

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1279

Thursday, September 11, 2025

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TRACTORS ROLL THROUGH DOWNTOWN ST. MARYS (STEWART GRANT PHOTO)
Seventeen vintage tractors made their way downtown from Kingsway Lodge to Wildwood Care Centre the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 2. The residents at both retirement homes really appreciated the visits, with some of the models bringing back memories of past days living on the farm.

Celebrating 50 years at Science Hill Country Club

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

It was a full-on '70s theme as Science Hill Country Club celebrated its 50th anniversary with a retro golf scramble tournament on Saturday, Sept. 6.

The enthusiasm of those who signed up for the day's events was evident through their colourful '70s attire and reflective of how popular this once "hidden gem" of a golf course has become.

For Jim and Nan McCann, who purchased

Science Hill from C.E. Miller in 1986 and operated the course as a family business for 35 years, Saturday's celebration was an opportunity to simply enjoy the moment. Their contributions to the course over many years were on everyone's mind, and current general manager Rhonda Tucker organized things so the McCanns could kick off the tournament with their tee shots, just like how Augusta National pays tribute to its past champions.

Tucker, who worked closely with Jim

CONTINUED TO PAGE 17

St. Marys Golf and Country Club and Social Thirty-One participating in One Care's Shop for Seniors campaign

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

A round of golf and a lunch or dinner outing will support seniors in the community this weekend.

The St. Marys Golf and Country Club and its Social Thirty-One restaurant will be participating in One Care's Shop for Seniors fundraising campaign again on Sept. 13 and 14. The golf and country club will donate five per cent of the green fees on those days towards One Care. Social Thirty-One will donate 10 per cent of all sales from craft burgers, handhelds, sharables, and appetizers, both dine-in and takeout, towards the organization.

"It's just a local organization that a lot of older generation of golfers tend to use later in their life and because they're so local, we have some family connections and things too that we feel it's important continue to donate with them," said Brandon DeGroot, partner, director of operations with the St. Marys Golf and Country Club.

The St. Marys Golf and Country Club and Social Thirty-One restaurant have been part of One Care's Shop for Seniors program over the years. One Care has provided support services for seniors and adults with health challenges in

CONTINUED TO PAGE 5

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COMMUNITY

Stonetown Tallow brings natural alternative to big-pharma, chemical-heavy moisturizers

ALEX HUNT

Independent Reporter

A St. Marys mother has transformed her son's eczema struggles into inspiration for a new venture, launching Stonetown Tallow to offer beef tallow skincare as a natural alternative to chemical-heavy products.

Rita Maher is the founder of Stonetown Tallow, a business and product line that features a beef-tallow based product launched late last month. The product is currently being stocked at Purpour Refillery + Boutique in downtown St. Marys. Maher also currently sells her skincare tallow at the St. Marys Farmers Market and plans to appear at community seasonal markets as well.

People can also purchase the products online through Stonetown Tallow's Facebook and Instagram pages.

"My oldest son suffered from eczema which never went away. I didn't feel comfortable putting steroid cream or other manufactured medical chemicals on his skin," said Maher. "We tried to go the natural approach, and we visited a naturopath, who said to eliminate three quarters of what a kid eats – dairy, most fruits and vegetables – and that's no way to live, so I started researching and I found beef tallow."

Maher began by buying tallow online,



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Natural skincare is making a comeback with Stonetown Tallow in St. Marys. Pictured is Rita Maher, founder of Stonetown Tallow, with her product on display at Purpour Refillery + Boutique.

but the high cost led her to start making it herself and applying it to her son. While it hasn't cured his eczema, he no longer experiences constant flare-ups or itching. Maher said she has been using the tallow for a couple of years, and it has proven effective enough for her whole family and her friends.

"When we think of moisturizer, we go to the store and buy a big pharma

product and unfortunately, the industry is not out there to help us," said Maher. "They are everything and they own it. I want to bring it back to nature with simple ingredients and something that's good for you that's not full of water and chemicals you can't pronounce."

Maher says the tallow can help with cuts and burns and contains numerous nourishing vitamins, which is why it was used for hundreds of years. She hopes to keep the product affordable, pricing it at

\$20 for an ounce and a half, noting some companies sell two ounces for \$50.

Maher says she plans on keeping the product simple, natural and local, sourcing as many ingredients as possible from the St. Marys area.

"The skin is the biggest organ and I think we can treat it badly. We don't really think about it all the time. Because it is our biggest organ, we need to think about what we put on it because it's all going in," said Maher

"There's nothing that's bad in this tallow. Articles that you read about tallow will always say there's no scientific studies on the product. I feel like they don't want to do the research because big pharma usually does it."

Maher said the product is made mostly from beef tallow, which is sourced locally and mixed with olive oil, castor oil and optional scented oils for customers who want fragrance. She adds that the business plans to expand its collection in the future, noting the current offerings are just a small-batch beginning.

Maher says she feels proud people trust her with her product, calling it a rewarding experience. She believes that if someone is truly passionate about something, they can make it happen.

"A few months ago, if you told me people would be using and buying the tallow, I would have told you to pinch me, but this is only the beginning."

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EDITORIAL

Offsetting the cost of revitalizing 14 Church Street North

GALEN SIMMONS
Regional Editor

It's official, the Town of St. Marys has unveiled a master plan aimed at revitalizing the former Mercury Theatre building at 14 Church Street North into what town CAO Brent Kittmer – the main driver behind the plan – is calling a multi-generational community hub.

After it was purchased and renovated to the point it's at now at a total cost of just over \$1 million, the master plan developed by staff, the town's downtown service location review consultant and committee, and architects from a+LiNK Architecture Inc. shows the remaining capital cost to transform the building into one that can be used for programming by numerous town departments, and by community groups and individual residents for a wide variety of purposes, could come in at an estimated \$4 million.

On top of that, Kittmer and the town's former treasurer, André Morin, estimated the cost of operating the building could be more than \$360,000 annually. According to the CAO, if the building were to be renovated using long-term debt as well as funds earmarked for the project in the town's development-charges reserve, residents could see their annual property taxes increase by two per cent.

For many residents, including two who wrote to the paper this week, that proposed two per cent increase in taxes comes at time when the cost of living is already too high and life as we know it is unaffordable for many.

During the Aug. 26 council meeting when the master plan was presented to council, Coun. Dave Lucas spoke in favour of finding a way to offset that estimated tax burden before proceeding with the project, a notion council backed unanimously. Though council approved the master plan without any amendments, councillors agreed to have staff shop around for potential grant opportunities from higher levels of government before moving ahead with the project.

And on this point, I agree with council's decision. While moving ahead with this project right away and having it complete within a couple of years is technically possible according to Kittmer and the town's hired architect, the \$150,000 annual debt repayment necessary to do so would put council and staff on the back foot when it

comes time to set the annual budget.

From my perspective, St. Marys staff and council have done an excellent job keeping the town's annual property tax increases relatively low in comparison to some other neighbouring municipalities, which have seen several years of double-digit increases. As costs continue to increase year over year, it would seem finding a way to reduce whatever debt the town has to take on for this project, and thereby reduce the annual repayment, would be wise.

While there may not be many (or any) grant programs available for projects like this one at either the provincial or federal level currently, Kittmer told council on Aug. 26 he is confident both levels of government would find interest in the revitalization of 14 Church Street North should the town and our provincial and federal representatives in Perth-Wellington present the project on a silver platter, ready to go as soon as the funding is in place.

During the Aug. 26 council meeting, there was also mention of the possibility of a community fundraising campaign to support capital costs. While Kittmer told council this type of project likely wouldn't garner the level of community donation a facility like the Pyramid Recreation Centre did during that fundraising campaign, I'm willing to bet there are enough people – those who value town programming, members of community groups and business owners for example – who can see the value of what the town is trying to do with 14 Church Street North to the point where a public fundraising campaign would not be a wasted effort.

And of course, user fees charged by the town to support the building's annual operating costs would be helpful, but we're still years away from determining what those fees should be and what the potential users of the building would be willing to pay.

For now, let's focus on whittling down that \$4-million capital cost and see where it gets us. Maybe the building won't be finished next year or the year after, but if we're patient and open to funding from all possible sources, it will come and this project will be completed.

As Mayor Al Strathdee said, "We have a real opportunity to make a very reasonable investment for the future that I think people can look back and say, 'Man, that was smart because that's right in your backyard and look at all the creative things that have come as a result of this.'"

Bravo	Boo
We have 5 Bravos this week 1) Bravo to Allan Lawson for his well-written, common-sense Letter to The Editor in the Aug 28 edition of the Independent regarding the use of East Ward Park. Children and families have enjoyed this beautiful green space for decades. Let's not lose our small-town atmosphere to satisfy a few. 2) Bravo to the Kirkton pool and all the dedicated lifeguards. This pool is a wonderful asset to our community. Thank you KW Pool! 3) Bravo to Canada Post or whoever owns the Post Office building for finally fixing the Canadian flag out front. Elbows up! 4) Bravo to the organizers and all the loyal volunteers who made an amazing Kirkton fair possible. With all the showing of animals, horticulture items, baking, crafts, and children's art, the free activities of all kinds, and the general country welcoming, it is the best little fair in rural Ontario. 5) Bravo to Steve Cousins for providing assistance to me, a complete stranger from Stratford, after I locked my car keys and phone in my vehicle on the weekend while in St. Marys and bravo to Denise and Marlene Brownlee who drove me to Stratford to pick up another set of keys. Such kindness was greatly appreciated and speaks to the good folks living in St. Marys.	We have 1 Boo this week 1) Boo to people that do not use their signals when driving. Pretty sure they didn't teach you that in drivers-ed!
*Please note all Boos and Bravos must be signed in order to be considered.	Bravos and Boos are submitted by community members and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the St. Marys Independent.

Quote of the Week

"We should not have to live in a country where the government can seize anyone who looks Latino, speaks Spanish and appears to work a low-wage job. Rather than stand idly by while our constitutional freedoms are lost, I dissent."

- U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor regarding Monday's 6-3 decision to reinstate immigration patrols in Los Angeles, including situations without "reasonable suspicion."

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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Phillies Karen would be a great Halloween costume this year.

It's funny that as soon as the calendar flips to September, life gets crazy busy.

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!



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

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St. Marys Independent

Thoughts of the Week
Sponsored by:



395 Queen Street West

Just like the seasons, people have the ability to change.

The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate.

Only the pursuit of happiness is guaranteed, the rest is up to you.

Nothing ever goes away until it teaches us what we need to know.

St. Marys Golf and Country Club and Social Thirty-One participating in One Care's Shop for Seniors campaign



CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Perth County for the past 40 years.

This year, proceeds supporting Shop for Seniors will go towards the Driven to Care Campaign, which aims to raise \$500,000 towards the accessible vehicles that take clients to medical appointments, social outings, shopping, and other reasons.

"Just to ensure that the older generation has support for their different living situations and they're able to get around and have a better quality of life due to what One Care does for them," DeG-

roote said.

Sarah Michal Studios, also based in St. Marys, will donate \$25 from each \$150 Moments that Matter mini photo shoot gift certificate purchased in September towards One Care. Several businesses in Stratford, along with Hayter's Farm in Dashwood and Jordan Auto in Wingham, will also be supporting One Care throughout September for Shop for Seniors. A full list of participating businesses and their initiatives can be found online by visiting <https://www.onecare-support.ca/shopforseniors>.

St. Marys Gives 2025

Won't You Be My Neighbour?

Giving Tuesday is coming Dec. 2!



While it may be just one day in 365, the spirit of giving lasts year round - in fact there are 52 Giving Tuesdays every year! Late in the year there are so many calls for donations and help - not everyone can participate on Giving Tuesday itself. But we know there are lots of giving activities going on and we want to "Catch You Giving"!

In the build-up to Giving Tuesday, please share events & initiatives you (businesses, organizations & individuals) are working on - even if they don't happen on Giving Tuesday. Your stories will inspire & encourage others to do something fabulous.

Have questions or need ideas? Please email us! We can't wait to "Catch You Giving"!

**GIVING
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DEC
2



For more information contact jdockerjohnson@gmail.com | www.givingtuesday.ca

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news
from the Town of St. Marys



ROAD SAFETY MONTH

Safe Roads Don't Happen by Accident: St. Marys Residents Reminded to Put Safety First

Join the Stonetown Road Watch initiative: a community-driven way to report speeding, unsafe driving, or roadway hazards. Your observations matter. Submissions are quick, confidential, and reviewed directly by our Public Works team.

townofstmarys.com/roadsafety

LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN CONSULTATION

September 13 | 11 AM - 1 PM | St. Marys Library

The St. Marys Public Library is actively gathering feedback on its Strategic Plan, seeking insights from the community. Discuss your thoughts directly with Library Board Members and the Library CEO.

townofstmarys.com/librarystratplan



SCRAPBOOKING GARAGE SALE

September 13 | 9 AM - 1 PM | Friendship Centre

The St. Marys Friendship Centre is hosting a Scrapbooking Garage Sale event with over 50 tables of products. This cash only, free to attend event is a great opportunity to shop gently used supplies tax free!



ST. MARYS NOURISH MARKET

St. Marys United Church (85 Church St. S)

The St. Marys Nourish Equal Access Food Market takes place on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 2 - 4 PM offering fresh local fruit, vegetables and meat available at wholesale prices.

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Senior of the Week



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

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

Weekend Quiz

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1. Who is known as the father of ethics?
2. What tower was the first to be struck by terrorists on 9/11?
3. How many Super Bowl wins do the Buffalo Bills have?
4. Klondike Gold Rush national historical park is found in what US city?
5. Mick Jagger is the lead singer of what band?
6. GO Transit was founded in what year?
7. What river did George Washington cross to attack the Hessian mercenaries?
8. Ultrasonic waves have frequencies that are above how many Hz?
9. What is the farthest planet from the sun in our solar system?
10. What red creature starred in Sesame Street?

By Jake Grant

This week's answers are found on pg. 35

UTRCA seeks community support for children's River Safety Program

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

To help more children build lifelong water-safety skills, the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) is seeking to expand its River Safety Program for Grade 2 students.

This program teaches young children how to stay safe around local rivers, creeks and reservoirs. The UTRCA is asking the community for help in reaching more classes.

Many local service clubs have generously funded the River Safety Program since it was launched by the UTRCA in 1998, allowing hundreds of students to benefit each year. Now, the UTRCA hopes to bring water-safety education to more schools across the watershed – but doing so depends on additional donations from community members and groups.

“We know that prevention starts with education,” said UTRCA community education coordinator Karlee Flear in a press release. “The River Safety Program gives children tools to recognize risks and make safe choices near water. Expanding the program means protecting more young lives, but we need the support of the community.”

Through fun, hands-on activities, students learn about our local rivers, creeks and reservoirs while building an understanding of how to enjoy them safely. The program helps children recognize that natural waterways can be very different from pools — with cold, moving water, hidden currents and slippery edges — and gives them the knowledge and confidence to make safe choices. It is designed specifically for Grade 2 students, who are at a critical age for learning life-long water-safety habits.

“This is about giving kids the confidence to enjoy our



(PHOTO COURTESY OF UTRCA)

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) is asking for the community's support for its River Safety Program, which helps kids in Grade 2 classes across the watershed learn vital water-safety lessons.

rivers and lakes safely,” added Flear. “Every donation directly supports education that can prevent tragedies.”

The UTRCA is inviting community members, service groups and businesses to contribute to this vital program. A donation of \$150 covers the cost for an entire class, but donations of any size will add up to bring the River Safety Program to more schools, ensuring children learn how to stay safe near water.

To support the River Safety Program or learn more, visit thamesriverdonations.ca/river-safety-program.

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Another school year begins in St. Marys

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

Another summer has come and gone in a whirlwind of memories, bonfires and mosquitos. This past week, students, some begrudgingly and some happily, returned to the classroom to further their education.

As in previous years, we have reached out to our local schools for any changes and updates on registration numbers.

Little Falls Public School

The elementary school would like to welcome Kristin Frank as its new principal. Frank has a 28-year journey in education working her way from classroom teacher, learning-services coordinator and vice principal. She has a strong belief that schools thrive when communication is open, students feel seen and supported, and relationships are strong.

Little Falls Public School has 440 students registered this year, which is down from last year's 455. They also have just four kindergarten classes instead of five. The school is hosting an open house on Sept. 18 from 4-6 p.m.

South Perth Centennial School

Principal Julie Hohner started at South Perth in February, so this was her first September start and she was very excited to welcome all of the students back to class. This year, South Perth has 214 students enrolled, up from 202 last year. The school still has nine homerooms.

The school would like to welcome Mrs. Boyd, who is new from Upper Thames Elementary School in Mitchell, and will be teaching the senior kindergarten and Grade 1 class. Also new is Madame Charette, who will be teaching French and comes from Anne Hathaway Public School in Stratford.

Holy Name of Mary

Returning principal Jennifer Keene shared that Holy Name has 215 students registered this year, which is up from last year's 205.

The following are on staff for the

2025-2026 academic year:

Jennifer Keene (principal), Kim Connolly (office assistant), Melissa Kittmer (kindergarten A), Christina Boscarato (kindergarten DECE), Melanie Hughes (kindergarten B), Tayler McCann (kindergarten DECE), Abbaigeal OLeary (Grade 1), Ashley Low (Grade 2), Kathleen Cousins (Grade 3), Nancy Wojcik (Grade 3/4), Katie Simons (Grade 4/5), Sandra Gregus (kindergarten and itinerant), Sarah Becker Grade (6/7), David Landers (Grade 7/8), Stacey Rietmeyer (special education resource teacher), Tracie Dafoe (French), Kathleen Promane (music and itinerant), Kathy Rutledge (educational assistant), Lori Burlingham (educational assistant), Katie Hamilton (educational assistant), Carrie McKichan (educational assistant), Julie Ward (library technician), Chris Damon (custodian), Mike MacLean (custodian), Melodie Maddock (noon-hour monitor) and Meg Gracey (noon-hour monitor).

St. Marys DCVI

Principal Petra Goetz told the Independent the school's numbers are comparable to last year. The elementary classes have 132 registered with approximately 400 in the secondary grades. She said the first couple of weeks are extremely busy with the transition of the students from summer mode to school mode but then things will settle. The school has the same events as last year planned like the Terry Fox Run/Walk and Indigenous Week.

Goetz wants to welcome the school's new and a couple of returning staff: Denise Batten (technical resource assistant), Allyson Denstedt (long-term occasional teacher), Richard Farmer (welcome back), Ainsley Findlater (Grade 7A/supply), Elizabeth Herbert (long-term occasional teacher), Angela March (educational assistant), Rebecca Muller (student services secretary), Cooper Preszcatore (physical education), Erika Scheerer (student success teacher), Richard Sumstad (vice principal) and Adi Tecsca (Grade 7B).

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Sapphire Ink makes their mark during Humane Society's Fur-Ever Inked event

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

Animals in need will receive support from the region's humane society thanks to a tattooing event involving St. Marys' Sapphire Ink.

The Humane Society of Kitchener-Waterloo and Stratford-Perth (HSKWSP) held the Fur-Ever Inked fundraiser on Aug. 27 at the Stratford shelter. St. Marys tattoo shop Sapphire Ink participated and inked animal-related flash tattoo designs throughout the day, along with Mitchell's Ardent Ink Tattoo and supply company Eikon Device Inc.

"We had over 70 tattoos completed, which is awesome, and we raised over \$5,000 for the shelter and the animals we care for, so I would say it was very, very successful," said Alex McConnell, events and fundraising coordinator at HSKWSP.

Along with creating the tattoo designs, Sapphire Ink also provided a lot of supplies.

"We're just super thankful that Sapphire Ink was so nice and they volunteered and donated their time," McConnell said.

Justine Walker, co-owner of Sapphire Ink, said her husband and fellow co-owner, Brandon Walker, came across an advertisement for Fur-Ever Inked. Both agreed they should participate in the event.

"We actually adopted one of our cats from a shelter and we just like helping out," she said.

Justine Walker added that Sapphire Ink artists had a great time participating at the event.

"It was a really cool day. We enjoyed doing it and helping and everybody likes animals," Justine Walker said.

Proceeds from the event will support the HSKWSP's programming, mostly medical care and animal care like food, supplies and treats.

McConnell said the organization plans to have another Fur-Ever Inked event in Kitchener later in the fall.

"Now that we have this branding around it being Fur-Ever Inked, we want to do more in the future as well in Stratford," she said.

More information about the humane society's events and programming can be found online by visiting kwsphumane.ca.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF KINSEY WINGER)

The Humane Society of Kitchener-Waterloo and Stratford-Perth held a Fur-Ever Inked flash tattoo event in Stratford on Aug. 27. St. Marys' Sapphire Ink was part of the event and designed tattoos and provided supplies.

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St. Marys Museum builds community connections through education and events for the fall season

ALEX HUNT

Independent Reporter

The St. Marys Museum is extending its mission beyond exhibits, offering a mix of community events and programs that drew large crowds this summer and are expected to continue through the fall.

Emily Taylor, curator assistant at the St. Marys Museum, told the Independent visitor attraction has risen throughout the summer months, due in part to success from the annual Melodies at the Museum, the Summer in St. Marys Passport, as well as the children's scavenger hunt and outdoor lawn games. As summer programming concludes, the museum is eager to begin its fall lineup.

The museum kicked off the return of its popular Speaker Series recently, with the second talk set for Oct. 23 with a focus on the Rotary Club of St. Marys impact on the community in recognition of its 100th anniversary. The series concludes on Nov. 19 with a talk on the history of the quarries in St. Marys by Paul King and Larry Pfaff.

An upcoming exhibit called "Talking about Treaties 29" will tell the story of the Huron Tract purchase as well as explore local treaty history.

"In terms of developing the museum exhibits, we really do try to keep in mind what people are interested in and looking at what topics are missing or have not been discussed before," said Taylor. "We make sure we have the archival records to build the exhibit, and it develops from there. There is the hope



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The St. Marys Museum prepares for the coming of fall with a full lineup of programming, from its annual Speaker Series to Halloween festivities and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation events.

that people are able to know that the museum is a community space for them to come in and ask questions."

The St. Marys Museum is also marking the National Day for Truth and Rec-

onciliation on Sept. 30 by offering educational exhibits and interactive sessions focused on the history of residential schools. The programming highlights the history of Indigenous people in the

area while encouraging reflection, healing and allyship within the community.

"We want to make sure we are offering things that are very topical and that people are interested in," Taylor said. "Our summer programs are focused a lot in conjunction with other events happening in the community, and a lot of our fall events are linked with town programming."

In conjunction with the St. Marys Spooktacular event on Oct. 25, the museum will have two walking tours at the St. Marys Cemetery. More details about both events will be made available through the Town of St. Marys website.

With the Museum primarily running on donations, Taylor said the best way to get involved is to become a Friends of the St. Marys Museum member. Members gain access to the email list where they're able to get first dibs on program registration and explore what future events, programming and exhibits will be available.

"It's been so rewarding to have people come in and trust me with their questions, family belongings or archival material related to their family," Taylor said. "Every donation or story shared feels like a piece of St. Marys history is being preserved for future generations."

"It's meaningful to help connect people with their roots, to learn those personal stories and to see how they fit into the larger story of our community. For me, that trust, and those conversations are what makes working at the museum so special."



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Upcoming St. Marys Public Library events include craft nights, author visits and creative programs

ALEX HUNT

Independent Reporter

With fall ahead, the St. Marys Public Library is inviting residents to join a variety of autumnal events, including craft nights, author visits and other creative programs designed to engage the community and encourage learning.

On Sept. 18, the library will kick off its fall festivities with its Make A Custom Door Mat craft night, which sold out in under 48 hours. Materials will be provided and participants will be asked to make a donation to cover the cost of supplies.

"All kinds of people will come to our programming and we have our regulars, too, which we really love to see," said Laura McAsh, library clerk and programming and marking department facilitator. "It's a great feeling that the library is able to bring people together like this. There is so much community to be felt. It creates a place where people can connect with each other and connect with our inner artists."

"It's a creative outlet for people to try something that they don't have the time



(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

The team at the St. Marys Public Library welcomes all with open arms. Pictured are library clerk Rebecca Cousins and library page Shannon McCurdy.

or knowledge to do on their own. Make A Custom Door Mat night is a social night for people to get out and about.

It's a fairly simple craft; we are using acrylic paint and decorating the mats. We wanted an adult audience to have a night out, make something special and talk with some friends."

Coming up in October, Canadian Library Month will be celebrated followed

by Ontario Public Library Week, running from Oct. 19-25. This year, local libraries are combining their celebrations to recognize community programs and events.

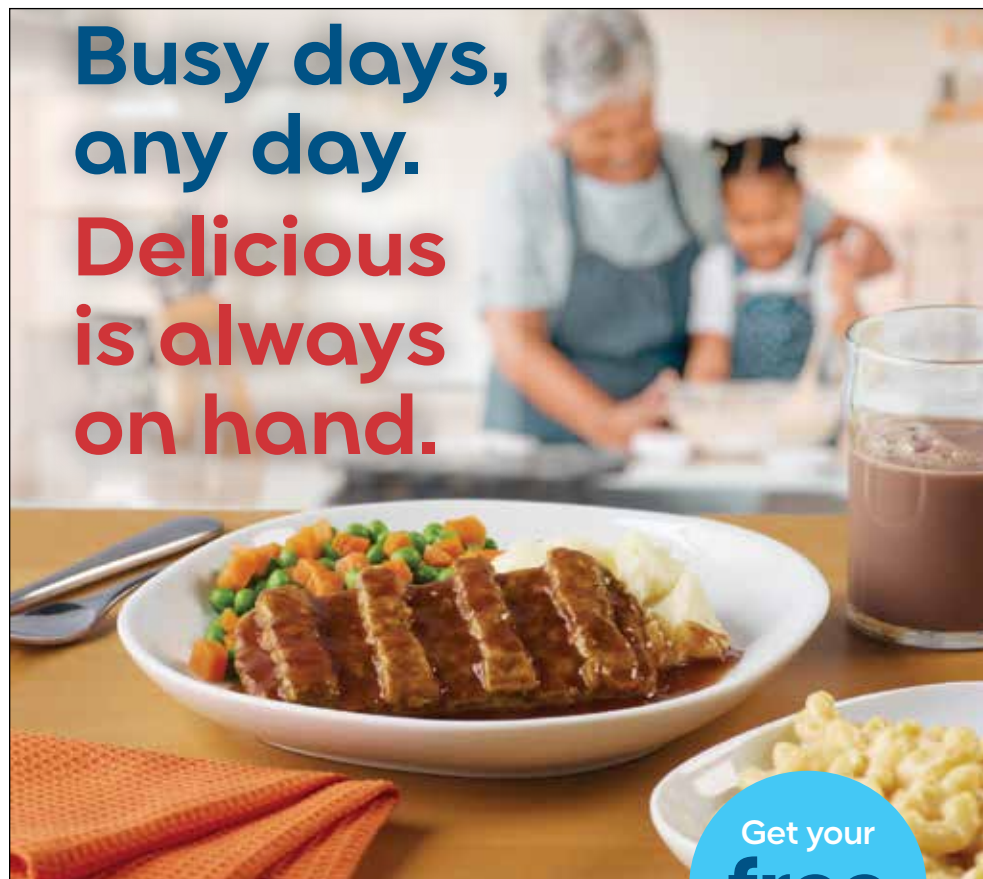
Additionally, libraries across the region will host themed activities and events tied to a selected title, giving readers of all ages the chance to engage with the story in interactive ways. This year's pick is Finding Larkspur: A return to Village Life by Dan Needles.

Each library has designed programs and activities to complement the book, encouraging community participation and discussion. The initiative aims to bring Perth County together through a shared reading experience while fostering a love of literature and learning.

At the end of October, Needles will visit the library.

"What I love most about my job is the opportunity to be creative while helping the public. Even though our library is small, we make it work by offering programs and events that go beyond books," said McAsh. "These activities create a space where people can learn, connect and engage with the community. Our library isn't just about reading, it's about bringing people together and providing experiences that matter to everyone who walks through our doors."

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Perth County Federation of Agriculture brings rural and urban residents together



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Pictured from left are Sara Wood, Perth County director and vice-president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture; Derek Vande Walle, president of the Perth County Federation of Agriculture; and Perth-Wellington MP John Nater. All took part in one-on-one discussions during Across the Table. Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae also attended but is not pictured.



(GARY WEST PHOTO)

Stratford recording artist Janna Leduc and her band provided live entertainment for the evening. Leduc also spends time recording and performing in Nashville.

GARY WEST

Independent Reporter

For the first time, the Perth County Federation of Agriculture (PCFA) hosted an evening designed to bring farmers and urban residents together for meaningful conversation about food production and

availability.

The event, called Across the Table, invited Stratford residents to meet the farmers who grow their food in the surrounding townships of Perth County. Stratford Mayor Martin Ritsma, who also farms just outside the city, co-organized the evening with PCFA directors and members.

The gathering, held in Ritsma's barn, drew more than 130 people who shared a meal of pork, chicken, homegrown potatoes and other locally sourced dishes. The Ellice Optimist Club and Perth County Pork Producers prepared and served the food.

Half of those in attendance were ur-

ban consumers while the other half were farmers representing commodities such as dairy, beef, poultry, eggs, grains and vegetables. Together, they discussed how food is produced, the challenges farmers face and the importance of agriculture as a major driver of Perth County's economy.

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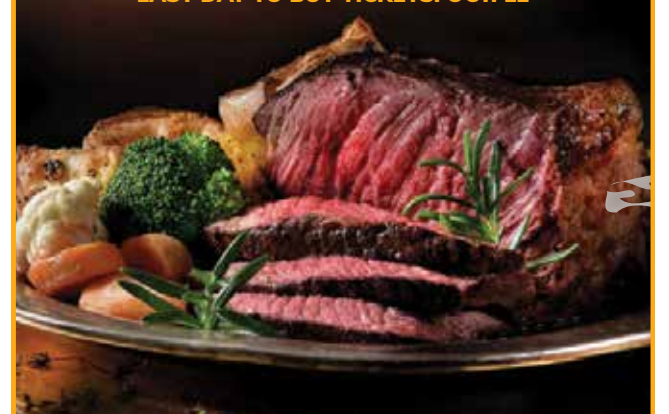
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Stratford singer-songwriter Nora Joy finding success with latest single, “Shine”

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Though she’s still in high school, Stratford’s Nora Stephens – known musically as Nora Joy – is finding some early success as the singer-songwriter continues to release singles and perform live across Stratford and the surrounding area.

At just 15, Stephens has already released three singles – “Starlight,” “I Like You” and, just earlier this month, “Shine.” She began writing music at the age of 11, combining her authentic perspective of the world and people around her with catchy melodies that bring listeners back to their own teenage years.

“My whole life, I’ve kind of grown up with music,” said Stephens, who has family ties to St. Marys on her dad’s side. “My parents are both very musical, so from a young age I was kind of just introduced to it. And then around 2018, we met some very musical friends, so during COVID ... we would sit around in the backyard and just play music. That’s how I got into writing songs because I love to write a song and then every week, we would come and share songs in a circle.

“It was cool to be around such a supportive group. They’re my parents’ friends, so they’re like professional musicians and they would offer critiques, but in such a thoughtful way. It was a really cool environment to first start sharing my music.”

Taking inspiration from life, love and



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

Fifteen-year-old Nora Stephens, known musically as Nora Joy, is experiencing success as a singer-songwriter after releasing three singles with a full debut album to come.

her friends, Stephens’ music has been making an impact with one of her earliest songs, “Tell Me Why,” featured in the anti bully campaign at her middle years school in 2021.

Stephens was selected as an Ontario Youth Discoveries Competition winner in 2024 and was awarded the opportunity to perform at the Owen Sound Summerfolk Festival. Her solo-acoustic performance was noted in the press as one of the key highlights of the festival.

She was also personally invited by

Canadian songwriter Ron Sexsmith, also a resident of Stratford, to perform and share the stage with him at his celebrated and sold-out Sexsmith At Sixty concert in August 2024. Shortly thereafter, she travelled to the prestigious Eastcote Studios in London, UK, to sing backing vocals on Sexsmith’s 2025 album, Hangover Terrace.

“When I first started writing, I loved to write about people in my life because I felt like it was a really easy connection to make when I was younger because I

just knew everyone in my life so well; it was just easy to kind of incorporate into my songs,” Stephens said. “But as I’ve grown up, I like to write about changes in my life – going into high school was a really big thing -- ... to kind of put it into perspective. It kind of helps me (process what I’m going through), and then I hope it can help other people who are going through the same things.”

Stephens’ latest single, “Shine,” which she released on Aug. 5, is about chasing her dreams and not giving up, a sentiment that has served her well as she continues to expand her musical offerings, which will include a debut album at some point in the future.

Stephens has also been performing live at venues across Stratford including at The Starlight, Livery Yard, The Bunker and even at this weekend’s Rotary Dragon Boat Festival on Sept. 13.

“I was playing with Ron Sexsmith last summer, so I sang one of his songs at his Sexsmith At Sixty show and a guy was there that saw me perform and offered to have me sing at the Dragon Boat Festival,” Stephens said. “So, I sang there last year and I’m doing the same thing this year. It’s pretty cool. I just play in the beer tent. It’s super chill but there are so many people, which is nice because it introduces me to other audiences.”

To listen to all three of Stephens’ singles and to stay up to date on everything she is doing, visit www.norajoymusic.com.



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St. Marys Rotary Club launches Centennial Washroom Project to support education in Kenya

ROTARY CLUB OF ST. MARYS

Contributed Article

The Rotary Club of St. Marys is commemorating its 100th anniversary by investing in the future of young people half a world away.

In partnership with a secondary school in Kenya, the club is funding and constructing new washroom facilities to create a healthier, safer learning environment and improve education outcomes, especially for teenage girls.

Lack of sanitary washrooms is a major barrier to education for girls in many parts of Kenya, often leading to preventable health challenges and school absenteeism. The new facilities will address these obstacles, supporting girls to stay in school, avoid health issues and pursue brighter futures.

“Rotary has always believed in ‘Service Above Self.’ By helping students in Kenya, we’re living our values beyond borders and celebrating a century of making a difference,” said Andrew Middleton, Kenyan project organizer for the Rotary Club of St. Marys. “This project

is about ensuring no child’s learning is interrupted by something as basic – and solvable – as access to a clean washroom.”

In November 2025, 14 Rotarians and supporters will travel to Kenya at their own expense to work alongside local volunteers in completing the washrooms. All funds raised will go directly to project costs.

The club invites all community members to join its final project fundraising event, a charity golf tournament at River Valley on Saturday, Sept. 20. Registration information is available on the club’s website, rotarystmarys.ca, or through local newspaper advertisements.

Rotary Club of St. Marys:

Founded in 1925, the Rotary Club of St. Marys is part of Rotary International, a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change. For 100 years, the club has served St. Marys and beyond through projects that promote health, education and community spirit.



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Vintage tractor parade visits residents at Kingsway, Wildwood



(STEWART GRANT PHOTOS)

Administrators at Kingsway Lodge, Fairhill Residence and Wildwood Care Centre are always looking for different ways to keep their residents engaged, and this past Tuesday, Sept. 2 was certainly a memorable experience as several area farmers took time to bring their old tractors to town. Seventeen different vehicles of all different colours and age made their way first to Kingsway Lodge and then traveled with a police escort west on Queen Street before arriving at Wildwood Care Centre. Pictured top right, the big threshing machine attracted quite a bit of attention and served as the feature item at the back of the parade much like Santa's sleigh is the pinnacle of the Christmas Parade. In the bottom right, local farmer John McIntosh enjoyed a visit with Kingsway employee Laurie Smith and resident Henny Kempen.



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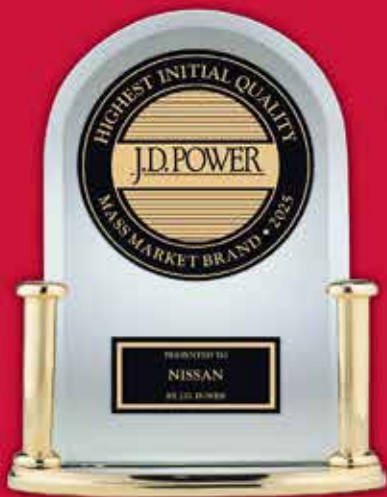
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St. Marys Independent **SPORTS**

‘Ingredients are there’ for youthful yet strong Lincolns’ squad

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

It isn’t a shock that the St. Marys Lincolns begin the 2025-2026 campaign with a younger squad than last season.

However, according to head coach and assistant general manager Jeff Bradley, that doesn’t mean the team lacks potential.

“Last year, when we had camp, it was to get prepared for the season,” Bradley told the Independent. “This year, you’re trying to prepare for the season and evaluate players who we haven’t seen a ton of before. The ingredients are definitely there and now we as a coaching staff have a job to do to get the most out of those ingredients.”

Experience is the most obvious difference between the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Lincolns’ teams. In the 2025 post-season, 14 players were either 19 or 20 years old. Bradley contrasted the different approaches that came with having an older roster last year to the one the Lincolns begin the season with, which features just seven players in either their last or second-last season of junior eligibility.

“It’s definitely more of a teaching year, but we’re really happy with the individuals we have,” said Bradley. “We as a coaching staff are really excited because we can tell from the questions being asked, the way the kids practice and their preparation they want to learn, they want to get better and they want to succeed. You can tell there is already a bond being built with the new and returning guys. Last year, we were focused on results right from day one, whereas this year, we’re a lot more focused on the process.”

Four of those seven veterans, along with second-year forward Chase McDougall, make up the core of the forward group. Bradley noted he is optimistic about their veteran forwards’ ability to lead and step up into larger roles.

“Even though we only have five returning players, we still have some junior experience there. We know what to expect out of Lincoln (Moore), Chase (MacQueen-Spence) and Owen (Voortman), but it’s a huge year for Blake (Elzinga). In the playoffs last year, that was when Blake showed his best. From my experience, guys really take that step in their 19-year-old season and Blake is going to get that chance to have more powerplay and top-six minutes than in the past. We know he can do it and I think he’s been one of, if not our best player at camp.

“With Chase (McDougall) coming in as a 16-year-old last year, 16-year-olds



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

usually come in as offensive players, but with the experience our forward group had last year, Chase didn’t get the opportunities he is going to get this year,” Bradley continued. “The great thing about having guys like the ones we have coming back is they love playing for this team and this community, and whose expectations are very high.”

Bradley further analyzed the mix of new players joining the Lincolns’ forward group, expressing excitement for what the fresh faces can add.

“Jack (Clarke), Declan (Ready) and Nathan (Enwright) are three guys with junior experience. Declan and Nathan played in the Ontario Junior Hockey League (OJHL), and Jack played in the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) and then in our league with Elmira, so there’s a good bit of experience and skill there. The skill level David (Heath) has is off the charts. It’s just about learning how to play with guys older than him, but everything we’ve seen so far, he does the right things and looks like he can make that adjustment.

“Then we’ve got guys like Thomas (Paleczny), Chace (Stokley), Zach (Holeschek) and Devun (Colebrook),” added Bradley. “They compete hard and they seem really excited to play for our team. I can tell Devun is going to be a really good player, but all of them have the potential to be really good pieces to our team.”

Associate coach Mike Herman, who runs the defence and penalty kill, had high praise for this year’s crop of blueliners.

“This is my fourth year here and this is for sure the deepest defence core in terms of across-the-board talent,” Herman said. “We play a style where our defenders are very active, so a lot of guys aren’t used to it when they first get here, but I’m really impressed with the quality of the kids, the talent level and the will and want to get better.”

Herman added every member of the back end has made a good impression on the coaching staff.

“Jacob (Montesi) and Owen (Kalp) are our anchors. They’re the model for how we want the younger guys to play. Evan (Roach) is a returning guy, but he hasn’t been here that long and he’s getting a better understanding of how we do things. All of our new guys have been really good. If I were to pick out one for their offensive ability, it’s Jakub (Drobny). He has really good offensive instincts back there. James (MacGregor) has stood out for his maturity. He’s already almost like another coach on the bench. He’s asked amazing questions and suggested some things that we’ve implemented. And Luke (McMillan) and Will (Wright) have been great for us, too.”

When discussing the additions of first-year Lincolns Jakub Drobny, James MacGregor, Luke McMillan and Will Wright, Herman remarked on the quartet’s approach being that of much more experienced players.

“The younger guys’ confidence has blown me away,” said Herman. “They almost seem to have the mentalities of veterans because they aren’t afraid to

make plays or make mistakes. Our mobility is one part that I like; everyone back there has good feet. And number two is they are all smart and have high hockey IQs. To me, if you have those as your foundation, everything else you can figure out.”

In goal, the Lincolns begin the season with two netminders new to the league in 19-year-old Brogan Colquhoun and 16-year-old Vaughn Barr, both of whom Bradley said the organization believes in strongly.

“Brogan is a very mature kid. He’s experienced junior hockey at multiple levels and has been successful at each level. As for Vaughn, he skated with us last year and we have high expectations for him. We know he’s a really good goalie, but we have to keep in mind that he’s a 16-year-old goalie, so he’s used to playing kids his own age. But with his talent and the great goalie coach we have in Chris (Billingsley), Vaughn looks like he can be the real deal.”

While growing pains are likely for a team with so much youth, the talent and drive appear to be there for the Lincolns to have another good season, with the bench boss calling patience the biggest element in the group’s development.

“Chemistry is a big thing,” Bradley said. “You look at our teams in the past; the chemistry amongst some of those players had been built up from how much time they spent together and how much they practiced and played together. We don’t have that yet, but we have smart and skilled players who are good kids, they compete hard and they just need a little time to find that chemistry.”

The Lincolns begin their regular season with the home opener on Sept. 12 against the Sarnia Legionnaires. The Lincolns plan to have a local food supplier outside the Pyramid Recreation Centre’s (PRC) poolside entrance, beginning at the same time the ticket gate opens at 6:30 p.m. and running for approximately two hours. The team is also running a giveaway of 150 water bottles for kids under 15.

There will be a special opening ceremony before the game begins, ringing in the new season and introducing each player as well as the team’s leadership group. The home opener is also the last chance for fans to buy season passes at the early bird price of \$140 for adults, \$130 for seniors (aged 65+) and students (12-17), \$80 for children (six to 11), or \$400 for the family bundle, which includes two adults and two students/children.

Celebrating 50 years at Science Hill Country Club



Dave Zehr, Mike Staffen, Bill Scheuremann and Don Furtney celebrate a hole-in-one by Mike Staffen.



Kathy Carradine, Su Heise, Matthew Laporte and Connor Louwagie pose with cutouts of longtime Science Hill Country Club owners Jim and Nan McCann.



Jim and Nan McCann, Rhonda Tucker, and Paul Bender at Science Hill Country Club's 50th anniversary retro golf scramble tournament Sept. 6.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

McCann for two years, spoke about the changes that she has seen over the past few years – not just about the golf course, but within Jim McCann himself. “We are now in our fourth year with new ownership. The changes that have happened since then have blown his mind – things that they never would have done (like putting a halfway house in with new washrooms, adding a beer cart, hiring additional staff).” “To see the changes we have had and to see him; he is happier. He is a happier person because he’s out here golfing three times a week. He’s smiling. I’m really glad that I worked with Jim for the first couple of years and learned so much. I love him like my dad. And the family ... to bring Izzy (Reid, Jim’s granddaughter) back from Winnipeg and have her come and work for us is fantastic. All of these members have known

her since she was wee, so it’s very cool.” Tucker said bridging the gap between Science Hill still being a family-operated business and having a small-town feel to what her boss (Southside Group, a London-based conglomerate) requires as a profitable golf course production has been a challenge, but one they have succeeded at. Southside Group’s investment in the golf course is still growing. In November 2026, the first of three phases of housing development is projected to begin, utilizing some of the 130 acres of land the company owns to the south side of Science Hill’s 17th hole. Fifty lots are planned for phase one, with about 70 lots in phase two and another 50 or so lots in phase three – all for year-round living. “They’re construction people,” said Tucker, discussing the competence of the Southside team. “They build houses, developments, they’ve done high rises,

they’ve done everything in London.” Recently, a key investment was made in the maintenance of the golf course through the hiring of St. Marys native Dan Stockdale as the new superintendent. Stockdale brings a wealth of experience in the golf industry, working at elite golf courses in BC and Muskoka after gaining his turf-care education at Pennsylvania State University years ago. “I talked to Sandy Fifield (longtime superintendent at St. Marys Golf and Country Club who assisted Science Hill recently) and she was like, ‘If you can get him, that’s fantastic, you guys are in good hands.’ ” Stockdale is the latest local addition to a strong service team that is being built at Science Hill. When asked about this year’s staffing levels, Tucker counted more than 20 employees combined split between grounds crew, kitchen and serving, and pro shop. It’s certainly a

huge jump from the McCann days, but it’s appropriate given how busy things have become. Membership was capped at 170 this past year, green-fee play was very active and their 72 campground sites were all full. “Long gone is the day where you can just drive up here on a Friday afternoon and not have to make a tee time and just walk out.” With reasonable prices and quality food, the restaurant has been busy all year, and the anniversary tournament was sold out completely. Max Smith provided musical entertainment while Dave Shepley and Dan Armstrong have each performed periodically on Friday and Saturday nights earlier in the year. Tucker summed up their success simply. “It’s word of mouth and because it’s a small town, if you do it right, people will come.”



Roland Tourigny, Tom Rankin and Murray Richardson celebrate Science Hill Country Club's 50th anniversary in their best '70s attire.



Ian Shotton and Carrie Shotton at the Science Hill Country Club's 50th anniversary golf scramble tournament.

MINOR SPORTS **SCRAPBOOK**



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Jovi Sass swings and gets a hit during a St. Marys Cement U9 HP Blue St. Marys Rockies game earlier this season.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Carter Van Wieren launches the ball through the air during a St. Marys Firefighters U9 OBA St. Marys Rockies game earlier this season.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Clark Monteith swings at the approaching ball while on the field for the Happy Valley Family Health Team U11 EB St. Marys Rockies game earlier this season.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Ayden Eidt kicks the ball towards the net during a U14 Boys Tier Three St. Marys Storm game earlier this season.



(TURNER ROTH PHOTO)

Daxton Thistle drives the net for a scoring chance during a U11 Boys Tier Two St. Marys Storm game earlier this season.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Easton Taylor boots the ball into the box during a U12 Boys Tier Three St. Marys Storm game earlier this season.

MINOR SPORTS

SCRAPBOOK



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Clare Jacobs hits the ball to the outfield during a Stonetown Electric U13 HP St. Marys Rockies game earlier this season.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Jacob Savile winds up to toss the ball from the outfield during a Cubberley Plumbing and Heating U14 OBA St. Marys Rockies game earlier this season.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Harvey Terpstra makes a throw from the outfield during a U11 WOBA St. Marys Rockies game earlier this season.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Danika Terpstra blasts the ball up the field during a U14 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm game earlier this season.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Cody King rockets the ball over to first base during a Red Rock Construction U16 OBA St. Marys Rockies game earlier this season.



(TURNER ROTH PHOTO)

Aryn Sheldon sprints in and winds back for a shot on goal during a U16 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm game earlier this season.

MINOR SPORTS

SCRAPBOOK



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Natalie Hibbert makes a throw towards first base during a Royal Canadian Legion U9 HP Red St. Marys Rockies game earlier this season.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Jacob Zwambag cracks the ball off the bat during a Dunny's Source For Sports U9 WOBA Blue St. Marys Rockies game earlier this season.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Sydney Grant sends a shot on target during a U18 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm game earlier this season.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Kyle Johnson kicks a loose ball out of the air during a U10 Boys Tier Two St. Marys Storm game earlier this season.



(TURNER ROTH PHOTO)

Xander Van Nes plays the ball through the midfield during a U11 Boys Tier Three St. Marys Storm game earlier this season.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Aisla Fisher directs the ball into the box for a scoring opportunity during a U12 Girls Tier Two St. Marys Storm game earlier this season.

MINOR SPORTS

SCRAPBOOK



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
Hailey Wilson dashes onto first base during a McLean Taylor Construction U11 HP St. Marys Rockies game earlier this season.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
Joey Brown unloads a pitch during a St. Marys Building Centre U13 EB St. Marys Rockies game earlier this season.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
Mark Richardson heaves a pitch from the mound during a Forman Electric U13 OBA St. Marys Rockies game earlier this season.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
Maeve Sheldon registers a hit during a Wildwood Care Centre U15 HP St. Marys Rockies game earlier this season.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
Will Richardson whips the ball to first base during a Veterinary Purchasing Ltd. U15 WOBA St. Marys Rockies game earlier this season.



(TURNER ROTH PHOTO)
Jared Ballantyne throws the ball to first base for an out during a Social Thirty-One U18 OBA St. Marys Rockies game earlier this season.

Annual Kirkton Fair held last weekend



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTOS)

Above left: Siblings Charlie, Sonny and Elwyn Grose were happy to stop by for a picture for the Independent newspaper. Above middle: Hanna Edye and daughter Anayna enjoyed playing a game of connect four at the Kirkton Fair. Above right: Proud parents Ryan and Elizabeth Balfour entered their one-month-old identical twin boys, Owen and Luke, in the baby contest at Kirkton Fair and won cutest twins in the 0-5 month category..

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

"WHERE FARM MEETS FUN"

SEPTEMBER

19 – 21, 2025

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

5:00 p.m. Gates open to Public
6:00 p.m. Midway Opens (\$3/ride)
7:00 p.m. **Opening Ceremonies at the Community Centre**
Crowning of 2025 Fair Ambassador;
Awards: Homecraft, Youth Fair, School Fair; Field Crops; Service & Special Recognition; Lil Ambassador; Greetings from Dignitaries; Pie Auction

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

8:00 a.m. Gates open to the Public (buy your weekend pass)
11:00 a.m. Midway opens (pay 1 price begins at 12-4)
Parade leaves Thorndale Country Mills

IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

10:00 a.m. Homecraft, Youth Fair, School Fair Exhibits
3:30 p.m. Bingo! All ages! **FREE!**
6:00 p.m. Community Centre Exhibits closes

OUTSIDE ATTRACTIONS

11:00 a.m. Midway opens (pay 1 price begins at 12 pm)
Thames Valley Modular Railroad Display opens
Education display & Pony Rides open
FREE horse-drawn wagon rides begin (until 4 p.m.) (Henderson Yost Livestock Pavilion)
Thorndale Lions Ag Awareness Tent
1:00 p.m. Foot Race Registration (outfield on Diamond 3)
Horse Pull Competition (Horse Pen)
2:00 p.m. Foot Races begin (check out categories on page 29 in the book)
3:00 p.m. Social Tent opens on Diamond 4
3:30 p.m. Snowmobile Drag Racing begins - see map for new location - sponsored by CCEX, MW Fabrications, Oxford Forklift Services & Ryan Elliott's Repair
7:30 p.m. Social tent musical act Dave Collins Music sponsored by Bob & Melanie Sorensen, Sutton Group Sales Representatives

OUTDOOR STAGE

12:00 p.m. Trevor Pyka
1:00 p.m. Heartbreak Duo
2:00 p.m. Trevor Pyka
3:00 p.m. Heartbreak Duo

HEEMAN'S FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT ZONE (Kids of all ages)

11:00 a.m. **FREE** Face Painting and Balloon Creations until 4 p.m. sponsored by of Rosewood by Sifton Properties
12:00 p.m. The Fun Foam Company
12:30 p.m. Bentastic & Magic Mel
1:00 p.m. The Fun Foam Company
1:30 p.m. Bentastic & Magic Mel
2:00 p.m. The Fun Foam Company
2:30 p.m. Bentastic & Magic Mel
3:30 p.m. Loonie in the Straw

LIVESTOCK SHOWS

12:00 p.m. Arabian, Derby Pit, Open and Stock Horses Show sponsored by Plover Mills Commodities
12:30 pm 4H Dairy Show sponsored by Throndale Country Mills
1:00 p.m. Horse Pull sponsored by the Agomart Group

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

8:00 a.m. Gates Open to Public
11:00 a.m. Midway opens (pay 1 price begins at 12-4)
4:00 p.m. Community Centre Exhibit Rooms closed
4:30 p.m. Exhibits pick-up

IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

10:00 a.m. Homecraft, Youth Fair, School Fair Exhibits
Church Service
12:00 p.m. Baby Show Registration
12:30 p.m. Baby Show (every baby gets a prize)

OUTSIDE ATTRACTIONS

10:00 a.m. Thames Valley Modular Railroad Display opens
11:00 a.m. Midway opens (pay 1 price begins at 12 pm)
FREE horse-drawn wagon ridesrides begin (Henderson Yost Livestock Pavilion)
12:30 p.m. Registration/check-in for Farmer Olympics
1:00 p.m. Pickleball Tournament
NEW - Farmer Olympics sponsored by Wellburn Agomart
2:30 p.m. Antique Tractor Parade
3:00 p.m. Demolition Derby presented by Edge Motorsports sponsored by Goris Electric & Goris Rentals, TRS

OUTDOOR STAGE:

11:30 a.m. Trevor Pyka
12:30 p.m. Heartbreak Duo
1:30 p.m. Trevor Pyka
2:30 p.m. Heartbreak Duo

HEEMAN'S FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT ZONE (Kids of all ages)

11:00 a.m. **FREE** Face Painting and Balloon Creations until 4 p.m. sponsored by Rosewood by Sifton Properties
Creative Club - LEGO tent (11-3) sponsored by Big Steel Box
11:30 a.m. Comedy 2.0
12:00 p.m. Pet Show Registration
Pedal Tractor Obstacle Course (until 2) - all participants to receive a prize sponsored by Dick Masse Homes
12:30 p.m. Pet Show sponsored by Middlesex Egg Farmers (see page 20 in the book for classes)
1:00 p.m. Comedy 2.0
2:30 p.m. Comedy 2.0

LIVESTOCK SHOWS

9:00 a.m. Western Horse Show sponsored by Kintore Boxes
10:30 a.m. Haflinger Horse Show & Heavy Horse Show sponsored by Nuview Farms, The Johnson's
1:00 p.m. 4-H Beef Show sponsored by Thorndale Country Mills

CHECK OUT ALL THE FUN AT

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Twitter: @thorndalefair

ALL WEEKEND LONG

Antique Farm Equipment Display

Commercial Outdoor Displays

Poultry Building

Candy Counting Contest (by the office)

Wagon Rides

MIDWAY ALL WEEKEND



Veteran Affairs Canada defines a veteran as “any former member of the Canadian Armed Forces who successfully underwent basic training and is honorably released”. This includes personnel who served as reservists. There is no minimum time required in service, and no need to have seen military action.

It is possible that service men and women who served for even short periods of time may be eligible for monetary awards in compensation for injuries that can be related to their time in uniform.

The Royal Canadian Legion is ready and willing to help all veterans, whether they are Legion members or not. If you believe there is even a small chance that you may be entitled to this assistance, please don’t hesitate to give us a call.

The Provincial Service Officer, Britany Campbell, will be visiting the Perth Regiment Veterans Branch 236 St. Marys during the week of October 8-10. Her job is to use a variety of resources to assist veterans in obtaining all awards they are eligible for. Anyone who would like to discuss a possible claim with her is urged to call the Branch Service Officer, Mike Rumble at 519-317-9410 no later than September 11, 2025 to set up an appointment.



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Golf and BBQ - \$95
BBQ only - \$60
Donations online

Register Online
rotarystmarys.ca

SEPTEMBER 20, 2025
River Valley Golf Club

Schedule

1:30	Registration
2:30	Shotgun Start
5:00	Drinks & African Nibbles
6:15	Kenyan BBQ

All proceeds support Rotary Club of St. Marys Centenary International Project in Kenya.

THANK YOU!

On August 21, we hosted our **sold-out** 32nd Annual Golf Tournament and are thrilled to share that it raised a **record-breaking \$30,000** in support of the new X-ray machine at St. Marys Memorial Hospital!

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St. Marys Home Building Centre
St. Marys Insurance Group
Sylvite Agri-Services
Veterinary Purchasing



St. Marys
HEALTHCARE
FOUNDATION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Join the St. Marys Lions Club – serve your community with pride

Are you looking for a meaningful way to give back to your community? Do you want to meet great people, make a difference and be part of something bigger than yourself? The St. Marys Lions Club is looking for new members and we'd love for you to join us!

Those were what motivated us to join. My husband and I officially joined in February 2024. We joined after they supported my husband for the 2023 Wheelchair Curling National Championships held in Moose Jaw, Sask. We attended a meeting to personally thank them for supporting the team. After that meeting, we discussed it and attended a couple more. I only wish I had joined sooner.

I've learned a lot from the current members and there is so much more to learn. There are opportunities to learn many skills on the Lions International Learning Portal, as well as opportunities to attend local conventions, international conventions held in different locations each year, as well as the United Nations. It's on my bucket list to attend one of the international conventions and how cool would it be to get to see the UN?

Then there's the best part of all; the feeling of giving back and being a part of my community, not to mention the fun we have together at our meetings and events, meeting new people from

other community Lions Clubs and other service clubs and making lasting memories together.

Since I've joined, I always find myself watching for the Lions International signage on my travels and I always chuckle to myself for looking for them along with the Lions memorials, trying to see how many I can spot and feeling a sense of comradeship while passing through.

Since 1940, the St. Marys Lions have been serving our town with pride and dedication. From supporting local families and youth programs to organizing community events and fundraising for important causes, we are committed to building a stronger, more caring St. Marys together.

What We Do:

- Support local food banks
- Sponsor youth sports, scholarships and leadership programs
- Provide vision care and support health initiatives
- Host events like the Toll Bridge, Pancake breakfast, Car Show, Bottle Drive
- Collaborate with events like Community Dinner, Horticultural Society Garden Fair, Salvation Army Christmas Kettle
- Collaborate with downtown merchants in putting up Canada Flags in the downtown core

• Raise funds for community improvements and global aid

• Lions TV Bingo, Milk chocolate Easter bunnies, Gas Card Draw, Grade 1 vision screening, Lions Eye Glasses recycling program and Koats 4 Kids

• Some of our past initiatives include the revitalization of the Opera House, the Santa Claus Parade, Skate Park, Winter Lights at the Flats and, most recently, collaboration with other local service clubs for the St. Marys Youth Centre upgrades.

Why Join?

• Make a real difference – Your time and energy go directly into improving the lives of those around you.

• Meet new people – Connect with a fun, diverse and dedicated group of local volunteers.

• Grow your skills – Gain leadership experience, organize projects and learn new things.

• Be part of a global movement – Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service organization with over 1.4 million members worldwide.

Everyone over the age of 18 is welcome

Whether you're new to town, recently retired, or a working professional looking to get involved, there's a place for you in the St. Marys Lions Club.

Let's build a better St. Marys together.

• Come to a meeting, volunteer at an event, or just reach out to learn more!

• Meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month, from September to June

• Contact us: stmlions1940@gmail.com or Facebook messenger www.facebook.com/stmaryslionsdistricta15/

• Learn more: www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/stmaryson

Our club celebrated our 85th charter anniversary this year. Without new members, our club may not see future anniversaries and several events the community has come to love will disappear. It takes people. Will you be one of them? Will you heed the Lions call and join our pride?

If you'd like to be my guest at our next meeting on Sept. 16, give me a shout at 226-376-4107. Be sure to leave me a message and I'll get back to you. You can also message us on Facebook or reach out to a Lions Club member you may know.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I hope you'll consider joining us.

We are the Lions – and together, we serve.

*Regards,
Lion Dawn Reynen, St. Marys*

Master plan for 14 Church Street North doesn't make sense

I am writing this letter to express my displeasure towards our town council who recently approved a seemingly ill-conceived master plan for 14 Church St. N that will end up raising taxes by over 2 per cent when completed.

The reasons stated for what this property will be used for and why we need to spend an additional \$4 million to reno-

vate makes no sense! The so-called need, such as a "hang-out" space, is already available at the library or Friendship Centre and Pyramid Recreation Centre (PRC) for this purpose. As for needing more office space, this clearly suggests the hiring of more staff. Building two sound studios also makes no sense! Most sound studios are developed privately if

there is a demand. With current technology, you have a good sound studio at home. The other big reason, "storage space," only says one thing, that there is too much junk somewhere! Rent a storage container or toss some out.

I do hope that council and the CAO come to their senses and reconsider the need and rationale before spending \$4

million of your taxpayers' dollars that will increase their taxes by 2 per cent or more, especially as there is no government funding to support this project.

Taxes in St. Marys are already higher than most towns our size in Ontario.

*Sincerely,
Nelson Goad, St. Marys*

In response to the master plan for 14 Church Street North

I am responding to the article written in the Sept. 4 edition of the St. Marys Independent, "St. Marys council approves master plan for 14 Church St. N." I want to extend my very sincere thank-you to the town for purchasing this building with the foresight to preserve a piece of our town's heritage and the consideration to repurpose it for use by our community today and in the future.

Reading this article, I have to also ex-

press my disappointment with the cost of operations, capital costs etc. I am hoping that the town councillors/administration will continue to have some discussion about how this building/it's continued use is going to cover its costs now and in the future without having to always resort to raising taxes. All households in this community are struggling with increasing costs for basic necessities. I don't think this requires any fur-

ther explanation; with the cost of living, it is getting increasingly harder to save for the future. Over the last five years, there has been an increase in taxes. How much more is the average family suppose to absorb?

I appreciate the expressed interest to apply for government grants to offset the costs to maintain this building and its operations, however, it can't stop there! In the building's plan, there are meet-

ing rooms, multipurpose spaces and two sound studios for use. Considering these design elements, has the town not considered applying user fees and rental costs passed on to the individual/group using the space? There has to be some creative thinking in how this building is maintained without always going to the taxpayer.

*Sincerely,
Teresa Barresi, St. Marys*

Thanks to local Ukrainians for sharing their newcomer experiences

Each week, I look forward to reading the Ukrainian Corner, first written by V. J. Knutson, of whom I am in awe, and now by various new members of our community.

This week's column by Alona Vasylyeva really moved me.

Her level of gratitude should resonate and remind us all how incredibly lucky we are.

The feeling that Alona would feel so welcomed and like "a long-lost relative" should make us all very proud.

Keep up the good work, St. Marys! To our "new relatives," please contin-

ue to teach us about your beautiful country, Ukraine!

I look forward to the column each and every week.

Heather Parkinson, St. Marys



FOR HALL RENTALS CALL 519.271.5343

Sun. Aug. 31 - Linda Longhurst, Stratford	\$50.00
Mon. Sept. 01 - Ethan Bond, Komoka	\$1000.00
Tues. Sept. 02 - Stephen Bender, St. Marys	\$50.00
Wed. Sept. 03 - Robin Mountain, St. Marys	\$50.00
Thur. Sept. 04 - Greg Luyten, St. Marys	\$50.00
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COLUMNS

UKRAINIAN CORNER: A flight attendant's guide to grounding

ALONA VASYLIEVA

Independent Columnist

When we told our family and friends in Ukraine that we were moving to Canada, the reaction was almost universal.

"Oh my God, it's too cold! Be ready for that."

It became a running joke. While waiting for our visas, I started my research.

My research told me that Ontario and British Columbia were the job hubs, the promised lands of opportunity with "mild" weather. The catch? They were also the toughest places to get permanent residency. I knew many Ukrainians who took the strategic route; endure a cold prairie winter, secure their permanent status and then, like migratory birds, fly south to a warmer province. We, however, chose a different path. We headed straight for Ontario, but instead of the bustling GTA (Greater Toronto Area), we chose a cozy, small town.

Three years later, we have zero regrets. Yes, we're still on a temporary worker permit, but we've found something so important – we've found a place where we can truly enjoy all four seasons, not just hibernate for eight months of the year. You can't get a real feel for the country if you're just hunkering down and suffering through a Manitoba deep freeze.

I've heard so much about British Columbia. We'll definitely visit, but it seems like you pay a premium for everything just to avoid snow. It's like traveling on a Swiss train and paying not for the ticket, but for the stunning views through the window. Before last winter, I would have said Ontario's climate was a lot like Ukraine's, but that was before we were buried in a truly impressive amount of snow. My Ukrainian friends and I still look at Canadians in awe when they stroll around in shorts and a light sweater at 5°C, sipping an iced latte. It's a shocking sight! But I'm making progress – I was brave enough to go without a scarf when it was a balmy 10°C. Baby steps.

The one silver lining to the cold, I've discovered, is that it gives you a legal excuse to bake more pies and cookies and make your home incredibly cozy. It's an official-unofficial Canadian pastime, and



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

A Ukrainian immigrant shares her personal "manual" for life in Canada, revealing how she learned to love the cold, embrace the seasons and find a sense of belonging in a cozy Ontario town.

I am wholeheartedly embracing it.

I was born and raised in eastern Ukraine. I studied international journalism, but my career in that field was short-lived – a few months on a local TV channel and that was it. A year later, I applied to become a flight attendant for a national airline in Kyiv. The hiring process was an epic journey: a months-long marathon to prove your health was strong enough to handle life at 10,000 metres, with jet lag and overnight flights.

Moving to Kyiv for the job felt like stepping into a movie. One day you're in Paris, the next you're heading to Bangkok and the day after that, you have a business trip to the Canary Islands. It was a whirlwind and I loved the fast pace.

But there were some moments that would drive me crazy. To be a flight attendant in Ukraine, you had to be the picture of perfection; a model's body, flawless nails, impeccable hair, no tat-

toos, no scars, makeup always on, uniform always ironed. I was fine with the strict rules; they helped me to keep fit. The hardest part was the unpredictability. A day off on your schedule meant nothing. You had to be constantly on call. This taught me to be ready for anything at a moment's notice. To this day, I can get ready for any occasion in 15 minutes and I still wash my hair every single day, just in case, you know, I need to be ready to fly somewhere.

The job was physically demanding. A single day could stretch to 14 hours, dealing with 200 angry, hungry passengers when a flight was delayed. But looking back, I wouldn't trade those experiences for anything. They made me who I am.

When I found out I was pregnant, I went on maternity leave immediately. It's not safe to fly at that pace when you're pregnant. In Ukraine, women have the right to take a three-year ma-

ternity leave, which I know is practically unheard of in Canada. But for many Ukrainian families, living comfortably on a single income isn't an option.

So, when my airline launched new direct flights from Kyiv to Toronto, I was ready. I was just about to have my first baby, but I remember thinking, "Next time! I'll be on that crew and Canada, here I come!"

Well, life had other plans. Four years later, I did arrive in Canada, but instead of a business trip, it was a one-way ticket with my family, fleeing the war.

As we landed, I had the strangest feeling of déjà vu. My brain, so used to the routine, kept whispering, "It's just a quick business trip." I could almost hear the pre-flight briefing.

"Alright everyone, we have a few days off. You can check out Niagara Falls, maybe grab some poutine and then we're back home to Kyiv."

I half-expected to see my crewmates waiting for me at the hotel.

But then, reality swooped in like a final boarding call. This wasn't a business trip. This was home now. There was no crew to meet up with, no return flight scheduled and no souvenir shopping, unless you count frantically looking for a job and a place to live.

It's a bizarre mental shift, from thinking you're on a two-day layover to realizing you're here for the long haul. But hey, at least this "business trip" came with my amazing family, a new country to explore and a whole new adventure to navigate.

Sometimes Canadians ask me why I don't try to get a job with a Canadian airline. But honestly, I can't imagine being a flight attendant and also having a family with kids. My decade-long aviation adventure was a great chapter, and I'm sure an even more interesting one is waiting for me in the future.

Writing articles for our local paper makes me happy. It's a breath of fresh air, a way to connect with the community without the pretense of social media, which often feels so fake. People post happy pictures of their new lives abroad while feeling an emptiness inside. But for me, writing is real. It's my way of sharing my story, one page at a time.

Straight from the Shelves

LAURA MCASH

St. Marys Public Library

The Friends of the Library Book Sale is back! Visit the Lind Sportsplex (The Quarry) today through Sunday to browse thousands of used books, CDs, and DVDs, all available by donation.

Our latest Make and Take is next Tuesday, and the spots filled up in record time.

If you missed out on this one, be sure to sign up for the Programming Updates newsletter so you'll be the first to know when registration for events like these open. Visit our newsletter opt-in page to sign up: tinyurl.com/SMPL-Newsletters

Up This Week

Thurs., Sept. 11: FOL Book Sale^ (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

Fri., Sept. 12: FOL Book Sale^ (10

a.m. to 6 p.m.)

Sat., Sept. 13: FOL Book Sale^ (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.), Edith's Storytime Adventures (10 a.m.)

Sun., Sept. 14: FOL Book Sale^ (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Mon., Sept. 15: Euchre Mondays (10:30 a.m.)

Tues., Sept. 16: Make and Take – Painted Door Mat* (7-9 p.m.)

Wed., Sept. 17: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30-10:30 a.m.), Mahjong! (1-4 p.m.), Books and Brews*~ (8 p.m.)

Thurs., Sept. 18: Create and Connect (6:30-8 p.m.)

*Registration Required

^Lind Sportsplex [The Quarry] (425 Water St. S)

~Broken Rail Brewing (480 Glass St.)

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Fire at Coupland Heights, part three

MARY SMITH

Independent Columnist

On Friday, June 27, 1924, the Ontario Fire Marshal, Edwin P. Heaton, came to St. Marys to conduct a hearing concerning a suspicious barn fire on James Street South near the new subdivision, Coupland Heights. The witnesses called during the morning session, held in the town hall auditorium, gave statements that explained the time of the fire and the response of the volunteer fire department. Questions also established how the barn was laid out, and how the doors were locked each night. The Fire Marshal showed extra interest in the activities of James Brine White. He had leased part of the barn to stable the horses and store the wagons used for his delivery business. He had been the last to leave the premises on June 7, the night of the fire. But the local residents who packed the room for the hearing were waiting for the afternoon's proceedings. Two major players in this story would be giving their statements – Percy T. Coupland, the owner of the barn, and Charles O'Hara who had accused him of conspiring to commit arson.

As the afternoon session began, Dr. Coupland answered preliminary questions establishing his connection to the barn. His occupation was dentistry, but he was also a property owner. He had purchased a farm on the east side of James Street South in 1922 and planned to develop 30 acres of it as a subdivision. The barn stood on the property and his surveyed town lots came right up to the barnyard. It had been a sound building and he was renting out space in it until he could find a purchaser. He did know Charles O'Hara who had worked as the sexton at the Presbyterian Church where Coupland was an elder. Coupland had also employed O'Hara from time to time for odd jobs on the farm property or at his downtown office. He knew O'Hara had accused him of offering to pay \$200 if O'Hara burned down the barn but Coupland adamantly denied ever making such an offer. He had constantly warned his employees not to smoke while working around his barn and had certainly never suggested that a dropped cigarette butt would be "convenient."

Two evenings after the barn fire, Dr. Coupland recalled, O'Hara approached him at his home while he was playing ball on the lawn with his little grandchild. O'Hara appeared to be attempting blackmail, saying that although he hadn't accepted Coupland's offer of \$200 to burn down the barn, it appeared that either somebody else had, or perhaps Coupland had burned it down himself. O'Hara said he would contact the insurance company and was sure of a reward for his information. Coupland testified that he was shaken by these threats, especially since he had tried to help O'Hara by giving him work on many occasions. On Tuesday, he learned that O'Hara had repeated his accusation to James White, saying that he had proof that the fire had



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

Dr. Percy T. Coupland, a St. Marys dentist and property developer, was accused of conspiring to set fire to a barn on his property on James Street South. He adamantly denied the charge.

been deliberately set. The next day, Dr. Coupland went to the fire chief, William Moyes, and St. Marys magistrate, W. R. Butcher, to discuss how to respond to O'Hara's threats. Coupland also confided in his minister, the Reverend W. J. Walker, and contacted his lawyer, J. W. Graham. At that time, he took no further actions to stem the rumours.

Dr. Coupland finished his testimony by repeating that the barn had been a valuable building and that he had "good prospects for sale." Then Charles O'Hara took his place in the witness box. Because all witnesses were banned from the town hall auditorium until they were called to give their statements, O'Hara had not heard Dr. Coupland's testimony or his responses to the Crown Attorney's questions. But O'Hara had his own story and was ready to tell it. He was from Southampton, England, and had come to Canada with his young family in 1921. He had lived in the area for three years, first working for a farmer on the East River Road and then as a railway section man. He had taken the job as caretaker at the Presbyterian Church in the fall of 1923. He confirmed that he had recently left that job. He had not been "let go," as Dr. Coupland may have implied, but had quit because he had found other work as a plasterer and could not manage both jobs at the same time.

His work at the church meant he had frequently seen Dr. Coupland who was a regular attendant, served on several church committees and sang in the choir. Their first conversation about the barn took place in the basement of the church, four or five weeks before the fire. Dr. Coupland told him he had rented out some stalls in the stable and he hoped "one of the lads will drop a few cigarettes or a match and set her a-going." O'Hara reported that Coupland then said: "How would you like to handle this thing? It's quite easy and no risk. I'll give you \$200." O'Hara then described in detail other occasions when Coupland repeated the offer: at the

church before a management meeting, an evening encounter on Queen Street, a day in the dentist office when O'Hara was helping move furniture. O'Hara said that Dr. Coupland had even come to his house a few days before the fire and "demanded" that he get the barn burned. He even suggested to O'Hara the best time to do the deed and the safest route across the valley to the barn and back home without being seen. Coupland also had mentioned that he had left three bottles of gasoline in the manger of the box stall. O'Hara replied that he had a wife and children to think of and would never commit a criminal act.

The Crown Attorney asked O'Hara if he told anyone that he had been asked to burn down the barn. O'Hara had told his wife and had mentioned it to a couple other men who had been sceptical. When questioned why he had not reported Dr. Coupland to the authorities, O'Hara replied that he was sure he would not have been believed. However, on Monday evening, after the fire, he had gone to Dr. Coupland's house, found him outside, and asked him what he thought about the situation. According to O'Hara, Coupland answered: "It's fine. Here I've been planning and scheming for two months, and it's all gone up as an accident." O'Hara stated that he then

called Coupland a liar and a scoundrel and threatened to notify the insurance company. Then, O'Hara claimed, "The doctor said nothing. He just slunk into the house like a dog you had hit with a stick." After J. W. Graham, Coupland's lawyer, gave O'Hara a "stiff cross-examination," the hearing adjourned until evening.

The Journal Argus reported, "At 7:30, every available place in the hall was occupied by citizens of the town and country." Fire Marshal Heaton announced that he was about to vary the normal procedure for this sort of hearing. At J. W. Graham's request, he would allow Dr. Coupland to be recalled and questioned on Charles O'Hara's evidence. When Dr. Coupland took the stand, Graham led him through the events described by O'Hara. Graham called eight further witnesses. Their testimony cast serious doubt on all of O'Hara's statements. Coupland and O'Hara had not talked before a church management meeting. That evening, another engagement had made Dr. Coupland late. He had rushed into the meeting room, not stopping to talk to anyone. Other members of the management committee testified that was the case. Yes, Coupland had encountered O'Hara downtown a few evenings later, on his way to meet a patient with a dental emergency. He had acknowledged O'Hara but had not stopped to talk. The patient, a Mr. Howald, was called and verified that he and Coupland had immediately gone up to the office. As for conversations inside the office during the day, Miss Ethel Marriott, the dental assistant, was always present. No one had heard Dr. Coupland, while anywhere near O'Hara, mention the barn, cigarette butts, matches or bottles of gasoline.

In his final remarks as he adjourned the hearing, Fire Marshal Heaton said: "I can frankly state that in my experience, I have never heard such mysterious and contradictory evidence. Most glaring experiences have been given and contradicted. Stories told are so contradictory and inexplicable that I am led to wonder which side to believe." Heaton would return to Toronto and take time to review the transcripts. The people of St. Marys would have to wait for his official report.

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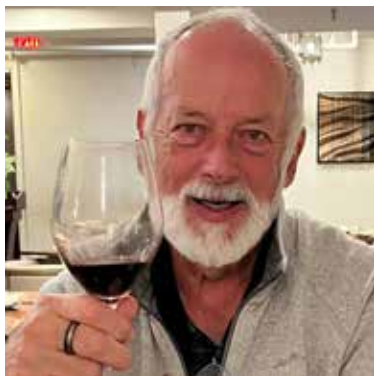
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OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Getting behind the scenes with the Blue Jays



PAUL KNOWLES

Independent Columnist

Once upon a time, long ago and sometimes far away, I was given a dream assignment: write a book about players on the Toronto Blue Jays. It was published right at the start of regular season, 1986, and it featured chapters about Jesse Barfield, Lloyd Moseby, Tony Fernandez, Willie Upshaw, Mark Eichhorn and Kelly Gruber, among others.

I was sent to Dunedin for a week in spring training where I got to know all these terrific athletes and, frankly, terrific people. Then back to Toronto for the weeks prior to season opening.

The book, *Home Run: The Personal Profiles of Champion Athletes*, went into two printings. The foreword to the book was contributed by Gary Carter. Like I said; a dream job.

And why, other than sentimental nostalgia, did I bring this up today? That's because of a tour we did a couple of weeks ago – a tour of the new parts of the renovated Rogers Centre, home of today's Blue

Jays.

See, when I was hanging out with the Blue Jays, their home was Exhibition Stadium; open to the elements, terrible seating and occasional pre-game snow-removal challenges.

Not so, today. Rogers Centre (which those of us of a certain age will always call "Skydome") is a state-of-the-art sports stadium. We joined a pre-game tour of the place and by and large, it was a pretty interesting experience. Tours are run all season long, several times a day. It's not wildly expensive – the classic tour costs \$40 for adults, \$30 for seniors, \$25 for kids, though you can also spring for a pre-game tour at twice that price, which is longer and includes batting practice, or an "ultimate pre-game tour" with a price tag well into three figures. We were hosted by Destination Toronto on the pre-game tour.

As Blue Jays fans know, Rogers Centre has just undergone some major renovations. A venue that once was home to other sports apart from baseball, it is now a dedicated space for baseball and concerts only. So, the designers were able to change the configurations of the ballpark and make – so they claim, I think accurately – all of the seats more suited to watching a ball game.

Now, to tell you the truth, I am of two minds about the pre-game tour. There's a lot of good stuff for sure. We got to see, up close, the Jays' World Series Championship trophies. In the same room are housed the Gold

Glove trophies of Vladimir Guerrero Jr., José Berriós, Vernon Wells, Devon White, Tony Fernandez and Jesse Barfield.

That's the good news. The bad news for the average fan is that these key bits of memorabilia are kept in the Rogers Banner Club, accessible only to folks who have TD Premium Access or to people like us on a tour.

And that pattern was repeated throughout the tour. We saw the much-touted new wall of Blue Jay baseball cards, but it's in the Heinz 328 Club named for the foul pole on the first base side of the park; it's located 328 feet from home plate, and the base of the pole is right in the wall of the club. The 328 Club is also an exclusive venue open only to members who have paid extra for the privilege.

The tour takes visitors to a few other similar locations, including a very high-end corporate box. You get to see a lot of photos of famous players and plenty of memorabilia, but at the same time, the tour gets to feel a little like a sales job: "You, too, could enjoy these amenities at a price."

For us, the highlight of the tour was to be on the field, carefully corralled behind a rope, to watch Blue Jays batting practice. And while we were there, the batters up were Vlady, Bo Bichette, George Springer and Daulton Varsho. For true Jays fans, that experience was probably worth the price of admission.

We also had tickets to the



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

The field from on high during batting practice.

game – good seats, but not in a special section. We discovered that once in the stadium for a pre-game tour (for which you also must have game tickets), you can't leave between the tour and the game. But again, some good news – it was Loonie Dog night, so dining out wasn't wildly expensive. And the Jays won a tightly contested and exciting game.

So, bottom line; is the tour worth the money? For die-hard Jays fans, I would say yes. The chance to get behind the scenes and see trophies, photos and other memorabilia (including a bat used by José Bautista in the famous bat-flipping game) is somewhere near priceless to

the dedicated lover of all things Jays.

And I must confess, I did get a bit nostalgic for those days when I could actually sit in the Exhibition Park Jays' dugout before a game and wander on the field with Tony, Lloyd and Jesse. But for a guy now long disconnected from the team, the tour and the game were highly enjoyable experiences in their own right.

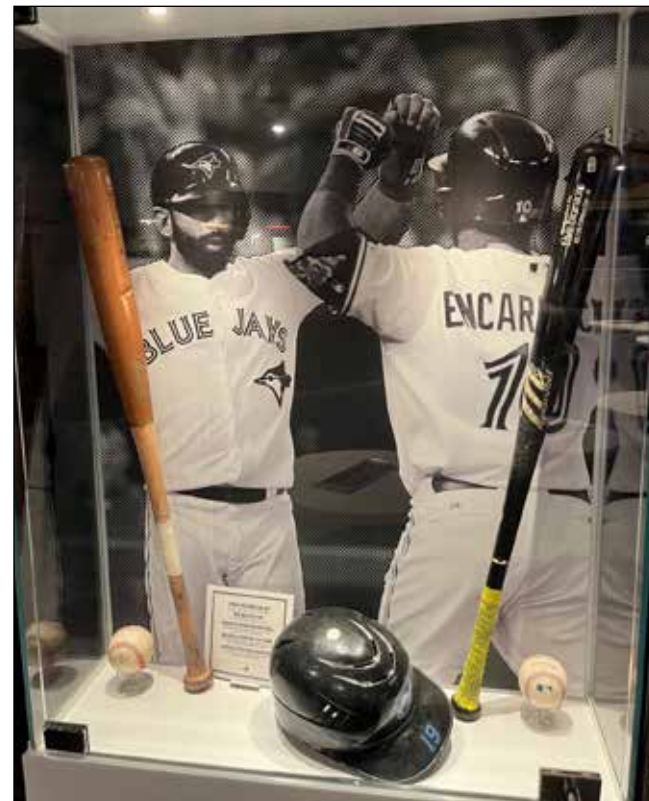
Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and Past-President of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@gold-en.net.



Gold Gloves won by Blue Jays: from top, left to right, Vladimir Guerrero Jr., José Berriós, Devon White, Vernon Wells, Tony Fernandez and Jesse Barfield.



One of the two World Series trophies won by the Jays.



Memorabilia from José Bautista and Edwin Encarnación.

FROM THE GARDEN: Cosmos - order and harmony



NANCY ABRA

Independent Columnist

Despite its ancient Greek name '*kosmos*' meaning order and harmony, anyone who grows cosmos knows this flowering plant can turn a late summer garden into an array of colour and whimsical movement. With petals arranged in perfect symmetry and in hues from white, soft blush to vibrant pinks, purples and fiery crimson, this flower doesn't just grow - it radiates.

Native to Mexico and Central America, cosmos flowers first flourished in the wild, basking in the warmth of open fields and sun-drenched meadows. Spanish missionaries were among the first to cultivate them, en-

chanted by their orderly petals and celestial charm. In the 18th century, cosmos were introduced to European plant collectors under the name 'Mexican aster'. The first seeds were sent to Europe together with zinnia seeds making the plant stories of both flowers interconnected. From there, cosmos made their way back to North America, spread throughout Europe and beyond, becoming a staple in cottage gardens and wildflower mixes around the world.

Cosmos belongs to the Asteraceae family of flowering plants, known as the daisy or sunflower family. There are about 30 to 48 known species of cosmos, with two annual species, *Cosmos bipinnatus* and *Cosmos sulphureus*, being the most common for home gardens, along with a smaller number of other perennial species like the chocolate cosmos (*Cosmos atrosanguineus*) with its intoxicating chocolate aroma. Beyond the main species, there are hundreds of cultivated varieties or cultivars within these species, offering a wide range of colours, flower

forms, and plant heights that range from 60 cm to 1.5 metres. These annuals are known for their feathery foliage, long stems, and daisy-like flowers that bloom from midsummer until the first frost in fall.

Cosmos are loved by novice and experienced gardeners as they are easy to grow, low in maintenance and attract countless pollinators such as bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Cosmos can be easily seeded directly into the garden once the risk of frost has past in the spring. Once they have started to grow and are established, they can tolerate drought. They also thrive in poorer soil. They are ideal for cut flower gardens and wildflower borders. Cosmos also play a role in companion planting, helping to protect vegetable crops and enhance biodiversity in the garden.

Cosmos flowers have long been associated with peace, love, and modesty. They are a symbol of balance in nature, a whisper of folklore, and a gardener's delight.

In Victorian floriography, gifting a cosmos signified a



gentle heart and a balanced soul. In Japanese Hanakotoba, they represent harmony and serenity, often blooming in autumn festivals as a symbol of seasonal transition. Some legends say cosmos flowers attract fairies, drawn to their delicate structure and vibrant hues. Others believe planting cosmos near vegetables brings good luck and protection, as they naturally deter pests and

invite pollinators.

Beyond their physical beauty, cosmos flowers evoke a sense of spiritual calm. Their symmetrical petals and gentle sway in the breeze remind us of the quiet order in nature - a balance we often seek in our own lives. Whether planted in a backyard bed or admired in a bouquet, cosmos offer a moment of tranquility and a breath of harmony.

Ask the Arborist

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



Dear Arborist,

I have a large black walnut, it makes a mess, it's literally driving me nuts. There are nuts everywhere, hitting the roof and hitting the car. How do I stop the mess? Can I trim it, or should it just be removed?

To remove or not to remove, that is the question! Will trimming make the tree have less walnuts in the future?

Thanks, Concerned

Dear Concerned,

You could trim it. In this case, we would call it pulling back. You can pull it back so it's not over the car or the house, depending on variables. This will potentially solve the problem of the walnuts causing damage to the house or car.

Trimming may also make the tree safer to be around. However, trimming the tree will probably not reduce nut production. Unfortunately, trimming will probably increase nut production, as the tree will be a bit stressed and increase seeds to promote survival.

As to remove or not to remove? That is a complicated question, as we are not talking about danger, cracks, hollows, leans, or threatened structures. It really comes down to personal preference.

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

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Riddles

- What has a face and two hands but no arms or legs?
A clock!
- What is full of holes but still holds water?
A sponge!
- What do you call cheese that isn't yours?
Nacho cheese!
- What has one eye but can't see?
A needle!
- Why did the golfer bring an extra pair of pants?
In case he got a hole in one!
- What has feathers but can't fly?
A pillow!
- What do you call a sleeping bull?
A bulldozer!
- What's orange and sounds like a parrot?
A carrot!
- What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?
Frostbite!
- What did one ocean say to the other ocean?
Nothing, they just waved!
- Why don't skeletons fight each other?
Because they don't have the guts!

- Word Search -



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FALL FAIRS

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- Tractor pull
- Demolition derby
- Midway rides
- Exhibits
- Competition
- Fair ambassador
- Entertainment
- Livestock
- Candy floss
- Food vendors
- Live music
- Kirkton
- Mitchell
- Thorndale
- Western Fair



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK



Charlotte Feeney (5)

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



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STELLA

Our Pet of the Week is Stella, a three-month-old adorable Siberian kitten. Stella is a recent addition to Jeff and Anna Doupe's household and is loved by all. The Siberian cat is often called hypoallergenic. When fully grown, Stella will be a medium to large-sized muscular cat with a bushy tail. In the meantime, Stella is happy to play with anyone that gives her the attention she deserves.



Thorndale News

A section within the
St. Marys Independent

Active Living hosts open house in Thorndale

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

Last Thursday afternoon, Karleigh Schruder, active living program assistant director, hosted an open house at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre.

The purpose of this event was for seniors in the community to meet Schruder, enjoy a light refreshment and see what activities are available. Several attendees participated in games provided at the event, including shuffleboard, carpet bowling and “kurling.”

“I was pleased with the number of seniors who came out to this event, and it was wonderful to meet more seniors from this community,” Schruder said.

The Municipality of Thames Centre received a generous grant from the Ontario government earlier this year to

launch an expanded active living program tailored for older adults in Thorndale. This initiative offers a wide range of social, cultural, educational and recreational activities designed to support healthy aging, foster meaningful connections and keep residents active, both physically and socially.

As a pilot project funded by the province, the goal is to encourage more seniors to take part in these enriching experiences. With strong community participation, there’s hope this program will become a permanent fixture in Thorndale, helping older residents thrive for years to come.

For more detailed information on the active living program in Thorndale, visit www.thamescentre.on.ca/parks-recreation-and-community/active-living-centre/.



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

The participants at last week’s active living program open house in Thorndale had a go at playing some shuffleboard.

Ride for Pitt-Hopkins rumbles into Thorndale

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

Last Sunday afternoon, approximately 110 bikers thundered down King Street to Mount Olivett 300 Lodge on Harrison Street for the last stop of the Ride for Pitt-Hopkins, organized and hosted by Thames Valley Widow’s Sons based in London.

This club of Freemasons share a passion for motorcycles and their chosen charity, Pitt-Hopkins Syndrome. Rally participants most of whom are Freemasons, came from as far away as Chicago, Kentucky and Detroit, as well as members from lodges across Ontario.

This Ride for Pitt-Hopkins started from the Graham Family EcoPark on Medway Road, with bikers travelling north to Exeter with a stop at the Masonic Lodge, then on to The Creamery in St. Marys, with Mount Olivett 300 Lodge in Thorndale as their last stop. From here, the bikers headed west out of Thorndale and back to EcoPark for a barbecue, live

music, raffle, auction and socializing.

Pitt-Hopkins (PHHS) is a rare genetic disorder that affects the brain and nervous system development. This disorder causes delays in walking, talking and impairments with communication and social skills. There is no cure for this disorder, but treatments can help manage the symptoms and somewhat improve the quality of life. Pitt-Hopkins doesn’t affect children’s life expectancy, but complications including respiratory problems can be life threatening. Survival depends on the severity of the symptoms and availability of care and support.

This year’s motorcycle Ride for Pitt-Hopkins fundraiser marks the 10th year the Thames Valley club has raised money in support of 14 families in Ontario who are dealing with Pitt-Hopkins Syndrome. Last year, the rally raised approximately \$20,000 with hopes this year they will raise the same amount as they continue to support and assist these families in Ontario.



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

Bikers roll into Thorndale during the Ride for Pitt-Hopkins Sept. 7.

It’s fair time in Thorndale

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

The Thorndale Fall Fair will take place from Sept. 19-21, packed with fun for young and old alike.

With a theme of “Where farm meets fun,” there are activities planned for viewing and participating throughout the whole weekend.

The gates open on Friday evening at 5 p.m. with the midway rides open at 6 p.m. The opening ceremonies at the

Thorndale Lions Community Centre is at 7 p.m. with the announcement of the 2025 Fair Ambassador, awards for the various fair division entries and the famous Pie Auction featuring a stellar lineup of prize-winning pies entered in the Homecraft Division to round out this entertaining evening.

Saturday starts with the parade at 11 a.m. leaving from Country Mills in Thorndale, moving east on King Street, south on Fairview Road, through Foxborough subdivision, north on Agnes

Street and then back to the Country Mills store. At the fair, the community centre is open at 10 a.m. to the public both Saturday and Sunday to view home-craft, youth fair and school fair exhibits. There is bingo on Saturday afternoon, a church service on Sunday morning, and the baby show that afternoon.

At the Heeman’s Family Entertainment Zone, there is a lineup of various fun shows for kids of all ages, running both Saturday and Sunday. Outside attractions on Saturday include the mid-

way rides, horse pull competition and snowmobile drag racing just to mention a few, along with livestock shows of horses and the 4-H Dairy Show. On Sunday, the midway opens at 11 a.m., there’s a pickleball tournament, western and heavy horse show, antique tractor parade, and, new this year, is the Farmer Olympics competition as well as the ever-popular demolition derby to end the day.

For more detailed information, visit www.thorndalefair.com.

THANK YOU

Thomson

We would like to express our sincere and heartfelt gratitude for the love and support that has been extended to our family in memory of Joan.

A kind thank you to our friends, family and community for all of the kind words, beautiful flowers, delicious food, cards, visits, generous donations and for everyone who attended the celebration.

A special thank you to Dr. Maloney, David and the Oncology Department at Verspeeten Family Cancer Center, The Surgical Team, Pacemaker Clinic and MRI Department at University Hospital, Care Partners and their amazing team, the kind support from St. Marys Hospital, and the beautiful team at the Stratford Rotary Hospice. The care and support given over the last three years will warm our hearts for a lifetime.

Thank you to Andrew Hodges, River Valley and Lyric Flowers for going above and beyond during a difficult time.

We will forever be grateful
Dave, Mark and Melanie

THANK YOU

Mills

I would like to thank my family for planning my 80th birthday party. I'd also like to thank everyone who came and made it a special day. Thanks for all of the flowers, cards and birthday wishes. It was a truly a memorable day!

Audrey Mills

THANK YOU

A Great Teddy Bear Reunion

Thanks to everyone for your support. Special thanks to all my family and friends for all of their help the day of the reunion. Special thanks to Mark Armstrong for new signs, Randy Barber from RVS, St. Marys Independent newspaper, Jeff Marshall for tent rentals, St. Marys Fire Department for the water track, Action Medical for the trailer, and Rosie for the hot dog donation stand. Thank you also for all of the donations, without you we wouldn't carry on.

McLean Taylor Construction, Waghorn Stephens Sipos Poulton Law, Action Medical, Finnie Distributing, Lions Club, Hubbard Pharmacy, Vet Purchasing, Grayson International, St. Marys Ford, All Roads, Pita Pit, Canadian Tire, Cubberley Plumbing, Sunset Diner, Little Falls Car Wash, Harris Garage, Black Financial, Guardian Drugs, Domino's Pizza, Forman Electric, Joe Taylor and Echo Tech.

Thanks for all of the personal donations.
Marlene Forman and all of the bears

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THANK YOU

Lemon

The family of Bud Lemon would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone for cards, flowers, goodies, gift baskets, donations, visits, hugs, and your kind remembrance of times with Bud. Special thanks to the staff of St. Marys Memorial Hospital for your excellent, compassionate care. Another thanks to Andrew Hodges Funeral Home for your guidance and kindness.

Fran, Scott, Ron, Karen and Kaitlyn

THANK YOU

Kraemer

I wish to express my deepest and heartfelt appreciation for helping me celebrate my 90th birthday. Thank you so much to my family, my Thamesview church family and UCW who prepared and served lunch, my extended family, relatives, friends and neighbours. Thank you for all the cards, gifts, personal and email messages. Your donations of food and monetary gifts to the Salvation Army Food Bank were overwhelming and very much appreciated. Whatever was your part, thank you, thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Nancy Kraemer

OPEN HOUSE

McArthur



Jane Lorraine McArthur, who passed away on Aug. 14, 2025, will have a Memorial Open House at the WESTOVER INN, 300 Thomas St., St. Marys, on Sunday, September 14th from 2 - 5 pm with Words of Remembrance at 3 pm. Online tributes at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

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OBITUARY

Hardeman



Brian Hardeman, 84, of Kirkton passed away at St. Marys Memorial Hospital on Saturday, September 6, 2025.

Born in the Netherlands, son to the late Aris Hardeman and the late Arisje (Wallet) Hardeman. Happily married to Helen (Baillie) Hardeman for almost 54 years. Loving

Dad to Laura (John) Good, Linda (Paddy) Morrissey, Heather (Adam) Garfat, and Hilary (Matt) Gain. But his true loves were his grandkids Hannah, Grayson and Brooklyn Good, Connor and Nate Morrissey, and Keith Garfat. Brian was a well known volunteer in the area being a charter member of both the Kirkton Woodham Optimists and the Winter Carnival Club. He was well loved around town and his presence could fill a room with just his laugh. Brian owned Hardeman Feeds in Kirkton and local farmers quickly learned that Dad's passion lay in farming, if there was a way to fix your farming woes he would find a way. Dad was also a politician to the core and sat on Usborne Township Council for close to 20 years. Brian was raised in a large and loving family with fourteen siblings: Effie Smits (late Jake); late Ruth and Adrian Droogers; late Georgina and Pete Vanthof; late Dianna and Fred de Jonge; Winnie Butyn (late Henk); George (Liz) Hardeman; Lucy Baldree (late Bobby); late Wilma and Ken Devine; late Erna and Floyd Corbett; Ernie (Rita) Hardeman; Albert (Kelly) Hardeman; late Jack (Margaret) Hardeman; late Jeanne and Marty Morris; Nick (Carrie) Hardeman and by Helen's sister Ruth Urquhart (Richard Gallagher). Brian is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews and cousins.

Friends will be received at the Lockhart Funeral Home, 109 Montreal St., Mitchell on Thursday, September 11 from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. where the funeral service will be held on Friday at 11:00 a.m. A reception will follow at the Lockhart Reception Centre. Interment in Woodland Cemetery, Mitchell. Memorial donations to St. Marys Memorial Hospital, Thamesview United Church or charity of one's choice would be appreciated and may be made at LockhartFuneralHome.com.

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Looking Back

AMY CUBBERLEY

Independent Columnist



14lb puffball

25 years ago (2000)

Jamie Hahn is running for mayor of St. Marys for a fourth consecutive term, and he says the reason is simple: commitment. Hahn, 52, served on council for nine years and has been the Town's Mayor for the last nine. Over those 18 years, he notes that he has a perfect attendance record.

If all goes as planned, public electricity customers in St. Marys, as well as Milverton, Stratford, Brussels, Hensall, Zurich, Seaforth, and possibly one other municipality, will begin sending their payments to a new company called Festival Hydro in November. One of the final steps towards transferring control over electrical service from the soon-to-be-dissolved St. Marys PUC was taken last night at St. Marys Town Council meeting.

50 years ago (1975)

St. Marys Cart Sales have purchased the former Beaver Lumber premises on Station Street. The local firm plans to consolidate the operation under one roof rather than scattering the work in several locations as has been the case during the past few years. According to Gary Douglas, operating the growing business along with brother Bob, the firm will use only the lumber warehouse at present with indications being that the former showroom will soon be leased to a second business enterprise.

Ken Munro of St. Marys found a 14lb puffball mushroom on Monday. Ken is not telling where he found it.

75 years ago (1950)

A bicycle owned by Don Leslie, Peel Street, and left parked near the White & May Ltd. store on Monday was stolen. Police found the machine on Wednesday parked near the Quarries.

While Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Grose and two daughters were motoring in the west this summer, some hornets took over on the back verandah of their Thomas Street home and built a nest under the steps. It was decided not to disturb the intruders unless someone got stung. They did. On Monday the head of the house brought out his "flame thrower" (a blow torch) and successfully demolished the hornet household.

100 years ago (1925)

Complaints have been heard recently about the prevalent practice of motorists who persist in parking their cars directly in front of the watering trough on Wellington Street and thereby preventing the drivers of horse drawn vehicles from watering their animals. This is a great inconvenience, especially during warm weather and the town council should erect a "no parking" sign there to prevent this nuisance.

Victor Hall of Stratford won the annual St. Marys-to-Stratford road race on Labor Day. The only other starter was W. Downes, who fell out at the halfway house.

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					5			
7		3			4			
	1			2		8		

Solutions on pg. 35

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5. The Rolling Stones

6. 1967

7. The Delaware River

8. 20,000hz

9. Neptune

10. Elmo

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



Community Liaison Committee

The next Community Liaison Committee Meeting will be held on **Friday, September 12th at 10am** at the St. Marys Municipal Operations Center. Members of the public who wish to observe are welcome to attend.

Residents who wish to speak in front of the Committee may submit a detailed request in writing at least 3 days prior to the meeting in writing to the Committee. The request will be considered by the Committee and approved prior to the meeting. Please submit all requests, questions, and concerns for the meeting to kara.pelissero@vcimentos.com by **Wednesday, September 10th**



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THE WEEK AHEAD

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

St. Marys Public Library events – See Page 26

Friday, Sept 12

- Friends of the Library book sale at the Lind Sportsplex – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- St. Marys Cement community liaison committee meeting at the MOC – 10 a.m.

- Royal Canadian Legion “hot dogs and more” lunch at Noon

- Family Garage Sale at 5 Industrial St. – 4 to 7 p.m.

- A.N.A.F. meat draw – 6 p.m.

Saturday, Sept 13

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

- Family Garage Sale at 5 Industrial St. – 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Scrapbooking garage sale at the PRC – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Friends of the Library book sale at the Lind Sportsplex – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

Sunday, Sept 14

- Terry Fox Run, starts at the YMCA - Registration 8:30 a.m.

- Jane Lorraine McArthur memorial open house at Westover Inn – 2-5 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept 16

- Royal Canadian Legion buddy check coffee – 10 a.m. to Noon

Thursday, Sept 18

- St. Marys Nourish Market at St. Marys United Church – 2 to 4 p.m.

- Stonetown Travel “Discover Scotland” presentation at the PRC, The End Zone – 2 p.m., Wilmot Recreation Centre, 1291 Nafziger Rd, Baden, Meeting Room A – 7 p.m.



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