

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1311

Thursday, April 30, 2026

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A BET IS A BET (CONNOR LUCZKA PHOTO)
 After a friendly bet with St. Marys Mayor Al Strathdee, Stratford Mayor Martin Ritsma begrudgingly donned a Lincs jersey for April 27's council meeting.

Lincs win conference title; down 2-0 in Sutherland Cup Final

SPENCER SEYMOUR
 Independent Sports Reporter

On April 21, well into the third period of Game Seven, the St. Marys Lincolns were down 2-0, with little going their way. Lincolns' fans hoped for a miracle, but the feeling of its likelihood started to dwindle. They had gone 48 minutes without a goal, and they needed at least three to win. How could anyone actually think they would be

able to pull this off? Magic isn't real, until it is. On a comeback for the ages, in one of the most incredible moments ever to take place at the Pyramid Recreation Centre, the St. Marys Lincolns won their second conference championship in three years with a comeback for the ages. Head coach Jeff Bradley, like the rest of St. Marys, was thrilled with the team's gutsy

CONTINUED TO PAGE 18

Cleanup work set to begin at St. Marys' West Quarry

GALEN SIMMONS
 Regional Editor

After more than a year of planning, debate and public input, cleanup work at the West Quarry in St. Marys is set to begin Monday as the town moves forward with its plan to rehabilitate the former industrial site. The work is part of the West Quarry enhancements project and is aimed at improving safety, removing industrial hazards and preparing the site for future passive recreational use. "After all the conversations and preparation over the past year and a half, it almost seems surreal to be getting started," said Amy Cubberley, the town's director of culture, tourism and engagement. "The more I walk the site and see the hazards and current condition, the more excited I get for what this space could be." Construction is expected to take place throughout May and June, with restoration work completed ahead of the swimming quarry season, which begins June 26. The cleanup will include removing sections of chain-link fencing along the west edge of the site to improve water access, as well as clearing waste concrete, steel and other debris left behind from the quarry's industrial past. Overgrowth, invasive species and unhealthy trees will also be removed, with any trees taken down to be replaced at a three-to-one ratio elsewhere in the community. The project is being supported through a partnership with the Ontario Aggregate Resources Corporation (TOARC), which will cover the cost of removing industrial materials and plac-

CONTINUED TO PAGE 8

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MLS

COMMUNITY

Cleaning up the Thames River for 27 years



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

From left to right, Mac Westman, Logan Westman, Kayden Brode, Kenny Brown and Todd Sleeper proudly show the Thames River Clean Up banner before hanging it up in the pavilion.

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

After a delay due to safety concerns, the Thames River Cleanup was able to take place on Saturday, April 25. This is the 27th year that organizer Todd Sleeper has been running the event since its launch. There are now 50 clean up lo-

cations, growing again from just last year. This year there were 57 volunteers on hand to help with the clean up. The St. Marys Cubs are carrying on with the clean up on Wednesday night as well.

Being an avid fisherman and canoeist, Sleeper wanted to clean up the river and to educate people on how to help the environment. He joined forces with Upper



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Max Parkinson gets his gloves on to start helping with the clean up.

Thames River Conservation Authority and 27 years later, the clean up is still taking on steam and growing every year. Sleeper hopes to continue running this project for as long as he can due to its strong impact on the community and the environment. Once the clean up is done, volunteers head back to Milt Dunnell Park for a barbecue.

Another exciting perk for volunteering is that participants can register to win an

Aqua Fusion Liberty Kayak from Nova Craft Canoe.

Sleeper wishes to thank their sponsors: Hearn's Ice Cream, Tim Hortons, Diamond Disposal, Stonetown Supplies, Giant Tiger of Stratford, Tremblett's Independent Grocery, Domino's Pizza and the Town of St. Marys. A big thank you goes out to all of the volunteers for doing a wonderful job cleaning up the Thames River in and around St. Marys.

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COMMUNITY

Nomination period opens May 1 for 2026 Municipal and School Board Elections

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Town of St. Marys is providing formal notice to municipal electors that the nomination period for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election will open on May 1, 2026. Eligible candidates are invited to submit nomination papers for municipal council and school board trustee positions in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.

Notice is hereby given to the municipal electors of the Town of St. Marys that nomination papers for the 2026 Municipal Election may be filed in person or by an agent with the Municipal Clerk beginning May 1, 2026 for the following offices:

Municipal Council

- One (1) Mayor
- Six (6) Councillors

School Board Trustees

- One (1) Avon Maitland District School Board. Filed with Municipality of West Perth.
- One (1) Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board.

Filed with Municipality of West Perth.

- One (1) Conseil scolaire Viamonde (French Public). Filed with City of London.
- One (1) Conseil scolaire catholique Providence (French Separate). Filed with City of Sarnia.

Nomination Filing Details

Nomination Period is May 1, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. to August 21, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

Nomination packages are available at St. Marys Town Hall, 175 Queen Street East, St. Marys, during office hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). Packages may also be found on the Town's website at townofstmarys.com/candidate

Municipal nomination forms must be filed in person at St. Marys Town Hall by Friday, August 21 at 2:00 p.m.

Nominations forms for school board candidates shall be filed with the respective municipalities as listed above.

Nomination Process

In accordance with the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, nominations must be filed using the prescribed forms, accompanied by the prescribed nomination filing fee. Nominations for an office on a council must be endorsed by at least 25 persons who are eligible to vote in St. Marys on

the day that they signed the endorsement. The filing fee is \$200.00 for the offices of Mayor and \$100.00 for all other offices. The filing fee is payable by cash, debit, certified cheque, or money order.

A nomination must be signed by the candidate and may be filed in person or by an agent by booking an appointment with the Clerk, during regular business hours between May 1, 2026, and August 20, 2026. On August 21, 2026 (Nomination Day) nominations can be filed between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. without an appointment. When filing, the candidate must provide photo ID which includes their name and qualifying address. If a nomination for a candidate is filed by an agent, a letter must be submitted at the time of filing which authorizes the agent to file on behalf of the candidate. The letter must be signed by the candidate and commissioned or notarized by a person authorized under the Commissioners for Taking Affidavits Act or Notaries Act. In addition to this letter, an agent must also provide a copy of the candidate's ID.

No person who proposes to be a candidate may solicit or accept contributions for election purposes or incur campaign expenses until a nomination paper has been filed.

Bravo	Boo
<p>We have 4 Bravos this week.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Bravo to the gentleman on April 22 around 5 p.m. who helped direct traffic away from a mama turtle walking across Church Street S. to lay her eggs! 2) Bravo to all the volunteers at the blood pressure clinic at the Friendship Centre. Thanks for keeping all those blood pressure cuffs tight! 3) Bravo to the young gentleman who often works at the reception desk at the Pyramid Centre. He always has a friendly greeting and goes out of his way to be helpful to visitors. 4) Parks Lawn Bowls Club extend a huge Bravo to the men of St. Marys Kinsmen Club for taking on a difficult task. Yet these men came forward and faced the problem and got it done. Thank you gents! 	<p>We have 3 Boos this week.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Boo to the person that dumped their Christmas tree along the side of the Grand Trunk Trail. The Town has the Firemen's tree pickup and the MOC, both at no charge. 2) Boo to the people that still look at their phones while driving. The other day, I saw at least three people. One was veering close to the middle line. So dangerous. 3) It's a lovely Sunday morning and you've got some work to do in your back yard - why not crank up the music? Why not? Because it's possible not all your neighbours want to have to listen to it.
<p><small>*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.</small></p>	

Quote of the Week

"This speech tonight will be classic Donald J. Trump. It'll be funny, it'll be entertaining. There will be some shots fired tonight in the room."

- Ironic comments from White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt prior to the White House Correspondents' Dinner on April 26, 2026

Overheard

AT THE COFFEE SHOP

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My seasonal allergies just got renewed for another year.

When you lie all the time, don't be surprised when people are skeptical.

Have you heard something humorous around town that you think might be of interest to others? Either email them to us at info@stmarys-independent.com with the title "Overheard at The Coffee Shop", call 519.284.0041 or drop by the office to let us know!

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

St. Marys Independent

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How you love yourself is how you teach others to love you.

It's time to smile!



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Smile Cookies are back at Tim Hortons. Every cookie bought will go towards a new trauma light for the Emergency Department at St. Marys Memorial Hospital. Volunteers Carine and Brian Morrow were all smiles on Monday morning as they were busy decorating the smile cookies. Cookies can be purchased until May 3 and all proceeds go towards the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation.

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



FIREFIGHTERS' BREAKFAST

May 3 | 8 AM - 12 PM | Fire Hall

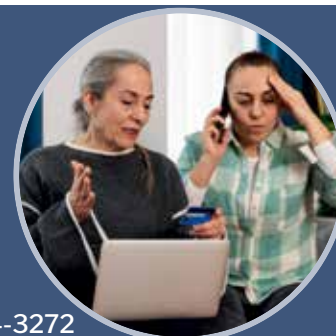
Bring the family to meet local firefighters, tour the Fire Hall, and check out fire trucks and rescue equipment. Sparky the Fire Dog will be there too! \$10 per adult, \$5 per child (ages 5-12), children under the age of 5 eat free. Please park in the DCVI lot.

LEARN TO SPOT THE SCAMS

May 13 | 6 - 8 PM | Friendship Centre

Join us for a FREE Fraud Prevention Talk and learn how to recognize and avoid common scams that impact our community. Hosted by the Stratford Police Service, this informative session will share real-world examples and practical tips to help you protect yourself and others from fraud.

Register: townofstmarys.com/activenet or 519-284-3272



LEAF & YARD WASTE

Leaf & yard waste collection is currently underway. Waste must be set at the curb by 7 AM on collection days. Only kraft-style brown paper leaf and yard waste bags or reusable containers (weighing less than 22 kg) will be accepted.

For a full list of acceptable and unacceptable materials and a detailed collection map, visit: townofstmarys.com/yardwaste

SPRING FLUSHING

Our spring water flushing program is currently underway and will continue until May 22.

If you experience discolouration, run cold water and avoid doing laundry until it runs clear.

View a full map & details: townofstmarys.com/flushing



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.

Visit Guest Services or call 519-284-2160



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (FOL)

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Spring Book Sale - at the Lind Sportsplex

Wed. May 6 - Fri. May 8 10 am - 6 pm

Sat. May 9 10 am - 4 pm 'Fill yer boots'

FOL Social - at the Library

Wed. May 13 6:30 pm - 8 pm



Management Committee Meeting - at the Library

Open to the public Wed. May 20 6 pm - 8 pm

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Senior of the Week



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

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

St. Marys Lions Club looking for new volunteers to help out with events

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

As the St. Marys Lions Club prepares for its upcoming spring and summer events, the organization would like to see an increase in new volunteers helping out.

Lion Dawn Reynen became part of the St. Marys Lions Club to give back to the community and be part of the organization that supported her and her husband.

“My husband plays wheelchair curling and they supported us when we went to Nationals and we went to a meeting to thank them and just found that the group was a fit for us,” Reynen said.

Reynen also said that while volunteerism has been about the same since she joined the St. Marys Lions Club two years ago, getting new volunteers is difficult due to families being busier now than in the past.

“It’s hard to get people to join because I think they’re busier than when I was younger. They do more with their kids than what parents did when I was a kid and with full time work it’s just harder. They don’t have as much free time,” she said. “When I was a kid, maybe half of the kids were involved in extra-curricular activities. The rest weren’t doing really any of that. They weren’t in sports or anything and now most of the kids are involved in stuff, either sports or dance or music.”

She’s also on the Global Lions Forum Facebook group, where Lions Clubs from around the world including those in the United States are finding it tough to recruit younger volunteers.

Reynen is hoping to recruit new volunteers by encouraging them to help out at upcoming events run by the St. Marys Lions.

“We hope to bring them out to volunteer at some of our events and see what we do and see if we’re a fit;



if they’re interested in some of the things that we do,” Reynen said.

The St. Marys Lions will need volunteers for the Toll Bridge on May 30, barbeque at the St. Marys Horticultural Society Garden Fair, bottle drive on June 13, and the Classic Car Show on July 18. Municipalities across Canada, including Wellesley, Ont., will be participating in the Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides on May 31, which raises funds for the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.

Anyone interested in getting involved can send an email to stmlions1940@gmail.com or call 519-317-3473. The St. Marys Lions Facebook page also has more information and updates about the latest events and initiatives.

WEEKEND QUIZ

By Jake Grant

1. What is the largest living species of lizard?
2. What fashion brand is known for the double “G” logo?
3. How many championships do the Toronto Raptors have?
4. What baby animal is called a pugle?
5. The gong belongs to which section of the orchestra?
6. Who wrote The Jungle Book?
7. Captain Kirk was the captain of what Star Trek starship?
8. The term Grand Prix was first used in a motor race in which country?
9. Who was the first Marvel villain to appear in Fortnite?
10. What is the name of Bluey’s little sister?

This week’s answers are found on pg. 35

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Stories of British Home Children in St. Marys

The St. Marys Museum is currently working on a research project about British Home Children, culminating in an exhibit. Our aim is to raise awareness about the 100,000 British children who were relocated to Canada between 1869 and 1948. We are hoping to share stories from community members who have connections to British Home Children in the St. Marys area.

Contact the St. Marys Museum by May 8:



- 177 Church Street South
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JUNE 11, 2026 | 6PM

Pyramid Recreation Centre
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Cleanup work set to begin at St. Marys' West Quarry

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

ing clean fill at the site.

“TOARC has partnered with the town and will be covering the contracting costs to remove the industrial hazards,” Cubberley said, noting the organization will also cover geotechnical engineering and permitting costs.

To reduce expenses and environmental impact, the town is sourcing materials locally, including clay donated by a developer and topsoil generated from compost at the landfill. Removed concrete will be recycled for use in future infrastructure projects.

Town staff will begin initial work on the site, including removing fencing and clearing brush, before turning the site over to TOARC for heavy removals. Final restoration and landscaping will then be completed by town crews.

The project follows several council decisions over the past year, including a move to retain and fence off six large concrete pillars at the site rather than remove them entirely. Those pillars, remnants of the quarry’s limestone-mining operations, will be protected during cleanup work and incorporated into the site as a heritage feature.

“Work in the immediate vicinity of the pillars will largely be completed by hand in order to ensure that the pillars remain undisturbed,” Cubberley said, adding the structures will be fenced off and accom-



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

The first phase of clean up started on Monday at the West Quarry with the take down of the fence and the start of thinning out the overgrowth and removal of invasive plants. From left to right Public Works Manager Todd Thibodeau, Town employee Kenny Hutton, Director of Public Works Jed Kelly, Director of Culture, Tourism and Engagement Amy Cubberley, Town employee Alex Taylor and in the backhoe is Town Employee Norm Coulthard.

panied by interpretive signage.

Other improvements include regrading sections of the embankment and restoring the area with grass to create open greenspace.

“We are excited to work with TOARC to remove some of the existing hazards in this space and create an open and inviting space that residents and visitors will enjoy,” said director of public works Jed Kelly in a press release issued by the town last week.

Residents can expect temporary disruptions during construction, including the closure of a section of the Riverview Walkway between St. Maria Street and the racket courts for approximately five weeks. Nearby parking areas will also be closed to accommodate construction traffic, though access to the courts and Lind Sportsplex will remain unaffected.

Once complete, the town hopes the site will serve as a flexible greenspace for activities such as picnicking, fishing and

enjoying the waterfront.

“Our hope is that by mid-summer 2026, the grass is established and this is an appealing greenspace for residents and visitors to enjoy,” Cubberley said.

Beyond this initial cleanup phase, the West Quarry is expected to remain a “blank canvas,” with any future development subject to further public consultation.

Riverview Walkway and West Quarry water access closure during West Quarry Cleanup Project

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

Please be advised that the Town of St. Marys will be completing construction activities starting Monday, April 27, as part of the West Quarry Cleanup Project.

For public safety, a portion of the Riverview Walkway will be temporarily closed adjacent to the work area as well as all access to the West Quarry water edge. This

closure is anticipated to last until early June 2026.

Affected area

Riverview Walkway between the racket courts and St. Maria Street as well as any access to the West Quarry.

What to expect

- Signed detour/alternate route around the closed section of the walkway
- Increased construction traffic and noise

during working hours

- Temporary parking closure in the lot between the West Quarry and the racket courts to accommodate equipment
- Temporary parking closure in the lot north of the West Quarry
- No access to fishing in the West Quarry

Detour routes

- To access the Loop trail from the north: take St. Maria Street to Washington Street.

Take Washington Street to the marked trail entrance at the northeast corner of the swimming quarry.

- To access the Loop Trail from the south: take the marked trail entrance from Quarry Road to Washington Street.

Why this is happening

The cleanup project will remove waste concrete and steel debris and improve site safety in the West Quarry area.

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2026 Piecemakers Quilt Show a big success



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

Pictured, from left to right, coordinator Keary Fulton-Wallace, Mayor Al Strathdee cutting the ribbon for this special occasion and coordinators Darlene Roger and Joan Robinson.

KAYLA ROCK

Independent Reporter

The Piecemakers Quilt Show drew large crowds to the Pyramid Recreation Centre this past weekend, celebrating the artistry, dedication, and community spirit behind the timeless craft of quilting.

More than 2,100 visitors passed through the doors over three days, filling the venue with lively conversation and admiration. Attendees traveled from across southwestern Ontario including Owen Sound, Windsor, and Toronto, as well as from farther afield, including the Niagara Region and parts of Michigan and New York State.

This year's show featured more than 300 handcrafted quilts and quilted pieces, showcasing a wide range of styles from traditional patterns to bold contemporary designs. Visitors explored displays

rich in intricate stitching and storytelling, with many pieces representing months, or even years, of careful work and creativity.

Highlights included several national award-winning quilts from the Quilt Canada 2025, along with three entries set to compete at Quilt Canada 2026 this June in Winnipeg.

Throughout the weekend, visitors cast ballots for their favourite pieces in the People's Choice Awards. Winners were announced across multiple categories:

Bed Quilts: Theodora Rijkhoff for Woman Who Made History

Baby, Lap, and Throw Quilts: Sandra Hunter for Row Quilt

Wall Quilts: Holly Saunders for Some Day on Quilts

Wool Quilts: Darlene Roger for Fall on the Farm

Wearables: Jill Thorpe, who earned both first and second place for Crazy



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

Pictured is a "Women Who Made History" quilt, made with acrylic painted on cotton and quilted. It won several awards at the Piecemakers Quilt Show.

Jacket and Bargello Jacket

Challenges: Darlene Roger for The Loon

Beyond the displays, the event highlighted quilting as a tradition passed down through generations. Many participants spoke about learning the craft from mothers and grandmothers, keeping both techniques and family stories alive.

Norah McGuire of Sew Little Time said she learned quilting from her grandmother and finds the most rewarding moment is when a quilt is completed. "That's when it starts to feel alive," she said.

"Every quilt has its own story," added Michaelanne Hathaway, owner of Stache, emphasizing the creativity behind each piece.

For many quilters, the craft offers more than artistic expression. Participants described quilting as a calming and meaningful practice, with finished works often

becoming treasured family heirlooms.

Cathy McKenna of Thread the Needle noted that quilts frequently remain within families for generations, carrying deep sentimental value. Like many others, she learned the craft from her grandmother and continues to hold that connection close.

Organizers extended their gratitude to the Town of St. Marys for its hospitality, as well as to local downtown businesses for their quilt-themed window displays. They also thanked volunteers and staff at the Pyramid Recreation Centre for their support in making the event run smoothly.

Above all, organizers expressed appreciation for the visitors who made the journey, noting that strong community involvement continues to make the Piecemakers Quilt Show a memorable and meaningful annual tradition.



Avon Maitland students advance to Provincial round of Skills Ontario Junk Drawer Races



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

From left to right: Hani Ahmad, Adalynn Vanderburg, Layla McVeeny and Penny White. The Pink Flowers team from Little Falls Public School came in first at Regionals and Provincials in the Robot Walker category.

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

Some very creative minds received recognition when their skills got put to the test with some hands-on building by Skills Ontario that included Junk Drawer Races and Skills competition. The students who participate and represent their schools start at a regional level and are given opportunities to explore skilled trades and technology. The Junk Draw Races are divided into grade levels. They work together to design, build and test creations using regular household items. The top three placements at the Western Regional level go on to provincials.

"These results highlight the incredible creativity and problem-solving skills of our elementary students" said

Jodi Froud, OYAP Recruiter with the Avon Maitland District School Board. "Through initiatives like the Junk Drawer Races, students are introduced to hands-on learning that builds confidence, teamwork, and an early awareness of the skilled trades and technology pathways available to them."

On May 4 and 5 in Toronto, students are competing at the Skills Ontario Competition. There will be 52 students from AMDSB taking part.

The interest has grown for the Skills Ontario Competition amongst the students, and it is exciting for them to showcase their skills with the hopes of going on to the provincial level where there are hundreds of students that take part with thousands in attendance.

The Regional Level Winners of the Junk Drawer Races



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

From left to right Edwin Froud, Angus Queen, Aiden Mills-Rastin absent Ben Kissler. Eagle 2.0 from South Perth Centennial Public School also came in first at Regionals and Provincials with their Paper Glider plan.

Robot Walker (Grades 1-3)

- Gold - Little Falls Public School, Pink Flowers
- Silver - Little Falls Public School, Glam Rock
- Bronze - Little Falls Public School, Super Bros.

Paper Glider Plan (Grade 6)

- Gold - South Perth Centennial Public School Team #1- Eagle 2.0

The Provincial Level Winners of the Junk Drawer Races

Robot Walker (Grades 1-3)

- Gold - Little Falls Public School, Pink Flowers

Paper Glide (Grade 6)

- Gold - South Perth Centennial Public School Team #1 - Eagle 2.0

The Pink Flowers team consisted of Hani Ahmad, Adalynn Vanderburg, Layla McVeeny and Penny White.

Their proud teacher Julia Silcox shared, "The Pink Flowers demonstrated perseverance and innovative design, this team rose to the challenge proving that creativity, risk taking, determination, and hard work can turn ideas into gold."

The South Perth Eagle 2.0 team was Edwin Froud, Angus Queen, Aiden Mills-Rastin and Ben Kissler. Science teacher Michelle Stemmler was very proud of the boys and how well they did. "I am so proud of the dedication Aiden, Angus, Ben and Edwin brought to this project. They tested ideas, learned from setbacks, and kept improving their designs like true engineers. Winning 2 gold medals is a testament to their perseverance and hard work."

Good luck to the AMDSB students that will be participating in the Skills Ontario Competition in May.

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St. Marys Public Library pantry sees rising demand, calls for community support

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

As local demand continues to rise, the St. Marys Public Library is calling on the community to help keep its pantry program stocked and ready to support residents in need.

Acting library services coordinator Caroline Rabideau said the library has seen a noticeable increase in demand for both food items and grocery gift cards since the start of the year, while donations have begun to decline.

"We're seeing a greater need, a greater demand for food items or just support in general for the library pantry," Rabideau said. "The core support really comes from local community members, so we're asking for more donations."

The pantry program, which has been operating for the past two to three years, offers a flexible, discreet way for people to access food and basic necessities. Non-perishable items and snacks are available at the library, while gift cards are distributed regularly to help individuals and families purchase groceries.

Rabideau said the need can fluctuate week to week, but the overall trend has been an increase in usage.

"We're going through a lot more food items than we have in the last few months," she said, noting on some days,



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

Acting St. Marys Public Library services coordinator Caroline Rabideau stands next to the library pantry program shelf upstairs at the library. While the left side of the shelf is mostly full with sanitary and personal-hygiene items, food supplies on the right side are dwindling.

20-35 people will come to the library specifically for support.

The program fills an important gap in the community by offering an alternative to local food banks and other support services for those who need them after hours and on weekends when the library is open.

"The library aims to be so accessible and so welcoming," Rabideau said. "If someone is in need and can't get in touch with other supports, they can just come in. It's judgment-free. We're happy to offer what we have."

"... It's really about being there when people need it. Sometimes people just

need something quick to get through the day."

Items that are particularly helpful include grab-and-go snacks like granola bars and juice boxes, as well as other non-perishable foods. Gift cards and monetary donations are also welcome, allowing the library to respond to changing needs.

"Sometimes people prefer food items, other times they need gift cards, so it really shifts," Rabideau said. "We just try to respond to what people are asking for."

The pantry also accepts donations of personal-care items, including adult in-

continence products, which are often in demand. Rabideau emphasized the program relies entirely on community generosity to operate and thanked those who already contribute regularly.

"We couldn't support people within the community without those who are so generous," she said. "We're very grateful for the people who continue to give."

Though donations have been declining, that local generosity was on full display after the Independent interviewed Rabideau last week when a donor approached her with a box of items for the pantry.

"It's just some stuff," the donor said. "Usually we bring it to the food bank, but today we brought it here."

Residents looking to support the program can drop off donations at the library during open hours.

The St. Marys Public Library pantry accepts fresh, frozen and non-perishable food donations, as well as gift cards in \$15 amounts to businesses such as Foodland, Tim Hortons and McDonald's, and monetary donations to help meet immediate needs. Donations of reusable shopping bags are also appreciated for packing weekly food distributions.

The library is open Monday to Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



NOMINATION PERIOD OPENS MAY 1 FOR MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Eligible candidates are invited to submit nomination papers for municipal council and school board trustee positions.

NOMINATION PERIOD: May 1, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. to August 21, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

NOMINATION PACKAGES

Nomination packages are available:

In person at St. Marys Town Hall
175 Queen Street East, St. Marys
Office hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Online at townofstmarys.com/candidate

WHERE TO FILE

Municipal candidates: Nomination forms must be filed in person at the at St. Marys Town Hall.

School Board candidates: For contact information of where to file, please contact the Municipal Clerk.

NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS

Nominations must:

- Be submitted using the prescribed forms
- Include the prescribed nomination filing fee
- Be endorsed by at least 25 persons eligible to vote in St. Marys on the day they signed the endorsement

FILING FEES

Mayor: \$200.00

All other offices: \$100.00

Payment methods: cash, debit, certified cheque, or money order

FILING A NOMINATION

- Nominations must be signed by the candidate
- May be filed in person or by an agent
- An appointment to file is required during regular business hours, May 1 to August 20, 2026. Please contact the Clerk
- Nomination Day – August 21, 2026. Nominations will be accepted between 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. No appointment required.

For more information such as ID requirements, filing by an agent, campaign rules and more:

clerksoffice@town.stmarys.on.ca

www.townofstmarys.com/election

519-284-2340 ext. 212

Pop-Up With a Purpose Mother's Day sale

WENDY LAMOND
Independent Reporter

The beautiful Riverwalk Commons is getting busier as owner Melissa Barton, who purchased the building in 2020, has transformed it into a warm, welcoming space for events, drop-ins and pop-ups with one of these pop-ups taking place on May 8 and May 9. This pop-up is being hosted by the lovely Jean Rowcliffe with clothing available for purchase from Joanie Chappel, "Formerly the Glass Shoppe", with lots of items to be purchased and elegantly wrapped for Mother's Day.

For sale are beautiful items like Tiffany jewellery, items from royalty, china, silver, clothing by designer brands, items from travel, art books and so much more. Preferred payment for the upcoming pop-up will be e-transfer and cash.

If you don't know Rowcliffe, she has a very interesting history on what brought her to St. Marys, a town she truly loves. When she was a young girl living in London, Ontario she was a Royal Family follower and wanted to pursue a career working with them. Rowcliffe got hired to work in the dining rooms of Buckingham Palace. Seeing how nannies were well respected, she decided to train and was hired to be a nanny for Prince and Princess Michael of Kent who she remains in contact with today. Coming to a crossroads of whether to stay in London or to move on, in 1984 Rowcliffe decided to apply for other nanny jobs which brought her to San Francisco where she nannied for high-profile clients like Danielle Steel and Arianna Huffington. In 2007, Rowcliffe founded and ran The Village Well Inc. which was a community resource centre in San Francisco for young families giving them a supportive, welcoming spot to come and play with their little ones amongst music, games and circle time.

Sadly, in 2009, Rowcliffe's only son James passed away from a rare form of cancer. Eventually Rowcliffe moved back to London, Ontario to be close to family and now lives in St. Marys.

After meeting Barton and knowing that she is being guided by her son, Rowcliffe has a vision for the beautiful Riverwalk Commons. Spending much of her life around children and helping them develop and grow, Rowcliffe will be starting something like The Village Well Inc. Coming in June on Monday mornings from 10-11 a.m., Miss Jean will be hosting a Children's Circle Time for babies to pre-school age, along with their parents. There will be lots of music, dancing and stories in a comfortable, fun setting.

However, that is just the beginning. Rowcliffe has other visions for the space on Water Street. She is planning lots of community activities and events with more information to come.

There will also be more pop-ups like the one that is happening May 8 and 9 as well as game nights and indoor markets are being discussed.

Lots of great ideas are in the works and Rowcliffe can picture the Riverwalk Commons being filled with light and laughter and from her experiences, understands the need to live your life to the fullest because you never know when it will throw you a curve ball so enjoy every minute.

Owner of Riverwalk Commons Barton shared, "I love this, I love Jean. The vision I had for the space when I created it was how can I bring this place back to life and how do we grow in a way that is focused. These types of events and the energy that Jean is bringing to town and to these events, I fully support it."

For more information on the pop up sale please email info@rwcommons.com or popupwithapurpose26@gmail.com



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Jean Rowcliffe is looking forward to welcoming you to Riverwalk Commons on May 8 and 9 for her Pop Up with a Purpose sale with lots of beautiful items for purchase for Mother's Day. Keep an eye out for more information on upcoming events taking place at the beautiful Water Street building.

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St. Marys Imagination Library closing in on \$300,000 fundraising goal

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

A local effort to provide free books to St. Marys children under the age of five is closing in on its \$300,000 fundraising goal.

Local partners Chantal Lynch, owner of Hyggeligt Fabrics, and Dennis Desrosier have helped bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to St. Marys, a program that mails one free, age-appropriate book each month to registered children until they turn five.

To ensure the program can continue locally, Lynch and Desrosier have established an endowment fund through the Stratford Perth Community Foundation. Lynch said the fund has now reached roughly \$220,000, leaving about \$80,000 left to raise.

"It's like the last push for that \$80,000,"

Lynch said.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library was created to encourage early literacy by putting books directly into the hands and homes of young children. Once registered, each child receives a carefully selected book in the mail every month.

Lynch said the books are chosen by the Imagination Library, with content tailored to children's ages and stages of development, including content by Canadian authors.

"The first book every child gets is The Little Engine That Could, and it sort of progresses through," Lynch said. "If they're really young, they're getting board books because that's appropriate."

The local program is available to children under five living in the N4X postal-code area, which includes St. Marys and some surrounding rural properties. Lynch said just under 300 children are

currently receiving books each month.

"They're building their own library in their homes," she said.

While the program is free for families, local partners are responsible for covering the cost of books and shipping. Lynch said books are delivered to children for roughly \$3.85 each, but the monthly cost still adds up.

That is why the long-term goal is to fully fund the local endowment, allowing the program to continue supporting St. Marys children for years to come.

For Lynch, the value of the program goes beyond simply putting books on a shelf.

"It's not only just, yes, they're getting books and literacy and how important it is, but there's also that connection of, you have a child sitting on your lap, reading a book, turning the pages," she said. "We're not only touching the children,

we're touching the caregivers."

She said early literacy is one of the most important gifts a community can give its youngest residents.

"If you really want to do something for children, they need to be able to read," Lynch said. "It opens every door."

Families can register eligible children through the St. Marys Imagination Library website or by visiting Hyggeligt Fabrics on Queen Street to pick up a registration form.

Those interested in supporting the program can donate through stmarysimaginationlibrary.com. Donations are processed through CanadaHelps, with funds supporting the local Imagination Library initiative and its long-term sustainability.

Lynch said every contribution helps bring the community closer to the goal.

"How can you say no?" she said. "It's literacy."

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Grant Haven Media prominent at OCNA Awards



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

2026-27 OCNA President Stewart Grant was on stage to help introduce this year's Hall of Fame inductees, which included Bill Pratt, Editor of the Tillsonburg News; Gerald Tracey, Publisher of the Eganville Leader; Frank Macintyre, Publisher and Editor of the Dundalk Herald; and Maia Master, Publisher of the Toronto Russian Press.

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

Grant Haven Media publications were big winners in the Ontario Community Newspaper Association ("OCNA") awards.

Held in Collingwood on April 24, the awards are an annual competition that pits community newspapers against each other in a wide variety of categories. The event also includes the annual induction ceremonies for the OCNA Hall of Fame.

Tillsonburg Post editor Jeff Helsdon was the winner of the prestigious Reporter of the Year Stephen Shaw Award. Helsdon also placed third for Best Business Feature for the story on Shaw's Ice

Cream. Post contributor Jeff Tribe won that category with a story in the Simcoe Advocate profiling Norfolk's wineries and micro-breweries. In addition, Tribe placed second in the Best Guest/Freelance Column category.

Tillsonburg Post designer Stacie Eden received an honourable mention for Best Use of Colour. Long-time Tillsonburg resident, newspaper editor and former OCNA president, the late Bill Pratt was inducted into the OCNA Hall of Fame during the evening.

Simcoe Advocate Editor Chris Abbott captured first in the Best Sports Pages division.

Michelle Malvaso of The Paris Independent took the other big award of the evening, Photographer of the Year. The



(KAREN HELSDON PHOTO)

Grant Haven Media publications were the winners of several awards at the recent Ontario Community Newspaper Association convention. On hand for the awards ceremony were, left to right: Publisher Stewart Grant, Regional Editor Galen Simmons. Director of Business Development Heather Dunbar, Reporter Jeff Tribe, Tillsonburg Post Editor Jeff Helsdon, Simcoe Advocate Editor Chris Abbott, and Reporter Amanda Nelson.

Independent took a pair of thirds, with Edward Lander in the Arts and Entertainment category and Chris Whelan for Best Editorial Column.

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo's farm edition for 2025 was the second-place winner for Best Special Section.

Connor Luczka, editor of the Stratford Times, was second for Best Editorial, circulation 8,000 and under. The Times' Amanda Nelson was second in the Most Creative Grip and Grin Photo category and received an honourable mention in Best Guest/Freelance Column category for a piece written by Canadian musician Loreena McKennitt.

Designer Erin Parsons took first in Local Retail Outlet for an ad in the Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette. Gazette Editor

Galen Simmons was third in the Health and Wellness story category.

Also on the advertising front, Grant Haven publications were awarded honourable mentions for Best Creative Ad. Recognized were: Parsons for a St. Marys Independent ad, Michelle Foster for the Simcoe Advocate, and Sarah Cairns for the Stratford Times.

"Given that we were a small one-newspaper operation just a few years ago, it was pretty surreal to attend the gala with so many talented team members, and I was thrilled to see them recognized by their peers," said Grant Haven publisher Stewart Grant, who was installed this weekend as the new President of the OCNA.

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Another successful Kirkton-Woodham Optimist Fish Fry



A big group of hungry attendees fill the hall for the annual fish fry. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

On Sunday, April 26, the Kirkton Woodham Optimist Club held their annual fish fry. The event has been going since 1981 minus a couple of years during COVID. There were over 1000 people in attendance who enjoyed a delicious fish

supper along with dessert.

The K-W Optimists would like to thank all the community volunteers that help with this very successful event. It takes so many people to help make this happen and the club truly appreciates it.

They do offer a take-out option but being such a social event, many don't mind waiting their turn while visiting.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Members of the Kirkton-Woodham Optimist Club and community volunteers prepare the fish for the delicious supper.

St. Marys Independent

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Notice Of Nomination for Office

Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (s. 32)
 Notice is hereby given to the Municipal Electors of the Municipality of Thames Centre

Nominations

Nominations for the positions listed below must be made on the prescribed form available at the Municipal Clerk's Office. Nomination forms must be filed, with the prescribed declaration by at least 25 persons, either in person or by your agent, with the Municipality of Thames Centre Clerk/Returning Officer or designate during normal office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., between the first business day of May in 2026 to Thursday, August 20, 2026 and between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 21, 2026 (Nomination Day).

The required filing fee for the Head of Council is \$200.00 and all other offices are \$100.00 (cash, debit, certified cheque or money order made payable to the Municipality of Thames Centre) must accompany the signed form. Full details on the procedures to be followed may be obtained from the Municipal Clerk.

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- Mayor – one (1) to be elected at large
- Deputy Mayor - one (1) to be elected at large
- Councillor, Ward 1 – one (1) to be elected by Ward 1 electors
- Councillor, Ward 2 – one (1) to be elected by Ward 2 electors
- Councillor, Ward 3 – one (1) to be elected by Ward 3 electors

School Board Positions Shared with Other Municipalities

School Board Trustee, English Public – two (2) to be elected – Contact: Jennifer Pereira, Clerk, Municipality of Strathroy Caradoc 519.245.1105 www.strathroy-caradoc.ca

School Board Trustee, English Separate – one (1) to be elected – Contact: Jennifer Pereira, Clerk, Municipality of Strathroy Caradoc 519.245.1105 www.strathroy-caradoc.ca

School Board Trustee, French Public – Conseil scolaire Viamonde – one (1) to be elected – Contact: Michael Schulthess, City Clerk, City of London 519.661.4535 www.london.ca

School Board Trustee, French Separate – Conseil scolaire catholiques Providence – one (1) to be elected – Contact: Jeff Bunn, Manager of Legislative Services/Deputy City Clerk, Woodstock 519.539.2382 www.cityofwoodstock.ca

The Voting period will commence on October 19, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. and run until October 26, 2026. Voting day is October 26, 2026, beginning at 8:30 a.m. with voting closing at 8:00 p.m.

In the event there is an insufficient number of certified candidates to fill the positions available in each municipality, nominations will be reopened by the appropriate Returning Officer, for the vacant positions only. Additional nomination papers would then be accepted between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on August 26, 2026.

For additional information, please contact the Municipal Clerk's department or visit our Elections Webpage at: www.thamescentre.on.ca/election

Dated this 22nd day of April, 2026.

J. Nethercott, Clerk/Returning Officer
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 265 Upper Queen Street

DORCHESTER

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 @ 5:30pm
 Lions Den, FlightExec Centre
 2066 Dorchester Road



Attendees can speak directly with municipal staff members, or candidates like Mayor Sharron McMillan, former Warden Aina Deviet, and Oxford Warden Bernia Martin to learn what it's like to be a candidate, and serving in public office.

thamescentre.on.ca/election

Optimist Club of Downie has had a busy few weeks



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Pictured, from left to right, Optimist Lt Governor of Zone 1 Greg Storey, Optimist Treasurer David J Mountain, Optimist (again) Glen Shackleton, Optimist President Manny Puetz at the induction ceremony as charter member Glen Shackleton was welcomed back in.

DAN WELCHER

Contributed Article

What a great couple of weeks the Optimist Club of Downie has had. On March 29, we hosted our local Spelling Bee for grade 5 students in the area. There are some great spellers out there, that is for sure. Thank you to all the parents who took the time out of their busy days to get their children to the event. Also, a big thanks to the organizer of the event, Optimist Dave Horenburg.

On April 17, we held Pearls and Prohibition, an evening for the ladies of our surrounding community. Those in attendance were served a fantastic meal by Athens Greek from Stratford and a great array of

desserts by Country Roots Fresh Country Market. Throughout the 20's speakeasy themed evening the guests had the opportunity to win door prizes donated by extremely generous local businesses and individuals from within our surrounding area. To all of them a hearty thank you. In no particular order those were Purpour Refillery and Boutique, The Floral Cup, Lauren Whitney Lifestyles, Sue Orr, Acre75, Daisies and Doilies, Betty's Bookshelf, Hearn's Ice Cream, Sinvention Boutique, Klomp's Home and Garden, Junction 56, Nail Effects, The Flower Shop, Bentley's Bar, St. Marys Golf and Country Club, Swanson's Jewellers, and Jacob's Liquidation. As one participant stated "Oh, that certainly was a night to remember. A real-



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

A popular event took place on April 17 as the Downie Optimist held their Pearls and Prohibition ladies' night.

ly loud, sparkling night."

Then on Wednesday, April 22 we had the honour of bringing a charter member back into our club. Glen Shackleton was welcomed back after a number of years away. 50 years ago Glen was one of the men to get this great service club started, and here we are 50 years later still Serving the Youth of Our Community.

Upcoming for the Optimist Club of Downie is free bowling in both Stratford

and St. Marys.

- May 6 in Stratford at Mike's Bowling Lanes

- May 13 in St. Marys at St. Marys Bowling Lanes.

See our Facebook page for more information.

On June 6, we will be running our Annual Bike Rodeo at the Pyramid Centre in St. Marys. Bring the kids out for a touch up on the rules and regulations of the road.

Friends of the Library (FOL)



Friends of the St. Marys Public Library

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– PUBLIC NOTICE –

PESTICIDE USE

Township of Perth South

The Township of Perth South intends to control noxious weeds along all rural roadsides. Commencing May 11th, weather permitting to June 12th, 2026

The following pesticides registered under the Pest Control Products Act (Canada) will be used:

ClearView Herbicide (Registration No. 29752), which contains the active ingredients Aminopyralid (present as potassium salt), and Metsulfuron – methyl, in combination with Gateway Adjuvant (Registration No. 31470), which contains the active ingredients Paraffinic Oil, and Alkoxyated alcohol non-ionic surfactants.

Navius FLEX (Registration No. 30922), which contains the active ingredients Metsulfuron – methyl and Aminocyclopyrachlor, in combination with Hasten NT Ultra Spray Adjuvant (Registration No. 31760), which contains the active ingredients Methyl and ethyl oleate (esterified vegetable oil).

Method 240SL Herbicide (Registration No. 32957) Which contains the active ingredients Aminocyclopyrachlor, (present as potassium salt), in combination with Gateway Adjuvant (Registration No. 31470), which contains the active ingredients Paraffinic Oil, and Alkoxyated alcohol non-ionic surfactants.

Pesticide use to control noxious weeds is in accordance with the exception to the cosmetic pesticide ban in subsection 7.1 (2) of the Pesticides Act for the promotion of public health or safety.

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 Green Stream Lawn and Vegetation Management Inc: 1-888-553-5588
 Township of Perth South: 1-866-771-0619, www.perthsouth.ca



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St. Marys Independent **SPORTS**

Lincs win conference title; down 2-0 in Sutherland Cup Final

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

ability to fight back and eventually take control of the game.

“That was pretty special,” Bradley told the Independent. “I’m pretty proud of the resiliency of this group and how we turned it up like that for the last 12 minutes or so of the third period. It’s really hard to describe the feelings of that experience, but it’s incredibly impressive, and winning at home is certainly special.”

Bradley noted they began putting more pressure on the Warriors leading up to their offensive explosion.

“We had our defencemen just thinking offence and had F3 low, just to try to add as much pressure as we could on them,” explained Bradley. “But not until we started scoring did you start having the feeling of it changing. It happened so quickly that you couldn’t feel that it had changed, but you knew something special was happening. It was a really funny feeling.”

Bradley described the coaching staff’s mentality on the bench as the comeback began.

“You’re trying to change your game plan as it happens because we’re in attack mode, and then it gets to 2-2, and you’re thinking, ‘Okay, we’ve got to get back to playing normally.’ And then we’re up, and suddenly we’re going into contain mode. It’s exciting, obviously, but you’re trying to stay in the moment and direct as much as you can, but we didn’t need to say much. I think the players understood what they needed to do, and they did a great job of it.”

It started with Lincoln Moore, who made it five straight games with a goal with 11 minutes and 44 seconds left on the clock, who ripped a shot from the slot area that beat goaltender Noah Bender.

The Lincolns had one. The Lincolns had a pulse.

“This game is ours,” Moore said, detailing his thought process when he scored. “We knew if we got the fans into it and we got one, you know, they can just start flowing from there. We got the first one, and I was fired up, and I don’t even know what I did. I blacked out when I celebrated, but I was fired up and was just glad to get the first one to get the boys going.”

Lincs’ captain Chase MacQueen-Spence called Moore’s goal a massive turning point.

“All game, we were fighting for that one,” said MacQueen-Spence. “We knew that once we got one, I knew that was going to come, and for it to come from (Lincoln Moore) with 12 minutes left, that’s the guy we needed to step up, and the floodgates opened from there. Getting three goals in two minutes like that, it’s something they write about, but you never think it’s going to happen to your team, but tonight was a story-tale finish, and I’m speechless.”

Over the next two minutes and six seconds, goals by James MacGregor and Ethan Weir would not only tie and then put the Lincolns in the lead, they would evoke an eruption from the PRC crowd unlike anything that has ever preceded it.

“It’s something we’ve never heard before like that,” Bradley noted. “We know our fans are loud, but that was like a completely different level. It’s really hard to explain. The third one was insane. Even the second one was unbelievable. The first one, you’re still a little bit hesitant because we’re still losing, but once we tied it and went ahead, it just was insane.”

Lincolns’ defenceman Jacob Montesi detailed the importance of bringing the crowd back into the game.

“The fans were something we talked about during the second intermission,” said Montesi. “We needed to get the crowd on our side. We know how much of a boost that can be for our group, and as soon as we got one and got that reaction from the crowd, I think I just blacked out from there.”



(MCGINNY PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

The St. Marys Lincolns pose with the Joe Thornton Trophy after defeating the Stratford Warriors April 21 4-2 in Game Seven of the Western Conference Finals.

Moore, along with goaltender Colby Booth-Housego, who made 21 saves in the 4-2 win, both described the victory as “amazing.”

“We got our hearts broken last year,” admitted Moore. “I know a lot of guys in that room really wanted it this year. I couldn’t be more proud of how we came together in that third. I’m just so happy for us, and we really deserve that.”

“There’s nobody I’d rather do it with than these boys,” added Booth-Housego. “These are my brothers. These are my best friends, and I love these guys so much. I couldn’t be happier to do it with anybody else. Anything I can do for these boys, I will do.”

Montesi and MacQueen-Spence, meanwhile, both called the comeback to win the conference final “unbelievable.”

“Honestly, it was unbelievable, especially after last year, to get redemption in our own barn,” Montesi noted. “I’ve been here four years, and it’s been a dream to lift a trophy in front of our fans, so to do it like that, it’s unbelievable. I’m so proud of our group. We’ve focused on being resilient all year, and to do it like that in a Game Seven for a championship in front of our home crowd, I couldn’t be more proud of the boys.”

“We’ve been hunting for the past couple of years ever since we did it in London, so to be able to do it at home here in front of all the same fans, it’s a feeling I don’t think I’ll ever be able to feel again,” MacQueen-Spence stated. “The entire town’s been around us these past eight months, and to see them show out today and how excited they were for us was unbelievable. For them to experience that with us was unbelievable. I’m so happy for this town. I’m so happy and proud to be part of this town these past four years. And we’re not done yet.”

While coach Bradley relished watching every member of his squad lift the Joe Thornton Trophy, he couldn’t help but feel an even more special reaction when

“When Colby (Booth-Housego) and Blake (Elzinga) lifted it for sure,” said Bradley. “Colby came back here for a reason. He was part of our championship in London two years ago, but his year was the following year, and he got to Game Seven, but we didn’t win. He came back with this in mind, wanting to be the guy, and he got that

done, so we’re really happy that he got it done.

“Just having seen Blake’s progression on this team made it really special to see him lift the trophy. He is probably the most unselfish kid I’ve ever coached. He really just wants what’s best for the team. When we won it in London, he didn’t play. And then last year, in Game Seven, he had limited minutes, and then this year, he was one of our best players. He’s been a top-three player on our team this playoff run. He’s been so important to our playoff run this year, and to see that progression as a member of this team, something about (seeing him lift the trophy) just meant a lot to me.”

Bradley also described a special feeling watching Chase McDougall, an unsung hero of Game Seven, enjoy his moment during the championship celebration.

“I’m really happy for Chase (McDougall) as well. He works his guts out all the time. He is always asking what to do to get better. The forechecking he did on the game-winning goal was outstanding. If he’s not out there, then maybe we don’t win that game.”

McDougall was also one of many players who embodied a major piece of what Bradley said the Lincolns need in order to take down the Cambridge Redhawks in the Sutherland Cup Final.

“We need to keep that hunger, and I’m sure we still have it, so I’m not worried about that. We’ve got to stick to our game. We’re stingy defensively, and that’s going to be the test against Cambridge. They score a ton. They are very offensive and very, very skilled, so for us, it’s about defending them the way we need to.”

Lincs stumble in Game 1 against Cambridge

Unfortunately for the Lincolns, a strong defensive effort and a good third period in terms of offensive zone time yielded no fruits in the opening game of the league final, with the regular-season champion Cambridge Redhawks continuing to go unbeaten in the playoffs, winning 2-0.

Bradley explained how they simply didn’t do enough in the offensive zone to get a win in Game One.

“I thought without the puck we were excellent, but with the puck we were subpar. I thought we lacked some urgency and some hunger that we need to score some goals. I don’t think we saw much of that hunger in the

CONTINUED TO PAGE 19

Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum opening May 1

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum opens for the season on May 1.

“On behalf of our board of directors and our staff, I’m excited to open our doors for our 29th season in St. Marys,” said Scott Crawford, the Hall’s director of operations. “We are committed to celebrating the rich history of Canadian baseball and I’m looking forward to sharing our new artifacts with our visitors.”

Some of the new artifacts on display will include:

- A very special loan of the Toronto Blue Jays’ original Home Run Jacket from 2021
 - A display of Blue Jays artifacts in celebration of the team’s 50th season, including a base from the team’s first season in 1977
 - The cap Owen Caissie wore in his 2025 debut
 - The scorecards from the first Women’s Baseball Game at the Canada Games in 2025, as well as the first home run ball
 - The trophy won by the London Tecumsehs baseball team in 1877
 - A lineup card from the game when Cade Smith recorded his 100th strikeout of the 2025 season
 - A collection of objects from the Blue Jays’ 2025 season, including a base from the “Springer Dinger”
 - A selection of artifacts from our 2026 induction class
- Renovated in 2018, the Canadian Baseball Hall of

Fame and Museum also houses dozens of other one-of-a-kind artifacts. The museum features interactive exhibits, a gift shop and the Centre for Canadian Baseball Research, the country’s leading baseball resource centre.

The facility also offers rental space, including the R. Howard Webster Foundation Visitors Lounge, which overlooks King Field, and is ideal for work, team and personal events and functions for up to 55 people.

The museum is also located on a picturesque 32-acre site that includes outdoor walking trails and four premier baseball fields.

For information about how your group can host an event at the museum, visit www.baseballhalloffame.ca

Museum Hours

May 1 to June 30 – Wednesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

July 1 to August 31 – Seven days a week, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

September 1 to September 30 – Fridays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission Prices

Adult: \$12

Senior/Student: \$10

Children (age 9 to 17): \$9

Children 8 and under: Free

Family (2 adults & 2 kids): \$35

Groups of 10 or more: \$9 each person

Tickets can be purchased at the door or online.



Lincs win conference title; down 2-0 in Sutherland Cup Final

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

first game, other than a little bit in the third period, but even then, we had a lot of possession but didn’t really have many great scoring chances. Certainly not enough.”

Parker Smith pounced on a bobbled puck in centre ice in the second period and was able to beat Booth-Housego in the second period for the only non-empty net goal of the contest. Callan Newton iced the game in the third with an empty-netter.

The Lincolns came close to tying the game in the third before Newton’s goal, with a chaotic net-front scramble resulting in the puck getting within millimetres of crossing the goal line, but the officials determined the puck just barely was kept from crossing the goal line.

More complete showing goes unrewarded in Game 2

Despite having much more sustained pressure in the offensive zone and a greater bevy of quality scoring chances, the Redhawks were opportunistic in creating chances in transition off of turnovers in the neutral zone or in their own end, absconding with a 4-2 win and a 2-0 series lead April 27.

Despite the loss, Bradley had a glowing review for the way his team performed.

“I thought we were excellent,” Bradley said. “Our players played really, really well. I thought we carried over the way we defended from game one into tonight, and then we improved on our offensive zone play. It was really a complete game by us, and it’s unfortunate we didn’t get the result.”

Luke Saramak opened the scoring with a perfectly placed shot just two minutes and 21 seconds into the first period. After Smith missed a penalty shot, Saramak set up Smith on a two-on-one and Smith tucked the puck by

Booth-Housego to give Cambridge a 2-0 lead heading into the first intermission.

After a scoreless second frame, Weir once again came up big for the Lincolns, firing a shot from along the boards that deflected up and over goaltender Aidan Hill. Entering the game, Hill had recorded three shutouts in his previous five outings.

Weir’s goal snapped the Lincolns’ shutout streak in the Sutherland Cup Final at 106 minutes and two seconds.

However, approximately two-and-a-half minutes after Weir’s goal, Reid Gammage buried on a controversial two-on-one that appeared to be offside that went undetected to put the Redhawks back ahead by two goals.

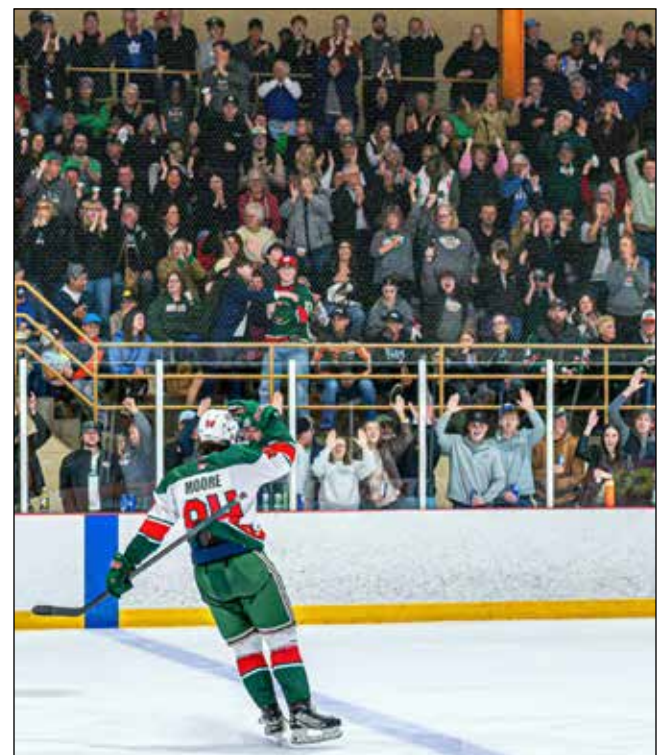
A shot off the rush by Moore once again cut the deficit to just one, but this time, a monumental comeback was not to be, with Smith scoring his second of the game into an empty net during the final minute to secure a 4-2 win for the Redhawks.

Bradley noted the plays that led to Cambridge’s goals were not ones that can be cleaned up, but rather, routine plays that the Redhawks were incredibly opportunistic in capitalizing on.

“If you look at the goals against, we had two turnovers in the neutral zone,” Bradley explained. “Things like that happen 50 times in a game for each team, so it’s not like we turned pucks over in the defensive zone. It was just some costly turnovers that they were really opportunistic on.”

Crucially, the bench boss saw that desire that was lacking in Game One.

“I thought we were really hungry,” noted Bradley. “I thought we supported the puck well. I thought we got a lot of good looks, but just didn’t capitalize. If, in Game



(MCGINNY PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

Lincoln Moore ignites the St. Marys Lincolns’ crowd at the PRC with the first of three goals in two minutes and six seconds, with Moore’s goal sparking an incredible comeback in Game Seven against the Warriors.

Three, we can replicate our effort and execution that we had in Game Two, I think that gives us the best chance to win.”

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U9 LL Boys Blue capture silver at year-end tourney

SPENCER SEYMOUR
Independent Sports Reporter

The St. Marys Ford U9 LL Boys Blue St. Marys Rock earned the silver medal at the Lambton-Middlesex Local League (LMLL) U9 Year-End Invitational Tournament April 10-12.

According to head coach Ryan Hodgson, the message at the beginning of the tournament was all about treating it as a blank canvas.

“Our conversation going into the tournament was it a fresh start,” explained Hodgson. “Facing some adversity through the season after making the transition to full ice, our team had a tough time getting some wins under their belts. This tournament was a chance for them to wipe the slate clean and focus on the tournament and the next few games at hand.”

The Rock got their first win of the four-game round-robin in their second game of the weekend, a 6-1 victory over the Thamesford Attack. Carter May and Hunter Whetham each scored a pair of goals, with Owen Gropp and Ethan Robertson each adding individual goals for St. Marys.

Hodgson said the team was focused on playing a complete game against Thamesford.

“The message in this game was to keep fighting,” Hodgson remarked. “The game prior, our boys got a little comfortable with the lead we had in the third period, which led to that game ending in a tie, and we would have to play a full game if they wanted to win this time. Our team

was able to dominate this game with a 6-1 win.”

In their third game of the round-robin, they delivered, in Hodgson’s eyes, one of their best games of the entire season, eventually winning 9-0 over the East Lambton Eagles.

It was those two wins that really propelled the Rock to coming away with a medal.

“Our second and third games were where the energy on our bench seemed to change. After losing the lead in our first game that led to a tie, the message was that we needed to play the full game, and the team responded. When we got the lead, we urged the boys to keep pushing and not to be comfortable with a lead. With each goal, the boys found more confidence and a renewed positive energy.

“Everyone was contributing,” Hodgson continued. “Whether it was some great saves from our goalie, some great defensive plays or some great offensive plays that led to us dominating those second and third games.”

In their 9-0 win, Gropp exploded for four goals, while Robertson and Bentley Mitchell scored twice, and May had one.

Although they fell in their final round-robin game and the gold medal contest, both to the Belmont Rangers, Hodgson noted the tournament was still a great showing by his squad.

“Our last two games didn’t really go our way, but I do want to emphasize how, during the round-robin, our team really came together and were doing all the small things that the coaches had worked



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The St. Marys Ford U9 LL Boys Blue St. Marys Rock claimed the silver medal at the Lambton-Middlesex Local League (LMLL) U9 Year-End Invitational Tournament April 10-12. Pictured in front is Everett Boyer. Pictured in the middle row, from left to right, are Rowan Nairn, Jacob Richardson, Ryerson Sommerville, Cohen Davies, Hunter Hodgson, and Ethan Robertson. In the back row, from left, are Bentley Mitchell, Owen Gropp, Bentley McDonald, Garrett Feeney, Carter May, Hunter Whetham, and Matthew Parkinson. Not pictured was Russell Ward.

on throughout the year; clearing the puck out of our end, using the boards to clear the puck, hustling to get back on defence, passing the puck to work together on offence, and going to the net with your stick on the ice. The boys really bought into playing together to build up some wins in the round-robin.”

The bench boss added there was no shortage of strong individual efforts as well.

“Ryerson (Sommerville) was able to tuck in his first full-ice goal in our game against Lucan, a great reward for his hard work this season,” Hodgson said. “Everett (Boyer) played great for us all tournament and even got a shutout in our 9-0 game.

“Our team rotated players through defence this year to teach the importance of playing both sides of the puck, much to the dismay of our 15 centremen. Hunter (Hodgson), Hunter (Whetham), Matthew (Parkinson), Bentley (McDonald), and Cohen (Davies) played some great defence for us during the tournament.”

Hodgson added it was a positive result to come away with the second-place prize to end their season.

“There were some heavy hearts after the boys’ last game when they weren’t able to secure the gold. However, getting silver was a representation of all the hard work and effort the boys put into the practices and games, and it is nice to see them get rewarded.”

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New tennis season offers tennis for everyone

ANDREA MACKO

Contributed Article

The St. Marys Tennis Club's season officially begins May 1, but a fun new season has been in the works for a few months. With players ranging from their teenage years to 70-plus, there's fun for everyone.

Tennis has never been more popular, with two Canadians, Felix Auger-Aliassime and Victoria Mboko, both ranked in the World's Top 10 for men and women, respectively. Providing a great workout and social benefits, there's never been a better time to pick up a racquet!

A \$50 membership includes regular doubles evenings on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, starting at 7 p.m. No partners are required; single players are paired up, and teams rotate every half-hour for a mix of playing styles and abilities.

The membership also includes entry into three tournaments: the Rusty Springs mixed doubles and opening barbecue on Saturday, May 9, a midsummer mixer on Saturday, July 25 and the Favacho Fall Classic on Saturday, Sept. 12. Non-members pay \$20 per tourna-

ment entry.

The May 9 tournament includes a barbecue; non-members who play tennis or who'd like to learn are welcome to attend and learn all about the club and tennis in St. Marys.

Youth Camp

The Club's popular youth lessons, led by the professional and encouraging pro Ross Barnwell. With 50 years of experience teaching at the club and high school level, graduates of this week-long camp are now playing with adult club members. The camps are suitable for ages 7 to 17 and run July 6-10 or July 20-24 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and cost \$100 per week.

Adult Lessons

The club's doubles evenings do require some tennis experience, and participants must have their own racquets. Barnwell does have some private lesson time available; please contact the club for more information.

Membership and lesson inquiries can be made via the club's email, stmarysocialtennisclub@gmail.com, Facebook page [@stmarysocialtennisclub](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysocialtennisclub) or Instagram [@st.marys.tennis](https://www.instagram.com/st.marys.tennis).



(JOHN STEVENS PHOTO)

St. Marys Tennis Club members enjoyed their first evening on the courts this year, when the Town of St. Marys opened the courts for the season. The Club's official season runs May 1 to October 31.

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Ontario 

St. Marys Minor Hockey hosts year-end awards banquet



Pictured is Geoff Hicks and his granddaughter Lyla presenting the Doug Hicks Memorial Award to Madeleine Monisit Brown at the St. Marys Minor Hockey Association's (SMMHA) annual awards banquet. The award is presented to a U18 girls' player who demonstrates outstanding leadership.



Pictured are the male and female graduating players, who received framed jerseys to commemorate their final season in St. Marys Minor Hockey. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Owen Dittmer, Isaac Cousineau, Hailey McLean, Piper Broughton, Cortney Linton, Cameron Lobb, Maddie Monisit Brown, Finn Wright, and Ethan Jarmuth. In the back row, from left, are Ethan St. Clair, Cohen Ahrens, Owen Maxwell, Simon Greig, Andrew Davis, Brody Higham, Gibson Agar, Reid Taylor, Danny Switzer, Jared Ballantyne, Luke Richardson, Evan Ballantyne, Sam Johnson, Luke Binning, Evan Pym, and Eli Rovillos.



Pictured are Jim and Carol Atkinson, who presented the Lindsay Atkinson Award recognizing the most sportsperson on and off the ice to Cammie Lobb.



Pictured is Don Searles presenting the Bob Searles Award for the most outstanding male player in the St. Marys Minor Hockey Association to Evan Ballantyne.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Janet Edge presented the Dixies Award for the most skillful and hard-working player to Cortney Linton. The SMMHA hosted the annual banquet celebrating every team's best and hardest-working players from each team, as well as presenting the major awards and honouring graduating players, on April 19.

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Our outdoor markets begin Saturday, May 2!
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St. Marys Minor Hockey hosts year-end awards banquet



Pictured is Mike Mattiusi, who presented the Mike Mattiusi Award for most sportsmanship on and off the ice by a male player to Evan Pym.



Pictured are Missy Little and Mike Kittmer presenting the Ernie Little Award for the most outstanding female goaltender to Malaika Kibedi.



Pictured is Nelda Mossip Oliver, who presented the Donald K. Mossip Award for outstanding male goaltender to co-winners Luke Binning and Reid Taylor.



Pictured is Dennis Crisp presenting the Terry Crisp Award for the most colourful and hardest-working player to Danny Switzer.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Pictured is Allan Stewart presenting the Ferris Stewart Award for coaching excellence in the SMMHA to Gord Cookson.

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Lincolns win Western Conference Championship



(MCGINNY PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

Lincoln Moore and Ethan Weir embrace after the St. Marys Lincolns' incredible 4-2 win over the Stratford Warriors in Game Seven of the Western Conference Final. Moore scored the first goal in a two-minute and six-second blitz by the Lincolns, and Weir scored the third in that run to erase a 2-0 Stratford lead.



(MCGINNY PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

Weir skates the full length of the ice to celebrate his eventual game-winning goal, capping off a stretch of three goals in two minutes and six seconds by the Lincolns to come back from being down 2-0 to lead 3-2. Along with Weir and Moore, the Lincolns also got goals from James MacGregor and Camden Kean.



(TR SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

Ryan Hodkinson, named the Western Conference Playoff MVP, lifts the Joe Thornton Trophy in front of his hometown fans.



(TR SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

The St. Marys Lincolns lifted their second Western Conference title in three years April 21, in their fourth consecutive conference finals berth.



(CHARIS MUHTAR PHOTO)

Fans at the PRC erupted during the Lincolns' third-period comeback, creating one of the loudest atmospheres ever experienced at the arena.



(MCGINNY PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

Hodkinson and Colby Booth-Housego scream out in celebration as the Lincolns pour onto the ice for the conference championship celebration.

MINOR SPORTS **SCRAPBOOK**



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Tucker Wilder drives the net for a shot during a Stonetown Electric U9 LL Boys Red St. Marys Rock game.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Jacklyn Kittmer releases a wrist shot during one of the St. Marys Landscaping U11 B Girls St. Marys Rock game.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Joey Brown winds up for a slap shot during a St. Marys Firefighters U13 A Boys St. Marys Rock game.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Ashton Elliott rips a shot on goal during one of the A.N.A.F. U15 A Boys St. Marys Rock games.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Samantha Hamilton skates the ring through the offensive zone during a St. Marys Rotary-A.N.A.F. U14 A St. Marys Snipers game.

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COLUMNS

UKRAINIAN CORNER: The Windowsill Invasion – from Ukrainian yogurt cups to Canadian gnomes

ALONA VASYLIEVA

Independent Columnist

Spring is a concept that both Ukrainians and Canadians treat with the same suspicious optimism one might give a slightly expired carton of milk. We know it's coming, and we want to trust it, but we also know it's probably going to hurt us.

As the snow retreats, the gardeners of both my home countries emerge from their winter cocoons. But while the goal is the same – green stuff – the methods, the outfits and the philosophies are worlds apart.

In Ukraine, the season doesn't start with a date on a calendar; it starts with The Windowsill Invasion. By late February, every flat surface in a Ukrainian apartment is occupied by plastic yogurt cups and sour cream containers filled with tomato seedlings. This isn't just a small hobby; in Ukraine, nearly 90 per cent of all potatoes and a huge portion of vegetables are grown not by giant corporations, but by families in their own small plots. If you can still actually see out of your window, you aren't trying hard enough to feed the nation.

In Canada, however, the season starts with a pilgrimage to the garden centre. Canadians don't grow from seed as much as they "invest."

I have developed a strangely deep love for mulch. It doesn't really exist in Ukraine, where bare soil is hoed until it's as smooth as a billiard table. But here, mulch is the "makeup" of the gardening world. It hides all your mistakes and makes it look like you have your life



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

While St. Marys prepares for the "Lawn Games," Alona Vasylieva has already broken the unwritten law of the May frost. A look at the gap between Ukrainian "survival" planting and the fancy Canadian mulch obsession.

together, even if you don't.

The other thing I absolutely love about Canada is how fancy gardening feels here. In many parts of the world, there is a stereotype that gardening is strictly for seniors. But in Canada, it's a cool, trendy hobby for everyone. With over 80 per cent of Canadian households engaging in some form of gardening, you see young professionals and families obsessing over their aesthetic planters and outdoor living spaces. It's not just about labour; it's about design, and I love that it's seen as a stylish way to spend your time.

Of course, my personal ambition usually outpaces my talent. My gardening skills are currently sitting at sub-beginner. I have managed to kill a cactus – mul-

ple times. If a plant's primary survival strategy is "ignore me and I'll live," and it still dies under my watch, you know I'm a dangerous woman to have around a flowerbed.

I did have a secret weapon, though. My mother-in-law, who has a university degree in the greenhouse field, was my personal garden guru. When she came for a visit, she transformed my yard into a masterpiece, breathing life into plants I didn't even know were struggling. But now, she has headed home, and I am officially on my own. I'm like a student who was handed the keys to a laboratory and told "don't blow it up."

Being left to my own devices has made me brave – perhaps too brave. I channeled

my inner Ukrainian grandma and sowed marigold seeds in March. I nurtured them and dreamed of a deck covered in vibrant orange flowers. Then, I committed a horticultural crime; I planted them at the end of April.

In Canada, this is a death sentence. To plant before the "May Two-Four" long weekend is to break an unwritten national law. Statistics show that in parts of Ontario, there is still a significant chance of frost well into May, but I suppose I'm just not "Canadian enough" to possess the monk-like patience required to wait. I'm a gardening rebel, gambling against the climate. We will see who wins, my impatience or the frost.

In Ukraine, nobody has time for lawn aesthetics because the Season of Veggies is an Olympic sport. While my Canadian friends are obsessing over a single dandelion in their turf, my family in Ukraine is deep in the trenches, engaged in hand-to-hand combat with the Colorado potato beetle.

In a Ukrainian garden, "straight lines" aren't for the grass, they are for the Holy Potato Rows. One neighbour is fighting for a lawn that looks like a golf course; the other is fighting for the perfect jar of pickled cucumbers. One is looking for curb appeal; the other is looking for the perfect borscht in October.

Whether you are covering your beds in beautiful cedar mulch or fighting for your life in a field of potatoes, the spirit is the same. We are all just humans standing in front of a patch of dirt, asking it to please, for the love of God, stay alive for at least three months.

Straight From The Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

The Friends of the St. Marys Public Library have a very busy month ahead! May 1 is the DCVI Scholarship deadline while May 2 is the Spring Dinner/Theatre Social Event consisting of the St. Marys Community Players production of "Boeing Boeing" followed by dinner at the Westover Inn. May 4 and 5 they are looking for volunteers to help set up for the Spring Book Sale which is running May 6 through 9 at the Lind Sportplex. The next FOL Social (open to anyone and everyone) is May 13 @ 6:30 p.m. at the Library, while this month's FOL Management Committee Meeting is May 20 at the Library. To keep updated with everything FOL has on the go, visit their Facebook page (@StMarysFOL) or send them an email: FriendsOfStMarysPublicLibrary@gmail.com.

UP THIS WEEK

- Fri., May 1: Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Sat., May 2: Dungeons & Dragons (10 a.m.)
- Mon., May 4: Open 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Tues., May 5: Open 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Wed., May 6: EarlyON Play & Read (9:30-10:30 a.m.), FOL Book Sale^ (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.), Mahjong (1-4 p.m.)
- Thurs., May 7: FOL Book Sale^ (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.), Library Board Meeting (6:45 p.m.)

^Held at the Lind Sportplex (the Quarry) – 425 Water St. S.

Ask the Arborist

By Joel Hackett • 519.272.5742 • jtsquote@gmail.com

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

Dear Arborist,

I hope you have a minute to answer a question that my husband and I have had for a long time. While we are out for a drive we have noticed that some spruce trees will have formed a large ball at the top. We have often wondered what causes this? Could you please enlighten us?

Thanks, Julie

Dear Julie,

In the past, standard practice was to top spruce trees; in fact, it was recommended. However, this

practice was not a good idea, as it caused sucker growth. When the central leader is gone, multiple leaders grow up in a dense clump, which leads to the formation of a ball at the top of the tree. Because the new growth is weak and prone to failure, the top of a spruce tree can break off due to wind or decay. I have also seen damage caused by squirrels that compromises the tree's top. If a spruce tree is compromised its normally better to just remove it. Topping is unsafe and no longer considered an acceptable practice.

Sincerely, The Arborist

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.GRANTHAVEN.COM

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: 108 Robinson Street, Part Two

MARY SMITH

Independent Columnist

The photograph with this column, taken in 1973, shows the renovated barn behind the 1870 brick house at 108 Robinson Street in the west ward. In the 1940s, part of the barn was converted into a small apartment. This photograph shows the entrance, a window on each side, opening onto Ontario Street North. The house and the barn are located on two deep lots that extend between Robinson and Ontario Streets. John Henry Clark purchased this property in 1868, and, by the 1871 census, his house had been built. Clark had the barn built at about the same time.

Larry Pfaff, who, with his wife, Catherine, now owns the property, has described the barn on page 91 in his book, *Historic St. Marys*. (J. W. Eedy Publications, 1995) The barn was built into the hill so that the two-storey, east façade faced the back of the house. There were double doors on the west façade on a level with Ontario Street. The carriages or wagons were backed in, the horses unharnessed and led around the barn to the stable on the north side. The stone for the barn walls was taken from the bed of the Thames River. Before 1908, when the dam (or weir) was erected across the river, the water was much shallower at this point and limestone on the riverbed was accessible to building contractors.

In December 1875, the Clarks sold their property to James Morton, a retired farmer. James had been born in 1819 in Antrim, Ireland. When he was a young man, he had immigrated to Canada and settled south of Ottawa on a farm in Carlton County. He met Frances Alderson, who was born in 1817 in Yorkshire, England. They were married in October 1840 and started a family, eventually having six daughters. By the 1871 census, the family had moved to a farm in East Nissouri Township, Oxford County. When he was in his 50s, James Morton may have felt, without sons to share the work, it was time to retire from heavy farming. The property on Robinson Street, at that time extending westward as far as William Street, provided just enough acreage to pasture some livestock – an ideal retirement location. James and Frances moved in at the beginning of 1876 and lived there for the rest of their lives. For census records, James gave his occupation as “Gentleman.”

After James and Frances Morton died in the 1890s, the property with the house and barn had a succession of owners who mostly rented it out to various tenants. The Ruthig family purchased it in 1921. This enterprising family owned a farm immediately to the north reached by Ingersoll Street, and another farm near Glengowan. They used part of the barn at 108 Robinson Street as an apple cider mill. During the decade that they owned this property, the house was sometimes rented but at other times, according to the assessment records, it was vacant.

In January 1931, the Ruthigs sold 108 Robinson Street – house and barn – to Catherine and G.D. L. (Lincoln) Rice for \$1300. Lincoln, born in 1892, was the grandson of George Carter (1826-1889), the founder of the G. Carter Milling Company, and the patriarch of the influential Carter family. His daughter, Charlotte, had married Henry Lincoln Rice in 1880. They had two children: Kathleen (1882-1963), who became a prospector in northern Manitoba, and ten years later, in 1892, a son, George Dwight Lincoln. In 1914, Lincoln graduated from the University of Toronto. In August of that year, World War I broke out. Lincoln enlisted and went overseas. In 1915 and 1916, he was an ambulance driver in France. Never robust, he became ill, was sent to a hospital in England



(PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. MARYS MUSEUM'S COLLECTION OF HISTORIC IMAGES, R. LORNE EEDY ARCHIVES.)

Although this photograph was taken 50 years ago, the stone barn at 107 Ontario Street, converted to an apartment, still looks much the same today.

and then, in 1917, invalided home to Canada.

While recuperating in England, Lincoln met an English girl, Catherine (Kit) Kelleher. They fell in love and, in November 1917, she crossed the Atlantic to join him. They were married in Toronto and came to St. Marys where they lived with Lincoln's parents, Henry and Charlotte Rice, in the family home at 224 Jones Street East. Their only child, Timothy Henry Lincoln Rice (called Ted) was born in 1920. The Carter milling business had been sold after the war and there were some difficult years for the Rice family. In 1923, Lincoln was appointed Registrar for South Perth and so at last he had a steady source of income. When the north and south registry offices were consolidated in 1935, he became Registrar for the County of Perth, with his office in Stratford.

In the 1920s, Lincoln Rice reconnected with the military. He joined C Company of the 2nd Canadian Machine Gun Battalion, eventually earned his commission and rose through the ranks. When the machine gun battalions and infantry regiments in the district were amalgamated and reorganized in 1936, Lincoln, now Major Rice, commanded the local company and then became second-in-command of the Perth Regiment. The Regiment was mobilized on September 3, 1939, with the onset of World War II, but Major Rice was released from the active battalion for medical reasons. He became Officer in Command of the 2nd Reserve Battalion and was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel, the rank he held when he retired in 1944.

In 1931, when Lincoln and Catherine bought the property at 108 Robinson Street, three generations in the Rice family were still living together at 224 Jones Street. Although Lincoln's father, Henry, died in 1933, Charlotte outlived her husband by almost a decade. Rather than moving to the smaller, more manageable house on Robinson Street, Lincoln, Kit and young Ted stayed with her in the large Jones Street house. Still, they made use of their Robinson Street property. The rent paid by

successive tenants was a small source of income. In the 1930s, when the international youth hostel movement became popular, the Rices decided to open a hostel on their spacious property to accommodate young cyclists and backpackers. Eventually a dormitory was built on a vacant lot to the north of 108 Robinson Street. Before that, the stone barn served as the hostel. A curtain hung down the middle of the large room to separate male and female guests. Kit kept busy in the summers overseeing the hostel's operations.

Charlotte Rice died in 1941, and Lincoln was finally able to move his family to 108 Robinson Street. During World War II, Ted Rice, following his father's example, enlisted and served overseas. When he returned, the barn was converted into a separate apartment for his use. Lieutenant-Colonel G. D. L. Rice died in March 1952 and was buried with full military honours in the family plot in the St. Marys Cemetery.

In 1953, the Stratford Shakespearean Festival had its first season and, in successive years, grew increasingly popular. Ted Rice was working away from St. Marys and the apartment in the barn was vacant. Every year, theatre personnel were looking for comfortable places to rent for the festival season. Mrs. Rice rented out the apartment in the barn for several summers to actors including Lorne Greene, Eric House and Jason Robarts Junior, and later, in the 1960s, to director John Hirsch for an entire year – all very exotic temporary residents in the west ward of St. Marys. As Larry Pfaff explains in his article in *Historic St. Marys*: “The quiet neighbourhood was stirred by the coming and going of the thespians and by their summer parties on the lawn.”

Catherine Kelleher Rice died on September 29, 1981, in her 90th year. Larry and Catherine Pfaff purchased 108 Robinson Street from her estate on October 23, 1983. They have owned the property ever since, dividing their time between St. Marys and their home in Toronto where they both worked until they retired. The barn is still an apartment, home for a longtime tenant.

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OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Thoughtful walking in Ottawa



PAUL KNOWLES

Independent Columnist

There are thousands of destinations we can visit that offer lovely places to stroll. Beaches, boardwalks, elegant main streets, the works. But there is something unique and special about walking in our nation's capital because in Ottawa, while there is certainly lots to be seen, there is even more to be thought about.

On our recent visit to Ottawa, we walked the route from the National War Museum to the National Gallery of Canada (that's mostly along Wellington Street) and found many reasons to pause and ponder.

I wrote, a few months ago, about the war museum, so I won't go there again this time, but just across the street from the war museum is a thoughtful and sobering monument – the National Holocaust Monument, which is entitled "Landscape of Loss, Memory and Survival."

The monument is relatively new, designed by a team led by architect Daniel Libeskind and inaugurated in 2017 to mark one of the most horrific chapters in human history, the mass extermination of six million Jews and many, many others. When we visited, we were the only people in the place, which seems a shame and, yet, felt like an honour. It's a powerful place that tells its somber story in art, word and images. The experi-

ence of visiting the space reminded me of my visits to Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, where everyone leaves in contemplative silence.

As you walk from there up Wellington, toward the Parliament buildings, you pass the Supreme Court of Canada. Frankly, that might have not meant a lot to me in past years, but in these days, when we hear far too much about the blatant politicization and manipulation of the U.S. Supreme Court, it was worth a moment or two to stand and think about our much more objectively fair and just system, and to feel thankful for the sane and equitable way our country is run.

There is a plaque mounted near the street that points out "The Supreme Court is independent and impartial ... and makes sure laws are applied clearly and fairly across the country. Also, it is the only supreme court in the world that is both bilingual ... and bijural (hears and decides on cases from two legal traditions, common law and civil law)." As you read that plaque, you are standing in Ontario, with a primarily English and common law tradition, but just behind the Supreme Court building, across the Ottawa River, is Québec, with its primarily French and civil law tradition. The twin foundations of our nation.

The other thing you will notice on the plaque is that among the nine Supreme Court judges are five women, a proportion you are unlikely to find in most countries in the world. And one of them, the Honourable Michelle O'Bonsawin, is also co-president of the World Assembly of Indigenous Judges. All of this should leave thoughtful Canadians feeling proud.

From the Supreme Court, let's take a two-minute detour onto

Sparks Street to honour a true Canadian hero. In a rather unlikely retail-oriented spot, considering all of the statuary that dots the Parliament Hill region, is a fine sculpture of Terry Fox honouring the heroism and sacrifice of that great Canadian.

And speaking of statues and Parliament Hill, visitors can spend hours contemplating all of the history commemorated in the statues around our still-shrouded, under-continual-renovations Parliament buildings. There are many inspiring sculptures here – I particularly like the statue of Sir Wilfrid Laurier gazing at the iconic hotel that bears his name!

But a more recent addition caught our attention – the War of 1812 Monument entitled "Triumph Through Diversity." Designed by Adrienne Alison, it was created and installed in 2014, marking the 200th anniversary of the end of the War of 1812-1814. That war took place because the United States launched an expansionist effort to take over what is now Canada, but the American effort was rebuffed. Just this morning, I read that Prime Minister Mark Carney has a small figure of War of 1812 hero Sir Isaac Brock on his desk as a constant reminder that Canada can and must stand strong in the face of threats from south of the border.

The War of 1812 Monument bears these words on a bronze plaque: "Fought on land and water, the War of 1812 helped shape the future of Canada. To defeat the American invasion, people from various walks of life came together – men and women; military personnel and civilians; English, French and Aboriginal peoples." The impressive monument reflects that Canadian diversity.

That's just a few of the thoughtful pauses available



Ottawa's memorial to the Holocaust.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

The home of Canada's Supreme Court.

on an Ottawa stroll. There is much more – the eternal flame on the grounds of Parliament and the temporary home of the Canadian Senate that was once an opulent railway station (and the Famous Five "Women Are Persons" monument that is now located there). There's also the historic Rideau Canal, with its system of locks, and at the far end of this walk, the National Gallery of Canada, our finest repository of great art.

My online map says the walk from the war museum to the National Gallery takes 40 minutes. Actually, it can take you through centuries, and into multiple worlds of contemplation and gratitude.

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and past president of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.



The Terry Fox statue on Sparks Street.



Some young visitors explore the War of 1812 monument on Parliament Hill.



Parliament's Centre Block remains hidden behind walls and topped by construction cranes in a restoration project with no end in sight!

FROM THE GARDEN: Wild lettuce and its cultivated cousins



NANCY ABRA

Independent Columnist

Great conversations, and sometimes even debates, happen around the office cooler, over a coffee with a friend, or for gardeners, during a chance encounter at a seed display. A gardener will always engage or perhaps I should be clearer, will happily chat with anyone studying a package of seeds, especially if they look confused or concerned.

I met such a gentleman last week. With a long list in hand, he was standing in front of a large display of vegetable seeds, clearly searching for something specific. “That’s quite the list of plants you have,” I commented. “Yes,” he replied, “and I want to grow wild lettuce, but I can’t find any seeds for that.”

It didn’t take long for our casual exchange to turn into an engaging conversation about “wild lettuce” and the rest of the plants on his list. Gardeners are nur-

urers, but we’re also endlessly curious about all sorts of plants. With my curiosity sparked, I wanted to know more about this “wild lettuce” and why he was so determined to grow it.

That conversation stayed with me long after I left the garden centre. Wild lettuce – why have I not heard of this? And what makes this lettuce different from the lettuces we sow so casually in our spring gardens? As it turns out, the world of lettuce—wild and cultivated—is far more interesting than most of us may realize.

Wild lettuce is more than a weed you spot in an abandoned field, along the roadside and even in our gardens. It is an ancient ancestor of our cultivated lettuces we grow and can refer to several species in the genus *Lactuca*, which all are members of the Asteraceae or daisy family.

Wild lettuce, *Lactuca serriola*, is sometimes referred to as ‘prickly lettuce’ with its distinct feature of fine prickles along the serrated leaf margins and on the underside of the central leaf vein. There are several species that would fall in the term of ‘wild lettuce’. Some look like dandelions and some grow from a central compass point, out and up from there. Wild lettuces prefer full sun and tolerate various

soil conditions.

Lactuca virosa is a tall, bitter ‘opium lettuce’ historically used for its sedative and analgesic properties when opium was unavailable. Its latex contains compounds studied for their calming effects. *Lactuca saligna* is a narrow-leaf species found in Europe and parts of North America. *Lactuca canadiensis* is a tall native North American species. These lettuces share the characteristic of ‘milky sap’ (lactucarium) when the stem or leaves are cut or broken, giving lettuce its Latin name *lactuca*, meaning milk.

Lettuce has a long lineage that began over 4,500 years ago in the Mediterranean and Near East, where early farmers began domesticating *Lactuca serriola*. The ancient Egyptians cultivated lettuce for both food and seed oil. They also associated the plant with fertility and strength, likely due to its growth and milky sap. The Greeks adopted lettuce for medicinal uses, while the Romans refined it into recognizable garden varieties that spread across Europe. From the Middle Ages to our Modern Era, European gardeners continued selecting for tenderness, flavour, and slow bolting. By the 18th century, many of today’s familiar types were already de-



veloped.

Varieties of *Lactuca sativa* we grow today in our gardens and enjoy for our salads have emerged through the centuries of selective breeding from *Lactuca serriola* or wild lettuce. These varieties fall in four horticultural groups: Butterhead – soft tender heads such as Bibb or Boston; Crisphead – tight, crunchy heads or Iceberg; Romaine – an upright leaf structure and crisp leaves; Looseleaf – open leafy types in many colours and shapes.

Lettuce is one of the easiest and the most rewarding cool

season crop to grow. It thrives in spring and can be sown again in late August for another crop. It prefers 5 – 6 hours of sun but appreciates afternoon shade during hot spells. Lettuce bolts in heat and has a bitter taste. Looseleaf varieties can be harvested in 30 to 45 days while head lettuce varieties in about 60 days.

So next time you are browsing the seed racks, or thinning a row of greens, remember every plant has a past and every gardener has a story. It just happens that lettuce offers both.

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Solutions on pg. 35

Riddles

I fly without wings, I cry without eyes. Whenever I go, darkness flies. What am I?
A cloud.

The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?
Footsteps.

I'm full of keys but can't open any doors. What am I?
A piano.

I'm tall when I'm young, and short when I'm old. What am I?
A candle.

I get wetter the more I dry. What am I?
A towel.

I can be cracked, made, told, and played. What am I?
A joke.

I'm not alive, but I can grow. I don't have lungs, but I need air. What am I?
A fire.

I'm round and bright and seen at night, but sometimes I'm gone from sight. What am I?
The moon.

I can run but never walk, I have a bed but never sleep. What am I?
A river.

I shine bright in the sky, but I'm not the sun. Kids wish on me when the day is done. What am I?
A star.

You can hear me and feel me, but you can't see me. I make trees dance. What am I?
The wind.

- Word Search -



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APRIL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

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- Artemis Launch
- Jeremy Hansen
- Orban defeated
- AI Trump Jesus
- Byelections
- Liberal majority
- Hockey playoffs
- Volunteer Week
- Temporary ceasefire
- Doug Ford private jet
- Correspondents Dinner
- Stock market surge
- Sovereign wealth fund



The **Riddle Kid** OF THE WEEK



Cohen Davies (7)

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

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

PET OF THE WEEK



DID YOU KNOW? Puddles can sometimes carry leptospirosis (lepto)? It's a serious illness pets can pick up from contaminated water. Keep an eye out for: tiredness, vomiting, or extra thirst.

Help protect your pet: Skip standing water and stay up to date on vaccines

A quick check with your vet can make all the difference. Stay safe and keep those tails wagging!



NALA

Our Pet of the Week is Nala, a four-year-old ginger shorthair cat. Nala spends her day playing with her housemate Simba and then resting in the sun. She loves her treats and is always very happy to see mom. Nala is a member of the Skirten household.



Thorndale News

A section within the
St. Marys Independent



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House fire in Thorndale resulted in family being displaced

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

On Sunday, April 18 a call came in at 10:18 a.m. for a structure fire at 114 Harrison Street, Thorndale. The house was fully involved when the firefighters from both the Thames Centre Fire Department stations arrived. There were working smoke detectors, but it was one of the occupants who noticed the fire and got everyone out safely.

After the fire was extinguished, firefighters remained at the scene until approximately 3 p.m. In conjunction with the OPP, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) was called to support the investigation. Damage is estimated at \$800K. The investigators were on scene on the following Tuesday, April 21 to determine the cause of the fire.

A 'GoFundMe' campaign has been set up for Amy Maier and her three sons who are displaced by this devastating fire and the loss of their home. Maier's friend Kim Jamo said, "Amy is sincerely grateful and overwhelmed by the generosity of the community and strangers who have assisted her and her sons, and with heartfelt thanks for all the support she has received." At present Maier has enough clothing donations but needs to secure a storage place and a place to live. Please contact Kim Jamo at finallyamommy@msn.com if you can help the Maier family.



The aftermath of the fire at 114 Harrison Street, Thorndale on Sunday, April 18.

(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

Changing times – Thorndale gateway sign being removed and relocated in 2027

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

The Thorndale Gateway signs erected – one located at the east end of Thorndale at the Thames Centre Thorndale Fire Station and at west end of Thorndale on the corners of King Street and Nissouri Road – was a major project for the Thorndale Revitalization Committee (TRC) in 2008. The inspiration for these gateway signs came from the community at large and the TRC recognized the need of a sign that would exhibit 'Pride of Community.' The development of these two signs was the product of many people and local businesses coming together to build something for the greater good of the community. With financial contributions from local businesses, Community Futures Development and the Thorndale Revitalization Committee received a Rural Economic Development grant from the Ontario government that matched the funds raised by the community.

Ken and Mary McCutcheon donated

the land for the Thorndale gateway sign at the west end in 2008. Since then, this parcel of land has been sold and recent removal of this iconic stone gateway has taken place to accommodate the new development on that corner lot.

Bill McDonald and his son Dave built the original Thorndale gateway signs eighteen years ago, and were recently contacted by the Municipality of Thames Centre for its dismantling. The key components such as the name plate and cap stones have been removed and preserved, awaiting their planned reinstallation in 2027 at a new site being explored for consideration by the Municipality.

From the Municipality of Thames Centre press release dated April 24, Ward I Councillor Tom Heeman stated, "We are going to be able to preserve the most important features of the sign. That's important. When a new location is chosen, and the sign is re-installed next year, it will still have the same major pieces in place, maintaining a connection to the original sign."



Pictured is the Thorndale gateway sign after the key components were dismantled on Saturday, April 25.

(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

OBITUARY

Turner



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Leo Charles Turner, of London and formerly of St. Marys, who passed away at University Hospital London on April 24, 2026 in his 90th year.

Leo is predeceased by his parents, Charles Turner and Teresa Turner (nee McNamara)

and his siblings, Monica (Harvey), Kathleen (John), Patrick (Frances) and son-in-law Deacon Leo Gulikers. He will be greatly missed by his wife of 63 years, Helena (nee Stroeder) and his children Cindy, Kim and Mark (Sandra Spence); grandchildren Maria Gulikers (Dan Haggith) and Jessica Gulikers (Cameron Core), Leah Turner (Miguel Freitas) and Zachary Turner; and great-grandchildren Watson and Rhys Core.

Leo was born in Windam Centre and grew up in the Tillsonburg area. At the age of 19 he got on a tuna boat travelling to the Galapagos Islands, recently writing a book about his travels. After going to Teachers College, Leo taught in London, Oakville and finally in 1966 he settled with his family in St. Marys and taught at Holy Name of Mary, eventually becoming principal. Leo also taught in Stratford before his retirement.

Leo joined the St. Marys Community Players in 1974, performing in numerous plays such as Oklahoma, Guys and Dolls and Anne of Green Gables, to name a few. One of his many retirement projects, Leo enjoyed his model trains and was a member of the Stonetown Model Railroad Association. He also played Slo-pitch with the Eh Team and Canoe Club, and enjoyed golfing and curling.

He was a faithful member of Holy Name of Mary Parish and longtime member of the choir. Family and friends are invited to Holy Name Of Mary Parish, Northeast corner of Widder St. E. and Peel St. N. St. Marys, on Thursday, April 30, 2026 for visiting from noon until the Funeral Mass at 2 pm. Interment in St. Marys Cemetery. Reception to follow at the St. Mary Legion, 66 Church St. N. St. Marys.

Online tributes at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca

OBITUARY

Cornwall



Stella Marie Cornwall (Kastner) 1931-2026

Born in Mildmay, Ontario, December 11, 1931, passed away at the age of 94, on April 23, 2026.

She is predeceased by her husband Glenn Cornwall (2013). Loving Mother of George, Larry (Linda), Bill (Kim), Rob (Beverly),

and Wayne. Proud Grandma to Jenni Yaroslowsky, Steven Cornwall, Jordan Cornwall (Megan), Adam (Katie), Taylor (Jess), Great Grandmother of Jaxson, Ronin, Isabella & Sebastian, and Gwendolyn. Stella will be fondly remembered by her sisters Phyllis Rodina, Shirley Kastener and Joanne McKee. Predeceased by brothers Harold and Philip.

The family would like to sincerely thank the Wildwood Care Team Centre, and the doctors at Happy Valley Health Team (St. Marys) for the wonderful care and compassion given to their mother. In keeping with Stella's wishes cremation has taken place. A private family service will be held at a later date where Stella will be laid to rest with her husband Glenn at St. Marys Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to your charity of choice.

Online tributes at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

CELEBRATION



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Looking Back



AMY CUBBERLEY
Independent Columnist

Think Mink

25 years ago (2001)
Grade eight students from Arthur Meighen Public School put on a spectacular drumming performance during their "Fanga Concert" (Welcoming Spring) on Thursday. Drummer Ron Cross of Orion Drums taught the students how to play. The money raised by the event goes towards purchasing drums for the Intermediate Music Program.

Holy Name of Mary elementary school principal Joe MacDonald will receive one of four regional awards for "Principal of the Year" at the annual conference of the Catholic Principal's Council, coming up this week in Alliston.

50 years ago (1976)
The Finnish Fur Breeders are hosting an International Scientific Congress in Fur Animal Production in Helsinki, Finland this week. Cal Martin of St. Marys, Research Coordinator for many years for Canada Mink Breeders, will be representing this association.

Firefighters answered their first grassfire alarm of the season around 2:30 pm on April 19. A couple of youngsters with a small bonfire ignited a field at the bottom of McCully's Hill, east of town. The blaze was put out with little damage.

75 years ago (1951)
Clif Brown, who purchased the field west of the fairgrounds from Fred Ruthig recently, is planning to move his mink pens there from the property next door. The new location will be less sheltered than the former one and more comfortable for the animals during the hottest weeks of the summer.

One of the wild ducks from the flock on the Thames caused a slowdown in Queen Street traffic at noon on Monday. The white duck landed on the roadway over Queen Street bridge and continued to walk up and down in front of cars for several minutes. Motorists, rather than crash the duck, slowed down and traffic was held up until the duck made off again to his natural haunts.

100 years ago (1926)
Mr. Dundas recently installed the latest electric Frigidaire plant at the Blue Bird Ice Cream parlors. Eight large containers provide for half a dozen flavours of ice cream with two compartments for fancy bricks which are becoming an important feature of the summer trade.

The Rumsey Chapter, I.O.D.E. held a delightful informal dance in the Armories, over McVittie's Garage, on Monday evening. Willard's "Happy Five" Orchestra provided the inspiration for the evening. Many novelty dances were put on, which were greatly enjoyed. Lunch was served at twelve and everyone reports an enjoyable time.

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THE WEEK AHEAD



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

St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 26

FRIDAY, MAY 1

- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog lunch at Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 p.m.
- SMCP presents "Boeing Boeing" at the Town Hall theatre - 7:30 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Cambridge Redhawks at the PRC - 7:30 p.m., Game #4

SATURDAY, MAY 2

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 a.m. to Noon
- St. Marys Rotary Club shredding event at DCVI parking lot - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$15 per bankers box
- Fred & Edna Wick's 65th anniversary celebration at St. James Men's Club - 1-4 p.m.
- SMCP presents "Boeing Boeing" at the Town Hall theatre - 2 p.m.
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw - 5 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Cambridge Redhawks at Galt Arena Gardens - 7 p.m., Game #5*

SUNDAY, MAY 3

- Firefighters breakfast at the Fire Hall - 8 a.m. to Noon Adult \$10, Children 5-12 \$5, Under 5 eat free
- Legion bingo - Early bird 12:45 p.m., Game time 1-4 p.m., \$15
- St. Marys Hospital Auxiliary Sip & Shop at the Friendship Centre - 1-4 p.m.
- SMCP presents "Boeing Boeing" at the Town Hall theatre - 2 p.m.
- Purple Hill Country Opry "Orange Blossom Special" - 2 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 4

- Community dinner at St. Marys United Church - 5 p.m., Sponsored by the Presbyterian Church
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Cambridge Redhawks at the PRC - 7:30 p.m., Game #6*

TUESDAY, MAY 5

- Royal Canadian Legion buddy check coffee - 10 a.m. to Noon
- St. Marys Legion cribbage - Starts 7 p.m. sharp
- Ostomy support group meeting at 93 Morgan Street, Stratford - 7 p.m., Call 519-273-4327 for info

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

- Friends of the Library book sale at the Lind Sportsplex - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Melanie B.'s Floral Accents, Gifts, Home and Garden Decor SPRING SHOW & SALE - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Cambridge Redhawks at Galt Arena Gardens - 7 p.m., Game #7*

THURSDAY, MAY 7

- Friends of the Library book sale at the Lind Sportsplex - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Melanie B.'s Floral Accents, Gifts, Home and Garden Decor SPRING SHOW & SALE - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- A.N.A.F. sausage on a bun - 12 to 1:30 p.m.


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