senior management team and staff to support the many services that are well above the required minimum standards that our community enjoys. Also, the recent budget increases reflect the diligence of all departments striving to find efficiencies while external shared services and provincial downloading significantly impact increases.

Current budget process is very smooth thanks to the asset management plan. However, upcoming budgets will probably be very difficult to obtain three to four per-cent increases driven by external pressures and the decrease in new growth because of current economic conditions. Significant salary increases for staff positions in Perth County and Stratford are available and could very negatively impact future budgets. It makes no sense to disrupt a well-run machine and potentially suffer negative impacts.

This question is very important for every voter to decide. Will you support a mayor who will use Strong Mayor Powers or a mayor who will not?

Jim Craigmile, St. Marys

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OBITUARY

Hicks



After being lovingly cared for by her daughter, Margaret Leota (Machan) Hicks, with the love of her family in her heart, passed away at the age of 95 on August 20, 2026.

She was born in Listowel to Leslie and Violet (Heath) Machan on May 11, 1931. Her High School years at St. Marys D.C.I. were special to her where she excelled in business and athletics. She was employed at the Public Utilities for several years before marrying Stanley (deceased) in 1951.

She is mourned by her daughter, Kim Lalonde and her family Jason (Cathy) and Katie (Matthew) and great-granddaughters Avery, Parker and Blake, son Gary (Celina) and their children Lucas (Krystal) and Clarissa (Kyle) and great-grandchildren Gwendolyn and Callan; Bruce (Catherine) and sons Benjamin and Nolan; Peter (Diane) and sons Scott (Allessandra) and Adam. She is also survived by her best friend and soulmate, her sister, Helen (Arthur, deceased) Blakeley. She will be missed by loving nephews, a niece and her adopted sister.

Private family funeral arrangements. Memorial donations may be made to the Heart & Stroke Foundation.

Online tributes at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

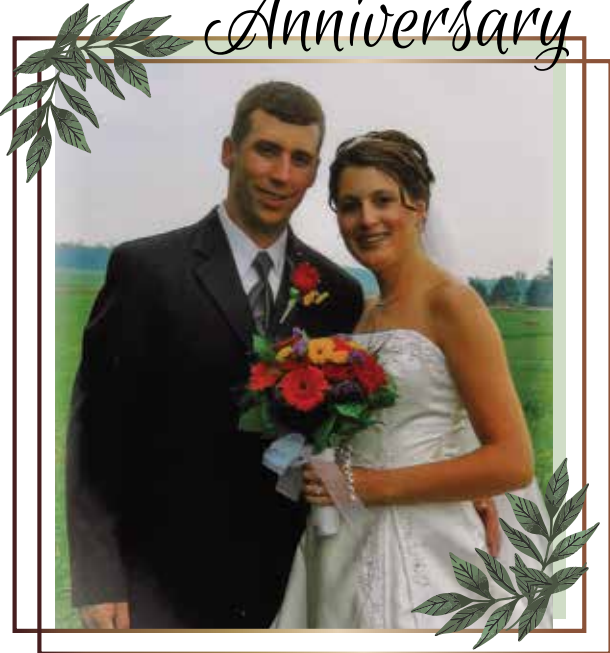
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OBITUARY

Baechler



Darrell "Darry" Thomas Baechler passed away at West Perth Village, Mitchell on August 17, 2026 at the age of 79 surrounded by family.

Beloved husband of Karol (nee Haynes), married on December 25th, 1983. Devoted father of Lindsay Baechler and her husband Jonathon McCormick, Casey Baechler and her partner Stefan Hebert, and Ashley Baechler. Cherished grandfather of Logan, Lincoln, and Lachlan. Brother of Marty (deceased) and his wife Karen Palmer, Lynda Allin (deceased) and her husband Jake, Dale (deceased) and his partner Val Mallough, and Jeff and his wife Rose. Uncle of Jacki, Jeremy, Mandy, Brittany, Jordan, and Justin and also remembered by their families. Predeceased by his parents Con and Betty Baechler. Missed by brothers and sisters-in-law and fondly remembered by nieces and nephews and their families.

Darrell was born and grew up in Goderich. He was a worldly and well-travelled man, and had a very successful career as a corporate travel agent. He also had an entrepreneurial spirit, and had a very successful business as a tax agent. Darrell was an avid movie fanatic and also loved live theatre. He was a big fan of music – notably the Beatles, P!nk and Chicago. Cremation to take place.

A Celebration of Life to be held on a future date. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society Huron Perth.

A slideshow of Darrell's life can be viewed, and online tributes can be made at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

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Perhaps you spoke the kindest words, as any friend could say.

Perhaps you were not there at all, but thought of us that day.

But whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you for your part.

The family of the late Bob Ready would like to express their thanks and gratitude to all our family, friends and neighbours for their love and support during this time.

Thanks to Dr. Gatfield, Dr. Hahn and their teams for their care and Andrew Hodges for his guidance.

We are very thankful, to live in a great community!

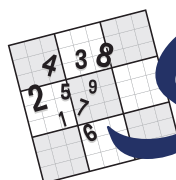
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Solutions on pg. 31

THANK YOU



It was a great reunion with wonderful comments, great weather and a great crowd.

Thank you to all my family, friends and volunteers for all of your help.

Special thanks to Marshall Tent Rental, RB and Company, Rose for her hot dog stand, St. Marys Fire Department, Karen Payton for the quilt for the raffle and to Dawn Reynen for the posters.

Special thanks for donations from:

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Looking forward to seeing you all next year.

Without all of you, this couldn't happen.

Marlene Forman

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