

# St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1282

Thursday, October 2, 2025

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**HONOURING TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION** (PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. MARYS MUSEUM)  
The St. Marys Museum once again displays its Truth and Reconciliation banner in honour of Canada's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Sept. 30. Inside, visitors have the opportunity to see the museum's "Talking About Treaty 29" exhibit, part of several activities and events in St. Marys that were planned for the day.

## Towne and Country Cheese Shoppe now licenced to sell alcohol

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

Exciting things are happening at the Towne and Country Cheese Shoppe.

When customers pop in to the Cheese shoppe on Queen Street, not only will they be able to buy lunch, cheese, prepared meals and deli meats, but they can now purchase beer, craft beer, ciders, coolers and wine.

"It has been a long process, but we like to think outside the box and keep offering new and fresh ideas," said co-owner Jenn Stacey-Laurin.

With gift baskets being so popular, the

staff often get asked if they can add wine to them, so now the business is able to make that happen. According to Stacey-Laurin, it also fits well with their one-stop shopping experience.

The store is currently in the process of receiving its alcohol inventory and getting the storefront ready to launch. The selection will include some local favourites from Broken Rail Brewery and Cowbell Brewery.

There is also a plan to sell individual bottles of wine with a charcuterie box attached.

The store is legally allowed to sell alcohol between the hours of 7 a.m. and 11 p.m., so

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

## St. Marys council approves additional \$13,000 for ongoing pool renovations

Pool reopening date still up in the air

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As work continues on the nearly \$2-million renovation of the Pyramid Recreation Centre (PRC) aquatics centre that began last fall, St. Marys council has approved an additional \$13,336 in contingency funding to address some recently discovered deficiencies in the pool-wall tiles.

Last September, council awarded a \$1.75-million contract to Elgin Contracting and Restoration Ltd. for renovations intended to address early onset structural degradation caused by the use of saltwater and insufficient HVAC capacity at the aquatics centre. At the time, those renovations were expected to close the pool from November 2024 to May 2025, but in May of this year, St. Marys council learned the extent of the pool's structural degradation meant the pool likely would not reopen until later in the fall.

At council's Sept. 23 meeting, town director of community services Stephanie Ische provided an update on the project that included the request for additional contingency funding.

"We are at the end of our contingency," Ische told council. "... Along the knee wall on the edge of the pool where the vent system is and individuals sit along the side, right along the glass windows, we're finding there's some holes in there and, when they did replace the

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

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**MLS**

COMMUNITY

St. Marys council approves additional \$13,000 for ongoing pool renovations

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

vents, the tile was cracking and fracturing very easily because it wasn't built as it should have been.

"... So, we need to fix those and we're working on that right now, which is why I'm looking for the additional \$13,000 this evening."

The aquatics centre, opened in 2008, initially used a saltwater chlorine-generation system. While popular with municipal pools at the time, this system caused significant deterioration of equipment and infrastructure indoors. In response, the town transitioned to an ultra-violet disinfection system using liquid chlorine in 2018 and developed a plan to replace damaged equipment and improve air quality. The ongoing renovations are also intended to address humidity issues stemming from insufficiently sized HVAC equipment installed during the original construction in 2007.

The PRC pool was closed to the public in November 2024 to address safety concerns caused by saltwater and high humidity – including a near miss after a rainwater pipe in the roof of the PRC fell onto the pool deck in early 2024.

The project involved the installation of a new HVAC unit and exhaust systems to improve air quality. Additionally, repairs are being performed on various parts of the aquatics centre that have experienced wear and tear and salt damage.

In her report to council, Ische said the contractors and subcontractors have most recently been working to replace light hangers for the pool lights; install aluminum below the high bay windows; replace sauna windows; re-caulk seams around doors and windows; complete final painting; and verify controls so the new HVAC unit can be commissioned, inspected and balanced.

As of Sept. 23, the work that had not yet been completed included upgrading door hardware and sprinkler piping; insulating the wall under the high bay windows; completing electrical, mechanical and architectural inspections; and the removal of scaffolding so the pool deck can be cleaned.

While Ische told council on Sept. 23 that she could not yet say when the project will be complete or when the pool can reopen because of issues with the HVAC dehumidification system and the potential for damaged pool tiles underneath the scaffolding, she told the Independent on Sept. 26 that both contractors and staff are confident the project is moving along as expected.

"The HVAC issues are being addressed, and I'm delighted to report that the HVAC commissioning will not hold up our project," Ische said. "Additionally, the tile work, which was approved at the council meeting on Tuesday evening, has already begun and is currently in progress."

"We are excited to announce that the scaffolding removal is scheduled to start on Monday. This step is critical because once the scaffolding is removed, we will be able to inspect the pool tank to determine whether any tiles need to be replaced. The concern is that, due to the extended period without water in the tank, several tiles may have become loose or damaged. Typically, hydrostatic pressure helps maintain the integrity of the tilework, but without it, we are uncertain about the current condition of the pool tank beneath the scaffolding. After next week, we hope to have a clearer idea of when we can set a reopening date, which will depend on whether tile replacements are necessary and, if so, how extensive that will be."

Should broken or damaged tiles be discovered in the pool tank after the scaffolding is removed, Ische told council she would bring back a report on what the repair and replacement of those tiles will cost. To date, the town has spent a total of nearly \$1.99 million on this project.

Apple Pie Day returns to St. Marys Farmers' Market for first time since pandemic shutdown



(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

Apple Pie Day returns to St. Marys Farmers' Market on Oct. 4, during which bakers compete, auction and celebrate fall flavours. Pictured are Deb Martell, Dee Skeith and Rod Arnold of Forest Hill Orchard at The St. Marys Farmers' Market.

### 7 Day Forecast

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| Wednesday<br>Oct-1st                          | Thursday<br>Oct-2nd                        | Friday<br>Oct-3rd                      | Saturday<br>Oct-4th                    | Sunday<br>Oct-5th                             | Monday<br>Oct-6th                             | Tuesday<br>Oct-7th                              |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Mainly sunny<br><b>21</b> OC<br>Feels like 21 | Sun/cloud<br><b>22</b> OC<br>Feels like 22 | Sunny<br><b>26</b> OC<br>Feels like 29 | Sunny<br><b>27</b> OC<br>Feels like 31 | Mainly sunny<br><b>26</b> OC<br>Feels like 30 | Mainly sunny<br><b>26</b> OC<br>Feels like 30 | Cloudy showers<br><b>19</b> OC<br>Feels like 18 |



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# St. Marys Rotary Club marks 100 years of service to community with celebration dinner

ALEX HUNT

Independent Reporter

For a century, the Rotary Club of St. Marys has been shaping the town's community spirit, from building local landmarks to supporting global causes.

On Oct. 15, the Rotary Club of St. Marys will be hosting its 100th Anniversary Centennial Dinner at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club. Tickets will cost \$100 per person, and the event will run from 5-10 p.m.

"The 100th anniversary outlines what St. Marys Rotary Club has contributed locally and what we have done throughout the community, from the baseball hall of fame and the community centre, and at least a dozen major commitments," said Edward Parkinson, who took over as president of the club from Mark Oliver this past July.

"A significant amount of the Rotary's fundraising has gone towards financing different projects throughout the community. Most of the efforts happened in and around this town, but there have been some international projects that the organization has raised money for, too."

Founded in 1925, one of Rotary's major global initiatives has been the fight against polio, with the organization



(PHOTO COURTESY OF ROTARY CLUB OF ST. MARYS)

The first Cadzow Park pool was one of many initiatives the Rotary Club of St. Marys has participated in within the community.

credited for playing a central role in its near eradication. Every club contributes to the cause, and Parkinson says the campaign has been a driving force since the effort began, underscoring

Rotary's reach both locally and internationally.

Parkinson said the Rotary legacy is trying to touch as many people who don't have the same privileges as Ca-

nadians. He says Canadians are pretty fortunate to be in a position where they can help. Parkinson encourages his friends, family and the public at large to give a little more with the knowledge that it's going to benefit somebody else who has less.

"We're into our 100th year now as we speak; it's always really good for your community in a nutshell," said Parkinson. "Essentially, treat everybody equally. It's a simple philosophy and something that everybody talks about, but Rotary really tries to encourage people to live by their words. This is the premise on how it was born, and this was always the focus."

As president, Parkinson says the club is supported by past leaders who provide guidance and support. That sense of continuity has kept the club strong, but there are concerns about the future as both the local population and service organizations age. While the St. Marys Rotary Club remains a big contributor to the community, leaders acknowledge the importance of attracting new members, a challenge faced by service clubs everywhere.

For information about the upcoming Centennial Dinner visit [rotarystmarys.ca](http://rotarystmarys.ca) or email [stmarysrotary@hotmail.com](mailto:stmarysrotary@hotmail.com).

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St. Marys Gives 2025

Won't You Be My Neighbour?



It is not too soon to start planning your initiative for Giving Tuesday on December 2, 2025! Make a plan with your neighbours, co-workers, family and friends. If you need some ideas of things you might choose to do, here are a few:

- \*Get your Neighbours together on Giving Tuesday for hot chocolate or a pot luck, there may be new people in your neighbourhood and this would be the perfect opportunity to meet each other.
- \*Giving Tuesday is in December so there is still time to get your knitting friends together and start making hats and mitts that can be donated to the schools.
- \*At your work place, plan a bake sale for Giving Tuesday on December 2 and as a group decide which charity you would like to donate the proceeds to. Be sure to let the charity know, they will be thrilled. And be sure to let your employer know, they may "match" the funds that are raised.
- \*When you get together with your family at Thanksgiving have a conversation about what you can all do together. Maybe a food drive, maybe volunteer to take a turn as a family at the Salvation Army Kettle, maybe help another family out at Christmas. Whatever you do, do it together, that is a big part of what Giving Tuesday is.
- \*If you belong to a service club, remind everyone about Giving Tuesday at your next meeting and start making your plan.

If you need more ideas please email us, we are happy to help. If you have a plan please let us know what it is, we will be compiling a list that will be posted before Giving Tuesday December 2 so that the entire Town will know about all of the amazing initiatives.

Remember Giving Tuesday is not about money, it is about giving of your time, your talents and your energy - it all makes a difference!

P.S. Please let us know if you "Catch Someone Giving"!

GIVING  
TUESDAY

DEC  
2

ST. MARYS  
GivingTuesday  
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For more information contact [jdockerjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:jdockerjohnson@gmail.com) | [www.CanadaHelps.org/en/givingtuesday](http://www.CanadaHelps.org/en/givingtuesday)

Bravo

Boo

We have 2 Bravos this week.

We have no Boos this week.

1) Bravo to the people and merchants of St. Marys. St. Marys is our home for six months, through the summer camping at Wildwood. We always feel welcomed by you. Thank you!

2) Bravo to two Good Samaritans, Tom and Brigitte. My mobility scooter was immobile on a street in town. They stopped and asked, "Do you need help?" Approximately 45 minutes later, the problem was resolved due to their assistance. They even followed me to see that I got home without incident. Tom and Brigitte are two reasons why St. Marys is a great place to live.

\*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

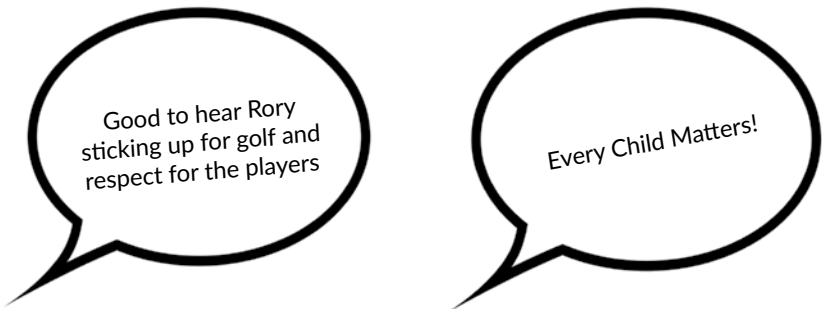
*"We never stopped believing in one another and knew that we were really good. A baseball season is long and things happen. You have ups and downs. I think once we hit our stride we didn't think anyone could beat us."*

**- Toronto Blue Jays manager John Schneider after the 13-4 win clinching the American League East Division title for the first time in 10 years**

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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

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St. Marys Independent

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St. Marys  
Independent

Thoughts of the Week  
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395 Queen Street West

There is no love without forgiveness and no forgiveness without love.

Love and kindness tear down walls of anger.

This is a wonderful day. I have never seen this one before.

A grateful heart is a magnet for miracles.

# STONETOWN TRAVEL

## GROUP TRAVEL PRESENTATION

Join us to learn more about our upcoming group trips:



### MARITIMES AND CAPE BRETON

AUGUST 29 – SEPTEMBER 6, 2026



### CHRISTMAS TIME ON THE DANUBE

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## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

**Wilmot Recreation Centre at 2 p.m.**  
1291 Nafziger Rd., Baden (Wayne Roth room)

**St. Marys Pyramid Recreation Centre at 7 p.m.**  
317 James St. S., St. Marys (The End Zone - upstairs)

To RSVP, email [stew@stonetowntravel.com](mailto:stew@stonetowntravel.com) or call our office.

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# STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news  
from the Town of St. Marys



## FALL FLUSHING

October 6 - 31, 2025

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

[townofstmarys.com/flushing](http://townofstmarys.com/flushing)



## RECREATION FAIR

October 17 | 5 - 7 PM | PRC

This event will feature booths and interactive demos from local sports groups, wellness centres, and senior programs to promote community engagement and healthy living. It's a free, drop-in event open to all, with vendor applications due by October 3 at 12 PM.

[townofstmarys.com/recreationfair](http://townofstmarys.com/recreationfair)



## COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION

We can help your community project grow! The Community Grant Program applications are now live. This program provides funding for programs, projects, activities and events that enrich the community and advance Council's strategic goals.

Apply by November 30: [townofstmarys.com/grants](http://townofstmarys.com/grants)



## ST. MARYS NOURISH MARKET

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

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

519-508-3663



## SHOWER PROGRAM

Pyramid Recreation Centre

This program provides free showers to those in need. Showers are private, secure and accessible for individuals of all abilities.

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## Contact us

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[communications@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:communications@town.stmarys.on.ca)



- **FOL Social** - Wed. Oct. 8, 6:30-8pm @ the Library
- **Management Committee Meeting** - Thurs. Oct. 9, 10am @ the Library
- **Farmers' Market** - Sat. Oct. 18 - 8am-noon @ Milt Dunnell Field (the Flats)
- **Theatre & Dinner Event** - Oct. 25 - in partnership with St. Marys Community Players & Westover Inn - 2pm Matinee show, followed by dinner at Westover (seating time of your choice) - Tickets at [stmaryscommunityplayers.ca](http://stmaryscommunityplayers.ca)

Love your library? Our Management Committee needs dedicated volunteers like you! Join us to help plan, organize, and run activities and events in support of the St. Marys Public Library. Contact us through Facebook @Stmarysfol Or email: [friendsofstmaryspubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofstmaryspubliclibrary@gmail.com)



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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](mailto: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](mailto:info@stmarysindependent.com).

# Towne and Country Cheese Shoppe now licenced to sell alcohol



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Jenn Stacey-Laurin shows a few of the alcoholic drinks now available for purchase at the newly licenced Cheese Shoppe. Also pictured is the new mobile charcuterie cart that was made right before Heritage Weekend and is available to rent.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

sales will be confined to the Cheese Shoppe's regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

The store also carries gluten-free items and has over 100 imported and domestic cheeses.

On Saturday Oct. 4, leading up to Thanksgiving, the store is hosting a Sample Fest from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The samples will consist of the most-loved, delicious, comfort-food favourites.

All of it is homemade and will have customers wanting to stock up their freezers.

Some of the items to taste are meat lasagna, mac and cheese, soups, taco dip and pinwheels, pizza and pot pies, breads and buns, and much more.

Stacey-Laurin and co-owner Amie Shackelton are approaching their five-year anniversary on Oct. 8. "I love everything about it," Stacey-Laurin said of owning the business for the past five years. "We have such an incredible customer base, and I have learnt so much about cheese."

Visit the Cheese Shoppe's Facebook page for details on some other big news coming soon.

## Weekend Quiz

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1. What is the traditional birthstone for October?
2. What country is Prague located in?
3. LAN stands for what in computing?
4. When was the last time the Blue Jays won the AL East?
5. Who sings "Rock you like a hurricane"?
6. A stop/loss order is used by who?
7. True or False—Ostriches can fly.
8. What is the most common eye color?
9. How many moons does Mars have?
10. What year was truth and reconciliation day created?

By Jake Grant

This week's answers are found on pg. 35

ST. MARYS COMMUNITY PLAYERS PRESENTS

# Hilda's Yard

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# St. Marys Optometry holds grand opening at new location



(ALEENA SHROPSHIRE PHOTO)

On Saturday, Sept 27, St. Marys Optometry held the grand opening of their new location at 766 Queen St E. Pictured from left to right are team members Mandy Verge, Maggie Banks, Dr. Carol Venn, Vicki King, Meg Linklater and Dr. Erica Gagnon. Following the ribbon cutting, guests were invited to explore the new space and enjoy some refreshments.



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# Town of St. Marys declares Dec. 2 as Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday committee continues to recognize local businesses in leadup to annual event

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Though Giving Tuesday is still a few months away, the St. Marys committee responsible for rallying residents, businesses, service clubs and others to give back to causes close to their hearts annually on or around the first Tuesday after American Thanksgiving is getting a head start recognizing locals who give back year-round.

At the Sept. 23 St. Marys council meeting, St. Marys Giving Tuesday committee chair Julie Docker-Johnson officially presented this year's Giving Tuesday "Won't You Be My Neighbour" campaign before council voted to officially proclaim Dec. 2, 2025, as Giving Tuesday in the Town of St. Marys. During her presentation, Docker-Johnson explained why she and her fellow committee members feel it is important to acknowledge and celebrate the efforts made by local individuals, businesses and organizations beyond what is done on or around Giving Tuesday each year.

"Something that we have learned over the years is that a lot of the different businesses and organizations during that time of year are very, very busy and giving a lot, and giving on different days," Docker-Johnson said. "So, people have asked us if, somehow, we could do something that's not specifically on Dec. 2, which is Giving Tuesday this year. Every year, we think about this and we've thought, 'You don't want to muddy the waters,' and that day is the important day, and then this year, we thought more about it because, mostly, we were concerned about businesses.

"In light of our current economic challenges we are facing, we know that for small businesses, especially in this town, there are 52 Giving Tuesdays a year because businesses are asked constantly to donate or help or support or to sponsor. ... The day itself is a phenomenal day and it needs to be that day because the rest of the world is doing it that day, but because



we're special, we wanted to know how we could do something so that everyone was included regardless of if they could actually do something on Dec. 2."

With that in mind, the Giving Tuesday committee has begun asking locals to share events and initiatives they, their businesses, employers or organizations are working on that give back in one way or another, whether it's raising money for a local charity or non-profit, volunteering time, or spreading awareness of a cause. The idea, Docker-Johnson explained, is to highlight those acts of good by having them published in this newspaper to help inspire others to give back in the lead-up to or on Giving Tuesday this year.

In addition to sharing these stories in the Independent each week, the official St. Marys Gives Giving Tuesday penguin will be appearing in different spots around town to highlight those businesses and organizations that have been caught in the act of giving back to the community and the causes they hold dear.

"For example, St. Marys Insurance Group said to their employees this summer, 'We want to do some giving, but we want it to come from you guys.' So, they asked their employees who they wanted to give to, and they named three different charities. On be-

half of those employees, St. Marys Insurance gave to these charities," Docker-Johnson said.

"They didn't say anything to anybody, they didn't tell anybody, they didn't have a parade. They just did it, but we caught them giving so now we're going to share their story because their story will then inspire others to do something."

While Docker-Johnson said she and the committee hope locals will continue to plan giving activities and initiatives for Dec. 2, residents can help share the good work being done year-round in St. Marys by emailing their stories to [jdockerjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:jdockerjohnson@gmail.com).

For more information about Giving Tuesday in St. Marys and the "Won't You Be My Neighbour" campaign, visit St. Marys Giving Tuesday on Facebook.

The Town of St. Marys will officially commence the season of giving by raising the Giving Tuesday flag at town hall on Nov. 17.

"I think everyone in this room knows there's a lot of very compassionate and giving folks that live in this community, so I'm very excited to see how we catch them giving and what that will look like," deputy mayor Brogan Aylward said prior to council making this year's Giving Tuesday proclamation.



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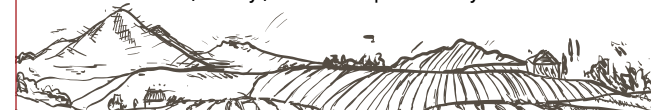
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# St. Marys Community Players delivers extraordinary events in an ordinary backyard with *Hilda's Yard*

EMILY STEWART  
*Independent Reporter*

New and returning actors will bring lots of laughs and heartfelt moments to audiences watching the St. Marys Community Players' (SMCP) production of *Hilda's Yard* by Canadian playwright legend Norm Foster.

SMCP will bring *Hilda's Yard* to the Town Hall Theatre between Oct. 16 to Nov. 2. *Hilda's Yard*, which premiered in 2012 at Theatre New Brunswick, takes the audience to 1956 and follows Sam and Hilda Fluck, two empty nesters looking forward to the next stage of their life.

However, their empty nester stage appears to be a short one as their adult children, Janey and Gary, fall over the fence while Hilda's hanging up laundry and Sam is out buying a new TV.

"The title of the play is *Hilda's Yard*. We're calling it, 'One ordinary backyard, one extraordinary day,'" said assistant director Gregory George. "There's lots of humour, lots of funny lines, lots of incredibly funny situations."

The cast includes SMCP veterans Edie Pedersen and Don Van

Galen as Hilda and Sam along with new to SMCP actors Alex Pedersen (Janey), Matt Schell (Gary), Sarah Nixon (Bobbi Jakes) and Derek Roberts (Beverly Woytowich).

At any given time, there are more than 100 productions presented by theatres around the world of one of Foster's works. SMCP last presented a Foster play in 2023 with *Opening Night*.

"Norm Foster is an audience pleaser," George said. "He's known for his humour with heart, and I think in particular, this play speaks to our audience."

Director Costin Manu is well-versed in Foster's works, as he also directed the SMCP's 2023 production of *Opening Night*.

"He's elevating this production two or three levels to what the normal community theatre productions generally are," George said.

Tickets can either be purchased in person at Troyer's Spices (110 Queen St. E), by calling 226-661-8777, or online by visiting [www.stmaryscommunityplayers.ca](http://www.stmaryscommunityplayers.ca).



(PHOTO COURTESY OF GREGORY GEORGE)

Pictured from left, Derek Roberts, Matt Schell, Alex Pedersen, Don Van Galen, Edie Pedersen and Sarah Nixon star in St. Marys Community Players' production of *Hilda's Yard*, a Norm Foster comedy promising a mix of moments that tug at the heartstrings and produce belly laughs.



## TOWN OF ST. MARYS Water Flushing Program

The Town of St. Marys will be flushing all water mains and hydrants between October 6 and 31, 2025.

| Date(s)      | Times        | Locations                                                                           |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct. 6 - 10  | 7 AM - 5 PM  | Area north of Trout Creek and east of the Thames River                              |
| Oct. 14 - 17 | 7 AM - 5 PM  | Area west of the Thames River                                                       |
| Oct. 19      | 6 PM - 12 AM | Queen St. E (downtown core)                                                         |
| Oct. 20 - 24 | 7 AM - 5 PM  | Area south of Trout Creek from the Thames River to James St., including James St. S |
| Oct. 27 - 31 | 7 AM - 5 PM  | Area south of Trout Creek and east of James St.                                     |

### POTENTIAL SERVICE DISRUPTIONS

Your water may be discoloured as naturally-occurring minerals are disturbed during flushing. If you experience discolouration, run cold water until it becomes clear. Avoid doing laundry until the discolouration has cleared. If your water does not run clear after five minutes, turn off the tap and wait 30 minutes before trying again.

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# FALL

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Slice sale | 8:45 a.m.  
Full pie auction | 10 a.m.

## SATURDAY, OCT. 18

Harvest Soup Day!  
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Chef-made soups starting at 8 a.m.

## SATURDAY, NOV. 1

Final outdoor market at Milt Dunnell  
Pyramid Centre indoor markets:  
Nov. 8, Dec. 6, Dec. 20





# St. Marys Legion works to become recognized as a service club for the community

ALEX HUNT

Independent Reporter

From coffee meetups to upcoming cornhole nights, the Royal Canadian Legion in St. Marys is putting community first, reminding residents the branch is a service club as much as it is a social club.

"For years, the Legion has been open to all members of the community, but it's been difficult to get that message to the public," said St. Marys Legion president Reg Rumble. "Over the decades, the Legion has become more inclusive with the natural change of our society."

"This is something that I have pushed for over the years. A lot of people don't realize that the Legion is a part of the community, we are a part of town and we help raise money for all the town's sports and events."

One of the many activities offered by the St. Marys Legion, The Tuesday morning Buddy Check Coffee program encourages veterans, Canadian Forces members, RCMP, allied forces and first responders, and visitors don't have to be a member. The program runs from September to June.

Mike Rumble, branch service officer at the legion and son of Reg Rumble, said that gathering provides a social outlet where people can feel comfortable sharing what's going on in their lives. It's also a way to encourage people to get out, get moving and stay connected.

The Buddy Check runs from 10-11:30

a.m., offering guests coffee and doughnuts donated by the local Tim Hortons.

Mike Rumble says the veteran community in St. Marys is made up largely of an older core group, with many connected to wars and service over the decades. While today's veterans are still honoured and respected, the Legion also welcomes people from the fire service, policing and organizations like the RCMP, which often overlap with the veteran community.

"To me, the Legion's a service club. No different than the Lions Club and other groups around town," said Reg Rumble. "There are a couple times that the Legion hasn't been invited to the community joint service club meetings. People think we're just a bar, but we're more than that; we raise money for the community like the other clubs do."

The Legion is also adding more social activities, with Monday night cornhole set to begin around late November or early December. The Legion also hosts regular dart nights, cards and sporting events.

"We are also working on getting younger blood in the organization. Otherwise, it's just going to fade out. We find it a little challenging to recruit members of younger generations," said Reg Rumble. "We are doing nicely, though. We have more members than we had five years ago, so we are increasing our membership a little bit every year and that's what the goal is."



(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

Veterans and first responders share stories over coffee at the St. Marys Legion's weekly Tuesday morning gathering. Pictured from left are Reg Rumble, president of the Royal Canadian Legion St. Marys, and his son, Mike Rumble, branch service officer at the St. Marys Legion.

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- TUESDAY BUDDY CHECK**  
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- BINGO FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH**  
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# Rotary makes annual donation to St. Marys Public Library



(PHOTO COURTESY OF ROTARY CLUB OF ST. MARYS)

Pictured on another gorgeous day to gather in the Rotary Reading Gardens at the St. Marys Public Library, members of the Rotary Club of St. Marys literacy committee presented their annual donation, which covers the cost of books donated to the library in honour of their guest speakers. Pictured in the back row from left to right are Rotarians Ron Aitken and Linda Schuyler. In the front row from left to right are library CEO Sarah Andrews, Rotarian Diane O'Shea and library collections officer Kate Long.

# Purolator's red bag campaign



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

On Sept. 13, volunteers from Purolator delivered red bags to the front doors of households in Stratford, St. Marys, Mitchell and Tavistock. These were to be filled with non-perishable items to be picked up by Purolator on Sept. 20. A total of 8,500 pounds was donated to the food banks in these communities. In St. Marys alone, 4,180 pounds was collected. This is part of the Purolator mission to help with food insecurity in Canada and is the fifth time that Purolator Stratford has completed the Red Bag campaign. Approximately 30 people volunteered throughout the campaign, some of whom are pictured here. Purolator is extremely grateful for all their help.



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# Nature London donation supports turtle conservation across Southwestern Ontario



Scott Gillingwater, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) species at risk biologist/herpetologist with two softshell turtles.



(PHOTOS COURTESY OF UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY)

Spiny softshell turtles hatching from their eggs.

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Independent Reporter

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) has received a \$20,000 donation from Nature London to help launch a Turtles at Risk education program and expand a tallgrass prairie restoration project.

The funding will be distributed over four years. For more than 30 years, the UTRCA has worked to bring local turtle populations back from the brink of extinction through the Southern Ontario At-Risk Reptiles (SOARR) program.

"This educational program is a collaboration between our education department and the SOARR team," said Karlee Flear, UTRCA community education co-ordinator. "The aim is to create programming to showcase what they've been able to achieve, the work that they're doing and the research that they've done, and be able to show that to the community."

Flear said growing demands in Ontario's agriculture sector continue to threaten wetlands and turtle habitats, making conservation efforts more urgent.

"Southwestern Ontario has tremendous pressures in terms of land use," she said. "We're seeing incredible development in agricultural land use and all those things impact turtle habitat, biodiversity and water quality, all of which impact turtles' health and their ability to survive."

Agricultural expansion often leads to fertilizer and pesticide runoff that degrades water quality, creating low-oxygen conditions harmful to turtles. It can also cause habitat fragmentation and increase turtle mortality on roads. Altered water flows and reduced ground-

water recharge further compromise the suitability of wetlands for turtle species across the region.

The SOARR program creates and protects habitat, conducts long-term research and incubates turtle eggs found across the watershed. Hatchlings are released back into the wild.

"They have been working really diligently to create and protect turtle habitat," said Flear. "They've done some really long-term research on the turtle populations in our watershed, as well as collect and incubate eggs, and then release them back to the wild. Their collective efforts over the past 30 years have made great strides in our at-risk turtle population, specifically the spiny softshell turtle."

The donation from Nature London will allow SOARR to work closer with the UTRCA's community education team to share their knowledge with watershed residents.

"What Nature London funding is doing is allowing us to get out into the community to educate students about these turtle populations, as well as educate individuals on how they can help protect and serve the turtle species in our watershed," Flear said.

Learning opportunities will include turtle lab tours, interactive activities at community events and school programs highlighting the six turtle species found in southwestern Ontario.

"The spiny softshell turtle is a unique turtle found in southwestern Ontario," Flear said. "It's not found anywhere else in Canada. A lot of effort has been made on that particular species. However, work is being done to protect all of the native turtles we have in our watershed."

Flear expressed gratitude for the partnership.

"I wanted to say a special thank you to Nature London. It's difficult for us to expand our programming, to do these projects without them. So, their funding is much appreciated and we really value them as a partner in our community."

Nature London, a volunteer-driven charitable organization founded in 1864, works to protect, educate and encourage enjoyment of the natural environment.

"Nature London is proud to support these initiatives in support of our mission to preserve and enjoy nature," said Don Taves, president of Nature London.

More information about protecting turtles in the region is available at [thamesriver.on.ca](http://thamesriver.on.ca).

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# October with the St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary

JANIS FREAD

*St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary*

October is a month of squishy pumpkins, mouthwatering baked goods, colourful yarns and fabrics, and Bingo!

Visit the bake sale on Saturday, Oct. 11, at the north-east corner of Queen and Water streets for a delicious selection of home baking and squishy pumpkins, just in time for Thanksgiving. We're open from 9 a.m. to noon, or whenever we sell out!

Next is The Stitch Market for those who enjoy sewing, knitting, quilting, needlepointing or any kind of stitching. The Rotary Club of St. Marys and the hospital auxiliary are partnering to present a shopper's paradise of new and gently used fabrics, yarns and accessories at the sale on Oct. 24 and 25. Watch for the ad in this newspaper for details on the sale and how to donate your fabrics and yarns.

We're ending the month

with everyone's favourite pastime, Bingo! Join us at the Pyramid Recreation Centre on Wednesday, Oct. 29 from 7-10 p.m.

Why the sudden flurry of activity? We have committed to the purchase of a negative pressure wound vac system for our hospital, but we also voted to refurbish the gazebo on the hospital grounds, which is used by patients, staff and visitors. The structure is in poor shape and doesn't do justice to the beautiful gardens surrounding it, which are maintained by the St. Marys Horticultural Society. This project, which has been supported by the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation, is our last commitment of 2025.

For updates on fundraising events or to become a volunteer, follow the auxiliary on Facebook at The Boutique at St. Marys Memorial Hospital or email [smmhauxiliary@gmail.com](mailto:smmhauxiliary@gmail.com).



(PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. MARYS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY)

A few of the squishy pumpkins that will be available for purchase at the St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary's bake sale at the corner of Queen and Water streets Oct. 11.

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# St. Marys Fire Department highlighting dangers of lithium-ion batteries during Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week runs from Oct. 5-11

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

From cellphones to power tools, lithium-ion batteries power so many of the devices we use daily.

The theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week, which is Oct. 5-11, is "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home," giving Fire departments across North America, including the St. Marys department, a chance to spread awareness of the dangers around improper use, storage and disposal of lithium-ion batteries.

"Lithium-ion batteries are basically running 90 per cent of our devices or more," said St. Marys fire prevention officer Chris St. Clair. "We all have our phones, our watches, our computers – multiple things at home – and we really want to boost the importance of properly charging and really just the procedures around having lithium-ion batteries in the home."

More and more, fire departments around the world are responding to fires resulting from damaged or improperly handled lithium-ion batteries, which have the potential to overheat, cause a fire, or even explode.

According to press reports, fire departments in Ontario are responding to more fires caused by lithium-ion batteries than in previous years.

The Toronto Fire Service, for example, responded to



(PHOTOS COURTESY OF ST. MARYS FIRE DEPARTMENT)

Members of the St. Marys Fire Department are warning of the dangers associated with improper use, storage and disposal of lithium-ion batteries and devices.

76 fires caused by lithium-ion batteries in 2024 — a 38 per-cent increase from 2023 (55 fires) and 162 per-cent increase compared to the incidents reported in

2022 (29 fires), according to a July 2025 report.

In 2023, the Kawartha Lakes Fire Rescue Service urged the public to take extra caution when charging lithium-ion batteries in the wake of a house fire near Omemee. That fire, which resulted in more than \$800,000 in damages, was caused by a charging e-bike battery that exploded.

And in August, Health Canada issued a recall for thousands of wireless power banks sold online via amazon.ca and homedepot.com, warning the lithium-ion battery used in the devices could overheat during use, posing a fire risk.

As the number of related fires continues to increase, the St. Marys Fire Department is hoping to share best practices for safe storage, use and disposal of lithium-ion-battery powered devices and chargers during Fire Prevention Week.

"There's a lot of cases where someone used an after-market battery in a device, or an after-market charger for their device, and they'll overheat and catch fire," said St. Mary Fire Chief Phil West.

"Any sort of online platform where you're buying devices and charger cables from; if they're not Underwriter Laboratories (of Canada) or (Canadian Standards Association) listed devices, they could be dangerous," St. Clair added. "You can find a lot of that information online; whether it's a registered or certified device. Those are the things you want to look for when you're buying your cables, power bars and batteries. Same goes for smoke alarms. I've seen a lot of smoke alarms that are purchased online through these companies, and they are not certified or listed to be used in Canada."

When in doubt, St. Clair and West suggest using the cables that come with a product to charge it, or pur-

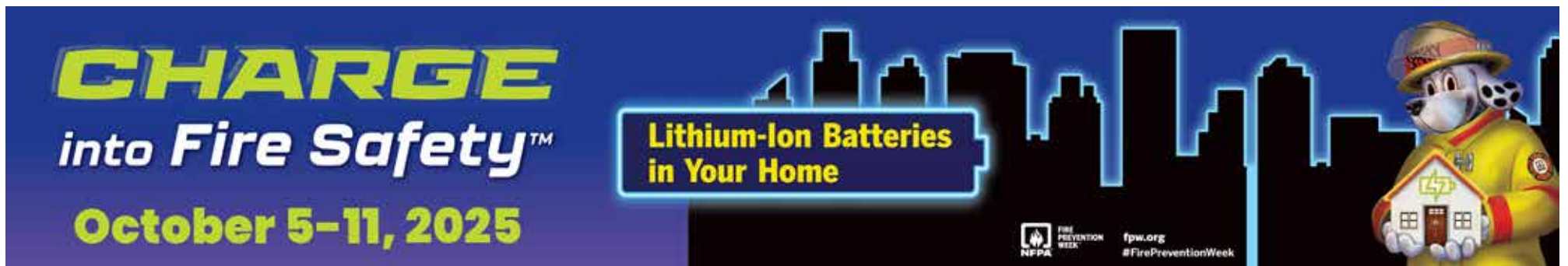
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# St. Marys Fire Department highlighting dangers of lithium-ion batteries during Fire Prevention Week

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

chase replacements directly from the product manufacturer.

As for charging lithium-ion-battery devices, the prevailing wisdom is to charge them on a hard, flat surface in a dry, cool space. St. Clair and West are warning residents against charging phones and other devices under pillows, on beds or couches, inside cabinets or bedside tables, in direct sunlight, or near sources of heat to prevent them from overheating and starting a fire.

They're also warning against over-charging a device; once it's fully charged, unplug it or remove the battery.

Finally, St. Clair and West say improper disposal of lithium-ion batteries or devices that contain those batteries can lead to disastrous consequences.

"Basically, the garbage truck can catch fire or the landfill can catch fire," St. Clair said. "I saw a recent post, it wasn't too far from here, that the firefighters were at the landfill because someone disposed of their batteries that weren't dissipated, so they caused a fire at the landfill."

Instead, he suggested safely recycling lithium-ion batteries at designated recycling drop-off points, which include

Home Hardware and Canadian Tire in St. Marys. For more information on how and where to recycle lithium-ion batteries, visit [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org).

St. Clair, West and the rest of the St. Marys Fire Department will be working to spread the messaging around safe use, storage and disposal of lithium-ion batteries during two Fire Prevention Week events.

On Oct. 9, the fire department will be at Your Independent Grocer with a food truck and swag-bag booth from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and on Oct. 11, the department will host an open house at the St. Marys fire station, also from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The open house will feature station tours, fire-truck and equipment demonstrations including a vehicle extrication demonstration at 11 a.m., an inflatable fire-safety house, a fire-prevention display, visits by the Stratford police and Perth County paramedics, three food vendors (Ken's French Fries, The Grill Cheezery and Brannigans Fish & Chips), and a chance to meet local firefighters and Sparky.

To learn more about Fire Prevention Week and this year's theme, "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home," visit [fpw.org](http://fpw.org).



(PHOTOS COURTESY OF ST. MARYS FIRE DEPARTMENT)

Members of the St. Marys Fire Department are warning of the dangers associated with improper use, storage and disposal of lithium-ion batteries and devices.

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**CHARGE** devices safely. Always use the cables that came with the product to charge. Follow the instructions from the manufacturer. Buy new chargers from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved.

**RECYCLE** your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location. Visit [call2recycle.org](https://call2recycle.org) to find a recycling spot near you.

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# Fall water flushing scheduled for Oct. 6 - 31

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Town of St. Marys will be performing fall water-main and hydrant flushing from Oct. 6-31.

## Flushing schedule

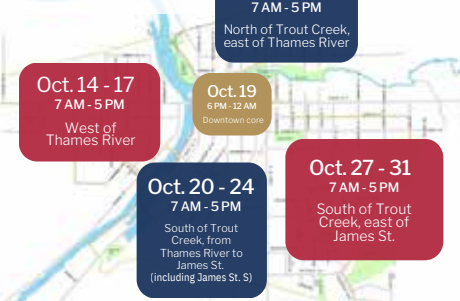
- Oct. 6-10, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., area north of Trout Creek and east of the Thames River
- Oct. 14-17, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., area west of the Thames River
- Oct. 19, 6 p.m. to 12 a.m., Queen Street East (downtown core)
- Oct. 20-24, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., area south of Trout Creek from the Thames River to James Street, including James Street South
- Oct. 24-31, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., area south of Trout Creek and east of James Street.

## Potential service disruptions

Residents and business owners may observe some water discolouration

## FALL WATER FLUSHING

October 6 - 31, 2025



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Town of St. Marys will be performing fall water-main and hydrant flushing from Oct. 6-31.

during flushing. Anyone who notices discolouration should run cold water until it becomes clear. If the water does not run clear after five minutes, turn off the tap and wait 30 minutes before trying again. Refrain from doing laundry until any discolouration has cleared.

# 'Order and Disorder' – An evening of poetry with art at The St. Marys Station Gallery

SYLVIA BOSGRA

Contributed Article

On Friday, Oct. 3, the St. Marys Poetry Circle is presenting an evening of poetry written to accompany the exhibit, "The Order of Things," by Jane Loucks currently on display at the St. Marys Station Gallery (5 James St. N).

When writing poems inspired by artwork, the image becomes an inspiration for the writing. The writing isn't exactly an illustration or description of the painting, instead, the image is a point of departure for the poet.

This is St. Marys Poetry Circle's fourth venture into the process of what is termed "Ekphrastic" poetry. Previous projects include "Stone" (2018), also an exhibit at The Station Gallery, and "Wood" (2020), both collaborations with

St. Marys Clicks Photography Club. The gallery also presented poems inspired by the exhibit, "The Minimalist Eye," with photographer Tim Young (2022), and hosted a reading of glass-inspired poems written to accompany an exhibit by glass and paper artist Mary Louise White (2023).

Come and enjoy an evening of reflective poetry and art at St. Marys Station Gallery. Space is limited, so it is best to arrive in good time for the event, which begins at 7 p.m. and runs until approximately 8:30 p.m. There will be an interlude of recorded music by composer and poet Dan Welcher.

An opportunity to mingle with the poets will follow the readings, and refreshments will be available afterwards. Though there is no fee, donations to the Station Gallery are encouraged.

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## Firefighter Visit and Swag Bag Booth: October 9

Stop by and see our firefighters and the Stratford Police at Your Independent Grocer St. Marys from approximately 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.! Get a St. Marys Fire Department reusable bag (with important fire safety information and swag) and a photo with one of the St. Marys fire trucks!

## St. Marys Fire Department Open House: October 11

The St. Marys Fire Department is excited to host the entire community for an open house event! Visit us between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Enjoy station tours, fire truck and equipment demonstrations (including a vehicle extrication demo at 11:00 a.m.!), inflatable fire safety house, fire prevention display, the Stratford Police, Perth County Paramedics, three delicious food vendors (Ken's French Fries, The Grill Cheezery, and Brannigans Fish & Chips), and a chance to meet the local firefighters, Sparky too!

## More Fire Prevention Week Activities!

To learn more about Fire Prevention Week and this year's theme, "Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home," visit [fpw.org](http://fpw.org). Additional Fire Prevention Week resources for children, caregivers, and educators can be found at [sparky.org](http://sparky.org) and [sparkyschoolhouse.org](http://sparkyschoolhouse.org).

*Where are lithium-ion batteries in your home?*



**BUY** only listed products. When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery look for a safety certification mark such as UL, ETL, or CSA. This means it meets important safety standards.

**CHARGE** devices safely. Always use the cables that came with the product to charge. Follow the instructions from the manufacturer. Buy new chargers from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved.

**RECYCLE** your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location. Visit [call2recycle.org](http://call2recycle.org) to find a recycling spot near you.



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**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK™**



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Ryan Taylor  
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Started Feb 1995



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Captain  
Started Aug 2021



Josh Becker  
Captain  
Started Sep 2013



Chris Primeau  
Lieutenant  
Started Nov 2015



Darcy Robinson  
Lieutenant  
Started Nov 2015



Jeff Sass  
Firefighter  
Started Oct 2001



Jim Burlingham  
Lieutenant  
Started Jan 2006



Brandon Dundas  
Firefighter  
Started Jul 2012



Josh McKay  
Firefighter  
Started Dec 2018



Curtis Downham  
Firefighter  
Started Dec 2018



Ryan Hartsell  
Firefighter  
Started Sep 2020



Neil Lippert  
Firefighter  
Started Sep 2021



Connor Byers  
Firefighter  
Started Sep 2021



Mike McKone  
Firefighter  
Started April 2022



Kruz Dumontier  
Firefighter  
Started May 2022



Mackenzie Forman  
Firefighter  
Started Oct 2023



Gibson Merkel  
Firefighter  
Started Oct 2023



Stuart Taylor  
Firefighter  
Started Oct 2023



Owen Wrigley  
Firefighter  
Started Oct 2023



Devin Oliver  
Firefighter  
Started May 2024



Curtis Taylor  
Firefighter  
Started Feb 2025



Kristian Pusey  
Firefighter  
Started Feb 2025



Mark Manzano  
Firefighter  
Started May 2025



Jeff Sager  
Chaplain  
Started Sep 2022

# St. Marys Independent SPORTS

## Lincs end three-game losing skid with outstanding showing in Elmira



(TURNER ROTH PHOTO)

Jack Clarke crashes the net and scores one of his two goals in the St. Marys Lincolns' 5-2 win over the Elmira Sugar Kings on Sept. 28.

SPENCER SEYMOUR

*Independent Sports Reporter*

"We needed that."

Head coach Jeff Bradley summed up the feeling after the St. Marys Lincolns ended a three-game losing streak on Sept. 28 with a 5-2 victory over the Elmira Sugar Kings, a victory that allowed everyone to breathe and remember that the sky isn't falling for the Lincolns.

"I was really happy with how we played," Bradley told the Independent. "It was a game we needed and a result we needed, and to have it come against one of, if not the top team that we've faced thus far, and we've played some really good teams, that was big for our team."

The start to the game for the Lincolns saw them face a fast and heavy attack from the high-powered Sugar Kings, but even though the Lincs were outshot 11-7 in the opening 20 minutes, according to the bench boss, they weathered the storm as well as they could have.

"Elmira came at us really hard, but we didn't lose our composure at all, which was great to see," said Bradley. "Brogan (Colquhoun) held us in there as we got through the fire. We withstood it really well and didn't get down. We backed off midway through the first period when being aggressive wasn't really benefiting us, and that allowed us to settle into the game more. Eventually, things started going our way, and we gained a lot more confidence as the game went on."

The first goal of the game didn't come

until three minutes and 15 seconds into the second frame, when Ryder Roberson broke the ice for Elmira. However, around eight minutes later, former Sugar King Jack Clarke delivered a powerful answer in the form of two goals in 31 seconds, the first of which came on a St. Marys powerplay.

Bradley described the quick-strike goals by Clarke, who was playing on a new-look line as the centreman between Chase MacQueen-Spence and Lincoln Moore, as being a shot in the arm for the Lincs' confidence level.

"Getting a powerplay goal was nice, but then getting the second goal by Jack (Clarke) was really big, too. Knowing that you've been hanging on for a little bit and withstanding a lot of pressure by the other team, and then you put two quick goals like that, and both were not fluke goals at all, it reminds you that you can put the puck in the net and it gives the whole team extra confidence."

"For Jack (Clarke), that was his first opportunity this season being the centreman with accomplished 20-year-old guys like Chase (MacQueen-Spence) and Lincoln (Moore), and he went out and scored two goals," Bradley continued. "He made the most of his opportunity. Jack is a real hockey player and he is a confident kid, but he's still fairly young, and having the success he had in the role he was in really helped him play even more confidently than he already was."

Just over five minutes later, Devun Colebrook fired home his first Greater Ontario Hockey League (GOHL) goal



(TURNER ROTH PHOTO)

Devun Colebrook fist-bumps equipment manager Dante Audet as Colebrook takes the ice during the St. Marys Lincolns' game on Sept. 28 in Elmira. Colebrook scored his first GOHL goal, which also went down as the game-winner, in the Lincolns 5-2 victory over the Sugar Kings.

to put the Lincs up by a pair. Elmira brought it back to within one before the end of the period, but Colebrook's goal eventually went down as the game-winner.

"We have needed more depth scoring, so to get one from Devun (Colebrook) was really good for us," Bradley said. "We love Devun as a player. We track everything, and Devun does great with so many things. He doesn't turn the puck over very often. He hits a ton of guys. We've been thrilled with him. He contributes in a lot of other ways, but him getting that goal was great for our team, and great for him."

With 96 seconds left in the third frame, Moore ripped a shot off the inside post to give the Lincolns a two-goal advantage before an empty netter by Owen Voortman sealed the 5-2 victory.

The win provided much-needed relief after the Lincs lost 3-2 to the Port Colborne Sailors in overtime 24 hours previously.

A poor showing by the Lincs in the first period led to PJ Alexander and Ian Robinson scoring for the visiting Sailors in the opening period. Bradley said the uninspired performance was the biggest factor in the defeat.

"We're competing against ourselves when we have a bad first period like that, and spot a good, well-coached team two goals in the first period," Bradley said. "We had maybe one or two guys who showed up in the first period, and that isn't going to beat a team of 19 that was working as hard as Port

Colborne was. I liked what we did in the second and third periods, but trying to make up ground after a first period like the one we had is a very hard way to win a game."

Between execution and mental attention to detail, Bradley detailed the problems stemming from a concentration issue.

"It's a matter of focus to me. We certainly don't practice flying around the zone and winging it. We practice in lanes and with routes, but in the first period, we were not executing. So, it's either a simple lack of execution or lack of concentration, one of the two, and I think (against Port Colborne), it just came down to a lack of concentration."

The Lincolns turned in much stronger play through the final two periods, getting rewarded with a powerplay goal by David Heath – the first in his GOHL career – and the first goal since returning to the Lincolns from Ethan Weir. With the game deadlocked at the end of regulation, it went into overtime, where Robinson one-timed home the winner for the Sailors.

Bradley, while disappointed with the loss, highlighted the good aspects of the team's final 40 minutes.

"We decided that we wanted to play and compete and try to win," said Bradley. "We were more careful with the puck, we were much more physical and we just competed; simple as that. In the second and third, we didn't make things easy on them. There were definitely some positives there after the first period."

# DCVI senior boys volleyball sweeps opening day games

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The St. Marys DCVI Senior Boys Volleyball Team picked up back-to-back wins over Goderich and Listowel on their first day of the regular season on Sept. 25.

Head coach Steve Chateauvert told the Independent his squad maintained a high standard of play for virtually the entire day.

"The consistency of our attack was really good," said Chateauvert. "They were consistently consistent, and that's incredibly important in volleyball. A difference of five, six, or seven points really isn't anything, and teams can get momentum and go on runs really fast if you get the right combination of players in the right spots, so you have to have consistency to manage that."

The only lacklustre set for the team came in the first game against Goderich, when the Salukis dropped the opening set 25-17. St. Marys refocused heading into the second set and never looked back, beating Goderich 25-22 and 25-23 to take their first victory of the season.

Chateauvert noted that the Salukis had a strong bounce back in the final two sets after settling into the game.

"It was one of the first games of the year, so everyone was a little tentative at first," Chateauvert said. "In the first set, we didn't serve very well and that showed in the score, but I thought they



(TURNER ROTH PHOTO)

Justin Ropp tips the ball over the net during one of the St. Marys DCVI senior boys volleyball team's two wins on Sept. 25.

got their feet under them after that. They passed the ball pretty well all day, and they hit the ball really well. Simon (Taylor) and Justin (Ropp) on the left side were pretty consistent. Andrew (Nanaphosy) and Peyton (Wynands) played pretty well on the right side. I had told them to just keep swinging, and eventually they'll go where we want them to,

and they did."

Chateauvert added the team's passing has been a focus of every practice early on this season.

"We do a lot of passing every practice, and I'm a big believer in having good first contact," Chateauvert said. "If you get a good first pass, whatever that looks like, then you're able to give your

setters some options, and we did that pretty well for most of the day."

The Salukis continued their strong play from the final two sets in their second game of the day against Listowel, winning 25-14 and 25-22 in straight sets.

Once again, the team's offensive consistency was the big factor in their win.

"Especially in the first set, they played really well. We just maintained that consistent attack, and we started to run a little bit quicker offence out of the middle, which you can only do if you get a good first pass. Cyler (Pickering) and Parker (Levy) both ran a couple of really good quicks out of the middle and worked on their spacing a little bit, and they were successful in doing that."

Looking ahead, Chateauvert mentioned he wants the team to continue creating more options for their heaviest hitters.

"I think I want to see a more varied attack," said Chateauvert. "We want the other team to never know where the ball is going to go next, so we'll be trying to work with my middles on being loud and calling for the ball, which they started to do more in our two games, which was great. When they do that, it opens up one-on-one contests on the outside, and whether it's Justin (Ropp), Simon (Taylor), Henry (Switzer), or Zach (Larmer), they're going to put those one-on-one balls away."



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# U13 A boys triumph at preseason tournament

TURNER ROTH

*Independent Sports Reporter*

The Dunny's Source For Sports U13 A Boys St. Marys Rock capped off an exciting weekend with a championship win at the London Jr. Mustangs Early Bird Tournament Sept. 19-21.

Head coach Merlin Malinowski was thrilled with his team's performances throughout the tournament, which was a strong bounce-back after some tough, earlier preseason games.

"I can't say enough about how good they played," said Malinowski. "The first two exhibition games we had versus New Hamburg and Stratford, our guys were hesitant, but (on Sept. 19-21), they started to attack and go hard, just the way you want them to play. It's amazing how fast the new players have begun to jell with the rest of the team, and it feels like they've been with each other for more than a couple of weeks by the way they played."

The Rock played the hometown London Jr. Mustangs Grey in the semi-final and Charles Coppins opened the scoring for St. Marys seven minutes into the first period. The Rock kept up the momentum as they added three goals in the second period by Jaxson Parsons, Myles



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Dunny's Source For Sports U13 A Boys captured the gold medal at the London Jr. Mustangs Early Bird Tournament Sept. 19-21. Pictured laying on the ice, from left to right, are Matthew McCarty and Luke Savile. In the second row, from left, are Jaxson Parsons, Keaton Ward, Gavin Santagapita, Talon Nov, Talon Ward, Attley Ehgoetz, Joey Brown, Theo Keller, Nick Simons, Owen Leslie-Robinson, Hudson Monteith, Liam Showers, Emmitt Parkinson, Myles Havens and Charles Coppins. In the back row, from left, are Harper Murrell, Jonathan Ward, Mark Monteith, Merlin Malinowski, Jeremy Savile and Deon Keller.

Havens and Attley Ehgoetz, with London responding with a goal of their own before the period was done.

Both teams scored a pair of goals in the third period, with Theo Kellar and Owen Leslie-Robinson finding the back of the net for the Rock to secure a 6-3 victory and advance to the finals.

"The kids didn't let up," Malinowski told the Independent. "We forechecked really well and had good puck position in the offensive zone. It was great to see them all playing that hard and motivated right out of the gate. We have three lines in competition with each other, and you can't tell the first line from the third

line. They are motivating each other and pushing each other to do better."

In the finals against the Ausable Valley Coyotes, a goal by Havens got the Rock out to an early lead. When the Coyotes tied the game late in the first, Malinowski was proud of how the team responded.

"The final was our toughest game of the tournament," Malinowski said. "It felt like we were controlling the play and getting the better chances throughout the game. When the opponent tied it up, the boys didn't panic. They just kept grinding away like they had all tournament, and they handled the adversity well."

The Rock added three more goals in the second period by Keller, Copins and Leslie-Robinson, cementing a 4-1 win for the gold medal.

"They are good hockey players," said Malinowski. "The forwards are strong skaters and strong shooters. We've got six good defencemen and good goaltending backing it up. I really have high expectations for this group of players this year. As long as the coaches can get them playing on the same page and playing the right way, I think they're going to have a lot of success this year."

## 'United' U11 A boys win gold at London preseason tourney

TURNER ROTH

*Independent Sports Reporter*

The Social Thirty-One U11 A Boys St. Marys Rock won gold at the London Jr. Mustangs Early Bird tournament Sept. 19-21.

Head coach Mike Johnson praised the boys for their excellent defence, offensive depth and ability to play as a unit.

"They played together better than any team in the tournament," Johnson said. "They played as a unit of 15 players, the goalies shared the nets and supported each other, and that helped us win the key games we needed to win. Our defence has been working hard and adapting to the new obstacles being thrown at them. We had balanced scoring, with all three forward lines contributing when it mattered. All of that was key to our success."

After going 1-2 in the three-game round-robin, the Rock's semi-final game was against the South Oxford Storm – which finished the round-robin undefeated – in a game highlighted by strong defence and goaltending from both teams. South Oxford took the lead in the middle of the first period and held it until the start of the second, when St. Marys forward Kyle Johnson netted the Rock's first goal of the game, assisted by Rhett Parkinson.

The third period continued the theme of defensive excellence as no goal was scored. It would take until the dying seconds of the second overtime period when Kyle Johnson fired the game-winning goal.

St. Marys then advanced to the



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Social Thirty-One U11 A Boys St. Marys Rock finished first at the London Jr. Mustangs Early Bird tournament Sept. 19-21. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Elliott Maddock, Ryan Pickel and Kyle Johnson. In the middle row, from left, are Jack Anderson, Rhett Parkinson, Ashton Ropp, Kai Sherwood, Bode Keller, Owen Simons, Tucker Posthumus, Logan Masselis, Nico Thompson, Everett Crummer, Lincoln Jennings and Myles Avey. In the back row, from left, are Mark Jennings, Jaden Ropp, Mike Johnson, Mitchell Watt and Scott Crummer. Not pictured were Fraser Anderson and Shawn Sherwood.

gold-medal game against the Elgin Thames 73's, a high-scoring affair that went into the first intermission with Elgin Thames ahead 2-1. Tucker Posthumus scored the lone goal of the opening period for the Rock.

Early in the second period, Ashton Ropp sparked the Rock as he made the

game even at 2-2. Nico Thompson then scored the second goal of the period, giving the Rock a 3-2 lead. With just two minutes to go, Elgin Thames scored, tying the game once again at three apiece heading into the third.

The competitive clash was broken open in the third period, with the Rock find-

ing their stride as Posthumus buried his second goal of the game. Owen Simons added a goal of his own, and Thompson also scored his second of the contest, assisted by Parkinson and Bode Keller. A late goal from Elgin Thames was too little too late as the Rock took the game 6-4 to win the gold medal.

Mike Johnson described what the tournament win means for this team.

"It was a really good way to start the season. Most of the kids on this team had gone through tough losses last year, losing in the finals in two tournaments by one goal. It was nice to pull one out and have them experience that feeling of a big win again. It was a great way to welcome some new players to the team and a great start to the season."

Mike Johnson further credited his team's intensity throughout the tournament.

"We have a broad mix of skill, with some really strong kids that win battles on the wall and net-front battles. The group as a whole has a lot of speed as they are really strong with those high-pressure forecheck battles. The defencemen are also really aggressive in the neutral zone, with forwards helping apply some pressure as well. The kids have been skating their butts off so far.

"I have really high hopes for us this season as a strong contender in most of the tournaments we go to," Mike Johnson continued. "I think we should be contenders for the league title this year if the kids keep working with the tenacity and dedication they've had so far. I have no doubts it's going to be a great year."

# DCVI senior girls upsets powerhouse Mitchell

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The St. Marys DCVI Senior Girls Basketball Team scored an upset win over Mitchell on Sept. 24, grinding their way to a 29-23 victory.

Brian Chalupka filled in as head coach in place of Monica Ryan, and noted the Salukis' play in the defensive zone secured their victory.

"Mitchell is a very strong team," said Chalupka. "They believe they can compete for a championship this year, but I thought, if our girls played their game, that they had a chance to beat them. For us, the most important thing was our defence. That's what won us the game. Our defence frustrated Mitchell, and it caused them to miss quite a few shots."

Chalupka elaborated on the Salukis' strong defensive play, saying they did everything right to stifle the high-powered Mitchell offence.

"What I like about how we defended is that everyone is on the same page, and everyone competes hard. We didn't get into foul trouble because they're not reaching in. When you reach in, you're not doing it right. You're tired and you're getting beat. These girls were moving their feet and staying in front of them. It takes a lot of energy, but they understood that the only way to beat Mitchell was to have a lot of pressure on them, and they did that. It was really enjoyable coaching them because there are no egos, no one is trying to impress all on their own. They play as a unit. They're focused and they listen to instructions well."



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Pictured, Valentina Urbano drives into the key during a recent St. Marys DCVI senior girls basketball game. The Salukis delivered a stellar defensive performance on Sept. 24 to secure a 29-23 upset victory over the powerhouse team from Mitchell.

Though everyone delivered a strong effort, Chalupka mentioned several players as leading in the team's defence-fueled victory.

"Marin (Chateauvert) and Charlotte (Richardson) are tremendous athletes. They played the whole game and never got tired. I kept asking, 'Are you getting tired?' And they never did and said, 'I'll let you know when I'm tired.' They played the whole game and played it well."

"Valentina Urbano played very well defensively," Chalupka continued. "Alanna and Regan played the post, and they played well and defended really hard. Libby (McCurdy) is a really solid player. They all did a really good job and played as a unit."

# Parks Lawn Bowling Club hosts Trebles Tournament



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Pictured from left to right are Sharon Farrish, Paula Stackhouse, Kay Johns, and Rick Wood. Stackhouse, Johns, and Wood were the winners of the Parks Lawn Bowling Club's Trebles Tournament, sponsored by Farrish, on Sept. 28. Each team had to include one novice bowler, which was Stackhouse on the winning trio, and 14 teams participated in the tournament. The team of Dawn Collins, Denis Kearney, and Ena Kearney came in second place. Fred Erickson, Paul Hutchison, and Jim Smith placed third. The trio of Leigh Follett, Anita Gregory, and Paula Travers finished fourth, and Farrish, Larry McLellan, and Mitch Young took fifth place.

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# Physiotherapy plays essential role in breast cancer recovery

BROOKE SCHEELE

Contributed Article

Breast cancer remains one of the most common cancers affecting women, with approximately 30,500 Canadian women diagnosed each year.

While breast cancer treatments can be lifesaving, they may also lead to physical challenges that impact daily life. Many breast cancer patients may feel hesitant to seek support for these physical challenges. However, personalized physiotherapy can play a critical role in helping restore movement, reduce discomfort and promote long-term wellness.

## Understanding the physical impact

Breast cancer treatment may include a mastectomy, the surgical removal of one or both breasts. This also sometimes involves the removal of nearby lymph nodes, leading to fluid build-up in the arm or chest. Additional treatments like radiation, chemotherapy and hormone therapy can further affect tissue quality, limb function and sensation.

## As a result, patients may experience:

- Reduced shoulder movement
- Lymphedema
- Scar tissue formation
- Nerve pain or numbness
- Fatigue
- Muscle weakness
- Postural imbalances
- Pelvic health concerns

These side effects can interfere with daily activities and emotional health. However, early physiotherapy intervention with a knowledgeable practitioner can help prevent complications and promote a smoother recovery.

It's never too early or too late in your journey to benefit from physiotherapy. Patients may be seen before treatment for education on what to expect and how to prepare. Many report this proactive approach helps them feel more physically and emotionally equipped for what's ahead.

Others begin after treatment, even years later, to address lingering shoulder pain, limited range of motion, or weakness. Through guided, personalized care plans, physiotherapists help patients restore upper-body mobility, optimize



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Registered physiotherapist Brooke Scheele at The Physio Nook in St. Marys.

posture, rebuild strength and return to daily activities, sports, or hobbies with greater confidence.

## Key components of breast cancer physiotherapy

1. Exercise therapy: Tailored exercises improve flexibility, restore shoulder function and help fight cancer-related fatigue. Gentle stretching and strengthening exercises are introduced progressively.

2. Lymphedema management: Therapists teach techniques such as manual lymphatic drainage, compression-garment use and skin care to control swelling.

3. Pain relief: Hands-on therapies and guided-movement strategies may help reduce pain and discomfort.

4. Scar tissue management and cording (axillary web syndrome): Specialized massage and stretching techniques prevent tightness and improve tissue mobility around surgical scars. Manual therapy and specific exercises can ease pain and restore arm function when cording is present.

5. Balance and coordination exercises: For patients experiencing chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy, cus-

tomized exercises can improve balance, coordination and address pain or numbness caused by nerve damage.

6. Pelvic health: Many people experience urinary incontinence, pelvic pain or sexual dysfunction following cancer treatment. Physiotherapy can provide a

variety of approaches to effectively reduce or resolve these symptoms.

7. Collaborative care: Physiotherapists work with other members of the health team to offer education and compassion during a challenging time.

Physiotherapy offers a compassionate, evidence-based approach to recovery and reclaiming wellness.

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with breast cancer, speak with your health-care provider about a referral to a knowledgeable physiotherapist.

Brooke Scheele at The Physio Nook offers physiotherapy services to support breast cancer recovery. Reach out by calling 519-703-9729, email [info@the-physionook.ca](mailto:info@the-physionook.ca) or visit [www.thephysionook.ca](http://www.thephysionook.ca) to learn how physiotherapy can support you.

*Brooke Scheele is a registered physiotherapist who is passionate about helping patients regain function and strength to build confidence in everyday activities, hobbies, and exercise. She treats a wide range of conditions, including orthopaedic injuries and external pelvic-health concerns, and has recently expanded her practice to include care for individuals recovering from breast cancer. Her goal is to make these important services more accessible in smaller communities.*

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# Thorndale News

*A section within the  
St. Marys Independent*

## Preserving the Thorndale Train Station's legacy

NANCY ABRA

*Independent Reporter*

A Thorndale mainstay is once again returning to the community.

The Thorndale Train Station has been absent from this community since it was moved to a private property in 1968. Originally built around 1912, it sat at the rail tracks opposite the mill. With the increase of trucks and cars for transporting people and farm goods to larger centres, the CNR decommissioned it in 1965.

Joe Byway Sr., who worked for CNR as a police officer, purchased the Thorndale Train Station from CNR and had it moved by a large flatbed truck and trailer from Thorndale to his property northeast of Thamesford. According to his daughter-in-law, Kathy Byway, Byway Sr. "loved to collect things of all sizes, but more importantly, seeing he worked for CNR, he wanted to preserve the train station from demolition."

Since 1968, the Thorndale Train Station has been on the Byway property and was held in high regard. It took a couple of years for the Byway father and son team to painstakingly remove the layers of industrial green paint inside the train station, taking it down to



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

**The Thorndale Train Station was recently moved from a property northeast of Thamesford back to Thorndale.**

the natural wood. They then varnished the building to preserve the wooden interior.

After Byway Sr. passed away, it became his son's, Joe Byway Jr. He staged

the station's interior with a desk, old typewriter and tray of papers. After Joe Byway Jr. passed away in 2022, his wife, Kathy Byway, wanted to downsize some of collection. A neighbour,

Sheldon Morris, expressed an interest in the Thorndale Train Station, and they agreed that it would be moved to his property.

"Later that year, a Thorndale Lions member inquired about the train station" Kathy Byway said, "and if it could come back to Thorndale. I felt bad, but I am a woman of my word and told him, I had already promised it to someone else."

"That train station was part of our family and I was sad to see it go from our property, but I know it has gone to a good home."

On Thursday, Sept. 18, the historic move from one caretaker to another, a distance of approximately 2.8 kilometres, took over six hours, navigating hydro lines, tree branches, corners and a small hill. Once on the property of Morris Insurance, the train station was placed on a proper cement foundation.

"The Thorndale Train Station is like a time capsule," said Morris. "It has an atmosphere of the past, represents a hardworking community, a bygone era of rail transportation, and I am honoured to be its next caretaker for years to come, preserving its legacy for the next generation."

## What's on at Thorndale Library in October

MIDDLESEX COUNTY LIBRARY

*Contributed Article*

Here's a listing of what's going on at the Thorndale Library next month.

### For young families:

- Thorndale Storytime (Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.): Join us for stories, songs, rhymes and fun!

### For school-aged children (ages seven

to 11):

- Afterschool Hangout (Wednesdays 4:30-5:30 p.m.): Join us for crafts, games and have a blast with your friends.

### For youth (ages 12-17)

- Needle Felting (Oct. 10 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.): Shape wool into a felted, fall-themed creation! For youth and adults. Registration required.

### For adults and seniors:

- Easy Painted Fall Trees (Oct. 2 1:30-2:30 p.m.): Create an easy and colourful fall picture. Registration required.

- Needle Felting (Oct. 10 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.): Shape wool into a felted fall-themed creation! For youth and adults. Registration required.

### For all ages:

- Nintendo Switch Lites (Oct. 8, 9, 15 and 16 4-8 p.m.): Revisit classic games

and new favourites! First come, first served.

- Fall Book Sale (Open hours Oct. 21-25): Purchase previously loved books by donation.

For more information or to register, call 519-461-1150 or email [thorndale\\_staff@middlesex.ca](mailto:thorndale_staff@middlesex.ca).

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## COLUMNS

## UKRAINIAN CORNER: Puzzled by pumpkins – A Ukrainian guide to Canadian fall

ALONA VASYLIEVA

Independent Columnist

The air is getting crisper, the leaves are turning every shade of a sunset and, if you listen closely, you can hear the faint, delightful sound of a pumpkin spice latte being brewed.

Yes, it's autumn in Canada, a season so special it deserves its own theme song. Having moved here from Ukraine, I've been on a hilarious and heartwarming crash course in all things fall, and let me tell you, it's a wild ride.

Back in Ukraine, pumpkins were a serious business. We'd harvest them with our families, and their destiny was simple: the kitchen. My grandma, a culinary wizard, would transform them into a delicious porridge with raisins, cinnamon and rice, baked to perfection in her wood-fired oven. The idea of using them for decoration? Unheard of. It just wasn't in our cultural playbook.

While Canadians are busy with their town fairs, corn mazes and apple-picking adventures, my Ukrainian memories of the harvest season are a bit more practical. It wasn't about rides or food trucks. It was a mad dash to prepare for the long, cold winter ahead. We were all business, pickling veggies, drying mushrooms and making enough jam to last us until spring. It was a race against time, not a weekend activity.

The fall festivals in Canada are a beautiful thing. It's about bringing people together and celebrating the abundance of the season. This is something that resonates with me, as we have similar gatherings in Ukrainian cities.

There's something magical about pumpkins, isn't there? In Canada, they're not just a gourd; they're a symbol of the season. They're on every porch, every coffee shop menu and let's be honest, probably in every car's backseat after a trip to the farm. I've noticed this phenomenon, and it's a stark contrast to my childhood in Ukraine.

So, imagine my shock when I arrived here and discovered that pumpkins are not just for eating – they're for everything. I've also learned a hard truth: not every pumpkin is created equal. Some are for carving, some



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Three autumns in, the Canadian fall is still a whirlwind of vibrant colours, cozy traditions and a whole lot of questions about pumpkins for this Ukrainian newcomer.

are for pies and some, I assume, are just for looking pretty. Who knew? My son, Alex, and I have happily embraced the pumpkin-carving tradition for Halloween. It's a new adventure and a sticky mess we wouldn't trade for anything.

Speaking of things I don't quite get, let's talk about apples. Back home, apples were the most popular and cheapest fruit. Every household seemed to have a tree, and free, juicy apples were a given. Buying them felt almost alien.

Here in Canada, I've noticed something that absolutely blows my mind: people with apple trees in their backyards often just let the apples fall to the ground. It's an almost criminal act to a Ukrainian like me. My son, Alex, is obsessed with apples – I've even nicknamed him "Alex the Apple Man" – so this is a particularly painful sight. I used to take free apples for granted, and now I understand they're a privilege.

Thanksgiving is another beautiful Canadian mystery. The tradition of a huge family potluck with a giant turkey is something my family is enthusiastically embracing. This year, my family put a challenge on the table: a homemade turkey. I am both excited and anxious. My search for the perfect, juicy turkey recipe is on, and I've already noticed that most Canadian ovens are far wider than the ones we had in Ukraine. I can only assume they're a turkey-customized model.

And then there's the invitation etiquette. In Canada, it's common to see a specific end time on an invitation card. This is brilliant! It allows guests to plan their day and lets the host know when the party officially winds down. In Ukraine, if you host a party, you're on the clock until the last person leaves. To mention a time limit would be seen as incredibly rude, a bit like telling your guests, "You've had your fun, now get out!" I, for one, am happily adopting this new, wonderfully polite and logistically sound tradition.

As the days get shorter and the weather stays surprisingly warm, there's a different kind of joy in the air. We're not just enjoying the season; we're soaking up every last sunny moment, knowing what's just around the corner. Fall in Canada is an adventure, a blend of new traditions and old memories.

The warm fall weather here is also a gift. It's a time for reflection, gratitude and appreciating the small moments. And who knows, maybe this year, my turkey will be as juicy as the apples Alex "The Apple Man" loves so much.

## Straight from the Shelves

LAURA MCASH

St. Marys Public Library

October is Canadian Library Month! It is also when our "Finding Larkspur" programs kick into high gear.

This Saturday, join Edith the puppet for songs and stories themed around her visit to the farm. On Tuesday, the Recipe Club will discuss all things pie, while Books and Brews on October 15 will cover "Finding Larkspur" itself, and the Satin Ribbon Showcase will run from October 14 to 18. Finally, join us at the PRC on 2 p.m. Saturday, October 25 in the 2/3rd Hall for a chat with Dan Needles, the author of "Finding Larkspur".

Interested in winning a free lunch with Dan Needles at 12 p.m. at Gilly's Pub the day of the author talk? Visit [www.perthcountylibraries.ca](http://www.perthcountylibraries.ca) to submit your virtual ballot!

All programing is free. Attending

Books and Brews requires pre-registration and those participating in the Satin Ribbon Showcase must fill out the on-line submission form ([tinyurl.com/Satin-Ribbon-Showcase](http://tinyurl.com/Satin-Ribbon-Showcase)) before October 7. The remaining programs do not require registration.

For more information on these programs, drop by the Library or visit our Facebook page!

## Up This Week

Fri., Oct. 3: Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sat., Oct. 4: Edith's Storytime Adventures (10 a.m.), Dungeons and Dragons (10 a.m.)

Mon., Oct. 6: Euchre Mondays (10:30 a.m.)

Tues., Oct. 7: Recipe Club (10:30 a.m.)

Wed., Oct. 8: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30-10:30 a.m.), Mahjong! (1-4 p.m.)

Thurs., Oct. 9: Open 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## Ask the Arborist

By Joel Hackett | 519 272 5742 | [jtsquote@gmail.com](mailto:jtsquote@gmail.com)

## Dear Arborist,

When is the best time to remove a tree? My neighbour thinks when the ground is frozen, and there are no leaves. Does that make it easier?

Thanks, Ben

Dear Ben,

We typically don't work in those conditions. Although frozen ground can be helpful, other factors need consideration, such as wind, snow, ice, and varying temperatures. High winds make winter work more challenging, and equipment

doesn't function as well in the cold. Additionally, climbing a tree can be dangerous due to slippery conditions. Therefore, we generally recommend completing these tasks before winter sets in, if possible.

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](mailto:jtsquote@gmail.com)

# HISTORIC ST. MARYS: A classic Ontario house

MARY SMITH

*Independent Columnist*

The St. Marys Museum's team of volunteer researchers has, through the years, completed property history reports for more than 150 local and area houses. They represent a good cross-section of the community's older homes. Some of these houses are large and imposing structures and others are single-storey cottages. Some may be connected to well-known local entrepreneurs or politicians, while others belonged to people who neither received nor wanted public recognition. The house in this week's photograph at 151 Wellington Street South belongs to the latter group. But, as the researchers have discovered, there are interesting stories connected to every property.

To determine the year a house was built, the lead researcher, Ken Telfer, examines records and documents available online or in the R. Lorne Eedy Archives at the St. Marys Museum. An important document is the abstract from county registry offices. It traces the history of transactions relating to the property – who sold it, who bought it, when these transactions happened and for how much money, when it was mortgaged and when that mortgage was discharged. It also shows survey details, such as a right-of-way that might run through the property. It will also show whether, at some time in its history, a lien was placed on the property. The Museum's resources include abstracts for St. Marys on microfilm. More up-to-date information is available on the province's website.

Municipal assessment rolls are another source of information about a property's history. Although some are missing for the town's early years, there are more than a century's worth of historic assessment records in the archives. These yearly records provide the names of the owners of all municipal properties and if these properties are rented, the names of the tenants. They give the number of people in each household and whether they are public or separate school supporters. They also provide the value of the property that has been fixed by the assessor for taxation purposes. If there is a major jump in assessment from one year to the next, that signifies some change in the property. Perhaps the owners built an addition or, perhaps, a new and larger house altogether.

Even using these two types of official documents, determining the age of a house may still be an imprecise exercise. Although the town was surveyed with streets and individual building lots in the 1850s, the first assessment records to survive are for 1869. There are gaps in the records through the early 1870s, a period when the town's population was increasing and many homes were being built. The house at 151 Wellington Street South is an example. It is located on Lot 8 on the east side of the street. In the 1869 assessment records,



(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ST. MARYS MUSEUM)

**The front portion of this house on Wellington Street South dates from the 1870s. It is a good example of a popular building style, the Ontario house.**

this specific lot is not noted, meaning that it was still part of a larger, yet-undeveloped parcel of land.

However, the abstract shows that this lot was bought and sold several times from 1855 into the 1860s and in June 1873. Each time the sale was for a modest sum. That signifies that it had not yet been built on. But by 1875 – the year of the next surviving municipal assessment – a four-person household was living on Lot 8, on the east side of Wellington Street South. That is the first absolute proof that there was a dwelling there, built before the 1875 assessment.

Sometimes researchers get lucky. They may find a notice in one of the historic newspapers, available on microfilm at the Museum. It may state that someone is building a new house on a certain street. If it is a grand dwelling, its features might be described in some detail. This information will pinpoint the year of the house's construction. But such discoveries are rare and are never found for the first small log or frame homes that the town's early residents built. Occasionally, the current homeowners may be able to provide some clues. They may have some documentation relating to the builders, such as an old invoice for some of the work. A few people have found signatures and dates scribbled on a beam in the attic or on a wall stud that was later covered with lath and plaster. Some new owners find out interesting details about their home by talking to long-time residents of the neighbourhood.

The style of the house is also a clue to its age although style means a range of dates rather than a precise year. The house at 151 Wellington Street South is an example of a style that was extremely popular in this area from the 1860s to the 1880s and, in some cases, up to the turn of the century. The Gothic cottage, also called the Ontario house, is characterized by its storey-and-a-half structure.

they do survive for decades when they are well-maintained.

The chain of ownership, as recorded on the abstract, provides information about a property and the people associated with it. The lots along Wellington Street South are part of the survey done for George Tracy who, in the early 1840s, acquired 290 acres of land from the Canada Company within the boundaries of St. Marys. This made up most of today's south ward between James Street South and the Thames River. Tracy's survey divided the property into building lots. His own fine house on Church Street South is currently the St. Marys Museum. The history of 151 Wellington Street South really begins when James Johnston bought the property in 1873. The current owners believe that the front part of their house likely dates from this period.

James Johnston was a wagonmaker, possibly working for one of several St. Marys carriage or farm implement manufacturers. He can be found in the 1869 assessment roll, living in a rented house on Water Street South, not far from Lot 8, Wellington Street. At that time, there were two people in his household. The 1871 census tells us that he was 34 years old and had been born in Scotland. He was married to Ellen, age 32, who had been born in England. He was Presbyterian and she belonged to the Church of England. They had a two-year-old son, Andrew, who had been born in Ontario. By the 1875 assessment roll, there were four people in the household, possibly another son or a daughter. But the Johnstons did not stay much longer in St. Marys. They sold their small home on Wellington Street in 1879 and were gone before the 1881 census. Because Johnston (or Johnson) is a common name, it has not been possible to determine where they went. As a young man with a trade, James Johnston might have taken his family west or even to the United States. But the house was still there at 151 Wellington Street South to have other owners with other stories.



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# OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Personal passion produces wonderful attractions in New Brunswick



**PAUL KNOWLES**

*Independent Columnist*

What do miniature trains, an electronic instrument called a theremin (think the Star Trek theme) and potatoes have in common? Well, they're all featured in quirky, delightful small museums in New Brunswick, a province that specializes in all things quirky and delightful.

So, during our time in New Brunswick, we visited with Guy LaForge, founder, operator, promoter and chief conductor at the Miniature Train Museum in Edmundston. We also dropped in at the Connell House Museum in Woodstock, which has a room that is chock-a-block with rare and wonderful musical instruments. And we toured Potato World Museum & Restaurant located in Florenceville-Bristol, "The French Fry Capital of the World."

And while none of these may be on your travel bucket list, I want to suggest that they – and several other similarly unique stops in New Brunswick

– should be because they are fun, interesting and staffed by people who are passionate about their attractions, from trains to music to spuds.

Let's start in Edmundston. The Miniature Train Museum is the personal project of LaForge. He said to me, "I've been doing miniature train layouts since 40 years ago." The museum arose because he made a layout for his son; he confesses, "He grew up. ... I didn't."

And so, he shares his more-than-a-hobby with anyone who will drop by – that's about 3,000 guests a year. LaForge told me, "For a small museum, a lot of people are interested in it."

Visitors learn about the history of railways in New Brunswick, enjoy exhibitions that are changed annually and tour the elaborate miniature (not model) train layout. The museum has its own buildings, but the project has expanded into the basement of the home LaForge shares with his highly tolerant spouse, Geraldine.

Even with the extra room, not everything can be displayed in the museum because people keep giving LaForge bits of memorabilia. His collection now numbers over 4,000 pieces of railway history.

LaForge is as committed to recycling and sustainability as he is to railway history. Almost everything related to the

museum has been made from recycled material. He calculates this has resulted in "over \$600,000 in savings!"

The museum is open from June through August, seven days a week, and LaForge loves every minute.

"I did this because I love it. I'm playing!"

Personal passion also sparked the unique musical instrument gallery at the Connell House Museum in Woodstock. The exhibition room is jam-packed with valuable antique instruments, musical devices from around the world and the otherworldly sounding theremin. They are all part of the personal collection of museum chair John Thompson – and the twist is, they are there to be played. There are no "please do not touch" notices in this room; instead, you are welcome to sample the sounds.

I played a spinet, the theremin (very badly), and could have stayed all day, working my way through the keyboards, stringed instruments and percussion instruments available to visitors. It's an altogether remarkable opportunity for music-loving visitors.

We move on to Potato World which is yet another example of a New Brunswicker who was passionate about a project. Marilyn M. Strong, who passed away in 2019, was a personal assistant to Harrison McCain of

McCain Foods for 43 years. McCain's produces one-third of the world's frozen French fries and is a huge employer and client for New Brunswick's essential potato industry.

Strong recognized the importance of the humble spud and she was determined that the history and significance of this key agricultural industry be properly recognized. The result was Potato World, a museum that tells the story of the potato, the history of farming, the people who have built the industry and its importance in the provincial economy. The attraction also includes the Hall of Recognition, honouring many who have made an important contribution to the potato industry – including Strong, herself.

The museum, which was first opened just over 20 years ago, underwent \$900,000 in renovations in 2023 and now includes a full-service restaurant where you are probably expected to order French fries.

The museum is open from mid-May through mid-October.

And speaking of passionate people, when we arrived at Potato World, we were introduced to our guide for the day. His name? Andrew Harvey. He happens to be the mayor of Carlton North, which includes Florenceville-Bristol. He had graciously set aside the day to spend with us, escorting us to other



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

**Guy and Geraldine LaForge, who own and operate the Miniature Train Museum in Edmundston, N.B.**

highlights of his community, including the Andrew and Laura McCain Art Gallery (the McCain footprint is very large in this part of New Brunswick); the iconic covered bridge that crosses the St. John River; the new state of the art recreation facility; and a very unlikely restaurant located in what looks like a full-scale replica of Noah's Ark.

So, quirky? Let's say, again, "passionate."

These unique museums are built on the personal enthusiasm and energy of their founders, and I promise you, each place comes with a large side-order of fun.

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



One of many miniature train layouts in the museum.

## Legion

BRANCH 236, ST. MARYS

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### Coffee

Veterans, serving Canadian Forces members, RCMP, allied forces and first responders are welcome. You do not need to be a Legion member to attend.

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For additional info, contact Mike Rumble at 519.317.9410

# EAT AT OUR HOUSE: Twist on traditional



LAUREN EEDY

Independent Columnist

Fall means returning to our favourite comfort foods.

Often, we have a repertoire of loved go-to recipes. The harvest is abundant and therefore affordable, so tuck in to the following creative spins on tried and true traditional, seasonal meals.

## Butternut squash mac & cheese

A vegetarian spin on a classic everyone will love.

Serves: 4-6; Prep: 5 minutes; Total: 30 minutes

4 cups frozen or fresh butternut squash cubes

4 tbsp butter

1 tsp kosher salt

½ tsp freshly ground black pepper, divided

¼ cup all-purpose flour

2 cups milk

½ tsp garlic powder

1 pinch cayenne pepper

1 tsp chopped, fresh thyme

4 oz grated cheddar

4 oz goat cheese

1 lb large shells or other shelled pasta of choice

### Method:

- Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil over high heat.

- In a large skillet over medium-high heat, combine squash with ¼ cup water. Cover and cook (uncovering to stir occasionally), until tender, 5-7 minutes. Uncover and cook,

stirring constantly until liquid evaporates, 2-3 minutes.

- Add butter, ½ tsp salt and ¼ tsp pepper and stir until melted. Add flour and incorporate, making a roux. Cook, stirring constantly. I prefer to make the roux separately to ensure flour has cooked and is no longer raw. Add squash mixture to roux.

- Gradually add milk, stirring constantly. Add garlic powder, cayenne, thyme and bring to a simmer. Add cheddar and goat cheese, stirring until melted. Check to see if more seasoning is needed and set aside to cool slightly.

- Add pasta to boiling water and cook for 3 minutes short of package instructions. Drain, reserving ½ cup pasta water and return to pot.

- Meanwhile, transfer squash mixture to a blender and purée until smooth. I use an immersion blender carefully.

- Add sauce to pasta over med-low heat and stir until coated. Remove and let cool for 5 minutes. Sauce will thicken. If too thick, add a splash of pasta water until desired thickness is achieved.

## Thanksgiving chicken and gravy

Thanksgiving in our home is a smaller event, so no need for a turkey. We love a roasted chicken with the traditional side dishes, and this recipe is a particular favourite for autumn celebrations. Moist, yet crispy chicken, savoury gravy and potatoes all in one dish.

Serves: 4; Prep: 40 minutes; Cook: 1 hour 30 minutes

4-5 lb whole chicken, trimmed and patted dry

Savoury herb oil (below)

Herb butter (below)

1 tbsp avocado oil or high smoke point oil of choice

Kosher salt and black pepper  
1 ½ lbs baby potatoes

### Savoury Herb oil:

6 tbsp Worcestershire sauce

3 tbsp olive oil

2 cloves garlic, finely chopped or grated

2 tbsp finely chopped fresh poultry herbs (fresh rosemary, sage, thyme)

### Herb Butter:

¼ cup unsalted butter (4 tbsp or ½ stick) softened at room temperature

4 cloves garlic, finely chopped or grated

3 tbsp finely chopped fresh poultry herbs

Kosher salt and black pepper

### Skillet Gravy

3 tbsp all-purpose flour

½ cup dry white wine

1 ½ cups chicken stock or broth

Optional: 1 tbsp heavy cream  
Kosher salt and black pepper to season

### Method:

- Mix the herb oil at least one day before roasting the chicken. Cover and set aside to infuse at room temperature.

- Mix the herb butter in a medium bowl. Set aside for immediate use or store in airtight container in the fridge for one week.

- Prepare chicken: up to one hour before roasting, pull chicken from fridge to warm to room temperature. Pull herb butter from fridge so it softens. Using paper towels, pat chicken completely dry. Set chicken on a large, plastic cutting board and, using kitchen twine, tie legs together and secure tightly against the breasts.

- Using hands, spread the prepared herb butter between skin



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Try this crispy skinned chicken and gravy for smaller Thanksgiving get-togethers.

and meat. Work gently under skin of the breast trying not to tear chicken skin. Transfer chicken to a large mixing bowl and drizzle half of the herb oil over the surface of chicken. Set aside to marinate 30 minutes while oven preheats.

- Preheat oven to 425°F, ensuring oven rack is positioned in lower third. Pour avocado oil in a cast iron skillet and place on oven rack allowing it to preheat as oven heats. \*I use a baking pan for this as my cast iron is not large enough for a whole chicken. Do not use a glass dish!

- Once oven is preheated, lightly season chicken with kosher salt and black pepper. Roast chicken for 30 minutes. Reserve marinade.

- After 30 minutes, remove chicken and add potatoes to skillet or baking dish. Decrease oven to 400°F. You want to position the chicken on top of potatoes. Pour reserved marinade

over chicken and return dish to oven.

- Roast chicken for an additional 45-60 minutes, removing from oven every 15 minutes and basting with the drippings. When instant-read thermometer inserted in the thickest part of the bird registers an internal temperature of 155°F, remove chicken and rest. Meat will continue to rise to a safe temperature of 165°F.

- Rest for 10-15 minutes before carving.

- While chicken rests, I make the gravy. Carefully pour drippings into a large measuring cup. Skim off half the oil and discard. Sprinkle flour in skillet and cook, whisking constantly, about 2-3 minutes, slowly pouring in drippings and white wine. When this thickens, pour in chicken stock until desired darkness and consistency is achieved. Remove from heat. If desired, stir in heavy cream and season with salt and pepper.

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# Riddles

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A chair!
- I'm a mammal with a long trunk. What am I?  
An elephant!
- What is black and white and read all over?  
A newspaper!
- I'm tall when I'm young, and I'm short when I'm old. What am I?  
A candle!
- I can sizzle like bacon, I am made with an egg, and I have plenty of backbone but lack a good leg. What am I?  
A snake!
- I fly without wings, I cry without eyes. Whenever I go, darkness flies. What am I?  
A cloud!
- I have stripes, but I'm not a barber. I run fast, but I'm not a car. What am I?  
A zebra!
- I am an odd number. Take away a letter, and I become even. What number am I?  
Seven (remove the 's')!
- I can live in water or on land. I have a shell, but I am not a car; I move very slowly, but I carry my home on my back. What am I?  
A turtle!

# - Word Search -



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## SEPTEMBER NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

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P A L E S T I N E R E C O G N I Z E D O

- Back to school
- Fall Fairs
- Epstein bday book
- Nepal protests
- Mercury Theatre
- Charlie Kirk
- Jair Bolsonaro
- The Pitt
- Terry Fox Run
- Jimmy Kimmel
- Palestine recognized
- Canada Post strike
- Jays clinch first



## The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK



Madden Josee (3)

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



Do you celebrate your pet's birthday or gotcha day? Party-perfect picks for your pet's special day – affordable toys and tasty treats at myVETstore. Shop: [myVETstore.ca/stmarysvetclinic](http://myVETstore.ca/stmarysvetclinic)



### CHLOE & CLEO

Our Pets of the Week are two adorable four-month old kittens that are available for adoption. Chloe, the calico kitten, is loving and trusting. Cleo, the tuxedo kitten, is very vocal, loves attention and is very protective of her sister. Both kittens have been spayed. If you are interested in providing a loving home to either, please contact Heavenly Hills, Lucan at 519.671.6969.



# 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.

## Bravo for St. Marys' spirit of goodness and kindness

Dear Editor,

In just the last two weeks, each of the following kindnesses have been extended to me, confirming how good it is to live in St. Marys. Let me thank the individuals and call those events "Bravos."

Bravo to the gentleman at Robson Scrap Metals who went into the scrapy-ard to source a seatbelt clip for me. My 2017 Buick has a faulty passenger seatbelt warning indicator that is distracting when I am driving in the car by myself.

The seatbelt clip that he gave me solved the problem and he wouldn't accept any payment.

Bravo to Dr. Nixon who kindly adjusted his already full schedule that day to accommodate my dental emergency. I had a very limited time window to deal with it, and he fit me in.

Bravo to the kind woman at The Independent grocery store who was right behind my wife and me in the checkout line. She saw our yogurt on the belt and

said, "I think there's a discount coupon for that." She then walked all the way back to the dairy section to return with enough coupons to offset our purchase.

Bravo to our neighbours who insisted that we take a significant amount of the bounty of vegetables that their friend had just given them. That original gift from abundance just keeps on giving.

Bravo to all the people of St. Marys who take the time to look behind them and hold the door for their neighbours.

This small gift of shared interaction happens regularly all over town but is perhaps most noticed at the post office. Recipients, remember to smile. It's good for you.

To all of you who have been so thoughtful, many thanks. St. Marys abounds with goodness and kindness. If you look, you see it everywhere. It only takes a moment for the observant neighbour to step up and make someone's day.

*Bruce Andrews, St. Marys*

## Thank-you to all who contributed to the Terry Fox Walk/Run

To the Editor,

Well over 100 participants plus countless donors, perfect weather and Terry Fox's powerful legacy of generosity combined to create a beautiful morning for our walk/run event on Sunday, Sept. 14.

Donations are still trickling in, but we are pleased to announce that close to \$18,000 was raised by our community

for our event – with more still to come thanks to the efforts of our local schools.

We would like to express our gratitude to the community at large for supporting this event, and specifically thank the following people and businesses for their notable contributions:

- Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home for various needs
- Broken Rail Brewing for being our

turnaround point

- Downtown businesses for displaying T-shirts
- Gord Barnett for event photography
- St. Marys YMCA and Nancy Riddell for the warm-up
- Tim Hortons for beverages
- Town of St. Marys for declaring Terry Fox week
- Tradition Mutual for snacks

- Vitality Health and Fitness for hosting Tally Terry

We are overwhelmed by your support for cancer research and will see you Sunday, Sept. 20, 2026, for next year's event!

*With gratitude,  
Your St. Marys Terry Fox organizing committee*

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OBITUARY

Armstrong



William Reginald Armstrong, age 86, of St. Marys passed away at Stratford General Hospital surrounded by his family on September 24th, 2025. He was the loving husband of the late Irene Armstrong for 61 years.

He was an amazing father to Dan (Wendy) Armstrong, Dianne (Chico) Downing and Gloria (Al) Strathdee. He was cherished by his grandchildren Emily, Kevin, and Ben (Rashelle) Armstrong, Jacob and Casey Downing, and Andrea, Billy (Raven) and Rachel Strathdee. Bill grew up in Heatherton, Nova Scotia and was the youngest son of 8 children. He is survived by one sibling, Betty Gray and one sister-in-law Sister Harriet MacNeil. He is fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews.

Bill moved to Toronto where he met Irene who was also from Nova Scotia. Together, they raised 3 children and in 1973, they settled in St. Marys where Bill received a transfer from Campbell's Soup and began his role as a Production Manager.

Bill worked for Campbell's Soup for a total of 34 years until his retirement in 1993. Bill loved to drive so a few years later he established his own company, Armstrong Direct Courier, that he operated for over 25 years. He also loved to travel; especially back to Nova Scotia to visit his family and friends there.

He was an amazing gardener and he enjoyed playing cards and watching old western movies. He was passionate about sports. He loved to golf, played hockey with the St. Marys Men's League for The Billiards, slow pitch baseball for The Desperados and also was a regular bowler at the St. Marys Bowling Lanes. He learned to ski in his 50's and enjoyed several ski trips with his children. He enjoyed watching all sports and cheered especially for the Toronto Blue Jays and the Montreal Canadiens.

When Bill and Irene married, their goal was to have a big home with a pool, where they could raise their family and entertain their extended family and many friends. They achieved this goal when they moved to St. Marys and all that knew them will remember the many, many wonderful times shared at their home.

Bill will also be remembered for his great personal strength and resiliency. He was diagnosed with Myelofibrosis, a rare bone marrow blood cancer and received a stem cell transplant from his brother Don Armstrong, which extended his life for more than 20 years. Prior to his illness he was a regular blood donor and had received a certificate from the Canadian Blood Donor Service for his 125th donation.

Bill was a faithful member of the Holy Name of Mary Parish. He was known for his ability to find joy in all aspects of life. He truly lived every day to the fullest and never missed an opportunity to express his appreciation and gratitude. His positive attitude was always uplifting and a source of inspiration to everyone.

The Funeral Mass was held at Holy Name of Mary Parish, St. Marys. Interment in St. Marys Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to The Kidney Foundation of Canada, Canadian Cancer Society, St. Marys Healthcare Foundation, Huron Perth United Way or the charity of your choice.

Online tributes at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

OBITUARY

Agar



Brian Henry Agar passed away at St. Marys Memorial Hospital on Sept. 24, 2025 at the age of 81. Predeceased by his wife Patricia Marilyn Agar (Heinbuck) in 2023.

Father of Jim, Carol Chircop (Mario), and Gerry. Grandfather of Victoria Chircop (Owen Bolhuis), Paul Chircop, Bailey Agar and Great-Grandfather of Lorenzo Bolhuis. Brother of Cynthia Grayley and predeceased by siblings Robert, Wayne (Jean, surviving), Harley, Leslie, Bonnie, Dorothy and Sylvia. Brother-in-law of Douglas McCauley, Rene Smith, Sue Rolfe (Jim), and Sara Trott (Fred). Also survived by many nieces, nephews and extended family members.

Cremation has taken place with private family arrangements. Memorial donations may be made to the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation. Online tributes at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

OBITUARY

Smith



Janna Smith passed away at St. Marys Memorial Hospital on September 17, 2025 at the age of 95. Predeceased by her husband Ellwood (2006).

Dear mother of Ray, Ron (Mary), Doug (Anne) and Lynda Marie (Mark Hemmings). Grandmother of Meagen (Brody), Kyle, Kayla, Curtis (Megan), Eric, Shawn (Julia), Mark (JoAnne) and Marshal (Shannon). Also survived by 10 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild. Sister of Mientje Van Koot, Tonia Lotte, Grietje Darmanin.

The Funeral Service was conducted at the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, on Monday, Sept 22, 2025, officiated by Rev. Dr. Mark McKim. Burial in Vinings Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society. Online tributes at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).



ST. MARYS  
LEGION CRIBBAGE

Beginning Tuesday Oct. 14

(updated date)

Starting at 7 p.m. sharp

IN MEMORIAM

White

In loving memory of a dear husband and father,

**RICHARD (DICK) WHITE**

**February 8, 1948 - September 29, 2023**

and

A dear son and brother,

**DAVID WHITE (WHITEY)**

**June 25, 1986 - October 19, 2013**

We think about you always,

We talk about you still,

You have never been forgotten,

And you never will.

We hold you close within our hearts

And there you will remain,

To walk and guide us

through our lives,

Until we meet again.

**Loving you always, missing you forever**

**Your loving family**

IN MEMORIAM

Cookson

**In loving memory of a dear Mother, Grandmother and Nana, Joyce Irene Cookson who passed away Oct. 4, 2016**

For every sacrifice you made silently, even when no one saw.

For the sleepless nights, the tired hands,

the gentle words that held me together when I was falling apart.

For teaching me kindness, for showing me strength, for being my first and forever home.

You loved me without conditions, without asking anything in return.

Even now, I feel you guiding me in the choices I make, in the voice inside me, that sounds so much like yours.

I miss you mom. More than I can ever say. And though you are no longer here,

every beat of my heart carries gratitude for the love that still lives inside me because of you.

**Love your children;**

**Tom, Vicki, Barry, Gord and our families**

CELEBRATION

*Celebrating Allan Slater's  
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WITH AN OPEN HOUSE

**on Sunday, October 5 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Pyramid Recreation Centre, 317 James St. S., St. Marys  
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*Please no gifts or cards. Sign the Guest Book. The Tri-County Foodgrains Bank Project will be accepting donations by cash or cheque. A light lunch, coffee, tea and cake will be available.*

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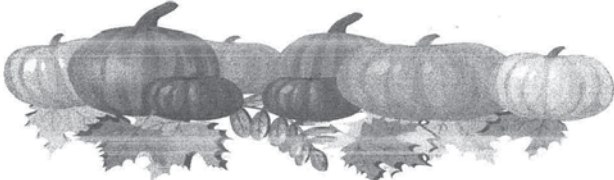
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Items may be dropped off after 6:30 p.m.

Bring A Friend To This Popular Event!!

Refreshments provided by St. Marys Tim Hortons



Looking Back



AMY CUBBERLEY

Independent Columnist

Communities in Bloom

25 years ago (2000)

We're a Canadian Classic! The City of Stratford and the Town of St. Marys were declared winners in the Canadian Classic category of the 2000 edition of Communities in Bloom at an awards ceremony held in Edmonton, Alberta.

Two St. Marys men were among the thousands of Canadians who traveled to the nation's capital this weekend to pay their respects to the former Prime Minister, Pierre Elliott Trudeau. Rev. Dr. Rick Horst of St. Marys Presbyterian Church and Ray Bennett, owner of Ray Bennett Men's Wear, decided late Friday that they wanted to make the trip to Ottawa. They left after church on Sunday.

50 years ago (1975)

St. Marys D.C.V.I. students of geography, environmental science, and physical education left the school shortly after 7 a.m. on Friday on three busses for Cyprus Lake Provincial Park near the tip of the Bruce Peninsula. Six teachers went with the 123 students who spent Friday and Saturday studying the park and all its features. They returned to town late Saturday.

St. Marys Agricultural Society will hold their Fall exhibition at the Queen Street West Fairground on Saturday. There will be grain and seeds, corn competition, field roots, garden vegetables and fruit. Entries close at noon.

Uncovered trucks carrying waste material to the St. Marys landfill site on Thames Street are causing problems for residents of the area as little tumbles from the loads land on Thomas Street and lawns of area residents. Regulations say such loads must be covered.

75 years ago (1950)

Max Armstrong and his stock racing car No. 66 have been in action at Mohawk Park, Brantford, in recent speedway events there.

A bus load of St. Marys Rotarians traveled to London on Monday evening to hear the President of Rotary International, Arthur Lagueux, who was paying a visit to London.

The object which looks from a distance like a strange animal in the Journal Argus window is on closer inspection a large potato of tremendous proportions. It was brought in by George Worte of Lakeside and weights 2 ¼ lbs.

100 years ago (1925)

On Friday the new decorative system installed by the local G.W.V.A. in front of the shops on Queen and Water Streets was set up. The flags on twelve-foot poles are set in sockets in the sidewalk and cost the merchants \$0.50 each. The decorative effect is splendid, the flags being four-foot red ensign union jacks.

Up in the north woods the boys are already bringing in their game. In the district north of the main line of the Canadian National Railways between Quebec and Winnipeg, the moose and deer season opened September 15. Throughout this district, which covers millions of acres, big game is always very plentiful and every hunter who goes north is almost sure of bringing back his full complement. Clean your gun, assemble your kit, and get ready for a real he-man holiday.



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Solutions on pg. 35

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9. Two

10. 2013

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Township of Perth South

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

The Township of Perth South Public Works Department is seeking a qualified **Equipment Operator**. Reporting to the Operations Manager, applicants will be experienced with the ability to operate and maintain various pieces of equipment, such as road graders, wheel loaders and tandem dump trucks. The candidate will also be required to complete roadside maintenance activities including, trees, signage, potholes, and debris clean up.

Applicants should have road maintenance and construction knowledge, experience in equipment operation and maintenance and a valid "DZ" license. This position is subject to weekend and winter scheduling and some emergency call-out.

The 2025 salary range for this position is **\$27.19 – \$33.99 per hour** based on a 40-hour work week.

The Township of Perth South offers excellent benefits and a competitive compensation package. For a detailed job description of this position, please visit **www.perthsouth.ca**

We thank all candidates for their interest, however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

Interested candidates are invited to submit a detailed resume expressing their interest to the undersigned clearly marked as "Equipment Operator" by **Wednesday October 15th 2025.**

Ken Bettles, Director of Public Works

Township of Perth South

3191 Road 122, St. Pauls, ON N0K 1V0

Email - kbettles@perthsouth.ca

Information gathered is under the authority of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and shall only be used for candidate selection purposes.

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

CORRECTION:

Two errors were published in the story, "St. Marys Healthcare Foundation Launches \$650K campaign for new hospital x-ray machine," on Page 6 of the Sept. 18 edition of the St. Marys Independent. In the story, the author incorrectly wrote the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation raised \$25,000 at its annual golf tournament, when, in fact, a record-breaking \$32,000 was raised. The author also indicated the health care foundation had not yet acquired the x-ray machine when, in fact, the machine is already in use at the hospital. We regret any confusion these errors may have caused.

St. Marys Independent

THE WEEK AHEAD

SPONSORED BY:



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

Thorndale Library October events – See Page 25

St. Marys Public Library events – See Page 26

Friday, Oct 3

- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog lunch at Noon

- A.N.A.F. meat draw – 6 p.m.

- St. Marys Poetry Circle evening of poetry at Station Gallery – 7-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct 4

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

- Towne & Country Cheese Shoppe sample fest – 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Charlie Near memorial open house at St. Marys Legion – 2-4 p.m.

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

Sunday, Oct 5

- Allan Slater 90th birthday open house at the PRC, 1/3 hall – 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Verna Davis 90th birthday celebration at Thorndale Community Centre – 1:30-3:30 p.m.

- Legion Bingo – Doors open 11:30 a.m., Early bird 12:45, Games 1-4 p.m.

Monday, Oct 6

- St. Marys Horticultural Society plant auction at the Legion hall – 7 p.m.

- Thanksgiving bingo at Thorndale Lions Community Centre – first game 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct 7

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

Wednesday, Oct 8

- Friends of the Library social at the library – 6:30-8 p.m.

Thursday, Oct 9

- Firefighter visit and swag bag booth at the Independent Grocer – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Friends of the Library management committee meeting at the library – 10 a.m.

- Stonetown Travel presentation on group travel at Wilmot Recreation Centre – 2 p.m. at the St. Marys PRC – 7 p.m., RSVP stew@stonetowntravel.com

- St. Marys Fire Dept pigtail & rib dinner at the PRC – Doors open 5:30 p.m., Dinner 6 p.m., \$30 per person



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Tues. Sept. 23 - Josh Heinbuch, Shakespeare

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Wed. Sept. 24 - Scott Savage, Stratford

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Thur. Sept. 25 - Matt & Jocelyn Ehgoetz, St. Marys

\$50.00

Fri. Sept. 26 - Bill Nichols, Point Edward

\$50.00

Sat. Sept. 27 - Janet Heaman, Ailsa Craig

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