

St. Marys Independent

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PARKS LAWN BOWLING CELEBRATES 100 YEARS (STEWART GRANT PHOTO)
Mayor Al Strathdee presented Larry McLellan with a congratulatory certificate recognizing 100 years for Parks Lawn Bowling as event master of ceremonies Anita Gregory looks on. The certificate read, "Here's to celebrating a century of recreation and fellowship in St. Marys!" See full story and photos on page 18

Stonetown Cheese wins another grand prize for Grand Trunk

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

Stonetown Artisan Cheese's Grand Trunk cheese is an award winner once again.

The St. Marys based cheesemaker earned accolades for its Grand Trunk cheese during the American Cheese Society competition in Sacramento, Calif., including first prize for Open Category – Washed Rind Cheeses – Made from Cow's Milk. Grand Trunk also received an honourable mention for the highest-scoring raw milk cheese and third

place for Best-In-Show out of 1,600 cheeses.

"It feels even better than the last one we won, if that's possible," said cheesemaker Ramon Eberle. "This is a big one."

Grand Trunk is a gruyere-style cheese aged to 15 months with a rind washed with wine yeasts. The award-winning cheese is named after St. Marys' Grand Trunk Railway bridge.

Stonetown Artisan Cheese's Grand Trunk also earned the Grand Champion Award at the SIAL Canada International Cheese

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Meadowridge Variety owners retire after a decade serving St. Marys

GALEN SIMMONS

Editor

Last week, anyone who stopped in at Meadowridge Variety to top up their tank, grab a drink or buy their weekly lotto ticket may have noticed some new faces behind the counter.

In a post to the St. Marys Life Facebook page July 28, longtime store owners Miriam and RT Ryu announced they were retiring and stepping down as the business' owners. In the post, they expressed how much they enjoyed getting to know the community over the past decade and thanked customers for their loyalty and business. They also asked their customers to welcome the variety store's new owner, Dhruv Patel.

Somewhat to the Ryus' surprise, the post garnered more than 470 likes and more than 120 comments, with commenters expressing their thanks and best wishes for the former owners' retirement.

"Congratulations on your retirement! You will both be missed at the store. Hope you enjoy some well-deserved down time," one commenter posted.

"Congratulations to you and RT. You will be truly missed; we hope to see more of you around the neighbourhood!" another commenter said.

For the Ryus, their retirement comes after long careers running businesses, first in Hamilton before the couple moved to St. Marys to

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

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COMMUNITY

Meadowridge Variety owners retire after a decade serving St. Marys

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

take over Meadowridge Variety from a family connection. Miriam and RT Ryu worked tirelessly to keep the variety store running over the past decade, working seven days a week from open until close for the majority of their tenure as owners.

“The two of us worked from morning until close for seven or eight years,” RT Ryu said.

“Only on Jan. 1 we closed,” Miriam Ryu added. “Here and there, when my daughter graduated, that’s when we had a helper, but otherwise it was just us. And then for the last three or four years, I had my helper coming to help us, but only two or three days a week. We live with my parents, so we had to take care of my parents also. So, she came to help them and to help at the business.”

As one might imagine, the Ryus are retiring so they can take a break from their hectic work schedule and spend more time with each other and family.

But even after officially retiring, when the couple returned to the store for their interview with the Independent a few days later, Miriam Ryu couldn’t help herself but to open doors for customers, some of whom greeted her by name, while her husband picked up a few pieces of trash from around the building.

After working as hard as they have for as long as they did, retirement doesn’t come easy.

“For the past 10 years, (RT) would get up at 5:30 a.m. to go to work and then during the daytime, I would work, and then in the nighttime, he would come back,” Miriam Ryu said, adding their work schedule prevented the couple from spending much time with each other.

“You know, this morning, I enjoyed a coffee with him. Yesterday, too; it’s been since Monday when we handed over the business.”

The Ryus say they’ll miss interacting with their customers every day, espe-



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

Miriam and RT Ryu have retired as the owners of Meadowridge Variety in St. Marys.

cially the kids, to whom Miriam Ryu said she loved handing out lollipops and candy when they stopped in with their parents or on their own.

“I loved seeing their laughter and how when they’re happy, they jump,” she said. “... We have elderly customers too and we all love each other.”

“It’s been really good,” RT Ryu added. “No issues at all over the 10 years. The customers I like, and I like making everybody laugh.”

While they’re now retired, Miriam and RT Ryu will remain fixtures in town. Taking after her father, an avid and well-known gardener in town, Miriam Ryu said she plans to continue tending to the gardens on the variety store property to ensure they remain bright and cheery for all her former customers and the new

owner.

The Ryus are also considering taking a trip back to their home country of South Korea to visit family there. While they last visited two-and-a-half years ago, before that, it had been nearly two decades since they had seen their family

there.

“I just want to thank everybody,” Miriam Ryu said. “Thank you and I’d love for them to come and say hello to me. A big thank you to everybody.”

Congratulations on your retirement, Miriam and RT. It’s well-deserved!



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EDITORIAL

Healthy routine meets sudden life changes

GALEN SIMMONS

Editor

While I may not be as physically fit as I would like, my intentions for living a long, happy and healthy life have always been good.

I can't count how many times I've started going to gym, or committed to jogging in the mornings, or developed a home workout routine, or started seeing a therapist and working on my mental health, or started eating a clean and healthy diet. I've started trying to live a healthier life over and over again, but without fail, something happens in my life that always seems to blow that new routine out the window.

From deaths in the family and changes in jobs to moving to a new home and, at the same time, suddenly having to take care of my fiancé, Julia, after she broke her leg on moving day, major life changes consistently get in the way of reaching my health and fitness goals.

Or at least, those are the excuses I give myself when I inevitably stop.

According to experts, it takes between two and five months to solidify a routine and make it a habit. I have maintained new routines for longer than five months before, but those times in my life were always relatively stable.

As soon as the stress of the unfamiliar begins to take hold, I turn to my old comforts – fast food, television and my intoxicant of choice (I'll let you guess which one). While I do feel a sense of guilt for abandoning each of these routines that had, up until these points, made me feel so good about myself, the siren songs of my comforts are too appealing to ignore.

So here I am, writing this column as I set out on yet another healthy routine.

As Julia is once again walking without assistance, the two of us have formed an accountability group with one of our friends through which we are exercising for 15-20 minutes twice a day.

While Julia works on her strengthening

exercises, as prescribed by her physiotherapist to help build the muscle back up in her leg, I have chosen yoga. While I'm still new to yoga and the stretches and balancing exercises can be quite challenging, any fitness routine that encourages you to lay flat on your back and close your eyes at the end is a good one in my books.

On top of the exercise, we have also taken to making smoothies packed with all sorts of fruit, yogurt, kale from our garden and other goodies that both regulate our digestive systems and actually help to curb our appetites. Not only has this smoothie replaced my coffee in the morning, but it also keeps me full longer and, when I do get hungry, the ravenous, shaky cravings I once experienced have reduced to a dull hankering.

I'm not questioning it; I'm just accepting it as the miracle it is.

As I always am when I start a new health and fitness routine, I'm full of hope and positivity.

"This time feels different," I say to myself, knowing I've said those words before.

One glimmer of hope this time around is the fact Julia and I recently undertook another relatively major life change just days after we started our new routine – we bought a puppy.

Piper the two-month-old beagle is incredibly cute and incredibly active, making lying down on the floor to do yoga more of an exercise in avoiding being bitten than one of peace and tranquility. However, Julia and I remain committed to our routine and we have decided that when it comes time for our exercise, Piper spends some time in the crate – a decision I believe is good for all three of us.

So, while I realize this new routine has all the same potential for fizzling out, if I can intentionally carve out the time I know I need regardless of what comes my way, maybe this time will be different.

And if not, I'm not going to beat myself up about it. That shame only makes the call of my comforts stronger, and I don't need that in my life anymore.

Bravo	Boo
We have 1 Bravo this week. 1) Bravo to the Sunset Diner for creating the Stroopwafel Ice Cream Sandwich. I bit into it and briefly saw my ancestors, my taxes felt lower, my plants started thriving and my chakras aligned! If joy had a flavour, this would be it. 11/10, would recommend!	We have 2 Boos this week. 1) Boo to the guy who repeatedly steals off porches at Church Street South at 4:29 a.m. Please keep your hands to yourself! I have you on video and have contacted the police. 2) Boo to the person or persons who took my three-pronged iron stake from my husband's grave. My wooden heart that was hung on it was left. A sad society we live in when nothing is sacred, even the cemetery!
*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

"Not only have we been recognized nationally and throughout the province as a club and given recognition to the town, it has also become a sport of community. People can come and enjoy, forget about their problems and have a good time down here on the bowl. On behalf of council, I just want to say thank you for your perseverance and thank you for your cooperation."

- Mayor Al Strathdee on the 100th anniversary of Parks Lawn Bowling

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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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!



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The St. Marys Independent

THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK

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Nobody can make you happy until you are happy with yourself.

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A good friend is a four leaf clover, hard to find and lucky to have.

Life begins at the end of your comfort zone.

New summer reading program brings stories to life at Kin Park



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Children listening intently during a recent reading in St. Marys.

ALEX HUNT

Independent Reporter

With themed story times under sunny skies, the St. Marys Public Library's new outdoor program is turning heads and pages at Kin Park this summer.

Sponsored by Friends of the St. Marys Public Library, the Reading in the Park summer program is the first of its kind for the library this season. The program runs from 10-11 a.m. every Thursday morning at Kin Park.

Though focused on children, the library's new summer reading program welcomes listeners of all ages to enjoy someone reading a story to them in the sun. Allison Mills, summer reading program coordinator, started reading for the community early this month and will continue until Aug. 21.

"We really wanted the community to get reading and we thought that outside would be a fun way to enjoy that in summer," said Mills. "We want it to apply to everybody, so we pick stories that are family friendly; anybody is welcome to come, take a break from their day and enjoy a book with the locals."

"This is just a great vibe; it's sunny when we do it at the park. It's a great opportunity for people to drop by who don't know about the program. It's a different setting as opposed to the library and it's always great to be outside."

Mills said different themes are select-

ed each week and stories are picked to align with each week's theme. Previous themes focused on insects, spies, under the sea and space. Currently, there are small groups taking advantage of reading in the sun, but Mills hopes for it to grow as the summer progresses.

"I think literacy is super important and with reading these stories, I feel like the listeners can make different connections with these books. Doing the program in the park makes it easily accessible," said Mills. "Reading is such an important tool for people to grow and making it accessible to a variety of environments for different people is a really good way to encourage it."

Mills, who has worked at the St. Marys Public Library since May and plans to attend teachers college in the fall at Lakehead University in Orillia, says her role as program coordinator allows her to learn vital skills that she can use in her future as an educator.

"This is very much in my realm because as a teacher, I'm going to have to plan different programs and lesson plans for the children throughout the day," said Mills. "It's been very helpful to have this experience and see how different children learn and react to different things. It's a great position to be in."

Mills hopes that participating in the readings at Kin Park, people can have fun and children can learn to read beyond the program.

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news
from the Town of St. Marys



DOORS OPEN
August 9 | 9 AM - 11 AM



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

discoverstmarys.ca/doorsopen

LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN

Help plan for the future!

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

townofstmarys.com/librarystratplan



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Senior of the Week



Our seniors of the week are Margaret and James Bell who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 2. The two were both born in Scotland but met later in London where they were married. They have two kids and four grandkids. Jim likes to golf and Margaret does the Keep fit walking class and loves to read. They have been in St. Marys for seven years. Congratulations on 50 years.

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

Weekend Quiz

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1. The Spanish word “lobo” means what?
2. What does rpm stand for?
3. Who was the longest reigning King in England?
4. What U.S state hosts the annual Oshkosh air show?
5. Who starred in “The Naked Gun?” (1988)
6. How far is a Marathon?
7. A sommelier is known to do what?
8. Which country has won the most FIFA World Cups?
9. How many legs does a lobster have?
10. In The Simpsons, what is the name of the bartender?

By Jake Grant

This week’s answers are found on pg. 31

Stonetown Cheese wins another grand prize for Grand Trunk



(PHOTO COURTESY OF STONETOWN CHEESE)

Stonetown Artisan Cheese’s Grand Trunk gruyere-style cheese earned more honours at the American Cheese Society competition in Sacramento, Calif.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Competition earlier this year. Over the past decade, Stonetown Cheese has won 32 regional and international awards.

Eberle said the Grand Champion prize from the SIAL Canada International Cheese Competition led to an increase in sales for Grand Trunk, and he’s hoping that will happen again with the honours from the American Cheese Society contest.

Stonetown Cheese is celebrating its 10th anniversary and has made a recent change to its business model. Instead of doing manual labour tasks like washing and flipping the cheeses by hand, it will be now done by a robot.

“That machine is going to (add) more storage capacity and allows us to make more cheese,” Eberle said. “We’re looking forward to more sales because we’re going to be able to keep producing more cheese now.”

Helicopter crash east of Thorndale sends Bracebridge pilot to hospital

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

A helicopter pilot is in hospital with what police described as non-life-threatening injuries after the crop-dusting helicopter he was operating crashed in a wheat field off Cobble Hills Road, south of Thorndale Road and east of the Village of Thorndale, on Aug. 1.

According to media reports, the helicopter’s lone male operator, a 21-year-old from Bracebridge, was pulled from the wreckage by two passers-by travelling along Cobble Hills Road. Middlesex OPP say they and members of the Thames Centre and Zorra Township fire departments responded to the crash at around

12:30 p.m. Friday.

Police said the pilot was taken by Ornge Air Ambulance to Victoria Hospital in London for treatment of his injuries.

The cause of the crash is unknown. Police held the scene until members of the Transportation Safety Board of Canada, which investigates aircraft crashes, could begin an investigation.

According to the Aviation Safety Network, the crashed helicopter was a 1974 Bell 206B JetRanger II and it was destroyed by fire as a result of the crash. The pilot was completing an aerial spraying at the time of the crash.

Riverside celebrates 150 years in conjunction with Doors Open St. Marys



(PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN STEVENS)

Though not included on the official Doors Open St. Marys lineup on Aug. 9, John and Marie Stevens will host a 150th anniversary celebration for their home, Riverside.

JOHN AND MARIE STEVENS

Contributed Article

It's not every day you get to acknowledge a 150-year anniversary. That's why the owners of Riverside, John and Marie Stevens, decided to do something special when their home was included in the Doors Open event on Aug. 9.

Riverside was the original name of the building when Leon Clench built it in 1875. It was eventually owned by the Dunseith and Hall families until the Stevens bought it in 2000.

However, it was Leon and Nora Clench who have given the place its notoriety. Leon Clench is known, among other things, for some of his inventions. Nora Clench was a violin prodigy who eventually had a professional career in Europe.

Following on this artistic theme created by Nora Clench, the Stevens have decided to highlight the arts in St. Marys.

In the fine arts category, Peter Allan Rice will be displaying his unique talents with stained glass and rocks. Vasyliya Shyshkivska, a young artist

from Ukraine, will be on hand to show her works. As an added bonus, Penny Dunbar will be displaying an original Maude Lewis painting at 1 p.m. John and Marie Stevens have collected works from some local artists which will be on display during tours of the home.

Musically, Dan Welcher, John Vallance and Linda Harris will be entertaining visitors during the day. Authors Ione Grover and Jackie Cousins will be making appearances to talk about their books.

At 12:30 p.m., the St. Marys Poetry Circle will be conducting readings by some of its members.

Finally, at 1 p.m., Riverside will host a special dedication and tell the story of the home, followed by birthday cupcakes on a first-come, first-served basis.

There is still room for more artists to participate. Call John Stevens at 226-921-5247 to get in on the fun.

The whole Doors Open lineup looks interesting, but make sure you make your way to Riverside for this unique occasion.

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Local families needed for short-term student homestays in St. Marys and Stratford

ALEX HUNT

Independent Reporter

Local families in St. Marys and Stratford are needed to host international students, offering a unique cultural exchange and helping keep school programs alive.

St. Marys District Collegiate and Vocational Institute (DCVI) is currently accepting host families within St. Marys and Stratford to accommodate international students from September to December during the first school semester.

Deanna Pearce, area homestay coordinator at St. Marys DCVI, said there are currently five spots each that need to be filled within the St. Marys and Stratford communities. Host families will receive a monthly stipend of \$825 to cover daily necessities, while students use their own spending money for personal expenses.

"Participating as a host family helps keep these programs running, having international students attend school to keep school programming open," said Pearce. "We are looking for families who are welcoming, loving and open to learning about a new culture. The student is not a guest; it's their home, too."

Pearce said placement opportunities allow a community to grow in new cultural avenues, with many families forming lifeline bonds with their student. Students are encouraged to join clubs and sports teams through school and take part in community events.



Host parents Kristin DeBrabandere and Alyson Dunseith with their international student, Andrea, in Pamplona, Spain.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

"I check in with the students and families once a month and we sit down and ask a series of questions to see how they're doing; they can reach me any time by email, phone call or social me-

dia," said Pearce. "Most host families really enjoy the experience and continue to keep in touch with their students after the placement ends."

To avoid potential placement conflict,

host families and their students have opportunities to communicate before finalizing a living accommodation to ensure interests and personalities complement each other. However, if an unresolved conflict develops, the student will be transferred to another home.

"During the application process, the area homestay coordinator meets with host families face to face to explain how the program works and answer any questions they may have," said Pearce. "Families are also provided with a 'Guide to Being a Host Parent' guidebook that was developed by the Avon Maitland International Education Department."

"The support doesn't stop there though. Once the student arrives, the host family is supported 24/7 for emergencies and there are monthly check-ins with the area homestay coordinator," said Pearce.

Potential host families are required to have the following accommodations before a student is placed in their home. Students are required to have their own bedroom and a shared bathroom is acceptable. Anyone within the home who is over 18 years old must go through a police check, which is reimbursed by the school board. Single parents are also acceptable as hosts for international students.

Families interested in sharing their home with an international student can contact Pearce at deanna.pearce@ed.amdsb.ca or call at 226-921-1869.

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Stratford Walking Tours expands to Stonetown with Spirits of St. Marys Walk

Ghost walk takes participants on a stroll through St. Marys' gruesome past

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A company that offers guided walking tours through Stratford's past is expanding to St. Marys with a new ghost walk launching in September.

Stratford Walking Tours owner and guide Lauri Leduc, a native of Perth County and a resident of St. Marys for the past two years, recently announced the upcoming launch of her Spirits of St. Marys Walk – a guided walk along the Thames River featuring some of the Stonetown's most sordid and gruesome historical stories.

"St. Marys has a lot of history, a really rich and diverse background and I thought there'd be an opportunity here to share some of those stories," Leduc said. "As well, the town's tourism office actually gave me a little nudge and said, 'Would you be interested?' I thought about it, did some research, looked into it and sure enough, there were lots of stories to tell and decided to expand here."

"It's great to be able to feature my new hometown in one of my walks as well. I grew up in Perth County, I'm familiar with the area, I have family connections here, so it's nice to be able to showcase St. Marys."

In Stratford, Leduc offers a variety of tours including her Tour and Tea starting at the Tom Patterson Theatre and winding its way along the Avon River, her Steps to the Stage tour focused on the history of the Stratford Festival, her History and Heritage tours which focus on the people and events that shaped Stratford, her Local Plants and Local



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

Stratford Walking Tours owner and St. Marys resident Lauri Leduc, pictured, is launching her Spirits of St. Marys Walk, which features tales of local history with a touch of the macabre told by Leduc along a two-kilometre path beside the Thames River.

History tour focused on the plants that grow along the Avon River, the history of the waterway and its importance to Stratford, and her Stratford Ghost Walk – the inspiration for her Spirits of St. Marys Walk.

For her ghost walks, Leduc tells stories she has crafted through historical research, original newspaper accounts and local myths and legends passed down through families who have lived in either Stratford or St. Marys for generations, which she then verifies through her own research. For the St.

Marys ghost walk, she developed the stories she will tell with help from the St. Marys Museum and Archives and Mary Smith, by reading through St. Marys history books written by local historians like Larry Pfaff and by encouraging her friends and neighbours to share any of the local ghost stories they've heard around town.

"We have lots of great buildings downtown, but I'm going to focus the walk along the riverside," Leduc said. "It's about a two-kilometre path, it takes about an hour. We're going to tell stories

about a disgraced 19th-century doctor who had to flee town, but his spirit allegedly still roams the town even though he left decades and decades ago. There's the quarry; I have some great stories from the quarry as well. It literally built this town – economically and our many beautiful buildings – but health and safety wasn't that prominent back in the day, so it led to lots of accidents.

"The newspaper accounts of the day were so graphic in their detail. They talk about their heads being crushed and people lingering for days before passing away. So, there's all these great, tragic stories about the quarry in that history, including one alleged incident about a gentleman who was tragically killed there who still haunts the quarry pillars to this day. So, lots of working in some of our history like the quarries, like the building of the town, but also some characters that were involved."

In addition to ghost stories and tales of tragic deaths, Leduc's tours are also an engaging blend of architectural insights, historical anecdotes and little-known facts about the past.

The Spirits of St. Marys Walk will start in September and run on Friday nights through the month of October. Leduc says the ghost walk should be of interest to locals and visitors alike, and everyone who participates will take home at least a little more knowledge of and appreciation for the Stonetown and its vibrant history.

For the tour schedule and booking information, visit stratfordwalkingtours.ca.

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Melodies at the Museum returns to bring locals together for outdoor concerts

ALEX HUNT

Independent Reporter

What started with just two concerts over a decade ago has grown into a cherished summer tradition.

Melodies at the Museum offers a relaxed donation-based concert for all where music lovers of all ages gather to enjoy live performances and support the community museum.

The St. Marys Museum kicks off their popular live music series at Cadzow Park. It will run through August every Wednesday night from 7-8 p.m. Concerts are admission by donation in support of museum operations and programming. Concerts are set to operate under clear weather and will be canceled in the event of rain or thunderstorms.

“Our goal is dual purpose; this is our largest fundraiser that we host in the summer and it’s an opportunity to get out and enjoy live music outdoors,” said Amy Cubberley, St. Marys cultural services manager. “Funds raised go into the museum’s general operating costs, the event is admission by donation but if some people don’t have cash that week, then that’s fine.”

“One of our biggest challenges has been what we do when it rains. One time we packed one of the concerts into



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The community gathers for a relaxing night on their lawn chairs to enjoy the music at Cadzow Park as part of the St. Marys Museum’s Melodies at the Museum series.

the museum, which was not ideal. For the past several years, we have been moving the concerts to town hall when it rains.”

After analyzing community feedback, Cubberley said attendees want to keep it outdoors, which led to the concert cancellation decision if thunderstorms are

in the forecast.

In the first week of August, the series began with the acoustic stylings of Andrew and Jess Damen, followed by the rising local talent of Megan Brady set to hit the community stage on Aug 13. On Aug. 20, Jazzm@x will bring rhythms and swing to the park. Finally, on

Aug 27, audiences will experience the genre-bending sounds of York Street Thought Process.

Cubberley said artists are rotated each week throughout the series, with the museum offering the same dates to artists who have performed as part of the series before. Open slots are filled by new artists through a formal application process. The system ensures a balance between familiar and fresh talent for every season.

“I hope this event provides people with a laid back, relaxing evening out. I know the pandemic changed the concert experience; I find it is not what it once was,” Cubberley said. “I like how this series has continued as this laid-back lawn-chair event where people can just sit there and enjoy an hour of music.”

Cubberley said the team tracks how much revenue is generated at each concert and does a rough headcount of attendees, though getting precise numbers can be a challenge.

“We’ve received great response from the community and people tell us that they will be back next year,” she said.

Cubberley said that she can see the 12-year tradition continuing to enrich the community with its music for many years to come.

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SPOTLIGHT ON ARTS & CULTURE

Firing up the shady side of Queen Street

DAN WELCHER

Contributed Article

Anyone who has spent time walking on Queen Street has noticed the shop.

Zenfire Pottery, founded and managed by Angela Patterson, has what realtors call “curb appeal” in a big way. The striking window displays draw your eye into the shop, and beyond those windows lies a space that proclaims, “Creative energy lives here.”

It’s a two-part business inside. The front of the shop is a store with hundreds of pottery and ceramics objects, as well as books, cards, birdhouses and various kitchen implements all artfully displayed on shelves and tables. There’s always more than you might expect. While I was visiting in late July, two boys came in accompanied by their mother, looking for Waldo. He was hiding behind a decorative plate. The entire community knows this store, and Angela makes sure that everyone feels welcome. Most of the work on sale was made at Zenfire, but other local artisans also market their work here.

The rear portion of the space is a large, two-part workshop for clay. Eight potter’s wheels are lined up where aspiring potters may learn their craft under Angela’s expert guidance. Classes are held here and students of all ages come to learn the magic of working with their hands in a medium as old as humanity.

“You can chart the progress of the human race just by looking at the pottery left behind,” Angela told me. “Some of the earliest human art pieces are pots, or models of gods and goddesses. Learning this craft puts us in touch with the remotest of our ancestors in a way no other artform does.”

There is a kiln room, separated from the rest of the workspace, in which large electric kilns fire the finished pieces at 1,888°F. There are other machines in the studio not to be found anywhere else, like the pug-mill, a sturdy metal fire-hydrant-on-its-side into which discarded raw clay is mushed into fresh “slip” (a mixture of clay and water used for joining ceramic pieces together).

“Everyone calls it ‘Maggie the Mud Muncher,’ ” Angela laughed, “mud” being the term for wet clay.

One of her students painted two eyes on either side of the “snout,” completing the image. Shelves of various tools for slicing, cutting, engraving, and painting fill one wall. The shelves also contain cans of glazes of various colours, while large boxes of raw clay (most of it coming from a supplier in Toronto) are stacked neatly on the floor.

“On Monday nights, we have open studio time,” she said. “This is when the experienced potters and ceramicists come to use the space and the equipment, as well as to learn from each other.”

Zenfire has earned two grants from the “My Main Street” program, a federally funded enterprise that helps small businesses.

Angela was born and raised in and around London and studied at Fanshawe College, but not to be a potter. She earned a degree in accounting, which has served her well as a business owner. Her husband is a full-time farmer, and they now live on a large, working farm. They have raised two children there, both of whom are now in university.

“I was a stay-at-home mom for a long time,” she said. “So, I began this journey in a studio I set up in the basement. I didn’t have my own shop outside the home until 2019 when I started Zenfire.”

The year 2019, of course, was the year before the pandemic. Most of the work that had been destined for the store wound up being sold online for the next two



(DAN WELCHER PHOTO)

Zenfire Pottery owner Angela Patterson works the potter’s wheel.

years. Now, even though people are allowed to gather indoors again, the online catalogue continues to offer alternative ways to shop.

The exquisitely designed website (zenfirepottery.ca) displays a large variety of items for sale, as well as soliciting specialty orders. Many of the most popular items like coffee mugs feature little mementos of St. Marys in vibrant colours.

But the best way to experience Zenfire is to visit the



(DAN WELCHER PHOTO)

Owner Angela Patterson holds one of the mugs for sale at Zenfire Pottery.

shop. Angela and her seven staff members are always happy to welcome customers and browsers, and to help them find the perfect gift or the new mug or bowl you didn’t know you needed. There is an element of magic in watching such beautiful objects being made, and everything in the store is a reflection of Angela’s mantra:

“My goal is to create work that connects with you, uplifts you and comforts you as you use it.”



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Ag Robotics Day gives insight into the future



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

With the Naio Oz in the foreground, Toryn Boyle, manager of the Ontario Crop Research Centre in Simcoe, explains the trial that was completed with Haggerty AgRobotics.

JEFF HELSDON

Independent Reporter

Imagine a day when many farm tasks are completed, or assisted, by robots.

That day may not be that far off.

The AgRobotics Working Group hosted a demo day at the Ontario Crops Research Centre in Simcoe on July 22.

On display were several robots that are either on the market or nearing that point.

Chuck Baresich of Haggerty Creek, a Chatham-Kent based agriculture company, approached the ministry in 2021. The group was formed and began to look into the possibility of using robots and artificial intelligence (AI) to solve



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Chuck Baresich of Haggerty AgRobotics explains the function of a drone that is being tested for spraying applications.

many problems growers are facing. At the end of the first year, the group was working with five different robots. Since then, the number of participants and robots has increased exponentially.

There were nine different robots on display for those attending the demo day. These ranged from an asparagus harvester that can identify the ripeness of spears and harvest and laser weeders, to drone sprayers and electric robotic tractors.

Speaking about the drone, Baresich said his company started working with smaller drones and eventually developed the machine they are using now, which is about two metres wide. It's set up to automatically spray a field using GPS coordinates. He said no agriculture substances are legal to spray from drones at this point except fertilizer and Garland. More approvals, he said, are coming, though.

The laser weeder is an attachment that goes on the back of a tractor. It can be programmed to identify weeds and will then zap them long enough to kill them.

The asparagus harvester, made by Harvestcorp Technology in Tillsonburg, will likely be ready for market next year. It uses cameras to identify the spears, judge ripeness, then a deci-

sion is made to harvest, not harvest or harvest the spear and drop it. The machine uses cutters then takes the harvested spears up a conveyor belt. It can also sort the harvested asparagus into two grades. The machine runs autonomously and is battery powered.

While robotics have been common in animal agriculture – such as in dairy barns – Baresich said it's just starting for field crops and orchards. His company, Haggerty AgRobotics, is the only company involved in both development and retail. He had nine Oz robotic tractors, which is a small unit that performs a variety of tasks and is scaled for work on small farms or market garden operations, out this year. The Burro, a small unit which can run bins of fruit from the orchard to a processing centre or larger wagon, is in use on several farms.

Pointing to the Monarch, a 70-horsepower electric tractor which can drive itself between rows in an orchard, Baresich said it can allow an operator to pay more attention to the task being performed behind the tractor than where it's going.

"They can watch that much more closely than before," he said.

It will also drive itself without an operator.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 15

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Ag Robotics Day gives insight into the future

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

The Monarch will run for 14 hours performing light tasks, and eight hours on heavy tasks. It can recharge in four to six hours on 220 volts. This unit sells for \$130,000 compared to a conventional tractor at \$70,000-80,000. However, Baresich said there are no oil changes or oil filters, and operating costs are lower. A traditional tractor also can't drive itself.

Asked about batteries, he said they are good for eight years.

"What's interesting is the battery that goes in there (in the future) will be significantly better than the one that came out," he predicted.

His dealership receives weekly calls from growers interested in making the switch. The technology is advancing rapidly and Baresich believes it's on the

cus of becoming practical.

Part of his company's job is evaluating the new technology as it comes to market.

"We have to be honest with the grower," he said. "It's not that (manufacturers) can't get there, it's just they need refinement."

A robot on display from Finite Farms is designed to thin apple orchards. This task is essential as trees want to make 200-300 fruit, said Finite's Matt Stevens.

"Basically, you have to take a whole lot of fruit off as quickly as you can," he said.

The thinner is designed to be used after a chemical thinner has been applied and will cut off the tiny apples that it identifies as sub-par.

"The robot can see better than the

human can, so we can start with marble-sized fruit," he said.

The operator can program the optimum number of fruit per tree, depending on the variety and end use of the apples.

Toryn Boyle, manager of the Simcoe research centre, has been working with Haggerty to assess the Naio Oz's practicality in the field by comparing two squash plots, one tended by the robot and one by conventional means.

"We're trying to build a framework to assess these machines," said Jason Gharigo of Haggerty.

Boyle said some experimentation was needed initially to set up the cultivator on the Oz.

"The robot has automation systems that allow it to correct," Boyle said, explaining it will adjust till depth and if

it's off track.

Initially, the machine got stuck a lot and he had to go into the field and adjust it using an app on his phone. Once adjustments were made, there have been fewer problems.

While many of the robots were imported from the U.S. and Europe, a homegrown industry was also on display. Besides the asparagus harvester, an orchard scanner that uses AI to assess the condition of the trees and make thinning recommendations was developed in Toronto, and Werkr Tractors is based in Kitchener-Waterloo. The latter product is an electric tractor with an optional autonomous mode.

"We're right at the beginning of robotics in agriculture," said Stan Baer of Werkr. "It's going to look a lot different in 10 years than it does now."

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St. Marys Independent SPORTS

Carter George reflects on stellar pro debut with AHL's Reign

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

Former St. Marys Lincoln Carter George continued his ascent through the hockey ranks at the end of the 2024-2025 season when he made his professional debut with the Ontario Reign, the American Hockey League (AHL) affiliate of the NHL's Los Angeles Kings, on April 12.

George described experiencing the Reign's game against the San Jose Barracuda on April 11 as the backup on the bench before making his first AHL start 24 hours later.

"We played the night before in San Jose and I was able to get used to the environment and being around the guys before I played on the Saturday (April 12)," George said. "I got to watch the game (on April 11), see the guys on the ice, see who is good on the other team and pick some things apart. The next day, it was a typical game-day routine. I went to morning skate, went back, had my pregame meal and had a nap."

The game on April 11, a 4-1 loss for the Reign, motivated the club to deliver a more complete performance the next night in front of their rookie goaltender.

"I think I got set up for success," George told the Independent. "The way we lost the night before made the guys mad and they really wanted to get the win back. They were extra motivated for my game and they knew they had a rookie goalie in net, so they knew they had to be sharp and I think that benefited me a lot. They played unbelievably well in front of me, they trusted me and I trusted them."

George said he felt a nervous-yet-eager energy until getting his first touch of the puck in his debut, after which he began feeling calmer.

"There were just some jittery nerves, but it was also mixed with excitement to get going. For me, I needed to make the first save, and once I did that, I felt good and was able to settle into my game. I felt like I had a solid warm-up and that gave me some confidence going into the game."

George stopped the first shot he faced. And the next. And the one after that. George just kept stopping pucks until the final horn sounded, with George turning away all 33 San Jose shots for a shutout in his professional debut, a result that surprised everyone, including George himself.

"That was definitely not what I was expecting for my first game," admitted George. "I went in just trying to have a solid game and give my team a chance to win, so the fact I got the shutout was a bit of a surprise to me. Your first pro game is a good checkpoint in your



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Former St. Marys Lincoln Carter George celebrates with the Ontario Reign fans after recording a shutout in his professional debut with the AHL affiliate of the NHL's Los Angeles Kings.

career, so I was super happy with it and I couldn't believe what just happened at the end of the game. It was like a movie. It was surreal."

The 19-year-old Thunder Bay, Ont., native mentioned solid play by the Reign and a less frenzied style of play in the AHL as contributing to his performance.

"I think I got put into a really good system that they have. They are a really defensive team that plays a strict system, and I think there are fewer breakdowns than in junior, so you understand what's going on and where the plays are and it's a bit easier to read the game. Obviously, guys are more skilled and the shots are harder, but I think that system and the hunger the guys had to win at that time of the year put me in a good position to succeed."

George played a second game for the Reign before the end of the AHL campaign and once again was outstanding, making 27 saves in a 2-1 Ontario win over

the San Diego Gulls. At the time of his AHL debut, George had yet to hit his 19th birthday and had just concluded a season in which he led an otherwise-depleted Owen Sound Attack squad to a playoff berth.

George, who was drafted by the Kings in the second round of the 2024 NHL entry draft with the 57th overall pick, recounted his conversations with Kings' management following his near-perfect start to his pro career.

"In my exit meeting at the end of the year, they said they were super happy with the two games that I played and were super happy with where my development is right now. They were really happy that I got the opportunity to get called up because if I was in the OHL playoffs, I wouldn't have had that opportunity. I was fortunate that I was able to get called up, and they think it was probably the best thing for me to get that experience at my age."

Not only did George get to experience playing at the AHL level, he was then called up by the NHL club to experience the Kings' first-round playoff series against the Edmonton Oilers and practice with Los Angeles, an experience that George, who grew up cheering for the Kings, said he will never forget.

"Obviously, I picked up a lot from the guys in Ontario, but I also got the chance to go up with the Kings for a little bit during the playoffs and watch how they operate. That was probably the coolest thing that has happened in my life, honestly, seeing guys I watched growing up like Drew Doughty and Anze Kopitar. I was trying not to fangirl too much around them."

"Getting to talk to (Darcy) Kuemper and (David) Rittich was super cool," George continued. "I learned a lot from them, and especially Rittich. He helped me out a lot. Every morning skate, he and I would go and work on stuff together or be the shooter tutor goalies for the scratches. He worked with me on little things to get my game to the pro level and he gave me his number and said, 'If you have any questions, feel free to reach out.'"

Looking ahead to the 2025-2026 season, George stated his first goal is to do what very few netminders ever do – crack the NHL as a 19-year-old.

"My goal going into training camp is to make the Kings next season. I would like to stay up with them as much as possible. If you get to debut in the NHL at 19, I think that would be incredible. That's what I'm training for this summer and I can't wait for the season to come. And then obviously I would love to win gold at the world juniors, and if I end up back in the OHL, I want to go for an OHL championship."

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Donna L. Hinz

Stonetown Karate Centre's Kylie King earns black belt

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

Stonetown Karate Centre (SKC) elite student Kylie King is the newest SKC member to earn their junior black belt.

A dedicated member of the SKC, King was formally presented with the prestigious honour last week by senseis Jalyne and Jeremy Lorentz. It was noted that Jalyne Lorentz was a major part of King's training.

"What stands out to me is all the friendships I made along the way," King said. "Specifically, the mentorship and friendship I was able to create with Sensei Jalyne. I got here by setting this as my goal and never giving up. I was able to push myself through difficult lessons and enjoy all the good times throughout my journey. It's been very rewarding."

King has been training with the SKC since she was eight years old, just a beginner as a white belt, and has consistently shown incredible determination, sportsmanship and leadership both on and off the mat. Her journey to black belt was filled with hours of practice, overcoming challenges and attending tournaments.

Jeremy Lorentz expressed immense pride in King's significant accomplishment.

"Watching Kylie grow into the martial artist she is today has been an honour," Jeremy Lorentz told the Independent. "Her dedication to the art, respect for her training partners and her positive attitude make her a role model for every student here."

Jeremy Lorentz described King reaching junior black belt status as "a milestone that represents not only physical skill but also discipline, perseverance and heart."

"Earning a junior black belt is no small feat," said Jeremy Lorentz. "It requires not only technical excellence and physical readiness but also maturity and mental toughness. As a dojo, we are incredibly proud of Kylie and this major accomplishment. Her achievement is a reminder of what's possible with dedication, humility and the right support system."

King said she is ecstatic about earning her black belt.

"It feels amazing to earn my black belt," King said. "This is very special to me as it has been six years of hard work and dedication that I put towards accomplishing this goal I set for myself."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Pictured from left to right are Sensei Jalyne Lorentz, Kylie King and Sensei Jeremy Lorentz. King is the newest Stonetown Karate Centre student to have earned their black belt.



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Parks Lawn Bowling celebrates a century of fellowship



(STEWART GRANT PHOTOS)

Above left, players of all ages tried their hands at bowling during Parks Lawn Bowling Club's 100th anniversary celebrations on Saturday, Aug. 2 at the greens at Milt Dunnell Field. Above right and below, Master of Ceremonies Anita Gregory led all players in some rounds of "spider" where they all bowled at once towards the jack in the middle of the green, with whoever bowling the closest to the jack winning a prize.



STEWART GRANT

Publisher

Under clear blue skies, the Parks Lawn Bowling Club had a wonderful weekend to celebrate 100 years at their greens down at the Flats.

The strong turnout during Saturday's open house echoed the efforts of 100 years of volunteerism and community spirit that led to this remarkable milestone.

Karen Atkin, president of the Ontario Lawn Bowling Association, was among those to speak on Saturday. Having the experience of attending several anniversary celebrations in recent years, she noted, "To reach this milestone requires the dedication of lots and lots of volunteers over the many years. This is a recognition and acknowledgement of everyone who has contributed."

While many clubs in Ontario have struggled with their membership numbers in recent years, Atkin noted that Parks Lawn Bowling Club, with its current membership of 71, is up by 10 over the prior year, with six junior bowlers among its ranks.

Master of ceremonies Anita Gregory began the formal part of Saturday's pro-

ceedings by outlining the history that led to the club's formation. This story began 129 years ago when, in 1896, the very first lawn bowling club in St. Marys was formed by 10 local men. The initial greens were located on James Street South, where the current Omega Paw plant now stands.

As interest in the sport grew, the club outgrew their initial greens and moved in 1900 to the northeast corner of Peel and Queen streets (currently home to J.B. Construction and the food bank) when the organization officially became known as the St. Marys Lawn Bowling Club.

In 1907, the sport grew and became so popular here in town that a second club was established and leased land on the corner of Peel and Elizabeth. This club was known as the Granite Lawn Bowling Club. In 1910, they joined the Western Ontario Bowling Association which included clubs from Clinton, Goderich, Seaforth, Mitchell, Exeter, Granton, Kirkton, Stratford, Motherwell and Embro. By 1911, the St. Marys Lawn Bowling Club was reporting a membership of 100 and its rival, the Granite Club, had a membership of 72.

But into the 1920s, with the closure of

the Granite Club and the St. Marys Club having sold off a portion of its greens, it became apparent that the large venue was required to accommodate the sport here in town. In September 1925, John Lind, chair of the town's parks board, urged that new greens be created to accommodate the demands. Work quickly started at the new location at the Athletic Park, commonly referred to as the Flats. That is how the club started and became known as the Parks Lawn Bowling Club.

"It's really fascinating to look at the history and perseverance of the Lawn Bowling Club of St. Marys," remarked Mayor Al Strathdee. "Not only have we been recognized nationally and throughout the province as a club and given recognition to the town, it has also become a sport of community. People can come and enjoy, forget about their problems, and have a good time down here on the bowl. On behalf of council, I just want to say thank you for your perseverance and thank you for your cooperation."

"Recently, the town wanted to expand the washroom facilities and the lawn bowling club worked together with us to make things better. We understand how hard it is these days to keep sports alive

and to keep a sense of community, but this lawn bowling club is flourishing and we're very happy about that."

Parks Lawn Bowling Club president Larry McLellan, who has bowled here for 55 years, reflected on some of the changes that he's seen over the years.

"Over the years, I've seen many changes. Back then, we wore whites but now we are wearing brighter colours, and I like colour!"

"Many clubs have closed in the area. Our club was a club of 13 when I started; now we are down to six."

Parks Lawn Bowling Club is accompanied in the current District Four by Clinton, Exeter, Seaforth, Grand Cove, and Stratford.

"In St. Marys, we are lucky to have the support of our members, and the town and community has stuck behind us as well," McLellan said. "We have bowlers from the age of eight to 85. Lawn bowling is a sport where a family can play. There are not many sports where you can have mother, father and their kids all play together. Bowling gives you lots of exercise combined with great friendships and competition."

McLellan, Mutter and Boreham win Cowbell Tournament



(CHRIS COLLINS PHOTO)

The weekend-long celebrations for Parks Lawn Bowling’s 100th anniversary culminated on Sunday with a bowls tournament sponsored by Cowbell Brewing Co. Pictured above, from left, are the first-place winners Peter Mutter, Len Boreham, and Larry McLellan along with Cowbell vice president of operations Chris Van Wieren. Second place went to Peter Baumann, Donna Baumann and Wayne Martin; third place to Steve Schucknecht, Barb Schucknecht and Jake Masterson; and fourth place to Bob Bester, Chris Bester and Mike Bester.

The club wishes to thank all of the sponsors who made the anniversary weekend such a great success, including Cowbell Brewery Co., Trouw Nutrition, Veterinary Purchasing, St. Marys Ford, Colin and Margaret Campbell, Delmar Foods, Stonetown Cheese, St. Marys Foodland, Graham’s Egg Farm, The Hitching Post, Tim Hortons, Synterra, Caledon Tube, Canadian Tire, Stonetown Supply Services, Finnie Distributing and Larry and Jan McLellan.

2025-26 St. Marys Lincolns Regular Season Schedule

September:

Friday, Sept. 12 - St. Marys Lincolns vs Sarnia Legionnaires - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre
Saturday, Sept. 13 - St. Marys Lincolns at Caledonia Corvairs - 7:30 p.m., Haldimand County Community Centre
Friday, Sept. 19 - St. Marys Lincolns vs LaSalle Vipers - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre
Sunday, Sept. 21 - St. Marys Lincolns at Chatham Maroons - 7 p.m., Chatham Memorial Arena
Saturday, Sept. 27 - St. Marys Lincolns vs Port Colborne Sailors - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre
Sunday, Sept. 28 - St. Marys Lincolns at Elmira Sugar Kings - 7 p.m., Dan Snyder Memorial Arena

October:

Thursday, Oct. 2 - St. Marys Lincolns at St. Catharines Falcons - 7 p.m., Seymour-Hannah Sports and Entertainment Centre
Friday, Oct. 3 - St. Marys Lincolns vs Caledon Bombers - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre
Wednesday, Oct. 8 - St. Marys Lincolns at LaSalle Vipers - 7 p.m., Vollmer Culture and Recreation Complex
Friday, Oct. 10 - St. Marys Lincolns vs London Nationals - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre
Saturday, Oct. 11 - St. Marys Lincolns at Strathroy Rockets - 7:30 p.m., West Middlesex Memorial Centre
Friday, Oct. 17 - St. Marys Lincolns vs St. Thomas Stars - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre
Saturday, Oct. 18 - St. Marys Lincolns at Komoka Kings - 7:15 p.m., Komoka Wellness Centre
Friday, Oct. 24 - St. Marys Lincolns vs Strathroy Rockets - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre
Saturday, Oct. 25 - St. Marys Lincolns at London Nationals - 7:30 p.m., Western Fair Sports Centre
Friday, Oct. 31 - St. Marys Lincolns vs Chatham Maroons - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre

November:

Saturday, Nov. 1 - St. Marys Lincolns at Komoka Kings - 7:15 p.m., Komoka Wellness Centre
Friday, Nov. 7 - St. Marys Lincolns vs Waterloo Siskins - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre
Sunday, Nov. 9 - St. Marys Lincolns at Waterloo Siskins - 1:30 p.m., Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex
Friday, Nov. 14 - St. Marys Lincolns vs Komoka Kings - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre
Sunday, Nov. 16 - St. Marys Lincolns at Listowel Cyclones - 2 p.m., Steve Kerr Memorial Complex
Friday, Nov. 21 - St. Marys Lincolns at Listowel Cyclones - 7:30 p.m., Steve Kerr Memorial Complex
Sunday, Nov. 23 - St. Marys Lincolns at Elmira Sugar Kings - 7 p.m., Dan Snyder Memorial Arena
Friday, Nov. 28 - St. Marys Lincolns vs Cambridge Redhawks - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre

December:

Thursday, Dec. 4 - St. Marys Lincolns at Sarnia Legionnaires - 7:10 p.m., Pat Stapleton Arena
Friday, Dec. 5 - St. Marys Lincolns vs Chatham Maroons - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre
Sunday, Dec. 7 - St. Marys Lincolns at Chatham Maroons - 7 p.m., Chatham Memorial Arena
Thursday, Dec. 11 - St. Marys Lincolns vs Stratford Warriors - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre
Friday, Dec. 12 - St. Marys Lincolns at St. Thomas Stars - 7:30 p.m. - Joe Thornton Community Centre
Friday, Dec. 19 - St. Marys Lincolns vs Komoka Kings - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre

January:

Friday, Jan. 9 - St. Marys Lincolns vs Sarnia Legionnaires - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre
Saturday, Jan. 10 - St. Marys Lincolns vs Listowel Cyclones - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre
Friday, Jan. 16 - St. Marys Lincolns at Stratford Warriors - 7:30 p.m., William Allman Memorial Arena
Saturday, Jan. 17 - St. Marys Lincolns at Strathroy Rockets - 7:30 p.m., West Middlesex Memorial Centre
Wednesday, Jan. 21 - St. Marys Lincolns at LaSalle Vipers - 7 p.m., Vollmer Culture and Recreation Complex
Friday, Jan. 23 - St. Marys Lincolns vs Waterloo Siskins - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre
Thursday, Jan. 29 - St. Marys Lincolns at Hamilton Kilty B's - 7:07 p.m., Dave Andreychuk Mountain Arena
Friday, Jan. 30 - St. Marys Lincolns vs London Nationals - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre

February:

Sunday, Feb. 1 - St. Marys Lincolns at Waterloo Siskins - 1:30 p.m., Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex
Friday, Feb. 6 - St. Marys Lincolns vs LaSalle Vipers - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre
Sunday, Feb. 8 - St. Marys Lincolns at Stratford Warriors - 4:30 p.m., William Allman Memorial Arena
Wednesday, Feb. 11 - St. Marys Lincolns at London Nationals - 7 p.m., Western Fair Sports Centre
Friday, Feb. 13 - St. Marys Lincolns vs Elmira Sugar Kings - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre
Monday, Feb. 16 - St. Marys Lincolns vs St. Thomas Stars - 1:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre
Thursday, Feb. 19 - St. Marys Lincolns at Sarnia Legionnaires - 7:10 p.m., Pat Stapleton Arena
Friday, Feb. 20 - St. Marys Lincolns vs Strathroy Rockets - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre
Friday, Feb. 27 - St. Marys Lincolns vs Stratford Warriors - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre
Saturday, Feb. 28 - St. Marys Lincolns vs Listowel Cyclones - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre

March:

Wednesday, March 4 - St. Marys Lincolns at St. Thomas Stars - 7:30 p.m. - Joe Thornton Community Centre
Friday, March 6 - St. Marys Lincolns vs Elmira Sugar Kings - 7:30 p.m., Pyramid Recreation Centre



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Wilmot Recreation Centre at 7 p.m.
1291 Nafziger Rd., Baden (Meeting Room A - upstairs)

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(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Addie Dundas prepares to catch an incoming ball during the St. Marys Cement U9 HP St. Marys Rockies game last Thursday.



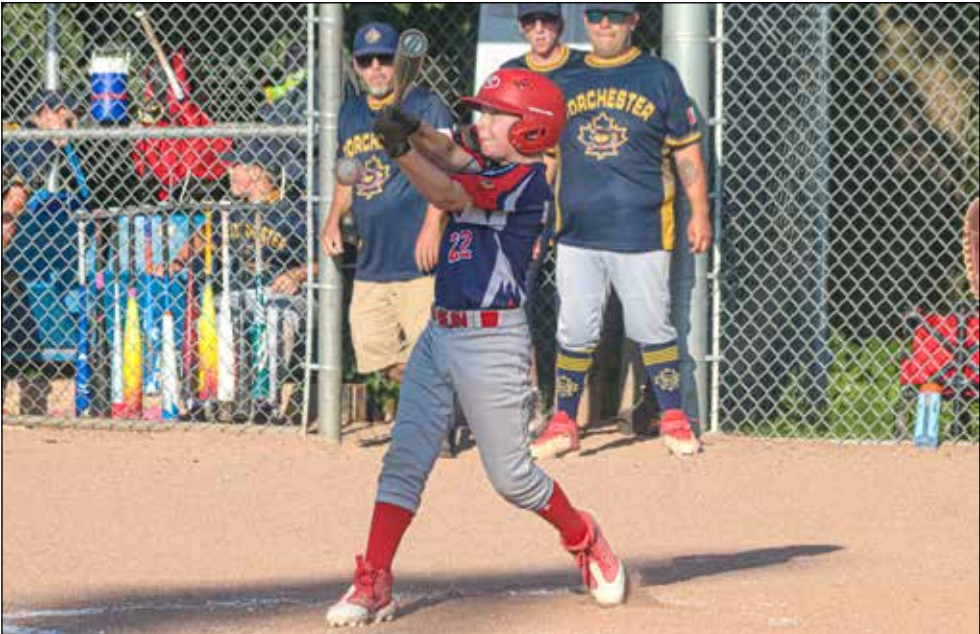
(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Aubrey Forrester tosses the ball to second base during the McLean Taylor Construction U11 HP St. Marys Rockies game last Thursday.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Nolan Seliske makes a catch in the outfield during last Tuesday's Canadian Tire U11 OBA St. Marys Rockies game.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Luc Richardson gets a hit off a high pitch during last Tuesday's St. Marys Building Centre U13 EB St. Marys Rockies game.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Donovan McGregor makes contact with an incoming pitch during the Red Rock Construction U16 OBA St. Marys Rockies game last Thursday.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Charlotte Matheson drives the net and scores a goal during last Thursday's U14 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm game.

COLUMNS

UKRAINIAN CORNER: From rockets to rotating winds – rethinking “tornado” in Canada

ALONA VASYLIEVA

Independent Columnist

Back in the homeland, our knowledge of tornadoes was pretty much limited to a brief blurb in school textbooks, usually accompanied by a reassuring footnote: “Less common in Ukraine, thank goodness!” We mostly encountered them through dramatic news reports from across the ocean.

Fast forward to living in North America and suddenly, those news reports feel a little less distant. A couple of summers in and after a few “is that what I think it is” moments, I decided it was high time to get properly acquainted with these spinning giants because, apparently, they’re not just a Hollywood special effect.

So, what exactly is a tornado? Imagine a column of wind, but not just any wind – we’re talking extremely high, violently rotating winds that can stick around anywhere from a few minutes to several hours. It’s like Mother Nature decided to try her hand at competitive figure skating, but with far more destructive flair.

And Canada holds the silver medal in the global tornado Olympics, right after the United States. On average, we get about 97 tornadoes a year! While they can pop up any time, here in Ontario, they tend to get most active between May and September, with peak performance in June and July. Ontario, thanks to its sheer size and unique weather systems, actually sees the most tornadoes in Canada. Who knew?

One of the best ways to tell if a tornado is getting ready to crash your backyard BBQ is to look for a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud. Now, here’s a fun fact:



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Learning the dos and don’ts of tornado season in Ontario is a must for Ukrainian and all newcomers.

it’s not officially a tornado until that funnel cloud actually touches the earth. Until then, it’s just a very dramatic cloud with a lot of potential. Think of it as a pre-tornado warm-up act.

Tornadoes, as you might imagine, are not kind to property. They’re up there with rogue teenagers and overly ambitious squirrels when it comes to home damage. The good news is that most home insurance policies in Ontario typically cover tornado damage.

However, before you start planning your new tornado-proof mansion on your insurer’s dime, a word of caution; insurance companies are not immune to a good-old “lack of maintenance” clause. If your roof was already auditioning for a role in a

horror movie or your home looked like it hadn’t seen a paintbrush since the dinosaurs roamed, they might just deny your claim.

When it comes to filing a claim, remember to become a documentary filmmaker. Photos, videos, detailed notes, expert assessments – the more evidence, the better. A lack of proof is a one-way ticket to claim-denial city. Also, don’t dilly-dally! Insurance policies have specific timeframes for filing claims and missing those deadlines is like forgetting your passport for an international flight – no entry!

Speaking of claims, it’s a stark reminder that in Ukraine, the “coverage” we’re often talking about is from rockets and missiles, not natural phenomena. And here’s

a truly grim linguistic twist: if you hear the word “Tornado” in the context of the war back home, it’s highly and sadly likely referring to the “Tornado-S,” a powerful Russian multiple launch rocket system used to strike Ukrainian targets, not a weather event. It’s a sobering thought that the same word can conjure such vastly different yet equally destructive images depending on your longitude and latitude.

So, what’s a newly initiated tornado-aware individual to do? The advice, thankfully, is pretty straightforward and, dare I say, quite logical. Basements are your best friend. If you have one, that’s your go-to safe haven. No basement? Find a sturdy piece of furniture and get underneath it.

If you’re in your car, get out and find a low-lying area like a ditch. Your car is not a tornado-proof bubble.

It’s ironic, really. In Ukraine, I used to scratch my head wondering why anyone would choose to live in a high-risk tornado area. And now, I’m on this side of the ocean and people here probably wonder how Ukrainians can live under the constant threat of war.

Perhaps it’s all about perspective and adaptation. Every place on Earth has its own quirks and potential hazards. While a tornado might send shivers down my spine, I’m relatively okay with the fact that they can happen. After all, the chances of being directly affected are thankfully very small. We humans are remarkably resilient; we adapt to the risks of our environment and figure out ways to navigate them, whether it’s building a basement or simply learning to discern the difference between a natural “tornado” and a man-made one. Stay safe!

Straight from the Shelves

LAURA MCASH

St. Marys Public Library

“Finding Larkspur: A Return to Village Life” by Dan Needles is the 2025 Perth County Reads title. From book clubs and an author visit to a special homecrafts competition, here is a glimpse at the upcoming programs themed around this humorous and thought-provoking read:

- Aug. 26: Tuesday Book Club (11 a.m.)
- Oct. 4: Edith’s Storytime Adventures – Edith Visits the Farm (10 a.m.)
- Oct. 7: Finding Larkspur Inspired Recipe Club (10:30 a.m.)
- Oct. 15: Books and Brews (8 p.m.)
- Oct. 14-18: St. Marys Satin Ribbon Showcase – A Homecrafts Competition
- Oct. 25: Dan Needles – Author Visit (2 p.m.)

Stay tuned for more information about these exciting offerings. For more “Finding Larkspur” programs and to place a hold on the book, check out the Perth

County Reads webpage: perthcountylibraries.ca/pcr2025.

Up This Week

Fri., Aug. 8: The Flower Shop and More Workshop*^ (1 p.m.)

Sat., Aug. 9: Dungeons and Dragons (10 a.m.)

Mon., Aug. 11: Euchre Mondays (10:30 a.m.)

Tues., Aug. 12: Reading Help* (10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.), Discovery Den (1:30-3 p.m.), Write of Way (6:30 p.m.)

Wed., Aug. 13: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30-10:30 a.m.), Summer Book Club* (10:30-11:30 a.m.), Mahjong! (1-4 p.m.), Reading Help* (1:30-3 p.m.)

Thurs., Aug. 14: Reading in the Park~ (10-11 a.m.)

*Registration Required

^Town Hall Auditorium (175 Queen Street)

~Kin Park (109 James Street North)

Ask the Arborist

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



Dear Arborist,

My neighbour has a bush that is infested with those horrible Japanese beetles. It is causing my yard to become infested as well. The beetles are eating my plants. I have tried the traps; I have bags full. What do I do? Would it help if my neighbour removes their bush?

Thanks, Very Concerned

Dear Very Concerned,

It’s probably a bit unfair to blame your neighbours’ bush; half the town is experiencing the difficulty of Japanese beetles. Sometimes traps with pheromones attract more Japanese beetles, so use a trap that does not have pheromones. If the traps don’t

work, there are natural options. You can try garlic spray, cedar oil, neem oil, and nematodes. If that does not work, an alternative would be actual pesticides. Pyrethrins are effective against Japanese beetles and easily obtained. Obviously, before spraying harmful chemicals, make sure to look up the laws, regulations, and safety protocols to follow.

Sincerely,

The Arborist

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

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Church Street, St. Marys

MARY SMITH

Independent Columnist

Doors Open St. Marys, this Saturday, August 9, gives Church Street, just one of the town's many north-south thoroughfares, some unexpected prominence. Participants can enjoy nine of the 15 Doors Open attractions simply by travelling the length of this street. Even the official information booth where visitors can pick up maps and brochures will be set up in front of the town hall at the intersection of Church and Queen Streets. This week's photograph, taken ca 1891, is a blurry, newsprint reproduction but one that shows an intriguing view from the top of the Church Street hill in the north ward looking south across the town.

When the Journal Argus published the old photograph in October 1980, it identified the three landmarks, just visible in the background. From left to right they are the square tower of St. James Anglican Church, the tower of the town hall (just built in 1891,) and the spire that once graced the tower of the Methodist (now United) Church. The people in the buggy might be working their way up the steep hill to the Presbyterian Church. That congregation's property is on the northwest corner of Church and Widder Streets. The Presbyterian manse has a view over the valley. These landmarks – the Presbyterian, Anglican and United Churches and the town hall – are all welcoming visitors during Doors Open and all of them can be reached via Church Street!

The history of surveying a town and naming its streets can be a bit puzzling. Decades later, sometimes no one can remember why certain names were chosen for certain streets. The survey of southwestern Ontario divided counties into townships and townships into lots and concessions that were mostly named in numerical order. This is easy to understand. But although the first surveyors recommended what areas within each county might support a town, the actual surveying within the town's boundaries and the naming of streets was less systematic. Some names were chosen for obvious reasons. Every 19th century town in Ontario had a Queen Street named after Queen Victoria. (St. Marys also has a Victoria Street.) Running east-west parallel to Queen are Widder Street to the north and Jones Street to the south. These important streets are named for Canada Company commissioners – Frederick Widder and Thomas Mercer Jones.

Among the north-south streets, the name "Water" was the clear choice for a street running beside a river and prone to flooding. On the west bank of the Thames River, Thomas Street was named for Thomas Ingersoll, one of St. Marys' first settlers. James Street, a major thoroughfare leading into town from both the north and the south, was named for Thomas' younger brother, James Ingersoll, who had acquired land from the Canada Company comprising what today is the core of St. Marys. The north-south streets parallel to Church Street are Wellington to the west and Peel to the east, both named for famous British political figures. Today it seems obvious that Church Street is named for the churches along it. But was Church Street given its name after the churches were built or were all these places of worship coincidentally built on Church Street?

Bishop John Strachan, one of the most prominent men in Canada West in the mid-19th century, arranged for James Ingersoll to transfer a parcel of land within the boundaries of St. Marys to the congregation of the Anglican Church. The bishop may have assumed that Church Street would be the name of the road leading to his Church of England and this assumption may have led to the factual naming. The Ingersolls were Presbyterians, however, and may have thought instead that the name was appropriate for a street leading up the hill to their church buildings in the north ward. Undoubtedly, the prosperous and influential Methodist merchants in St. Marys believed that the street led primarily to their church on the southeast corner of Church and Elgin Streets. (Note that the First Baptist Church was origi-



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

It is unfortunate that this newsprint reproduction of a photograph, ca 1891, is not clearer. It shows the view down Church Street across the town from the top of the north ward hill.

nally in the west ward at the northwest corner of Queen and Robinson Streets. However, when the congregation decided to build a new church closer to the downtown, they also chose property on Church Street South. The new church was dedicated in 1901.)

Originally, Church Street was not as important a north-south street as Water and Wellington Streets. Early survey maps show that whereas both of those two streets included a bridge over Trout Creek, at first there was no bridge crossing the creek at Church Street. Perhaps, at first, the challenge of developing a good road up the steep hill to the north ward was daunting – the horse in the photograph might agree with that! However, the residents of St. Marys have always embraced the challenge of hills. In 1884, the town built a beautiful double-arched limestone bridge across Trout Creek at Church Street. It probably replaced a much less sturdy wooden structure that was prone to flood damage. Restored several times to keep it in good repair, the Church Street bridge remains a local landmark.

During Doors Open St. Marys, participants should embrace the challenge of travelling the length of Church Street. They can begin at the south end at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum where staff look forward to a busy day of showing off their impressive ball fields and indoor exhibit areas. On the way back downtown, a visit to the St. Marys Museum will allow visitors to cool off while they look at the range of exhibits relating to the history of this area. The entrance to Central School Manor is at the intersection of Church and Elizabeth Street. Several residents are graciously allowing visitors a glimpse into their apartments inside this wonderfully retrofitted historic building.

Doors Open participants will find music played on the Casavant organ in the United Church and light refreshments in the St. James Anglican parish hall, also the home of the Community Closet. Back at the intersection with Queen Street, they can visit the town hall and see the recently renovated council chambers. Local residents will be interested in 14 Church North across the street. There, conceptual drawings for the new two-storey space will be on display. Community use of this municipal facility, when funding becomes available, will include some creative ideas from the St. Marys Public Library at 15 Church Street North. A visit to the library will show how much it already can do within its current limited space.

At the top of the Church Street hill in the north ward, Doors Open participants can go west to visit the St. Marys Presbyterian Church and then go two blocks

east to see its neighbour, Holy Name of Mary Roman Catholic Church. The magnificent steeples of these two historic limestone churches dominate the north ward skyline. Both churches feature beautiful interior space.

Although Church Street has many of the Doors Open locations, there are other sites to explore as well. At 15 James Street North, the Station Gallery in the restored Grand Trunk Railway station is showing its current art exhibit, Pop Goes the World. Visitors should cross the Queen Street Bridge to Robinson Street and join John and Marie Stevens as they celebrate the 150th birthday of the Clench house. They can also join the lineup at the southwest corner of Queen and Water Street. Many people will be curious about what's upstairs over the popular store, the Flour Mill. The private residence on the second floor will be open for this special day.

For more information about the event, visit www.discoverstmarys.ca/doorsopen



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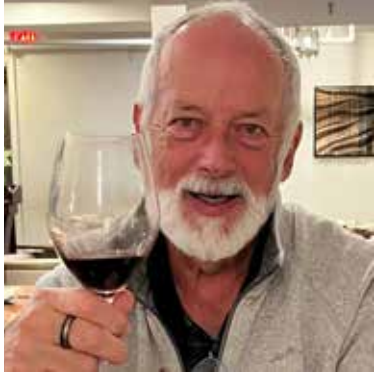
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Food available to be purchased
(Hot Dogs, Sausage on a Bun, Corn on the Cob)

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OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: What's in a name? Ask the folks at Glenora Distillery



PAUL KNOWLES

Independent Columnist

Let me be clear; I am the last one to say anything negative about Scottish whisky. In fact, there is an unofficial but quite active group here in my community that gathers – often in our living room – to explore the world of single malts. The exploration has gone well so far.

So, count me in as a lover of Scotch and, also, Irish single malt whiskey.

But at the same time, you must love a story where an underdog defeats the big guys, and in this instance, the big guys were the Scotch Whisky Association.

The underdog? Glenora, an absolutely wonderful whisky distillery on Cape Breton Island. If you are a whisky lover, this is a must-stop during any trip to Cape Breton or journey around the Cabot Trail.

The fight? It's all in a name. Glenora's single malts are named "Glen Breton." The Scotch Whisky Association felt this was misleading, that it sounded like a Scotch – and the Scotch distillers are notoriously protective of their brand. That's understandable; they've been making Scotch in Scotland for

well over 500 years. No one outside Scotland is allowed, by law, to call their product Scotch. The same restrictions apply to champagne and cognac, by the way.

A side note: generally, if whisky is made in a country without an "e" in its name, it's "whisky." If the country – Ireland or the United States, for example – has an "e," it's "whiskey." Thus, Scotland and Canada produce whisky. But Canada cannot produce Scotch; that's against international branding laws.

Though unable to call their product Scotch, Glenora opted to sound very Gaelic – obviously appropriate on Cape Breton, part of Nova Scotia, or New Scotland. The distillery was opened in 1990 as the first single malt distillery in Canada. And when they finally released their first batch of single malt almost a decade later, they branded their whisky Glen Breton.

"Not so fast," said the Scotch Whisky Association.

That sounded too Scottish and they took their legal fight all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. But the Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling allowing the name. The Scots were not impressed. They issued a statement pointing out that "the mark has caused confusion because of its use of a 'Glen' prefix and Glenora has marketed its product as Scotch in all but name."

They might have a point. The label on the two-thirds-empty bottle of Glen Breton single malt whisky sitting beside me as I write this reads, "Aged 10 years in the highlands of Cape

Breton."

The back label adds, "The legacy of deep-rooted Scottish wisdom and culture give it its classic character. Our Scottish descendants passionately keep the dearest aspects of colourful Gaelic culture alive."

That's a lot of nods to all things Scottish. On the other hand, the label carries the red maple leaf, and declares itself, "North America's first single malt whisky."

And there is no question that the folks at Glenora relish in their victory to the point where one of their whiskies is named "Glen Breton Battle of the Glen," a reference not to any military action but to the legal battle they won against the Scots, allowing them to keep their treasured brand.

You'll hear all about this when you visit Glenora and apart from very fine-tasting whisky, there are plenty of other reasons to visit the distillery. You will certainly want to take the distillery tour to learn all you might want to know about making great single malt whisky and also to hear the story of Glenora, including the fact that the water used to make the whisky comes from the stream that you cross on the property. Or, as described on the label, "The crystal clear water that flows from the Mabou Highlands."

You will get the opportunity to taste the 10-year-old Glen Breton but only look at (or purchase) the bottles of the longer-aged liquid gold.

The stills at Glenora come from – you guessed it – Scotland. The whisky is aged for at



(PHOTOS BY PAUL KNOWLES)

Glenora Distillery, maker of Glen Breton single malt whisky.

least 10 years in bourbon barrels from Kentucky.

There is a poignancy to the story of Glenora – it was founded by Bruce Jardine, who watched his dream become a reality almost to the point when Glen Breton whisky went from cask to bottle. But Jardine passed away just before the launch of the brand. Today, Glenora's whiskies include a Bruce Jardine Special Reserve 25 Year Old.

I mentioned there are other good reasons to visit Glenora. Chief among them is the restaurant, serving great food and superb entertainment – typical "ceilidh" style music featuring Cape Breton fiddlers, guitarists and pianists.

You can also stay at Glenora. We checked into a comfortable,

motel-style suite, but there are also cabins with wonderful views of the Cape Breton countryside.

And then there are the gardens. Glenora has a dedicated and creative gardener and there are beautiful beds and plantings wherever you look, including along the stream and beside the restaurant's lovely outdoor patio.

Glenora is open to visitors from the first of June to the end of October. Drop in for a dram or two.

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 stills at Glenora come from Scotland.



Casks of well-aged whisky, in the gift shop at Glenora.

EAT AT OUR HOUSE: August southern comforts



LAUREN EEDY

Independent Columnist

The following are my favourite recipes with seasonal ingredients for August when it's still warm but less humid and more tolerable for baking.

Fried green tomatoes

Golden and crispy on the outside, juicy and tender on the inside; this simple recipe is a great way to utilize your green tomatoes.

4 medium (unripened) green tomatoes. Sliced, half-inch thick.
1 cup all-purpose or self-rising flour
1 cup yellow cornmeal
1 tsp Cajun seasoning
2 large eggs
½ cup whole buttermilk
Hot sauce to taste
High smoke-point oil for frying
Flaky salt for garnish

Method:

- Prep the tomatoes by cutting into half-inch-thick slices. Pat dry with a paper towel. Here I like to sprinkle a touch of salt, wait and pat liquid.
- You'll need two dredging vessels such as a pie plate or low bowl. Add flour, cornmeal and seasoning into one dish and combine. In the second dish, combine the eggs, buttermilk and hot sauce to preference. Set baking sheet or platter aside.
- In batches, dredge tomatoes in egg mixture, coating well

and dip into flour/cornmeal mixture, firmly pressing so it adheres well. Shake off excess. Repeat for a double-batter. Set tomatoes on parchment-lined sheet.

- Let tomatoes rest while oil heats up.
- Pour oil into cast iron skillet or non-stick pan of your preference to inches deep on the side. Heat to 350°-375°F. Once hot, working in small batches, fry until slices are golden brown and crispy, about 3-4 minutes. Use a slotted utensil to transfer to a paper towel-lined platter and repeat the process, returning oil to 350°F for each batch of frying.
- Sprinkle flaky salt, if desired. Serve immediately with your favourite dipping sauce (I like a remoulade) or devour in sandwich form. We had open faced BLTs on focaccia.

Fried green tomatoes are also nice on a breakfast sandwich, salad, burger, or as a vessel to top with seafood, paired with soft cheese and a drizzle of balsamic glaze.

Root beer ribs

This recipe is a household favourite with just a few ingredients! It's a comforting and no-fuss dinner that is sure to be loved by the family.

2-3 racks of ribs (pork back or St. Louis style)
Seasoned salt
2 sweet onions
16 oz root beer, your choice
1 tbsp vanilla
BBQ sauce, your favourite

Method:

- Score the membrane on the backside of the ribs in a diamond shape, or peel off the membrane or ask a butcher to do it for you.

- Season ribs on both sides with your favourite seasoned salt. Spread onions on the bottom of a large roasting pan. Onions should be thick, (half-inch) to elevate ribs from the bottom of the pan. Its okay if ribs overlap.
- Add one tbsp vanilla to the bottle of root beer. Pour all of it over the ribs. Cover with foil or lid if you have one.
- Turn oven to 400°F and bake for about 2.5 hours. Remove from oven. Pull ribs apart with tongs when they are done.
- Transfer ribs to a new baking or cookie sheet. Ensure they are meat-side up. Add your favourite BBQ sauce on the bottom and top. Return to oven for about 10 minutes to bake and baste with the sauce. I like to turn on the broil function and watch carefully.

OR

Grill each side 2-3 minutes on the BBQ, basting with more sauce as needed. Cut between every third rib.

Store well in refrigerator for 3-4 days! I like to serve these with a homemade coleslaw.

Peach cobbler

It's officially peach season! This old-fashioned peach cobbler is super easy and made from scratch. Another August go-to.

Prep: 15; Serves: 9; Total: 55 minutes

5 peaches, peeled, cored and sliced (tip: cut a cross in bottom of peach skin and blanch for a few minutes in hot water to easily peel. I also don't fuss with slicing and prefer chunks of fresh peaches).

¾ cup granulated sugar
¼ tsp salt

Batter:

6 tbsp unsalted butter
1 cup all-purpose flour



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

These fried green tomatoes are the perfect way to use up those under-ripe tomatoes from the garden.

1 cup granulated sugar
2 tsp baking powder
¼ tsp salt
¾ cup milk
Ground cinnamon

Method:

- Add chopped peaches, sugar and salt to a saucepan, stir (if using canned, skip steps 1 and 2)
- Cook on medium heat for just a few minutes until sugar is dissolved. Remove from heat and set aside.
- Preheat oven to 350°F. Slice butter into pieces and add to a 9x13-inch baking dish. Place

the pan in the oven while it pre-heats, allowing butter to melt. Once melted, remove pan from oven.

- In a large bowl, mix together the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Stir in the milk, just until combined. Pour the mixture on top of the pan with melted butter and smooth into an even layer.
- Spoon the peaches and juice over the batter. Sprinkle cinnamon generously otop.
- Bake for 38-40 minutes. Serve warm with a scoop of ice cream if desired.



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Riddles

What is the richest nut?
A cash-ew!

Why did the fruit salad skip its own wedding?
It had a lot of can't-elope!

What kind of beer won't get you tipsy?
Root beer!

What kind of poultry is always going to the bathroom?
Chick peas!

Why did the citrus tree go to the hospital?
Lemon-aid!

You cut me, slice me, dice me, and all the while, you cry. What am I?
An onion!

What kind of apples do computers prefer?
Macintosh!

What has many ears but cannot hear?
Corn!

I'm a bird, a person, and a fruit. What am I?
A Kiwi!

I'm the father of fruits. What am I?
A papa-ya!

What vegetable always loses in every competition yet is a terrific rapper?
Beets!

What vegetable can you use to tie your shoelace?
A string bean!

- Word Search -



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JULY HIGHLIGHTS

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D S P K H J C G H M C E J V V C J H P M
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- Canada Day
- Summerfest
- Heritage Festival
- Texas floods
- Trump and Epstein
- Coldplay kisscam
- East Ward Park
- Stephen Colbert
- Scottie Scheffler
- Happy Gilmore
- First place Jays
- Summer McIntosh



The **Riddle Kid**
OF THE WEEK



Mac McCarthy (8)

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

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

PET OF THE WEEK



Long weekends mean family, celebrations, and BBQs! Keep pets safe: block off grills and hot areas, keep harmful foods out of reach, and make sure they have shade, water, and supervision.



ROXY

Our Pet of the Week is Roxy Nairn, a seven-year-old mixed breed. Roxy loves riding in mom's car with her head out the sunroof. People look forward to seeing Roxy at Country Roots Market where she is the official greeter.



Thorndale News

A section within the
St. Marys Independent

Numbers down but still a great party at Thorndale's Back40 Bash



(PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT LITTLE)

The Scott Howarth Band performs for those who turned out at Thorndale's Back40 Bash, which was moved indoors at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre due to inclement weather, on July 26.

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

The Back40 Bash is a fundraiser organized jointly by and for the Thorndale Agricultural Society and I Love Thorndale each year since 2018.

This age-of-majority event includes backyard games, live music and socializing with friends and neighbours. In the past, this event has been held on the Thorndale fairgrounds by the open

pavilion but this year on Saturday July 26, with the extreme heat and forecast of severe storms, the organizing committee moved the event indoors to the Thorndale Lions Community Centre for everyone's safety.

The committee set up the backyard games in the gym with the axe-throwing competition at the south end of the community centre in the large garage door opening. Though the venue for these games changed, people still enjoyed



(PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT LITTLE)

Attendees at Thorndale's Back40 Bash wait in line for their turn at axe throwing.

the games, especially the axe throwing, which always draws a crowd.

Also set up in the gym was the Scott Howarth Band. With their energetic blend of traditional country and electrifying spirit of rock and roll, the music enhanced the party spirit of the evening. The committee also set up crokinole, poker dice and a couple other games in the Lions room.

The Thorndale Lions sold their famous wings and fries for anyone who

came hungry. As for quenching everyone's thirst, there was also a bar.

Sometimes when an event goes to plan B and must pivot because of Mother Nature's unpredictability, it is always challenging to keep the atmosphere and momentum up in comparison to past years.

"The ticket sales and attendance were down, but everyone there appeared to be having a good time," a member of the organizing committee said.

Thorndale's townwide yard sale set for this weekend

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

There has been a long-standing summer tradition that draws crowds of bargain hunters and vintage shop owners to Thorndale.

The townwide yard sale was originally spearheaded by Don and Karen

Bentum, then owners of Thorndale Pro Hardware, over 30 years ago. This annual event saw Thorndale's King Street jammed with shoppers and activities from one end to the other.

As the years have ticked by, tables of wares for sale on residents' lawns have waned a little but there will still be eager community members throughout Thorn-

dale with items for sale this Saturday, Aug. 9.

The Thorndale United Church on King Street will be selling bacon on a bun and will host a bake sale. Conner at Thorndale Hardware Store said he is clearing out some old inventory and will have tables of bargains.

As in past years, the Thorndale Fire

Department will be set up at the west end of King Street with their boot drive, collecting change for Muscular Dystrophy Canada. And, according to social media posts, residents of the Monteith, Foxborough and Wye Creek subdivisions will also be taking part in the townwide yard sale this weekend.

What's on at the Thorndale Library in August

MIDDLESEX COUNTY LIBRARY

Contributed Article

There's plenty to see and do at the Thorndale Library in August!

For young families:

- Thorndale Storytime (Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.): Stories, songs and rhymes.
- Early ON Play & Learn (Fridays, 9-11 a.m.): A drop-in program for fami-

lies with children zero to six.

For school-aged children (ages seven to 11):

- Lots of Fun with Lego! (Fridays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.): Weekly drop-in.
- Emoji Galaxy Painting (Aug. 7, 1:30-2:30 p.m.): Let's paint some emoji galaxies! Registration required.
- Toy Hacking (Aug. 20, 3-4 p.m.): Use your creativity to give old toys a new

life! Registration required.

For youth (ages 12-17):

- Whimsical Fairy Door (Aug. 14, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.): Registration required.

For adults and seniors:

- Stitch 'n' Chat (Aug. 5, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., and Aug. 20, 6-8 p.m.): Bring your needle project and chat. Registration required.
- Coffee, Conversation & Cards (Aug.

19, 12:30-1:30 p.m.): Register to make cards and socialize.

- Whimsical Fairy Door (Aug. 14, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.): Registration required.

For more information or to register, call 519-461-1150 or email thorndale_staff@middlesex.ca.

OBITUARY

Near



Charlie Near passed away at St. Marys Memorial Hospital on July 31, 2025, the day after his 72nd birthday.

Son of the late Archie and Margaret Near. Beloved husband of Julie Near, married 50 years. Father of Melissa Near (Terry), and Jeff Near (Amanda). Papa to Alex

Humphrys (Josh) and Asher Near. Brother of John Near (Shirley), Robert Near (Norma), Karen Shelby (Kent, deceased), Dennis Near (Bert), Marcia Near and brother-in-law of Pat Healy, deceased, (Shelly), Mike Healy, Gloria Ross (Wayne) and Bridget Pearson (Tim). Also remembered by many nieces and nephews.

Charlie was a St. Marys Volunteer Firefighter for 25 years and long-time member of the St. Marys Legion Perth Regiment Veterans' Branch 236. He enjoyed fishing and the neighbourly community in the Hollow. Cremation to take place.

A private celebration of life to take place at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the St. Marys Legion. Online tributes at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

OBITUARY

Stevens



Sherry Ann Daum (Stevens) passed away quietly in her sleep at Southbridge Long Term Care Facility in Goderich on July 28, 2025 at the age of 59.

Beloved wife of Dan, married August 3, 1996. Loving mother of Brock and Lily. Sister of Sheila (Mark Cameron).

Sandy (Scott Shackleton). Aunt of Lauren and Julia Cameron, Stacey and Nolan Shackleton. Daughter of the late Leita and Donald Stevens and survived by her grandmother Joyce McKay (Murray), husband Tom (deceased). Sherry is also remembered by many extended family members and by her dog Daisy.

She worked many years as a Scotia bank employee, dedicating her career to her customers. Sherry was always devoted to her kids' athletic involvements, anything hockey.

An Open House Celebration of Life will be held at "The Pond" on August 23rd, from 2 – 6 pm. If a rain date is required, the gathering will be held on August 24th. Please visit www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca for online tributes and the location address of the celebration of life. Memorial donations may be to the Alzheimer Society or the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation.

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IN MEMORIAM

Nairn

In loving memory of Jim, a special husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, who left us 20 years ago.

This month comes with deep regret

It brings back a day we can't forget

You left us suddenly, with no goodbye

But memories of you will never die.

May the winds of love blow softly

and whisper so you will hear

That we will always love you and miss you

and wish you were still here.

Deeply missed and always loved

Your wife Marilyn, sons, Jamie & Gwen, Dave & Sandy, Grandchildren, Shawn, Jenna and Alaina, Tyler, Ann Marie, Emerson, Dominic and Brooklynn

THANK YOU



Thank you to The Optimist Club of Downie, Canadian Optimist Junior Golf National Championships, and David Steward of The Sunset Diner for your sponsorships for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships in Doral, Florida.

Kolton McAllister and family

THANK YOU

Trachsel

The family of the late Robert Beverly Trachsel, "Bob", wish to express sincere thanks and appreciation to relatives, friends and neighbors for the many cards, floral arrangements and memorial donations in memory of a wonderful dear husband, loving father and grandfather. Special thanks to the staff at London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC), Stratford General Hospital, the compassionate care provided by Care Partners Home Care Staff and the ladies from Tavistock Trinity Lutheran Church for the luncheon served at the "Celebration of Life" held at Tavistock Legion on July 12, 2025. Bob enjoyed the many phone calls and visitors who helped brighten his final days, a true sign of friendship and respect. Thank you to the Glendinning Funeral Home and their staff for their assistance and kindness.

Winnie, Tim, Tina, Tanner, Tyler, Tayler and Fiance Taylor, Tarra, Darrell, Aaron and Rowan.

IN MEMORIAM

Ball



Matthew Walter James

December 17, 1979 – August 6, 2004

In loving memory of our precious Matthew who left us 21 years ago on August 6, 2004

In life we loved you dearly

In death we love you still,

In our hearts you hold special place

That no one else can fill.

It broke our hearts to lose you

But you did not go alone,

Part of us went with you

The day you were called home.

You are always loved, forever missed and never forgotten. Mom and dad, your son Justin, sister Lisa and family, brother Murray and family.

CELEBRATION



Happy 70th Birthday Jill

Open House Celebration

August 16, 2025 from 1:00pm - 4:00pm

St. Marys Legion



**St. Marys and Area
MOBILITY SERVICE**

St. Marys and Area Mobility Service is pleased to welcome community members, staff and Board Members to our Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: St. Marys Municipal Operations Centre, 408 James St South

Virtual Option also available

Please contact Amber Miners, Manager, at 519-284-4010 with any questions or for more information.



GRANTON CEMETERY

Decoration Day

Sunday, August 17, 2025

Please support care & maintenance of the cemetery by forwarding donations to the following:

444 Queen Street Granton, ON NOM 1VO

E-transfer:
grantoncemetery@gmail.com

Receipts provided for all donations



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PERTH REGIMENT VETERANS
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SUN AND MON: CLOSED

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

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LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

Communities in Bloom

25 years ago (2000)

The third annual Prospect Hill Car Show was held on Saturday. It was organized by Garnett St. Pierre and David Lameront. They would like to thank Brien and Debbie Reidy and their son Steven as well as all the staff at Prospect Hill Camp-ground for all their hard work. Murray McLean showed off his red '63 Chevrolet SS convertible which he got in Arizona, as well as his '62 Chevrolet.

Communities in Bloom judges will be in St. Marys on August 18. In preparation, St. Marys Communities in Bloom Committee is hosting Whistle Clean Days from August 12-17. During this time, citizens of St. Marys are asked to tidy up their yards, mow their lands, and weed their gardens. It would also be helpful to pick up any garbage that you see laying around.

50 years ago (1975)

Despite rumours that seem to spring up as freely as the springs that feed the Quarry, the water in the big swimming pool has tested out "ideal" on a number of occasions this summer when the Dept. of Health personnel have checked water conditions.

Drapes and carpeting are expected to have completed the lengthy and costly interior renovations at Town Hall. Dave Tudor spent a warm weekend finishing up the floor and window coverings.

In spite of only one home building permit being issued during the month of July, total value of units issued during the month reached \$94,500. Several swimming pools, an addition to the ANAF hall on Wellington Street, plus a large number of home additions made up the total.

75 years ago (1950)

Painters are busy at the new St. Marys Memorial Hospital, having applied two coats of paint to many of the wards and operating departments. The plumbing contractors are now fitting the heating radiators and toilets, wash basins, and sterilizing equipment, and cabinet and trimming workmen are completing the fitting of doors, built-in cupboards, etc. in different offices and clinical rooms.

Through the efforts of the St. Marys Rod and Gun Club, one thousand black bass fingerlings were released into the local quarry swimming pool on Wednesday by the Department of Game and Fisheries representatives.

100 years ago (1925)

George P Sutherland of Widder Street has made an application to Council for a rebate on his taxes for road oil, which has not been laid on his street this season owing to Council's desire to scarify the surface as soon as the road roller is available.

Local young men Wm. Dunlop and E. Wybrow, while driving in a car along Water Street North on Monday, were blinded by the headlights of a passing auto and inadvertently crashed into a tree on the roadside near Wm. Walz's farm. Mr. Dunlop received a fractured kneecap and numerous cuts and bruises while Mr. Wybrow was cut about the face, the result of striking the windscreen. The car, which was a rented one, was badly damaged.

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

- Recreation Info
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- Health & Wellness
- Maps
- Coupons

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



Festival of Flowers Show and Open Meeting

MONDAY, AUGUST 11TH AT 7:00 PM
ST. MARYS LEGION HALL

Speaker: Mike Prong

Topic: Fusion Gardening - Low Maintenance, Low Water, Low Impact



Everyone Welcome

This meeting is for YOU ... come out and enjoy!

Refreshments provided by St. Marys Tim Hortons

Sudoku

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

Solutions on page 31

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Wanted to buy

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

Wanted

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

For Sale

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

For Rent

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

For Sale

2007 Jayce Jayflight fifth wheel trailer RKS model for sale as is. Asking \$7,000 or closest offer. Call 519-860-8862.

House or Pet Sitting

Weekend Away? Week at a Cottage? Let me take care of your beloved dog (s) in their familiar surroundings, all sizes. Experienced, caring, trustworthy, references available.1 or 2 days to one month. Call Janet at 226-261-3660 (Longtime St. Marys resident)

Wanted

Kakamega Kenya Children's Home (Ages 5-15) Sponsorship participants. Call Janet at 226-261-3660 for more "no obligation" information

For Rent

2 bed, 1 bath apartment. Main floor, hardwood floors, backyard & front porch. Bathroom with tub. In suite laundry and basement storage. Salina St, St. Marys. Available October.1st. Call 519-319-4239

For Sale

5th Wheel Trailer & Truck - 2014 Chaparral Lite 5th Wheel. 2015 Dodge Ram 1500.Willing to sell as a set. Good condition. \$29,950 or best offer. Innerkip 519-469-3760

RUN YOUR
CLASSIFIED AD HERE
FOR JUST \$10
PER WEEK

Dorchester High School
Reunion

We are organizing a small reunion of Dorchester High School graduates from the years 1965-1969
Saturday, August 23rd
from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Thorndale Community Centre | Spouses are welcome
COST: \$20.00 | PLEASE RESPOND BY AUGUST 15TH
CONTACT: GLENN BASKERVILLE 519-461-1679
TERESE (PETERSSON) MCDONALD 519-461-0584
YVONNE HILL 519-642-1713, HILLYG742@GMAIL.COM


Harrington Decoration Service
at Knox Presbyterian Church
Sunday Aug. 17, 2025 2 11 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Rev. Mark Gedcke
Lunch to Follow

NORTH NISSOURI
Cemetery Decoration Day
August 24, 2025
Service begins at 2:00 p.m.
Speaker - Rev. Gwen Ament
Music - Vira Furman
All are welcome to visit the Cemetery and place flowers on graves

Directors will be available to answer questions and receive donations. Receipts will be given.

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

St. Marys Independent
THE WEEK AHEAD

- SPONSORED BY:**  **McDonald's St. Marys**
752 Queen St E
Founding and Forever partner of Ronald McDonald House
- PRC & Friendship Centre events - See the Stonetown Crier on Page 5
St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 22
Thorndale Library August events - See Page 27
Friday, Aug 8
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 p.m.
Saturday, Aug 9
- Thorndale townwide yard sale
- Lakeside community wide garage sales - 7 a.m.
- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 a.m. to Noon
- Doors Open St. Marys - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Maps available in front of town hall
- Harrington Centennial celebration - Mill tour 11 a.m., Noon & 1 p.m., Group photo 2:30 p.m.
- A.N.A.F. Summer-fun-raiser featuring Rod Knockers Blues Band - 2-6 p.m., \$10 cover charge
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 p.m.
Monday, Aug 11
- St. Marys Horticultural Society flower show & meeting at the Legion hall - 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug 13
- Friends of the Library summer social in the Library's reading garden - 6:30-8 p.m.
- Melodies at the Museum at Cadzow Park featuring Megan Brady - 7-8 p.m.
Thursday, Aug 14
- Friends of the Library "Reading in the Park" at Kin Park - 10-11 a.m.

**LAKESIDE COMMUNITY
WIDE GARAGE SALES**
Saturday August 9, 2025, 7 a.m.
Household Items, Collectables, Toys, Antiques, Tools, and something for everyone!

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Wolf	6. 26.2 miles (42.195km)
2. Revolutions per minute	7. Recommend & serve wine
3. King George III	8. Brazil
4. Wisconsin	9. Ten
5. Leslie Nielsen	10. Moe Szyslak

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JANUARY 16-28, 2026**



**PANAMA CANAL CRUISE
FEBRUARY 10-27, 2026**



**FRENCH RIVIERA
APRIL 23-MAY 4, 2026**



**DISCOVER SCOTLAND
MAY 23-JUNE 1, 2026**



**BALTIC CRUISE
AUGUST 11-22, 2026**



**MARITIMES & CAPE BRETON
AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 6, 2026**



**DANUBE RIVER CHRISTMAS MARKETS
NOVEMBER 26-DECEMBER 5, 2026**

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