

St. Marys Independent

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ST. MARYS HONOURS LOCAL SPORTS LEGENDS

Pictured are players and family members representing players from the 1962-1963 St. Marys Lincolns team, as well as Rick Fifield (left) and Mike Craig (right). Fifield, Craig and the '62-'63 Lincolns were honoured at the Pyramid Recreation Centre on Nov. 1 as the 2025 class inducted into the St. Marys Sports Wall of Fame. For more coverage of the St. Marys Sports Wall of Fame induction ceremony, turn to page 26.

(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

St. Marys council awards nearly \$600,000 contract for urgent culvert replacement

Project could close portion of Queen Street West for 10 days or more

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

St. Marys council has awarded a nearly \$600,000 contract for the urgent replacement of a failing culvert under Queen Street West to Nichols Excavating Inc.

At council's regular meeting Oct. 28, town public works director Jed Kelly presented the results of a tender for the replacement of the Bolton drain culvert under Queen Street West after it was found to be failing and undersized by the town's drainage engineer in the summer. With six bids submitted ranging as high as just under \$1 million, council voted to award the project to Nichols Excavating, the low bidder, at a cost of \$597,935 – just below the roughly \$602,500 budgeted

for the project when the failing culvert was discovered in July.

"There's a culvert on Queen Street West near the Beer Store," Kelly said. "The culvert is failing; it's in critical need of replacement. We are monitoring it, but we would like to proceed with the replacement immediately. If council approves the award tonight, we'll have to start working backwards through the project schedule. We would obviously order the pre-cast tomorrow, engage the contractor and then start working out a construction schedule."

"The plan is to have a 20-day construction window – so in and out in 20 days. Once we get awarded and we have a construction schedule, (infrastructure services manager)

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

Pyramid Recreation Centre pool reopening could be just a month away

Scaffolding is down and final tile repairs have commenced

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Though it has taken longer than expected, the Pyramid Recreation Centre (PRC) aquatics centre could be ready to reopen by the end of this month or the beginning of next.

During the Oct. 28 St. Marys council meeting, town director of community services Stephanie Ische presented an update on the nearly \$2-million renovation of the PRC pool, closed one year ago to address safety and structural issues related to years of high humidity caused by an undersized HVAC unit and degradation caused by the pool's original saltwater system.

After the scope of the work necessary to address the issues pushed the project's completion date well past the summer, when staff had originally hoped to reopen the pool, Ische told councillors the pool could be ready to reopen in as little as one month.

"The scaffolding has been removed and then there was an area – a one-foot stretch (of tile) spanning the width of the pool that needs to be replaced – that work will begin tomorrow," Ische told councillors Oct. 28. "There will be a two-week curing period following that, and then we can put water in the pool. So, that work was one of the last items we were waiting for."

In a follow-up email, Ische told the Independent the tile work was completed on Oct. 29 and curing of the new tiles will finish up by Nov. 10, at which time the pool can be filled

CONTINUED TO PAGE 5

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MLS

COMMUNITY

St. Marys council awards nearly \$600,000 contract for urgent culvert replacement

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Jeff (Wolfe) wanted to engage the contractor to see if we could limit the (full road) closure to half that. We would have one lane (of traffic) for 10 days, and then there would be a section due to the watermain replacement and the hydro and the cranes where we would have to have a complete closure for probably 10 days. We don't know those details 100 per cent until we have a contractor engaged and have a conversation."

Since the existing culvert – installed in the 1980s to replace a larger, failing culvert – was found to be undersized, the replacement culvert will be a larger concrete-box culvert. The work involves the lowering of a section of watermain under the structure and the relocation of an existing hydro pole owned by Festival Hydro. Residents on Queen Street West, west of the culvert, will have a day without water as the new water-

main is connected, as well as up to eight hours without hydro as the new pole is installed further away from the culvert.

With that section of road fully closed for anywhere from 10 days to four weeks, traffic will need to be detoured north on Perth Road 163 to Perth Line 10 and Perth Line 14 to the north end of St. Marys, or around Perth Line 5 to Thomas Street.

“If we have traffic getting around it in different ways ... we may be subject to some complaints from Thomas Street ... because they’ve gotten used to it being quiet down there,” Mayor Al Strathee said. “The logical thing if I was even a school bus or something is I would probably prefer to go that route as opposed to all the way around the other route (to the north end of town), and I just want to make sure that A, we can do it, and B, we don’t create traffic problems with heavy trucks or people that are trying to

get around. ... A few delivery routes in St. Marys might end up going that way.”

“Once we have (the contract) awarded, we can start the planning phase,” Kelly responded. “We anticipate there’s probably a three-week window on the pre-cast ... so we’ll have to start working through those details, start banging on doors and talking to known truck recipients and things like that in the area.”

With the timing of the project expected to begin in mid-November and be completed by mid-December, Coun. Dave Lucas underscored the need for construction to start and finish on time so it doesn't get delayed by winter weather and colder conditions.

“I’d be really concerned if we have a contractor that doesn’t show up (on time),” Lucas said.

“I certainly share that sentiment,” Kelly responded. “I also start to twitch when the leaves drop and we’re start-

ing to put excavators on roads. I'm not the oldest, but I have been around long enough to know this is a bad idea. I think we should stress that if this pipe fails, the road could be closed for months, so we don't really want to do it, but this is as soon as we could do it. As far as we know, the contractor is keen to get going; he thinks he can adhere to the schedule and there's no red flags from our engineer. Absolutely, this will be a push and we'll take those sentiments to the contractor."

Back in July, Wolfe told councillors that a heavy rain or thaw could cause erosion around the current culvert pipe, causing it to fail. If it does fail, Wolfe said a months-long road closure on Queen Street West would severely limit the interconnectedness of St. Marys' road network and have a big impact on drivers.

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Wednesday Nov-5th	Thursday Nov-6th	Friday Nov-7th	Saturday Nov-8th	Sunday Nov-9th	Monday Nov-10th	Tuesday Nov-11th
Rain	Sun & cloud	Light rain	Sun & cloud	Few showers	Flurries	Sun & cloud
12 °C	8 °C	10 °C	7 °C	4 °C	1 °C	2 °C
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EDITORIAL

From the dugout to the dome: How I became a baseball fan (again)

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE
Independent Reporter

I started playing baseball this summer. Well, technically, three-pitch — not that I knew the difference at first. I didn't join because I loved the game; in fact, I hardly knew any of the rules. I joined because my boyfriend, Charles, loves baseball and was pretty convinced I would too.

It turned out to be a great way to fill my evenings and meet new people, so I joined the Tuesday night team in Guelph with the modest goal of simply getting through the season. After a few games (during which I learned I was definitely not good), I figured I should probably get my own glove. Then came proper shoes. Then, after watching everyone hit better with batting gloves, I added those to my Amazon cart too. I even got the team jersey and before I knew it, I was actually looking forward to Tuesday nights.

When the summer season wrapped up, I found myself asking Charles when registration opened for the fall team. By then, the Blue Jays were deep into their own season, and not only was I playing ball, but I was watching it too. I started tuning into Jays' games, then went to one in person, and even began checking Ticketmaster to see if prices were low enough for another later in the season (spoiler: they weren't).

On nights I couldn't watch live, I'd refresh Google constantly for updates. During that marathon 18-inning game, I asked Charles to text me when it was over so I'd know the final score before I even got out of bed.

Somewhere along the way, I became a baseball fan.

It's funny; my dad would be thrilled. Growing up, he used to drag my sisters and me to games, where we'd spend three long hours asking when it would end. I'd watch him cheer, shout at the umpire and

throw his hands in the air in disbelief, completely absorbed in it all. The best part, at least for us kids, was always the hotdog. I still remember his joy in 1993 when the Jays won — I didn't care much then, but now? Now I find myself tearing up over their recent loss.

My daughter, Hailey, also played softball for years. She could hit a ball farther than you'd expect from her tiny frame, and we'd travel all over — from Mitchell to Shakespeare to Goderich — for tournaments. When she eventually switched to volleyball, I did too, in spirit. Baseball just drifted out of my life for a while.

And then, this summer, I picked up a bat for the first time — right as the Jays started heating up. I watched that last game on the edge of my seat, heartbroken right along with them and the rest of Canada when they lost. Seeing Vladimir Guerrero Jr. fight back tears, or Addison Barger struggle to get words out in his interview — it was emotional. Watching Max Scherzer's pride in Trey Yesavage, and then seeing the rookie absolutely shine; it reminded me why people love this sport so much.

This year, it felt like the Blue Jays gave Canada exactly what we needed: grit, heart and hope. They fought hard, made their mark and reminded fans — new and old — why we care so much.

I think it's safe to say I'm officially a baseball fan now. Sure, I still barely know the rules. Once, during a summer game, I stepped off third base and lost the game for my team. Another time, everyone congratulated me on my RBI, and I had to secretly Google what that meant while sitting on the bench. But I love it anyway.

This season, both on the field and watching the Jays, reminded me that baseball isn't just about winning — it's about connection, teamwork and the joy of being part of something bigger.

Bravo	Boo
We have 5 Bravos this week 1) Bravo to the St. Marys Independent Boopers! Nothing says "small-town sparkle" quite like publicly jeering the morally flexible. Disney's already monetized this energy—you're basically ahead of the curve. 2) Bravo to the two "creepy clowns" that tried to Trick or Treat twice at our door on Church Street N. We take it as a compliment, nice try! You made our night, see you next year! 3) Bravo to St. Marys Independent columnist Alona Vasylyeva. She always has great content in sharing her experiences in Canada, as she continues to live here. She has such great writing skills and I always look forward to reading her articles every week. 4) Bravo to the St. Marys Legion and all the volunteers that crocheted the poppies that are on display at the Legion and on the bridge at the water tower. As well, thanks to the volunteers who attached all the poppies together. What a wonderful way to remember our veterans. 5) Bravo to the gardeners on the Riverview Walkway. Particularly Bruce of Eclectic Treasure whose garden was especially lovely this summer.	We have 2 Boos this week 1) Boo to the quietest Halloween in St. Marys history. I bought enough candy to feed the whole limestone belt, and now it's just me, the couch, and a suspiciously empty bag of mini KitKats. 2) Boo to the non-native trees planted along our streets. Every fall, locust trees drop hundreds of bean pods, leaving a huge mess on our lawns, sidewalks, streets and vehicles. These beans could cause damage to vehicles, cause slip hazards when on the sidewalks hidden under the leaves and a lot of extra cleanup for residents. When the pods pop open, the seeds could get washed into our waterways and eventually choke out our native plants.
<i>*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.</i>	

Quote of the Week

"I said thank you probably about 10 times. And that was the main message. I'm sure I'm going to talk to them all again, but I said thank you. I said, I'm sorry that we're feeling this way right now. It definitely could have been the opposite end of the spectrum in terms of emotions. So I said thank you. And this is a group that I'm never going to forget. They're going to have a place in my heart, every single one of them. That was the gist of it."

- Toronto Blue Jays Manager John Schneider shared what was said in his team meeting after losing Game 7 to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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Tough loss for the Jays but they put up a good fight!

Have you picked up a poppy yet?

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

GRANT HAVEN MEDIA

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St. Marys Independent
Thoughts of the Week
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You never look good trying to make someone else look bad.

If people are trying to bring you down, it only means that you are above them.

A healthy mind does not speak ill of others

Always be kind, everyone is fighting a battle.

New carbon monoxide rules coming January 2026 aim to strengthen home safety

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

With the end of Daylight Saving Time on Nov. 2, the St. Marys Fire Department is reminding residents to use this opportunity to check their smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms, replace batteries and confirm expiry dates.

“Changing your clocks is a great reminder to also test your alarms,” said St. Marys Fire Chief Phil West in a press release. “Working smoke and CO alarms save lives, and this quick check can make all the difference in an emergency.”

The St. Marys Fire Department urges residents to:

- Test alarms monthly and replace batteries at least once a year.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years and CO alarms according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Have fuel-burning appliances inspected annually by a registered con-

tractor.

In addition to regular alarm maintenance, residents should be aware of new Ontario Fire Code updates that will take effect on Jan. 1, 2026.

The upcoming amendments to the Ontario Fire Code will require:

- Existing Homes: CO alarms installed on every storey, not just near sleeping areas.
 - Multi-Unit Residential Buildings: CO alarms in all suites meeting certain conditions, as well as in service rooms and, in some cases, public corridors.
 - Care Occupancies: Including residential care facilities and certain group homes, where CO alarms will be required in suites and common areas.
- Residents can visit COSafety.ca to learn more about carbon monoxide safety or Ontario.ca/firemarshal for detailed information about the upcoming fire code changes.

Pyramid Recreation Centre pool reopening could be just a month away

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

with water.

“Additionally, a technician will be on site for the start-up of the new HVAC equipment once the water temperature reaches between 80-84 (degrees Fahrenheit) for the final commissioning and load testing of the new unit,” Ische said. “While we do not have an exact date from the general contractor yet, we anticipate this will take place in the middle to late part of the week of Nov. 17.”

“Once everything is confirmed to be operating correctly, we will regain occupancy from the general contractor. Following this, there will be a two-week period to make any necessary adjustments or repairs. It is highly likely that some equipment, which has been off for a year, will require attention.”

Ische also told councillors the hiring of lifeguards is well underway and onboarding, training and recertifying lifeguard staff for programming, operations and procedures for both the new and existing equipment will begin once the pool is full,

heated and operating correctly.

Town staff will also notify Huron Perth Public Health once the pool is operational and compliant with all public-pool regulations, and an inspection will be conducted.

“We will ensure all spaces are cleaned, prepped and ready for public occupancy for their inspection,” Ische said.

Ische told councillors she is working with town communications staff to inform residents of an official pool-reopening date once it is determined, and to try and rebuild the town's aquatic-programming participation after the pool was closed for so long.



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ST. MARYS REMEMBERS

- Veterans' Decoration Day | Nov 8 from 9 AM - 12 PM
- Legion Ceremony & Parade | Nov 9 at 12:30 PM
- Remembrance Service | Nov 11 at 10:45 AM
- St. Marys Museum Exhibit | Nov 2025 - Nov 2026

discoverstmarys.ca/remembranceweek



ST. MARYS CRAFT SHOW

November 15 | 9 AM - 3 PM

The Friendship Centre's annual Craft Show is back at the PRC! Shop from over 60 talented vendors featuring nearly 100 tables of handcrafted treasures — from home décor and jewelry to festive gifts and treats. It's the perfect place to start your holiday shopping while supporting local makers!

Questions? 519-284-2340 ext. 621



ST. MARYS NOURISH MARKET

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

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

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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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Seniors of the Week



Our seniors of the week are Jean Mansfield and Dianne Carradine who shared a birthday on Saturday. Jean was born in Atherstone, England and moved to Canada at the age of 12. She has been married to her husband Vic for 34 years. They have three kids, seven grandkids, 11 great-grandkids and another one on the way. She loves knitting, pickleball and playing pool. Dianne was born and raised in Toronto. She will be married to Ron for 65 years on New Year's Eve. They have three kids, seven grandkids and eight great-grandkids. She loves to play cards, shuffleboard and knit.

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

In memory of Cohen Frayne, the Tree of Angels will once again be at St. Marys Memorial Hospital

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

Again this year, starting on Wednesday Nov. 12, the Tree of Angels will be at the St. Marys Memorial Hospital.

The tree is in memory of Cohen Frayne and is a Christmas gift program where locals can place new, unwrapped donations. Visitors to the hospital can pick an angel off the tree and donate an item for the age and gender written on the angel. The items collected will be donated to the St. Marys Salvation Army. They will then be distributed to families in need at Christmas time who live within our community.

This tradition has been part of our community for many years and has brought comfort and connection to many. Colleen Frayne, Cohen's mom, said the donations can be anything new like toys, clothing and gift cards for ages ranging from zero to 18.

The donations will be collected until Christmas; however, the Fraynes will aim for mid-December to get the donations delivered to families in need.

Throughout the holiday season, look for the tree in the lobby of the hospital and consider giving to this meaningful cause that helps families in need have a better holiday season.

The Frayne family is so grateful for the support.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Harlan Frayne, Cohen's brother, stands beside the Tree of Angels last year, sharing information about the tree in memory of his late brother.

Weekend Quiz

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1. What is a group of bears called?
2. What silent film star was "The Tramp"?
3. What is the name given to people who make arrows?
4. What is Canada's National bird?
5. What are the birthstones for November?
6. Who was the lead singer of the Tragically Hip?
7. What Toronto Blue Jay hit a 3-run, walk-off home run to win the world series in 1993?
8. What Star Wars show follows rebel Cassian from Rogue One?
9. Who is the president of China?
10. What is the tallest mountain in Canada?

By Jake Grant

This week's answers are found on pg. 39

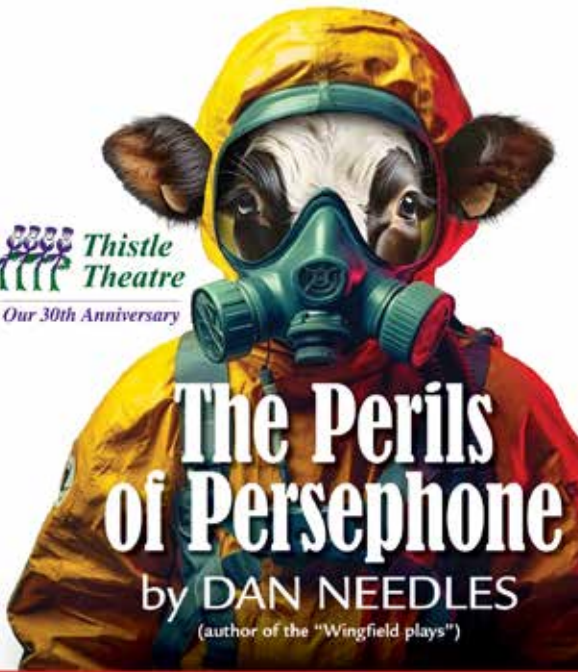


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ANAF hosts Halloween party



(PHOTO COURTESY OF CECIL THOMSON)
Evelyn Albers won first place in the ladies' costume division with her devil outfit.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF CECIL THOMSON)
Chantelle Mattiussi came in second dressed as a bartender.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF CECIL THOMSON)
Ed came in first place for the men's costume contest dressed up like the Energizer bunny.

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT
Staff Contribution
On Friday Oct. 31, the St. Marys ANAF Veterans Unit 265 held their

weekly meat draw. In the spirit of Halloween, most attendees were dressed up to try to win the 20 meat draws and the 50/50 draw.
Following the meat draw, the crowd

was entertained by the musical talents of Jessica Damen and Co. There were also prizes given out for the best costumes.
Winners: Ladies' first place: Evelyn Albers; second place: Chantelle Matti-

ussi
Men's first place: Ed ; second place: Cecil Thomson
Best Couple: Dale and John Ellis
Most Imaginative: Shaun O'Neil

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ST. MARYS CRAFT SHOW

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STRATFORD NISSAN



DCVI hosts second-annual Post-Secondary Pathways Fair



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Representatives from London's Armed Forces were on hand giving out information at the St. Marys DCVI Post-Secondary Pathways Fair.

WENDY LAMOND
Independent Reporter

On Tuesday Oct. 28, over 30 post-secondary stations were set up in the large gymnasium at St. Marys DCVI for students, and their parents, to learn more about their next steps after high school at the second-annual Post-Secondary Pathways Fair.

Not only were representatives from college and universities on hand, but there was also information on apprenticeships, the Centre for Education and Learning, the Canadian Armed Forces and dual credit programs.

There was a great turnout with 250 people arriving in the first half hour. The invite was also extended to surrounding high schools. Information sessions were held in the cafeteria on the post-secondary school application process, includ-



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Student Simon Greig and his mom, Judy, stopped at the Niagara College booth to chat.

ing important dates, school-support options and guidance on campus life.

Last year was the first time the fair was held at night with all the representatives in one place at the same time. It was a huge hit and judging by attendance this year, it was a hit again.

"The Post-Secondary Pathways Fair was a wonderful opportunity for students to connect directly with representatives from a wide range of options,"

organizer Kara Stevens said. "The smaller, more personal setting allowed students to have meaningful conversations without the long lines often seen at larger venues. We're very grateful for the cooperation and support of our colleges, universities, school board and community services in making this event such a success."



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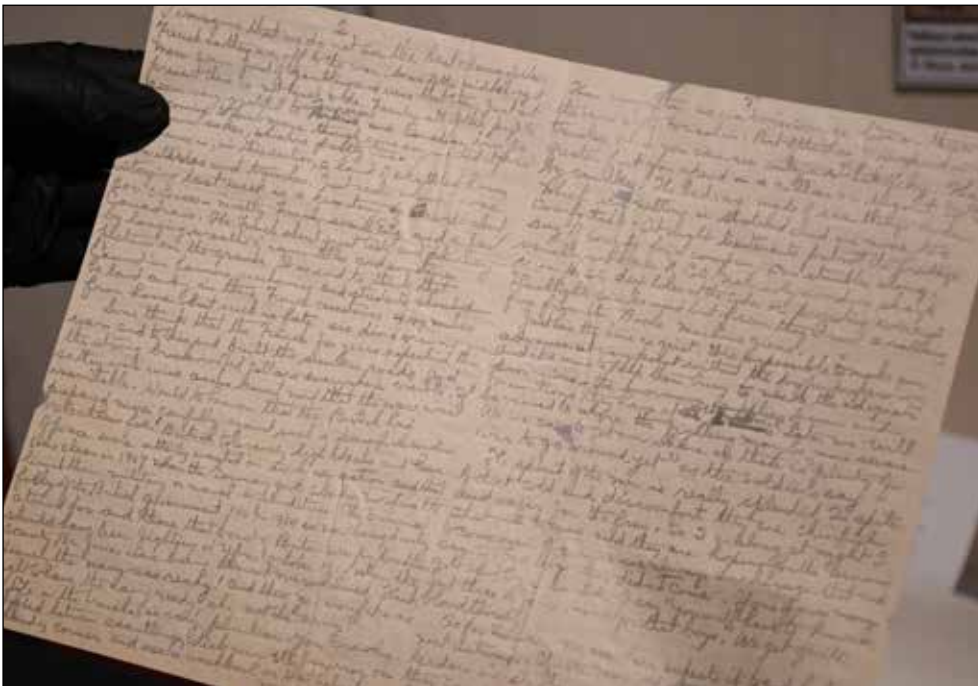
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St. Marys Museum to open ‘Between the Lines: Stories & Signals of World War I’ Nov. 11

Exhibit to highlight local wartime letters and other methods of communication from the battlefield



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTOS)

A wartime letter written to a colleague by Lt. William Jonathan Wright, who was principal of St. Marys Collegiate Institute at the time he enlisted to serve overseas in the First World War. The letter offers a glimpse of what it was like to be on the front lines in the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The St. Marys Museum will unveil a brand-new exhibit in its military gallery on Remembrance Day focused on communication during the First World War, both from the battle front and the home front.

Called “Between the Lines: Stories & Signals of World War I,” the exhibit was adapted for the local museum from an exhibit created by Western University

history student Bailey Ashton called St. Marys and the Great War in 10 Objects, which featured archival materials from the Western history department’s Ley and Lois Smith Collection.

“We adapted the work that Bailey had done to kind of fit the military gallery space a little bit better, as well as include some materials from our own collection such as additional letters and post cards, telegraph keys, signal corps training materials, radios and telephones,” said museum curatorial and programming

assistant Abigail Parsons, who put the exhibit together for the museum.

According to Parsons, the wartime letters and postcards to and from residents of St. Marys and the surrounding area were vital to the war effort in a way that isn’t always understood. They offered a link between the frontlines and home and offered some peace of mind for both the soldiers fighting overseas and those waiting for them back home.

“It’s important for museums, especially, to preserve these letters because they

provide an intimate glimpse into the lives of soldiers and their families, and the realities of war,” Parsons said.

Between the postcards sent to the museum by Ashton and those letters already preserved and protected in the local museum’s collection, Parsons said she chose a small selection – some written by people with very recognizable family names – to reproduce for display purposes in the exhibit, allowing visitors to read about the war effort and life

CONTINUED TO PAGE 13

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Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET

St. Marys Museum to open 'Between the Lines: Stories & Signals of World War I' Nov. 11

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

back home in the words of those who lived through it.

One such series of letters is correspondence from Lt. William Jonathan Wright of West Zorra, who was principal of St. Marys Collegiate Institute at the time of his enlistment. His collection of letters show his connection to his community, as well as the deep care and concern he had for his students and staff, while he was fighting on the front lines in France.

"... Canada is a hard country to govern and that applies to St. Marys town. I hope that you will see that education gets its share of support," Wright wrote to his colleague, who may or may not have taken over as principal after Wright's enlistment.

"In regard to the Collegiate I wish you would keep an eye on the developments there. The Board has stopped the teaching of agriculture, domestic science, and manual training, all of which are very desirable. Classical scholars do not wish to force the classic on every one. That the chieftain of education is to develop natural (powers) and at the same time to give the boy or girl that general knowledge of society and human nature. ... I would very much like to see the above branches taught in St. Marys Coll. Inst."

Wright's letters also provide great detail about his experiences fighting in the Battle of Vimy Ridge and how his battalion contributed to the battle's success, though the former principal was killed in action shortly after the capture of Hill 70 – a significant Canadian victory in the First World War. Yet despite the horrors of war, Wright remained concerned for the wellbeing and education of his students back home in St. Marys.



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

St. Marys Museum curatorial and programming assistant Abigail Parsons holds one of the First World War era telegraph keys that will be on display as part of the "Between the Lines" exhibit opening Nov. 11.

Parsons said the exhibit will also include letters from a soldier the museum was unable to identify.

"I know it was sent to Jane Kittmer, and all I have is a first name; I just have 'Ernie,'" Parsons said. "There's

no Ernest in her family. There's some mention of one of the battalions he served in, and I was able to research that battalion – there's like 12 Ernests who were in there. So, it's hard to track some of these soldiers sometimes. It's very interesting because you get very clear stories and history from letters like from Wright's letter, and then you get lost histories.

"Sometimes that's the really interesting thing about war, too, because you do have a lot of soldiers and their stories never really get told and they get forgotten about. So, showcasing a letter like Ernie's letter is just an attempt to kind of remember him in a different way. Even though we don't know who every soldier is, necessarily, we're still remembering all of the soldiers."

With letters sometimes taking weeks at time to arrive in Europe or Canada, Parsons says the exhibit will help put communication between home and the war front into context for those of us who have become so used to instant communication via email and text messaging.

The exhibit will also give visitors a hands-on opportunity to learn and try to decipher morse code using telegraph keys, as well as help them understand the danger and effort involved for the Canadian Signal Corps in setting up the necessary communications infrastructure – both wired and wireless – on the front lines well before defences were built and the soldiers were in the trenches.

"Between the Lines: Stories & Signals of World War I" will remain on display at the St. Marys Museum until Nov. 11, 2026.



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St. Marys Legion Poppy Project a huge success



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)
Lynn Leslie and Deb Hutton take a break from hanging some of the beautiful crocheted and knitted poppies on the St. Marys Legion railing.

WENDY LAMOND
Independent Reporter

They say it takes a village and that couldn't be more true than when Lynn Leslie and Deb Hutton presented the idea for a St. Marys poppy project early this year. What is a poppy project? It is the creation of a beautiful blanket of red and black, hand-crocheted or knitted poppies displayed as a way to honour and remember the sacrifice of all veterans. What started out as an effort to make enough poppies to cover the St. Marys Legion railings turned into collecting approximately 8,200 handmade poppies. When the word got out about this heartwarming project, many volunteers stepped forward to donate money, yarn and their knitting and crocheting talents. Not only have those poppies covered the Legion railing, they are also now on bridges and at St. Marys town hall. "The project could not have happened without so many people coming together," Leslie said. "A big thank you to the people who helped get the project up and running, to everyone who knitted or crocheted poppies, to those who donated financially or with supplies. "Also, a big thank you to those that donated their time at the work parties helping to attach the poppies, to the businesses who allowed the volunteers to use their



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)
A group of busy volunteers met on Saturday at the Queen Street bridge by the train station to attach more of the knitted and crocheted poppies. The display is impressive and is a strong reminder of Remembrance Day and our veterans who gave up so much for us.

spaces as drop-off locations or opened their doors, allowing people to drop in and attach the poppies." Another wonderful benefit that came out of doing this project was the bringing together of people who wanted to share their stories about loved ones who served. Leslie hopes they have made the town proud and have shown the veterans the people of St. Marys and surrounding areas will always remember and be thankful for their sacrifices.

"So when you see these displays around town, think about their bravery and the fear these men and women felt before heading into battle; think about the ones that never made it back; think about the loved ones they left behind; think about the ones that made it home but with images that will never leave them and remember all of them," Leslie said. "I would like to thank those that helped to hang the banners and the Legion for all of their support."

Remembrance Day
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RAF Spitfire



Jimmy

Each year, on Remembrance Day a wreath is placed at the Cenotaph in St. Marys to honour the Battle of Britain Pilots.

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Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET

Vimy Ridge Memorial and James M. Richardson

PAUL R. KING

Contributed Article

I recently returned from a European trip, which included a visit to the Vimy Ridge Memorial. This white, limestone memorial, standing on a ridge with its two tall imposing pillars, is arguably the most meaningful war memorial in the world.

It does not celebrate successful battles or applaud Canadian First World War soldiers who bravely fought for their King and the British Empire. Instead, visitors are reminded of the horrific implications of war – the losses, the sacrifices and the suffering. In a quiet setting where the Vimy Ridge Battle took place in April 1917, it is the remains of shell and bomb craters still scarring the landscape, the sculpted, twice life-size figures carved on the monument and the names of Canadian soldiers carved at the base of the monument that effectively deliver the message.

The book by Jacqueline Hucker and Julian Smith titled “VIMY: Canada’s Memorial to a Generation” refers to a statement by Walter Allward (the Canadian who designed and oversaw construction of the Vimy Ridge Memorial) explaining that his monument was meant to be understood as a “sermon against the futility of war.”

J-M-Richardson is one of the 11,285 names carved on the monument. Corporal James Monilaw Richardson, who briefly resided in St. Marys, died on Sept. 15, 1916, during the Battle of Courcellette in northern France and his body was never recovered from that battlefield. His name is also carved on the St. Marys Cenotaph.

As noted by Richard Holt in his book titled, “The Fallen,” there are 11 other names of soldiers carved on either the St. Marys Cenotaph or the Rannoch Cenotaph, and also carved on the Vimy Ridge Memorial.

The names on the Vimy Ridge Memorial are those of First World War Canadian soldiers who died in France and whose bodies were never identified. Almost half-a-million soldiers who fought for Britain and her allies, including more than 18,000 Canadian soldiers, were registered as missing with no known grave. In addition to the 11,285 soldiers named on the Vimy Memorial, an additional 7,024 Canadian soldiers registered as missing on the battlefields in Belgium are named on the



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Corp. James M. Richardson, killed in action.

Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres, Belgium. This horrific loss of life does not include the thousands of soldiers who are buried in European cemeteries.

The fact that James M. Richardson is named on the St. Marys Cenotaph is somewhat surprising. There was a local committee established to decide on the names but, unfortunately, we do not have a surviving record of that committee’s criteria. In 1904, James M. Richardson and his young sister, Kate, moved to St. Marys with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Knox Richardson.

The family likely lived in an apartment at the JD Moore Block (southeast corner of Queen Street and Church Street) given that John Knox Richardson moved from Seaforth to St. Marys to take on a senior



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

J-M-Richardson and other names carved on the Vimy Ridge Memorial in France.

executive position with the JD Moore Company.

James M. Richardson, then 18 years old, was hired as a clerk with the Merchant Bank in Stratford. He soon pulled up roots and moved to Western Canada. He was living in Peace River Crossing, Alta., when he enlisted in the 66th Canadian Infantry Battalion at Edmonton.

So, James M. Richardson’s time in St. Marys was very short, he never married, he never went to school or worked in St. Marys, and he did not enlist in Perth County. I speculate that a decision to add his name on the St. Marys Cenotaph may have had something to do with his father, John Knox Richardson, who was an active member of the St. Marys community, a well-respected prominent businessman and a committed member of the First Presbyterian Church.

Not only did he suffer the loss of his only son in the First World War, but earlier in 1908, his wife died of a pulmonary infection. John Knox Richardson never remarried and continued to live in St. Marys with his only daughter, Kate, until he died in 1948.

This is an account of one soldier who tragically died in World War I. There are thousands of other such accounts. Remembrance Day provides an important opportunity for us to humbly contemplate the losses, sacrifices and suffering from wars, which unfortunately continue to this day.

Remembrance Day

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Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET

Flags will be placed on veteran gravestones to honour loved ones at the St. Marys Cemetery

ALEX HUNT

Independent Reporter

The Town of St. Marys is bringing back its annual Veterans' Decoration Day service to commemorate fallen soldiers as part of the upcoming Remembrance Week.

Veterans' Decoration Day returns Nov. 8 and will run from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Members from the community are invited to join the town and volunteers at the St. Marys Cemetery, where they will receive Canadian flags to place on veteran graves.

Morgan Easton, St. Marys tourism and events coordinator, said community members are welcome to lay flags on the graves of their loved ones. For ev-

ery grave without a flag, town staff and volunteers will ensure all veteran burial sites receive a flag placement.

"It's really important for our community to recognize those who fought for us. We want to shine a light on all the veterans who gave their lives for peace," said Easton. "People can come to the cemetery and check in with our volunteers, and they will give attendees a flag they can place on a grave site of their choosing."

Easton said having the community come and show support is a wonderful thing to experience during Remembrance Week. She added it's a great way to show locals the town cares about commemorating veterans.

"We think Decoration Day is a unique



way that St. Marys recognizes the veterans because it allows our community to get up and close with a loved one and pay their respects in a personal way," said Easton. "We encourage people to even come after the Saturday and look at the different flags placed on the gravesites, remembering everyone who served."

Reg Rumble, president of the St. Marys Royal Canadian Legion, said legion volunteers will also help with laying down the flags. On Nov. 9, the Legion will hold a parade that will march from the Legion branch to the town hall Cenotaph at 12:30 p.m.

"Members of the Town of St. Marys think it's very important to honour those who have served our country," said Easton. "We recommend everyone to come out and show their support on those days."

New this year, the Town of St. Marys added an interactive map on their website, which allows users to explore the veterans' banners around town. There is also an option to look up a loved one's banner and search their location.



Remembrance Day is a time to
Respect Reflect Remember

On November 11, at 11 a.m.
we observe two minutes of silence to show gratitude
for the courage and sacrifice of our veterans.

For more ways to remember or to learn more, visit
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ANAF Unit 265 St. Marys invites locals to come check them out



St. Marys Army & Navy Unit 265 is located at 23 Wellington St. N.

(WENDY LAMOND PHOTOS)

WENDY LAMOND
Independent Reporter

One of the gems we are honoured to have in our town is the Army, Navy & Air Force (ANAF) Unit 265, located at 23 Wellington St.

The organization, which was founded in 1840, is the oldest service charter in Canada. It is a non-profit Canadian, ex-service veterans' organization with memberships that includes members of the military, RCMP, police, relatives or any other interested people.

The club holds many fundraising events and is encouraging the public to come check it out. With changing times and fundraising efforts becoming more difficult, our local clubs need our community more than ever.

The club works hard to fundraise with donations going to Parkwood Veterans Hospital along with local hospitals, minor sports including hockey, ringette and baseball, families in need, local food drives and several other community charities.

The ANAF holds a meat draw every

Friday at 6 p.m. Some other events locals may be familiar with are the Bavarian Beer Gardens on Stonetown Heritage weekend that features local musicians, a chicken-dinner fundraiser, the Bob Lince golf tournament and their fall pickerel fish fry.

They not only fundraise but like to enjoy fellowship as well and offer activities like cards, darts and pool, which are open to everyone.

The ANAF also sells sausage on a bun from 12-1 p.m. on Thursdays.

Trying out new places and meet-

ing new people can help self-esteem, combat feelings of loneliness, make long-lasting memories and there may even be some fun to be had, too.

For more information on ANAF Unit 265 events, call 519-284-4390 or email anaf265.stmarys@gmail.com.

Hours of operation are Monday to Thursday 12-5 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 12 p.m. to close depending on scheduled events, and Sunday from 12-5 p.m.

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November 11th is Remembrance Day



Lest We Forget

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 Private Samuel Evans, farm worker, 1st Canadian Division, Pozieres, Belgium
 Private William Norman Fallis, CNR labourer, 1st Battalion Highland Light Infantry, Belgium
 Private Charles Clare Gowan, farmer, 4th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Loos, Belgium
 Private Otto Chalmers Gregory, farmer, 135th Infantry Battalion, Toronto
 Private James Hogan, farm worker, 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles, Pozieres, Belgium
 Private William Isaac Hudson, cashier, 2nd Canadian Infantry Division, Marcelcave, France
 Gunner William Thomas Lambourn, farm worker, 2nd Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, Normandy, France
 Lieutenant Everett Alexander Langford, steam engineer, 52nd Canadian Infantry Battalion, Hangard, France
 Private George Lucas, farm worker, Yukon Motor Machine Gun Battery, Passchendaele, Belgium
 Private Gordon William Parkinson, harness maker, 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion, Abancourt, France
 Private John Bassette Shanks, farm worker, 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles, Monchy, France
 Lance Corporal Arthur Edgar Simpson, labourer, 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion, Loos, Belgium
 Captain James Arthur Stanley, medical student, Royal Army Medical Corps, Gouzeaucourt, France
 Private Harold Wesley Babb, machinist, 50th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Vimy Ridge, France
 Lieutenant William Gordon Brown, university student, Royal Air Force, Arras, France
 Private Lawrence Sylvester Butters, cheesemaker, 3rd Canadian Infantry Division, Carpiquet, France
 Sargeant Clifford Thomas Cottel, labourer, 1st Battalion Perth Regiment, Coriano, Italy
 Private George Cranston, farm labourer, 50th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Vimy Ridge, France
 Second Lieutenant Leslie Cully, farmer, 91st Machine Gun Company, Ypres Salient, Belgium
 Private Edward William Farmer, farm hand, 102nd Canadian Infantry Battalion, Vimy Ridge, France
 Private Frederick Thomas Fennell, electrician, 2nd Canadian Machine Gun Company, Passchendaele, Belgium
 Private Lewis H Fulcher, labourer, 42nd Canadian Infantry Battalion, Vimy, France
 Private John Herting, farm hand, 50th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Lens, France
 Bombardier Norman Heimrich Hoffmeyer, labourer, 4th Canadian Division Trench Mortar Battery, Valenciennes, France
 Lance Corporal Joseph Lay, farm hand, 58th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Passchendaele, Belgium
 Private Oliver James McIntosh, business manager, 44th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Vimy, France
 Private Malcolm Kenneth McKenzie, farmer, 58th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Vimy, France
 Private William Edward Frederick Mead, farmer, 38th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Vimy, France
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 Gunner Herbert Holloway Perry, clerk, 4th Brigade Canadian Field Artillery, Wancourt, France
 Private Arthur Phillips, farm hand, Perth Regiment, Niagara Falls, Ontario
 Private Gerald Duncan Purcell, drill press operator, Perth Regiment, Coriano, Italy
 Private Nathaniel Stier, furniture worker, 38th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Lihon, France
 Lance Corporal William Thomas, labourer, 2nd Canadian Infantry Battalion, Cambrai, France
 Private James Morton Atkinson, trainman, 47th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Courcelette, France
 Private Gordon Werring Barnett, high school student, 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, Emmerich, Germany
 Private Ralph Thomas Percy Bayley, farm hand, 58th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Tilloy, Germany
 Private George Lawrence Beatty, butcher, 52nd Canadian Infantry Battalion, Vimy Ridge, France
 Private Jack Allison Black, machinist, 2nd Battalion Canadian Mounted Rifles, France
 Private George Christian Bolster, farm hand, 3rd Battalion Canadian Machine Gun Corps, Monchy-le-Preux, France
 Private Hector Wilson Brethour, farmer, 5th Canadian Infantry Battalion, France
 Trooper William James Caleb Brown, schoolteacher, South African Constabulary, Bloemfontein, South Africa
 Gunner Colin Lauchlan Cameron, farmer, 5th Brigade Canadian Field Artillery, Lenham, England
 Acting Company Sergeant-Major Clesson John Dickenson, university student, 4th Divisional Signal Company, Belleville, Ontario
 Corporal William Ivan Doupe, farm worker, 58th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Tilloy, France
 Private John Wilde Evans, farm hand, 4th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Vimy Ridge, France
 Private Alexander Freeman, grocers clerk, Canadian Infantry Battalion, France
 Private Earl Elbert Gardiner, farmer, 58th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Lens, France
 Private Edwin Lincoln Gardiner, rail car checker, 4th Canadian Machine Gun Company, Passchendaele, Belgium
 Private Lorne Wilbert Gunning, college student, 2nd Battalion Canadian Machine Gun Corps, Vis-en-Artois, France
 Private William Joseph Hannaberry, labourer, 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion, Givenchy, France
 Sargeant Alvin Walter Heard, farm worker, RCAF Heavy Conversion Unit, South Cerney, England
 Private Newton Arthur Heard, farm worker, 75th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Vimy Ridge, France
 Private Norman Theodore Hopkin, clerk, 18th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Vis-en-Artois, France
 Private Milton George Adair Hueston, tinsmith, 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles, Brakspruit, South Africa
 Private Archie Alexander Kemp, farm worker, 1st Depot Battalion, London, Ontario
 Sargeant Frederick Arthur Markham, car repairer, 14th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Telegraph Hill, France
 Private Albert Joseph Martin, construction worker, Perth Regiment, Italy
 Private Norman Martin, teacher, 58th Infantry Battalion, Laamkeek, Belgium
 Warrant Officer Gordon Campbell McKay, farmer, RCAF 405 Squadron, Turin, Italy
 Private David Henry Radcliffe, clerk, 4th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Sains-les-Marquion, France
 Private James Earl Roadhouse, farmer, 38th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Hallu, France
 Cadet Russell Kerslake Rundle, pharmacist, Royal Flying Corps, Fort Worth, Texas
 Private George Frederick Steedsman, machinist, 2nd Canadian Division, Lens, France
 Trooper William John James Steedsman, labourer, Royal Canadian Dragoons, Byron, Ontario
 Flying Officer Clarence Lloyd Stevens, resource industry worker, 608 Squadron Royal Air Force, Algeria
 Private Stanley George Sanders Walpole, gardener, 58th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Belgium
 Private Ernest Wilson, bailiff, 5th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Lens, France
 Private Samuel James Billington, farm hand, 18th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Le Havre, France
 Private George Stanley Clark, electrician, 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles, Boiry, France
 Private George Dunham, farm hand, 58th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Vimy Ridge, France
 Private Joshua George Elsey, farm hand, 19th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Courcelette, France
 Private James Evert Fitzgerald, college student, 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade, Ypres, Belgium
 Sapper Richard Etheld Fox, carpenter, 9th Field Company Canadian Engineers, Vlamertinghe, Belgium
 Private William James Glover, cheese maker, 2nd Canadian infantry Battalion, Square Wood, Belgium
 Private Lorne Guest, teacher, 1st Depot Battalion, West Nissouri, Ontario
 Corporal Arthur John High, farm worker, 2nd Canadian Infantry Battalion, Inchy, France
 Gunner Wilbur Douglas Kennedy, millworker, 1st Coastal Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery, Montreal, PQ
 Private Stewart Kersey, farm hand, 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion, Lens, France
 Private Arthur Harold Living, farm worker, 2nd Canadian Infantry Battalion, Square Wood, Belgium
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 Pilot Officer William James Murrell, labourer, 426 Squadron, Rigby, England
 Private William Daniel Pulham, cheesemaker, 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion, Cambrai, France
 Sargeant Leonard Salter, carpenter, 3rd Canadian Infantry Battalion, Thorndale, Ontario
 Private Edward Snelling, labourer, 7th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Ypres, Belgium

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 and freedom we have today ha

To those that supported the allied war effort
 also for your sacrifices; sons, daughters, hus
 boy friends, mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles,
 valiant

The listed area residents gave their lives fight
 Their name, occupation before enlistment, t



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nieces and nephews. Let us remember their
deeds.

ting for their country and the commonwealth:
their unit and where they died are included.

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- Lieutenant Roy Lindley Vining, district representative, 1st Canadian Machine Gun Company, Toronto, Ontario
- Private John Wesley Walters, farmer, 116th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Amiens, France
- Sapper William Earl Abbott, steam fitter, 5th Battalion Canadian Engineers, Cambrai, France
- Private Arthur Robert Allen, farm worker, 2nd Canadian Infantry Battalion, Fresnoy-en-Gohelle, France
- Private Andrew Brookfield, labourer, 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion, Ypres, France
- Lieutenant Robert Climie Cree, mechanic, 6th Canadian Infantry Brigade, Rouen, France
- Private Edwin Joseph Greenwood, farm worker, 18th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Vimy, France
- Private Ernest Arthur Harfield, farm hand, 21st Canadian Infantry Battalion, Vimy Ridge, France
- Flying Officer Donald Allan Hogg, student, 429 Squadron RCAF, France
- Pilot Officer John Douglas Hogg, tool chaser, 432 Squadron RCAF, Wittmund, Germany
- Private Horace James Huntley, farmer, 44th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Passchendaele, Belgium
- Private James Grant Karn, moulder, 54th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Cambrai, France
- Private Byron Garfield Logan, locomotive fireman, 28th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Ypres, France
- Private John Clement Madden, inspector, 15th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Hendcourt-les-Cagnicourt, France
- Private Frank Marchant, cook, 8th Machine Gun Company, Passchendaele, Belgium
- Private Harry Mason, farm hand, 47th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Raillencourt, France
- Private Theo McMaster McCready, truck driver, 9 Canadian Field Ambulance, Malta
- Private Murray McNeil McGee, farmer, Canadian Scottish Regiment, Cussy, France
- Private Gordon Murray McLeod, carpenter, Essex Scottish Regiment, Oldenburg, Germany
- Private John Davidson Morrison, labourer, 4th Battalion Canadian Machine Gun Corps, Sailly, France
- Private Robert James Read, farmer, 244th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Brighton, England
- Sapper Wilfred Sidney Robinson, farmer, 3rd Railway Battalion, Eastbourne, England
- Flight Sergeant George Erwin Robson, farmer, 419 Squadron RCAF, England
- Private Arthur James Vinicombe, farm hand, 18th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Ypres, France
- Able Seaman James Walker, dairy worker, Royal Canadian Navy, England
- Private Hugh Webster Whetstone, farmer, 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion, Bramshott, England
- Private William Herbert Calvert, druggist, Royal Canadian Regiment, France
- Pilot Officer John Demsey Douglas, miner, RCAF, Frankfort, Ontario
- Private Andrew Ferguson Dunlop, labourer, 14th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Courcelette, France
- Sergeant Albert James Houck Dunsmore, student, 102 Canadian Infantry Battalion, Beaucourt-en-Santerre, France
- Corporal Robert John Dunsmore, farmer, 7th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Mosselmarkt, Belgium
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- Leading Aircraftman Norman Garfield Evans, truck driver, RCAF, Edgewood, Ontario
- Private Guy Raymond Adams, student, 2nd Battalion Perth Regiment, Prospect Hill, Ontario
- Leading Cook Robert James Agar, packer, Royal Canadian Navy, Cabot Strait, Nova Scotia
- Corporal James Ernest Allen, painter, Royal Canadian Air Force 426 Squadron, Neu Lingen, Germany
- Pilot Officer Henry Gordon Anderson, miner, Royal Canadian Air Force 419 Squadron, English Channel
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- Flight Sergeant Kenneth Welland Dewey, shipping clerk, Royal Air Force, Moorsee, Germany
- Private Lester James Dewey, clerk, 2nd Battalion Canadian Machine Gun Corps, Delfzijl, Holland
- Sergeant Kenneth Alvin Michael Harker, labourer, Royal Canadian Air Force, Vidoy, Scotland
- Private William Francis Healy, baker, Royal Canadian Army Service Corps, St. Marys, Ontario
- Lieutenant James Robert Henderson, machinist, 3rd Canadian Infantry, Montecchio, Italy
- Private Clarence Eckert Kalbfleisch, farmer, Royal Canadian Regiment, Ortona, Italy
- Private Arthur Sydney King, farmer, 1st Canadian Infantry Division, Compobasso, Italy
- Second Radio Officer Andrew Jordan Laing, student, Merchant Marine, Africa
- Radio Officer Ian M Lord, graduate student, Merchant Navy, Cape Hatteras
- Company Sergeant Major Robert Oliver Marquis, tinsmith, Perth Regiment, Italy
- Private Samuel Robert McCarthy, mechanic's helper, 2nd Canadian Infantry Division, Louisendorf, Holland
- Flying Officer William Earl McDonald, banker, Royal Canadian Air Force Squadron 431, Aabenraa, Denmark
- Captain Jack Franklin McKnight, truck driver, Perth Regiment, Stratford, Ontario
- Lance Corporal Llyod Somerville McKnight, clerk, 1st Canadian Infantry Division, Ortona, Italy
- Corporal John Raymond McRobb, sheet metal worker, Perth Regiment, Melfa River, Italy
- Flight Sergeant Francis John Milne, bank clerk, Royal Air Force, North Sea, Great Britain
- Craftsman James Alexander Munro, sheet metal worker, Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Bramshott, England
- Pilot Erle Walter Ollen-Bittle, draftsman, Royal Canadian Air Force, Alexandria, Egypt
- Warrant Officer Class II William Harold Pym, clerk, Royal Canadian Air Force, St Trond, Belgium
- Private William Jack Richardson, blacksmith, Perth Regiment, Lamone River, Italy
- Pilot Officer Robert Burns, labourer, Royal Canadian Air Force, Switzerland
- Private Roy Edgar Sager, labourer, Highland Light Infantry, Normandy, France
- Lance Sergeant William Franklin Sager, lathe hand, 3rd Canadian Infantry Division, Udem, Holland
- Captain Laurence Edwin Earl Snelgrove, sales manager, 4th Canadian Armoured Division, Igoville, France
- Private William Russell Stewart, mechanic, 1st Canadian Infantry Division, Ortona, Italy
- Flying Officer Carmen Fletcher Sutcliffe, organist, Royal Air Force, Southam, England
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- Private Gordon Alden Waghorn, labourer, 1st Canadian Infantry Division, Lamone River, Italy
- Pilot Officer Charles Stewart White, golf club manager, Royal Canadian Air Force, Emden, Germany
- Private Frederick Arthur Willmore, truck driver, 1st Canadian Infantry Division, Ortona, Italy



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Mayor Al gets the first poppy



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

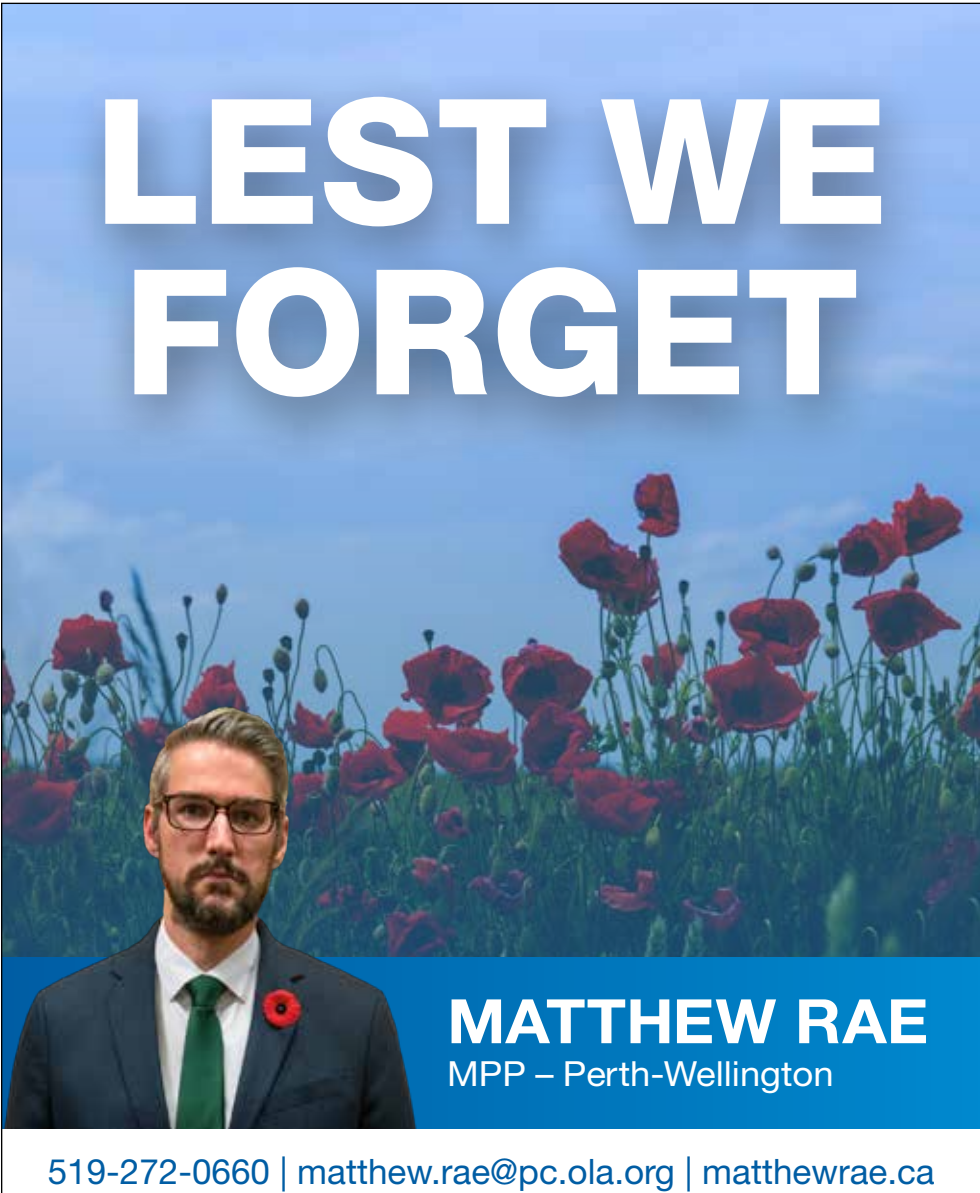
Mayor Al Strathdee receives the first poppy from Tom Jenkins, poppy chair of the Perth Regiment Veterans St. Marys Branch 236 Royal Canadian Legion. Banners commemorating our local veterans are proudly displayed on St. Marys streets. Search for a loved one's banner on the new interactive map at rcl236stmarys.ca/banners.



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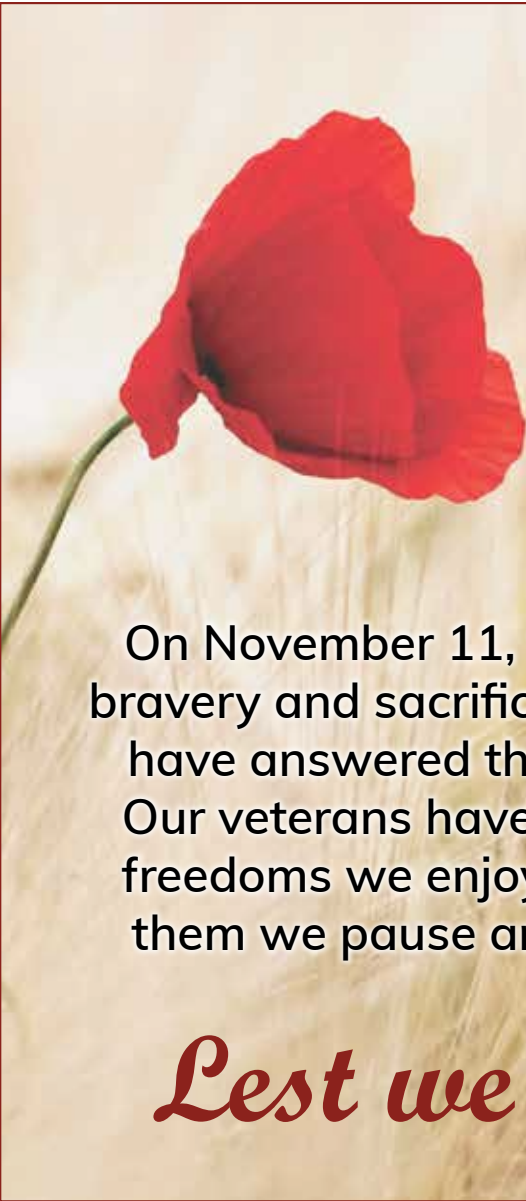
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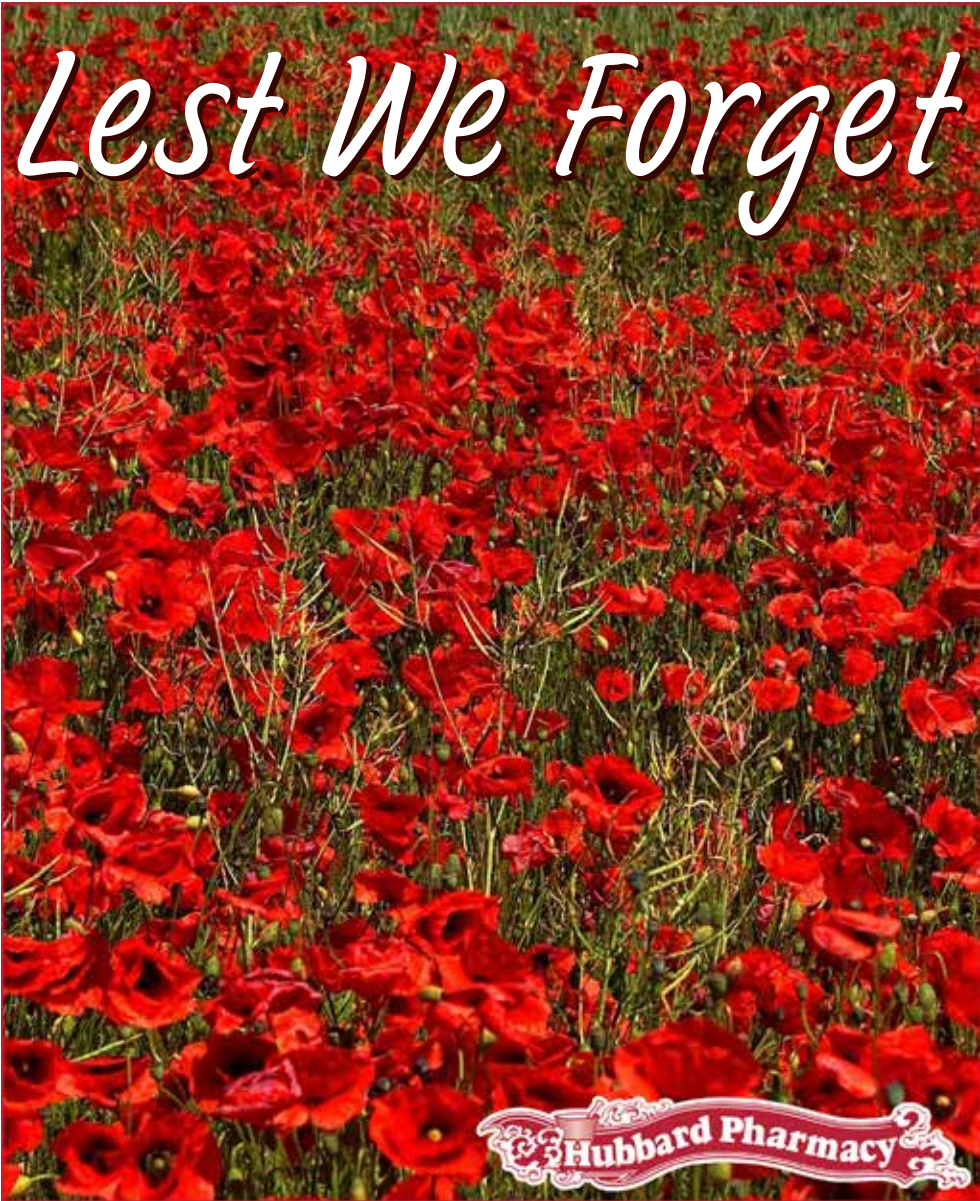
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Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: History, horror and heroism on display



PAUL KNOWLES

Independent Columnist

History, horror and heroism; you will find all three on display at the exceptional Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. And if you manage to visit before Jan. 6, 2026, you can also experience a very poignant and powerful temporary exhibit called “Last Voices of the Second World War,” which captures the memories and stories of the last living Canadian Second World War veterans.

In truth, there is no practical way to take in everything this national museum has to offer in just one visit, but a few hours’ visit will give you a lot of insight into the reality of Canada’s participation in national and international conflicts – and the impact of this history on our fellow Canadians.

We started by touring the Last Voices galleries. Here, the focus is on individuals and their stories,

and those stories vary wildly. There are some for whom their time in the Canadian Armed Forces is something they look back on with fondness, but for many who saw service in battle, it’s a very different story. Veteran George Morasch is quoted:

“I don’t talk about it. They are secrets in my heart.” And veteran George MacDonell, held as a prisoner of war in horrendous conditions in Hong Kong, admits, “I had heavy guilt because so many of my comrades had died and I had lived.”

The story is told honestly with no holds barred. You learn that while there were benefits for armed forces personnel when they returned home, those benefits were limited to white people – black vets could not access the same assistance. And there is a lot of emphasis on the mental health and economic struggles faced by the vets. Veteran Alex Polowin is quoted: “The thought of ‘Where now? What are you going to do for the rest of your life?’ That’s very, very frightening.”

Not surprisingly, the exhibition underscores the significance of Remembrance Day. Veteran Arthur Dingle says, “I think Remembrance Day is very important and it’s absolutely essential for people to understand the reason for it.”

You cannot visit this “Last Voices” exhibition without being deeply touched. There were heroes, yes, caught in a global catastrophe, and yet, as veteran Frank Moritsugu is quoted in a caption, when he tells young people his story, “I tell them how old I was when this happened, so that they would understand that I was really an ordinary Canadian kid like they are.”

That’s a theme that recurs throughout your visit to the Ca-

nadian War Museum; the story of war is really the story of ordinary people who found themselves in extraordinary circumstances and responded with a level of courage and resilience I cannot even imagine.

The museum carries you chronologically through Canadian history, started with the First Peoples and their conflict with Vikings, and with each other, and continuing through the coming of the French and then the British. There is plenty to think about as you continue through the War of 1812, Canada’s involvement in the war in South Africa, and then the world wars and the cold war.

And these clashes and their consequences continue to reverberate right into this present day.

To my surprise, one of the most effective displays at the museum is an amusing video of three young Canadian men. The video starts with two of them in the frame, one wearing a Toronto Maple Leafs sweater, the other, a Montréal Canadiens jersey. We see the conflict between British and French, and the ongoing issues of French Canada and English Canada through their eyes.

But eventually, the camera pans back and there is a third guy on the couch – a Native Canadian. The other two are surprised: “When did you get here?” they ask. The new guy frowns. “I’ve been here all the time.” And therein lies a fundamental truth about Canada, one we mostly ignore.

There is more big picture in



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

Veteran Alex Polowin, quoted in 2022, said figuring out the future after returning home from World War II was “very, very frightening.”

the permanent exhibits at the war museum, but there are thought-provoking individual moments here, as well. I was intrigued by the reconstruction of First World War ace Billy Bishop’s aircraft, accompanied by photos of and information panels about Canada’s flying war hero.

Or by what happens when you walk into the Second World War gallery and are confronted with Adolph Hitler’s limousine, a merely mechanical artifact that nonetheless reeks of evil.

The designers at the museum have done a very fine job of creating interactive scenes which place visitors in the very heart of war. You pause in a battlefield at Passchendaele, which includes discarded weapons and half-buried bodies. You edge your way through a trench

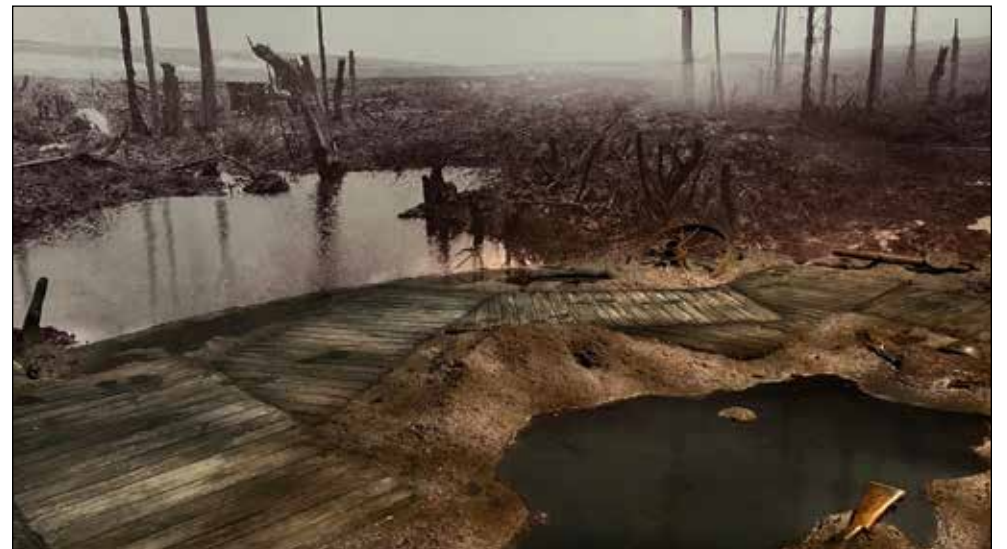
where a very realistic mannequin of a frightened soldier is the only other “person” sharing your space. You stand in a landing vessel behind soldiers about to storm the beaches of Normandy.

And you leave the museum well informed, heavy laden with thoughts about the horrible reality of war, but filled with admiration for the courage of those people who fought for our country – 66,000 of whom died in World War I, another 45,000 in World War II. Lest we forget.

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.



World War I Canadian flying ace Billy Bishop.

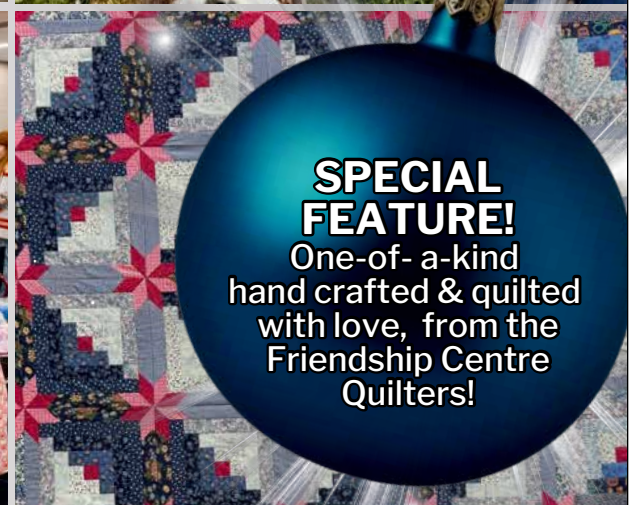


A three-dimensional creation of a detail from Passchendaele.

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St. Marys Independent SPORTS

St. Marys Sports Wall of Fame 2025 class enshrined at PRC

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

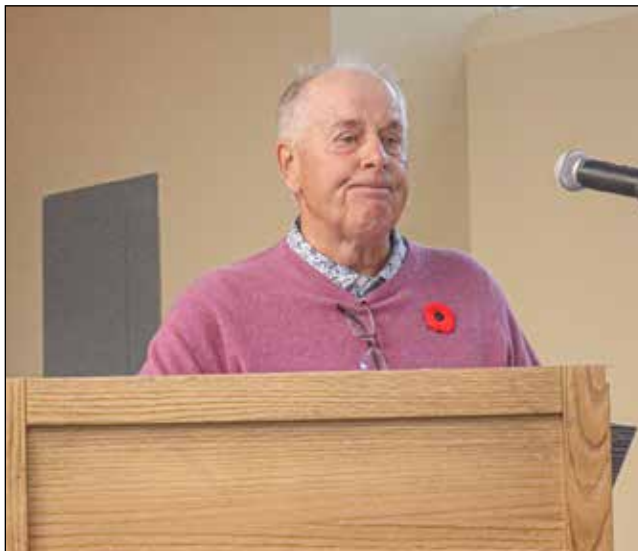
Rick Fifield, Mike Craig and the 1962-1963 St. Marys Lincolns all-Ontario championship team were honoured as inductees in the second class of the St. Marys Sports Wall of Fame on Nov. 1 at the Pyramid Recreation Centre (PRC).

Fifield's achievements span multiple sports, showcasing outstanding dedication and excellence. In hockey, he served as captain and Most Valuable Player for the St. Marys Lincolns during the 1972-1973 season, playing a total of four seasons and amassing 405 points. In golf, his accolades include winning the Ontario Father/Son Championship in 1999 with Derek Fifield, the Ontario Father/Daughter Championship in 2001 with Katie Fifield and the Ontario Senior Better Ball Championship in 2012 with Jim Craigmile.

Over 23 seasons, Craig played professional hockey across the National Hockey League (NHL), American Hockey League (AHL) and various international leagues. Craig is a two-time World Junior Hockey gold medalist and has earned multiple awards and championships at both amateur and professional levels of competition.

The 1962-1963 St. Marys Lincolns was the first Lincs team to be crowned Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) Junior B Champions, the first of many successful runs for the local hockey club. Impressively, this team included eight local players who had competed together from Pee-Wee through junior levels, showcasing their remarkable unity and dedication to the sport.

Rick Fifield was the first inductee recognized during the ceremony, and after an introduction by Mayor Al Strathdee, who acknowledged the achievements of each inductee, Rick Fifield's longtime friends, Scott Graham and Pat Payton, introduced him as a multi-



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

An emotional Rick Fifield speaks during his induction into the St. Marys Sports Wall of Fame on Nov. 1 at the Pyramid Recreation Centre.

sport legend.

"Rick (Fifield) is one of those athletes who, when he picks up a hockey stick, a golf club, a tennis racket, a curling stone, or a ball bat, it doesn't seem to matter; whatever he picks up, get ready for some magic," Graham said. "His amazing hand-eye coordination and natural feel continue to leave people in awe to this day. You sprinkle in a healthy dose of mental toughness and passion, and you get what you get with Rick."

Payton, who saw plenty of great athletes in his 40-year career as the sports reporter for St. Marys Independent Newspaper and Journal Argus, had high praise for Rick Fifield in his introduction.

"When I think of Rick Fifield, I think of a truly gift-



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Mike Craig flashes a big smile during his speech at the St. Marys Sports Wall of Fame induction ceremony at the Pyramid Recreation Centre on Nov. 1.

ed and humble athlete, and someone who is more than worthy of being inducted into the St. Marys Sports Wall of Fame," said Payton. "I believe Rick has been the best all-around athlete in this town since he came to St. Marys over 50 years ago."

Payton described Rick Fifield's litany of accomplishments and impacts on the St. Marys sports community and described listening to one of his many great moments in a St. Marys Lincolns' jersey as a teenager.

"I was about 15 at the time, and it was a Friday night in the Spring of 1971," Payton recounted. "We were gathered around the radio at the old St. Marys Pool Hall downtown, listening to Game 7 from Sarnia. The

CONTINUED TO PAGE 27

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St. Marys Sports Wall of Fame 2025 class enshrined at PRC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

score was tied 5-5 late in the third period when Rick broke into the clear. The excited play-by-play man blurted out that a big Sarnia defenceman was draped all over (Rick) Fifield. But you know what happened? Rick still put the puck in the top corner. It was the winning goal in an 8-5 St. Marys victory, giving the Lincs a berth in the league final. With the game on the line, great players step up and come through for their team. They rise to the occasion. To me, that was Rick."

Rick Fifield displayed the humble nature Payton alluded to as he accepted the induction into the Sports Wall of Fame.

"Obviously, it's a great honour," Rick Fifield said. "To get this kind of recognition, it means the world to me and my family. Fifty-seven years later, I'm proud to call St. Marys my home, and there is no better place to live."

Fifield added being inducted and hearing Graham and Payton talk so glowingly about his sports career in St. Marys filled him with emotion.

"It chokes you up, that's for sure," said Rick Fifield. "I didn't realize a lot of those stories were coming out because I had not talked to them about that, but it was neat to listen to those guys talk about it. I'm proud of what I did, but I'm just speechless. This is really just a great day."

Next up to be inducted was Craig, who began by emotionally discussing some of the most important people who joined him for his induction.

"A lot of folks have been looking for an explanation of where the heck I've been for the last 30 years," laughed Craig. "I've been on that hockey highway throughout Ontario, east- and west-coast Canada, across that big pond numerous times, and every major city in the U.S. And there was that one little pit stop in Minnesota I made, and I laid eyes on a little blonde with a smile, and I settled into the land of the 10,000 lakes. So, it brings me great honour to share this experience and bring back with me my son, Colton, my daughter, Mackenzie, and that same little blonde, Chrissy, my wife of 31 years."

Craig detailed, despite all the places hockey has



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

George Cifa, a member of the 1962-1963 St. Marys Lincolns team enshrined on the St. Marys Sports Wall of Fame during the Nov. 1 induction ceremony, receives his plaque from present-day Lincolns Vaughn Barr, Chase McDougall and Ryan Hodkinson, as pictured from left to right.

taken him and the accolades he's amassed, how few things have surpassed one of his earliest hockey experiences.

"You can make a run to the Stanley Cup Finals, you can put the Memorial Cup above your head and you can wear that Team Canada jersey with a gold medal around your neck. You can even go to Europe and have success with a couple of teams and even win the championship. And you can stare off at the Swiss Alps with your Spengler Cups. But I will never forget the spring of 1984 when we rolled Alliston here, and we jumped on that fire truck, with that all-Ontario Pee-Wee B championship trophy, and we went downtown St. Marys. We felt like we were on top of the world."

Craig once again was filled with emotion as he thanked his mother for making his life and career in hockey possible.

"Mom," Craig said, his voice quivering as his eyes

welled up, "you're the reason my name and picture are going on the wall today. Me and you, we rode hundreds of times together on that seven-mile stretch south of St. Marys on that gravel road leading to the farm, in the middle of the winter. I'll never forget, we're blasting through snow drifts and that old car would putter out and the dash lights would be blinking and flashing, and you'd be pumping the gas, and the car would pick up again, and we'd hit that damn other snow drift again."

"You did absolutely everything to get me to that front door curbside, and I'll never forget, every time, your pregame speech was, 'Have fun and work your butt off.' And I'll never forget, you never got out from behind the wheel. You always made me get my bag, get my stick, walk it into the rink and tie up my own skates. You did your part and it was up to me to put on a performance that paid you back, and I can't thank you enough for everything you've done."

Jacques Cousineau, a member of the 1962-1963 Lincolns' squad inducted into the Sports Wall of Fame, delivered remarks on behalf of the team. Cousineau paid homage to every player on the team, with present-day Lincolns' players Vaughn Barr, Ryan Hodkinson and Chase McDougall helping to present the Wall of Fame plaques to the players or family members in attendance.

In addition to all the players and staff who made up the team, Cousineau paid tribute to the team's head coach, Stan Moore.

"Stan came to St. Marys and he was one of the first people to push for this junior team to be in St. Marys," Cousineau said. "He also started Junior B hockey in Strathroy, and later revived the old Tillsonburg team that eventually moved to Aylmer."

Cousineau also remembered the team's general manager, Barry Nairn, with a story of how Nairn refused to allow the Lincolns to be shunned at a league awards event.

"I will never forget at the award banquet for the league, we had finished eight points ahead of St. Thomas, and not a single player on our team received an award at the banquet," said Cousineau. "At the end of the banquet, Barry (Nairn) went up on the stage, uninvited, and told everybody, 'You ignored our team today, even though we have the best team, but we'll win the big one.' And we did."

Cousineau told the Independent following the ceremony he was thrilled to be able to represent the team at the podium.

"I would say this induction today completes our junior career. The fact that our team was remembered this long, and now that the town has done this, it's recognized that we had an exceptional team and an exceptional year. I thought it was a great thing being inducted, and it was an honour for me personally to participate."

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Steffler, senior boys shine for DCVI at OFSAA cross-country meet

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

Quentin Steffler, the St. Marys DCVI Senior Boys' team and the novice boys' squad had a strong showing at the OFSAA cross-country meet on Nov. 1 in London.

The senior boys headlined the Salukis' results, finishing as the top overall team in their division. Individually, Myles Clinton topped the St. Marys charts, finishing 19th. Kaleb Dingman came in 34th, Charlie Bender finished 52nd, Nic Brintnell took 66th and Zach Matheson rounded out the 279-athlete field for DCVI at 183rd.

Head coach Marcel Scheele cited the team's cohesiveness as being a big contributor to their first-place finish.

"As a team, they were a great group of young individuals who worked well together," Scheele told the Independent. "They showed up every day to practice with a great mentality, great attitude and pushed each other to be their best. They all have faith in each other, and I think they gained confidence throughout the races and throughout the season."

Scheele noted the senior boys entered the meet with high aspirations.

"The energy was very high in the morning," said Scheele. "Going into the season, we had a goal. They wanted to medal, and we put it in their ear that, if we're

going to go for a medal, let's go for the gold one, and all season, we stayed focused on that goal. They were as prepared as they could be and executed perfectly."

Scheele recounted the jubilation experienced by everyone when the Salukis captured the gold medals.

"During the race, I wasn't quite sure where we were position-wise, and I took a quick peak at my phone to check the results and my heart dropped when I saw we were in first place. I remember I hadn't seen the guys yet, they had just come through, and I was at the finish shoot waiting for our fifth guy. All I did during the race was encourage them as best I could and hopefully watch them move up as many spots as we can, as that's what counts.

"I think they surprised themselves," Scheele continued. "Before our race, I told them I believed they were the top team in the province, and to go out there and show everyone, and they executed. I knew they had it in them, and they and the parents who were there (and) were all over the moon. It was pure joy and excitement. Those kinds of moments are just something you don't experience often. It was perfect."

DCVI's novice boys also had a very respectable day, coming away with the fourth-best team overall. Will Richardson and Volker Fraser led the way, finishing 56th and 57th place, while Andrew Seebach took 87th and Hayden Barker placed 144th.

In the para category, Quentin Steffler had a strong



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Pictured on the left is Quentin Steffler. On the right, in the front row, from left to right, are Marcel Scheele and Alan Mazur. In the back row, from left, are Abe Bender, Zach Matheson, Nic Brintnell, Charlie Bender, Kaleb Dingman, and Myles Clinton. The St. Marys DCVI senior boys won the OFSAA cross-country championship in their division, while Steffler placed a very respectable 37th in the para division. The novice boys team also placed a very respectable fourth overall.

day for DCVI, finishing 37th in a highly competitive division.

"He's come a long way," Scheele said. "It's extremely rewarding to see, especially having his mom there too. She was ecstatic and so proud of him. I'm sure he felt it too, and his commitment to his training and his work with our assistant coach, Alan (Mazur), helped him develop the way he has. Finishing as high as he did in one of the largest para divisions in OFSAA history, and to have a personal best jump by two minutes is outstanding."

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Ontario 

DCVI junior girls take playoff quarter-final against Goderich

TURNER ROTH

Independent Sports Reporter

The DCVI Junior Girls Basketball Team took down Goderich in their playoff quarter-final matchup, scoring a strong 35-20 win on Oct. 29.

The game started off slow for St. Marys as Goderich had an 8-6 lead by the end of the first quarter. The Salukis were making some uncharacteristic mistakes, according to head coach Tim O'Connor, but as they increased their defensive pressure, they settled in at both ends of the court.

"I was very happy today with the way we played today," O'Connor told the Independent. "We were struggling to score at the start of the game, but once we were able to get calm, eventually a couple of buckets started to fall. I was very happy, especially with how we were defensively in the second half."

O'Connor explained how his team's strong defensive play allowed the group to steady their game, which in turn led to more successful attempts at the basket on the offensive side of the ball.

"It was man-to-man defence, we weren't impatient, and we just didn't give them much," said O'Connor. "They didn't get many second shots as we rebounded pretty well. Eventually, we were calm and took good shots. We were just throwing it up there a few times

before, but we eventually got some better looks. We put up 35 points, which I would consider a good day at the office for us."

The girls found a greater intensity and energy coming out of halftime and proceeded to erupt offensively with relentless attack and movement. On the other side of the court, they held Goderich to only eight points in the remaining two quarters.

Lily Hollestelle-Black led the offensive charge with eight points in the game, while Morgan Reid chipped in six, and Aryn Sheldon had five. Serina Procter, Raegan Stacey and Melody Weber each added four points.

The team scoring 35 points was significant, considering they managed just six in the first quarter. O'Connor noted they didn't try to make low-percentage plays, which led to more offensive success.

"We weren't just trying to hit the first cutter, but instead we were working it around and reversing the ball. There was an NBA coach who said, 'If you reverse the ball once, you get an open shot. If you reverse the ball twice, you get a layup.' Rather than someone trying to drive through multiple people, instead, you've got a ball reversal, a nice attack on the weak side and only one defender to beat. We were a bit more patient, we held onto the ball and I think that tuckered Goderich out a little bit by the end."



(TURNER ROTH PHOTO)

Aryn Sheldon takes a shot during the DCVI junior girls basketball team's 35-20 win in their playoff quarter-final against Goderich on Oct. 29. Sheldon had five points in the game.

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SPOTLIGHT ON ARTS & CULTURE

Hipped roofs and gables: Celebrating the Ontario Cottage

DAN WELCHER

Contributed Article

"A wise man, before commencing to build a house, will sit down and count the cost. If his means are limited, he will attempt no ambitious imitation of a particular style. His cottage will be well planned and tastefully built, so that every part will afford quite as much pleasure in its way as a spacious mansion; although not the same kind of pleasure, it will be perfect of its kind." - "Farm Architecture," Canada Farmer, 1864

The Ontario Cottage is that modest house. We see them all around here, and in fact, all around the province. The ubiquitous hipped roof, the often-repeated gable over the door, the classic squarish shape are hallmarks of the architecture. They are usually one or one-and-a-half storeys high, though many owners add to the original plan. And they are so omnipresent that most people don't even notice how unique they are to where we live.

Not anymore. Lynne D. DiStefano and Dan Schneider have made a thorough study of the Ontario Cottage and have written a new book about it: *The Ontario Cottage: Perfect of Its Kind*. The book, just published, is being launched locally on Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. at the St. Marys Museum.

Dan Schneider, a St. Marys resident, has for 45 years been consumed by a love of these old buildings. During his career, he has been the lead policy expert on many government heritage initiatives, including comprehensive changes to the Ontario Heritage Act in 2005. He currently chairs the policy committee of Architectural Conservancy Ontario and serves as president of the Stratford/Perth ACO branch. I sat down with Dan Schneider to chat about the new book.

Schneider was born in Milverton. Following a BA degree from the University of Toronto, he obtained a

law degree at Queens Law School in Kingston. While studying there, he developed a keen interest in the old buildings he saw around him.

"Dad gave me a camera," he said, "and I just started shooting The Old Stones of Kingston – period houses and other buildings from the mid 1800s."

Kingston was, for a while, the capital of Canada, and some of its buildings date from as early as 1806. Schneider took photos of many limestone houses, row houses and churches.

"I realized how important it was to preserve them," he said. "One building in particular, in the mid '70s, was the 1844 Mowat Block on Princess Street. It was threatened with destruction and I took part in a demonstration to protest this."

Soon afterward, the Ontario Heritage Act was proclaimed in Kingston in 1975. Schneider was called to the bar in 1979, but while the study of law was intellectually interesting to him, he found himself uninterested in "going to court and making wills."

"I went to the Ministry of Culture in Toronto and asked what a law-savvy student could do to help with the preservation of old buildings," Schneider said. "They sent me to a county archivist, Jim Anderson, in Stratford. He hired me to photograph practically the whole City of Stratford, to begin an archive and to document Stratford at that point in time. It was the first comprehensive photographic study of the city."

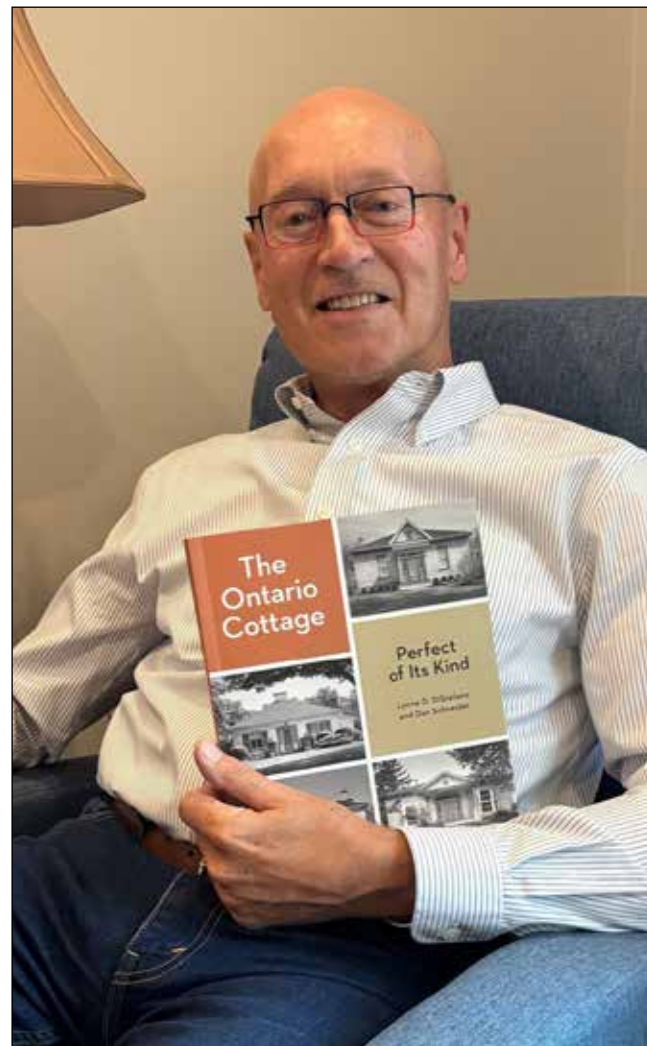
From that position, he went to the Ministry of Culture and worked as heritage easements coordinator. This position put him in touch with the owners of architecturally important old buildings, and registering agreements for their protection. All owners, present and future, must adhere to certain responsibilities pertaining to the alteration of their properties and their upkeep. Buildings like the Opera House and the Queen Street Bridge in St. Marys were protected in this way, as were scores of other buildings throughout Ontario.

"I got to see a lot of the province," Schneider said. "I came to understand the unique sort of houses we have in Ontario, and in 1990, I found a little stone farmhouse a few kilometres north of St. Marys."

After approaching the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, which owned the property, Schneider was allowed to rent it, and to begin the process of repairing it.

"Having fallen in love with this house, which I lived in on weekends, I became aware of the characteristics of the Ontario Cottage."

He had already met Lynn DiStefano who, at the time, was curator of Museum London. She had mounted an exhibition on Victorian architecture and started a new



(DAN WELCHER PHOTO)

Dan Schneider with his and Lynne DiStefano's new book, *The Ontario Cottage: Perfect of Its Kind*.

project about the Ontario Cottage. There was an exhibition in London in 2000, which was supposed to be followed by a book. Working with photographer Steven Evans, DiStefano decided which houses to photograph and feature in the projected book.

But she found herself moving to Hong Kong, and Schneider lost track of her. When they reconnected six years ago, they decided to finally complete the book. It was, for both of them, a labour of love.

Joining them at the book launch Nov. 6 at the St. Marys Museum, starting at 7 p.m., will be representatives of Betty's Books, and copies will be offered for sale.

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Community Liaison Committee

The next Community Liaison Committee Meeting will be held on **Thursday, December 11th** at 6:00pm at the St. Marys Municipal Operations Center. Members of the public who wish to observe are welcome to attend.

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

Please submit all requests, questions, and concerns for the meeting to kara.pelissero@vcimentos.com by **Tuesday, December 9th at 10am.**



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NOTICE OF COMPLETION**Thorndale Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion
Schedule C Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study****THE STUDY**

The Municipality of Thames Centre (Municipality) has retained Stantec Consulting Ltd. to complete a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify options for expansion of the Thorndale Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), located at 1135 Ideal Drive, as shown on the map.

The Thorndale WWTP provides municipal wastewater treatment to Thorndale. WWTP expansion alternatives were developed and evaluated to address current needs and consider anticipated community growth. The preferred alternative includes:

- Expansion of the Thorndale WWTP within the existing site to increase existing capacity from 674 m³/day to 741 m³/day to meet 2046 peak flow rates
- Expansion will be achieved through installing a Sequencing Batch Reactor with Equalization Tank Upgrade within the existing site



This study was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Schedule C projects, as outlined in the Municipal Class EA document (2000, as amended in 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2023) which is approved under the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

An Environmental Study Report (ESR) has been prepared and will be available for a 30 day comment period from November 6, 2025 to December 5, 2025 on the Municipality of Thames Centre website: www.thamescentre.on.ca. The ESR provides information about the project, the evaluation process, consultation undertaken, and the impacts and mitigation measures. Interested persons may provide written comments by December 5, 2025 to the Municipality of Thames Centre using the following contact information:

Jarrod Craven, Director of Public Works
Municipality of Thames Centre, 4305 Hamilton Road, Dorchester, ON, N0L 1G3
Phone: 519-268-7334, Email: jcraven@thamescentre.on.ca

In addition, following the filing of the Notice of Completion, a request may be made to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks under Section 16 of the *EA Act* requiring a higher level of study (i.e., requiring an individual/comprehensive EA approval before being able to proceed), or that conditions be imposed (e.g., require further studies), only on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate or remedy adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights. Requests on other grounds will not be considered.

Requests should include the requester contact information and full name for the ministry. Requests should specify what kind of order is being requested (request for additional conditions or a request for an individual/comprehensive environmental assessment), how an order may prevent, mitigate or remedy those potential adverse impacts, and any information in support of the statements in the request. This will ensure that the ministry is able to efficiently begin reviewing the request.

The request should be sent in writing by mail or by email to both of the following:

Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks 777 Bay Street, 5th Floor Toronto ON M7A 2J3 minister.mecp@ontario.ca	Director, Environmental Assessment Branch Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks 135 St. Clair Ave. W, 1st Floor Toronto ON, M4V 1P5 EABDirector@ontario.ca
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Requests should also be sent to the Municipality of Thames Centre.

If you have any accessibility requirements in order to participate in this project, please contact the Project Team member listed above. Comments and information are being collected to assist with meeting the requirements of the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*. Information collected will be used in accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and *Access to Information Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

First published November 5, 2025

Bi-Weekly Collection Schedule**November 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	FALL YARD WASTE CURBSIDE COLLECTION					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

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COLUMNS

UKRAINIAN CORNER:

A festive bridge across the ocean: How war and tradition shape a Ukrainian-Canadian Christmas

ALONA VASYLIEVA

Independent Columnist

The pumpkins are officially defunct. Their spooky, smiling faces have collapsed into compostable mush, the black-and-orange glitter has finally been vacuumed out of the rug, and the crisp November air is whispering that single, most competitive question into the soul of every Canadian homeowner: “Are you ready to commit to a Christmas aesthetic?”

In Canada, once the quiet reverence of Remembrance Day on Nov. 11 is observed – a date we treat with the utmost respect – you are, by unspoken suburban decree, legally entitled to drag your Christmas decorations out of the basement. That’s the official word. Unofficially? You know that one neighbour – the one who apparently owns stock in a lighting company – who already has their rooftop edges outlined.

Back home, we practice a more deliberate, historically paced holiday build-up. Our proper season usually kicks off ceremonially with the lighting of the Main Christmas Tree on Dec. 19. This date is significant because it marks St. Nicholas Day, a beloved tradition where small, secret gifts are slipped under children’s pillows. That’s the green light for official festivities, winter break and the parental quest to book every possible theatre show or indoor activity to keep the youngsters from using the sofa as a trampoline.

Forget the mall Santa photo; our primary holiday stress revolves around the legendary Christmas school concert. These are not simple affairs. Weeks of rigorous, military-precision rehearsal go into these performances where children, dressed in elaborate, parent-sourced and often entirely hand-stitched costumes of angels, shepherds, or occasionally, a very serious-looking goat, perform traditional Nativity scenes for a tearful, camera-wielding audience. Ukrainian parents might bypass the stress of Halloween trick-or-treating, but rest assured, they are definitely still sweating over finding or, worse, sewing, the perfect set of gossamer angel wings for the Christmas stage. The costume grind is, apparently, eternal.

We’ve already begun crafting our own unique traditions! Assembling a store-bought Gingerbread House with my son, Alex, was one of our first “Canadian activities.” Full disclosure: the pre-made kit, requiring only the squirt of icing from a tube, saved us from a disastrous flour explosion. But this year, I’m aiming higher! I’ve bought the ingredients to actually bake one from scratch.

I started a new festive tradition; preparing the pre-Christmas parcel for our beloved family in Ukraine. And it isn’t



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

A Ukrainian-Canadian family's Christmas spans the ocean, turning a single parcel into a “Festive Bridge” of joy and resilience for family in war-torn Ukraine.

just a holiday task; it’s a full-blown, several-months-long, covert operation – a delightful mission that truly captures the spirit of the season and absolutely melts my heart!

This isn’t some last-minute dash for stocking stuffers; this is a meticulous, strategic gathering of joyous cargo that begins months before the first snowflake even dares to fall. I become a veritable treat-finding sleuth, haunting every charming boutique and grocery aisle, my mind’s eye laser-focused on the faces of my recipients.

Every single item – from the artisanal chocolate to the perfectly pocket-sized Canadian maple syrup candy – is chosen with a specific family member’s delight in mind. It’s a game of “What-Will-Make-Them-Smile-The-Biggest?” and honestly, just imagining the moment they tear open the packaging sends a wave of genuine, goofy happiness washing over me.

Now, we must acknowledge the journey this glorious box takes. Due to the heartbreaking realities of war, this parcel doesn’t just hop on a sleigh and zip across the Atlantic. Oh no, it undertakes an epic, sometimes slightly glacial odyssey! It’s less a speedy delivery and more a pilgrimage of cheer. It takes a good long while for this treasure chest to fi-

nally reach its final, incredibly deserving destination in Ukraine.

But that delay? It only magnifies the magic! When it finally arrives, it’s no longer just a box of Canadian goodies; it transforms into an incredibly happy, tangible Canadian-Ukrainian festive bridge – a shimmering, edible and cuddly lifeline connecting our hearts right

across the ocean. In fact, given the sheer effort and the epic travel time, I’ve decided this parcel is practically a certified delivery from the North Pole itself. It is a truly beautiful, cold-season tradition that, despite the distance and the difficult circumstances, manages to deliver a dose of unbridled, international holiday magic, one lovingly packed box at a time.

The first Christmas after the invasion was difficult. The national mood was heavy, and there was an agonizing debate about whether any public festivities were appropriate when civilians were constant targets. It felt wrong, heavy and heartbreaking.

But as a second year approached, the answer rang clear with incredible resilience; kids in Ukraine who are living through a war absolutely deserve a Christmas. They deserve the magic, the concerts, the sweets and the sense of a happy, normal childhood, even if it’s punctuated by the chilling sound of air raid sirens. The holiday season back home now has an incredibly special, fiercely defiant vibe – a powerful testament to the unbreakable spirit of the Ukrainian people, who refuse to let war steal their children’s future joy.

So here we are, embracing the Canadian November cheer with one hand, shopping for discounted outdoor spotlights and holding tight to our Ukrainian traditions with the other, keeping our kutia recipes and our history close to our hearts.

Now, if you’ll excuse me, I need to choose between a “Chic Silver and Gold” or a “Tacky-But-Lovable Multicolour” theme before my competitive friends snag the last perfectly working laser projector at Home Hardware. The race is on!

Ask the Arborist

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

**Dear Arborist,**

I have a very wet area on my lawn. It is near my septic field and someone told me a willow tree would dry up the ground. What do you say?

Thanks, TJ**Dear TJ,**

Willow trees will dry up the yard. A full grown willow tree will transpire as much as 2.5 million litres of water in a single day. However, it is a bad

idea to plant it by the septic as the roots will fill the drainage lines. Once this happens, you have to replace the whole septic system.

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

FROM THE GARDEN: The Poppy: a symbol of remembrance and hope for peace



NANCY ABRA

Independent Columnist

Each November, a subtle yet powerful symbol blooms across the lapels and at memorials across our country. The red poppy, known scientifically as *Papaver rhoeas*, is commonly known as corn poppy, field poppy, or Flanders poppy. It is a native annual of Europe, North Africa and parts of Asia which can easily reseed itself and considered an agricultural weed, often blooming in fields left fallow, along roadsides and in uncultivated headlands. This delicate flower with its vibrant red colour has come to represent remembrance, sacrifice, and the hope for peace. But in a world still gripped by conflict, from the war in Ukraine to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, the poppy's message is more urgent than ever.

The poem, 'In Flanders Fields', written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae MD who was a doctor at the Canadian

Field Dressing Station in Belgium has been recited in schools and at war memorial sites for decades in November. Dr. McCrae treated and dressed many soldiers' battle injuries. But the tragic death of his friend, Lt. Alexis Helmer and witnessing his burial at Essex Farm Cemetery beside the dressing station, deeply moved McCrae to write his notable poem in May of 1915.

Amid the devastation of World War I battlefields of Belgium and France, it is hard to imagine how anything could possibly survive, let alone grow. The soil conditions of this region are chalky and poor to begin with, but these determined flowers grew. Their crimson petals are a stark contrast to the landscape of destruction. The corn poppy seem to flourish, immortalizing McCrae's words as a symbol of remembrance.

While the poppy began as a tribute to the fallen soldiers of World War I, we are four generations from that conflict, three generations from World War II and Korean War, and a couple of generations of recent missions in Afghanistan, Bosnia, and our soldiers on peacekeeping in Cyprus. The poppy is a discreet gesture that connects generations and reminds us, all citizens, the cost of freedom. Today, it also stands as a hope for peace – a reminder of the cost



of war in the loss of lives and the destruction of innocent citizens' homes and livelihood. This dual symbolism is especially poignant as the world watches the ongoing conflicts with anxiety.

Since Russia's 2022 invasion into Ukraine, this war has claimed thousands of lives on both sides of soldiers and innocent people and has displaced millions. The poppy reminds us of the hope for peace and the importance of international

solidarity. The conflict in the Middle East, especially with Gaza and Israel, their renewed violence has led to devastating civilian casualties and overwhelming destruction. The poppy commends the need for reflection, empathy and a commitment to humanitarian aid and diplomacy.

Wearing the poppy is not just a gesture for November 11 - it is a call to remember and to act. In times of peace, it is easy to forget the harsh lessons in history.

The poppy challenges us to stay vigilant and to educate younger people about the realities of war and the value of peace. It also helps to support our veterans who have sacrificed so much and refugees whose lives have been shaped by conflict.

The corn poppy is more than a flower that we can grow in our gardens. It is a living symbol of remembrance. As we face new global challenges, let the poppy inspire us to honour the past and shape a peaceful future.

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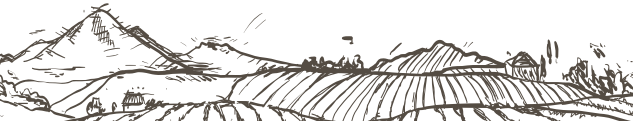
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Looking Back

AMY CUBBERLEY

Independent Columnist



Cuddling carrots

25 years ago (2000)
Reg Near is the recipient of the 2000 Volunteer of the Year award for St. Marys. Reg has lived in St. Marys all his life and has been an active member of several organizations in the community. He is a well-known face at the St. Marys post office, where he worked for 37 years.

Competition for elected positions is usually the sign of a healthy organization so St. Marys council should be in good shape going into the November municipal election. The two candidates for mayor and eight hopefuls for the six seats on council made their pitch for support to a packed auditorium on the upper floor of town hall on Monday night.

50 years ago (1975)
Town Hall custodian Tom McGiveron, wiping the remains of assorted eggs from the front wall of the building last Friday morning, wondered “how anybody could afford to throw eggs at these prices.”

The thirty inch pipeline under construction to carry gasoline and heating oil from Sarnia to Montreal is now under construction across a wide area south of St. Marys.

75 years ago (1950)
Mrs. George Lewis, East Ward, picked nearly a quart of strawberries from her garden this week. She had previously gathered enough for a pie.

Bill Henry’s carrots are not to be outdone in the matter of “necking”. A pair of the vegetables dug up last week were noticed to be hugging each other in a very “human-like” manner.

100 years ago (1925)
Dr. C.M. Lawrence, chiropractor, announced this week that he is leaving St. Marys in a few days, having taken over a large practice in Midland. Dr. Lawrence has made many friends in St. Marys who regret exceedingly his leaving and whose best wishes go with him to his new town.

The death on Saturday of Mrs. John Mitchell of Blanchard not only removed one of the oldest residents of the township, but also one of the most highly esteemed as well. Mrs. Mitchell, whose maiden name was Eliza Scott, was 84 years old.

The Kindergarten over Webster’s Studio was gaily decorated in black and orange last Friday when the little pupils and their mothers were entertained to their annual Halloween party. A unique feature was the presence of one of the pupils accompanied by his mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

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OCTOBER NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Z J K H Z H H J S V I U U E C I J Q Z I	Gaza Peace Deal
D U T I D S D S Q D T M I V F Y U G S J	Daaa Yankees Lose
S E C S L J K E N X B B K V N O W A S R	Thanksgiving
W E R K D P M F U T S U P T U J Q Z R A	No Kings rallies
H A L L O W E E N R P A T W K H H A E I	Louvre robbery
S P L O U V R E R O B B E R Y T R P N L	Anti tariff ad
D A A A Y A N K E E S L O S E S D E I J	Jays beat Mariners
G R P A O C I Q H Q W N D B X C A A R A	Century of Rotary
J W W M T B K I B K F H X P G E F C A Y	Vlad Guerrero Jr
T R E Y Y E S A V A G E V D O R F E M S	Ernie Clement
T H A N K S G I V I N G L S O N I D T V	Trey Yesavage
C E N T U R Y O F R O T A R Y I R E A S	Jays vs Dodgers
N O K I N G S R A L L I E S Y E A A E D	Halloween
G V L A D G U E R R E R O J R C T L B O	
I I Y B M P P Q V I N I Q P X L I G S D	
W B I X D R D I N U Z R U W A E T H Y G	
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Y T L C G I D Q O K Z P J X F T R D Q J	

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PET OF THE WEEK



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Fall doesn’t stop fleas and ticks. They hide in leaf piles and warm homes. Keep your pet on prevention year-round and check them after outdoor activities. Regular grooming and a clean yard help protect your pet from bites and tick-borne diseases all season.



ARCHIE

Our Pet of the Week is Archie, a one-year-old corgi. She loves to cuddle her humans and pet siblings. Archie may have short legs but boy, she can run. She’s too smart and stubborn for her own good but according to her owners, you couldn’t ask for a better dog.





Thorndale News

A section within the
St. Marys Independent



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Social evening to kick off the Christmas season in Thorndale

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

Even though the Thorndale Agricultural Society's main event is the Thorndale Fall Fair in September, the society is also engaged in other community events throughout the whole year.

For decades, the Thorndale Agricultural Society hosted a Farmer's Night in November, but in 2021, they replaced this event with a Seasonal Social in appreciation of its membership, their volunteers and to thank local businesses that support the ag. society throughout the year.

"If you are a small business and looking for a great idea for your staff Christmas party or you have a group of friends looking for an evening out to celebrate the upcoming Christmas season, let the Thorndale Agricultural Society look after all the details," agricultural society director Ian Ferguson said.

This year's Seasonal Social is on Saturday, Nov. 22 at 6 p.m. at the Purple Hill Country Hall with a catered Christmas dinner, door prizes and music and dancing with local DJ Murray Lee. Ticket information for the Seasonal Social can be found at www.thorndalefair.com or by contacting Ed Lee at 519-671-9930 or Ferguson at 519-282-3480.

Other events organized by the agricultural society include the Thorndale Dinner Theatre, a community event in February started by the Thorndale ag. society years ago, an evening in April of Comedy & Cocktails for the ladies of the community and surrounding area, and the Back 40 Bash, which the ag. society co-hosts with I Love Thorndale.



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

Halloween wasn't the only exciting event last Friday evening. The trick or treaters started early in Thorndale, some going from house to house at 5:30 p.m. to be home in time to watch the Blue Jays play the Dodgers in the seventh game of the World Series.

Exciting programs in November for Thorndale area youth

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

The BGC London Rural Hub is bringing more exciting and engaging programs for the youth of this community.

Programs for November include Road Code, Chopped Challenge, Wonder Why Lab and Comic Creators, all designed to engage youth in fun, educational and creative activities.

The UPS Road Code program is a pre-driving course designed to prepare youth aged 15-18 for safe and responsible driving. It covers G1 test prep, road safety awareness and the impact of distractions while driving.

Chopped Challenge is a fast-paced cooking challenge where kids aged eight to 12 work in teams to create fun dishes using mystery ingredients. With the focus on teamwork, creativity and basic

cooking skills, this program is perfect for budding chefs and adventurous eaters.

Wonder Why Lab is a four-week program starting Nov. 21. This STEM program is designed for young minds eager to explore science, technology, engineering and math through imaginative exploration and discovery for ages four to seven.

The Comic Creators program is for

kids aged eight to 12. Participants will learn the basics of storytelling and illustration to create their own comic strips, all while encouraging imagination, literacy and artistic expression.

For more information on BCG Rural Hub programs in Thorndale, registration and program costs, contact Whitney Brown at wbrown@bgclondon.ca or visit www.bgclondon.ca/rural.

What's on at Thorndale Library in November

MIDDLESEX COUNTY LIBRARY

Contributed Article

There's plenty to do at the Thorndale Library in November.

For young families:

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

- Early ON Play & Learn (Fridays, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.): A free drop-in program designed for families with children aged zero to six.

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.

- Animal Origami (Nov. 19 3:45-4:45 p.m.): Try your hand at the Japanese art of paper folding and create some paper animals! Registration required.

For youth (ages 12-17)

- Animal Origami (Nov. 19 3:45-4:45 p.m.): Try your hand at the Japanese art of paper folding and create some paper animals! Registration required.

For Adults and Seniors:

- Stitch 'n Chat (Nov. 4 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Nov. 19 6-8 p.m.): Bring your current needlecraft project and meet other crafters for some stitching and chatting. Registration required.

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

OBITUARY

Smith



Laurene Velma Thiel Whigham Smith of St. Marys, Ontario and formerly of Mitchell, Stratford and Brantford, passed away at Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth on Oct. 31, 2025 at the age of 86.

Wife of Ronald L. Smith and the late George H. Whigham (1988). Predeceased by her parents Lloyd and Annie (Fischer) Thiel, by her daughter Diane Laurene Meitz (2009) and her brother Orval Lloyd Thiel (2021). Mother of Sheryl Ann Whigham of Paris, Ontario and Steven George (Kiersty) Whigham of Paris, Ontario, and mother-in-law of Tim Meitz of St. Albert, Alberta. Grandmother of Megan (Andrew) Gillingwater of Brantford, Ontario; Amy Pamplin of Paris, Ontario; Jamie Whigham of Hagersville, Ontario; Melissa Whigham of Edmonton, Alberta; Eric Meitz of St. Albert, Alberta and Jason Meitz (Janelle) of Calgary, Alberta. Great-grandmother of Noah and Leo Gillingwater of Brantford, Ontario and Elyse Meitz of Calgary, Alberta. Sister-in-law of Majorie Thiel of Stratford, Ontario and survived by nieces and nephews. Remembered by the Smith Family, Bonnie Adams (Tom) of Thorndale, Ontario; Perry Smith (Maureen) of Keswick, Ontario; Sally Johns (Bob) of Staffa, Ontario; Bob Smith (Pam) of Mitchell, Ontario; Les Smith (Mel) of Mitchell, Ontario and many Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren.

The Funeral Service was held at the St. Marys United Church on Nov 4, 2025. Interment in Mount Hope Cemetery, Brantford, Ontario at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the Crohn's and Colitis Canada. Online tributes at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

OBITUARY

Laviolette



Thérèse Laviolette (nee Barbeau) passed away peacefully at home in St. Marys on Oct. 27, 2025 at the age of 91.

Predeceased by her husband Jeremie (2005). Mother of Celine (deceased 2021) and Roy Menard, Madeleine and Douglas Hicks, Claude André and Cindy, Jeannine and Rod MacDonald, Gerald (deceased, 2022), Daniel (deceased, 2023), Mike and Michelle, Cecile, and Richard (deceased, 2021). Also survived by many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. Sister of Lucien Barbeau (deceased), Margaret Martel (deceased), Lillian Johnson (deceased), Florence Harris, Jean Barbeau (deceased), Cecile Harvey (deceased), Paul Barbeau (deceased), Robert Barbeau, Diane Barbeau (deceased), Noel Barbeau, Annette Barbeau, and Julianna Barbeau (deceased). Predeceased by her parents Lucien and Irene Barbeau.

Thérèse loved her music was a devoted mother throughout her life. Cremation has taken place. Thank you to the PSWs, nurses and Dr. Sarah Donaldson for taking such good care of our Mom. The Funeral Mass will be held at HOLY NAME OF MARY PARISH, Northeast corner of Peel St. N. and Widder St. E. St. Marys, on Nov. 14, 2025 at 11 am. A Celebration of Life will then take place at the St. Marys ANAF, 23 Wellington St. N. St. Marys, from 1 - 4 pm. Interment in Meadowvale Cemetery in Brampton at a later date. Online tributes at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

OBITUARY

Sterritt



Kenneth "Ken" Sterritt passed away peacefully at Kingsway Lodge, St. Marys, on Sunday, October 26, 2025, in his 99th year.

Beloved husband of Dorothy Sterritt for 74 years. Loving father of Kathryn (Pottruff) Noble, Brian Sterritt, Arlene Sherry (Glenn), Cliff Sterritt (Liane Gregory), and Barb Sterritt (Emilio Darrigo). Proud grandfather of six and great-grandfather of ten. Dear brother of Bill and Marian. Fondly remembered by several nieces, nephews, and extended family members. Predeceased by his parents David and Kathleen (née Beavers), and by siblings Charles, Donald, James, Allen, Gary, and Carol Bright.

Ken had a passion for hunting and cherished time spent at the Bruce Peninsula. Cremation has taken place. Arrangements have been made for a private family memorial. Online tributes at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

OBITUARY

Pearson



David Wilbur Pearson, passed away at the Rotary Hospice in Stratford on Oct 27, 2025 at the age of 78.

Predeceased by is wife Phyllis (1996). Father of Sheri Hignett (deceased 2014), Brian (Sokha) and Tracy. Grandpa of Clarke, Kevin, Janica, Jayden, and Jayce. Brother of Linda Pearson, and Donna Smale (deceased). Predeceased by his parents Lawrence and Jean.

David adored his grandkids, he was a dedicated farmer and loved his horses. David was always smiling and laughing. A Memorial Service will be held at the PURPLE HILL COUNTRY HALL, b 20903 Purple Hill Rd, Thorndale, on Nov. 15, 2025 at 1 pm, reception to follow. Interment afterwards in Vinings Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth.

Arrangement with the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, St. Marys (519-284-2820) with online tributes at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Hill



Patricia Hill (née Gage), who passed away on November 29, 2024 at the age of 94, will have a Memorial Service at the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, 47 Wellington St. S. St. Marys on Saturday Nov, 8, 2025 at 2 pm. Interment to follow in St. Marys Cemetery. Memorial donations can be

made to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Online tributes at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

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All collectibles including sports cards, beanie babies, Funko pops and stamps. Highest prices paid. Free appraisals.Are you downsizing or need an estate clean out? We can help. Call or text Stan anytime 519-868-3814.

WANTED

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

FOR SALE

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

FOR RENT

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

HOME CLEANING

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

FOUND

DeWalt Hedge Trimmer. Please call 519-274-2711

SERVICE

For just \$20, Steve can turn the music from your favourite vinyl record or cassette tape into mp3 files. The sound quality is just as good as the original record or tape and the process is ideal for downsizing your belongings. Email Steve, sde0037@gmail.com, for details.

FOR SALE

2 cameo back chairs, late 1800's, burgundy velvet seats, cabriole legs \$100 for pair OBO. 226-661-0104

FOR SALE

Cabinet Making and Carpentry Machinery for Sale

Workbench: Maple slab top, oak frame. Top is pre drilled with 3/4" holes giving a symmetrical 7 and 3/4 grid. Also bench dogs and clamps included.

General International Machinery: 14" Drill Press, 14" Band Saw, 15"Thickness Planer (has tools for changing blades), 12" Miter Saw with DEWALT Stand, Rockwell/Beaver 9" Table Saw, Router Table with guide system, two routers (1 and 1/2 HP and 3.5 HP) 40-50 router bits, 1/4" and 1/2" Shafts, 10" Radial Arm Saw with wooden deck, 6" Beaver Jointer. All of the above are on mobile bases and **have extra blades.**

Numerous Hand Tools and Accessories: Hammers, Tool Guides, Chisels, Bench Dogs, Hold Down Clamps.

Contact Art at 519-461-0766 for more information

DOG WALKING SERVICES

Need your dog walked? Live in St. Marys? Call 519-200-6210. Must be spayed or neutered. Small and medium dogs preferred. No pit bulls. \$10/half hour.

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 November events – See Page 35

Friday, Nov 7

- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog lunch at Noon
- Indoor Family Garage Sale at 5 Industrial Street – 4 to 7 p.m.
- A.N.A.F. meat draw – 6 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Waterloo Siskins at the PRC – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov 8

- St. Marys Farmers Market at the PRC – 8 a.m. to Noon
- Veterans' Decoration Day at St. Marys Cemetery – 9 a.m.- Noon
- Indoor Family Garage Sale at 5 Industrial Street – 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Patricia Hill memorial service at Hodges Funeral Home – 2 p.m.
- Dave & Carol Miller 50th anniversary open house at Purple Hill Music Hall – 2-4:30 p.m.
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw – 5 p.m.

Sunday, Nov 9

- Royal Canadian Legion parade & ceremony from the Legion to the Town Hall cenotaph – 12:30 p.m.
- Georgina McGregor 90th birthday open house at Fairhill Lounge – 1-4 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Waterloo Siskins at Waterloo Memorial Rec Complex – 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov 11

- Remembrance Day service at the Town Hall cenotaph – 10:45 a.m.
- Stratford-Perth Archives presentation on World War I veterans – 2-4 p.m.
- St. Marys Museum exhibit “Between the Lines: Stories & signals of World War I” opens

Wednesday, Nov 12

- Friends of the Library social at the Friendship Centre – 6:30-8 p.m.
- Alzheimer Society Huron Perth dementia education night on Zoom – 7-8:30 p.m. Register at www.bit.ly/Dementia-Night2025

Thursday, Nov 13

- Friends of the Library management committee meeting at the library – 10 a.m.
- A.N.A.F. sausage on a bun lunch – 12-1:30 p.m.
- Amnesty International screening of YINTAH at Riverwalk Commons – 6:30 p.m.

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

HELP WANTED

LOOKING FOR SELF MOTIVATED, SAFETY CONSCIOUS, ORGANIZED INDIVIDUALS FOR WORKING IN A CONSTRUCTION TYPE ENVIRONMENT.

Individuals should be proficient with small power tools and have their own ride to work.

Fork lift and Aerial Lift training would be an asset.

Must be willing to work all shifts.

Starting at \$22 / hour and up

Send resume to jfirby@stonetownfoods.ca

JOB SUMMARY

We are looking for a skilled **Cabinet Maker/Installer** with a **strong background in woodworking and carpentry**. The **ideal candidate can read blueprints and craft high-quality cabinets**, ensuring all work meets our **excellence standards**. You will collaborate with clients and team members to achieve exceptional results.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Read blueprints and schematics
- Construct cabinets using woodworking techniques
- Install cabinets at client locations
- Execute restoration projects for existing cabinetry
- Utilize CNC machinery for precise cuts
- Use hand and power tools safely
- Assist with heavy lifting during installations
- Maintain a clean workspace

SKILLS

- Proficient in blueprint reading
- Strong woodworking and carpentry skills
- Experience with CNC machinery
- Able to lift heavy items
- Detail-oriented with a commitment to quality

Join our team as a Cabinet Maker, and help create beautiful, functional spaces for our clients.

We look forward to your application!

Please send resume to mark@cleanbuilt.ca



FOR HALL RENTALS CALL 519.271.5343

Sun. Oct. 26 - Joan Alderman, Lakeside	\$50.00
Mon. Oct. 27 - Tom Kittmer, Embro	\$50.00
Tues. Oct. 28 - Andrea Van Dam, St. Pauls	\$50.00
Wed. Oct. 29 - Charles Riley, Stratford	\$50.00
Thur. Oct. 30 - Nellwyn Cepriaso, Thamesford	\$50.00
Fri. Oct. 31 - Doug Mountain, Stratford	\$50.00
Sat. Nov. 01 - Helen Zehr, Tavistock	\$200.00

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4. Gray jay/whisky jack
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7. Joe Carter
8. Andor
9. Xi Jinping
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