

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1277

Thursday, August 28, 2025

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Traffic and parking complaints could see the end of longtime St. Marys sweet corn stand

Graham's Sweet Corn stand a summer staple for more than 60 years



GRAHAM'S SWEET CORN ORDERED TO MOVE (STEWART GRANT PHOTO)
Following complaints about traffic safety, congestion and parking issues, the Town of St. Marys has informed the owners of Graham's Corn Stand at Queen Street West and Pelissier Street that they can no longer operate the stand at that location, where it has been for more than 60 years.

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

St. Marys and area residents who look forward each summer to buying fresh corn from Graham's Sweet Corn stand, a seasonal staple in the Stonetown for more than 60 years, may soon need to look elsewhere after traffic and parking complaints will force the stand to either close permanently or find another location after this season ends.

The corn stand at Queen Street West and Pelissier Street, which has been run by three successive generations of the Graham family – first by Tom Graham, then Scott Graham and finally by Brett Graham – will no longer be able to operate in its current location after the town received formal property standards complaints from area residents related to traffic safety, congestion and parking issues.

“The town's approach is to enforce bylaws on a complaint basis, meaning we don't proactively go look for bylaw violations, but, when we receive a formal complaint, we are required to complete an investigation,” town director of public works Jed Kelly told the Independent. “Our approach is generally to work with all parties to find an acceptable solution. In this case, upon review, staff have determined that the operation of the corn stand does not comply with the zoning bylaw and the parking restrictions listed in the towns traffic and parking bylaw.”

In working with the Grahams, Kelly said the corn stand will be permitted to operate in that location until the end of this season, on Sept. 8.

“It's a lot to swallow, that's for sure, especially when there's so many people that do enjoy going to it and have been supporting it

More than 160 firearms seized from Perth South home

Police say guns were unsafely stored

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A 69-year-old Perth South man is charged with careless use of firearms after Stratford police seized a total of 165 guns while executing a search warrant related to unsafe storage of firearms on the man's property.

Officers executed the search warrant on

Aug. 13 after the police service received information about the firearms being unsafely stored throughout the property. According to Stratford police Insp. Mark Taylor, police were made aware of the guns when someone came forward about the state of the property.

“The guns were not being stored; there

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COMMUNITY

Water Street welcomes pūrpour Refillery & Boutique



Jay and Angela MacPherson recently opened pūrpour Refillery & Boutique on Water Street.

WENDY LAMOND
Independent Reporter

Exciting things are happening on Water Street with the opening of a refillery by two well-known local business owners, Angela and Jay MacPherson, owners of Angela Dawn Aesthetics and Medispa.

What is a refillery? It is a retail business that helps reduce single-use plastics by offering refills for household and personal-care products.

“I was thinking that there wasn’t a whole lot of places to get organic, Canadian products that also saves on waste and is available all at one location,” said Angela MacPherson.

“We originally thought of opening it at the spa, but having a busy retail environment was not conducive to a spa environment, and then we heard of the new location being available, so we went to check it out,” Jay MacPherson added.

An ever-expanding retail inventory was another factor leading the couple to decide they had outgrown the retail space at their spa.

The couple has learned a lot about what dyes and chemicals can do to the body, leading them toward more organic, healthier products.

When visiting the store, a filled bottle can be purchased and then refilled during future visits. There is a scale available that accounts for the weight of the container, so customers only pay for the refill. Customers are also encouraged to bring their own refillable containers from home.

Some of the items for sale include essential oils, carrier oils, sunscreen, body lotions, shampoo/conditioner, laundry detergent, fabric softener, dish soap, disinfectant, bubble bath, shaving products, deodorants, feminine hygiene products and toothpaste, just to list a few.

Oneca, one of their main suppliers, is based out of Montreal and all products are made onsite at their facility. Another supplier, Jack 59, is an eco-friendly hair-care business with all-natural ingredients and is a proud member of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business.

There will also be two lines of underwear and bras that have zinc lining, which is anti bacterial, organic, does not contain dyes and is moisture wicking. The MacPhersons are also planning on bringing in sleep wear closer to the Christmas season.

Both MacPhersons will work part time



pūrpour Refillery & Boutique gives customers the opportunity to reduce their single-use plastics by offering refills of household and personal-care products in reusable containers.

hours at the store along with employee Vanessa Castaneda, who also works at the spa. Full-time hours will go to employee Tracy Jeffrey. Jay and Angela MacPherson are looking forward to being part of the retail world as they are both very used to working in the service industry.

The MacPhersons thank Linda and Kelly Sivyer for all their help and support getting ready for opening day and are looking forward to welcoming visitors to the store.

The doors opened to the public with a soft opening on Aug. 26. The hours of operation going forward are Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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21 °C	21 °C	18 °C	22 °C	25 °C	27 °C	27 °C
Feels Like 22	Feels Like 22	Feels Like 18	Feels Like 22	Feels Like 28	Feels Like 30	Feels Like 29

Traffic and parking complaints could see the end of longtime St. Marys sweet corn stand

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

over the years,” Brett Graham said. “... It’s kind of disappointing, I have to admit. I don’t know, really, what the future of (the stand) is, but we’re just getting through this season and then maybe we’ll reassess and figure out what we’ll want to do.

“Our farm is out on Highway 7, so I don’t know if maybe we’ll just have something out here or what we’ll do. We’ll see.”

While Brett Graham says he doesn’t yet know whether his family will push back against the town’s order to move the business, suggesting the corn stand has been there so long it should be

grandfathered into the town’s zoning bylaws, he’s hopeful there is a future for stand.

From a business standpoint, he said the corn stand represents only a small portion of his farm’s sales and this order from the town won’t cause too much financial stress. The real pain, he says, is the potential loss of that community connection through which his family has gotten to know multiple generations of St. Marys families for over six decades.

“My dad who is in his 70s still picks the corn and I pick it, and we have other people that help – employees or kids. I’ve got a son that helps and he’s got

some friends that help. I bet if you took the number of people who helped at the stand or the farm over the 60 years, it would probably be hundreds of people from St. Marys,” Brett Graham said.

While Graham’s corn will no longer be available at the stand at Queen and Pelissier after Sept. 8, it can still be purchased at Country Roots Fresh Market and Flowers at 1971 Perth Road 163 and from Angie Humphrey at 34253 Grant-on Line.

The Town of St. Marys is also open to working with the Grahams in finding a solution that would allow the corn stand to return in future seasons.

“Staff can sympathize with the situa-

tion of a seasonal business that has been operating for decades; however, we recognize that the concerns raised are valid and we are working to address them,” Kelly said. “We’re hopeful a solution can be reached well before next season that satisfies the concerns of the complainants and allows the corn stand to operate in the community.

“We believe that we are well on the way to this solution. ... Looking ahead for 2026, the proprietor will be looking for a new location to move the corn stand to and the town has offered to assist in a review of a new location for suitability and compliance to applicable bylaws.”

More than 160 firearms seized from Perth South home

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

were guns left randomly throughout the building on the property,” Taylor said.

Of the 165 guns seized by police, approximately 65 were handguns that are restricted or prohibited under Canadian law. The other 100 guns, Taylor said,

were rifles and shotguns. In addition to the firearms, police seized what the service said was “a large amount” of ammunition, gunpowder and gun parts.

“There were no immediate concerns for police or public safety,” Taylor said. “However, the manner in which

the firearms were stored demonstrated a complete disregard for the safety of others.

“Anyone who possesses firearms has a responsibility to store them securely. If you are unable to do so, we urge you to turn them in at your local police sta-

tion, where they can be safely disposed of.”

The accused was released from police custody on an undertaking with a court date of Sept. 29.

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EDITORIAL

After six months of waiting, kitchen renovations are officially underway, and I’ve gone AWOL

GALEN SIMMONS
Editor

I’m feeling a little guilty this week. While Julia is at home overseeing the start of kitchen renovations we’ve been planning since we moved into our house back in January, I’m nowhere to be seen, having left town for the week to tend to some familial duties.

When we agreed to purchase our new home, both Julia and I knew it needed a lot of work – the most important of which was a kitchen overhaul. With a peeling counter-top and cupboard doors that couldn’t open fully because of their proximity to the oven, as well as an overall layout that makes it difficult to do anything in the kitchen, let alone cook, we had planned to tackle the kitchen fairly soon after we moved in.

Of course, Julia falling and breaking her leg on moving day pushed those plans back quite a bit, as did the ice damming at the edge of the roof above our back wall in February, which caused water to pour through our walls, out our kitchen windowsills and down into the basement, necessitating an insurance claim.

As part of the claim, our insurance hired a local contractor to rip out the drywall and dry out our back kitchen wall with industrial fans and dehumidifiers over the course of four days. They also ripped out some flooring to dry the subfloor and, for reasons that aren’t entirely clear to me, replaced our furnace (apparently there was some water damage in the ducts).

Once everything was dried out, the contractor likely would have replaced our dry-wall and flooring right away, but because we still planned to renovate the kitchen, a plan that ultimately included replacing our two back windows with one larger window, we decided it would be best to hold off on that work until we could have the new

window put in and get our new cabinets ordered.

Why replace the drywall and flooring if we might have to tear them out again in a few months, right?

In the meantime, the general contractor became busy with other jobs, causing further delays to the work, and we lived with an exposed back wall and exposed flooring in our kitchen for more than half a year.

Now, the new window is in, and work has officially begun to restore our back wall and our flooring. Julia is at home this week taking care of the pets, including our new puppy, while also managing the work being done by our contractors.

With the kitchen cabinets expected to arrive any day now, she is also working empty out our old cabinets and rip them out with the help of a friend. I will install the new cabinets with help of Julia’s dad, who knows how to do this type of thing, after I get home next week.

As is so often the case, the timing of all this work couldn’t be worse, as I find myself spending the week at my mom’s, an hour-and-a-half drive from Stratford, taking care of her after she had her knee replaced.

Now don’t get me wrong; I’m happy I could spend the week with my mom, helping to cook, clean and do all the other household duties while she gets the rest she needs to recover. But my mom really doesn’t need all that much help. She’s up and walking around, and she seems to be managing the pain quite well.

So, as Julia sends me photos of all the work she’s doing, emptying cupboards, moving furniture and caring for the pets, all while working a full-time job, I find myself wishing I was there to help shoulder some of the load.

I know I’ll jump right back into it all when I get home this weekend, but until then, that sense of guilt is real.

Bravo	Boo
We have 1 Bravo this week. 1) Bravo to the kind St. Marys people who assisted our mother on Thursday at the post office, after her nasty fall. Your kindness and compassion is much appreciated. It is comforting to know that there are so many good people always willing to assist someone in need. St. Marys is certainly such a community.	We have 2 Boos this week. 1) Boo to the town for forcing Graham’s Sweet Corn to shut down the corn stand next year because of traffic complaints from the new complex. Student jobs and a family tradition for decades is being ended because of a few impatient neighbours. 2) Boo to the person who removed the two dozen flowers I placed on my parents’ grave at Avonbank Cemetery before the 2025 annual Decoration Day Service.
*Please note all Boos and Bravos must be signed in order to be considered.	Bravos and Boos are submitted by community members and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the St. Marys Independent.

Quote of the Week

“This week was beyond special. To be able to finish it off and hoist the trophy again is extremely cool. It feels super surreal still. When I won in 2018, I woke up Monday morning thinking I still had to play the final round, so I’m wondering if that nightmare will happen again tomorrow.”

- Canadian golfer Brooke Henderson after winning her 2nd CPKC women’s open on home soil

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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Playing ball at Milt Dunnell Field gives a new meaning to the phrase “sliding into second base”.

Summer is almost over. Time to officially remember what day of the week it is.

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

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St. Marys Independent

Thoughts of the Week
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The tan will fade but the memories will last forever.

August is like the Sunday of summer.

Holiday hours for town facilities – Labour Day (Sept. 1)

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The following hours will be in effect for Town of St. Marys facilities for Labour Day (Monday, Sept. 1).

Closed:

- Administrative offices (town hall and municipal operations centre)
- Adult learning
- Child care centre
- Town of St. Marys EarlyON Centre
- Fire station
- Friendship Centre
- Landfill
- Library

- Mobility Services offices (rides must be booked by 3 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 28)

- Museum and archives
- Pyramid Recreation Centre
- Service Ontario

Open:

- Home support services such as Meals on Wheels and Telephone Reassurance will continue.
- Quarry will be open (11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; pre-register online at townofstmarys.com/quarry). The last day of the 2025 Quarry season is Sept. 1.
- Train station will be open, visit www.viarail.ca for train scheduling.

Museum's popular Speaker Series returns Sept. 18

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The popular St. Marys Museum Speaker Series returns for its 13th season this fall with a variety of engaging evening presentations.

On Thursday, Sept. 18, the museum will hold a presentation about bridges in St. Marys. Often something we take for granted, local historians Ken Telfer and Mary Smith will explore how these structures have shaped our community and become iconic landmarks.

On Thursday, Oct. 23, the stories of Rotary Club of St. Marys will be shared. This year marks the 100th anniversary of Rotary's impact on the community. Assistant curator Emily Taylor will share the club's history from the partnership exhibit, "Service Above Self,"

and Andrew Middleton, 2020-2021 Rotary Club of St. Marys president, will speak about Rotary's current initiatives in its century year.

On Wednesday, Nov. 19, the history of the quarries will be explored by local historians Paul King and Larry Pfaff. Today, the Quarry is Canada's largest outdoor swimming pool, but in the mid-1800s, it was the centre of the town's industry. This presentation will focus on both the industrial and recreational history of this popular attraction.

The Speaker Series is a fundraiser for the museum. The cost per person to attend is \$12 or \$10 for museum members. Space is limited and therefore pre-registration is necessary. For more information or to register, call 519-284-3556 or email museum@town.stmarys.on.ca.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (FOL)

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

> **Movie in the Park** - Fri. Sept. 5 @ Cadzow Park from Dusk

> **FOL Social** @ the Library - Wed. Sept 10 - 6:30-8pm

> **Fall Book Sale** - @ the Lind Sportsplex (Quarry & Curling Club)

- Thurs. Sept 11 & Fri. Sept 12, 10am-6pm
- Sat. Sept 13 & Sun. Sept 14, 10-4pm

*We need strong volunteers to help move boxes of books from the library on Tues. Sept. 9, from 10am. Please contact us if you can assist.

> **Management Committee Meeting** - Thurs. Sept. 18 - 10am @ the Library - Come and see what we do! If you're interested, we'd love to meet you!



Email: friendsofstmaryspubliclibrary@gmail.com
or Facebook @Stmarysfol

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



GRANDPARENTS' DAY CELEBRATION

September 2 | 9 - 11 AM | Friendship Centre

The St. Marys Friendship Centre has partnered with EarlyON for an intergenerational event. Come and enjoy face painting, story time, crafts, snacks and a mini magic show. This event is free to attend.

Register today: (519-284-3272)

LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN

Help plan for the future!

The St. Marys Public Library Board is actively gathering feedback on its Strategic Plan, seeking insights from individuals. Their aim is to identify areas of focus to help meet the needs of the community.

townofstmarys.com/librarystratplan



SCRAPBOOKING GARAGE SALE

September 13 | 9 AM - 1 PM | Friendship Centre

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

SUMMER IN ST. MARYS PASSPORT

Last call to complete your Summer in St. Marys Passport! Visit at least seven of the eleven passport sites before September 1, 2025 to get your passport stamped for a chance to win \$100 in St. Marys money. Passports are free to pick up at any of the eleven participating locations.

Contact the St. Marys Museum to learn more!
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SHOWER PROGRAM

Pyramid Recreation Centre

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Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Marjorie Habermehl who will be celebrating a birthday at the end of the month. She is a native of St. Marys and now resides at Kingsway Lodge. Marjorie has five kids, 13 grandkids and 21 great grandkids. She worked for the Town of St. Marys Day Care for close to 30 years. Marjorie enjoys playing piano. She has played her whole life and still plays at the Baptist Church.

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



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

On Wednesday, Aug. 20, the JazzM@x (Jazzmatics) performed as part of Melodies at the Museum. The Kintore-based septet was born because of the big-band charts received by a member of the band from Andy Hoe, veteran band leader and sax player from St. Marys. More of these charts were also borrowed from high schools and the idea they could perform this music came to be. In 2002, they combined Carol Shaw (tenor sax), Wade Whittaker (bass), the four Irvines -- Dan (drums), Barb (keyboards), D'Arcy (alto and baritone sax/flute), Judy (trumpet), and an import from Mitchell, Brad Carew (trombone). Since then, the group has performed in many venues, playing a range of styles from jazz standards to bossa nova to funk. Music lovers may have stumbled upon them playing on the Avon River in Stratford on a barge, or in Bancroft at the annual arts festival, or perhaps on a patio in Tobermory. They regularly play at the Jobsite Brewery in Stratford. They also play at retirement homes in St. Marys and Woodstock. They were pleased to perform this year (their fourth appearance) at this charming venue where the audience is always receptive.

Open air fire ban in St. Marys lifted as of Aug. 25

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

Effective as of noon Aug. 25, Perth County has lifted its open-air fire ban.
Residents of St. Marys are encouraged to continue safe burning practices. If weather conditions change and dry weather returns, the burn ban can be reinstated at any time.

Applications for burn permits have reopened. Visit www.townofstmarys.com/burnpermit for more information on how to apply.
Resulting from dry weather, an open-air burn ban was declared across Perth County and in Stratford and St. Marys on Aug. 6. Open-air fires are defined as any fire outside of a building and include any fires that are not in a contained campfire pit, or any other fires set in open air.

Weekend Quiz

1. Moose Jaw is a city in what province of Canada?
2. The U.S. Marine Corps' motto is "Semper Fi" which means what?
3. In Curious George, who is George's right hand man?
4. Apart from eggs what is in an Arnold Bennett omelette?
5. A gemshorn is made from what animal?
6. Who wrote the famous book: Lord of the Flies?
7. Which playing card is known as The Devil's Bedpost?
8. Name Batman's crime-fighting partner?
9. Which singing voice is the highest pitch? Soprano, tenor or baritone?
10. What kind of tree do prunes come from?

By Jake Grant

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

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Perth South youth plows ahead in family tradition



(PHOTO COURTESY OF ANTHONY BERTRAND)

Ten-year-old Lincoln Voth of Perth South competed in the Perth County Plowing Match near Donegal Aug. 23.

ANTHONY BERTRAND

Contributed Article

At just 10 years old, Lincoln Voth of Perth South is already making a name for himself in the world of competitive plowing. Competing as the youngest participant at the Perth County Plowing Match on Aug. 23, held at the farm of Scott and Sherry Dallner near Donegal, Voth carved out more than just furrows in the field – he carved out a place in his family’s proud history. In his very first county-level competition, Voth edged out his cousin, Quynntin Terpstra, by a single point to capture the junior champion title. Barely catching his breath, he was off the next day to Ayton in Grey County for the Zone 3 Junior Plowing Match, where he competed against beginner plowmen from Perth, Huron, Bruce and Grey counties, and came home with the reserve champion award. For Voth, the competition was more

than just about points on a scorecard. It was about carrying forward a legacy that has run through his family for nearly a century. His great-grandfather, Fred Bertrand, plowed in the 1930s with a team of horses. His grandfather, Bryan Bertrand, continued the tradition and this year, claimed the Perth County grand champion title with his 1952 Massey Harris 33 tractor. And Voth’s father, Anthony Bertrand, added to the family’s long list of honours by winning the 3 Furrow class at the same event. While the machinery has changed over the decades – from horse-drawn plows to vintage Masseys and beyond – the sense of pride and community has not. For the Bertrands and Voths, plowing is more than a sport; it’s a connection to the land, to history and to each other. For Voth, those straight furrows he laid down in the Donegal soil weren’t just marks of competition. They were footsteps into the past, and a stride toward the future of a family tradition that shows no signs of slowing down.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF ANTHONY BERTRAND)

Lincoln Voth of Perth South is carrying forward a proud family tradition by competing in local and regional plowing competitions.

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Grandparents Day returns to the Friendship Centre on Sept. 2

Event intended to bridge the divide between young and old with a morning of fun and connection

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

For the second year in a row and as part of a local effort to host and promote more intergenerational programming, the Friendship Centre – in partnership with St. Marys Early ON – is hosting Grandparents Day on Sept. 2 from 9-11 a.m.

This event is designed to bring people of all ages together for a joyful morning, fostering community spirit through shared activities and laughter. Featured activities will include face painting, story time, crafts, snacks and a mini magic show by Kooky Kate, a Friendship Centre regular.

“There is an actual Grandparents Day that is celebrated, and it is actually not in September,” said St. Marys senior services manager Jenny Mikita. “I believe it’s in October, and we are playing on the concept of this. Sept. 2 is a PA day for the Avon Maitland District School Board, so Early ON – which is located in the Pyramid Recreation Centre right next to the Friendship Centre – and the Friendship Centre are always looking for ways to collaborate on programming.

“Intergenerational programming is just awesome; seeing the two generations at either end of the age spectrum interact. So, we thought, how can we provide more opportunities to get our older population and our younger population together, or our families to bring their grandparents, or our seniors to bring their grandchildren out?”

In addition to last year’s Grandparents Day, the Friendship Centre and Early ON also hosted an intergenerational concert featuring musician Eric Traplin ear-

lier this summer, which offered another opportunity for young families and older residents to interact and make new connections and friendships.

While the event is called Grandparents Day, Mikita stressed those who attend are not required to bring their grandparents or grandchildren, something that can be difficult for people whose family does not live nearby. Instead, the event is intended to foster connections between total strangers, as well as family and friends.

“It brings people together, Mikita said. “For families that maybe don’t have their grandparents near, they can come to an event where there are seniors. It’s beneficial; they get energy from each other. I know when the kids come over to the Friendship Centre, it’s just awesome to see such great connection.

“There will be grandparents there with their grandchildren and there will be families there with their neighbours or friends or whoever. It’s open for all. If you don’t have a little or a big, still come and meet a new friend.”

In the past, Mikita said intergenerational programming has led to the development of lifelong friendships between young families and older adults.

Mikita says the Friendship Centre and Early ON are always looking for new intergenerational programming, and St. Marys residents should keep their eyes open for more opportunities like this one in the future.

Registration is strongly encouraged through ActiveNet (www.townofstmarys.com/activenet), KEyON (www.townofstmarys.com/keyon) or by calling the St. Marys Friendship Centre at 519-284-3272.

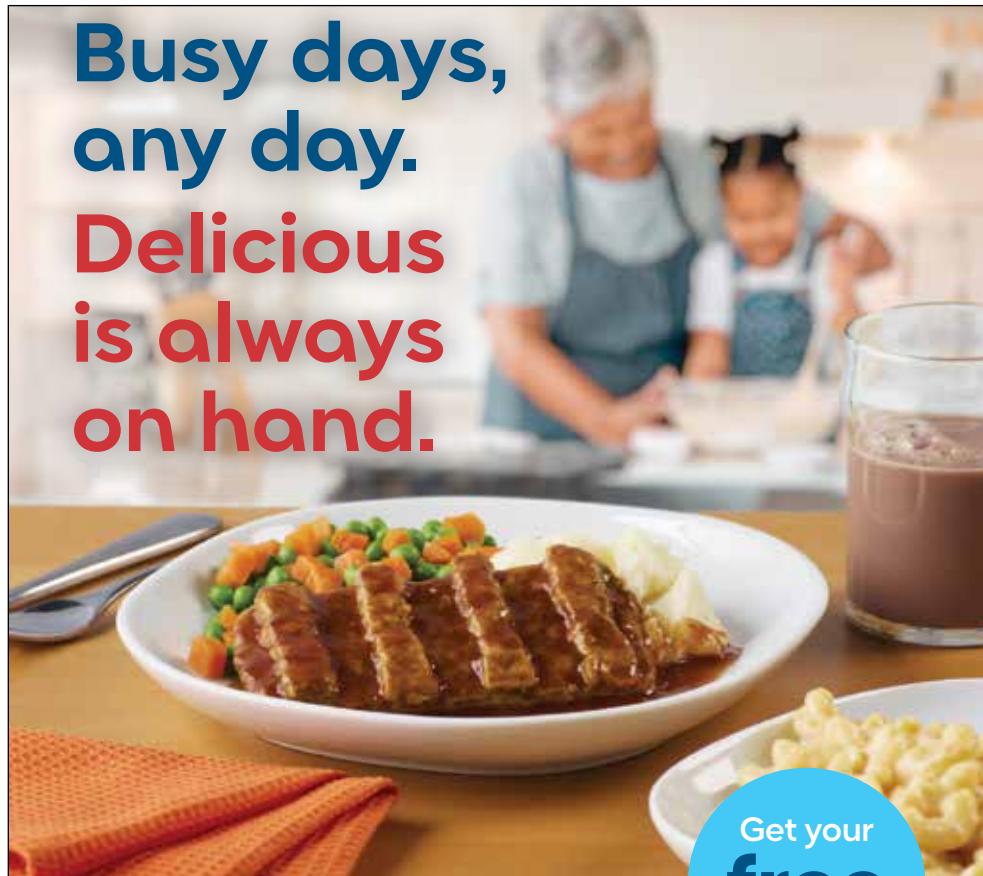


(PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. MARYS FRIENDSHIP CENTRE)

Participants young and old enjoyed the games, activities and entertainment that was part of the St. Marys Friendship Centre and Early ON’s 2024 Grandparents Day. The event will return on Sept. 2.

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The Flower Shop and More's fairy house highlights local flowers

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

Anyone walking in downtown St. Marys during Canadian Flowers Week got to see fairy homes in a field created with regional fauna.

The Flower Shop and More created a fairy house window display in honour of Canadian Flowers Week, which features flowers from Tavistock's The Garden in Harrington, as part of the nationwide contest. Shop staff began installing the display on Aug. 20 and residents and visitors got a chance to admire it until Aug. 24.

"We have some really skilled miniature builders on staff, so it sort of was a great marriage to work with that and the local flowers," said Debra O'Connor, lead designer.

The Flower Shop and More also had a group of children add pressed flowers to the model fairy house kits to be included in the display.

"Canadian Flowers Week is all about community – the community of fabulous flower growers across the country and the wonderful communities in Canada that understand the importance of Canadian grown flowers and support their local flower growers," O'Connor said.

"Community is an integral part of farming in Canada and this is also true in Flower Farming and growing!"

Canadian Flowers Week, sponsored by Canadian Wholesaler Unicorn Blooms, takes place from Aug. 18-24 and showcases flowers grown locally all across the country. O'Connor wants to bring attention to the several local flower farms and said most flowers in Canada are actually imported and travel more than 6,000 kilometres.

"Something more than 85 per cent of all flowers are imported into Canada, and that's really silly when we can grow flowers here in Canada ourselves and we can grow almost as much as we absolutely need, and the more we use of Canadian flowers, the more we will grow Canadian flowers," she said. "The more we grow Canadian flowers, the more we will use Canadian flowers and this cycle builds so that we don't have to keep importing."

The Canadian Flowers week contest awards the grand prize winner with plenty of Canadian flowers. Last year, the Flower Shop and More created a flower quilt in honour of Canadian Flowers Week in their window display. The St. Marys shop placed fourth in the Canada-wide competition.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF DEBRA O'CONNOR)

The Flower Shop and More once again created a stunning display in honour of Canadian Flowers Week, this time with a fairy house in a meadow. The shop won fourth place in the Canadian Flowers Week 2024 competition with their flower quilt display.



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From coffee and sausages to games for kids, St. Marys Lions Club brings community together at first-ever breakfast event

ALEX HUNT

Independent Reporter

With all hands-on deck, the St. Marys Lions Club members turned the weekly farmers' market on Saturday, Aug. 16 into a morning of food, games and goodwill, showing how volunteers can bring a community together one breakfast at a time.

"This is one of our first times serving breakfast; we are hoping that the breakfast is a future tradition for the farmers' market. There have been great comments from the community and people are loving what we're serving," said Evelyn Albers, first vice president of the St. Marys Lions Club. "People are loving the breakfast sandwich, we've got pancakes, little sausages and blueberries as well as coffee and pop and water."

Albers said there's a lot of organizing that goes into preparing for the breakfast, along with retrieving equipment from storage. Albers added the event and the Lions Club in general is entirely run by volunteers with a mandate of everybody helping everyone and doing whatever they need to get done for the team.

"We are just serving the public; it does not matter who it is. It's been a great break-

fast. We got a little cornhole game going on here for the kids and they don't need to stand far from it," said Albers. "As long as they get one beanbag through, they will get a free cookie or chocolate or white milk."

"The community can ask us if we can do something and we will always do our best to achieve that. If not, we will find somebody that can. I love just having the club recognized for the things that we do. It does not have to be anything real big. People recognize me just walking around downtown and they thank me for what we all do; it's a wonderful feeling to be helping the community in any way we can."

The St. Marys Lions club plans to take part in future events, including the annual Santa Claus Parade. In recent years, the club has also organized a car show and has supported initiatives such as the Toll Bridge, diabetes programs and child cancer fundraising.

Albers said the club is always looking for new members.

"We have one couple here and they are the youngest; the rest of us are getting up there in age and not being able to do as much. If people want to be a member, they can help whenever they can and help out anybody in the community."



(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

Pictured in front at the St. Marys Lions Club Farmers' Market Breakfast on Saturday, Aug. 16 is St. Marys Lions Club president Gwendolen Boyle. In the back from left to right are Lions members Ron Annett, Luke De Brabandere and Evelyn Albers.

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Supporting the St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary



(PHOTO COURTESY OF JANIS FREAD)

This lemonade stand was set up by Willow and Blake to raise money for the St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.

JANIS FREAD

St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary

Who doesn't love lemonade on a warm, sunny, summer day!

Super sales ladies Blake, six, and Willow, four, set up a stand to sell lemonade, homemade cookies and, for those who appreciate a little whimsy, hand-painted, small rocks! Their amazing sales generated a donation of \$100

to the hospital Auxiliary! We appreciate all who donate to the Auxiliary, but this one is extra special.

For those who enjoy sewing, knitting, quilting, needlepointing or any kind of stitching, mark your calendar for The Stitch Market, coming Oct. 24 and 25. The Rotary Club of St. Marys and the hospital Auxiliary are partnering to present a shopper's paradise of new and gently used fabrics, yarns and acces-



(PHOTO COURTESY OF JANIS FREAD)

Young St. Marys entrepreneurs Willow, four, and Blake, six, donate the \$100 they made selling lemonade, cookies and painted rocks to St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary member Joyce at the hospital boutique.

sories. Now is the time to sort through your stash and donate fabric, yarn and supplies that you know you'll never use, so you can make room to buy more! The hospital Boutique (open Monday to Friday, noon to 4 p.m.) is currently accepting donations and more donation locations will be announced in October.

Beautiful, framed mosaic hearts and unique hand-designed tea towels are new and now available at the hospital

Boutique, both designed by St. Marys artists. And the special summer sale of garments continues until the end of August, so be sure to stop by.

For updates on fundraising events or to become a volunteer, follow the Auxiliary on Facebook at The Boutique at St. Marys Memorial Hospital or email mmhauxiliary@gmail.com.

Annual Terry Fox Run set for Sunday, Sept. 14 in St. Marys

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

Finish It!

That's the motto for the 45th year of the Terry Fox Run. This year, the annual run/walk/bike is taking place on Sunday, Sept. 14. Participants will start at the YMCA, head along the Grand Truck Trail to the Broken Rail Brewery before turning back. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. and the run starts at 9 a.m.

The "Finish It" campaign aims to bring Canadians across the country together to work together to finish the fight against cancer.

To celebrate this 45th anniversary, the Terry Fox Foundation St. Marys committee has a limited quantity of black t-shirts for sale. Other commemorative items can also be ordered online. T-shirts will also be available the day of the event.

"We are excited for the 45th anniversary of the run! Terry Fox is a symbol of Canadian unity and really a symbol of how people can come together and support each other and raise money for cancer research," committee member Anna Doupe said.

"We are all touched by cancer as we all know someone who has battled it. This year's phrase, 'Finish It' means to finish cancer and find a cure together."

Terry Fox was forced to stop his cross-country Marathon of Hope run on Sept. 1, 1980, after having run 5,373 kilometres. Now it is up to his fellow Canadians to "Finish It."

For more information, email the committee at terryfoxstmarys@gmail.com.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREA MACKO)

Committee members Anna Doupe and Andrea Macko were on hand this past weekend at the St. Marys Farmers Market sharing details for the Sept. 14 Terry Fox Run.

From crafts to community, Vacation Bible School wraps up another summer at St. Marys United Church

ALEX HUNT

Independent Reporter

Vacation Bible School wrapped up another summer at St. Marys United Church this week, having brought children together to learn Bible stories, make crafts and celebrate faith with the intention of returning next summer.

Vacation Bible School, known as Camp Firelight at St. Marys United Church, concludes its programming for the summer this week. The camp features an abundance of activities, bible stories and games ensuring that children experience a week of socialization, play, God and community. The camp welcomes children between the ages of four to 12 and promises to provide an experience that will have them return next year.

For Vacation Bible School coordinator Katherine Found, the camp serves as a reminder for people to know that they live a blessed life.

“God is there walking and helping with us to be good people and contribute to our community as well as help and love our neighbours,” said Found. “We want children to understand that there is always going to be someone there for them in God that they can turn to.”

“We do plan to run another Vacation Bible School next year, and we are always looking for more volunteers. Our student volunteers are able to get their high school volunteer hours credit and



(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

Camp Firelight, Vacation Bible School at St. Marys United Church, allows children to have the opportunity to engage with meaningful Bible stories in an understanding catered to their age, ensuring all participants go home feeling the love of Jesus.

that’s great, but it also gives them a sense of giving back to the community. We highly value their support and participation.”

During the week, interactive Bible stories were broken down in a format that was resonating and meaningful for the children’s age and understanding.

Leaders made sure to connect everyday lessons with stories from God, providing kids with lessons they can carry with them as they continue to walk with Jesus and follow his lead.

“There has been a wonderful outreach from the community with donating snacks; I do want to say a huge thank

you to all the locals and congregation members who have donated juice boxes and snacks for the kids to enjoy,” said Found. “There is a time where we all eat together as a group and say thanks to God and that he’s able to provide the food for us before going back out and enjoying the rest of our activities.”

Camp Firelight offered children a range of engaging activities, from creating personalized journalism and friendship bracelets to painting photo frames. At the science and discovery stations, kids participated in hands-on experiments that combined learning with fun. Outdoor games on the church lawn, including tag, gave children a chance to be active while enjoying the camp experience, allowing locals passing by to have a glimpse into what the Vacation Bible School has to offer.

“I hope that Vacation Bible School continues to bring the community of St. Marys at large together. I hope that we have kids from all avenues of the community attend the camp because ultimately, the church is welcoming and accepting of everyone,” said Found. “Whether you attend church in St. Marys or another congregation, or not all, maybe you’re out of town or just visiting for the week, all are welcome to join and take part. I hope that all participants and their families go home with a new appreciation of the church community.”



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Musical Guest Vira Furman plays at the North Nissouri Decoration service on Ukraine's Flag Day



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Ukrainian musician Vira Furman performed during the North Nissouri Decoration Service on Sunday.

WENDY LAMOND
Independent Reporter

At this time of year, many churches gather to beautify gravesites and remember loved ones by taking part in decoration services, laying flowers to honour the deceased.

The North Nissouri Cemetery hosted their decoration service on Sunday with

guest speaker Gwen Ament and musical guest Vira Furman.

Furman, who is from Ukraine, played her violin from the heart on the 34th anniversary of Ukraine's Independence from Soviet rule.

Many events were being held in the Ukrainian community to celebrate this special day despite the ongoing war and destruction still happening.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Concerns with Milt Dunnell Field

I am writing to express my concern regarding the recent decision to relocate the children's playground and T-ball diamond from the old cemetery grounds on Elgin Street East. For years, this area has served our community as a peaceful and cherished space.

The beautiful, well-maintained grounds have been a hub for families, with children enjoying the playground equipment and learning the fundamentals of baseball. It's a wonderful sight to see and is a testament to the community spirit as seniors often gather on the benches to watch the children play. The current location is clean, quiet and perfectly suited for these activities.

The proposed move to Milt Dunnell

Field, while well-intentioned, presents a significant and, frankly, unsanitary problem. As many of us know, this field is frequented by hundreds of geese, which leave the entire area filled with their droppings. This is simply not a safe or healthy environment for our children to play in.

I urge the Town of St. Marys to reconsider this plan. Let's keep our children's activities in the lovely, clean and quiet space that has served our community so well for so long. It is the best place for them to play and for our seniors to enjoy watching them. Our ancestors would certainly approve of the children happily playing and enjoying life. Thank you.

Allen Lawson, St. Marys



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Fourth annual Rich's Round Up



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)
The fourth annual Rich's Round Up was held near Anderson on Saturday, Aug. 16. Pictured is the man it is named after, Rich Hilton, and one of his cars. Over 225 vehicles took part in the show. Rich has been in the body repair business for over 35 years in London.

Car show raises \$3,000 for Salvation Army



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)
Pictured is Raelyn Marshall, community and family service worker, at the Salvation Army Food Bank, accepting a cheque for \$3,050 from Jim Fedyk, organizer of the annual Windmill Family Campground Car Show. The event had another successful summer.

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St. Marys Independent **SPORTS**

U18-GT3 Storm dominant in winning District Cup gold

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The U18 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm ended their dominant season with an equally convincing District Cup soccer tournament finals effort, staying undefeated and claiming the gold medal after finishing atop their league standings.

In the team's quarter-final match against Wingham, St. Marys cruised to a 7-2 victory with Sydney Grant, Maddie Monisit Brown and Charlotte Richardson each scoring twice, along with a goal from Carlie Muir. The Storm advanced to the finals after their semi-final against Byron was forfeited.

The championship game saw the Storm face off against one of their most bitter rivals, Oakridge, over whom St. Marys picked up a convincing 5-0 win.

Head coach Nathan Brown told the Independent their opponent provided a difficult test, but the Storm's strong ball movement allowed them to crack Oakridge's defensive code.

"Oakridge is very high-competitve," said Brown. "They have a couple of girls on their team who really play hard. There are a lot of similar styles between us and them on the pitch. They like to clog up the midfield, and they move the ball extremely well. We knew what to expect from when we faced them in league play, and the instructions to our girls were to keep the ball wide to open up their defensive schemes, and if they then crowded one side of the field, swing the ball around to the other wing, and that seemed to work well for us."

With lopsided results in District Cup gold-medal matches exceedingly rare, Brown credited the team's cohesive, well-rounded abilities as leading to a game that was, for large stretches, totally one-sided.

"You don't get a 5-0 win in a District Cup finals game very often," Brown said. "We defend exceptionally well



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The U18 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm ended an undefeated season with a District Cup Championship and league title. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Vienna Beckett, Madeleine Monisit Brown, Marin Chateauvert, Isla Unich, Rowan Aitken, Libby McCurdy and Harvest Elliott. In the back row, from left, are coach Gord Aitken, Carlie Muir, Regan Jones, Charlotte Richardson, Olive Aarts, Abby Martin, Guin Jester, Sydney Grant, Erin Green, Leighton Lichti, Laura King, coach Mark Muir and head coach Nathan Brown.

as a group. We had 14 games this year and nine of them were shutouts, which speaks to our back end and our keeper Isla (Unich) and how they communicate, how hard our midfielders come back to help, and the overall athleticism of our girls. This year, they put it all together. Probably 95 per cent of the time, they keep the ball on the ground, which helps keep control. There was a stint in our finals match against Oakridge where it felt like we didn't let them out of their end for around 22 minutes, just because of how well we moved the ball."

Unich's stellar play all season in the Storm's net was a product of her stress-free demeanour.

"Isla is a quiet calm back there. She anticipates very well. She was given the net almost exclusively last year, and at the tail end of last year, you could see her confidence grow. If you've got a confident goalie, you'll see them at the top

speed."

Like she did in the quarters, Richardson netted a pair of goals in the final against Oakridge, with Muir, Marin Chateauvert and Harvest Elliott each finding the back of the net once.

"Charlotte (Richardson) has an absolute rocket of a shot," said Brown. "When you get her and Maddie (Monisit Brown) playing side by side with Marin (Chateauvert) and Vienna (Beckett), and then with Abby (Martin) and Olive (Aarts) anchoring the midfield with Leah (Hachler), who is easily our most player this year and a year ago, we've got easily the top midfield in the league. They distribute, they pass and they move well. They know how to play the game the right way, and they have fun doing it. If they make a mistake, they laugh and they fix it."

The District Cup and league titles not only capped off the team's season, but for Aarts, Elliott, Grant, Unich, Erin Green, Jester and Abby Martin, the team's seven players in their final minor soccer seasons, it also capped off a long road for the graduating class that saw them grow into a powerhouse.

"I've got seven who I've been with for six years now, not including the year they lost due to the pandemic," said Brown. "I started with them in 2018, and we were joking on the field about how far we've come. When we all started together, we went 0-13 the first year and 1-14 the following year. Fast forward to their last two years, and they've only lost two games in district league play in two years."

"I think it just speaks to the determination of the kids and how far St. Marys Minor Soccer as a whole has come. These girls absolutely love playing for each other. They all have their own goals and their own style, but they find their roles within the team, and they're always ready to jump in and do what the team needs of them."

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U14-BT3 Storm earn gold at District Cup championship

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The U14 Boys Tier Three St. Marys Storm struck gold at the District Cup soccer tournament finals Aug. 16-17 in London, riding strong defensive efforts to a first-place prize.

In their semi-final match against Clinton, Daniel Fontes and Brayden Wheeler scored while Jack Wilkinson kept their opponent's explosive offence at bay with St. Marys earning a 2-0 shut-out. Clinton scored 111 goals in 12 regular-season matches.

Wilkinson posted a second consecutive shutout in the gold-medal game against the London based Norwest, which went undefeated in the regular season in the other U14-BT3 loop and which St. Marys hadn't met yet this year. Ayden Eidt scored the lone goal of the game off a nice setup by Elliott Hudson.

Head coach Matthew Simons noted the team's strong work behind the ball allowed them to have success at the tournament.

"We played a very disciplined, team-focused, defensive style game, with everyone working hard and contributing," said Simons. "The boys bought into a 4-5-1 system throughout the weekend, which was well-suited to play defensively to ensure the boys were behind the ball, instead of rushing



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The U14 Boys Tier Three St. Marys Storm captured the gold medal at the District Cup final Aug. 16-17 in London. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Ayden Eidt, Santiago Tierra, Ahmad Ajjan Al Hadid, Daniel Fontes, Colton Cubberley, Lexxandre Nieto Estepan, Tyler McDonald and Cohen McKichan. In the back row, from left, are Matt Simons, Fin McCuthcheon, Isiah Omel, Braydon Wheeler, Elliott Hudson, Jack Wilkinson, Luke Simons, Bryce Blight, Cole McIntosh, Jack Brockman, Jonathan Buckland and Jon McDonald. Not pictured are Alex Peachey and Will Richardson.

and getting caught if the ball changed possession. They played as a team and showed positive support for each other along the way. They were focused and worked really hard, even with the hot temperatures."

Simons added the team's biggest

standout moments of the weekend were some of the smaller yet most consequential nuances of their game.

"This weekend, there were many great plays that you could point to. Scoring only three goals makes each goal a special moment, but what stuck out to me

was the number of smart, small plays that were built on to make those happen, and moreover, the plays that reduced Clinton and Norwest's chances. How disciplined our team was through the weekend, I thought, was the biggest thing that stood out.

"We finished first in our league standings, so doing that as well as winning the District Cup, the highest we could go, is just a sign of the boys' efforts," Simons continued. "It is great to see the boys get rewarded for that."

According to Simons, a key element to the team's ability to adapt and perform as well as they did was their familiarity with one another.

"Most of these boys have played together before, so we were a strong team from the start of the season, but they continued to develop through the year. Some individual strategies that they used in previous seasons didn't work as well, especially against the stronger teams, so they had to lean into the team game even more than they did before."

Simons further stated his high opinion of the team's character.

"I've had the privilege of coaching most of these boys for the last three seasons, and seeing them develop the way they have is a special thing," said Simons. "They are a great group. Their demeanour and attitude on and off the field embody respect and integrity, which is ultimately what you strive for."

U16-BT3 Storm take silver in District Cup finals

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The U16 Boys Tier Three St. Marys Storm ended their season in the league's top spot and with a silver medal at the District Cup soccer tournament finals Aug. 16-17 in London.

On the first day of the weekend-long District Cup tournament, the Storm picked up a semi-final victory over Byron Green to advance to the championship final. Matteo Napolitano scored a pair of goals, while Braydon Wheeler, Javi Franco-Farmer and Owen Muir also found the back of the net in St. Marys' 5-1 semi-final victory.

Head coach Connor Finucan praised his squad's "strong performance" in the semis.

"We played some great possession soccer with fantastic movement of the ball, and players moving to create opportunities," Finucan told the Independent. "Byron Green was trying to counter our strong offence with long passes to counterattack, but we defended them very well and didn't give them much."

Despite a valiant effort in the gold-medal game, the Storm suffered its first defeat of the season to St. Columban, losing 3-1, with Napolitano scoring the lone St. Marys goal.

Finucan explained the valuable experience provided by the sour-tasting end



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The U16 Boys Tier Three St. Marys Storm wrapped up their season in first place in their league and with a silver medal at the District Cup tournament finals in London Aug. 16-17. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Gavin Lang, Matteo Napolitano, Leo Jenson and Kobe Perry. In the back row, from left, are head coach Connor Finucan, Macklin Hern, Javi Franco-Farmer, Chase Jeffrey, Ben Robson, Tristan McIntosh, Logan Oke, Landon Lichti, Owen Muir, Nathan McKeen, Aiden Devries, Rens Debruin and Connor McKichan.

result.

"We fought hard, but in the end, we got to feel our first defeat of the summer. In the end, I think the second-place

result serves as a great lesson for the boys. Being league champions and having an invincible season does not mean you are invincible. You still have to

show up to every match and continue to earn the title.

"A league title and a silver medal finish in the District Cup mean that this team has seen amazing growth from last season," Finucan continued. "But it also shows that there is always room for continuous improvement."

Coach Finucan also credited the team for growing into a simpler, team-first play style this season.

"This summer, I pushed the boys to play a simple game. Support the play, find and move into space, and move the ball through quick, simple passes. Our play was a little rough around the edges at the start of the season. So often, the focus of soccer is on shooting and scoring goals. We wanted to bring that focus to the team aspect of the sport, and by the end of the season, we got to see some fantastic play from the team. Our next steps to refine it further are to work on our decision-making and reaction times."

The team's development throughout the year, according to Finucan, was very fulfilling.

"The boys worked hard and listened to the guidance I was giving. As a coach, it is the best feeling in the world to see that you've managed to get through to your player, and you can visibly see that they have picked up some of your experience you've been trying to pass along."

Health-care foundation's 32nd annual golf tournament a success at SMGCC



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Pictured from left to right are Craig Pearce, Andrew Phillips, Al Strathdee and Clive Slade. The foursome of Pearce, Phillips, Slade and Strathdee shot a 12-under-par to win the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation's 32nd annual golf tournament, hosted at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club on Aug. 21.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Andrew Phillips tees off during the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation's 32nd annual golf tournament.

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The St. Marys Healthcare Foundation had 140 golfers competing in their 32nd annual golf tournament, hosted at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club (SMGCC) on Aug. 21 in support of the foundation and the local hospital.

The proceeds from the tournament will go towards a new x-ray machine at the St. Marys Memorial Hospital.

Winning the tournament with a score of 60 was the foursome of Craig Pearce, Andrew Phillips, Clive Slade and Al Strathdee. Slade remarked that the team expected the pristine weather conditions to allow a different team to post a better score than their 12-under-par.

"We were more surprised than I think anybody else in the room to have actually won the tournament," Slade said with a laugh. "I think we just assumed a 14-, 15-, or 16-under-par would win

the day because it was nice and dry. The balls were rolling well and there were some really great golfers who were playing well. So, we were pretty surprised and happy to win, but taking part is all that matters to us."

Slade added the foursome was locked in and never got into much trouble on the course.

"We had a good day and everybody just played well. Your second shots can make all the difference, and our second shots went really well. We were getting on the green in two shots pretty much every par five, and I think we had four or five eagle attempts, so we were just getting into a lot of good spots all day."

One of the team's handful of eagle opportunities came on their first hole of the day, hole number three, an eagle they managed to sink to start off on a strong foot. The team later drained another eagle on hole 16 after Strathdee fired a remarkable tee shot that hit the green within four inches of the pin,

narrowly missing a hole-in-one before rolling back by only a foot.

Slade complimented the host course and the rest of the field for making the day special.

"My favourite part of the tournament for the most part is usually the hour beforehand during the registration and going and talking to people, catching up, seeing how the summer is going, what they're up to and what the families are doing. We are grateful to the St. Marys Golf and Country Club for hosting such a meaningful event and to all the golfers who came together to support our local hospital and health-care system. Together, we showed once again how strong our community is when we rally behind a cause as important as health care."

According to Slade, who has played in the tournament for two decades and whose teammate, Strathdee, has played in it since its beginning, the tournament supporting local health-care pro-

viders is a must-play every year.

"This is a tournament Al (Strathdee) and I make sure we're playing in every year. We are truly fortunate to have a hospital here with access to the HPHA health-care system. Supporting our local hospital and health care is something we value deeply, and this tournament is one we will always look forward to each year.

"I started playing in it when I came to town 20 years ago, and Al has been playing in it since its inception, because supporting the hospital and the whole ecosystem surrounding it is very important to us," Slade continued. "And Craig (Pearce) and Andrew (Phillips) were excited to join us for their first St. Marys hospital event, as being from Stratford, the HPHA is close to their hearts too. The hospital and having these facilities on our doorstep was one of the reasons why my family moved to St. Marys and why we've stayed."

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McAllister, Heinbuck win top titles at SMGCC Junior Club Championship

SPENCER SEYMOUR
Independent Sports Reporter

The St. Marys Golf and Country Club (SMGCC) hosted 27 young golfers on Aug. 19 for the annual Junior Club Championship tournament.

The boys' overall champion was 16-year-old Kolton McAllister, who shot 74 to capture the top spot. McAllister finished just one stroke up on Donovan McGregor, who took the prize for the 15-18-year-old boys and second overall with a 75 scorecard.

McAllister noted a chip shot from off the green ended up making a big difference in him getting the win.

"Definitely my bunker shot on hole 17 was a big one for me during the tournament," McAllister told the Independent. "That shot led to me getting a birdie and, ultimately, that birdie helped me get the lead back."

McAllister added good first drives and rotating through his gloves to combat the wet playing conditions helped him do well throughout the day.

"My tee shots were consistently in the fairways, and I think that was really important due to the conditions of the weather being wet and rainy," said McAllister. "It was important

for me to find the fairways. My driver was working really well, and I think that is what led to my success. To be honest, staying dry and making sure my grips didn't get wet, and that I had more than one glove, were also really important."

In the 12-14 boys' division, Jack Brockman won with an 87 score. Hudson Monteith shot a 56 to finish first in the nine-hole 10-11 boys' category.

On the girls' side, Charlotte Heinbuck, age 12, scored 51 in her nine-hole round to take the title as the girls' overall club champion. Like McAllister, Heinbuck noted she had solid success from the tees.

"I was happy that my hard work paid off," Heinbuck said. "Conditions were really tough in the rain. Not everything went as planned, but my driver was consistent and my tee shots were in play. My tee shot was good on hole seven as I had a good chance for birdie and made an easy par."

Rylee Cunningham took the prize for the 13-and-up girls' division after shooting a 56. In the 10-12 girls' bracket, Jaelynn Seok scored 67 to take her division's first-place prize.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Pictured from left to right are Jack Brockman, Kolton McAllister and Donovan McGregor after playing in the St. Marys Golf and Country Club's Junior Club Championship. McAllister won the overall boys' club championship, with McGregor taking the 15-18 boys' division's top spot. Brockman won the 12-14 boys' division. Not pictured was Hudson Monteith, the winner of the 10-11 boys' category.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Pictured from left are Charlotte Heinbuck and Jaelynn Seok following their play at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club's Junior Club Championship tournament. Heinbuck was the overall club champion on the girls' side and Seok won the 10-12 girls' division. Not pictured was Rylee Cunningham, who received the 13-and-up girls' division prize.

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Food Trucks

U11 EB Rockies capture silver in year-end tournament

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The Happy Valley Family Health Team U11 EB St. Marys Rockies returned home from their Year-End Playoff Series Tournament Aug. 11-17 in London with a hard-fought silver medal.

Head coach Robin Van de Gevel called the strong finish to their season a positive indictment of the baseball team's work ethic.

"The silver medal proves to the kids how hard they worked all season long," said Van de Gevel. "They did not give up in this playoff series. Losing the first game of the series put them into the elimination bracket, so they had to fight their hardest to the very end, and they did just that. They battled each game for the win and should be so proud of their efforts. I know we, as the coaching staff, are so proud of their hard work and determination this season."

Heading into the tournament, St. Marys ranked third based on season play and found themselves embroiled in fierce competition early on. In just the second game of the tournament, described as a "nail-biter," the Rockies trailed 13-9 to Southwest Three going into the fifth inning when they scored five runs and limited Southwest Three to just one run.

Tied at 14-14 entering the sixth, Kansas City tie-breaker rules began the inning with one out and the last out on second base. Oscar Brown's pitching secured two quick outs before Forrest Vergeer crossed home plate for the game-winning run after Clark Monteith crushed an outfield double. Earlier in the game, Jaxson Arn hit his first-ever out-



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Happy Valley Family Health Team U11 EB St. Marys Rockies took the silver medal at the Year-End Playoff Series Tournament Aug. 11-17 in London. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Forrest Vergeer and Nixon Near. In the middle row, from left, are Reed Martin, Aiden Hibbert, Cooper Sass, Cole Devries, Jack McArthur, James Van de Gevel, Clark Monteith and Sullivan Rumble. In the back row, from left, are assistant coach Rob Martin, Oscar Brown, Edwin Wilhelm, Jaxson Arn, head coach Robin Van de Gevel and assistant coach Matt Monteith. Not pictured is Rylan Lord.

of-the-park homerun, followed by another homer by Monteith, which brought the St. Marys bench to an uproar.

The Rockies' fourth game of the tournament saw them take on the Eager Beaver Blue Jays, the same squad that bumped St. Marys to the elimination bracket of the tournament, leading to an intensely motivated performance by the Rockies. Arn hit yet another homerun, and speedy base-running by Sullivan Rumble, along with the infielders making several great pop-fly catches, secured a "satisfying" 15-10 victory.

In the team's semi-final matchup against Dorchester One, St. Marys came away with a 14-7 win to advance to the championship contest. James Van de Gevel and Reed Martin combined for a spectacular pitching display, supported by strong catching and base tosses by Aiden Hibbert. Cole Devries hit a big single to advance the Rockies' batters, and Vergeer was impressive running the bases. Cooper Sass also came up with a fantastic infield catch.

Waiting for St. Marys in the final was Dorchester Two, and the hard-fought

battle saw the two teams stay deadlocked for much of the game. Both teams delivered strong pitching, hitting and field play, but ultimately, Dorchester edged out the Rockies by just three runs.

According to assistant coach Rob Martin, the team's hunger to come away victorious propelled them to success in the year-end tournament.

"The team did really well in our play-off tournament week because they came with the desire and the want to win," Martin told the Independent. They all played hard in every aspect of the game, and they continued to cheer each other on."

Martin added the team's cohesiveness was one of the group's best characteristics.

"This was a great group of kids, from seasoned baseball players, new baseball players and players who were new to pitching," said Martin. "They united as one team. You would never have known some had never even met before. They learned about each other and they leaned in on each person's strengths."

Assistant coach Matt Monteith echoed Martin's sentiments, praising the group for coming together and forming a solid camaraderie early in the season.

"Each team you coach is unique and brings its own challenges," Monteith said. "This group of players formed a strong bond and support system right from the beginning, welcoming new players to the sport and players who were in their first year of pitching. It was a special year for the players and coaches alike. I hope each one of these special young players goes on to hone their skills and sportsmanship; that is what it's all about."

St. Marys Tennis Club celebrates local tennis legend

ANDREA MACKO

Contributed Article

The St. Marys Tennis Club is hosting its annual mixed doubles tournament on Saturday, Sept. 13 with a new name to honour one of the sport's strongest local proponents.

Long called the "Fall Classic," the tournament's new name will be known as "The Favacho Fall Classic" in honour of Rob Favacho and, by extension, the entire Favacho family, which has done so much for the sport in St. Marys.

The Favacho family arrived in St. Marys from Shanghai, China, in 1952. Father Bob Favacho Sr. was an exceptional athlete, playing soccer and boxing internationally prior to the family's arrival in Canada. Sons Robert Favacho Jr. (Rob) and Don Favacho followed in his sporting steps, playing regionally, with Bob Favacho Sr. and Rob Favacho Jr. playing doubles as a team, and each other in singles, as well as badminton and table tennis.

Rob and Bob Favacho were also instrumental in club administration and in the fundraising for two additional tennis courts across from the quarry in the mid-1970s, creating four courts, alongside Don Fletcher (the tennis courts were named in Fletcher's honour in the early 1990s). Rob Favacho also helped coach the DCVI team for several years and assisted with lessons for both the original tennis

club and its new iteration.

Rob Favacho Jr. again proved instrumental in the revitalization of the tennis courts in 2014, petitioning council, assisting fundraising and constructing signage for the new courts – well into his retirement.

"We're thrilled to recognize Rob's – and the entire Favacho family – in giving our annual tournament a proper name," said St. Marys Tennis Club's president Don Van Galen. "His family kindly lent us his tennis scrapbook and his love of the game, and love for the game being played in St. Marys, is so evident."

While Rob Favacho, now 92, no longer plays, he will be in attendance at the Sept. 13 tournament to give the trophy to the winning team. Knowing Rob Favacho, he'll also likely be paying keen attention to the action on the court as well.

The Favacho Fall Classic is a mixed-doubles, double-elimination tournament for teens and adults that begins at 9 a.m. Entry is free for club members and \$20 for non-members, which also includes a "fall membership" to play to season's end (late October) on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

Past students of Rob Favacho's are extended a special invitation to come play and celebrate his many contributions. To register, email stmaryssocialtennisclub@gmail.com or message the club's Facebook page.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF ROB FAVACHO)

Rob Favacho remained active in the local tennis scene for many years, shown here in a St. Marys Journal Argus photo teaching youngsters at a "boot camp" in 2012.

MINOR SPORTS

SCRAPBOOK



(TURNER ROTH PHOTO)

Jessica Zwambag loads up a shot from outside the box during the U12 Girls Tier Two St. Marys Storm game last Tuesday.



(TURNER ROTH PHOTO)

Kassy Van Erk moves towards the net with the ball during last Tuesday's U12 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm game.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Abigail Posthumus makes a save and hangs onto the ball during the U14 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm game last Thursday.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Lincoln Jennings steps into a heavy shot on target during the U10 Boys Tier Two St. Marys Storm game this past Sunday.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Evee Lamond launches a quick shot on net during this past Sunday's U10 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm game.

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COLUMNS

UKRAINIAN CORNER: Back to school time

ALONA VASYLIEVA
Independent Columnist

No matter your age or whether you have kids, August always has that feeling of back-to-school season in the air. For me, a Ukrainian now living in Canada, this time of year is a fun mix of old traditions and new surprises.

In Ukraine, Sept. 1 is the undisputed first day of school. And it isn't just the first day of school; it's a full-blown event! Imagine a red-carpet premiere, but instead of movie stars, you have excited students dressed in their best clothes, clutching bouquets of flowers for their teachers. This isn't just about a new school year; it's a ceremonial rite of passage.

The run-up to this day was my favourite part of the summer as a kid. My mom and I would hit the market for school supplies and clothes, and the excitement was a lot like the pre-Christmas chaos here in Canada.

In contrast, Canada's back-to-school is a more casual affair. The lack of a specific "first day" can be a little jarring, but the surprise of a new teacher each year adds a delightful twist to the beginning of a new academic adventure.

Unfortunately, with the current war in Ukraine, the situation has changed drastically and many schools now have two shifts to ensure there's enough space in bomb shelters during air raid sirens.

One of the most significant culture shocks for a Ukrainian parent in Canada might be the daily lunch-packing ritual. In Ukraine, healthy, hot school lunches are often provided, freeing parents from the morning scramble of packing a balanced meal. It's a huge convenience! In Canada, the lunchbox is a personal responsibility. You become a master of meal prep, a curator of carrot sticks and



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)
Young students in Ukraine, holding bouquets of flowers, celebrate the traditional first day of school on Sept. 1.

a connoisseur of crustless sandwiches. While it's a lot of work, it's also a chance to show your love in a little bento box.

The after-school scene also has its distinct flavours. In Ukraine, it's a beautifully seamless system. Kids can stay at school for a meal and then head directly to their extracurricular activities without parents playing taxi. It's a logistical dream! In Canada, before and after-school care is a sought-after commodity with waitlists that can feel as long as a school year itself. Extracurricular activities require a dedicated chauffeur, often a parent juggling a full-time job. It's a system that truly tests your time management skills.

I like Canadian school traditions like the open house, where you can meet

the teacher, see the classroom and chat with the principal. And the 10-minute parent-teacher meetings? They're fantastic. It's a far cry from the meetings I remember from my own school days in Ukraine, where all the parents would gather in one room while the teacher publicly scolded one student and praised another. A wild approach, to say the least!

Safety is a prime example of a concept you never think about until it becomes a part of your daily life. In Ukraine, it's common for kids, even first graders, to walk to school on their own. In small towns where everyone knows each other, it's a natural and safe tradition.

On day two of first grade, my parents put me in charge of my own morning

commute. Their workday started at 7:30 a.m., mine at 8:30 a.m., so I had a whole hour to stroll past the railway station and get myself to school.

The Canadian system, with its dedicated school buses and the ubiquitous crossing guards, is a new, comforting layer of security.

The biggest relief here? The homework situation. In Ukraine, homework started in Grade 1, and it was a nightly check-up. Here, it's a more relaxed approach, and I'm so happy Alex is learning to solve problems rather than just memorize facts. He's developing skills that will actually help him in the real world.

Ukrainian parents often find that their kids are ahead of the curriculum in Canadian schools. This highlights a different educational philosophy – one that prioritizes deep, skills-based learning over rushing to the next academic milestone. This is also reflected in the post-graduation journey. In Canada, it's common for students to take a gap year to work and discover their true passion before committing to a college or university program. It's a tradition that acknowledges the wisdom of taking your time to figure things out, even in adulthood. I'm still not sure what I want to be when I grow up, but watching Alex figure out his own path, one day at a time, is the best education I could ever ask for.

In Ukraine, schools often have large, outdoor territories with stadiums and gardens. The tradition of students tending their own class garden plots from fifth grade is a fantastic way to teach responsibility and the basics of gardening. It's a hands-on approach to learning that's both educational and therapeutic.

So, while the back-to-school feeling is the same, the journey itself is a vibrant tapestry of different traditions and philosophies.

Straight from the Shelves

LAURA MCASH
St. Marys Public Library

Calling all young and intrepid readers! Read a new pre-selected chapter book each month, then discuss it with your friends at the Tween Book Club on the last Tuesday of the month. Perfect for readers aged 8 to 12, this club is a great way to read widely and to discover incredible stories both new and old. The first book we'll be reading is "The Lost Library" by Rebecca Stead, with the first meeting occurring on September 30 in the Library from 6-7 p.m. Contact the Library to join and to pick up your copy!

This Week's Recommendation

24 years before Katniss Everdeen volunteers as a District 12 tribute, we follow her mentor Haymitch Abernathy into

the arena for the 50th annual Hunger Games. In recognition of the second Quarter Quell, it is declared that double the number of participants will take part. 48 kids. 1 winner. May the odds be ever in their favour. Read on by picking up "Sunrise on the Reaping", the latest Hunger Games novel by Suzanne Collins, available both physically and digitally.

Up This Week

Fri., Aug. 29: Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sat., Aug. 30: Open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Mon., Sept. 1: CLOSED
Tues., Sept. 2: Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wed., Sept. 3: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30-10:30 a.m.), Mahjong! (1-4 p.m.)
Thurs., Sept. 4: Open 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Ask the Arborist

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



Dear Arborist,

I'm getting up in years, and I've heard you're wonderful with tree consulting. I was wondering if you do other things too, like chopping down trees? I've got some trees, or maybe you would be so kind as to recommend someone. You should tell people what all you do, it's not necessarily clear.

Thanks, Granny A

Dear Granny A,

Yes, we are always happy to help. Along with chopping down trees, we offer a number of different services. Normally, we would call chopping down a tree "a tree removal." Along with removals, we also plant trees, deep root

fertilize, grind stumps, trimming, pruning, bolting and cabling, trail making, and lot clearing.

Once in a while, we also fill in hollows with spray foam, or do wound pruning. Occasionally, we have also installed bird houses or squirrel houses, or rescued a beloved cat. Thank you for asking.

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: Barn fire at Coupland Heights

MARY SMITH

Independent Columnist

On a Saturday evening in June 1924, fire destroyed a barn located near the southeast corner of James and Elizabeth Streets in St. Marys. All the farm implements and wagons stored in the barn were destroyed as well as a quantity of hay. Worst of all, six horses were trapped in their stalls and died. In the days immediately after the fire, some people started to ask questions. What had caused this fine barn to burn? Could the fire have been set deliberately? If so, who was the culprit? These questions led to rumours that circulated through the town, threatening to destroy the reputations of some well-known citizens.

Today it may seem strange that there was a barn so close to downtown St. Marys. But in 1924, before the population began to spread outward, there were a number of operating farms with barns within the boundaries of the municipality. Many businesses still used horses and needed stables. This particular barn was only five years old, built in 1919 for the McCredie Flax Company. It was needed, at that time, for the horses and wagons used to take teams of flax pullers into the country to pull and stook the ripened flax. When the stooks had dried, the teams returned to load the wagons and bring the flax to the mill for processing. The McCredie company harvested both flax seeds for oil and fibres from the straw for various industrial purposes and used the horses and wagons for deliveries. But the company failed ca 1920. Mr. McCredie skipped town, leaving behind a wife and children, workers with unpaid wages, and considerable debt. He never returned and the company was liquidated.

Thomas Rogers, the original owner of the farmland, reclaimed approximately 80 acres, part of Lot 19, Concession 18, Blanshard Township, from the liquidators. This parcel of land included the barn. He then sold it to Dr. P. C. (Percy) Coupland, a local dentist and property developer. Coupland divided 30 acres into town lots, approximately 50 feet by 150 feet. These were added to property he already owned along Elizabeth Street east of James Street where his contractors had started to build houses. This area became known as Coupland Heights, an early St. Marys subdivision. Dr. Coupland left the barn untouched beside his residential development. It was described as “an excellent structure,” about 60 by 60 feet, with a stone foundation, a frame superstructure and a steel roof. It had a dozen or so stalls as well as a roomy box stall for horses and ample storage space for hay. A frame shed or lean-to on the north side was used as an implement shed.

In April 1924, Dr. Coupland leased about 50 acres of the former McCredie property to Dr. Fred Page, a veterinarian. Page also had ambitions beyond the profession he was trained for. He planned to develop a golf course on this property. He had permission to use part of the barn to store the implements that he was using for this work and two of the stalls for his horses. In early May 1924, a teamster, James Brine White, arranged to lease the rest of Dr. Coupland’s barn for \$8 a month. White, formerly a carpenter, had recently started a business delivering for local merchants. He kept his wagons, sleighs and harness in the barn and stabled his delivery horses there as well. White employed four boys in their late teens to drive his wagons and make the evening deliveries. The boys’ work usually ended between eight and nine p.m. White would meet them at the barn and help them bring in the wagons. The boys were responsible for unharnessing and cleaning their horses before they went home.

At the beginning of June 1924, everything seemed to be going well in Coupland Heights. At least a doz-



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

This Carter & Isaac photograph, taken in the early 1900s, shows a barn similar to the one that burned in St. Marys in 1924. The barn on James Street South also had a stone foundation, a frame superstructure, a concrete silo, and stabling for horses on the ground level.

en new homes had already been sold and most were occupied. James White’s delivery business was busy. One customer might have been Armon Ready who had opened a grocery store in a new building, conveniently placed for the neighbourhood right at the southeast corner of James and Elizabeth Streets. He and his wife, Eva, lived in rooms behind the store. Dr. Page was making speedy progress on his golf course and was planning an official opening. He had issued invitations to Mayor Charles E. Richardson, and to members of the Board of Trade. The golf course was expected to attract out-of-town visitors, looking for a chance to play this increasingly popular game.

On Saturday evening, June 7, James White’s four drivers returned to the barn, two of them arriving at 8:45 and the other two just before 9:00. White was there waiting for them as usual. The first two drivers left before 9:00 and the other two, after cleaning their horses, left by 9:15 or 9:20. The four young men headed downtown to meet their friends at the end of a long work week. On Saturday night in the 1920s, everybody went downtown. James White stayed behind to turn off the electric light and to padlock the stable door but left soon after the boys to walk across the railway tracks to Park Street, heading towards his home on Water Street South. Not long after, a young James Street resident, 14-year-old Jack Woods, was getting ready for bed when he saw the reflection of flames in his room. He realized that the barn near his home was on fire. The Woods did not have a telephone and so Jack ran to Ready’s store to call in the alarm. The fire whistle blew at 9:40, summoning the volunteer force.

According to the account in the Journal Argus on June 12, “The firemen made a quick response but when they arrived, every portion of the building was ablaze, and part of the roof was already falling in.” The barn and contents were totally lost. That was bad enough but the fate of the six horses in their stables

was horrible. As the newspaper reported: “The fire had made such progress when the firemen arrived that all attempts to rescue the animals proved fruitless.” They all perished.

When the barn had been built, it was insured for \$5000. Dr. Coupland had continued with that policy when he became the owner of the building. He had also insured some farm machinery stored in the barn for \$500. On May 21, 1924, James White had taken out an insurance policy of \$1000 on the horses and the equipment for his delivery business. Dr. Page’s horses, harness, and the equipment to work on his golf course were not insured. Estimates varied as to the amount of hay stored in the loft and on the ground floor of the barn and how much of it was covered by insurance.

Perhaps it was the loss of the horses that upset some townspeople, making them sceptical rather than sympathetic. When James White and Dr. Coupland both submitted insurance claims, suspicions were directed towards these two men. White had taken out his insurance policy such a short time before the fire. And he had been the last to leave the building on the fateful night. Dr. Coupland had planned to dispose of the barn – it was not part of his vision for Coupland Heights. Burning the barn and collecting insurance money was more cost effective than paying to have it demolished or moved. While he might not have set the fire himself, he had the means to pay someone else to do it for him. A letter from Charles O’Hara to the Journal Argus accused Dr. Coupland of just that.

Fire Chief William Moyes, in consultation with the crown attorney in Stratford, decided that an official inquiry was warranted. The Ontario Fire Marshall’s office in Toronto agreed and scheduled a hearing in St. Marys for Friday, June 27. The hearing and the Fire Marshall’s conclusions will be described next week.

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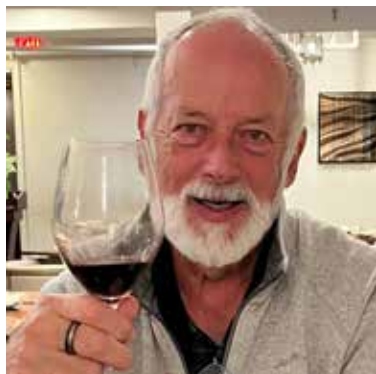
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OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Exploring the unexpected on the Toronto Islands



PAUL KNOWLES

Independent Columnist

As we boarded the ferry to Hanlan's Point, we could see the crowd of passengers swarming onto the neighbouring ferry, destined for Centre Island. Our much smaller craft was anything but crammed, and we started to wonder if all those Centre Island folks knew something we didn't.

In truth, they probably did — they knew that the heart of the action of the Toronto Islands is Centre Island, home to the Centreville amusement park, the pier, beautiful gardens, parks, picnic areas, a beach, bike rentals and lots of other activities.

But from the moment we left the dock at the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal, we were entirely happy with our choice of destinations.

Because Toronto Island Park — made up of several islands, all about a 15-minute ferry ride from Toronto's waterfront — is home to a wide variety of activities, attractions and opportunities for leisure, which is a good thing, I must note, since Toronto has generally done such a lousy job of making its waterfront attractive or enticing.

ing. Compared to other cities — Halifax, Kingston and Victoria come immediately to mind — Toronto has sacrificed waterfront quality of life to the gods of condominium investment. But I digress.

As my partner noted during our brief voyage, perhaps Toronto Island Park is the saving grace, offering a different kind of wonderful waterfront for Toronto residents and visitors.

Visitors to the islands have the choice of three ferries bound for and from Hanlan's Point, Centre Island and Ward's Island. All the islands are linked by walking/biking trails.

Our whimsical choice of the Hanlan's Point ferry immediately paid dividends. The ferry was small but by no means crowded. And upon landing, we were immediately captured by the amount of history represented at this end of the Toronto Islands.

When you disembark, — you immediately encounter an imposing statue. It's a sculpture of Edward Hanlan, namesake of this part of Toronto Island Park, and memorialized as "the most renowned oarsman of any age whose victorious career has no parallel in the annals of sport. Born and died in Toronto. July 12, 1855-January 4, 1908."

Full disclosure, until meeting his bronze likeness, I had never heard of Ned Hanlan. But having done some post-visit research, there is no doubt he was a very significant figure in Canadian and international sport. I am happy to have finally "met" him.

Hanlan Point is historically significant for another reason. A little farther down the path past Ned Hanlan is a prominent sign: "Welcome, you are entering Canada's oldest queer space. Hanlan's Point has been a gathering place for 2SLGBTQ+ people for nearly a century. Canada's first Gay Pride celebration was held here on Aug. 1, 1971."

The script concludes: "This space is built on freedom, acceptance, respect and diversity. While you are here, we ask that you keep these values in mind." That seems like really good advice and, in our current climate of looming repression, it seems especially important to espouse those values.

We opted to walk from Hanlan's Point to the Centre Island Ferry terminal, which should take about 45 minutes if you don't wander from the main road, which of course we did. We wanted to have a look at the clothing-optional beach (which was also people-optional on the day of our visit; we were the only folks there, and remained fully garbed), at the other beaches, at the historic Gibraltar Point Lighthouse (built in 1808, it's the oldest surviving lighthouse on the Great Lakes), the pier, the amazing gardens along what was once Manitou Road, and, of course, Centreville, the venerable amusement park that was clearly the number-one destination of the crowds on the Centre Island ferry.

We didn't press on to Ward's Island, but had we done so, we would have seen the homes of about 600 people who live on



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

A Toronto Islands ferry arriving at the Centre Island terminal.

Ward's Island and Algonquin Island. These determined folks live without the benefit of cars, stores or public transportation.

We did wander off the main route to stroll through the amusement park, where folks were having a heck of a good time riding a roller coaster, a mini-train, a flume ride, swan-shaped boats and much more. We took a break to have ice cream from a shop that had a sign advertising American-made ice cream, but which has switched its actual product to Canada's own Chapman's ice cream, for which we thanked them.

I admit that I approached our visit to Centre Island with a very limited concept of the place, so our time there was a delightful revelation.

And the cost? Well, the ferry ride costs \$9.11 for adults, \$5.86 for students and seniors, \$4.29 under 14. And that's for the round trip. There is plenty to enjoy that won't cost you anything (we were impressed with the frequent placement of water fountains, so you don't need to buy hydration, and with the large number of picnic tables); an all-day pass for a family of four at the amusement park costs \$182. The smiling families seemed to suggest it was a good investment.

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



Action on the water at Centreville.



Some bicyclists pause to take in a view of Toronto, across the harbour, or perhaps they're looking at the hundreds of cormorants who make this inlet their home.

FROM THE GARDEN: Black-eyed beauties



NANCY ABRA

Independent Columnist

Rudbeckia, often referred to as 'Black-eyed Susan' is a vibrant, pollinator-friendly, flowering plant that deserves a spot in every garden. It is a member of the Asteraceae, a large family of plants that also include daisies, coneflowers and asters. Rudbeckia, with its daisy-like flowers of golden yellow, orange or rust petals and dark central cones are loved by bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects.

For instant impact in the garden or containers with bold colours, Rudbeckia hirta is the annual species. They bloom throughout the summer to frost

and offer a wide palette of colour, depending on the variety, of reds, oranges, yellow and even dusty rose tones in the 'Sahara' variety.

For long-term reliability, Rudbeckia fulgida, are native and are considered perennial garden workhorses. These 'black-eyed Susans' check all the boxes for an ideal flowering plant for the garden. Once established, they return stronger every year, require minimal care, are drought-tolerant and are ideal for naturalistic or cottage-style gardens. They thrive in full sun and tolerate light shade. Black-eyed Susans are deer-resistant due to their bristly stems and bitter tasting foliage and are unaffected by many garden pests and diseases. As they are a pollinator magnet, they support local ecosystems and biodiversity of the garden.

I have a patch of these vibrant Black-eyed Susans beauties in my cottage-style garden near large walnut trees. They are planted with purple garden phlox, sedum and native lobelia and they enhance this garden

with their vivid golden yellow flowers. As the blooms fade and the petals drop off, they become an interesting addition to this garden in late fall and the winter. As well, their seed heads are an excellent food source for the birds.

Behind every plant, there is a story of where they came from or how they got their common name. Rudbeckia has a charming story of both poetic and botanical origin. The name 'black-eyed Susan' is believed to come from a 1729 English ballad titled 'Sweet William's Farewell to Black-Eyed Susan' by poet John Gray. The story tells of a young woman named Susan bidding farewell to her sailor beau, Sweet William, as he sets off to sea. The ballad became popular and was later set to music. This romantic tale likely inspired the naming of the flower especially since it blooms around the same time as another flower called 'Sweet William' – making the pair a symbolic nod to the lovers in the poem.

As for the botanical reason



for the common name of 'black-eyed Susan, there is more of a literal explanation. Rudbeckia flowers have bright yellow petals that surround a dark brown or black central cone, which resembles a 'black eye'. The contrast is striking and the nickname stuck, especially in North America, where the plant is na-

tive and widely loved.

So Black-eyed Susans is a perfect example of how folklore and nature intertwine. Whether you are drawn to the literary romance or the visual description, these 'Black-eyed beauties' enhance any garden with their stunning vibrant colour.

From lemonade stands to McMaster: Watching my daughter chase her dreams

AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE

Independent Reporter

My daughter, Chloe, is moving to Hamilton this weekend, into a house with three other girls, and I'm an absolute mess. She was accepted into McMaster University for business and I couldn't be more proud of her. She worked incredibly hard in school to earn excellent marks, but beyond that, she's been an entrepreneur at heart for as long as I can remember. She's always crafting, baking, building, creating or caring for our family pets.

When she was about five, she saved up and bought a little sewing machine. I assumed she'd use it to make shirts for her dolls, but Chloe had bigger ideas. She bought fabric, stitched together small animals, stuffed them and marched door-to-door selling them to our neighbours. They were crooked and falling apart, but she sold every single one within an hour. She came home grinning with enough money to pay for the machine, the materials and even a little extra for candy.

Not long after, she discovered the end of our driveway was prime real estate while neighbours were having lawn sales. She set up a lemonade stand with her sister, Hailey, and cousin, Dominic. They sold out quickly, so Chloe added cookies, set her own prices and even offered a discount for buying both.



(AMANDA MODARAGAMAGE PHOTO)

Hailey Modaragamage, Dominic Rasmussen and Chloe Modaragamage set up a lemonade stand in 2017, spearheaded by Chloe, who was chasing her dream of becoming an entrepreneur.

By the time she got to school, everyone could see what I already knew. Her entrepreneurial spirit shone through in everything she did. Teachers loved her. Friends admired her. And as her mom, I often found myself in awe, too, of her work ethic, her bright attitude and her gentle way of moving through the world.

At St. Mike's, she found a mentor in her business teacher. With his guidance, she discovered her passion not only for entrepreneurship but also for politics and the bigger ideas shaping

the business world. She joined the business club, travelled to Toronto several times, as well as New York, and thrived in lively debates about business strategies — a commitment she carried from Grade 9 right through to Grade 12.

Business runs deep in her roots. Her grandfather, my dad, was a farmer who worked tirelessly every day of his life. Her dad and I both chased our own business ventures over the years. Surrounded by that kind of spirit, it seemed only natural that Chloe would follow a path

she had always loved.

Now, here we are. She's heading off to university for the first time and I find myself pulled in two directions — proud beyond measure, but also a little heartbroken that she won't be home every day. Phone calls don't feel like enough. She still feels so young to me; too young to be out there without me reminding her to lock her car doors or switch her laundry from the washer to the dryer.

How do parents do this? You spend years raising your children to be strong, capable and independent only to step back and let them go, trusting that what you've given them is enough.

And deep down, I know it is enough. Chloe is an extraordinary young woman — determined, kind and endlessly creative. I have no doubt she will find her way. Still, it's hard to believe we've reached this moment, that life has shifted so suddenly, even though I've tried to hold it still.

But perhaps this is what parenting really is: preparing them for the world, even if it means breaking your own heart a little in the process. As much as it hurts to let her go, I couldn't be more excited to watch her build her future. If history is any indication, Chloe will do it the way she always has — with grit, imagination and a heart full of kindness. And I'll be right here, cheering her on every step of the way.

Riddles

What is in seconds, minutes, seasons and centuries,
but not in decades, years, or days?
The letter "N."

What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never
talks, has a head but never weeps, and has a bed but
never sleeps?
A river.

A man went out for a walk and it started to rain. He
didn't have a hat, an umbrella, a hoodie, or anything
else he could use to cover his head. But no hair on his
head got wet. How is this possible?
He was bald.

What word contains 26 letters, but only has three
syllables?
Alphabet.

A rooster that was sitting on the roof of a barn and
facing east laid an egg. Did the egg roll to the west,
north, or south?
Roosters don't lay eggs.

You're in a race and you pass the person in second
place. What place are you in now?
Second place.

There is a one-story house that's completely red. The
walls, doors, furniture and floors are all red. What
color is the staircase?
There isn't any staircase. (It's a one-story house)

It belongs to you, but your friends use it more. What
is it?
Your name.

- Word Search -



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BACK TO SCHOOL

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- Little Falls
- Holy Name
- DCVI
- Classrooms
- Recess
- Assembly
- Homework
- Backpack
- Education
- Notebook
- Playground
- Library
- Lockers
- Principal
- Schedule



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK



A man was injured while playing peek-a-boo...

He's currently in the ICU!

Leona Sadler (18 mo)

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



For a safe and enjoyable long weekend with pets, remember to plan ahead, pack essentials, keep them secure during travel, and be mindful of potential hazards. Ensure your pet's identification is up-to-date, and consider their routine and comfort during any changes in environment.



JESSI

Our Pet of the Week is Jessi, a two-month-old miniature pincher. The proud owner is Laura Jane.



Thorndale News

A section within the
St. Marys Independent



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Annual Good Neighbour Project BBQ well attended

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

The Good Neighbour Project committee recently hosted its annual barbecue at Brown's United Church, located northeast of Thorndale.

Approximately 125 people attended, enjoyed the musical entertainment of John Uren and Chris Yates along with barbecued pork, corn on the cob and a wide variety of salads and desserts contributed by the people who came.

Good Neighbour Project committee member Glenn Baskerville thanked everyone for coming and introduced the Ontario regional representative for Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Henry Reinders.

In his address to the gathering, Reinders stated world hunger is a growing problem and Canadian Foodgrains Bank has helped approximately 1.2 million people in 37 countries with projects focusing on emergency food assistance and long-term food security initiatives like agricultural training. He explained

the U.S. government recently approved substantial cuts to foreign aid, which is troubling, but he reassured the gathering that Canada's current government plans to continue to match Canadian Foodgrains Bank donations four to one.

This area's Good Neighbour Project involves local residents and area churches, as well as a couple of churches in London and one in Mississauga.

"Our wheat crop had a good yield this summer and with the generous donations collected at our barbecue, these funds will be sent to Canadian Foodgrains Bank in Winnipeg later this fall," said John Elliott, chair of the Good Neighbour Project.

"We are grateful for continued support of Pioneer Seeds for the donation of wheat, corn and soyabean seed over the years for this project. As well, (we are grateful to) Belmont Farm Supplies for their donation of fertilizer and chemical application. And of course, the continued support from our community is also greatly appreciated."



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

During a recent Good Neighbour Project barbecue hosted at Brown's Church, northeast of Thorndale, John Elliott, chair of Good Neighbour Project, shakes hands with Henry Reinders, Ontario regional representative with Canadian Foodgrains Bank, with members of the committee and area churches involved in this project standing in the background.

Active living senior programs for Thorndale

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

Earlier this year, the Municipality of Thames Centre was awarded a grant from the Ontario government for an expanded active living program for older residents in Thorndale.

This program offers social, cultural, learning and recreational activities for older adults that promote health, wellbeing and social connection, allowing residents to stay physically and socially active.

Karleigh Schruder is the active living assistant coordinator for programming in Thorndale.

"I am excited to help with this program in Thorndale" said Schruder. "Last year, there were only five activities here in Thorndale but with this grant, we can bring 20 activities to the community's older residents."

Besides the physical activities such as line dancing, shuffleboard, yoga and Tai Chi, there are also social activities like a weekly coffee hour for both men and women and euchre with more recreational programming in the works such as craft workshops and a movie afternoon. Some of these activities are free with membership while some will cost a small fee.

Schruder works out of the Thorndale Lions Community Centre from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and can be reached at 519-268-7334 ext. 730 or at kschruder@thamescentre.on.ca for more information on active living senior programming.

She has also organized an open house at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre on Thursday, Sept. 4 from 1-3 p.m. so area residents can meet her and check out some of the activities.

Nissouri Manor hosts barbecue for residents, family and friends



(PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY MCCUTCHEON)

The Nissouri Manor board of directors recently hosted a barbecue for residents, their family and friends. The board hosted the barbecue at the West Nissouri Seniors Complex with 60 people in attendance. This year's special guests were Curbstone, an a cappella group headed by Mark Stevens.

OBITUARY

Lemon



Bud Lemon passed away at St. Marys Memorial Hospital on August 17, 2025 in his 85th year.

Beloved husband of Fran, married for 60 years. Father of Ron Lemon (Karen), and Scott. Granpa to his favourite and only granddaughter Kaitlyn. Brother of John (Michelle) and predeceased by Wayne (Lois). Also predeceased by his parents Robert and Leona. Bud will be remembered by several cousins, nieces and nephews.

Bud was an active member of the St. Marys Kinsmen Club and K-40 club for 51 years. Bud worked his way up through the ranks at Holiday Inn (Commonweath Hospitality) to become Corporate Manager, Maintenance and Energy Systems, owner of C&N Balsa Supplies and Bud's Driving School; teaching driver education for a total of 27 years. Bud loved old cars and trucks, he restored a 1952 Mercury truck from frame up. He was an avid camper and sailor and loved spending time with granddaughter Kaitlyn, family and extended family.

A visitation will be held at the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, 47 Wellington St. S. St. Marys, on August 28th, 2025 from 2 - 4 pm. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Alzheimer Society Huron Perth, St. Marys Healthcare Foundation or the Heart & Stroke Foundation. Online tributes at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

OBITUARY

Cookson



Stephen John Cookson, of St. Marys, passed away peacefully at St. Marys Memorial Hospital on August 25, 2025 at the age of 63.

Beloved son of the late Gordon G. Cookson (2007) and Joyce Irene Cookson (nee Watson) (2016). Loving brother of Tom and Kathy Cookson, Vicki and Terry Barber, Barry and Sherry Cookson, Gordon and Lesley Cookson all of St. Marys. Proud Uncle of Scott (Allisha), Melissa (Harry), T.J. (Leigh), Amanda, Matt, Gordie (Nicole), Caroline (Shawn), John and Jaden (Marissa). He was predeceased by his grandparents Clayton Watson and the former Edna Bruce, Eleazor Cookson and the former Laura Aldis, Aunts Eleanor Watson, Joyce Louise Cookson, Elizabeth Brown and Mary Lou Lessard, Uncles Roy McCurdy, Donald Cookson, Grant Cookson, Wayne Lessard, and a nephew Benjamin Cookson.

Stephen was always a happy soul with a smile on his face. Stephen attended the former Portia School in Stratford and later worked at the James Purdue Center, St. Marys. Stephen loved going to the trailer with Mom and Dad and never turned down a chance to go out for lunch. Cremation has taken place.

A Private Family Service will be conducted at St. Marys Cemetery. Memorial donations can be made to the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation or Community Living St. Marys. Online tributes at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

OBITUARY

Thomson



With broken hearts, we share the passing of Joan "Boots" Thomson. In her 71st year she left us surrounded by so much love on Aug 19, 2025 at the Stratford Rotary Hospice.

Joan will be deeply missed by her forever love and husband, Dave Thomson, married 44 years. Her cherished children, Mark and Melanie Thomson. She is also survived by her brothers, Robert (Connie) Benner and Donald (Heather) Benner, her dear aunt, Barbara (Harry) Wraith, brother-in-law Garry (Terry) Thomson, Terry (Debbie) Thomson, Marg Thomson, countless nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and great-nephews. A special place was held in her heart for Talan Ward. Predeceased by her Mother, Norma Benner and Sister, Gail Benner. Mother and Father-in-Law Stan and Delma Thomson, Brother-in-Law Ron Thomson, nephew Luke Benner, Great Neice Ailynn Luke.

Joan will be forever remembered for her unbelievable strength, fierce spirit, unconditional love, and the light she brought to the lives around her. After having to be brave for so long, she can now rest easy while we carry her legacy with us until we meet again. The Thomson family sincerely thanks the oncology team at the Verspeeten Family Cancer Center, the compassionate support team at St. Marys Memorial Hospital, and the remarkable staff at the Stratford Rotary Hospice for their unwavering care and kindness.

A Memorial Open House was held at the River Valley Golf Course on August 24, 2025. Memorial donations Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada or to the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth. Online tributes at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca

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Solutions on pg. 31

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Raspberries and squash

Fall is coming and so is our apple pie baking contest and auction!
Ask the market manager for details!

Saturday, Aug. 30
8 a.m. to noon
1 Veterans Circle | Milt Dunnell Field

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HELP WANTED



Stratford Police Service

We currently have openings for the following position:

FULL-TIME CLERK
(1-year contract)

Please refer to the City of Stratford website at www.stratford.ca for details of the duties for this position, minimum qualifications, and application submission process.

Completed application packages for this Clerk position will be accepted until September 22, 2025.

Please mail or deliver completed applications to Stratford Police Service, 17 George Street West, Stratford, ON N5A 1A6 OR email to recruitment@stratfordpolice.com

We thank all applicants for their interest; however only those selected for testing will be contacted.



The Hitching Post (2019) is a family business servicing both urban and rural communities in the agriculture sector. We are committed to providing excellent products and customer service support. We are currently seeking a highly motivated individual to join our team in the following role:

STUDENT POSITION:
Customer Service

Part time after school/Saturday mornings (hours may vary)

Duties will include:

- Counter sales and customer service
- Store and warehouse inventory control
- Lifting (55lbs) required
- General store and warehouse cleaning- bagging, sweeping, loading vehicles
- Building relationships with customers

The ideal candidate should portray:

- Agriculture background
- Public relations and time management skills
- Positive attitude and strong work ethic
- Strong communication and phone skills, message and order taking ability
- Motivated with the ability to multi-task and work as part of a team
- Reliable transportation

Those wishing to apply can drop off their resume and cover letter to our store by September 1, 2025.

We thank all those who apply, but only those eligible for an interview will be contacted



Township of Perth South
SEASONAL EQUIPMENT
OPERATOR / TRUCK
DRIVER

The Township of Perth South is seeking a qualified equipment operator/truck driver who would be available to work on a seasonal basis for winter maintenance purposes from **December 1st, 2025 until March 31st, 2026**. Reporting to the Operations Manager, applicants will be experienced with the ability to operate various pieces of equipment, such as wheel loaders, road graders, and tandem dump trucks equipped with snow plow, wing, and sander. The operator may be required to perform other duties within the Public Works Department, along with other miscellaneous labour duties from time to time.

Applicants must have a valid "D" license with a "Z" endorsement. Experience in road and/or equipment maintenance would be an asset. This position is subject to weekend scheduling and 24 hr. call-out, with a minimum of 32 hours per week.

The salary range for this position is **\$27.19 – \$33.99 per hour** for 2025, the 2026 salary will receive a cost-of-living increase as approved by council.

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

Interested candidates are invited to submit a detailed resume expressing their interest to the undersigned clearly marked as "seasonal operator" by **September 15th, 2025**.

Ken Bettles, Director of Public Works

Township of Perth South

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

Email – kbettles@perthsouth.ca

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



Stratford Police Service

We currently have openings for the following position:

SPECIAL CONSTABLE
1-year full time contract positions with
extensions and permanency possible
Starting pay: \$33.20/hr

Please refer to the City of Stratford website at www.stratford.ca for details of the duties for this position, minimum qualifications, and application submission process.

Completed application packages for this Special Constable position will be accepted until September 19, 2025.

Please mail or deliver completed applications to Stratford Police Service, 17 George Street West, Stratford, ON N5A 1A6 OR email to recruitment@stratfordpolice.com

We thank all applicants for their interest; however only those selected for testing will be contacted

Looking
Back

AMY CUBBERLEY

Independent Columnist



Shots fired

25 years ago (2000)

Steve Goad and Dave Proudlove attended the Kinsmen national convention in Whitehorse, Yukon earlier this month.

The St. Marys Youth Centre will be hosting a fashion show in the Town Hall Auditorium on Friday. The show will consist of clothing from various local merchants. Naomi Armstrong organized the show while Lindsey Rutledge, Candice Unternaehrer, Barbie Neufeld, and Kim Robson will be models.

50 years ago (1975)

The former C.P.R. station, now owned by John Tomlinson and used as his electrical shop, has been receiving a fresh coat of paint.

Alex Smith found in his garden last week a perfectly formed tomato with a beak! Son Craig painted on eyes, nose, etc. and it made quite a face! The "tomato face" was on display at the Journal Argus office the latter days of last week.

The newest Rotary exchange student, Alfonso, arrived in St. Marys early this week from Mexico and is at present making his home with Rotarian Bill Hanly and Bette. On September 1, he will start his first three months as a guest with Rotarian Gordon McEwan and Lois.

75 years ago (1950)

Warning signs on both sides of the highway culvert on Queen Street West at the town limit now warn motorists and truckers concerning the dangerous driving conditions existing at this point.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lusk of Detroit bicycled 67 miles from Forest to St. Marys on Wednesday with the chief idea in mind of stopping at the youth hostel here and having a swim in the quarry. Mr. and Mrs. Lusk look forward to a visit to St. Marys, which they have made several times before, mainly because of the swimming quarry. They left Detroit on Monday morning and intend to stay at the hostel on the property of Mr. and Mrs. G.D.L. Rice for several days.

100 years ago (1925)

Night Constable Archie Moir fired a shot from his revolver on Wednesday evening when he located a number of thieves attempting to enter the rear of the premises occupied by the McMaster Hardware Company. The shot from the revolver caused the would-be burglars to cover ground at a great speed and no further trace was found of them.

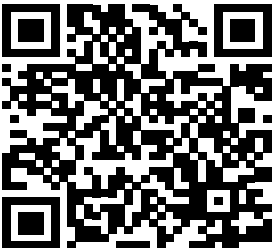
Mr. M.C. McPhail, district representative for Perth wants every farmer in Perth County who has discovered the borer in his fields to inform him at once so that plans adequate to cope with the situation may be laid. While the borer can practically ruin a field of corn in its first year, the second year's field will be attacked more viciously, and for this reason it is felt that farmers should take every possible means of coping with the pest. Information regarding fighting the pest will be cheerfully given at the office of Mr. McPhail.

St. Marys Independent

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I will pay cash for antiques and collectibles. Coca Cola, Pepsi or any pop company. Brewery items - Kuntz, Huether Labatts, etc.

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Community Liaison Committee

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

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



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Tues. Aug. 19 - Pierrette Grondin, Fergus	\$50.00
Wed. Aug. 20 - Chris Murray, Stratford	\$50.00
Thur. Aug. 21 - Jesse DeGroot, St. Marys	\$50.00
Fri. Aug. 22 - Kathy Pretty, St. Marys	\$50.00
Sat. Aug. 23 - Dave Beatty, Stratford	\$200.00

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4. Smoked Haddock
5. Chamois (goat)
6. William Golding
7. Four of clubs
8. Robin
9. Soprano
10. A plum tree

ESTATE/GARAGE SALE

Saturday, Aug 30 from 8:00-???

466 Water St S (across from Quarry)

Quality Furniture (wall units, corner units, end tables, lamps, desks). Collectibles, collection of antique phones. Pictures and Prints. 4 Wheel Mobility Scooter (like new) & so much more

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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THE WEEK AHEAD

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

St. Marys Public Library events - See Page 22

Friday, Aug 29

- A.N.A.F. meat draw - 6 p.m.

Saturday, Aug 30

- Estate/garage sale at 466 Water St. S - 8
a.m. to ??

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

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

Monday, Sept 1

- Labour Day

Tuesday, Sept 2

- Friendship Centre & Early ON celebrate
Grandparents Day at the Friendship Centre
- 9-11 a.m.

Thursday, Sept 4

- Thorndale active living senior programs
open house at Thorndale Lions Community
Centre - 1-3 p.m.

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

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