

# St. Marys Independent

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## Jose Bautista gives Canada emotional embrace



### CBHOF INDUCTS 2025 CLASS

Pictured from left to right are George Asay, Loris Asay, Greg Hamilton, Jose Bautista, Carol Lee Noga Scott, Gary Snyder, and Brad Kaufman. The group either were inducted or represented inductees as part of the 2025 class enshrined in the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum hosted on June 7 in St. Marys. Not pictured was Érik Bédard, who was inducted as part of the 2025 class but was unable to attend. Arleene Noga, Amanda Asay, and Gerry Snyder were inducted posthumously.

(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

Much of the speech given by the headliner of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame's 2025 class could be classified as a love letter to Canada, with Jose Bautista delivering a heartfelt speech. But, not before getting a laugh out of what was the largest Hall of Fame Induction crowd in recent memory.

"By the way, we got great weather today; maybe a little too hot for some of you, but that's what you get," Bautista joked. "Quit complaining about the long winter this year."

As the Toronto Blue Jays' legend began his speech, he acknowledged many of the all-time greats he now stands shoulder-to-shoulder with as a Canadian Baseball Hall of Famer.

As the Toronto Blue Jays' legend began his speech, he acknowledged many of the all-time greats he now stands shoulder-to-shoulder with as a Canadian Baseball Hall of Famer.

"I'm humbled to take my place amongst so many great figures in Canadian baseball history. To be in the same Hall as Vladimir Guerrero, Pedro Martinez, Tony Fernandez, George Bell, Carlos Delgado, Roy Halladay, and my friend Russell Martin is an honour that I sincerely cherish and appreciate."

Bautista recounted a 2008 meeting with Pittsburgh Pirates' brass during which he was informed he had been traded to the Toronto Blue Jays. Bautista, who had struggled to find consistent playing time in the major leagues up to that point, was like many baseball players who get dealt north of the border in that he wasn't overly familiar with Toronto and Canada in general.

"I'll admit that, at the time, I didn't know a whole lot about Canada, or Canadian baseball culture," Bautista began. "Of course, I was familiar with the Montreal Expos and their connection to my home country, the Dominican

CONTINUED TO PAGE 16

## St. Marys council unanimously rejects Strong Mayor Powers

Council asks province to remove St. Marys from list of municipalities with strong mayors

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

In a move intended to remove Strong Mayor Powers as an option for future town mayors to make unilateral decisions without the consent of the majority of council, St. Marys council has passed a motion rejecting the use of Strong Mayor Powers now and asked the province to remove the

town from its list of municipalities with those powers.

At council's May 27 meeting, Coun. Marg Luna introduced a resolution for council to oppose Strong Mayor Powers and request the province not include the Town of St. Marys in the province's expansion of those powers to 169 additional municipalities, which came into effect on May 1. In her

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# COMMUNITY

## Council unanimously rejects Strong Mayor Powers

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

motion, Luna listed a number of concerns she and others have with the province's decision to grant heads of councils comprising six or more members with the authority to give direction and make certain decisions without the usual consensus from a majority of elected councillors. The resolution states the legislation undermines the role of council in decision-making, thereby undermining the local-governance model and municipal independence.

Reading from an article written by council educator and local-government consultant Nigel Bellchamber, Luna reiterated that Strong Mayor Powers do not tie in with infrastructure development or growth, and how they could influence who runs for mayor and their motives for running, how they could discourage members of the community from running for council and how they may lead to council and mayoral candidates running as a team to ensure their agendas are achieved.

Luna also noted Bellchamber's concerns with putting the annual budget in the mayor's control and how giving the mayor the power to hire and fire the CAO and heads of departments could lead to fears among those staff members, particularly the CAO, about speaking against a mayor's personal agenda – something those staff members need to be able to do freely.

"My hope is that all the small municipalities can agree and make the same request to the province. If this request is accepted by the province, the Town of St. Marys will be removed from the list of municipalities that practice the

Strong Mayor Powers," Luna said, later noting that a future council could request the town be placed back on the list of municipalities with these powers.

Speaking to Luna's motion, Coun. Jim Craigmile pointed out while he supported it, unless the province accepts St. Marys council's request, Strong Mayor Powers will remain available to any future mayors of St. Marys.

Mayor Al Strathdee also spoke in favour of Luna's motion.

"I was surprised when this legislation came into effect and I agree with Coun. Luna, and I will be supporting this resolution because I don't think it's certainly necessary in our community, and I think the legislation is too broad in perspective," Strathdee said. "I really don't understand all the implications and, certainly, the way this council has functioned, I don't think there's any necessity to have a strong mayor."

Council ultimately voted unanimously in support of Luna's resolution, a copy of which was sent to Ontario Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob Flack and Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae. Prior to the vote, St. Marys clerk Jenna McCartney told council she had received an email from a councillor of the Township of Rideau Lakes asking St. Marys and other municipalities across Ontario if they had passed or were planning to consider a resolution similar to this one. McCartney said the councillor is working to create a coalition of municipalities and collect information to advocate to the province in favour of removing municipalities from the list of those with Strong Mayor Powers.

McCartney told councillors she would forward the St. Marys resolution to that councillor.

Strong mayor powers include the ability to appoint a municipality's chief administrative officer (CAO), hire certain municipal department heads and reorganize departments, create committees of council, propose the municipal budget, propose certain bylaws the mayor says advances a provincial priority, veto certain bylaws the mayor says could interfere with a provincial priority, and bring forward matters for discussion by council if the mayor says they could advance a provincial priority. In many cases, a strong mayor can pass eligible resolutions with just one-third of council support.

After the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers was announced, the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), which has been tracking the use of strong mayor powers since they were first introduced in Toronto and Ottawa in 2022, said there is no evidence to suggest this legislation has any impact on the number of housing starts in municipalities that have been granted the powers, flying in the face of the claim by the province that the legislation is meant to help municipalities building housing.

Instead, AMCTO says its research suggests strong mayor powers have blurred the political-administrative authority between the roles of heads of council and chief administrative offi-

cers (CAOs), threatening the neutrality of the public service and politicizing local government leadership.

In response to St. Marys council's unanimous support of her resolution, Luna said she is encouraged by her fellow councillors and the mayor's support, and she is hopeful other municipalities in the province will follow suit.

"I think this is an extremely important gesture we're making here. Whether the province will grant us this request is another question – I don't know how that's going to come about," she said. "... It's really hard to predict with the province. I think they should because there's just so many things about these Strong Mayor Powers that are wrong and undemocratic that they should listen to us and respect that we don't believe in it, we don't want to be included in it."

If, however, council's request falls on deaf ears at the provincial level, Luna said she plans to continue advocating for the removal of Strong Mayor Powers with Perth-Wellington's MPP. She also noted the importance of the public being aware of the potential harm these powers could do, and said residents should remain vigilant about potential abuses of these powers by future town mayors.

"Things are happening. We're seeing what's going on in the States and I think it's coming dangerously close to happening here in Canada, and I think this is maybe the start of things that are not good for our democracy," Luna said.



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**Wednesday  
June-11th**

Mainly sunny



**28°C**

Feels Like  
**32**

**Thursday  
June-12th**

Potential shower



**22°C**

Feels Like  
**23**

**Friday  
June-13th**

Mainly sunny



**21°C**

Feels Like  
**22**

**Saturday  
June-14th**

Light rain



**17°C**

Feels Like  
**16**

**Sunday  
June-15th**

Potential shower



**23°C**

Feels Like  
**25**

**Monday  
June-16th**

Sun/cloud



**26°C**

Feels Like  
**32**

**Tuesday  
June-17th**

Mainly sunny



**27°C**

Feels Like  
**34**



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# EDITORIAL

## Little St. Marys stands up to the provincial giant, refusing Strong Mayor Powers now and hopefully in the future

GALEN SIMMONS  
*Editor*

Whether it will have an impact is yet to be seen, but the little town of St. Marys is standing up against the political giants at Queen's Park to protect the democratically elected rights of councillors so they can continue effectively representing the interests of their constituents.

As reported in this edition of the Independent, St. Marys council has officially turned down the Ford government's offer of Strong Mayor Powers and asked the province to remove the town from its list of municipalities that have been granted them. These powers would have granted Mayor Al Strathdee and future mayors of St. Marys the power to make unilateral decisions around the hiring and firing of key staff, the annual budget and anything related to a "provincial priority," often with only one-third of council's support.

For a council the size of St. Marys', that means a mayor would need just one or two other councillors on their side to advance their own political machinations, as long as they align with the province's.

While the current St. Marys council and Mayor Al Strathdee have refused to use these powers – a strong, symbolic move against the erosion of democracy in local government – council's request to the province to have St. Marys removed from the list of municipalities with Strong Mayor Powers could fall on deaf ears, leaving the powers available for future mayors to use and abuse.

But St. Marys doesn't appear to be alone in sounding the alarm and refusing to use Strong Mayor Powers. Other small municipalities across Ontario, including nearby

Stratford, have likewise rejected these powers, and some are making requests similar to St. Marys' to get rid of them on a local level altogether.

But when you look at it from the province's perspective, these powers aren't simply about giving municipal councils the tools they need to address the housing crisis locally, as suggested by the province. If the Ford government wanted to do that, it would focus more money and resources around helping smaller municipalities address the missing, bottom rung of the housing ladder – social and non-profit housing.

Instead, this move is intended to feed into the Ford government's continued push to remove all obstacles in the way of private development. Apparently, a fulsome debate around the council table and the public process that follows is too much red tape for Ford and his cronies, so the government is inviting likeminded mayors or mayoral hopefuls to drink the Kool-Aid and help push that agenda forward.

As residents of this province and as residents of communities where Strong Mayor Powers may continue to be a reality, or may rear their ugly heads in the future, we need to stay vigilant against the abuse of these powers.

St. Marys and other Ontario municipalities will hold elections next year. For my part as a newspaper editor, I promise to ask all candidates about their intentions for these powers, should they remain. As voters, we have to ensure we only support candidates who state outright they will not use these powers, and then we need to hold them accountable to that promise.

The future of our local democracies depends on our vigilance.

Bravo	Boo
<p>We have 1 Bravo this week.</p> <p>1) A huge bravo to Doug, Kaitlynn, Cory, Alex and the entire PRC team who helped set up and take down the gala this past Saturday.</p>	<p>We have 4 Boos this week.</p> <p>1) Boo to the private Facebook group trying to start a petition to remove Pride flags. It's 2025. Let's focus on inclusion, not exclusion.</p> <p>2) Boo to the person who scratched a car of a visitor in town on Saturday on Cain Street. You could have left a note. This young man worked so hard to maintain his car. Shame on you.</p> <p>3) Boo to people who give drive thru employees a hard time. These young kids do not deserve your loud obscenities while they are working hard.</p> <p>4) Boo to the state of the Canada flag above the town hall roof. This past weekend, we had visitors from around the world and our flag was laying on the town hall roof instead of flying proudly.</p>
<small>*Please note all Boos and Bravos must be signed in order to be considered.</small>	<small>Bravos and Boos are submitted by community members and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the St. Marys Independent.</small>

### Quote of the Week

**"This is an unmistakable step toward authoritarianism that threatens the foundation of our republic. We cannot let it stand."**

*- California Gov. Gavin Newsom on June 9, in response to President Trump's order to mobilize troops to respond to protests in Los Angeles.*

## Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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

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### The St. Marys Independent THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK

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# Arts, culture and heritage in the spotlight at 2025 Stonetown Heritage Festival



(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF ST. MARYS)

Explore creativity and connect with local history at this year's Stonetown Heritage Festival.

## ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

This year's Heritage Festival, taking place from July 11-13, will offer numerous chances to explore creativity and connect with local history.

Located in the heart of the festival, the art exhibit will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 12, in the building on the corner of Water Street North and Queen Street (95 Queen St. E). The art exhibit and sale will highlight members of our local Stonetown Art group, showcasing their unique and impressive artwork available for purchase.

Mill Race Island, located right beside the falls, will be transformed into Art Island for the day, showcasing the work of local artists from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors can enjoy a beautiful view of the falls while browsing unique creations such as painted keepsakes, beaded artwork, wood-burned pieces and acrylic signs.

"The artists will highlight the vibrancy that art brings to our community," said Town of St. Marys events coordinator Morgan Easton in a press release.

For those interested in exploring local heritage, there are several free, interactive and informative activities available on Saturday, July 12, led by knowledgeable local heritage guides. Participants can join heritage walking tours, which

depart from town hall at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. These tours offer a wonderful opportunity to learn about the area's rich history.

In addition to the walking tours, new this year is the opportunity to discover the history of our waterways on a river walking tour. These tours depart from town hall at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.

For those who prefer a more relaxed exploration, guided heritage bus tours are also available. These tours will leave on the hour from town hall, running between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., and each tour is a 45-minute round trip.

Due to the popularity of these activities, advance registration is strongly recommended. To secure a spot, interested individuals should contact the St. Marys Museum by calling 519-284-3556.

Just east of the downtown fun, the St. Marys Station Gallery, open Wednesday to Sunday 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., hosts the selected works of local and regional artists on display.

On Sunday, July 13, culture and the arts take on a green thumb with the return of the St. Marys Horticultural Society's Garden Fair from 1-5 p.m. Tour maps will be sold for \$10 at town hall on July 13 from 12:45-3 p.m. Contact the Horticultural Society (stmarys.horticulture@gmail.com) for more details.

The full festival schedule is available at [www.discoverstmarys.ca/festival](http://www.discoverstmarys.ca/festival).

## STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



### AQUATICS CENTRE RENOVATION OPEN HOUSE

June 18 | 5 - 7 PM

We're hosting a drop-in Open House in the EndZone of the Pyramid Recreation Centre. Residents will have the chance to observe the progress of the Aquatics Centre renovation to date and ask questions.

### LET'S TALK TRANSIT!

Residents are encouraged to provide feedback on transit needs in the community. We want to hear from you!

- Open House: June 17 | 6 - 8 PM | St. Marys Library
- Online Survey: open until June 27 at 12 PM (noon)

To access the survey and more information: [www.townofstmarys.com/transitstudy](http://www.townofstmarys.com/transitstudy)



### LEAF AND YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Leaf and yard waste collection is currently ongoing. Remember to have yard waste to the curb by 7 AM on collection days and place yard waste in kraft-style bags or reusable containers. Full schedule, map and details can be found on our website.

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

### LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Are you interested in being a part of a great event this summer? We're currently looking for volunteers to join us at the Stonetown Heritage Festival on July 12.

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## Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Judy Woosnam.

Judy lives at Kingsway Lodge and is celebrating a birthday in June. She was born in London and grew up in the country near the town of Thorndale. Over the years Judy enjoyed volunteering with the church, taught Sunday school and sang in the church choir. She now enjoys listening to music, reading and trivia programs.

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

## Weekend Quiz

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1. Who won the 2025 RBC Canadian Open?
2. What is the population of Canada?
3. How do butterflies taste their food?
4. How many ounces are in a cup?
5. Which US president delivered the Gettysburg Address?
6. What gives plants their green color?
7. What is the title of the final Harry Potter book in the series?
8. What type of bean is used for making miso?
9. What is the mascot of the Walt Disney company?
10. What is Spain's busiest cruise port?

By Jake Grant

This week's answers are found on pg. 35

# Proposed changes to Perth County forestry conservation bylaw to be brought to lower tiers and public before approval

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Amid rumours about how proposed updates to Perth County's forestry conservation bylaw will affect farmers and the use of their land, county staff will soon be taking those changes on the road to educate lower-tier councils and staff, as well as the public, on the soon-to-be updated bylaw.

Representing the county's agricultural working group – an advisory committee representing the interests of Perth County's farming community, industry and commodity groups – deputy warden and working group chair Dean Trentowsky presented the updated bylaw to county council at its June 5 meeting.

"Council direction was given in March 2024 to review the existing forest conservation bylaw," he said, noting the agricultural working group was tasked with reviewing the bylaw and comparing it with those of other nearby counties including Oxford, Huron, Wellington and Chatham-Kent.

"... Having secured all the information and having had that April meeting with the recommendations, the ag. working group submits a report to council with proposed bylaw updates including clarified definitions for the existing forest conservation bylaw, the addition of a windbreak definition, amendments previously passed by council and a proposed committee exemption process."

The committee exemption/appeal process, Trentowsky explained, is based on the process included in Oxford County's forestry conservation bylaw. It allows applicants who have issued a notice of intent to injure or destroy trees in accordance with the forestry bylaw who are not satisfied with the expert opinion of the county forestry inspector to appeal their decision and have it reviewed by the county's land-division committee. A fee of \$200 would be charged before the inspector's decision is referred to the committee.

A number of terms within the bylaw have also been clarified or added through the proposed updates including Christmas tree plantation, cultivated fruit or nut orchard, windbreak and woodlot. According to Perth County forestry inspector and bylaw officer Marvin Smith, the definition for windbreak and woodlot has led to some concern among councillors and landowners in the county as their sizes relate to those set out in provincial legislation.

According to the proposed updates, a woodlot in Perth County is land at least 0.2 hectares in area and no greater than one hectare in area, with at least 200 trees of any size per 0.2 hectares; 150 trees measuring over five centimetres in diameter per 0.2 hectares; 100 trees measuring over 12 centimetres in diameter per 0.2 hectares; or 50 trees measuring over 20 centimetres in diameter per 0.2 hectares, but does not include a cultivated fruit or nut orchard, a windbreak or a plantation established for the purpose of producing Christmas trees or nursery stock.

A windbreak, meanwhile, is a linear treed area consisting of one to three rows of planted trees less than 0.2 hectares in size.

"Starting with the size of woodlands defined in The Municipal Act, there is not a conflict between the two," Smith said. "The Municipal Act actually gives opportunity for a very restrictive definition for what can be protected as far as trees and what can't. ... It distinguishes between which level of government has the



authority to (enforce) the restriction. It sets out that the minimum size for an upper-tier municipality size limit is one hectare, but the size limit for lower-tier municipalities is not given as minimum. In other words, lower-tier municipalities could regulate individual trees.

"So, the way that the forest conservation bylaw in Perth County operates is, for decades, the minimum size was set at one half-acre or 0.2 hectares. When The Municipal Act became the provincial legislation that oversaw forest conservation bylaws in 2001, that's when the change occurred for the County of Perth to continue with its same minimum size limit of one half-acre or 0.2 hectares. The county needed to get the delegation of authority from the lower-tier municipalities to allow it to do that, and that process is set out in The Municipal Act. The bottom line is there's no conflict with how The Municipal Act does it, it's just a change in what the process is."

While Smith noted there is very little the county can change in the updated forestry conservation bylaw, county councillors said they've continued to receive questions and concerns from residents about what they can and can't do when it comes to removing or injuring trees on their properties and how the proposed changes to the bylaw might impact that.

Expanding on a public communications plan for the bylaw update proposed by the agricultural working group, council ultimately voted to have staff present the bylaw changes to Perth County's lower-tier municipal councils and staff, and the general public at an open house or public meeting, to provide information and education on the changes before county council considers approval.

"(The lower tiers) can make recommendations ... for something they want in (the bylaw) or something they want taken out; is that not the idea of going to lower tiers if more recommendations come forward?" Coun. Rhonda Ehgoetz asked.

"Going to the lower tiers, as I understand it, is part of the educational aspect," Smith said. "There are many things in the bylaw that can't be touched because they're set out in The Municipal Act. One is the one you'd mentioned earlier about the authority of municipal governments to do certain things when private landowners can't. ... You can't take that out. There's a whole string of things there. The wording in the forest conservation bylaw was not dependent on a group of people at some time in the past set out by the County of Perth to come up with. There's a lot of it that's word for word what's in The Municipal Act, and so there are limits there as to what you can change."

"Certainly, I think the county, in going to the lower-tier municipalities, is quite open to any feedback. I think part of it is an educational aspect as to why certain things are set out the way they are. ... Obviously, there's a need for that kind of education. ... There's a lot of rumour and what I call rural myths that go on about forest conservation bylaws."

Perth County staff will work to set out a schedule for lower-tier presentations and public meetings or open houses, which the public and the local farming community will be made aware of.



# Open house celebrates National Lawn Bowls Day



Chris Collins, vice-president of Parks Lawn Bowling Club (right), takes aim as Doug Johnston (left) awaits his turn. Parks Lawn Bowling Club held an open house on June 7 in honour of National Lawn Bowls Day.

EMILY STEWART  
Independent Reporter

As part of celebrating a century of lawn bowling at their current site, Parks Lawn Bowling Club recently offered locals a chance to try the sport.

Parks Lawn Bowling held their open house at Milt Dunnell Field, also known as The Flats, on June 7. The open house was held on National Lawn Bowls Day. Lawn bowling, mostly done outdoors, involves rolling a bowling ball towards a smaller ball.

St. Marys has a rich history with lawn bowling, starting in 1889. The Flats have been part of the town's lawn-bowling history since 1925. The Parks Lawn Bowling Club history web page says the head of parks at the time, John Lind, in-

sisted new greens be created to accommodate lawn bowling's popularity on Sept. 10, 1925. Parks Lawn Bowling's first season at Milt Dunnell Field began on May 26, 1927.

"Lawn bowling down here for 100 years is quite an achievement," said member Doug Johnston.

Anyone who hasn't tried lawn bowling yet can try it at Milt Dunnell Field on Mondays at 7 p.m. and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Johnston enjoys the social aspect of lawn bowling and the game itself.

"They're good people, it's a fun game, it's an easy game to play, so everybody enjoys it," he said.

More information about the organization and upcoming tournaments can be found by visiting parksawnbowls.ca.



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# Funding for living snow fences to be made available through Perth County Stewardship program

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

To improve safety on county roads in the winter, Perth County will fully fund the planting of living snow fences on private properties through its annual stewardship program.

Though some of the details still need to be worked out by staff and reviewed by councillors, county council approved the new funding stream in principle at its June 5 meeting. According to county resiliency and stewardship coordinator Hannah Cann, encouraging local farmers and landowners to plant living snow fences along road-facing sections of their properties can have a number of benefits.

“Living snow fences are rows of trees, shrubs or standing crop oriented in a strip parallel to the roadway with the primary purpose of reducing snow drifting and visibility concerns during winter months,” Cann said. “There are several other benefits of living snow fences including lowering operational expenses related to treatment materials like sand and salt. Other benefits of living snow fences include increased safety for the road user and meeting several goals within our county and local agencies including addressing winter hazards.”

Living snow fences also have environmental benefits including increasing biodiversity by adding new habitat for pollinator species, thereby potentially improving crop production, improving soil conservation through the natural stabilization of soil by the trees or shrubs’ root systems, and increasing carbon sequestration.

The county’s public works department maintains an inventory of areas within the county road network that are more susceptible to drifting and blowing snow conditions. Most of the roads are oriented in the north-south direction and experience northwesterly winds, which often carry lake-effect snow from Lake Huron. However, other roads of concern oriented on more of an east-west tangent also experience drifting under certain conditions. Wind direction and wind speed can vary considerably during winter storms, so drifting and blowing snow can occur in any area.

The general best practice for placement of living snow fencing is 35 metres from the road edge. This distance provides a sufficient offset from the travelled portion of the road to allow for snow to accumulate as it falls. For many county roads, and most local municipal roads, this offset is beyond the limits of the public road allowance and falls on

adjacent private property, necessitating the need to work with and incentivise private landowners to plant these snow fences.

According to Cann, living snow fences can take some time to grow; they can offer some protective benefit within about five years, with full benefits between eight and 10 years after planting.

“I think this is a great program. I’ve been hoping to see something like this for a number of years now,” Coun. Matt Duncan said. “... It’s going to take buy-in, there’s no doubt about it, but when we allocate tax dollars to this, this is a benefit to everybody that lives here. It’s not just a benefit to that landowner; it’s a benefit to everyone who drives down that road and I think this is a really good allocation of tax dollars to try and make our roads safer through natural means.

“I received a number of communications this year, definitely about (Perth Line) 86, about drifting snow over the winter and I think the more these living snow fences we can put up along our county and municipal roads, it’s going to save a lot of winter maintenance and possible accidents in the future.”

According to Cann’s report to council, the county’s agriculture working group recommended Perth County implement a funding stream specific to living snow fences under the stewardship program and that successful applications made to that funding stream be fully funded to cover the cost for the planting and maintenance of a treed living snow fence under a 20-year agreement with the landowner. In doing so, Cann said the landowner is incentivized to plant this type of wind break while the respective municipality receives the future benefit of mitigating drifting hazards on the ad-

jacent county or local road.

Other county councillors, however, were left with questions they wanted answers to before this funding stream opens for applications. Those questions included what would happen if a property with a living snow fence changed ownership during the 20-year agreement with the county; whether farmers would be compensated for the loss of productive farmland; how the snow fence would affect access for large equipment to the farmland between the snow fence and the roadway; and who would be responsible for replacing snow-fence trees if they were to die.

While the next application-intake period for the 2025 stewardship program is set to open on July 2, council voted to have staff bring back more details about the 20-year agreement at its July 3 meeting, during which councillors will review those details, make any changes and approve the agreement before staff begin accepting applications for that particular funding stream.

During this discussion, councillors also asked John McClelland, the county’s executive director of public works, whether staff was also looking at asking farmers to leave up some of their crops to serve as living snow fences through the winter. McClelland said staff are looking into that this year and noted it would require a strip of roughly 12 rows of corn located 35 metres back from the road to serve as an effective snow fence.

McClelland said the county would likely need to compensate farmers for leaving those crops unharvested through the winter and said he’d bring a report back to council later in the year with more information.



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*Marvin Smith, Weed Inspector*

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# Holy Name of Mary School hosts seventh-annual Warrior Will Fun Fair



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Teacher Nancy Wojcik and student Meredith Stokes happily greeted families as they arrived for the Warrior Will Fun Fair at Holy Name of Mary School. Stoke's t-shirt shows a smiling Will Simons, the young boy for whom the fair is named in honour of.

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

On Thursday night, many families and teachers gathered at Holy Name of Mary School to take part in the annual Warrior Will Fun Fair in memory of Will Simons.

Simons was born with a congenital heart defect and had to endure several major surgeries in his short life, and he passed away at just five years old. Ac-

cording to teacher and event organizer Sarah Becker, Will was a real force of love, strength, goodness and a real fighter right until the very end.

Becker shared that he was always smiling, was a fun, kind and caring friend. He left a big mark on everyone's hearts and the love for Will and his family was definitely felt at the fun fair.

Becker has been organizing the event for all seven years. This year was a very monumental fair as it would have been



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Blake Mitchell was enjoying visiting with the farm animals and got to snuggle a baby duck.

Will's graduating year. It was an incredible night and a great send-off for Will and his friends with one last celebration.

The fair was packed full of fun activities like inflatables, farm animals, face painting, EMS vehicles, laser tag, a scavenger hunt, a silent auction, Ed's magic circus show and a barbecue and bake sale. Becker told the Independent the evening was full of families and community members, and seeing the joy and smiles on everyone's faces is what

makes it so worth it.

Holy Name of Mary School wishes to thank all the organizations, businesses and families that donated to the online auctions, which brought in over \$18,000. The money will be used to provide learning opportunities for the students. As well, the school will be making a donation in Will's name to Sick Kids Hospital and Ronald McDonald House.

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# A sunny afternoon for Rotary Brews and Food Fest



(LAURIE GRANT PHOTO)

Broken Rail Brewing and Cowbell Brewing were among the dozen or so Ontario craft beverage vendors who participated in the Rotary Club of St. Marys' 2025 Brews and Food Fest on Sunday. Pictured from left to right are Carter Van Wieren, Chris Van Wieren from Cowbell Brewing and Ryan and Erin Leaman from Broken Rail Brewing.



(STEWART GRANT PHOTO)

Butter chicken poutine was an excellent food choice for Amanda and Jeff Bramham, and Kerri and Jason Wright.

**STEWART GRANT**  
*Publisher*

Normally held on Father's Day, this year's Brews and Food Fest put on by

the Rotary Club of St. Marys was held on Sunday, June 9 to coincide with the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Weekend, which had moved up to accommodate Jose Bautista's travel

schedule. The change in date seemed to hurt attendance levels this year, but those who were there enjoyed fantastic sunny weather, a selection of excellent craft-

brewed beverages along with tasty options from five different food trucks. Money raised by the Rotary Club helped fund Rotary's ongoing commitment to All Wheel Skatepark.

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# Lots of green thumbs at 25th Annual Garden Fair



(JUNE GRANT PHOTOS)

The St. Marys Horticultural Society held their 25th annual garden fair at Milt Dunnell Field on Saturday, June 7. Mother Nature provided the perfect day to shop for a wide array of garden plants and decor. Above left, Ron Hunter and Roger Batch welcomed visitors to the St. Marys Horticultural Society Booth.

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

Gardening enthusiasts flocked to Milt Dunnell Field to stock up on plants and other items on a sunny Saturday this past weekend.

The St. Marys Horticultural Society held its 25th annual Garden Fair at Milt Dunnell Field on June 7. The event featured a bake sale for the first time, plants

to purchase, as well as other plant-forward products like garden stones and pressed-flower prints. The horticultural society sold seven different kinds of heritage tomato plants at their tent and had 60 tomato plants available to represent 60 years.

“People seem to be having fun buying all the plants they need for their homes and stuff,” said director Roger Batch.

Batch added the Garden Fair gathers

the community together.

“The best thing about it is that it’s a meet and greet out here. People come to get food and plants,” he said.

“And meet their friends too,” added director Ron Hunter. “There’s lots of friends that come out and it’s great to see friends you don’t see every week.”

The St. Marys Horticultural Society will also hold a garden tour on July 13 in collaboration with the Stonetown

Heritage Festival. The garden tour will showcase seven different home gardens in St. Marys.

“We try to get seven every year and we met our goal again this year, and they’re always different gardens every year so it’s nice to see what people have in their backyard,” Hunter said.

More information about the St. Marys Horticultural Society can be found online by visiting their Facebook page.



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# Government may need to fix Canada Post

GORDON CAMERON

*Ontario Community Newspaper Association*

Recently, there was a big internet outage in parts of Ontario and Quebec. For a couple of hours, over 100,000 customers couldn't get online to log into their email, do their jobs or read the latest news. The company figured out the issue, rolled back the problem program and things returned to normal.

Two hours may not seem like a long time, but for those who depend on a reliable internet connection, their worlds ground to a halt. Had it gone on for even a couple of days, the government might have stepped in to fix the situation whether the company or its employees thought it was appropriate or not.

Now imagine the reaction if the outage lasted over a month before the federal government did anything to address it. What if, only five months later, the same issues cropped up again? Do you think the government would just stand by and let the company and its workers sort it out? Prime Minister Mark Carney would make a big show of fixing the issue, not to protect the corporation or its staff, but rather to protect the Canadians who rely upon what is an essential part of modern life.

So then why is the government staying hands off when it comes to the future of Canada Post?

There are those who see mail delivery as a quaint anachronism. For many,

it represents nothing but bills and junk mail. However, while Canada Post isn't what it used to be, to pretend that it's not a vital part of the country's informational infrastructure is as wrongheaded as believing that it's as busy as it was 20 years ago.

Canada has large, populated swaths that lack reliable internet service and cannot be economically reached by private couriers. Are those Canadians less important than those who live in more built-up areas? Then there are items – newspapers included – that, even in areas with private delivery options, cannot be affordably distributed outside of Canada Post. Should Canadians be deprived of often their only source of truly local news because they live in rural or remote areas or in multifamily dwellings?

As important as the postal system is, it needs to evolve to deal with economic realities. The newspaper business and all those who work within it have had to adjust to changing times, and Canada Post and its workers need to do the same.

Yes, it would be better for everyone if Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers figured it out for themselves. However, if they can't, the government must make the fixes needed to ensure long-term stability of the postal system.

Two hours without internet may seem like an eternity, but a bankrupt and collapsed post office would actually be for eternity.



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# First St. Marys Girl Guides host Advancement Ceremony



(PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER BROCKMAN)

The First St. Marys Girl Guides at their year-end advancement ceremony last week. Pictured in the back row are guider Gwyneth Hall, MacKenzie Lundy (advancing to Pathfinders), Rebecca Lundy (advancing to Pathfinders), Amelia Vansteelandt (advancing to Pathfinders), Ciara Lundy, Arianna Metcalfe (Lady Baden Powell Award recipient), guider Jennifer Brockman and guider Abigail Kittmer. In the front row are Daisy Close, Lennon Hasanbegovic, Ava Bage (advancing to Pathfinders), Gweni Metcalfe and Edith Parker.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER BROCKMAN)

Pictured are First St. Marys Girl Guides guider Jennifer Brockman and Girl Guide Arianna Metcalfe who earned the Lady Baden Powell Award – the highest award a Girl Guide can earn.

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# ‘You Smile, I Smile’: 21st annual Create A Smile walkathon



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTOS)

On Sunday, June 1 the 21st annual “Create a Smile” walkathon was held at Milt Dunnell Field. Over \$28,695 was raised through donations and the sale of auction items. Pictured on the left are many of the 200 people in attendance for this event. On the right, Jack Marrinan displays one of the wonderful signs that were made for this event, with the message being “You Smile, I Smile”.

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# St. Marys Independent **SPORTS**

## Jose Bautista gives Canada emotional embrace

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Republic, including names like the iconic father-son manager-player duo, Felipe and Moisés Alou, Vladimir Guerrero, and Pedro Martinez. I also knew about the Toronto organization and their long record of developing and showcasing players from the Dominican, like Alfredo Griffin, George Bell, and Tony Fernandez.

"But what I didn't understand until I arrived in Toronto was that I was coming into a city and country that had its own long baseball history, and that was home to so many passionate fans of the game. What an amazing experience that was."

According to the 44-year-old native of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Bautista found a second home in a city and a country made beautiful by the diversity of its people and filled with people trying to do the same thing he was.

"To arrive in such a vibrant, cosmopolitan place, where it seemed like everybody was from a different part of the world – the Caribbean, or India, or Africa, or China – and they were all speaking their own languages, and at the same time, everybody was so welcoming. Everybody was so respectful. As someone who came to Canada hoping for a fresh start and a clean slate and an opportunity to succeed, it felt like I had something in common with all those people

also trying to find their footing in a new land."

Bautista, not hiding his emotions, explained how it didn't take long for him to find nationwide affirmation after joining the Blue Jays.

"Toronto immediately embraced me. The way our team was treated was an extension of that welcoming, accepting Canadian attitude. The minute you became a Blue Jay, you could sense the warmth. It felt like Toronto was home, and the Canadian people treated us as one of them, whether you were a superstar or the last one on the bench. What I didn't know then but would certainly learn over my time with the Blue Jays was that it wasn't just the city that supported our team. It was an entire country.

"In the offseason, when the Blue Jays sent us on our winter tour to different parts of Canada, I got a sense of how big and beautiful that support was, and how huge this country is," Bautista said as appreciative tears began welling in his eyes. "Every place was very different, but at the same time, every place was distinctly Canadian. As I began to have more success in my career and as our team became a contender, it was wonderful knowing that 40 million people from coast to coast to coast had our backs, and also had my back."



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Jose Bautista gives his heartfelt, appreciative speech during the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame's Induction Ceremony on June 7.

## Dave Perkins accepts 2024 Jack Graney Award

SPENCER SEYMOUR

*Independent Sports Reporter*

The 2024 Jack Graney Award, presented annually to a media member who has made a significant contribution to the game of baseball through their life's work, was awarded to Dave Perkins, who was present at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame's Induction Ceremony on June 7 to speak about receiving the honour.

Perkins started his career in journalism in 1973 with The Globe and Mail, and four years later, the native of St. Thomas, Ont., moved to the Toronto Star. Perkins went on to work as a baseball columnist, sports editor and general sports columnist for the Star until he retired in 2013.

Perkins covered 14 World Series, 10 Olympics, more than 50 golf majors and a dozen Super Bowls. Though he covered a wide variety of sports during his

career, Perkins explained baseball was always his biggest sports love.

"I went everywhere and did everything, but I always considered myself a baseball guy," Perkins said in his speech that kicked off the induction ceremony on June 7. "And now, this humbling honour, the Jack Graney Award, that confirms it, at least to me."

Perkins also reflected on his multi-decade journey, both from a work and family perspective.

"In the beginning of 1985, the game I loved the most collided with my career. It was a tremendous way to spend the next three decades. I think I had a lot of fun and I learned a lot. I made a lot of friends and I made a lot of enemies, that's just how it works. I've got to give thanks to my wife, Debra. She kept the home fire stoked while I spent an average of 100 nights a year on the road. She put up with me a lot longer than the readers did."



(TURNER ROTH PHOTO)

Dave Perkins, longtime Toronto Star baseball and general columnist and editor, gave an acceptance speech during the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony as the 2024 recipient of the Jack Graney Award.

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# Greg Hamilton: 'Baseball has been my life'

SPENCER SEYMOUR

*Independent Sports Reporter*

The ever-modest Greg Hamilton would have been perfectly fine to never to have been inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame. Yet, when it finally came along on June 7, the longtime coach and general manager who helped oversee the most successful era in the national team's history was very grateful.

Before talking about his life and career with Baseball Canada, Hamilton made a point to acknowledge his mother.

"I want to get this right," Hamilton said. "I once had the honour of going into a hall of fame in my hometown, and I missed (mentioning) my mom, so I'm not missing her again today."

Hamilton also expressed humility in the face of his induction.

"If you get here as a coach, you're usually a failed player," Hamilton joked. "That's certainly true in my case, anyway. The opportunity to live the life I've lived and the care that we have in this country (are amazing). I just received the (hall of fame) jacket from Larry (Walker) and Fergie (Jenkins), and that is incredibly humbling."

"I've had the opportunity to represent this country and the sport of baseball for over 25 years. I've had the opportunity to put on a Canadian national team jersey day in and day out for over 25 years, and it's an incredible honour and privilege, and I take it really seriously every time."

According to Hamilton, who was born in Toronto and grew up in Peterborough, his career with the national program, going all the way back to one of his own coaches spotting the leadership potential in him, has given him immense pride throughout his career.

"I extend my heartfelt thanks to my former coach, Tom O'Connell, who recognized coaching potential in a very average, five-foot-eleven-and-three-quarter-



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

**Greg Hamilton waves to the crowd as he walks up on stage to receive his hall of fame jacket during the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on June 7.**

inch, right-hand pitcher. I didn't even get the honour of being six-foot tall. Coaching, for me, has centred around giving, and there is nothing that I could have ever done to replace the personal enrichment and feelings of satisfaction that have come from a life of coaching.

"When I think about Canadian baseball and our national team's program, I think about the shared joy and passion that comes with being part of something with the name across the front of your jersey, which leads to the satisfaction of being part of something bigger than oneself," Hamilton said.

When reflecting on his illustrious three decades of developing and guiding young Canadian baseball players, Hamilton explained how athletes going from national team players to helping to develop the next generation was "the greatest sense of satisfaction" he has gotten from his time with Baseball Canada.

"To me, the greatest sense of satisfaction is seeing our alumni (help the next generation). The players who go through the program, who come in with big eyes and big dreams, those dreams can get burst quickly when you run them out there against professional players, especially with a younger team like we do. But, as they figure things out and move along in the game, the greatest thing for me is when you see the full-circle moments when generations move on and achieve at the highest levels of the game, and when the next group of young players comes in, (the alumni) care enough to come back and connect with the next generation."

Before the induction ceremony, Hamilton participated in a press conference with media and articulated what the game meant to him.

"When you're in baseball, you're on the road a lot, so I've tried really hard to make sure I haven't missed things that are incredibly important (with my family)," said Hamilton. "But other than my family, baseball has been my life. I love it. I want to say this respectfully; I've had a chance to have a little bit of an impact on a lot of people's kids, and that's a great honour. I don't take that lightly and I hope they'll let me do it a little while longer."

# Amanda Asay honoured beautifully by parents George and Loris

SPENCER SEYMOUR

*Independent Sports Reporter*

The induction of Amanda Asay could have been a heartbreaking moment during the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on June 7 due to the tragic nature of Amanda's passing.

However, the speech delivered by her parents, George and Loris Asay, and their down-to-earth presence through the weekend made Amanda Asay's one of the most laughter-filled and touching inductions in recent memory.

It didn't take long for the Asays to evoke a strong laugh from the crowd, with George Asay opening their acceptance speech with a humble joke.

"Wow, so many great speakers," he said. "So, now for something different."

The joke set the tone for the pair to captivate the crowd, seemingly with every word.

"As of today, I have a daughter in the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame," George Asay said, equal parts a statement of a proud father and to make it sink in for himself and his wife. "It's funny because my dad was also a hall of famer. He was inducted into the Babe Ruth Hall of Fame. So, it has become very apparent that it skips a generation in our family. My fastball was known as the 'slump-buster.' It did turn a lot of heads, but unfortunately, they were my teammates (watching the ball fly back over their heads)."

George Asay explained how his daughter gave back to the sport she devoted so much of her life to.

"As much as baseball provided Amanda, she gave as much back. She coached and ran (skill-development camps) in her hometowns of Nelson and Prince George. She also did the same thing in Toronto and Vancouver, and as far away as Cuba and Australia. Many of her teammates did the same thing. It was part of what was expected in baseball to not only be good role models, but also to give back at the grassroots level."

Amanda Asay was a two-way star for Canada's national women's baseball team beginning in 2005 and remained one of their best and longest-tenured stalwarts throughout her career, winning National Team MVP honours in 2006 and 2016 and posting an other-worldly .500 batting average during Canada's bronze-medal run at the 2018 Women's World Cup. She sadly passed away at just 33 years old in 2022 in a skiing accident.

During the press conference held before the induction ceremony, George and Loris Asay described the pride they felt in their daughter.

"I don't think words can express how proud we are of Amanda," George Asay said, with Loris Asay echoing the sentiment. "It's unbelievable, and the thing is, we weren't even aware of half the things she did until people approached us and told us their stories about how Amanda impacted their lives. It's an ongoing feeling where we get more and more proud all the time."



(TURNER ROTH PHOTO)

**George and Loris Asay hold the crowd in the palms of their hands during the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. The husband-and-wife duo represented their late daughter, Amanda Asay, who was inducted posthumously as part of the 2025 class, and delivered a down-to-earth, humble address that was one of the highlights of Induction Weekend.**



# Arleene Noga enters Hall of Fame as trailblazer

SPENCER SEYMOUR

*Independent Sports Reporter*

Arleene Noga, nicknamed the Iron Lady after playing 300 consecutive games in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL), was posthumously inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame on June 7.

Noga competed in the AAGPBL from 1945-1948, suiting up for 354 games, the eighth-most by a Canadian. Noga was also part of nine provincial championship-winning softball teams in her home of Regina, Sask. following her AAGPBL tenure.

Noga's daughter, Carol Lee Noga Scott, spoke on behalf of her mother and explained how her mother's professional career wasn't discussed when she was a child.

"When I was growing up, I didn't know that I was the daughter of a professional baseball player who was referred to as the 'Iron Lady,' " Noga Scott explained. "I knew her as a softball coach for a ladies' team in Regina, but I don't recall her ever talking about her days playing professionally. That was, until the mid-1980s, when a group of former players got together and formed their players' association so that they could try to preserve the All-American Girls'

Professional Baseball League."

Noga Scott went on to describe how, back in the 1940s, the eventual women's baseball legend wasn't met with adequate awareness about what she was doing upon returning to her home country.

"My mom commented that she had come back to Canada, and the news wasn't as easily available as it is now, and people would argue with her about what she was playing, and I think she got fed up talking about it because people would tell her, 'You didn't play baseball, you played softball.' But she was the one playing; she knew what she did."

The ceremony's emcee and Sportsnet reporter Hazel Mae illustrated Noga's impact on the game and mentioned how Noga was brought on as a consultant for the iconic film, *A League of Their Own*.

"On set, she taught Rosie O'Donnell how to play shortstop and Madonna how to slide," Mae said. "Can you even imagine? When she wasn't coaching movie stars, Arleene could often be found promoting women's baseball across Canada, speaking at school assemblies and banquets, and assisting at baseball clinics for girls. Her impact continues among the hundreds of young women she influenced and inspired. She was truly in a league of her own."



(TURNER ROTH PHOTO)

**Carol Lee Noga Scott walks with the inductees and distinguished guests into the tent for the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on June 7. Noga Scott accepted the induction of her mother, Arleene Noga, a trailblazing female baseball player who played in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) from 1945-1948.**

## Érik Bédard enshrined in Canadian baseball history

SPENCER SEYMOUR

*Independent Sports Reporter*

One of the greatest Canadian pitchers in Major League Baseball (MLB) history, Érik Bédard, took his rightful place in the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame during the hall's June 7 induction ceremony.

Unfortunately, Bédard couldn't attend Induction Weekend, with his plaque being unveiled by the chair of the hall of fame's board of directors, Jeremy Diamond, and accepted by Canadian base-

ball icon Fergie Jenkins.

Bédard did comment on his induction, expressing deep appreciation for the honour.

"Thank you (to the hall of fame). I'm super grateful for this beautiful award and I hope it can inspire the new generations."

Bédard was chosen in the sixth round of the MLB draft by the Baltimore Orioles and quickly developed into one of the best pitching prospects in the organization. The native of Navan, Ont., was selected to play in the MLB Futures

Games in 2001 and 2002.

Bédard joined the Orioles' starting rotation in 2004 before enjoying a breakout season two years later when he set career-highs in wins (15), starts (33) and innings pitched (196 1/3). He followed that up with his finest big-league campaign in 2007 when he went 13-5 with a 3.16 ERA and registered 221 strikeouts in 182 innings in 28 starts. That strikeout total remains the highest in a major-league season by a left-hander born in Canada.

In February 2008, he was dealt to the

Seattle Mariners, where he'd record a tidy 3.31 ERA and fan 249 batters in 255 1/3 innings in 46 starts over parts of three seasons. He completed his major league career with stints with the Boston Red Sox, Pittsburgh Pirates, Houston Astros and Tampa Bay Rays.

Bédard is the leader among Canadian big-league left-handers in starts (230), innings pitched (1,303 2/3) and strikeouts (1,246).

## Gerry Snyder's fight for Expos earns HOF induction

SPENCER SEYMOUR

*Independent Sports Reporter*

Gerry Snyder, one of the key figures in pushing Major League Baseball (MLB) to expand north of the border for the first time, giving birth to the Montreal Expos, was posthumously inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame on June 7 with his kids Gary and Arlene Snyder accepting the induction on his behalf.

Gerry Snyder was one of the main drivers behind the 1968 expansion into Montreal. As a city councillor and sports ambassador, he first met with then-MLB

commissioner Ford Frick in 1962 about potentially bringing an MLB team to his hometown. Later, in 1967, when the MLB announced plans for a two-team expansion, Gerry Snyder attended national league meetings to ensure Montreal was on the radar.

Incredibly, Gerry Snyder managed to pull off the sales pitch and helped secure a franchise for Montreal, despite there not being a major-league stadium built in the city at the time of the expansion.

He also pulled off a herculean recruitment effort of wealthy locals to help cover the cost of an MLB team, which his

son, Gary Snyder, explained in his and his sister's induction speech on behalf of their late father.

"He convinced 10 local business leaders to pledge \$1 million each towards the \$10 million franchise fee to obtain a Major League Baseball team, soon to be known as the Expos," Gary Snyder said. "Believing that Montreal deserved to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the greats, he led the charge with quiet confidence and tireless resolve."

Gary Snyder further described how his father managed to secure 10 investors in such quick order.

"I think it can also be hard to comprehend how one individual was able to attract 10 investors in such a short period of time, despite not everybody knowing each other, to come together in unity and present the proposal. I think what made that possible was his reputation in the city and his reputation in the sports world, that when an investor was approached, they would say, 'Yes, I can see where you're going with this. I wish you a lot of luck with it, and I'm in on it because I believe in you and I believe in this city.' "



# ‘Joey Bats’ signs bats, bobbleheads, and balls



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

To the surprise of no one, Jose Bautista signed a ton of autographs during the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Weekend proceedings on June 6-7, including an impromptu autograph session at the hall of fame grounds when he arrived for the dinner and banquet following the hall's golf tournament.

# Legends’ panel of Walker, Whitt, and Boucher entertain at Hall of Fame banquet



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

A panel of Canadian baseball icons comprised of, as pictured from left to right, Larry Walker, Ernie Whitt, and Denis Boucher, provided lots of laughs for the attendees of the post-golf tournament banquet on June 6, part of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame's Induction Weekend.



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# Space available for St. Marys Tennis Club co-ed, youth lessons



Pictured on the left is Spencer McDonald smacking the ball with a running forehand hit during the St. Marys Tennis Club’s weekly gameplay on June 5. In the middle is Jack Hand returning the ball back over the net. On the right is Christina Callegari keeping the ball in play on the forehand.

**SPENCER SEYMOUR**  
*Independent Sports Reporter*

The St. Marys Tennis Club is welcoming new players of all ages to the game with summer tennis lessons at the local courts. Specifically, there are still spaces available in the club’s co-ed and youth lessons. The co-ed lessons take place June 17, 19, 24 and 26 from 6-7 p.m. and are suitable for players ages 12 and up.

The club said the co-ed lessons offer a great activity for couples, families with teens and friends, adding “if two people learn together, you’ll always have a playing partner.” The cost to register for the co-ed lessons is \$80, which includes a club membership. Later this summer, the club will host youth camps for local kids aged seven to 17. Kids will participate in one of two week-long camps hosted at the

St. Marys courts July 7-11 or July 14-18. Registration cost for these camps is \$100 and the camps will run from 9-10:30 a.m. To register, message @stmarysso-

cialtennisclub on Facebook or email stmaryssocialtennisclub@gmail.com. The St. Marys Tennis Club has weekly game nights from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

## Doug Kennedy honoured with Cambridge golf tournament



The first annual Doug Kennedy Memorial OHA golf tournament was held in Cambridge on June 6. Kennedy is a former St. Marys resident and was a player and executive for the St. Marys Lincolns. The tournament, hosted by the OHA alongside their meetings, was renamed to honour Kennedy, who passed away last year, for his years of service to the OHA, Junior ‘C’, and Minor Hockey. Pictured from left to right are Warren Beisel, Cathy Alcombrack, Kevin Pollock, Jeff Alcombrack, Jay Bell, Terry Whiteside, and Kyle Boulton.

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# DCVI ultimate frisbee team competes hard at OFSAA



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)


The St. Marys DCVI ultimate frisbee team had a strong showing at the OFSAA Ultimate Frisbee Championship tournament on May 29-30 in Barrie. On the first day of the provincial final, the Salukis won three of their four games to earn a spot in the championship round on day two, with their only loss coming in a tight game at the hands of the eventual silver medalists, Bowmanville High. On the second day, despite valiant efforts, a couple of key players getting injured resulted in DCVI losing two close, back-and-forth games to Sir Winston Churchill Secondary and Kingston Secondary. The Salukis ended the tournament with “a spectacular game of excellent skill and sportsmanship,” according to coach Chris Marcou, and came away with an 11-8 win over the Toronto-based Marshall McLuhan Catholic Secondary. Marcou told the Independent he was “super proud of their play throughout the season and at OFSAA.” Pictured on the left is Harvest Elliott making a throw during a game at OFSAA. In the middle is Charlee Pickering leaping into the air to make a catch. On the right is Myles Clinton whipping the frisbee up the field.

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# Creamery Juniors hold fastball reunion for 1985 to '89 teams



(PAT PAYTON PHOTO)

The Creamery Juniors recently held a reunion at River Valley G&CC. The Juniors fielded five teams from 1985 to 1989 and enjoyed a lot of success over that period when men's fastball was a hotbed in St. Marys. The Juniors, coached by Brian Dundas, brought home the Canadian championship in that memorable summer of 1988. Former members of all five teams posed for a group shot on the River Valley patio just before dinner.



(PAT PAYTON PHOTO)

Brian Bendall follows his tee-shot on No. 8 at River Valley G&CC. The Creamery Juniors' reunion on May 31 included nine holes of golf. Twenty-eight played golf, and over 50 sat down to a steak dinner. A great day, with lots of reminiscing.



(PAT PAYTON PHOTO)

There was lots of story-telling and reminiscing when the Creamery Juniors held their fast-ball reunion recently at River Valley G&CC. In this photo, from left are: Assistant coach Richard Kennedy (seated), pitcher Brad Honderich, assistant coach John Urquhart and outfielder Doug Levy. Everyone enjoyed a great day.



(PAT PAYTON PHOTO)

Pete Bodenham, left, accepts his Creamery Juniors' jersey from head coach Brian Dundas at the Juniors' fastball reunion May 31 at River Valley G&CC. At right is standout catcher Jeff Shipley. Bodenham, a slick-fielding shortstop, was a member of the team for four seasons (1985 -1988) – playing over 250 games in his career.

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MINOR SPORTS

SCRAPBOOK



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Olivia Garland stretches out to kick the ball towards the net during the U10 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm game this past Sunday.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Finn Harburn sends the ball flying up the field during this past Sunday's U11 Boys Tier Two St. Marys Storm game.



(TURNER ROTH PHOTO)

Aubrey Cousineau unleashes a shot on target during last Tuesday's U16 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm game.



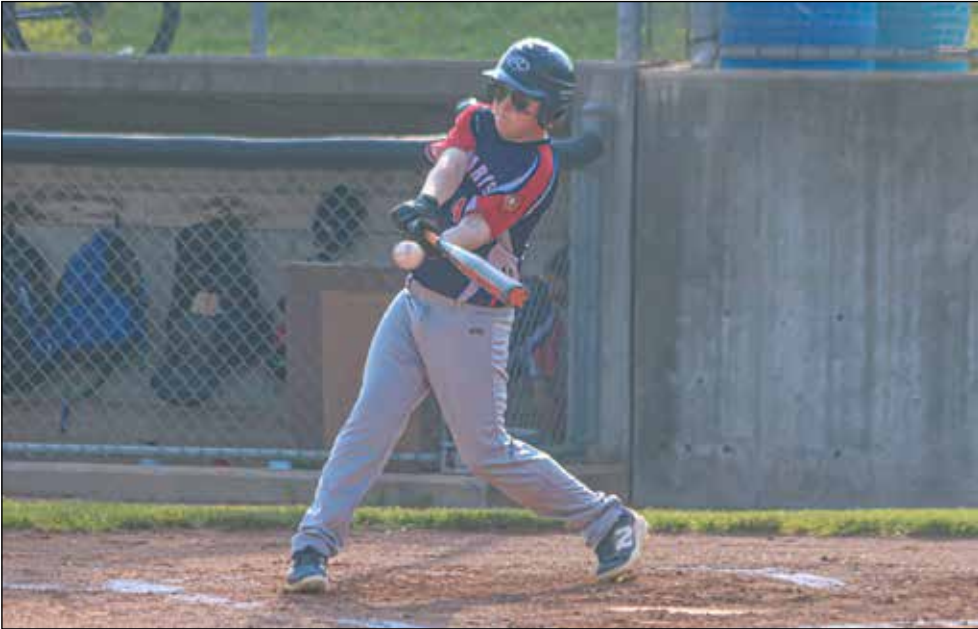
(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Ashton Ropp makes a catch to get an out during the Canadian Tire U11 OBA St. Marys Rockies game last Saturday.



(TURNER ROTH PHOTO)

Makeda Campbell swings at an incoming pitch during the Stonetown Electric U13 HP St. Marys Rockies game this past Monday.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Nolan Stewart cracks the ball off his bat during this past Monday's U15 WOBA St. Marys Rockies game.



# St. Marys bowlers take four gold medals at provincials



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Pictured on the left are Bridget Stevens and Troy Stevens, who captured the gold medals at the Family Twosome Provincial tournament at Nebs Fun World in Oshawa on June 1. The scores remained close through the first five games before Bridget and Troy clinched the 53-point win in the sixth game. Bridget also earned a \$120 scholarship as a result of the win. On the right are coach Michelle McKeen, Leia Slaney, James Van de Gevel, Nathan McKeen, and coach Helen Brockman. The mixed triples team of Slaney, Van de Gevel, and McKeen rolled their way to a gold medal with 507 points over average. Each team member received a \$120 scholarship.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Pictured on the left are James Van de Gevel and Colin Van de Gevel. The brothers competed in the bantam division of the High-Low Doubles provincial tournament on May 31 and bowled well before finishing 11th in the province. On the right are Aisla Fisher, Nate Sims, and Tyler Sims. The mixed triples team was one of two sent to Provincials on June 1 by the St. Marys Bowling Lanes and finished in eighth place with 141 points over average. Tyler won a gold medal for the highest senior single-game points over average with 45, while Nate took the gold for the highest bantam single-game points over average with 56. Both Sims' brothers won \$50 scholarships.



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# Busy first day as Pita Pit opens for business



(STEWART GRANT PHOTO)  
Sarah Dyet and Mike Warren greet Pita Pit's first official customer, Jeff Barton, who arrived promptly at 11 a.m. on Monday, June 10 when the doors opened at 5 Water St. S.



(STEWART GRANT PHOTO)  
Pam Ryan and Peter Papadimitriou prepare custom pitas for customers while Dan Ryan (background) cooks on the grill.

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# COLUMNS

## UKRAINIAN CORNER: Building and buying a home – Canada versus Ukraine

ALONA VASYLIEVA

Independent Columnist

Greetings, everyone! As a recent arrival to Canada, I'm excited to share some insights and observations on the fascinating differences between building and buying a home here, compared to my beloved Ukraine.

While navigating the financial aspects, such as mortgage payments, has certainly been a learning curve, the journey has been incredibly enlightening.

My fellow Ukrainian newcomers and I have been diligently researching and engaging in conversations with locals to understand the intricacies of Canadian homeownership. It's a complex but rewarding process, and we're steadily learning the ropes!

One significant difference we've encountered is Ontario's 25 per-cent non-resident speculation tax. This applies to individuals who haven't yet obtained Permanent Residency status. This measure provides an additional layer of security for banks and the government, and we appreciate the rationale behind such regulations.

When it comes to construction, Canada predominantly utilizes wood-frame building, emphasizing sturdy timber, often including basements. This approach prioritizes efficient and robust construction.

In Ukraine, our historical building practices have been quite diverse. We've traditionally used a variety of materials, from natural options like clay and straw to more conventional concrete blocks and bricks, which are staples in many Ukrainian neighbourhoods. Basements



(ALONA VASYLIEVA PHOTO)

As a newcomer, navigating the Canadian homebuying landscape can be challenging.

haven't always been a primary feature, but attics and separate garages are often highly valued.

Building timelines also differ. In Canada, a standard home can typically be completed within seven to nine months, with custom builds potentially extending to a year or more. This is often due to strict permitting processes and the occasional challenges posed by Canadian weather. Construction costs, ranging from \$140-\$320 per square foot, reflect labour expenses, land values and comprehensive regulations.

In contrast, construction in Ukraine has historically been more affordable, and we often prioritize spacious gardens with separate structures on our properties. It's worth noting that the current

situation in Ukraine has led to an increased adoption of modular homes as a practical and economical solution.

The homebuying process itself presents some notable distinctions. In Ukraine, offering more than the asking price isn't a common practice; instead, negotiations typically focus on securing a favourable price reduction.

However, in Canada, bidding wars are a frequent occurrence, transforming the buying process into an exciting, albeit sometimes nerve-wracking, auction-like experience. Another unique aspect in Ontario is that a landlord can sell a rental property even while tenants are still residing there. This is a concept that takes some getting used to for newcomers. Furthermore, the overall mort-

gage and buying process in Canada is generally more intricate than what we experienced in pre-invasion Ukraine, involving a greater number of fees, insurance requirements and detailed considerations.

The power of pre-approval: Getting pre-approved for a mortgage is a crucial step for Canadian homebuyers. It not only gives you a clear idea of how much you can afford, but also shows sellers and real-estate agents that you are a serious and qualified buyer, which can be a huge advantage in a competitive market. Many lenders will even "rate-hold" your pre-approved interest rate for a certain period, protecting you from potential rate increases while you search for a home.

These nuances contribute to the unique landscape of homeownership in Canada, adding layers of consideration and learning for all, especially for newcomers like ourselves.

One Canadian innovation I've found particularly appealing is the open house. This allows prospective buyers to freely explore properties without needing a broker, offering a convenient way to gather information and ask questions.

On a joyful note, I want to extend a heartfelt congratulations to our incredible friends, Dima and Nadia, who recently became homeowners right here in St. Marys! They navigated the complexities of the Canadian housing market with remarkable resilience and found their dream home. Our Ukrainian community is immensely proud of their achievement, and they serve as a wonderful inspiration to us all.

## Straight from the Shelves

LAURA MCASH

St. Marys Public Library

Get all your 3D printing questions answered at our next Makerspace Open House! Drop in between 10:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. on Saturday, June 28 to learn how to submit a 3D print request, check out the wide selection of coloured filament available, and watch the new 3D printer in action! This is a free program and no registration is required.

### This Week's Recommendation

3D printed flexible dragons are a big hit with kids. So are books with dragons! "Impossible Creatures" by Katherine Rundell is one of the more recent dragon books to make a big splash with young readers. The book follows Christopher and Mal as they work together to save the creatures of the Archipelago who are suffering from an unexplained waning of the land's magic. Will they

figure out the mystery in time? Find out by reading "Impossible Creatures", available as an eBook, an eAudiobook, and in hard copy.

### Up This Week

Fri., Jun. 13: Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sat., Jun. 14: Dungeons and Dragons (10 a.m.), Father's Day Card Craft (10 a.m. to 12 p.m.)

Mon., Jun. 16: Euchre Mondays (10:30 a.m.), Learn to Play Bridge\* (1-3 p.m.)

Tues., Jun. 17: Tween Silicone Molding Workshop\* (6-7 p.m.)

Wed., Jun. 18: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30-10:30 a.m.), Mahjong! (1-4 p.m.), Books and Brews\*~ (7 p.m.)

Thurs., Jun. 19: Open 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

\*Registration Required

~Held at Broken Rail Brewery (480 Glass St., St. Marys)

## Ask the Arborist

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



Dear Arborist,

I am rooting for some advice regarding my oak tree. It is looking a bit wilted and I am stumped as to why.

Thanks, Forrest

Dear Forrest,

Oak wilt has recently made its way to this area of the world. Oak wilt is a fungus spread by a sap feeding beetle. There are a number of recommended controls to try and keep the oak trees from being infected. The main one is don't prune unless the temperature is cold (fall, winter, or spring).

However, unfortunately the controls do not work very well, which is why it keeps spreading. It also can spread via interconnected roots of oak trees. Some professionals are treating it with fungicide injections with some success;

the expense of the injections are a downside. I have also heard of experts in the United States using high doses of potassium and phosphorus with limited success.

Other professionals claim painting or spraying pruning cuts with oil will prevent the insect feeding on the sap. Oak wilt was first identified in Wisconsin in the 1940s, and has since recently spread to Southwestern Ontario. Although the spread is slow, it is extremely difficult to stop.

Sincerely,

The Arborist

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



# HISTORIC ST. MARYS: St. Marys Rotary celebrates 100 years

MARY SMITH

*Independent Columnist*

On May 26, 1925, a new men's service club, St. Marys Rotary, was elected to the parent organization, Rotary International. The club received this good news by letter from John Symes, the Rotary District Governor from Lockport, New York, who told them to expect the charter document in the mail within a few days. He also suggested that they plan a charter evening on Wednesday, June 10. He would attend and make the formal presentation of the charter. Symes had some suggestions for the evening – “a modest meal, not to cost too much,” with invitations extended to neighbouring clubs. As for the program: “I only suggest that you do not make it too long. Perhaps three, four, or five talks on Rotary subjects by different clubs, together with singing and the presentation of the charter.” That, he felt, would be sufficient.

On Monday, June 8, the St. Marys Rotary Club held its first meeting with all 23 members in attendance. The new president, William N Harrison, took the chair. This initial meeting was called to appoint committees and to make the final arrangements for the Charter Night banquet in two days time. More than 100 guests were expected – Rotarians from communities including Brantford, London, Stratford, Kitchener, Woodstock, Simcoe, Guelph and Toronto. The guest of honour was, of course, District Governor Symes from Lockport. From the start, this was an organization that featured fellowship and connections.

The St. Marys Journal Argus reported that the Rotary banquet was a great success. Tables were set up in the town hall auditorium and the McConnell Club, a women's service organization, did the catering. The District Governor had wanted singing and there was a lot of it. The event started at 6:30 with a hearty singsong and “the gathering was made jovial.” Throughout the meal, the Rotarians were entertained first by the Stratford CNR male quartet, who had been invited to perform. Then some of the guests “entertained by song and humour to the delight of all present.” Finally, when the McConnell Club ladies had cleared away more than 100 place settings, the formal part of the evening began.

The Stratford Rotary Club was the sponsor of the St. Marys group and one of their members, David Wright, was chairman for the evening. He introduced District Governor Symes who presented the charter and “gave an enthusiastic half-hour address on the principles of Rotary.” There were more speeches from the presidents of the other Rotary Clubs who all brought greetings to the new organization. The St. Marys president thanked them all for attending, particularly recognizing several “old St. Marys boys,” including the Reverend Father Daniel Egan of the Stratford Rotary Club and Percy Near from London. As the Journal Argus concluded: “The meeting broke up about 10 o'clock, every local Rotarian leaving with an enthusiastic opinion of the new organization and full of enthusiasm for the future of Rotary in St. Marys.”

The writer who described these first two Rotary meetings was Lorne A. Eedy, a charter member of the new club. He worked with his father, John W. Eedy, to publish his family-owned local newspaper, the St. Marys Journal Argus. The first president of St. Marys Rotary, William N. Harrison, was an insurance and bond sales agent. These two, and other original members, show the range of men who were drawn to membership in this club. Two representatives of family firms, both important local employers, were early Rotarians: Charles Richardson, president of a company that made equipment for the dairy and cheese-making industries throughout Canada, and Harold Maxwell, the superintendent at his family's large foundry, manufacturer of hardware items. William Mills, another charter member, was the Maxwell company treasurer.

Charter members also included a minister, the Reverend A. B. Farney, popular rector of St. James Anglican Church, and John Stockdale, station agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway. Fred Sanderson, a flax merchant, was a charter member. A few months after the banquet,



(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ST. MARYS MUSEUM)

The swimming pool and playground equipment in Cadzow Park, ca 1930. Developing this park was the first major community project for the St. Marys Rotary Club after they received their charter in June 1925.

in October 1925, he was elected as the Liberal Member of Parliament for the South Perth Riding. No longer able to attend meetings regularly, he was granted an attendance exemption so that he could remain a member of the club. Robert Harstone, a lawyer, age 25, was the youngest of this original group. His special interest in youth work tied in with the club's interest in supporting recreation.

The charter Rotarian who had the greatest immediate impact on St. Marys was John Grieve Lind of the St. Marys Cement Company. He was a strong promoter of beautifying the town and making more parks and recreational facilities available for all to enjoy. The Rotary Club's first major community project was to acquire Cadzow Park to make a playground for children, including the (now lost) outdoor swimming pool. John Lind was the major financial backer and acquired the deed to the property. But all the new Rotarians made contributions according to their talents and resources, celebrating the completion of the project in 1926 and helping to sustain it into the future.

Many more projects followed: redeveloping the Quarry, the International Youth Exchange, the Parkview Apartments, support for local improvements to the library, the museum, the hospital, the Friendship Centre, the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and the Pyramid Recreation Centre. The club's work with the Easter Seal Society, specifically Woodeden Camp, provided benefits beyond St. Marys. The cascade of purple crocuses, planted a decade ago, that still beautify Cadzow Park in the spring, symbolizes Rotary International's objective to eradicate polio throughout the world.

My father, Ralph Ainslie, was a long-time member of St. Marys Rotary. Fathers Day is approaching, and I associate Rotary with fathers because originally, it was definitely fathers, not mothers, or any women at all, who were Rotarians. To be clear, in those days, local women didn't want to be members. They had their own perfectly satisfactory organisations, like the IODE or the McConnell Club. For my mother, Rotary meetings on Monday evening were a bit of a holiday – she could make herself a light supper and not have to cook my father a full meal. Today, women members are essential and highly contributing participants in the local club.

Rotarians could invite family members as guests to special events. I remember one celebratory dinner held jointly with the Stratford Rotary Club at the Victorian Inn, now Riverview Gardens, on Romeo Street. As a teenager, I was impressed by the formality of the dinner, but also by the camaraderie. I thought the Inn was very elegant compared to the Royal Edward Hotel in St. Marys where Rotary usually held their meetings. That venerable old hotel had sturdy ropes tied to the foot of each bed in upstairs rooms – for residents' use in case of fire. They were

to throw the loose end out the window and clamber down.

This year – 2025 – the St. Marys Rotary Club has planned special activities to mark their centennial. For example, as international service, they are sponsoring the construction of new latrines at a girls' school in Kenya. On a much lighter, local note, they have teamed with Broken Rail Brewery to produce Centennial Hazy IPA, with cans bearing a Rotary Centennial label. A portion of the sales of this brand will go to support local Rotary projects.

On June 7, 2025, almost an exact century since that first charter banquet, the Rotary Club held their Monday night dinner meeting at the St. Marys Museum and spent time enjoying the display in the Citizens Gallery honouring their club and its century of accomplishments. They gathered outside for a group photograph, a fitting reminder that the development of Cadzow Park was their first big community project. Everyone is welcome to visit the Rotary display at the Museum. For more information, call 519-284-3556 or email [museum@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:museum@town.stmarys.on.ca).



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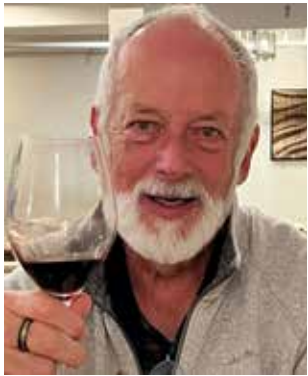
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# OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Stepping back in time on the last Edwardian passenger liner



PAUL KNOWLES

Independent Columnist

There is no question the most important event in the 50-year history of Kingston's Great Lakes Museum happened just last year. That's when the first visitors were able to board the luxury Great Lakes steam liner, the S.S. Keewatin, for a tour of this unique vessel.

Visits to the museum almost quadrupled last year compared to the previous season, and with the museum – and the Keewatin – now open for this 2025 season, those numbers will probably grow even more.

The Great Lakes Museum itself, located in historic buildings in the Kingston Dry Dock National Historic Site, was founded in 1975 by a group of local divers. The waters of the St. Lawrence River around Kingston are home to dozens of shipwrecks and the divers created a space to display finds they had brought home from their

dives.

The Kingston shipyards, once a bustling place of business, had closed down in 1968 and the historic buildings – from the 19th century and the periods of World War I and World War II – were sitting empty. So, the Government of Canada agreed to lease the property to the founders of the new museum for \$1 a year. The attraction now known as the Great Lakes Museum was born.

Manager and curator Doug Cowie told me the location was ideal and things progressed well for a number of years. Kingston had been an important port, both for dry dock repairs and for shipbuilding.

"They built 12 corvettes here in World War II," Cowie explained.

But it all came close to ending in 2016. The Canadian government decided to sell the facility. A developer bought the property; the Museum's holdings were moved into storage, though a small, storefront facility continued to operate.

Cowie admits those were bleak years, but the development proposal faltered and a benefactor bought the property in 2019 and donated it to the museum. They now have a permanent home right back where they started, and it gets better every year thanks to a team of

volunteer engineers who are continually rehabilitating the mechanisms that date back to the 19th century.

And then came the best news of all. The owners of the last remaining Edwardian passenger liner in the world agreed to give her to the Great Lakes Museum. The dock area was enlarged to hold the 300-passenger vessel.

This is a special ship – the only one of her kind left in the world – and she is remarkably well preserved because she spent her life in fresh water.

Today, visitors to the museum can take any of several tours offered aboard the Keewatin. To board the ship is to step back in time, and the museum staff and volunteers have gone full out to enhance that experience. A sign in the Museum acknowledges 102,473 volunteer hours contributed since Keewatin's arrival in Kingston.

The Keewatin was built in Glasgow, Scotland, and arrived in its Canadian home – Port McNicoll on Georgian Bay – in 1907. It was owned by the Canadian Pacific Railway and passengers who made the two-and-a-half-day voyage to Port Arthur (now Thunder Bay) typically came by train from Toronto, and continued by train to points west of the Great Lakes.

But for their two-and-a-

half days aboard the Keewatin, they were assured of first-class travel.

I was guided around the Keewatin by collection and programs coordinator Daniel Rose. Rose had some fun with the idea of "first class," admitting every stateroom was, indeed, first class, but there were "first class" staterooms and six "firstest class" rooms, which cost twice the price but included that very rare amenity, a private bathroom.

The Keewatin has four decks, two for cargo and two for passengers. Today, many of the staterooms on both decks are fully furnished and authentically decorated to match the periods in which the Keewatin sailed.

And that timeframe saw huge changes in Canadian society; her last passenger voyage was in 1965. She continued to carry cargo for two years and then was to be sold for scrap, but was saved from demolition by an American entrepreneur who opened a museum in Michigan. The ship eventually came back to her home port, Port McNicoll, in 2012. Her voyages finally reached their end when the Keewatin arrived in Kingston in late 2023.

The ship indeed has all the accoutrements of a luxury liner. From the dining room, where guests dressed for dinner, to the bell service



(PHOTOS BY PAUL KNOWLES)

The last remaining Edwardian passenger liner in the world, now receiving visitors in Kingston.

that brought eager young boys to answer guests' every need, to the ladies' lounge, to the grand piano in mid-ship, it is all here.

The museum offers three ways to visit the ship from the Engine Room Experience (Adults are \$25, less for kids and seniors) to the Essential Experience (Adults are \$31.50) to the Passenger Premium Experience (Adults are \$41.50). Those prices also include admission to the museum with its galleries, mechanical rooms and a gallery dedi-

cated to the Keewatin, especially good for visitors for whom the not-all-accessible ship tour could be a challenge.

For more information about the Great Lakes Museum and its unique and spectacular ship, visit [greatlakesmuseum.ca](http://greatlakesmuseum.ca).


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



The luxurious dining room features chairs bolted to the floor to keep diners in place in high seas.



The piano lounge in mid-ship.




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# My Mother the Farmerette

PETER ALLAN RICE

Guest Contributor

Have you ever found yourself in the right place at the right time, or met people who seemed sent to you by some kind of divine intervention? These moments can open our eyes to forgotten stories and remind us of the goodness of the human spirit.

That's how I felt in March when I was invited to Diane and Mike O'Shea's home in St. Marys to watch a pre-release of the documentary *We Lend a Hand: The Forgotten Story of Ontario Farmerettes*. The film tells the story of 40,000 teenage girls who were excused from final exams to work on farms for at least 13 weeks during the Second World War, producing essential food for soldiers and civilians. My 100-year-old mother, Adelaide "Dale" Rice (Barnes), had written about her own time as a Farmerette in Fenwick, Ont., in 1942, but I hadn't realized the full scope of what these women accomplished until I saw the film. Tears rolled down my cheeks knowing that my mom, who raised our family and had a successful career in psychology, had been part of something so important — and so long overlooked.

Bonnie Sitter, who co-authored *Onion Skins & Peach Fuzz: Memories of Ontario Farmerettes*, discovered the forgotten story of these young women by chance. In 2018, while sorting through photos that belonged to her late husband, she found a snapshot of three young women in farm clothes sitting on the running board of a car. The back of the photo simply said "Farmerettes about 1946." Bonnie was determined to learn more. Her research and interviews uncovered a treasure trove of memories and stories from former Farmerettes — and through a letter to the editor from Shirleyan English, she connected with nearly 300 letters writ-



(PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER ALLAN RICE)

The poster for the documentary, *We Lend a Hand: The Forgotten Story of Ontario Farmerettes*.

ten by women who shared their stories of that era. Recognizing the urgency, Bonnie and her collaborators quickly turned those letters into *Onion Skins & Peach Fuzz*, published in 2019, so that the remaining Farmerettes could see their experiences documented. The book inspired a stage adaptation by playwright Alison Lawrence that was performed at the Blyth Theatre in 2024 and ultimately led to the creation of the documentary *We Lend a Hand*, directed by Colin Field and produced in partnership with Bonnie.

Mom worked at the Vineland and Fenwick camp in 1942, picking strawberries, hoeing vegetables and, most memorably, picking peaches. She wrote about how the peach fuzz would sneak down her collar and under the handkerchief she wore to protect her head — the



(PHOTO COURTESY OF PETER ALLAN RICE)

My mother, Adelaide "Dale" Rice (Barnes), while in university.

"peach fuzz" that gave Bonnie's book its name. Mom and her fellow Farmerettes lived in tents and barns converted to dorms, forming tight bonds with other girls. They hitchhiked into town for movies or sodas and even made a trip to Niagara Falls on their days off — a freedom that seems almost unimaginable today. They were told to always travel in groups, a wise precaution during that innocent but challenging time.

She also shared a story about working for a few weeks on a mushroom farm owned by the Campbell Soup Company in Toronto. She would ride the streetcar to the end of the Jane Street line, then spend the day in overalls, with a flashlight and basket clipped to her belt, cutting mushrooms in the damp dark. On the way home, fellow passengers would

edge away from her and the other girls, put off by the smell of mushrooms. Mom was glad to return to the open air of the peach and berry fields.

One special memory she had was learning to ride a bike when she was asked to help on a tree farm a mile from the dorm. She commented that all the cycling helped her maintain a trim figure that summer.

This spring, as mom was in palliative care, Bonnie made sure every surviving Farmerette could see the documentary. On a sunny March morning, I was able to show the film to my mom on a laptop. When she saw her photo in the credits, she quietly said, "I'm famous." She passed soon after, on April 5.

The documentary, along with Bonnie's book and the play, have finally given these women the recognition they deserve. It was especially moving to watch the documentary again, this time with my daughter, on June 6, the anniversary of D-Day. Posters during the war said, "We Can't Fight if We Don't Eat" and "We Won't Eat if You Don't Help Ontario Farmers." The Farmerettes' mottos were "We Lend a Hand" and "Food for Victory" — powerful messages that still resonate.

A postage stamp now commemorates the Farmerettes, and I encourage everyone to read *Onion Skins & Peach Fuzz* and watch the documentary to learn more about these incredible young women. You can watch the trailer and find screening dates at [welenadahand.ca](http://welenadahand.ca). If you have a Farmerette story to share, please reach out to Bonnie or me — our emails are [parart55@outlook.com](mailto:parart55@outlook.com) and [bonnie.sitter@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie.sitter@gmail.com) — or visit the Farmerette Forever Facebook page to connect.

Let's continue to honour these women and ensure they know how much we appreciate what they did all those years ago.

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# Riddles

- What has a thousand needles but can't sew?  
A porcupine.
- I sometimes run but I cannot walk. What am I? Your nose.
- When I'm ripe, I'm green. When you eat me, I'm red.  
What am I?  
Watermelon.
- What can you break without touching it?  
A promise.
- Where does today come before yesterday?  
In the dictionary.
- What has many teeth but cannot bite?  
A comb.
- I am an odd number. Take away a letter and I become even. What number am I?  
Seven.
- What has a head and a tail but no body?  
A coin.
- What tastes better than it smells?  
Your tongue.
- Two fathers and two sons are sitting at the table, yet there are only three people. How is this possible?  
One grandfather, one father, and one son.
- What do eggs, a safe, and a whip all have in common?  
They all crack.

# - Word Search -



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I E V A W A B T X U L G C W M A S C K L  
K F X F Y R X N A F X U B S J E F N E C  
C I X U G S U R C M J R T R D N A Q W D  
V T H S R K W J K M E J I A L Q J H I Y  
Y Q G U Q C I C R N L L F A D T A H S B  
G C L N G O D Z V D V F C L P F C R C F  
R J S F T H N D O J O N O E S R V P X S  
Q D N L U Y T A G D C G T B O T I Q C R  
Y A A O C L L B I A I U N S O U O G O M  
V I P W Q L U L L R N S O G J U L Z F A  
Y S D E S O L I A I L E I A V E E G B F  
Y Y R R Q H L M A O W M T G G K T J B F  
O I A L E Z B L Z R Q B A A S R Z N X X  
R S G Z R O S E H V A M N G L C D X V X  
B E O A H V B X S P M J R M J U B U Z X  
H I N U Y B S X Q M E N A F P O Z O F D  
R R R J T A F T Y L I L C B W B N F G Q

- Carnation  
Orchid  
Hollyhocks  
Daisy  
Clematis  
Petunia  
Snapdragon  
Daffodil  
Marigold  
Lily  
Tulip  
Lilac  
Rose  
Violet  
Sunflower



## The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK



Charlotte Drinkwalter (3)

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

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

## PET OF THE WEEK



Many common plants can be toxic to pets, causing anything from mild gastrointestinal upset to severe health issues or even death. Some of the most common poisonous plants include lilies, rhododendrons, sago palms, and oleander. If you suspect your pet has ingested a poisonous plant, contact your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center immediately.



### BUD

Our Pet of the Week is Bud. Weighing in at a whopping 21 pounds, Bud is the king of mischief—and love! The Wolfe family was lucky enough to adopt Bud from the Humane Society in 2017, when he was thought to be about seven years old. Bud brings big personality to every room and has even been known to take on a dog or two in his time. Whether he's stirring up trouble or snuggling up, Bud is living proof that shelter pets have a lot of love (and attitude) to give!





# Thorndale News

*A section within the  
St. Marys Independent*

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**4H BBQ & Bake Sale June 20**  
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**Thorndale & Area Horticulture Society presents**  
**Green Thumb Garden Tour**  
**June 22, 11 am to 4 pm, rain or shine**

Come tour large and small gardens in urban and rural settings!  
Adults \$10 | Children under 12 free, accompanied by adult  
Tickets will be available near the Thorndale cenotaph or any of the featured gardens on June 22

## Thorndale church honours United Church of Canada 100th anniversary

NANCY ABRA

*Independent Reporter*

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada.

The Methodist Church, the Congregational Union and 70 per cent of the Presbyterian Church, all of Canada, along with a small General Council of Union Churches from Western Canada, entered a union on June 10, 1925, in Toronto, becoming the United Church of Canada.

Across Canada this year, many of the United Churches are commemorating this milestone in many different ways. Connecting these churches is the Friends of the United Church Postcard Exchange. It was organized by a church member from Agassiz United Church in British Columbia.

“We sent 34 postcards to the various churches across Canada, from B.C. to Labrador, that were involved in this project,” said Elaine Clays, a member of Thorndale United Church who organized the local congregation’s participation in postcard exchange initiative. “Our postcard featured the picture of the Thorndale United Church with a brief message on the back explaining where the church was located, our membership and our activities. We have received 33 postcards

in return. I have mounted these postcards on a map of Canada at the entrance of our church for everyone to see. It is interesting to see how diverse we are and yet how similar our church members are, no matter where we live in Canada.”

Also, as part of celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada, the Thorndale United Church is sharing donations with various groups in this region and beyond. Members chose to collect specific items each month, whether it was clothes, gift cards or food, starting last September and finishing this month.

Church members collected clothing for South Sudan, gift cards for East London United Church Outreach, pairs of socks for 519Pursuit, cans of soup for the Dorchester and St. Marys food bank, towels for the Lambeth Sewing group, money for Camp-Kee-Mo-Kee, female hygiene products for My Sisters Place and Anova, and men’s hygiene items for the Men’s Mission in London.

“These groups and people are so appreciative,” said Thorndale United Church Rev. Pam Wilcox. “The simple act of our church members’ kindness and donations makes a difference. It just warms our hearts that we can share with others.”



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

Thorndale United Church Rev. Pam Wilcox and member Elaine Clays show off the postcards the church has received as part of the Friends of the United Church Postcard Exchange marking the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada.

## A wonderful first year for Thorndale Chiropractic & Performance

NANCY ABRA

*Independent Reporter*

The team at Thorndale Chiropractic & Performance, located at 160 King St. in Thorndale, celebrated their first anniversary last Sunday, June 8.

“We love being here in Thorndale and look forward to continuing to help people,” said clinic co-founder Dr. Danielle Smith. “We wanted to celebrate our first anniversary to give people of the area the opportunity to meet us and see our facilities.”

The team recognizes everyone’s journey to optimal health is unique, whether it is to improve their golf game, keep up with grandkids, or simply enjoy life pain-free. Smith and co-founder Dr. Conner Overstrom’s goal is to help people move, feel and perform at their best. Visit [www.thorndalechiropractic.com](http://www.thorndalechiropractic.com) for more information.

“We look forward to many more anniversaries here to support I Love Thorndale, other groups and to help to give back to this wonderful community,” said Overstrom.



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

Co-founders Dr. Conner Overstrom and Dr. Danielle Smith at Thorndale Chiropractic & Performance’s first anniversary celebration June 8.



OBITUARY

Weiss



With heavy hearts we announce the passing of Aletta Weiss, peacefully at St. Marys Memorial Hospital on June 2, 2025 at the age of 66. Predeceased by beloved husband Lloyd Weiss (2000). Daughter of the late Walter (1973) Nadeen (2000). Also predeceased by her grandpa George Cole (1970), grandma Georgina (1971), aunts Mary McFarlane (1972) and Doris Callcott (2010), and grand fur baby Charlie (2023). Beloved step-mother to Sherry Elliott and Mike Hillman. Also remembered by Bonnie Jones and Shannon Buuck and very best friend Wayne Benny. Sister of George and Carol Cole of Stratford. Proud Nana of her grand fur babies Princess, Clover, and Millie.

Visitation at the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, 47 Wellington St. S. St. Marys, on Thursday, June 19, 2025 from 7 – 9 pm. Family and friends are invited to the St. Marys Pyramid Centre, 317 James St. in the Community Hall on June 20, 2025 for a Memorial Service at 2:15pm followed by a Celebration of Life Reception. Burial in St. Marys Cemetery at 3:30 pm. Memorial donations may be made to the Army Navy and Air Force Br. 265, St. Marys Legion Br. 236, Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame, St. Marys Friendship Centre, and St. Marys Lincolns (attention Brandon Boyd). On-line tributes a [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca) "Go Lincs Go!"

OBITUARY

Clayburn



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Eric Clayburn on June 5th, 2025, at St. Marys Hospital, surrounded by the love of family and friends.

Eric was a devoted husband to the late Colleen Clayburn, who passed in July 2024. Together, they shared a life filled with love, resilience, and deep family roots. Eric was a proud and caring father to Dan, Alan, Willy (Jane), and Neil (Shayla). He was also a beloved grandfather to Brandon (Kelsie), Nick (Danielle), Mike (Katherine), Austin (Heather), Kyle, Colby, Reegen and Emma and to seven great-grandchildren, each of whom brought him great joy and pride.

Eric's quiet strength, warm spirit, and deep love for his family will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by all who knew him. Special thanks to staff at St. Marys Memorial Hospital and Stratford General Hospital.

A private memorial service will be held at the gravesite, in accordance with the family's wishes. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Canadian Cancer Society, a cause close to the family's heart. Forever in our hearts, Eric's legacy lives on in the lives he touched and the family he cherished. Online tributes at [www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca).

IN MEMORIAM

Kelly (Hyatt) Taylor



In memory of Kelly (Hyatt) Taylor  
Nov 25,1982 - June 13, 2022

If Roses grow in Heaven  
Lord, please pick a bunch for me.  
Place them in Kelly's arms  
and tell her they're from me.  
Tell her that I love her and miss her,  
and when she turns to smile,  
place a kiss upon her cheek  
and hold her for a while.  
Because remembering her is easy,  
I do it every day,  
but there's an ache within my heart  
that will never go away.  
Always Loved and Forever Missed  
Mom, Dad and family

THANK YOU

Craig

We would like to express our deepest appreciation for all the kind expressions of sympathy shown to our family during the recent illness and passing of our Dad and husband, Ron Craig.

Thank You for the emails, text messages, memorial gifts, flowers, phone calls, food, kind words and warm hugs. Thank You to those who were able to attend Ron's celebration of life! Your thoughtfulness will not be forgotten.

Marlene Craig, Gord and Kendra, Karrie and Chop, Ben and Patrica, Justin and Nikki

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Community Liaison Committee

The next Community Liaison Committee Meeting will be held on **Friday, June 13th at 10am** at the St. Marys Municipal Operations Center. Members of the public who wish to observe are welcome to attend.

Residents who wish to speak in front of the Committee may submit a detailed request in writing at least 3 days prior to the meeting in writing to the Committee. The request will be considered by the Committee and approved prior to the meeting. Please submit all requests, questions, and concerns for the meeting to [kara.pelissero@vcimentos.com](mailto:kara.pelissero@vcimentos.com) by **Wednesday, June 11**

IN MEMORIAM

David Smith



In loving memory of David Smith  
August 22 1955 - June 21 2016

The world changes from year to year, our lives from day to day; but the love and memory of you shall never pass away.



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CELEBRATION

90th Birthday Open House

for Jean Sterritt

Sunday, June 22, 2025

2pm - 4pm

Pavilion (behind Little Falls School)  
317 James St S., St. Marys

CELEBRATION

Robby Smink's

75th Birthday Blowout

Sunday, June 22nd, 2025

You are invited to join us in celebrating a very special occasion — the 75th birthday of Robby Smink.

Schedule of Events:

10:00 AM – Golf at River Valley Golf Course (18 holes)

2:00 PM to 6:00 PM – Open House above Gilly's, 17 Water Street, St. Marys

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM – Birthday Dinner

(An evening of good food, heartfelt toasts, and light-hearted roasts)

We would be honored to have you join us for one or all parts of the day's celebration.

Kindly confirm your attendance for golf and/or dinner by Wednesday, June 18th.

You may RSVP by: call or text: 519-697-4985

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THANK YOU

The St. Marys Horticultural Society would like to thank all of those who helped with set-up and take down at the Garden Fair. Those who gave of their time to sell items at the Fair and also a huge thank you to all who donated baked goods. A big thank you to the Lion's Club and McDonalds. Of course we need to thank all who came down to Milt Dunnell Field and supported us. Thank you.



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	9		3	5			6	
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				1				

Solutions on page 35

LOOKING BACK



BY AMY CUBBERLEY

Rotary Club formed

25 years ago (2000)

At the DCVI athletics awards on Wednesday, three retiring teachers, Carol Passmore, Roly Crowder, and Dave Ainslie, were recognized for their long-time coaching contributions.

In a proactive approach to dealing with the rural doctor shortage, and following the suggestion of Dr. Fred Jewson, last week the St. Marys Hospital Foundation made arrangements on a deal to pay University of Western Ontario resident Dr. David Mai's tuition of one year, and in return he has committed himself to working as a family doctor in St. Marys once he's finished his schooling. The agreement has been described as a win-win by Andrew Williams, HPHA vice-president.

50 years ago (1975)

Two former St. Marys Lincolns were picked in the recent NHL draft. Bob Bain by Montreal Canadiens and Brian O'Connell by Atlanta Flames.

Swimming pools accounted for a major portion of the May building permit total. \$23,500 of the total permit value of \$53,100 in May were for the installation of pools. Reflecting a nationwide slump, not a single new home building permit was issued during the month.

75 years ago (1950)

The Kirkton Fair has boosted is prize money to over \$2,200 this year according to Secretary Hugh Berry of the Kirkton Agricultural Society. This is an increase of \$650 over last year. Special attractions are already being planned for the fair next September.

Mrs. Harold Dunseith entertained 14 children and their mothers on Thursday, June 8 at a birthday party for Wayne Dunseith. All had an enjoyable afternoon and Wayne received many lovely gifts. Lunch was served at a table decorated with the birthday cake and tiny coloured plastic baskets filled with candy for each child.

100 years ago (1925)

The St. Marys Rotary Club held their first meeting in the Town Hall on Monday night, with President Harrison in the chair and a full attendance. The club received their charter on Wednesday.

The winners of the St. Marys Hardware house painting competition have been decided and are as follows: 1st Margaret Stewart wins a radio set, 2nd Mildred Allmark wins a wagon, and 3rd Beth Waugh wins a pair of roller skates.



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Proud St. Marys resident!

## MUSIC

**Rob Edney's**  
**The World's Coolest Music Store**  
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**Linda Vandermolten**  
**Landscape Artist**  
Weeding, Mulching, Leaf Raking,  
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**CALL 519.284.0041  
TO INQUIRE ABOUT  
OUR BUSINESS  
DIRECTORY**



CLASSIFIED ADS

**Wanted**  
\$ Cash Paid \$ for your RECORDS and LPs. Jazz, Blues, Rock, Pop, Fold, Soundtracks, and more. Selectively buying CDs, Cassettes, Turntables, and Stereo Equipment. For more information: Diamond Dogs Music 114 Ontario St. Stratford/ 226-972-5750

**Wanted**  
A working camcorder that will play Hi-8 digital tapes. Phone 519-284-3774

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

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

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

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

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

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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



Happy  
*Canada Day*

**CANADA DAY  
PARADE**

**TUESDAY JULY 1, 2025 11AM  
ST. MARYS ON**

It's that time to begin planning for this year's Canada Day parade. Beginning at the Pyramid Centre and proceeding to Cadzow Park. We are seeking volunteers as well. To enter your school, business, organization or any other interested folks, contact Don or Margaret at 519-284-1548. Deadline for registration is Friday, June 27th



www.gardenontario.org/site.php/stmarys

**Rose and Flower Show  
and Open Meeting**

**MONDAY, JUNE 16TH AT 7:00 PM**

ST. MARYS LEGION HALL

**Speaker: Catherine McGill**  
**Topic: The Ground Gets Lower Every Year**



*This meeting is for YOU! Come out and enjoy.*  
*Membership not Required to Attend*  
*Refreshments provided by St. Marys Tim Hortons*

**QUIZ ANSWERS**

1. Ryan Fox

2. 40.1 million

3. With their feet

4. Eight

5. Abraham Lincoln

6. Chlorophyll

7. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

8. Soybeans

9. Mickey Mouse

10. Barcelona

**LADYLESS  
LIP SYNC  
COMPETITION**

A NIGHT OF MUSIC,  
MAYHEM & MEN  
IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

**FRIDAY  
JUNE 13**

**LEGION  
BRANCH 236,  
ST. MARYS**

**DOORS 6 PM  
SHOW 7 PM**

WATCH LOCAL MEN LIP  
SYNC TO THEIR  
FAVOURITE FEMALE  
SINGERS TO RAISE  
MONEY FOR THE LEGION



**VILLAGES UNITED CHUCH PRESENTS**

**Beef & Strawberry  
Supper**

**Wednesday, June 18, 2025**

**4:30 – 7:00 p.m.**

Granton Community  
Pavilion




**ADULTS \$30 | CHILDREN \$8 | UNDER 5 FREE**  
**CALL DALE 519-227-4706 OR APRIL 519-225-2162**

**St. Marys Independent**

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

**SPONSORED BY:**



**McDonald's St. Marys**  
752 Queen St E  
Founding and Forever partner of  
Ronald McDonald House

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

St. Marys Public Library events – See Page 26

**Friday, June 13**

- St. Marys Cement community liaison committee meeting at the MOC – 10 a.m.
- Royal Canadian Legion “hot dogs and more” lunch at Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw – 6 p.m.
- Ladyless Lip Sync Competition at the St. Marys Legion – Doors open 6 p.m., Show at 7 p.m.

**Saturday, June 14**

- Town wide garage sale
- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field – 8 a.m. to Noon
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw – 5 p.m.
- First Baptist Church concert featuring Gail Selkirk – 7 p.m., Tickets \$20

**Monday, June 16**

- Community Dinner at St. Marys United Church – 5 p.m., Sponsored by United Church Women
- St. Marys Horticultural Society Flower Show & Meeting at St. Marys Legion – 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, June 17**

- Royal Canadian Legion Buddy Check coffee at the Legion – 10 am to Noon

**Wednesday, June 18**

- Villages United Church Beef & Strawberry Supper at Granton Community Pavilion – 4:30 to 7 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns annual general meeting at the Legion – 7 p.m.





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# Can't Miss Summer Event

On now: June 12 – 18, 2025

Save up to **60%**

Power Deal

FarWest



FarWest Leather Cork Sandals

Sale **\$49<sup>99</sup>**

Styles shown:  
Our reg. \$89.99  
FWS21M-4107, FWS25M-6200,  
FW25-4406, FWS25-4402

NAT-WK24

**SPEND+GET**

June 12 – 15, 2025 only

Spend \$125 or more\* and get a **\$30 Bonus Card or Promo Code**

While quantities last. To use on purchases between June 30 – July 27, 2025.

\*Before taxes and after discounts applied. Excluding the purchase of gift cards and previous purchases. Online orders will receive promo code via email on June 26, 2025. One promo code per email.

## Door Crasher deals





**All Men's Regular-Priced Denver Hayes Comfort Dry Polos**

**Save 60%**

Style shown:  
Our reg. \$44.99  
**Sale \$17.99**  
2ACFDH5-815





**All Men's Regular-Priced FarWest Button-Up Printed Shirts**

**Save 60%**

Style shown:  
Our reg. \$49.99<sup>†</sup>  
**Sale \$19.99<sup>†</sup>**  
2CEAFW5-935





**Women's Denver Hayes Mix Media Midi Dress**

**Save 60%**

Style:  
Our reg. \$49.99  
**Sale \$19.99**  
3DJGDHSU5-910





**Women's Denver Hayes Pants, Crops + Shorts**

**Save 60%**

Style:  
Our reg. \$44.99  
**Sale \$17.99**  
3DJFDHSP25-695





**Women's, Men's + Kids' Clothing + Jackets**

**Save 40%**

off our regular price

Kids' styles available at limited locations and on marks.com



**Shoes + Sandals**

**Save 40%**

'Reggae' 

Style:  
Our reg. \$79.99 **Sale \$47.99**  
163593-BKMT

**Save 40%**



Style:  
Our reg. \$119.99 **Sale \$71.99**  
26181795

**Save 30%**



Style:  
Our reg. \$94.99 **Sale \$66.49**  
310460-04

**Save 40%**

'Go Consistent 3' 

Style:  
Our reg. \$79.99 **Sale \$47.99**  
229097-BBK

**Save 40%**



Style:  
Our reg. \$69.99 **Sale \$41.99**  
RFOA39UKBRO

**Save 30%**



Style:  
Our reg. \$84.99 **Sale \$59.49**  
390984-10





**Men's Leather Work Boots**

**Save \$60**

Style:  
Our reg. \$219.99  
**Sale \$159.99**  
5ANBDK4-6200

Style:  
Our reg. \$229.99  
**Sale \$169.99**  
5ANADK4-8100

<sup>†</sup>Oversizes extra and available in select colours, styles and locations. Also available on marks.com. Prices in effect June 12 – 18, 2025 unless otherwise stated, while quantities last. Product and selection may vary by location. Product availability, pricing, colour, selection and brands may vary by location. Select Brands and styles. Regular prices shown are those at which the items have been sold by Mark's Work Wearhouse Ltd. Franchisees may sell for less. Product and offers in this flyer may not be available at all locations. See in-store for location availability. Typographical, illustrative or pricing errors may occur. We reserve the right to correct any errors. To find the Mark's nearest you and for other inquiries, call 1-866-339-1626 or visit marks.com. Registered trademarks of Mark's Work Wearhouse Ltd. and all other trademarks are the property of their respective owner(s). The lifestyle images presented in this advertisement may not be available.

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