

St. Marys Independent

143 Queen Street E, St. Marys ON • 519.284.0041 • info@stmarysindependent.com • www.granthaven.com

Issue #1336

Thursday, October 22, 2026

FREE

Black's Financial Services Inc. Call us for details
INSURANCE • INVESTMENTS • FINANCIAL CONSULTING 519.284.1340

TERM	GIC	GIC INSURED	ARE YOU TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE TFSA?
1 year	4.21	*All rates subject to change without notice*	1 YR 3.77 - 3 YR 4.30 - 5 YR 4.40
3 years	4.36		
5 years	4.46		

FOR MORE PRODUCTS AND FINANCIAL ADVICE CALL US TODAY!

Bill Pickering For St. Marys Council

Thoughtful growth. Practical decisions.
A stronger St. Marys.



Advertisement
authorized by
Bill Pickering



RIVER VALLEY

OCTOBER TOURNAMENTS
Oct. 24 - Scaretastic
Oct. 31 - Halloween
18 Holes, Cart & Dinner
\$70 per person

ARTIST KIM ATLIN RETURNS HOME TO HER ROOTS
Art Show - Nov. 14th
Fall Landscape Paint Workshop - Nov. 15 10am - 3pm

CALL US FOR INQUIRIES AT
519.225.2329
WWW.RIVERVALLEYGOLFANDTUBE.COM



HALLOWEEN IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER (WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)
This house on Glass Street in the north end of town has so much to look at, it is hard to fit it all in one picture. See more photos on page 12.

St. Marys pulls out of PC Connect, asks staff to explore local transportation subsidy

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

St. Marys will withdraw from the PC Connect regional bus service at the end of 2026, with council deciding the money being spent on the service could be better directed toward transportation options tailored to local residents.

At its Oct. 13 meeting, council voted to end the town's participation effective Dec. 31 and directed staff to complete a preliminary assessment of an internal transportation subsidy, potentially helping residents pay for taxis or similar services for trips to medical appointments, grocery stores and other destinations within St. Marys.

The decision comes while St. Marys, Stratford and North Perth are still waiting for the province to respond to a joint Ontario Transit Infrastructure Fund (OTIF) application intended to help launch an improved version of PC Connect.

The existing service connects St. Marys with Stratford, London and Kitchener-Waterloo. St. Marys contributed roughly \$150,000 toward the service this year, while approximately \$260,000 remains in reserve between the three municipal partners. Staff had recommended using those reserves to continue operating PC Connect until March 31, 2027, providing more time for a provincial decision and for the incoming council to consider its future.

Instead, council opted to withdraw.

From Jan. 1 to Sept. 29, PC Connect recorded 818 pickups and 843 drop-offs in St. Marys, av-

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

St. Marys lays out path to bring East Ward Park cemetery lands into compliance

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

St. Marys will spend the next several years untangling more than a century of history at East Ward Park, a process that will eventually see the playground and ball diamonds removed and could require neighbouring property owners to pull back encroachments onto the former cemetery lands.

At its Oct. 13 meeting, council received a report from clerk Jenna McCartney and directed staff to proceed with an action plan approved by the Bereavement Authority of

Ontario (BAO) to bring the property into compliance with provincial cemetery legislation.

East Ward Park is made up of three parcels once used as pioneer cemeteries by Anglican, United Presbyterian and Methodist congregations. The cemeteries closed to new burials in 1885, and while approximately 70 to 80 people are known to have been re-interred at the current St. Marys Cemetery, records are incomplete and it is believed numerous remains are still beneath the park. The property was converted into recreational

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

STONETOWN KARATE
STK
Karate • Cardio Kickboxing

CELEBRATING 30 years
KARATE & CARDIO KICKBOXING

FIRST 3 MONTHS 30% OFF
Offer ends Oct. 31st.
USE Code: KICK30

Find out More & Free Class
29 Wellington St. (Post-office building)

CB

Owen Lewis-Havard

Sales Representative for Coldwell Banker Homefield Legacy Realty, Brokerage
150 Queen Street East, St. Marys, ON
Cell: 519-852-8453 | Office: 519-284-2381

*Each office is an independently owned & operated member broker of Coldwell Banker Affiliates of Canada

COLDWELL BANKER
COLDWELL BANKER HOMEFIELD LEGACY REALTY, BROKERAGE

COMMUNITY

St. Marys pulls out of PC Connect, asks staff to explore local transportation subsidy

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

eraging approximately four of each per service day. Coun. Marg Luna said she struggled to justify the municipal contribution given the level of use.

“I would think that money could be better spent with some kind of a transportation subsidy for people that are needing it to travel for work or medical purposes or whatever,” Luna said.

Coun. Jim Craigmile agreed, suggesting the town could potentially provide a much less expensive local subsidy for taxi trips to doctors, dentists, grocery stores and other destinations.

“I’d rather have something internal,” Craigmile said, later moving the successful motion to end PC Connect in St. Marys and have staff investigate a local subsidy for consideration during the next budget process.

Deputy mayor Brogan Aylward also supported withdrawing, saying the town has “bled a lot of money” for results he

does not believe justify continuing the investment.

Mayor Al Strathdee said another factor was Perth County’s decision to discontinue its rural PC Connect route when provincial Community Transportation funding expired in March 2025.

At the time, county council chose not to pursue continuation of the rural service despite later learning it could apply for provincial funding under a model that would gradually reduce provincial support over five years.

Strathdee said Perth County’s withdrawal was a significant blow to the broader regional concept and criticized the lack of consultation with municipal partners before that decision was made.

“I believe the system could have been more efficient or saved or more attractive for the government to fund it if there was some sort of modification,” Strathdee said, suggesting an on-demand regional model may have been one possibility.

CAO Brent Kittmer told council St. Marys is the first of the remaining partners to formally withdraw. North Perth had been prepared to support extending the existing service into 2027, while Stratford staff were also expected to recommend using reserves to buy additional time.

Kittmer acknowledged St. Marys’ decision will likely undermine the outstanding provincial funding application for the remaining partners.

Council also emphasized the need to notify PC Connect users quickly. Staff will contact Stratford and North Perth and begin public communications through the town, Voyago – the transit service provider for PC Connect – and, if possible, the service’s booking system.

Stratford CAO André Morin said St. Marys’ withdrawal creates uncertainty for the future of PC Connect, particularly with the municipalities still waiting on the province’s decision on their Ontario

Transit Investment Fund application.

“Without expanding the service and more time to build ridership, it will be difficult for the partners to justify the annual burden on their respective property taxpayers,” Morin said. “The OTIF grant is intended to give the funding partners the opportunity to build a sustainable system and, without the funding in place, it will be difficult for the municipalities to continue with this service.”

Morin said Stratford will meet with the remaining municipal partners to determine alternatives to the original OTIF application and the city has also scheduled a meeting with provincial staff to discuss possible options.

“Ultimately, transportation is a continued challenge in our rural communities and we are hopeful further discussions can lead to viable transportation solutions,” he said.

Wildwood Conservation Area extends day-use season through November

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

While the camping season may be over, Wildwood Conservation Area will remain open for day-use recreation through the end of November.

The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) is extending day-use access at both Wildwood and Fanshawe conservation areas during its non-camping season, which runs from Oct. 19 to Nov. 30. For residents in and around St. Marys, that means continued access to Wildwood’s hiking and biking trails, day-use areas, playground, picnic spaces and green space throughout the fall.

“The camping season may be over, but people can continue to enjoy our conservation areas,” said Damian Schofield, conservation areas coordinator with the UTRCA, in a press release. “We are happy to offer this to our patrons who not only appreciate many of the amenities and recreational opportunities they are

used to during the summer months being available, but also the thrill of experiencing the fall colours and continuing to get out into nature.”

Depending on reservoir conditions and water levels, visitors will also be able to access the Wildwood reservoir for canoeing and kayaking. Washroom facilities will remain available as weather permits.

Wildwood will be open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Customer service staff will be available at the front gate on a limited basis from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Membership passes will be accepted and day passes will be available for purchase.

From 4-6 p.m., the gate will be down and unstaffed, though membership passes will still be accepted and day passes can be purchased at the pay station.

The conservation area will be closed to the public daily from 6 p.m. to 8:30 a.m.

During the extended season, a reduced vehicle day-use pass will cost \$11 for up to four people, while pedestrians and cyclists will pay \$8.

Visitors can also purchase a UTRCA membership pass, which provides day-use entry for 12 months from the date of

purchase.

More information is available at www.wildwoodconservationarea.ca.

7 Day Forecast

Sponsored by:

Wednesday Oct-21st Sunny 15 °C Feels like 16	Thursday Oct-22nd Mainly sunny 17 °C Feels like 16	Friday Oct-23rd Mainly sunny 15 °C Feels like 15	Saturday Oct-24th Sunny 16 °C Feels like 16	Sunday Oct-25th Mainly sunny 18 °C Feels like 16	Monday Oct-26th Sun & cloud 17 °C Feels like 16	Tuesday Oct-27th Sun & cloud 13 °C Feels like 11
---	---	---	--	---	--	---

STONETOWN
 FINANCIAL SERVICES

Unit 1, 60 Water Street South
 St. Marys, ON | 519.284.4448

GIC	RRSPs	TFSAs
1 year - 4.21	1 year - 3.85	1 year - 3.77
3 year - 4.36	3 year - 4.30	3 year - 4.30
5 year - 4.46	5 year - 4.40	5 year - 4.40

*Rates subject to change without notice *Minimum may apply

INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO REVIEWS - CALL TODAY
PROVIDING SOLUTIONS TO MEET YOUR ESTATE, FINANCIAL & RETIREMENT NEEDS!

Jeff Swan
 BRE, CFP

Greg Swan
 Investment Representative

Cheryl Campbell, CFP
 Life Insurance Specialist

jeffswan@stonetownfinancial.com

Stonetown Triathlon gives back with \$3,426 donation for St. Marys youth

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

After two years of bringing young athletes to St. Marys for swimming, cycling and running, the Stonetown Triathlon is now giving something back to the community that has helped it grow.

Balance Point Triathlon Club's Garth Jansen, organizer of the annual event, presented St. Marys council with a cheque for \$3,426.93 on Oct. 13, with the money earmarked for youth programming in town.

Jansen said the triathlon grew out of St. Marys hosting triathlon events during the Ontario Summer Games roughly three years ago and has now been held twice as a standalone event. He credited the town with helping make that transition successful.

"The town itself is second to none as far as support goes," Jansen told council, pointing to assistance with roads, policing and facilities. "We look at it more as a co-hosting."

This year's event was held July 5 and invited athletes aged eight to 19 to swim in the St. Marys Quarry, cycle through town and run along the Thames River. Proceeds were designated to support St. Marys Youth Centre programs.



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

Stonetown Triathlon organizer Garth Jansen presented the Town of St. Marys with a donation of \$3,426 raised through this year's second annual triathlon. Pictured, Jansen (centre) presents the donation to members of council before the Oct. 13 St. Marys council meeting.

Jansen said participation doubled from the first year, with the number of local children taking part roughly tripling after he spent four days at Little Falls Public School introducing students in grades four to six to the sport. His goal for next

year is to continue building local participation, particularly among children aged eight to 12.

"We didn't get an abundance of numbers out, but it was at least triple what we did the year before," Jansen said. "Our

overall numbers doubled."

The event also added an adult division this year, with Jansen estimating about 18 adults participated.

He said the donation exceeded his expectations. Organizers had anticipated giving back about \$2,000 before ultimately raising more than \$3,400. Jansen told council he hopes the money directly helps young people access programs and activities.

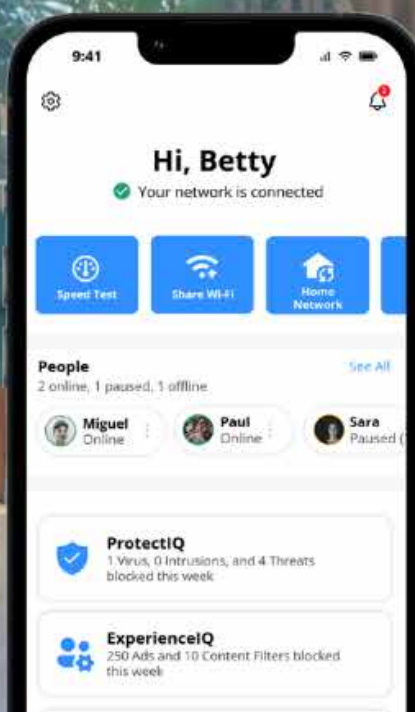
"If I can see kids able to be participating in things because of it, that's my goal," he said.

Coun. Fern Pridham thanked Jansen for the donation and asked what he would most like to see the money support. Jansen said his preference would be helping remove financial barriers that keep young people "on the sidelines."

Mayor Al Strathdee also thanked Jansen for growing the event and for his efforts to introduce more young people to the sport.

"We're always trying to bring more people to St. Marys," Strathdee said, adding council has heard positive feedback and is encouraged by the triathlon's growth and its support for local youth.

The All-New CommandIQ® Wi-Fi App: Your Home's Wi-Fi, Your Rules.



Be the boss of your connected home.

A Wi-Fi connection you can count on. With the all-new CommandIQ® Wi-Fi App, managing your home network is easier than ever. Just a tap to prioritize what matters — video calls, streaming, and more. Quick, simple setup included.

1-800-265-4983
WWW.QUADRO.NET

QUADRO

EDITORIAL

Who's voting for the future of our communities?

AMANDA NELSON

Independent Reporter

Here's a hot take: I think municipal elections are among our most important elections. And when you look at how few people vote in them, I think we need to ask why.

I recently came across statistics on voter turnout in southwestern Ontario's 2022 municipal elections, and some of the numbers surprised me.

In Waterloo Region, overall turnout was just 25.34 per cent. In Guelph, it was 27.96 per cent. Stratford did considerably better, with 43.9 per cent of eligible voters casting a ballot, while Wilmot Township recorded 40.35 per cent turnout and St. Marys recorded just 24.9 per cent, the lowest of the bunch.

That means roughly one in four eligible voters participated in Waterloo Region and St. Marys. Even in Stratford, which had the highest turnout of the communities mentioned here, more than half of eligible voters stayed home.

In Tillsonburg, voter turnout was about

37.6 per cent in 2022 — higher than Guelph's 27.96 per cent, but still meaning that most eligible voters did not cast a ballot.

It makes you wonder why some communities see more people showing up than others. Personally, I'd like to think it's because we have such amazing local news sources keeping people informed, but I might be a little partial. Wink, wink.

The numbers also raise questions about who is participating. A City of Guelph survey of 500 residents about the 2022 municipal election found 29 per cent of respondents said they had voted. Among respondents aged 18 to 24, that figure was just 12 per cent, compared with 57 per cent among those aged 75 and older.

These figures reflect what survey respondents said, rather than a count of every voter in each age group. Still, they suggest younger residents may be less engaged with municipal elections — and that's worth thinking about.

I recently spoke with Kiera Upward, a 21-year-old who ran for Ward 1 council in Wilmot Township. One reason she ran was

to give people of different ages a voice at the council table. She ultimately stepped down for personal reasons, as I reported in last week's Wilmot-Tavistock Gazette.

Her story got me thinking about who gets a seat at the table when decisions are made about our communities. Who decides where new housing gets built, how much we pay in property taxes, which roads get repaired and what recreation facilities our towns need? And are younger residents — the people who will live with many of these decisions for decades — being heard?

Representation is another part of the conversation. East Zorra-Tavistock's current council has seven members, all men. That observation doesn't tell us everything about how effectively the township is represented, and a council doesn't have to mirror every aspect of its population to make good decisions. But it does raise a reasonable question: who puts their name forward, who gets elected and who feels welcome in local politics?

Municipal government can sometimes seem less important than what happens at Queen's Park or in Ottawa. But local de-

cisions affect our daily lives in very direct ways, from property taxes and road repairs to housing, parks, recreation and public services.

We often hear about the importance of voting in provincial and federal elections. Municipal elections deserve that same attention. The people elected locally make decisions that can shape our neighbourhoods and communities for years to come.

So, if turnout is as low as one in four eligible voters in some communities, we should be asking why. Do people know what their municipal government is responsible for? Do they feel their vote won't make a difference? Or, have we simply become accustomed to paying less attention to the politics happening in our own backyards?

I don't think there's one simple answer. But if we want our communities to reflect our needs, priorities and hopes for the future, we have to take part in choosing the people who make those decisions.

And that starts with showing up to vote.

Bravo

We have 2 Bravos this week

1) Bravo to the St. Marys Independent for adding a newspaper stand outside the front doors of their new location! I stopped by this week and was able to pick up all three newspapers I enjoy reading weekly, the St. Marys Independent, Stratford Times, and Wilmot Gazette. What a great one-stop shop for catching up on all the local news! Thanks for making it so convenient to grab my favourite newspapers!

2) Bravo to Emily Taylor and the museum staff who organized the "British Home Children" Seminar at the Pyramid Recreation Centre, on Saturday, Oct. 17. Lori Oschefska, founder and president of Home Children of Canada was a dynamic speaker on a heart-breaking part of Canadian History.

Boo

We have 4 Boos this week

1) Boo to the dishonest person who found my lost sunglasses on the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend, turned off my tracking device and decided it was just ok to keep them for themselves

2) Boo to businesses who use "Canada or USA" as country of origin signage. How does this help us support Canadian businesses? Do better!

3) Over the past few days, at least four election signs have been removed from their locations without authorization. This behaviour is disrespectful, undemocratic and unacceptable interference with the electoral process. Reminder to those responsible, this can result in criminal charges, substantial fines and possible jail time. People are watching!

4) Boo to whomever picked up my pale, pink, Stanley water thermos left beneath my chair at the seminar on British Home Children, Sat. Oct 17, while I viewed the artifacts and spoke to the speaker. Please return it to the Guest Services desk at the Pyramid Recreation Centre.

**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 is a profoundly difficult moment for the entire Canadian Armed Forces. Our immediate focus remains on supporting those affected, assisting emergency response efforts, and ensuring the well-being of our members, their families, and the surrounding community. While casualty identification and notification processes are ongoing, I extend my deepest condolences to the loved ones of those who have lost their lives. Our thoughts are also with all those impacted by this tragic incident."

- General Jennie Carignan, Chief of the Defence Staff after the fire at the Wainwright Canadian Forces Base

**GRANT
HAVEN
MEDIA**

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

St. Marys Independent

Publisher

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Regional Editor

Galen Simmons • galen@granthaven.com

Graphic Design / Sales Inquiries

Tyler Carruthers • info@stmarysindependent.com

Business Development

Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Billing Administrator

Cindy Boakes • boakescindy1576@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant

Wendy Lamond • wendylamond74@gmail.com

Contributors

June Grant, Spencer Seymour, Emily Stewart, Jake Grant, Mary Smith, Nancy Abra, Lauren Eedy, Paul Knowles, Amy Cubberley, Laura McAsh, Alona Vasylieva, Nancy Bickell

143 Queen Street E., St. Marys, ON, PO Box 2310 N4X 1A2
info@stmarysindependent.com | 519.284.0041 | granthaven.com



Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



SPONSORED BY:



395 Queen Street West,
St. Marys, ON 519.284.2566

The mind is like a muscle, the more you use it, the stronger it becomes.

Not all storms come to disrupt your life, some come to clear your path.

Start with one kind thought, let the rest of the day grow from there.

The best way to predict the future is to invent it.

Overheard

AT THE COFFEE SHOP

Sponsored by: **Tim Hortons.**

201 Queen St. E, St. Marys, ON 519.284.4555

Election day is almost here, have you done your homework?

Our thoughts go out to all of those affected by the fire at Wainwright Military Base in Alberta.

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!

Town recruiting applicants for appointed boards and committees

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Town of St. Marys is encouraging residents to get involved in their community by applying for a position on an appointed board or committee.

The municipality is currently accepting applications for board and committee members to serve during the 2026-2030 term of council.

Board and committee members provide invaluable insight, input and expertise on matters that affect the municipality. The town is recruiting for positions on several boards and committees, including:

- Committee of adjustment
- Heritage and culture advisory committee
- Planning advisory committee

- St. Marys Public Library board

The eligibility requirements, terms of reference and a description of each board and committee is available at www.townofstmarys.com/boardsandcommittees.

Those who are interested in applying can do so online at www.townofstmarys.com/boardsandcommittees. The application deadline is Nov. 4.

Town council will consider all eligible applicants and selected board and committee members will be formally appointed by council on Nov. 17. All applicants will be notified of council's decision by mail following the Nov. 17 meeting.

Questions about the application process can be directed to town clerk Jenna McCartney at 519-284-2340 ext. 212 or jmc-cartney@town.stmarys.on.ca.

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



ELECTION DAY

October 26 | 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM | Pyramid Recreation Centre - 317 James Street South

Whether you're voting for the first time or have voted before, now is the perfect time to make sure you're ready. Check your voter information, learn what you need to bring, and find answers to common election questions.

Visit townofstmarys.com/Election

FALL WATER FLUSHING

October 5 -30

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

townofstmarys.com/flushing



COMMUNITY COMMONS OPEN HOUSE

Saturday October 24 | 11:00-1:00 | 14 Church St. N

Join us for an open house and tour to learn more about the Community Commons project, explore the building, and discover how this space will support community connections, services, and opportunities for residents.

townofstmarys.com/communitycommons

JOIN A BOARD OR COMMITTEE!

Apply by November 4, 2026

Applications are now being accepted for members of the following boards and advisory committees:

- Committee of Adjustment
- Heritage and Culture Advisory Committee
- Planning Advisory Committee
- St. Marys Public Library Board

townofstmarys.com/boardsandcommittees



SHOWER PROGRAM

Pyramid Recreation Centre

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

Visit Guest Services or call 519-284-2160






St. Marys Giving Tuesday 2026

Won't You Be My Neighbour?

Need Help Planning Your Giving Tuesday Initiative?

When you are planning your Giving Tuesday initiative here are some local charities/organizations that would be so grateful for your support:

St. Marys Community Closet at St. James Anglican Church, 65 Church Street South is a volunteer-run service that provides clothing at no cost to patrons. There is work attire, clothing for kids, youth, women and men, outerwear, shoes, socks and anything else people may need. The goal is to eliminate financial barriers for residents of St. Marys and surrounding areas to access needed clothing. Specific items of need are painters tape, packages of Huggies baby wipes to clean things that come in that may need a little touch up, lint brushes, boys clothing all sizes are always needed. For more information or specific needs please email - stmaryscommunitycloset@gmail.com

The Community Outreach Program assists St. Marys community members with housing stability, financial assistance program support, education, transportation and legal assistance. The program is a primary resource for assisting the community well-being and providing education to the public on current social issues. This program would benefit from any donations provided to our library pantry. Any monetary donations are used to buy additional food gift cards, bus tickets, taxi rides for those with pets who need to access care and other immediate needs not covered by community partners.

The goal of Giving Tuesday is make our community aware of the charities and organizations that are doing amazing work to provide much needed support and resources. Through Giving Tuesday initiatives we can help ensure that the charities and organizations have the support **THEY** need. As we know, when we all work together the results will be fabulous. If you know of a charity or organization that could benefit from being the recipient of a Giving Tuesday initiative please ask them to let reach out to us. We are happy to share their information. If you need help planning an initiative please let us know, we are happy to help!

When you have your Giving Tuesday 2026 initiative planned please let us know so we can share the good! We want to "Catch You Giving!"

Thank you for participating, it matters!
Better Together,
The St. Marys Giving Tuesday Committee





For more info contact jdockerrjohnson@gmail.com
Follow us on Facebook & Instagram - St. Marys Giving Tuesday

St. Marys Independent

SCAN TO READ THE ONLINE PAPER

www.granthaven.com



Contact us

519-284-2340

communications@town.stmarys.on.ca





566 Queen St. E. • 519.284.4348

Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Donald Pearson who will celebrate his 95th birthday on Oct. 27. Born on Cherry Hill Road, he played both hockey and baseball in his younger years. Don married Donna 73 years ago. They farmed for 20 years, moving to St. Marys 53 years ago and still live in their own home. They have four children, nine grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Happy Birthday Donald!

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

St. Marys lays out path to bring East Ward Park cemetery lands into compliance

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

space in the 1960s, though ownership was never formally transferred from the churches to the town.

The issue came to light following a BAO inspection in 2025, when the regulator determined active recreational uses such as baseball and playground equipment were inconsistent with requirements for cemetery lands.

McCartney said the first step will be working with the three churches to transfer ownership to the town in 2027, followed by a land survey establishing the cemetery's precise boundaries. That survey could have significant implications for homeowners whose properties back onto the park.

Coun. Jim Craigmile asked how many neighbouring properties may currently encroach onto cemetery land.

"It is many, if not all," McCartney said, adding the town has not yet spoken with those property owners and many may be unaware of the issue because properties have changed hands over the years.

"We're going to have to have that difficult conversation with each property owner," she said. "Once the survey is done ... we can then identify where the encroachment is. And under legislation, we must make the property owners pull back their encroachment so that we come into compliance."

The report says the town, as cemetery operator, cannot permit encroachments onto established cemetery lands. Once an encroachment is confirmed, the town will be required to have it removed, beginning with education before moving to enforcement if necessary.

The survey itself will establish property boundaries, not locate graves. Staff are not proposing an archaeological survey, which McCartney's report estimates could cost \$50,000 or more.

Craigmile also questioned whether taking ownership could leave the town with additional liabilities.

McCartney said those risks largely exist already because the town is considered the cemetery operator under provincial legislation, regardless of ownership.

Mayor Al Strathdee said staff pushed the issue to senior levels at the BAO and concluded the responsibility would ultimately fall to the municipality one way or another.

"Driving the bus in the way we're driving it ... and being in control was much better than the inverse and having the province dictate to us what was going to happen," Strathdee said, describing the situation as "damned if you do, damned if you don't."

McCartney told Coun. Marg Luna the churches have indicated they would consider transferring the properties at no purchase cost, though legal paperwork has not yet been completed. The town may also be able to recover some perpetual-care funds held by one or more of the churches.

The compliance plan calls for the town to identify a site for a replacement east-ward playground by the end of 2027, install a replacement by the end of 2028 and remove the existing playground, backstops and fencing and return East Ward Park to grass by the end of 2029. Staff estimate purchasing land for a replacement playground, if necessary, could cost \$150,000 to \$250,000, with another \$200,000 to \$300,000 for new equipment.

Deputy mayor Brogan Aylward asked whether the existing playground could be relocated, but public works director Jed Kelly said the equipment is cemented into the ground and excavation is prohibited. While it remains safe and currently passes inspections, it is nearing the end of its useful life and will likely be a total loss when removed.

Passive uses, including walking through the property, can continue once the recreational infrastructure is removed.

WEEKEND QUIZ

By Jake Grant

1. Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" hangs in what museum?
2. What is the only food that can never go bad?
3. Nearly all fossils are preserved in what type of rock?
4. What is the fifth sign of the Zodiac?
5. Who is Barbie's little sister?
6. Which month of the year is National Ice Cream Month?
7. The first iPhone was released in what year?
8. Whitney Houston went to the top of the music charts in 1992 with which Dolly Parton song?
9. What is the name of Elvis Presley's Memphis home?
10. Who wrote "To Kill a Mockingbird"?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31



(226) 661-0192

60 Water Street South, St. Marys



Accepting
New Smiles!

www.waterstreetdentistry.ca
waterstreetdentistry@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook

MACKO FOR COUNCIL

Your
voice
matters



Election day is this Monday, October 26!

If you haven't voted yet, now is your chance: polls are open at the Pyramid Centre from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Municipal politics affect us daily - let your voice be heard.

Your voice matters to me too. I appreciate all the conversations I've had during my campaign. Regardless of the election results, I'll continue being an accessible, approachable person who tries her best to improve life in our wonderful town.

Need a lift to the polls? Call, text or email to reserve your ride.

Vote Macko on Monday. I'm ready to serve.

519-280-1240 • andrea.h.macko@gmail.com

This advertisement was paid for by Andrea Macko

1st St. Marys Scouts take part in annual Apple Day fundraiser



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Lincoln Bordman collects donations during Apple Day for the 1st St. Marys Scouts at Foodland on Saturday. The annual fundraiser helps support local scouting programs, with all money raised staying with the St. Marys group to help fund camps and other outdoor adventures for youth. The Apple Day tradition dates back to 1932 in New Brunswick and remains a staple of Scouting each October.

BROGAN AYLWARD

FOR MAYOR

Protect what we love.
Build what we need.

4 Years
ON TOWN COUNCIL

3 Years
AS DEPUTY MAYOR

BORN AND RAISED
IN ST. MARYS

BACHELOR OF ARTS
(HONOURS) IN POLITICAL
SCIENCE - UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

STRONG ROOTS. BOLD VISION

ON OCTOBER 26

VOTE BROGAN AYLWARD
FOR MAYOR OF ST MARYS

votebrogan.com

Read Brogan's
Full Plan

SOURCE FLOORING

GET IT DONE

PRICE DROP!

3 DAY SALE!

FRIDAY - SATURDAY - SUNDAY
OCTOBER 23 OCTOBER 24 OCTOBER 25

WATERPROOF
5.5MM - PAD ATTACHED
VINYL PLANKS

PRICE DROP!
REGULAR 3.99

FROM 99¢ /SQFT

WATERPROOF
6.5MM - PAD ATTACHED
LUXURY VINYL

PRICE DROP!
REGULAR 3.99

FROM \$1.99 /SQFT

WATERPROOF
4.5MM - LOOSE LAY
LUXURY VINYL

PRICE DROP!
REGULAR 4.99

FROM \$2.99 /SQFT

8MM THICK
CLICK LAMINATE

PRICE DROP!
REGULAR 1.99

FROM 99¢ /SQFT

WATERPROOF + PAD
14MM LAMINATE

PRICE DROP!
REGULAR 2.99

FROM \$1.99 /SQFT

LAMINATE
STAIR TREADS

PRICE DROP!
REGULAR 89.99

FROM \$59.99 /EA

12"X 12" PURE WHITE
PORCELAIN TILE

PRICE DROP!
REGULAR 1.99

FROM 99¢ /SQFT

12"X 24 CALACATTA
PORCELAIN TILE

PRICE DROP!
REGULAR 2.99

FROM \$1.79 /SQFT

24"X 24 LUXURY
PORCELAIN TILE

PRICE DROP!
REGULAR 3.99

FROM \$1.99 /SQFT

3"X 6"
SUBWAY TILE

PRICE DROP!
REGULAR 9.99

FROM \$1.89 /SQFT

2" HEXAGON
MARBLE TILE

PRICE DROP!
REGULAR 9.99

FROM \$5.99 /SQFT

5' X 8'
AREA RUGS

PRICE DROP!
REGULAR 19.99

FROM \$9.99 /EA

3/4" WHITE OAK
HARDWOOD

PRICE DROP!
REGULAR 5.99

FROM \$3.99 /SQFT

3/4" WHITE OAK 6" WIDE
HARDWOOD

PRICE DROP!
REGULAR 6.99

FROM \$4.99 /SQFT

HARDWOOD OAK/MAPLE
STAIR TREADS

PRICE DROP!
REGULAR 79.99

FROM \$59.99 /EA

SHOP
ONLINE
24/7

SOURCE FLOORING

SOURCEFLOORING.COM

1362 VICTORIA STREET NORTH KITCHENER
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8AM-9PM SATURDAY 9-6 SUNDAY 10-5

Optimist Club of Downie celebrate 50-year milestone



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Optimist Club of Downie president Elton Baker and past president Manny Puetz share with the crowd a cheque showing how much the club has raised for the community throughout its 50 years during a 50th anniversary celebration in St. Pauls Oct. 14.

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

On Oct. 14, past and present Downie Optimist members, local dignitaries and Optimist members from other nearby chapters met in St. Pauls to commemorate the past 50 years of belonging to Optimist International, which currently has close to 500 active clubs across Canada.

The very first Optimist Club in Canada was established in 1924 in Toronto. The Downie Optimist Club was established in 1976 and was sponsored by the Stratford club. The club's motto is "Friend of Youth" and has remained one the main focuses for the club's fundraising over the years.

The club has raised and donated more than \$2.4 million back into the community with a strong emphasis on the younger generation. Ten of the original charter members continue to be members of the club. For every single day that the club has been in existence, \$131.65 has been

donated.

Throughout the year, the club holds many popular events like the annual Rib & Pigtail Supper, Bike Rodeo, bowling nights, lunch programs and members participate in local parades.

Also taking place at the anniversary dinner was the installation of the new executive. Installed were president Elton Baker, first vice president Ian Camden, second vice president Brian Aitcheson, secretary Sean McCabe, treasurer David Mountain and directors Jeff Rolston, Terry Heinbuch, David Hunt, Mike Ready, Bill Thomson and Manny Puetz.

On hand to congratulate the club on 50 years was Perth-Wellington MP John Natter, Perth-Wellington MPP Matthew Rae, Perth County Warden Dean Trentowsky, Perth South deputy mayor Bob Wilhelm and St. Marys deputy mayor Brogan Aylward. There were over 100 people in attendance with six charter members present – Elton Baker, Scott Dunbar, Ross Richardson, Franklin Hinz, Ron McKay



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Past Optimist governor Bill Adams presents past Downie Optimist president Manny Puetz with a proclamation of congratulations from Optimist International in recognition of the club's 50th anniversary.

and Gord Murray.

Also speaking at the event was Glen Dunseith, son of charter member Ron Dunseith. He shared with the room the importance of the club and how it shaped his family growing up.

Baker, a charter member of the Optimist Club of Downie, said it is a great honour to lead the club during its 50th anniversary year.

"As a charter member of the Optimist Club of Downie, it is a great honour to serve as president during our 50th anniversary year. I am extremely proud of all our club has accomplished over the years to support youth and strengthen our community," Baker said.

"We are also proud to have sponsored two successful clubs, the Optimist Club of Kirkton-Woodham and the Optimist Club of Mitchell, extending our support to youth in their respective communities. We recognize that the need to support young people will only continue to grow, and we are committed to building on our

efforts and doing all we can to help youth thrive in the years ahead."

During his speech, Baker encouraged the crowd to drive through St. Pauls and take a look at the community centre, the ball diamonds, the soccer fields and the pavilion. These things are all there thanks to the fundraising efforts of the club.

Throughout the evening, attendees were encouraged to place funds in a donation box that were matched by the Optimist Club of Downie to be donated to Ameira Black for her fundraising efforts towards her participation at the World Down Syndrome Swimming Championships in Portugal. The club was able to present a cheque to her for \$1,000.

Past president Manny Puetz shared that it was a wonderful evening and as a whole, the Optimist Club of Downie is looking forward to another fantastic 50 years. He thanked the community that has supported the club through the years.



CINDY WILLIAMS

for Deputy Mayor

THAMES CENTRE

Focused on What Matters in our Community.







Advertisement authorized by Cindy Williams

VOTE

OCTOBER 19 TO 26

Re-elect Marg Luna

For experience, continuity and stability on Town Council

Contact me at
marg_1@hotmail.com
 or 519-801-5354

Advertisement authorized by Marg Luna



St. Marys takes phased approach to downtown parking as new spaces, enforcement and longer-term options considered

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

With downtown businesses continuing to raise concerns about parking availability, St. Marys is moving ahead with several immediate improvements while laying out a longer-term strategy aimed at making better use of the parking the town already has before investing heavily in new spaces.

CAO Brent Kittmer presented council with an update on the town's downtown parking strategy Oct. 13, combining recommendations from parking studies completed in 2021 and 2024, staff observations and feedback from this year's BIA parking survey.

The strategy prioritizes traffic safety first, followed by reducing demand for on-street parking, making better use of existing spaces and, finally, adding new parking where necessary.

"It's not cheap to create and produce new parking," Kittmer told council. "If we can reduce parking demand and then create an efficient use of the possible ones we have, those are two really good strategies to explore and maximize before we look at adding new parking supply."

The town currently has 393 delineated downtown parking spaces, including 217 on-street spaces and 176 spaces in munic-

ipally controlled lots. The 2024 parking review found overall supply remained sufficient even as demand increased, though Water Street South and Jones Street occasionally reached 85 per cent utilization or higher.

Still, the BIA survey highlighted pressure on the most desirable spaces. Of 41 respondents, only 51 per cent said they have adequate onsite staff parking, while 10 reported employees using municipal lots and another 10 said employees park within the downtown three-hour area.

Among the town's more immediate efforts has been the purchase of 30 Church St. N., primarily for town staff parking, helping free up other spaces around the Legion and downtown. Staff also increased parking enforcement over the summer, installed new signage and worked with the Legion and Dollarama to address parking and traffic concerns in the Wellington, Station and Church Street area after Dollarama relocated downtown.

Council also approved \$157,188.48 in parking-lot and driveway improvements Oct. 13, awarding the work to Melrose Paving Co. Ltd. The project has an approved budget of \$175,000 and is expected to be completed by Nov. 30.

The work includes paving and formalizing the gravel portion of the Jones Street

East parking lot, which infrastructure services manager Austin Louwagie said should add at least six spaces and potentially as many as eight depending on final line painting.

At the Eric Taylor Trail, the existing gravel lot will be expanded, graded and paved to create an estimated 24 formal parking spaces. Kittmer said the lot is currently underused and is only about a five-minute walk from downtown, making it a potential option for employees who would otherwise occupy high-demand spaces closer to businesses.

The contract also includes resurfacing and related improvements to the St. Marys Museum driveway. Budget allocations include \$65,000 for Jones Street, \$60,000 for the Eric Taylor Trail lot and \$50,000 for the museum driveway.

Looking ahead, staff plan another downtown parking study in 2027 and will examine whether the permit system could be used more efficiently, including potentially sharing spaces between daytime and overnight permit holders. Staff estimate changes to the permit system could make as many as 20 additional municipal-lot spaces available during business hours.

Other short- and medium-term ideas include reviewing the three-hour parking limit, improving downtown parking

maps, increasing municipal-lot time limits to better accommodate employees, exploring agreements with private property owners and considering additional permit parking.

Council also raised several possibilities during discussion, including identifying unused public spaces around the Opera House parking lot, introducing 15-minute spaces near restaurants and other quick-stop businesses, and eventually considering paid or metered parking.

Kittmer said paid parking remains a longer-term possibility, potentially through an app-based system that could keep the first several hours free before charging visitors who want to remain downtown longer. However, he cautioned any paid-parking system would have to be paired with regular, predictable enforcement.

Staff's long-term plan also identifies potential paid parking in the highest-demand downtown areas, a broader parking-pricing strategy, a cash-in-lieu program for development and preserving Millennium Park and the town-owned property at 80 Water St. as potential future municipal parking sites.

Kittmer said the challenge will be balancing competing needs while keeping downtown convenient for businesses, employees, residents and visitors.



SCAN TO BOOK ONLINE TODAY!



COMFORT FOR AUTUMN SUN.

VALUE FOR EVERYDAY.

As the sun sits lower, driving glare becomes a daily challenge. Protect your eyes outdoors and enjoy everyday clarity with our fall pair offer.

- Buy any Maui Jim pair, get 50% off your second pair (everyday prescription)
- Prescription sunglass packages starting at \$299

From glare reduction to customized progressives, our lens solutions are tailored to your life.

For every frame sold, we donate \$2 to support local causes.

Book online at www.stmarysoptometry.ca or call 519-284-4144 • 766 Queen St E, St Marys ON.

COMMUNITY CARE – IT'S WHAT WE BELIEVE IN.



SAVE 15%

WINTER SHIELD WINDSHIELD WASHER FLUID

WAS \$8.49
NOW \$6.97
UNTIL NOVEMBER 4



925 Queen Street E., St. Marys, ON • N4X 1A6
Phone: 519.284.3380 • smbc@homehardware.ca

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.GRANTHAVEN.COM

Stonetown Artisan Cheese donates \$5,000 to LHSC Multi-Organ Transplant program

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

Stonetown Artisan Cheese, a family owned and operated business, is giving back to a cause close to their hearts.

During the annual open house on Aug. 29, Stonetown Artisan Cheese collected donations for the London Health Sciences Centre's (LHSC) Multi-Organ Transplant program in honour of the late Jolanda Weber, one of the Stonetown Artisan Cheese founders.

Stonetown raised more than \$2,500 in donations from open house guests.

"A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came to our open house on the farm in August and donated to the cause," said co-owner Rachel Dundas. "We are also so grateful to our employees, volunteers, businesses and food vendors who helped make the day a big success."

In a Facebook post from Oct. 6, the cheesemaking business announced that it topped up donations to a total of \$5,000 for LHSC's transplant program.

"We made this donation in loving memory of my mom, Jolanda," Dundas said. "Our family will always be grateful for the care she received and we hope this contribution helps other families navigating their own transplant journeys."

The LHSC Multi-Organ Transplant program is one of Canada's leading transplant programs and provides around 200 transplants a year. At any given time, over 1,500 people in Ontario are on a waitlist for a life-saving organ transplant.

"The London Health Sciences Centre Multi-Organ Transplant program provides hope and the possibility of more time with the people we love," said Dundas. "Supporting these programs helps ensure patients and families have access to the care and resources they need during a very difficult time in their lives."

More information about the program can be found online at www.lhsc.on.ca/multi-organ-transplant-program.



(FACEBOOK PHOTO)

Stonetown Artisan Cheese staff Ramon Eberle, Hans Weber, Rachel Dundas, Stefan Weber and Lori Weber present a \$5,000 cheque to Erin Pierce of the London Health Sciences Centre for the Multi-Organ Transplant program.



Get involved in your community. Join a Board or Advisory Committee!

The Town of St. Marys is currently accepting applications for board and committees members to serve during the 2026 - 2030 term of Council. Board and committee members provide invaluable insight and expertise on matters that affect the municipality.

Board & Committee Opportunities

- Committee of Adjustment
- Heritage and Culture Advisory Committee
- Planning Advisory Committee
- St. Marys Public Library Board

Apply online by November 4, 2026
townofstmarys.com/boardsandcommittees

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

townofstmarys.com/boardsandcommittees
519-284-2340, ext. 212
clerksoffice@town.stmarys.on.ca



BEAT THE SLUSH BEFORE THE RUSH

GET YOUR SNOW TIRES BOOKED TODAY!

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR AND TIRE SERVICE

Winter seasonal change over. Ask about our FREE tire storage options

SNOW TIRE AND ALL WEATHER TIRE SALE



GET UP TO A
\$100
mail-in rebate
with the purchase of 4
eligible new Michelin tires
Offer valid Sept 21 to Dec 18



GET UP TO A
\$100
mail-in rebate
with the purchase of 4
eligible new Bridgestone tires
Offer valid Sept 15 to Dec 07



GET UP TO A
\$100
mail-in rebate
with the purchase of 4
eligible new Good Year tires
Offer valid Sept 7 to Dec 20

Certain conditions apply. See details on manufacturer rebate site

KEEP YOUR VEHICLE SAFE AND RUNNING AT ITS BEST!



ENGINE DIAGNOSTICS
Check Engine Light? Poor Performance?
We'll diagnose the problem.



EXHAUST REPAIR
Mufflers • Exhaust Leaks
Pipes • Complete Exhaust Service



SUSPENSION REPAIR
Shocks • Struts • Ball Joints
Tie Rods & More



BRAKE SERVICE & REPAIR
Brake Pads • Rotors
Calipers • Complete Brake Jobs



WHEEL ALIGNMENTS
Improve Tire Wear • Handling
Steering & Vehicle Stability

\$40 OFF - BOOK YOUR UNDERCOATING TODAY!

519-284-3851

WWW.ASHTONTIRE.CA
830 QUEEN ST E. ST. MARYS



SPECIAL PRICE FOR OIL, LUBE, & FILTER CHANGE (most vehicles, up to 5L of full synthetic oil)

WINTER BUMPER TO BUMPER (peace of mind inspection)

Offer expires Oct 15

\$89.99

\$69.95

Two anniversary milestones celebrated at East Nissouri Union Church on Sunday



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Pastor Gail Kavelman welcomes the crowd with an opening prayer. She later hosted a trivia game on the history of the church.

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

East Nissouri Union Church celebrated not one but two milestones on the weekend.

The beautiful country non-denominational congregation turned 165 years old. The building itself, located just west of Uniondale, is celebrating 100 years.

The church has a small but mighty congregation led by Pastor Gail Kavelman that meet Sundays at 11 a.m. They've also raised money for the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation and hosted games nights, prayer nights, bible school, yard and bake sales.

The story of this congregation dates back to 1861 when some travelling min-

isters brought the word of Jesus to the area. Rev. G. Wilson started a congregation with 40 members. By 1867, they were being led by Rev. R. A. Fife and services were being held at the nearby Martin School until the church was dedicated in 1871.

That summer, numbers in the congregation declined and after a short closure, St. Marys resident S.H. Mitchell found the abandoned church and, for the next seven years, he worked on rebuilding the congregation. There were also improvements to the property made during that time.

A shed was built, a fence was put up around the grounds and a new platform and pulpit were built. As numbers continued to rise, Rev. G. F. Robertson became the congregation's first full-time minister,

serving at an annual salary of \$400.

During his two-year ministry, 18 new members joined the church. In 1926, because of the growing community and needs of the congregation, it was unanimously decided that a new church was to be built with a proposed cost of \$5,000. The actual construction involved tradespeople from the surrounding communities, including architect and contractor W. J. Stafford of St. Marys, the Reed Brothers of Harrington for masonry, William Lang of Belton for concrete work, W. J. Judd of St. Marys for painting, and R. S. Summers of St. Marys for plumbing and heating.

On Nov. 14, 1926, the new church was formally dedicated. It was described as a remarkable celebration, bringing the

community and former pastors and ministers together on a joyous occasion. Now, 100 years later, another celebration took place this past Sunday at the church to acknowledge the years of worship, community and fellowship that has taken place over the last century.

Along with Pastor Kavelman, taking part in the celebratory service was Pastor Richard Hryniw, who was a big part of the East Nissouri Union Church for many years. The nearly 70 people attending were musically entertained by John Uren, Gary and Patti Gibson, and Jim and Melanie Chambers. The service ended with a beautiful rendition of Amazing Grace and was followed by a delicious lunch.



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

East Nissouri Union Church is located at the corner of Perth Line 15 and Perth Road 96, just east of Uniondale. The beautiful church just celebrated 100 years.

Hubbard Pharmacy Limited
Your locally owned and family run Pharmacy

- Pharmacist Consultations
- Medication Reviews
- Compliance Packaging

- Chronic Disease Management
- Immunization and Injection Services
- Free Delivery

Hubbard Pharmacy

155 QUEEN STREET EAST, ST. MARYS ON | PHONE: 519 284 1380

PharmaChoice

VISIT US ON:

H MONEY WORKS™

Education & Solutions

With Tara Or contact via cell at 519-275-1108

Drop in from Noon to 6pm @

162 QUEEN on Oct 23rd, 30th,
Nov 6th, 13th, 27th, Dec 4th, and 11th.

FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES IN THE ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

CALL 519.284.0041 OR EMAIL INFO@STMARYSINDEPENDENT.COM

Stonetown decorates for Halloween



This house on Maxwell Street created a cemetery in their front lawn including a RIP sign for the Toronto Maple Leafs. It also has a very creepy picture on the garage.



Another favourite is this house on Park Street with the tall, spooky décor.



Another great display to check out is on Jones Street East. There are more decorations to be seen that weren't blown up at the time of the picture. Come check out the Bates Motel.



Always a favourite is this house on Maxwell Street with their multiple skeletons and blow-up decorations.

(WENDY LAMOND PHOTOS)



EVERYTHING RURAL

in one convenient stop!

PRODUCTS YOU NEED. SERVICE YOU TRUST.



ANIMAL CARE



PET SUPPLIES



LAWN & GARDEN



FARM ESSENTIALS



ANIMAL FEED



FOOD & MORE



QUALITY PRODUCTS FOR FARM, HOME & FAMILY

 VISIT US TODAY! AYLME • BURFORD • INGERSOLL • NORWICH • THORNDALE

Country Roots hosts annual Witchy Night Market



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

This witch, Sharon Culbert, had a busy night patiently waiting for someone to come and have their picture taken with her. There were a lot of activities throughout the night at Country Roots Fresh Market's annual Witchy Night Market Oct. 17. There were many local vendors that had lots to sell. There was a carnival stand with exclusive menu ideas. There were prizes to be won and a very popular Haunted House to explore.

Inside Country Roots Fresh Market's annual Witchy Night Market, there were many people lined up, trying to choose from the very appetizing menu. You could choose from the walking taco dish to meatball stew, hotdogs or one of their signature scrumptious homemade sandwiches. For those with a sweet tooth, there were many yummy treats.

SURROGATES NEEDED!

Receive Expense Coverage of up to **\$45,000**

Help make a family's dream come true.

Your generous gift can help intended parents welcome the baby they've been dreaming of.

Contact us Today!

SURROGACY IN CANADA ONLINE

(519) 527-2404
www.surrogacy.ca
sally@surrogacy.ca

Canadian Law Compliant Experienced Trusted

KEEPING ST. MARYS MOVING

TEXO TERRA
CONTRACTING LTD.
SNOW REMOVAL
RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL | INDUSTRIAL

Local. Reliable. Professional.

SNOW REMOVAL
FOR ST. MARYS HOMES AND BUSINESSES

RESIDENTIAL DRIVEWAYS & WALKWAYS	COMMERCIAL PARKING LOTS & SITES	SNOW PLOWING FAST & EFFICIENT	RELIABLE SERVICE ALL WINTER LONG
--	---	---	--

Get a Quote Today! **TEXOTERRA.COM** | **226-766-8284**

Town of St. Marys to undertake phragmites control in stormwater management ponds

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Town of St. Marys, in partnership with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA), has begun treatment of invasive Phragmites in several stormwater management ponds during the week of Oct. 19-23.

The exact timing of the work will depend on weather conditions.

Phragmites, also known as common reed, is an aggressive invasive plant that

spreads rapidly and outcompetes native vegetation. Dense stands of Phragmites can negatively impact local ecosystems, reduce biodiversity and interfere with the intended function of stormwater management infrastructure.

The treatment program is intended to reduce the spread of this invasive species and help ensure stormwater management ponds continue to operate as designed for flood mitigation and water management.

“Managing invasive species is an important part of maintaining healthy natu-

ral areas and protecting critical municipal infrastructure,” said Jed Kelly, director of public works, in a press release. “By addressing Phragmites growth now, we can help preserve biodiversity while ensuring our stormwater management systems remain effective.”

Residents may notice UTRCA crews working around stormwater management ponds throughout the week. Signage will be posted in affected areas where required.

Support for this initiative is provided

by the UTRCA, the Invasive Phragmites Control Fund (IPCF) and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

For more information about invasive Phragmites and its impacts, visit www.ontariophragmitesaction.ca. For questions regarding this treatment, contact the Town of St. Marys public works department at publicworks@town.stmarys.on.ca or 519-284-2340 x 213.

Time to renew your parking permit

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Town of St. Marys is reminding annual downtown parking permit holders that permits will expire on Oct. 31.

Downtown residents who do not have access to overnight parking may apply for a parking permit. The annual fee is \$81.21

plus HST, effective from the date of approval until Oct. 31, 2027. Permit holders are assigned a designated parking stall in an approved municipal parking lot.

Visit www.townofstmarys.com/parking for more information and to apply for or renew a parking permit.

Bylaw enforcement will be monitoring the parking and responding to non-com-

pliant vehicles. Residents may call the non-emergency line of the Stratford Police Service at 519-271-4141 to report non-compliant vehicles.

Residents of the Town of St. Marys are also reminded that overnight parking is prohibited on street parking on all municipal roads and municipal parking lots for those without an annual downtown park-

ing permit approved stall between the hours of 2 and 6:00 a.m. from Nov. 1 to April 30, 2027. The removal of vehicles during these hours ensures the safe, effective and efficient removal of snow from local roads, making St. Marys safer and more accessible.



Protect Your Health This Flu Season

Walk-In Flu Vaccine Clinic

Wednesday, October 28
11:00 am – 6:00 pm

Pyramid Rec Complex

Must be 1 year of age or older



www.happyvalleyfht.ca 519-284-3450

100 ACRE FARM FOR SALE BY TENDER

23796 Valleyview Rd.,
Thorndale, Ontario

**TENDER DEADLINE FOR OFFERS:
OCTOBER 30, 2026, AT 1 PM**

LAND

Consisting of Residential Lot 1 ½ acre (Principal Residence) 53 Acres workable cropland and with 41 acres systematically tiled and 12 acres with alternative draining ready to go. Soil type Bryanston Loam Soil. Non workable land 46 ½ acres consisting of 14 ½ acres bush and 31 acres of Thames River Valley land, and 1 acre of Thames River. Note, year 2007 as part of our Environmental Farm Plan (reforesting 20 acres of the above 31 acres). All acreage is approximate.



HOME FEATURE

1900 sq. foot (Main Floor) beautiful single story brick ranch home nicely landscaped, with attached single car garage (330 sq. ft), and attached 3 season sunroom, full basement – 1620 sq ft. and the furnace room 286 sq ft. All square feet are approximate. Driveway Centurian quad block, drilled well 215 ft. (excellent plentiful water). Septic tank and weeping bed, mature north side windbreak.

For further information and info package, and viewing of property for appointments please call:

**GC Boyle Law Firm (519)284-2112
Email: gwendolen.boyle@gcboyle.ca**

Be advised that the highest unconditional offer need not necessarily be accepted by the Sellers.

FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES IN THE ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

CALL 519.284.0041 OR EMAIL INFO@STMARYSINDEPENDENT.COM

Turning the First Baptist Church into Carnegie Hall, one Saturday at a time

DAN WELCHER

Contributed Article

Here's a Fun Fact: medical research finds that hearing live classical music reduces stress by lowering cortisol and blood pressure, boosts cognitive function and focus, and improves mood through the release of dopamine. The immersive, in-person experience can provide deep relaxation, social connection and a unique emotional release that aids in pain management and mental clarity.

With all of these benefits in mind, you won't want to miss a unique musical experience. For the first time, the London-based chamber music series, Magisterra Soloists, will give three Saturday concerts at 3 p.m. in St Marys beginning on Nov. 7. The performances will take place in the intimate acoustics of the First Baptist Church in St. Marys, 34 Church St. S. The first concert will feature three works for piano quartet. And no, that doesn't mean four pianos. So, what are the other three instruments? Annette-Barbara Vogel, international star violinist and founder of Magisterra Soloists, wants you to find out firsthand.

"I got the idea for Magisterra before I came to London," said Vogel, who is professor of violin and string area co-ordinator for the faculty of music at the University of Western Ontario. "The concept was a free-floating chamber music festival, and I began it while I was teaching at the University of Iowa, in Iowa City."

Now an ongoing series rather than a festival, Magisterra Soloists changes its instrumentation for every concert, as well as the players. Vogel draws her personnel from the ranks of the very finest professional musicians in Canada and beyond.

Annette-Barbara Vogel was born in Rheinberg, Germany. By her own admission, she's a quick starter. She at-

tained early fame and success in Europe, moving around as prize-winning soloist and chamber music performer. Beginning her studies at age 11 at the Hochschule für Musik in Essen, she found herself in constant motion, working with the likes of Sir Yehudi Menuhin at the age of 16.

"I lived in Essen, Amsterdam, Cincinnati, Los Angeles, Charlottesville Virginia and Iowa City before I arrived in London," she said with an impish smile. "I couldn't seem to stay anywhere for very long, until I moved to London, Ontario."

After obtaining an Artist's Diploma at the prestigious Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music studying with the famed violin pedagogue Dorothy DeLay, Vogel went back to Germany. But after the reunification of east and west, she saw huge changes happening in the musical world there firsthand.

"Before unification, there was an opera house and a symphony orchestra in every little town in East Germany, supported by the state. But once Germany became a single country, and a democracy at that, this level of state support was no longer sustainable."

She saw musicians suddenly losing their jobs as the smaller opera houses and symphony orchestras were dissolved and the personnel dispersed.

"I had a pretty solid career in Europe at that time, but I no longer recognized the country I grew up in. My U.S. friends told me that if I came back, I could find work there. So, I moved back to North America."

She quickly learned that musicians on this side of the Atlantic must work even harder to sustain their careers, with far less government support than they might find in Europe. But her boundless energy and optimism kept pushing her forward, and Magisterra Soloists is the result.

"This is our 10th season in London," she said proudly.

"And we wanted to begin doing outreach concerts. St. Marys seemed the perfect place to start."

The opening concert consists of three piano quartets (spoiler alert: that means Violin, Viola, Cello and Piano), ending with the sublime and brilliant Piano Quartet by Robert Schumann. As violinist, Vogel will be joined by Jutta Puchhammer, viola, Fulbert Slenczka, cello, and Johan Botes, piano – each a highly regarded performer with an impressive resumé.

Puchhammer, president of the International Viola Society, is a full professor of viola at the Université de Montréal and is among the most valued teachers of viola in the world. Slenczka, born in Germany and educated there and in the U.S., is principal cellist of the Deutsche Oper am Rhein and the Duisberg Philharmonic. Botes, a native of South Africa, has won several major prizes in chamber music and solo piano, and is on the faculty of Marshall University.

"Supporting arts organizations is the best way to ensure that those groups continue to thrive during challenging economic times, to enhance the cultural fabric of the community," said Vogel. "The support from Pastor Mark McKim at the baptist church has been tremendous. He understands that the arts drive economic growth, strengthening social cohesion and enhancing mental wellbeing."

And you can experience all of that without driving to Stratford or London!

Magisterra Soloists

3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 7

First Baptist Church, St. Marys, 34 Church St. S.

Program: Piano Quartets by Josef Labor, Mel Bonis and Robert Schumann

Tickets available at the door (cash or credit card), online at eventbrite.ca, or in advance at Troyer's Spices, 110 Queen St. E www.magisterra.com

Legion
BRANCH 236
ST MARYS

PROUDLY SUPPORTING VETERANS, FAMILIES, AND OUR COMMUNITY

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY EVENTS

SATURDAY MEAT DRAWS
Enjoy an evening of drinks and friends and try your luck at quality meat prizes! Starts at 5 PM.

FRIDAY LUNCH
Starts at noon.
Drop in for a delicious burger, sausage or hot dog at the legion.

TUESDAY BUDDY CHECK
Coffee and friendly conversation for Veterans and First Responders. At 10 AM.

BINGO ONE SUNDAY PER MONTH
Fun, prizes, and a great social afternoon! Check our calendar for dates.

HALL RENTALS
★
● 1600 sq ft banquet hall
● Capacity of 200 people
● Tables and chairs provided
FOR YOUR NEXT GATHERING
FLEXIBLE SPACE **AFFORDABLE RATES**

BAR HOURS
Monday CLOSED
Tuesday 3 - 5 PM
Wednesday 3 - 5 PM
Thursday 3 - 5 PM
Friday Noon - 5 PM
Saturday 12 - 7 PM
Sunday CLOSED

FOR MORE INFO
WWW.RCL236STMARYS.CA/

SCAN ME

66 CHURCH STREET NORTH
ST. MARYS ONTARIO
519-284-2267

VOTE FOR A LIFETIME OF EXPERIENCE YOU KNOW & TRUST

"Let me bring a lifetime of personal and business experience to the office of Mayor to serve you better!"

- **18 Years** on Town Council.
- **35 Years** of service on town committees and other community organizations making St. Marys better for all.

Don Van Galen

Along with my wife Diane, we have bought a home, paid taxes and raised a family in St. Marys. Together we have enjoyed contributing to community life.

I bring real business experience as a merchant downtown, then 20 years as a successful financial advisor, helping my clients meet their goals and secure their financial future.

Now retired, I can give the role of Mayor the full time attention it deserves!

Advertisement authorized by Don Van Galen

Elect Don Van Galen as Mayor

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.GRANTHAVEN.COM

St. Marys Independent SPORTS

Lincs extend win streak to nine as Hodkinson narrows ‘Chase of Chase’



(CHARIS MUHTAR PHOTO)

Christopher Mabey, pictured, was described as the St. Marys Lincolns' best player in their 9-3 victory over the Komoka Kings Oct. 17, extending the team's win streak to nine straight games.

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

When you score 22 goals in two games, you're bound to get some goofy stats.

Blake Elzinga, for example, had two goals and four assists on the St. Marys Lincolns' Pink in the Rink night Oct. 16, the exact same stat line he had in the 2025 iteration of the Lincolns' annual breast cancer awareness game, tying the Lincolns' Greater Ontario Hockey League-era record for most points in a game, set by Elzinga and Kalp last year and equalled by Ryan Hodkinson earlier this season (spoiler alert: more on Hodkinson later).

Or you could look at the Lincolns setting a new all-time franchise record for fastest three powerplay goals, with Devun Colebrook, Oliver Lacko and Owen Bruining all scoring in the span of a minute and 56 seconds during a five-minute major powerplay.

Or how that very man advantage made the Lincolns a completely nonsensical three-for-one on the powerplay at that point in the game, meaning their powerplay percentage was 300 per cent, and when they scored a goal on their second powerplay of the night, making them a just-as-ridiculous four-for-two, it was an unheard of case of a powerplay scoring a goal and having their percentage go down, with the Lincolns dropping to a measly 200 per cent on the night.

They tied a GOHL-era team record for most goals in a single game. Eleven skaters posted multi-point games and they forced their opponent into switching goaltenders twice in the same game. All while the Lincolns had just 15 skaters dressed, with Owen Miniotas and Campbell Lehto suspended, Miniotas for two games and Lehto for one, and Camden

Kean away for school-related reasons. And yet it was the Canadians who were in desperate need for more troops.

The Lincolns' 13-1 win over the Welland Canadians was dumb. It was silly. It was a nature documentary about a hungry lion and a wounded gazelle.

But, for a team with high aspirations and a high standard of play, head coach Jeff Bradley said outmatching an opponent so dramatically actually made it hard for the team to actually test their gameplan against some true resistance.

"It's difficult playing teams like that because we don't want to punish our guys for another team not playing well," said Bradley. "We have our plan and our standard, and we need to work on the powerplay and we need to work on the penalty kill. We have things we need to work on and we're not going let another team dictate that, so yes, sometimes it's hard to be focused when it's 6-0 10 minutes into the game, but we just have to play our game and we have plans we have to stick to."

The litany of goalscorers for the Lincolns included Ethan Weir, who had a hat-trick, as well as Bruining, Elzinga, Hodkinson and Oliver Lacko each having two, and individual goals by Colebrook and Mikey Pope.

Among the many different ways in which the Lincolns dominated Welland, the first period continued to be a trend for St. Marys, outshooting the Canadians 24-5 and leading 6-0 after the opening frame.

Add those totals to the seven previous games in their win streak, and you have a run where the Lincolns outshot their opponents 137-31 in the first period of their eight straight wins and outscored their opponents 24-1.

But with a game being all but over essentially before it began, the question be-



(MCGINNY PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

Ryan Hodkinson scores one of the St. Marys Lincolns' GOHL-era record-tying 13 goals in their 13-1 thrashing of the Welland Canadians Oct. 16.

came would there be a hangover when the Lincolns retook the ice just 24 hours later in Komoka.

You may not believe it from looking at a scoring summary that saw the Lincolns leading 3-1 after the opening 20 minutes, but the Lincs' bench boss wasn't at all satisfied with what he saw.

"I didn't think we were very good at all in the first period," Bradley said. "I thought we were complacent. I thought we made lazy plays. I didn't think we were focused whatsoever. I thought we made lazy plays. I didn't think we were focused whatsoever."

Bradley detailed the blunt conversation held inside the dressing room in the first intermission.

"I went into the room after the first period and said, 'I don't know if it's playing a team last night that you can score 20 goals on if you really try or going into a rink that doesn't have a tonne of people in it on a Saturday night, but that's the game that's in front of us and that's the game we've got to play.'

"We have to play a certain style and a certain way at all times because we have to understand that we can't just turn that on when we feel like," Bradley continued. "We're either the team we want to be or we're not, and we have to start fighting like the team we want to be."

According to Bradley, he saw some of the elements he wanted to see in the final 40 minutes.

"I saw a little bit more urgency," said Bradley. "I saw a little bit more fight. I still thought there were some pretty bad plays by us, but enough to get away with winning the game by six goals. The turnovers in the middle of the ice need to get cleaned up. They're arrogant plays and the Stratfords, the Chathams, the Listowels of the world, they will eat us up

for that stuff. I hope we learn that lesson now."

While the powerplay managed to go two-for-three, it did look inconsistent at times. The penalty kill, meanwhile, was uncharacteristically poor, allowing three goals on seven Komoka powerplays.

Hodkinson and Callum McAuley each had two-goal efforts, with McAuley adding three assists and Bruining, Colebrook, Elzinga, Lacko and Jack Taylor each chipping in a goal.

However, in the eyes of the head coach, it was one of the team's newest blueliners, Christopher Mabey, who was the team's top performer.

"It's been a bit of a tough start to Christopher's (Mabey) junior career, but it seems like he's started trending in the right direction and he's looking a lot more confident. He's being physical. I think he's making better plays and he's being more comfortable out there. It's one thing to skate and practice. It's another thing to get into game shape and have people coming at you at all times. I thought he was probably our best player."

Hodkinson closing gap on GOHL-era assists record

The "Chase of Chase" continued for Hodkinson, who, with an assist against the Kings, now sits at 111 career assists, just two shy of Chase MacQueen-Spence's 113. He will have two chances to tie and break MacQueen-Spence's record, set just last season, when the Lincolns have back-to-back road games, first against the Sarnia Legionnaires Oct. 22 before heading to St. Thomas Oct. 23 for a rematch of the Lincs' only loss of the season against the Stars.

As of the Independent's press time, Hodkinson leads the entire GOHL in points with 32 in just 12 games, including 10 goals and 22 assists.

Celebrate the third annual Sports Wall of Fame induction ceremony Nov. 7

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

On Saturday, Nov. 7 at 2 p.m., the Town of St. Marys is hosting the third annual Sports Wall of Fame induction ceremony.

This event will be held at the Pyramid Recreation Centre (PRC) and will recognize the 2026 class of inductees.

Nominations are accepted annually in April, with the successful inductees announced in May of each year. For the third iteration of this recognition program, the recreation and leisure advisory committee has chosen three impressive representatives of athletic achievement and sport development in the community.

The 2026 inductees are as follows: Mike Teahen, Amie Shackleton and Loiey Moir. (Please note that Teahen will be recognized in next year's induction ceremony as he is unable to attend this year's event).

An accomplished baseball player, Teahen had a lengthy career as an active athlete. After starting his competitive ball journey right here in St. Marys, he was eventually called up to the Inter-County Senior League representing Stratford. Teahen then went on to play professionally in Alberta for six seasons and has represented the country as a member of Canada's National Men's Baseball team five times playing in World Championships, Pan-Am Games and more. Teahen received further acclaim when named Most Valuable Player of the Alberta Major Baseball League in 1978 and was



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

The Town of St. Marys will host its annual Sports Wall of Fame induction ceremony at the Pyramid Recreation Centre at 2 p.m. Nov. 7.

named as All-Star for the same league three years later in 1981.

Shackleton has cemented herself as a prolific curler in her field and is now being recognized in her home community. From her early years of involvement in the sport, Shackleton has been a trailblazer for women's curling both locally and across the province. Throughout her decades-long competitive career, Shackleton has amassed countless medals, trophies, banners and more. Some high-

lights of her esteemed career include multi-season appearances at Trophy Provincials, Silver Tankards, Ontario Mixed Curling Championships, Intermediate Women's Provincials and at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts. Shackleton's prestigious career has set a standard of success and elevated the curling community in St. Marys.

Loiey Moir, an accomplished ladies fastball player who began her career playing minor ball in St. Marys, has been

selected as an Athlete inductee. Moir was instrumental in the expansion and development of ladies fastball in town and competed as a member of the St. Marys Pullets who won the Ontario provincial championship in 1962 and 1963. Moir went on to play catcher for the Kitchener Kieswetters starting in 1965, winning the 1971 Canadian National Championship. The pinnacle of Moir's success occurred in 1972 when she represented Canada at the World Ladies Fastball Tournament in Italy, where the team secured a second-place finish. From humble roots as a female athlete of the year at St. Marys DCVI in 1954, 1956 and 1957, Moir has demonstrated outstanding athletic success in her field.

"This Sports Wall of Fame is a tribute to the athletes, teams and builders who have made a lasting impact on our community's sporting legacy," said St. Marys recreation manager Joannah Campbell in a press release. "We are proud to honour both the achievements and the dedication that help make St. Marys a vibrant sports hub."

Everyone is welcome to attend the ceremony. Free refreshments will be available in the End Zone upstairs at the Pyramid Recreation Centre following the event, courtesy of the town.

The next call for Sports Wall of Fame nominations will open in April 2027. An announcement will be made when nominations open through the local media, social media facebook.com/pyramidcentre and the town's website, www.townofstmarys.com/sportswall.

St. Marys Community Players Presents

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN

Based on The Comic Strip "Peanuts" by Charles M. Schulz

Music and Lyrics by Clark Gesner Additional Dialogue by Michael Mayer Additional Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lipka

TICKETS:
www.stmaryscommunityplayers.ca
 Troyer's Spices 110 Queen St. E. (226) 661-8777

Oct 22 to Nov 7 | Town Hall

Re-elect
Mary Helen Van Loon
 for
 Huron-Perth Catholic
SCHOOL BOARD
 TRUSTEE

- FAITH CENTERED
- STUDENT FOCUSED
- DEDICATION & EXPERIENCE
- INTEGRITY & COLLABORATION

As a parent, volunteer, and active member of our community, I am dedicated to supporting Catholic education that nurtures faith, inspires learning, and prepares students to lead with compassion and purpose.

Together in Faith and Education

Advertisement authorized by Mary Helen Van Loon

DCVI Senior Girls Basketball team wins three home games

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

In a busy week on home court, the St. Marys DCVI Senior Girls Basketball team racked up three straight wins, including two tournament victories.

Their busy schedule began Oct. 14 with a Huron-Perth league game against Stratford District Secondary School (SDSS), which the Salukis won 32-20. Head coach Monica Ryan credited the team for their lightning-quick and almost perfectly accurate passing.

"They're looking to score, developing patience and moving the ball really well," said Ryan. "Their ball movement is very quick and I think that shows a lot of confidence in each other that they know. We only dropped three or four passes as well. They are a really athletic group of basketball players."

Ryan also noted the team's defence was excellent against SDSS.

"So much of the team's energy comes from defending, so I'm always really happy to see when they play that well," Ryan said. "I think they're just dialled in on the ball pressure. Defence comes from your heart, and you can't coach that. They have to bring it onto the court themselves, and they do."

Charlotte Richardson led the Salukis with 17 points, while Alanna Savile finished second on the team in points with six. Lena Thompson added three points, and Holly Black, Regan Jones and Aryn Sheldon each chipped in two.

Two days later, the Salukis hosted a pair of games as part of the St. Michael Catholic Secondary tournament Oct. 16, with St. Marys facing teams from Strathroy and Thunder Bay.

After going down by three points in the first quarter of their first game of the day against Strathroy, the Salukis roared back to life, outscoring Strathroy 18-5 in the second quarter. Four more points were added to the deficit in the third, making Strathroy's 14-9 advantage in the fourth not enough to come back, giving St. Marys a 46-37 win.

"We played with a lot of passion," said Ryan. "The last couple of games we've played, we've won comfortably, so it was really great to see them respond to the defensive pressure that Strathroy brought. They just were patient and not worried about the physical contact. Confidence and still looking to score is what got us through that first quarter until we adjusted and found our openings."

Richardson dropped 20 points to lead the way for DCVI, with Thompson adding seven and Jones scoring six. Savile scored five, Sheldon tallied four, Melody Weber chipped in two and both Lily Hollestelle-Black and Morgan Reid each added one.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTOS)

Pictured on the left is Alanna Savile blocking a shot during the St. Marys DCVI Senior Girls Basketball team's 32-20 win over Stratford District Secondary Oct. 14. On the right, Holly Black puts up a shot during the Salukis' 46-37 victory Oct. 16 over Strathroy.

Ryan said the team's offensive success came thanks to not forcing things with the ball.

"We were just really patient and looking for the openings," said Ryan. "It helped in the third quarter when we were getting to the free-throw line because then I think it adjusted how they played us. I told them, 'Keep driving, keep driving.' Our three-point game is starting to open up, so it'll be nice as we go into the next few weeks of our season to drop a few more threes, and then we'll be even tougher to defend."

Later in the day, the Salukis picked up a nail-biting 33-32 victory over Thunder Bay. The game was tied 13-13 at halftime, with DCVI's 10-7 scoring lead in the third quarter proving to be one point too much for Thunder Bay to claw back from, who only outscored St. Marys by two points in the fourth quarter. Six points from Richardson in the fourth quarter, along with two points from both Reid and Sheldon, gave the Salukis what they needed to narrowly come away with the victory.

"We got a stop, and then we called a play, so there

was a little bit of tactics, but it was mostly just time management," Ryan said of the final moments of the game. "The girls kept their heads. We took a timeout to just remind them of the basics about keeping control and when you have to foul, and they executed really well."

Richardson finished the game with 19 points, while Reid scored five, Hollestelle-Black tallied four, Savile posted three and Black registered two.

Ryan said defence on both sides was the story of the game, with DCVI's defensive coverage limiting Thunder Bay's shooting from three-point range being the ultimate difference-maker.

"The defence was a little tougher, and our legs were a little tired. Our defence was still really strong, and the defence is always really important when you can keep a shooting team like the one we played to 32 points. That's pretty great because their shooting in warm-up was exceptional. We were using some perimeter shooting tactics to chase them off the three-point line, and I think it worked for the most part."



✂ Full automotive repair services
 ✂ Diagnostics • Safeties
 ✂ Alignments • Tire Sales
 ✂ Honest and Friendly Service

**CURRENTLY BOOKING
A MONTH AHEAD FOR
WINTER TIRE APPTS**

Booking 3+ weeks ahead for
all other appts

402 Queen Street W., St. Marys, ON
Hours: Monday-Thursday 8-5:30, Friday 8-5
Ph: 519.284.1302 • info@harrisgreigauto.com



When the temp drops
the birds will flock

the
Hitching Post
(2019) Ltd.

Are you prepared?

**PEANUTS
FEEDERS &
BIRD SEED**

NOW FLY, FLY!

480 Queen St.W St. Marys
519-284-2360

DCVI Field Hockey team ends season with 1-0 win over St. Anne's

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The St. Marys DCVI Field Hockey team wrapped up their regular season with a 1-0 victory against St. Anne's, securing a top-four finish in the Huron-Perth standings in the process.

Coach Bob Ellison noted the Salukis took over the game in the second half.

"It was once again a great end-to-end game against St. Anne's," said Ellison. "In the opening half, both teams had their chances and it could have been anyone's game. The big difference was, with each passing moment, with each play, with each touch of the ball, each Saluki grew in their confidence. It was that confidence and belief in themselves that helped them to all but dominate the second half."

Zoe Smith scored the only goal of the game, while Niki Wilson earned the shutout in goal. Ellison called the win a complete team effort.

"Truly, there was no one standout performance," Ellison said. "It was every coach's dream; every single player had their best game of the season. That is rare. That being said, Zoe (Smith)'s goal was in itself fantastic, but the three perfectly executed passes that originated from the defence and worked their way through to her. They were things of beauty."

According to Ellison, one of the most positive aspects of the game for St. Marys was the consistency of their offensive play.

"One of the most notable differences in this game was our offence," said Ellison. "For the first time all season, the offensive drives were consistent; consistent in their execution, passing, positioning and support. Consistent in that, as a team, the defence was able to gain control of the ball, pass it on to the midfield, who in turn helped to set the stage for the forwards attacking the net over and over and over again."

The win guarantees the Salukis will finish in the top

four of the Huron-Perth standings, an achievement Ellison described as an important milestone for the local high school's field hockey program.

"The win itself was a reward for all of their hard work," Ellison said. "It is an incredible accomplishment consid-

ering more than half the team had never played before. Making the playoffs is an energizer and a motivation for what lies ahead, not only this year but in the years ahead that many of these players have."

CBHFM hosting Hazel Mae book signing



HAZEL MAE BOOK SIGNING

 **Saturday November 14**

 **7-8pm (Q&A plus signing)**
8-9pm (Signing only)

 **\$75 / \$45 (Includes Museum admission and a copy of the book)**

 **386 Church St. S.
St. Marys, ON**



(PHOTO COURTESY OF CANADIAN BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM)

On Nov. 14, the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum (CBHFM) will be hosting 2025 Jack Graney Award winner and Toronto Blue Jays' broadcaster Hazel Mae for a book signing event. A maximum of 50 tickets are available for purchase, and runs from 8-9 p.m. at the Hall of Fame, with attendees receiving a copy of Mae's new book, *Before I Let You Go*.



TAVISTOCK MEN'S CLUB SAUERKRAUT & BBQ PORK CHOP SUPPER

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

TAVISTOCK MEMORIAL HALL

3 Adam St., Tavistock

Pick-Up Only \$30



Tickets available at Men's Club Hall - 78 Woodstock St. N.

Every Wednesday 4-6 pm and Saturdays 11am-2pm

Starting October 10th to November 10th

or from Club members

or call 519-655-3573

or at Tavistock arena booth

or email: info@tavistockmensclub.ca

or online: tavistockmensclub.ca

THE GROOMER

Grooming Service
& Pet Sitting
Available



— WELLINGTON STREET —
GUEST HOUSE



A modern and charming guest house for the perfect getaway - book your stay today!

 wellingtonstreetgh.wixsite.com/mysite

 wellingtonstreetguesthouse@gmail.com

255 Wellington St. S., St. Marys • 519.284.0036

SHERWIN & LAW
LAWYER & MEDIATOR


MCDONALD, SIMON,
STEWART & REIDY
LLP

STRONGER TOGETHER



LUKE REIDY, J.D.
Criminal Defence & Civil
Litigation Lawyer

- ☒ Business Law
- ☒ Wills & Estates
- ☒ Real Estate Law
- ☒ Family Law
- ☒ Appeals
- ☒ Civil Litigation
- ☒ Mediation (ADR)
- ☒ Criminal Law

AVAILABLE for APPOINTMENTS
at the Sherwin Law Office
72 Wellington St. S, St. Marys

 **519.284.0898**  info@sherwinlaw.ca

SERVING ST. MARYS FOR
30
YEARS



GROUP TRIP HOSTED BY
STONETOWN TRAVEL

AVALON WATERWAYS

RHONE RIVER CRUISE PLUS 2 NIGHTS IN FRENCH RIVIERA

OCTOBER 11-21, 2027

Cruise the Rhône & Saône Rivers through the heart of Southern France, exploring charming villages, vineyards and historic treasures from Lyon to Avignon.

Experience seasonal delights, wine tasting and the French Riviera on an unforgettable journey through Burgundy and Provence.

St. Marys Branch: 150 Queen Street East,
St. Marys, ON N4X 1B4 | 519-284-2332
agent@stonetowntravel.com
TICO #5003192

New Hamburg Branch: 210 Mill Street,
New Hamburg, ON N3A 1P9 | 226-333-9939
newhamburg@stonetowntravel.com
TICO #5003193

www.stonetowntravel.com

St. Marys bowlers compete at YBO Cup



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

On Oct. 18 four St. Marys Bowling Lanes bowlers and two coaches competed at the YBO Cup at Echo Bowl in Brantford. There were 24 teams competing and the team, dubbed the 'Trash Pandas,' made up of Nathan McKeen, Aisla Fisher, James Van de Gevel, and Amanda Kittmer, who were coached by Aaron Fisher and Michelle McKeen, placed fifth in the hand-icapped division after five games of fierce competition. Kittmer, a first-year junior bowler, rolled every game over her average, and Van de Gevel had his highest score this season with a game of 252. The teams this year were encouraged to design their own shirts and come up with a team name, and the St. Marys Bowling Lanes thanks the coaches for their support and guidance. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Kittmer and Van de Gevel. In the back row, from left, are Michelle McKeen, Aisla Fisher, Nathan McKeen, and Aaron Fisher.



LUCKHARDT
LANDWORKS

FOR ALL YOUR SITEWORK NEEDS

- Excavating/Grading
- Retaining Walls
- Concrete Breaking
- Servicing
- Septic Systems
- Trucking
- Hydroseeding



Bryn Luckhardt
519-272-3408 • bryn@luckhardtlandworks.com
www.luckhardtlandworks.com
St. Marys, Ontario

FALL in love with the St. Marys Farmers' Market

SATURDAY, OCT. 24
Pick up your pumpkins and apples for Halloween!

SATURDAY, OCT. 31 - FINAL OUTDOOR MARKET
Savour the end of the season before heading downtown for the Howl-o-Ween pet parade at noon!

SATURDAY, NOV. 7 - FIRST INDOOR PRC MARKET






MINOR SPORTS

SCRAPBOOK



(CHARIS MUHTAR PHOTO)

Ian Avey rifles a shot on target during the Core Fuels U10 A Boys St. Marys Rock game last Thursday.



(CHARIS MUHTAR PHOTO)

Marcus Longston rockets a shot from the point during last Saturday's McKinley Hatchery U13 B Boys St. Marys Rock game.



(CHARIS MUHTAR PHOTO)

Hayden Barker blasts a hard shot from the blueline during the U16 A Boys St. Marys Rock game last Thursday.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Ivy Habermehl launches the ring towards the net during last Saturday's Frayne Custom Cabinets-Hubbard Pharmacy U12 C St. Marys Snipers game.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Isabella Feltz releases a quick shot during the Cascades-St. Marys Kinsmen U14 B St. Marys Snipers game last Saturday.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Lyla Habermehl flings the ring on goal during this past Sunday's Downie Optimists-St. Marys Cement U16 B St. Marys Snipers game.

COLUMNS

UKRAINIAN CORNER: The distance we carry – living far from parents in uncertain times

ALONA VASYLIEVA

Independent Columnist

Living with multiple generations under one roof is very popular again, and it got me thinking. Are we, as adult kids, really supposed to live close to our parents? For a long time, I didn't see any problem with living far away. But recently, I changed my mind. Maybe it's because I am not just across the ocean from my parents – the war back home makes every mile feel so much harder.

Being an only child makes this even tougher. My mom openly shares how hard it is to be so far from us, and I completely understand her. She even joked recently that I should have a second child just to have a better chance of keeping at least one kid nearby when I'm older in case one moves to Australia!

Behind the joke, though, there is real pain. I feel guilty for keeping her grandson so far away. But interestingly, my mom is the only one in her generation who decided to learn English in her 50s. Since Alex doesn't speak Ukrainian right now, she is the only grandparent who can actually talk to him. Step by step, she is building a bridge to her grandson.

I know many families who happily live far apart and just visit each other now and then. But for us, even a simple visit is very hard to organize. My parents can't easily visit Canada because their visas expired, and getting new ones takes forever. We

can't go back to Ukraine either. So, we have to plan meetings in other countries, which is never simple.

FaceTime helps, but it's just not enough anymore. With the time difference and our busy schedules, we only have a short time to talk each day. I've even started writing down a list of things I want to tell them so I don't forget anything during our phone calls.

People sometimes wonder why we moved so far away. Why not stay in Europe, closer to family? When the war started, there weren't many options if you wanted to build an independent life. In Europe, many people live on government aid, waiting for the war to end so they can go home. I completely understand that choice. But living on social payments for years wasn't for us. It felt like putting life on pause and just letting things happen to you.

In Canada, we aren't refugees. We have work permits, we work hard and we are building our future. That's why I don't regret moving here. But knowing it was the right choice doesn't make the distance any easier.

This feeling always gets worse in the fall, when cozy holidays are coming up. Seeing local families gather for Thanksgiving and Christmas reminds me of what I'm missing. In those moments, a phone screen feels so cold, and all I really want is to give my parents a real hug.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF ALONA VASYLIEVA)

Connecting across time zones: Keeping family bonds strong through phone screens and written reminders when miles apart

Straight From The Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

Join us for a fun and interactive dog safety event with DoggoDen! Perfect for children who love dogs and want to become confident and safe with their canine companions, this program will include fun games, dog demos, dog body language safety tips, and more! Participants will receive a certificate at the end of the event and a goodie bag. This free program will be held in the multipurpose room of the Friendship Centre on Saturday, November 7 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Register here: tinyurl.com/Pet-Safety-DoggoDen. Please DO NOT bring your own pets.

Up This Week

- Fri., Oct. 23: Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Sat., Oct. 24: Open House for the Community Commons^ (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.)
- Mon., Oct. 26: Open 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Tues., Oct. 27: Tuesday Book Club* (11 a.m.)
- Wed., Oct. 28: EarlyON Play & Read (9:30 – 10:30 a.m.)
- Thurs., Oct. 29: Open 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

*Registration Required

^Held at the Community Commons (14 Church St. N)





PERTHSTONE

KITCHEN

"Where local supports local"



(226) 301-4036 | www.perthstone.ca | 159 Queen St E, St Marys

Herd Dispersal Live Auction Sale of 135 Bred Cows/Heifers

Saturday November 21, 11:00am

to be held at 554447 Mono-Amaranth TLine, Mono, ON

Preview on day of sale, or by appointment

Directions: Go west through Orangeville on Hwy 9 to County Rd 16 (Veterans Way at Greenwood Cemetery), turn north 5 miles to farm on East side. OR From Shelburne go east on Hwy 89 for 2 miles to Mono-Amaranth Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side. Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.

Cattle: (79)Heifers: (18)Char, (17)Blk Simm, (33)Angus, (11)Red -1st time calvers, bred Angus & Limo, vacc. (18) X-bred Heifers - bred Black Angus, vacc. (17) Angus Heifers - bred Black Angus. (10) Blk Angus cows - all bred Black Angus, vacc. (8) Charolais Cows - bred Charolais, vacc. (3) Mixed Cows - with calf at side, vacc. All Cows will be preg checked prior to sale.

Lunch Booth **Washroom Available**

Terms & Conditions: Cash or cheque with proper I.D. on day of sale. Owner & Auctioneer will not be responsible for any accidents or loss on day of sale. All announcements on day of sale will take precedence over printed ads.

Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264 Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083

Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com

www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur - full listing & photos

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: The Bradley brothers

MARY SMITH

Independent Columnist

Lori Oschefski, who spoke about British Home Children at the Community Centre last Saturday afternoon, strongly believes that many of these young immigrants should never have been sent to Canada. The first philanthropists to sponsor child migration projects may have had good intentions. But by the beginning of the 20th century, Oschefski maintains, many of the sending organizations were essentially trafficking these children, finding it profitable to satisfy Canada's demand for cheap labour. These Home Children had been taken from their families and placed in charitable institutions when they may have been too young to understand why. But while some of them stayed in their own country, leaving these institutions with a basic education and some vocational training, others were sent across the ocean, thousands of miles away from any family they may have known. Many of them were not orphans – they had living parents who, because of unfortunate circumstances, were unable to provide adequate support. Powerful, influential people stepped in, declaring that they knew what was best for the children of those without a voice.

The Home Child exhibit at the St. Marys Museum includes the story of Lillian Violet Edwards. Lillian was “born August 4, 1909, to George Edwards and an unknown mother. Within the first year of her life, Lillian's father dropped her off at Barnardo's Homes and disappeared from her life.” Little Lillian was placed with foster parents, Sidney and Emily Williams, in a village near London. She was very happy there and considered them her father and mother. The Williams wanted to adopt Lillian and she wanted to stay with them. However, somehow her absent, biological father was persuaded by authorities that Lillian would have greater opportunities as a child immigrant, and he gave his consent. So, in 1921, just before she turned 12, Lillian was taken from the home where she had been happy and loved and sent to a strange new place in Canada.

Lillian was placed as domestic help for Mary and Annie Bonis on a farm out the River Road, west of St. Marys in the Thames Concession. The two unmarried Bonis sisters had taken previous Home Children. Rachel Tyler had come from England and been placed there in 1910 when she was 12 years old. When Lillian arrived, Rachel was still with the Bonis sisters. She was past the period of her indenture, but Mary and Annie Bonis now considered her part of their family. Even though the Bonis sisters were kind, young Lillian must have been very homesick for those loving foster parents back in England. Also working on the Bonis farm was a young man, Thomas Bradley. A former Home Child himself, he perhaps tried to comfort the young girl. Their relationship deepened. In 1928, Lillian, at 19 years of age, married Thomas, age 34. Three years later, she and Thomas were witnesses to the marriage of their friends, Rachel Tyler and Samuel Bennett. Thomas and Lillian later had a farm near St. Marys and eventually moved to Brantford, where they lived for the rest of their lives.

Thomas Bradley had come to Canada as a Home Child in 1908. He had been born in 1893 in Holborn, a district in central London, England, the son of Edward James and Emily (White) Bradley. According to the census, his father, Edward, worked as a fitter. The 1901 English census specifies that, at that time, he was working on the installation of hot water in London houses. Thomas had an older half-sister, Sarah, and two older siblings, Henry and Emily. There was also a younger sister, Mary, born in 1894, and two younger brothers, Edward, born in 1896, and John, born in 1899. The children were born in various boroughs in central London, the family moving according to their father's



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

Edward (Ted) Bradley, second from left, poses with workmates in front of the ivy-covered wall of Richardson's foundry on Wellington Street South. George Aldis, his brother-in-law, is to the right. The other two men are identified as Jos. Albert (left) and Freddy Fox (right).

employment.

Misfortune struck the family in April 1902 when their mother, Emily, died at the age of 33. John, the youngest in the family, was only three at the time. Edward could not care for his family on his own and Ada Weston moved in to help. There is no record of Edward marrying Ada, but she did look after his children. (In November 1915, when Edward Junior enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, he listed as his next-of-kin, Mrs. Ada Bradley, stepmother, Hackney, London, England.) In May 1907, the situation for the Bradley family became even worse. Edward, their father and chief provider, died, age 42. There were too many children for Ada to try to support. The two oldest, Henry and Emily, were old enough to go to work but Thomas and his three younger siblings were placed with child migration organizations. Mary was sent to Australia. The three young boys were sent on separate ships to Canada in 1908 and placed on farms in three different Ontario locations.

Thomas, the oldest of the three, went to the Bonis farm, where he continued to work past the term of his indenture. The farm had been owned by Robert Bonis, originally from Ireland. He and his wife, Mary, had immigrated in the 1850s first to the United States where their oldest child, Mary, was born in 1861. Their other nine children were born in Usborne, South Huron, where Robert farmed and was the township school inspector. In 1874, he bought a farm in the Thames Concession, Blanshard Township. When he died in 1896, his sons retained an interest in the farm although they themselves were not farmers. The oldest, Harry, became a high school teacher and the two younger brothers, David and John, were owners of the Thames Quarry in town. Their mother remained on the farm until she died in 1911, living with two unmarried daughters, Mary and her younger sister, Annie. The Bonis family always had hired farm labourers and Thomas Bradley was one of many.

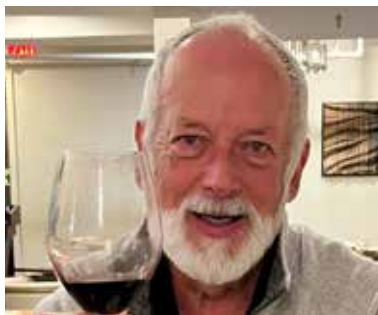
Despite their separate placements, the three Bradley brothers kept in touch and when they had served their indentures, John and Edward moved to St. Marys to be

near Thomas. John found work with David Bonis and Edward worked on a farm. During World War I, both Edward and John enlisted, as did many other Home Children, some seeing this as a chance to get back to England and reconnect with family there. If Edward Bradley had that in mind, it did not work out for him. He enlisted on November 17, 1915, during a recruitment drive in St. Marys, but in a few months later, he was accidentally wounded in the leg and was discharged as medically unfit in December 1916. He returned to his farm work but, in 1918, was conscripted under the Military Service Act of 1917. He joined the Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force and served in Vladivostok, Siberia, from December 1918 until the CSEF returned to Vancouver in May 1919. Edward Bradley was demobilized in London, Ontario, in June 1919.

John Bradley, the youngest brother, enlisted in February 1917, changing his year of birth from 1899 to 1898 to be eligible for overseas service. He did go overseas with a reserve battalion and saw service in France. Jack, as he preferred to be known, received a gunshot wound in September and was transferred to a military hospital in England for treatment. In February 1919, he was shipped home to Canada and demobilized on March 1, 1919. Jack Bradley lived in St. Marys for the rest of his life. He never married but retained close connections to his brothers and to the Bonis family. The 1931 census gives his occupation as surveyor for the Department of Highways. He died on January 7, 1974, and is buried in the St. Marys Cemetery with a military headstone.

Back in St. Marys, Edward Bradley married Doris Mae Aldis in December 1921. Edward worked first at the cement plant and then at C. E. Richardson's as a machinist. The Bradleys had 11 children, some of whom stayed in St. Marys and raised their own families here. Bradley descendants have become deeply embedded in this community, attending schools, running businesses, playing sports and joining local organizations. Perhaps it was wrong to send these Home Children away from Britain, but their coming to Canada was ultimately this country's gain.

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: Controversial attraction reopened in Baden



PAUL KNOWLES

Independent Columnist

One of the most controversial visitor destinations in Canada is located about 10 minutes from my front door. It's the Prime Ministers Path, an installation of statues of Canadian Prime Ministers in Baden. It has generated a tonne of debate, which at one point resulted in the dismantling of the whole thing – the prime ministers were relegated to an unidentified storage unit. Then, this September, came the reestablishment of the installation.

The Prime Ministers Path was conceived in 2013, a plan that would eventually see sculptures of all Canadian Prime Ministers (currently numbering 24) exhibited in an outdoor setting.

The launch of the project took place in 2016. It's understandable that the first statue put in place was of Canada's first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald. But it's also understandable that this installation proved to be the most controversial, because of Macdonald's undeniably horrendous policies concerning Indigenous Canadians.

Three more statues were added in 2017 – Robert Borden, William Lyon MacKenzie King and Lester B. Pearson – and Cana-

da's first and only female prime minister, Kim Campbell, was added the next year.

But controversy was brewing, and as the nation became more aware of the horrors of residential schools and other national policies that had caused incredible harm to Indigenous peoples, protests erupted across the country, including in Baden. The statue of Macdonald attracted the most push-back, as protesters coated the sculpture in red paint.

By 2020, the local municipal council voted to remove all five statues and place them in storage in a secret location. But that action, too, prompted push-back from the community.

The most recent development has involved turning the project over to the original sponsor, Createscape Waterloo Region, which led to the reinstallation of the statues, plus a new work featuring four more prime ministers. The path was relaunched in September of this year. As before, it sits beside Castle Kilbride, the national historic site which adjoins the Wilmot Township municipal office. But where once, Macdonald's statue stood at the front of the property, facing Snyder's Road, now, the orientation has been shifted 180 degrees, with the Prime Ministers Path sign and Macdonald's sculpture facing north, onto Wagler Avenue.

So, is this all a good idea? Opinions about this will always be strong and varied.

The Prime Ministers Path website openly admits that history is challenging. It contends that "history is complex," and adds, "Understanding our history also

means understanding how it has affected Canadians and how those Canadians perceive Canada's history."

I was never comfortable with the decision to dismantle the path. In doing so, the very positive stories of Lester Pearson (who won the Nobel Peace Prize) and Kim Campbell (who broke the gender barrier) were shoved into dusty storage. But I am also not comfortable with glorifying Canadian politicians who have made horrible decisions, chief among them Macdonald and King.

Createscape says they have worked with Indigenous groups in reintroducing the path, and that the full, complex stories of these leaders will be told. That is crucial.

I think it highly appropriate that the statues of Macdonald and King were designed by their artists (local sculptor Ruth Abernethy for Macdonald and Morgan MacKenzie for King) to include seats for visitors. I know these will be treated as selfie spots for many, but I also hope that folks will sit and ask themselves (and the spirits of the late PMs) the tough questions. "Why did Macdonald decide to strip Indigenous people of their heritage?" "Why did King think it okay to send a shipload of Jewish refugees back to Germany, where most died in concentration camps?"

These are the reality of the history of these Canadian leaders, but as historians will tell you, the story is more complex and we need to grapple with all of this. We recently did a walking tour in Kingston where our



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

The newest addition to the Prime Ministers Path in Baden – Nathan Scott's "The Unfortunate Four" depicting four Canadian Prime Ministers who served briefly in office – from left, Sir MacKenzie Bowell, Sir John Abbott, Sir Charles Tupper, Sir John Thompson.

guide acknowledged the evils of Macdonald's tenure, but also insisted, "Without John A. Macdonald, there would be no Canada." And that is also, I suspect, the truth.

So, properly considered, the Prime Ministers Path presents a unique opportunity for visitors to consider – in fact, to confront – the complicated history of this country, perhaps even to realize that the evils of the past created problems and challenges still calling for solutions today. I hope visitors will leave the path with their heads fully out of the sand, and full of thoughts about the realities of Canadian history, and that this is an issue largely overlooked in the controversy.

They will also have the opportunity to appreciate some very fine works of art. Ruth Abernethy, a Wellesley resident, has been made a Member of the

Order of Canada for her work. Other artists represented here include Nathan Scott (Borden) and Darren Byers and Fred Harrison (Campbell). As well, when the path was reopened, a terrific new piece was added – Nathan Scott's "The Unfortunate Four," four PMs who had short terms and lesser impacts on our history.

The plan is for the path to continue to grow over the next four decades. I hope there will be thousands of meaningful conversations and personal reflections sparked by this controversial but important installation.

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



Canada's controversial first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, sculpted by Ruth Abernethy.



The statue of Kim Campbell by Darren Byers and Fred Harrison carries the whimsical title, "Could I Have A Moment?"



Lester Pearson (sculpted by Ruth Abernethy) was the much-honoured winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

EAT AT OUR HOUSE: Accessible cozy autumn



LAUREN EEDY

Independent Columnist

Mornings and evenings are cool; days are sunny and warm. It seems like mother nature is being her usual unpredictable self this time of year. These recipes help balance consistency this season and offer easy edible comforts to embrace.

Cheese and onion Irish soda bread

A spin on a classic, hearty bread. Perfect alongside soups or toasted on its own with a lashing of butter. No yeast, no kneading.

Ingredients:

- 3.5 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 heaped tsp granulated sugar
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 ¾ cups mature cheddar cheese (finely grated)
- 3 ¼ cups buttermilk (or 400

ml milk and 1 tbsp lemon juice or white vinegar, set aside for 5-10 minutes)

Method:

- Preheat oven to 350-275°F.
- Combine dry ingredients in a large bowl.
- Add in finely chopped onion and grated cheddar.
- Pour in about ¾ of buttermilk. Stir gently with a knife or spoon just until dough comes together. This also prevents gluten from forming. Do not overwork or knead.
- Add more buttermilk if it looks dry.
- Turn dough onto lightly floured surface and shape into round mound using floured hands.

- Score a deep cross into the top of loaf; brush lightly with any remaining buttermilk.

- Place onto preheated baking tray and bake 35-40 minutes until golden brown and bottom sounds hollow when tapped. Let cool before slicing.

Savoury pumpkin cheese dip

Perfect for game day, a quick appetizer or a delicious snack.

Prep: 5 minutes; Total time: 5 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 brick room temperature cream cheese. I used low-fat.
- 1/2 cup cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup pumpkin puree

- 1/4 cup toasted pecans

- 4-6 slices of bacon, cooked until crispy and crumbled

- 3 green onions

- 1/4 tsp salt

- 1/2 tsp cinnamon

Method:

- Stir all ingredients together using a wooden spoon or electric mixer. Recipe calls for serving at room temperature, but I prefer it melted. You can heat up in the microwave for 20 seconds or warm in oven at 350°F for 10 minutes until desired temperature.

- Serve with extra bacon and green onions if desired.

Apple cider donut Rice Krispies

Another spin on a classic with a seasonal twist.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup apple cider
- 1/3 cup unsalted butter
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 6 cups mini marshmallows
- 5 cups Rice Krispies

Method:

- Spray 8x8 baking pan with non-stick spray and line with parchment paper; set aside.

- Add Rice Krispies in a large bowl and set aside.

- In a small saucepan, bring apple cider to a low boil, stirring occasionally and reduce enough until it thickens to coat back of



(LAUREN EEDY PHOTO)

This savoury pumpkin cheese dip is perfect as a game day snack.

spoon, about 18-20 minutes. The liquid will reduce significantly. You should be left with 2-3 tbsp. Set aside.

- In a separate, larger saucepan, add butter and cook over low-medium until milk solids separate and turn amber in colour.

- Immediately add reduced apple cider, cinnamon and salt. Combine.

- Add marshmallows in. Using

a spatula, gently mix over Rice Krispies and gently mix until evenly coated.

- Immediately transfer to prepared baking sheet and press mixture into an even layer. Allow to cool slightly.

- Mix granulated sugar and ¾ cinnamon together then sprinkle over the Rice Krispies for a classic donut finish. Slice and enjoy!

Andrew L. Hodges

FUNERAL HOME

Helping you design affordable and personal services including:

- burial
- cremation
- donation to science
- celebrations of life
- open houses
- religious services

DID YOU KNOW

You can begin pre-arranging your funeral by scanning this QR code or visiting www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca and clicking on "Resources" then "pre-arrange online" to complete a basic information form.

47 Wellington St. S., St. Marys
519-284-2820 | www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca

McCully's Hill Farm

PRESERVE OF THE MONTH

10% OFF Salsa

FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturdays and Sundays in October 10 am to 2 pm
Corn Maze, Pumpkin Catapult, Wagon rides, Haunted Forest, Straw Fort, visit the farm animals in the barn

FRESH ONTARIO APPLES & CIDER

We have Honey Crisp, Gala, Macintosh, Courtland, Ambrosia and Bartlett Pears. Cider comes in 2L and 4L containers

STORE HOURS IN OCTOBER

Monday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

4074 Perth Line #9, St. Marys, ON • www.mccullys.ca • 519.284.2564

Sudoku

Sponsored by:

SHACKLETON'S
Real Estate & Auction Co. shackletons.com

FERN PRIDHAM - Real Estate Broker
519.274.2885
fernpridham@gmail.com

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

Solutions on pg. 31

Riddles

What has four legs and a back but can't walk?
A chair!

I'm a mammal with a long trunk. What am I?
An elephant!

What is black and white and read all over?
A newspaper!

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

I can sizzle like bacon, I am made with an egg, and I have plenty of backbone but lack a good leg. What am I?
A snake!

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

I have stripes, but I'm not a barber. I run fast, but I'm not a car. What am I?
A zebra!

I am an odd number. Take away a letter, and I become even. What number am I?
Seven (remove the 's')!

I can live in water or on land. I have a shell, but I am not a car; I move very slowly, but I carry my home on my back. What am I?
A turtle!

- Word Search -



SPONSORED BY:

Adult Learning Programs of Perth, Upstairs at the St. Marys Public Library
15 Church St. N, St. Marys, ON | Phone: 519.284.3932 | Cell: 226.374.8231
alearning@town.stmarys.on.ca | www.adultlearningperth.ca | Facebook: @AdultLearningProgramsofPerth

SMCP - YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN

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

- Charlie Brown
- Snoopy
- Lucy
- Linus
- Peanuts gang
- Musical
- Comedy
- Friendship
- Adventures
- Laughter
- Charm
- Delightful
- Town Hall theatre
- Community Players



The **Riddle Kid**
OF THE WEEK



Nixon Lippert (5)

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



Colder weather doesn't mean your pet's exercise routine has to stop! Regular walks, indoor play, and enrichment activities help keep pets healthy, happy, and mentally stimulated.
Bundle up, get moving, and enjoy the season together!



CHLOE

Our Pet of the Week is Chloe, a four-year-old Australian shepherd/King Cavalier spaniel cross. She is very much a family dog and is loved by her owners, Heather and Bill Hodgson. Chloe enjoys her daily walks, meeting and greeting people along the way. Her favourite time is weekly sleepovers at Holly's, her owners' daughter's home. At 3:30 in the afternoon, she is perched on the sofa, watching out the front window for Bill and Heather's grandchildren to walk by on their way home from school.



Thorndale News

A section within the
St. Marys Independent

THORNDALE LIONS CLUB PRESENTS
Fall Community Breakfast
Sunday, October 25th
8:30AM - 11:30AM
Thorndale Lions Community Centre
Adults **\$15** • Kids 6-10 **\$5** • 5 & under **FREE**



THORNDALE WEEKLY NEWS
info@stmarysindependent.com
www.granthaven.com



Stonetown Karate celebrates one year in Thorndale

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

Stonetown Karate recently celebrated their one-year anniversary in Thorndale.

The St. Marys based Karate dojo opened their Thorndale studio location at 172 King St., in the building behind St. George's Anglican Church. This updated space provides a comfortable and welcoming environment for both students and families.

"Our experience in Thorndale has been

fantastic," said Sensei Jeremy Lorentz, owner of Stonetown Karate. "We are grateful for the warm welcome we have received from local families and the community of Thorndale as a whole. We felt a strong sense of community here and we're thrilled to see children, teens and adults come through our doors."

In Thorndale, Stonetown Karate currently offers classes two days a week, on Mondays and Wednesdays, with programs designed for a variety of ages, from four years old through to adults and

for different experience levels. In addition to their karate classes, they also offer a Cardio Kickboxing program, which is high-energy fitness, challenging participants physically, and helping them feel more empowered after each session.

After 30 years in business, Lorentz said his team is incredibly proud of the community they have built and he's excited about the future in Thorndale.

"Our goal is to continue growing alongside the community and to become a long-term part of the lives of local fam-

ilies," he said. "As we continue to grow, we look forward to adding more days to our class schedule, making our programs even more convenient and accessible for families in Thorndale and surrounding area."

For more information about Stonetown Karate in Thorndale, visit www.ilovethorndale.ca/business/stonetown-karate-centre/.

Social history a focus for Thames Centre Heritage Depot



(PAUL STEVENS PHOTO)

Sponsored by the Thames Centre Heritage Depot, the London Women's History Project re-enactors portrayed the "Famous Five" trailblazer Canadian women who lobbied provincial and federal governments for women's rights including getting the vote for women. Joining the "Famous Five" for a photo following the first of the Thames Center Heritage Depot speakers series event are Thames Centre councillors Chantel Crockett and Danielle Lockie, who attended the presentation.

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

The London Women's History Project was the first of the Thames Centre Heritage Depot speakers' series, held on Oct. 15 in Dorchester.

This presentation, titled "Getting the Vote: The struggles and accomplishments of women in Canada from 1900 to 1930,"

discussed Canada's social history and involved the first of three speakers scheduled.

As there is no historical society or museum in Thames Centre, the goal of the Thames Centre Heritage Depot is to create awareness of our social history, nationally and locally, as well as the importance of learning from it and preserving it for future generations.

Celebrate Small Business Month in Thorndale this month

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

October is Small Business Month, a noted opportunity to celebrate the creativity and resilience of entrepreneurs in Ontario and across Canada and to recognize the significant contributions these small businesses make to the economy and to their local communities.

According to Statistics Canada, in Ontario alone, there are approximately 450,000 small businesses. In Thorndale and area, there are over 100 small businesses. They contribute to the growth and vitality of our community as well as create jobs, spark innovation and add diversity to

the area's marketplace by offering unique and specialized goods and services.

Small businesses also help build the community's identity. Many of the businesses in Thorndale have been here for decades and have become icons of the community.

In celebrating Small Business Week Oct. 19-25, we not only recognize our local businesses' achievements, but supporting them has a domino effect in our community's economic progress. For example, for every dollar spent at a local business, roughly 66 cents stays in the local economy. For the listing of small businesses in the community of Thorndale, check out www.ilovethorndale.ca/businesses.

**GRANT
HAVEN
MEDIA**

St. Marys Independent



BE IN THE KNOW!
Get the Latest
Edition Delivered
Straight to Your
Inbox!

granthaven.com/st-marys-independent

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.

Letter to the Editor: Recycling in St. Marys

On Oct. 14, I attended the Bluewater Recycling Association information meeting hosted by the Friendship Centre and Friends of the Library.

It was great to hear details about the wider range of items now accepted in our blue bins. For me, though, the most interesting takeaway was that, as of this past January, the entire cost of the recycling program is paid by packaging producers. Previously, the expense was shared 50/50 with the town.

If you agree that the money previously budgeted for recycling should go toward a green bin program for food scraps, I encourage you to contact your local mayoral and council candidates. A green bin program would not only produce valuable compost but also extend the life of our local landfill.

Bottom line: it is the right thing to do for our planet and our children.

Cindy Kimber, St. Marys

SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR TO US

CALL 519.284.0041 OR EMAIL INFO@STMARYSINDEPENDENT.COM

HELP WANTED



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, 2026 until March 31st, 2027. 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 a week.

The salary range for this position is **\$27.73 – \$34.67 per hour** for 2026.

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 **October 29th 2026**.

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.

IN MEMORIAM



Kittmer

In memory of Eugene "Ticker" Kittmer

Missing from our sight but not from our hearts.

Lovingly remembered by
the Kittmer Clan

IN MEMORIAM



Petrie

In Loving Memory Of
Manifred Raymond Petrie
June 19, 1936 - Oct 20, 2023

From Your Family
Edythe, Raymond, Roberta, John, James



ST. MARYS DENTISTRY

520 WATER ST, S. P.O. BOX 1650 | ST. MARYS, ON N4X 1B9 | 519-284-2660

Dr. Michael Nixon, Dr. Karl Weselan and Dr. Reem Amayem

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!

We offer early morning appointment times, and have later appointment times three days per week.

520 Water St. S., St. Marys, Ontario N4X 1B9
Ph: 519-284-2660 | www.stmarysdentalclinic.com





A.N.A.F. Unit 265

23 Wellington St. N.
519.284.4390

ATTENTION MEMBERS

General Meeting
Sunday Oct. 25th at 1pm

DART LEAGUES

Thursdays at 6:45 pm
Saturdays at 12:45 pm

MEAT DRAW EVERY FRIDAY AT 6PM | WE SELL NEVADA TICKETS



FOR HALL RENTALS

CALL 519.271.5343
calendar@optimistclubdownie.ca

Oct 11 - Sandra Mohr, Stratford	\$50.00
Oct 12 - Bentley Armstrong, St Marys	\$50.00
Oct 13 - Lindsay McCann, Stratford	\$50.00
Oct 14 - Bill Bent, Plympton/Wyoming	\$50.00
Oct 15 - Roxanne Houben, St Pauls	\$50.00
Oct 16 - Elizabeth Seamans, Angus	\$50.00
Oct 17 - Ralph Taylor, Lakeside	\$200.00

FRASER ASPHALT PAVING INC

FREE QUOTES 519-271-5690
www.fraserpaving.ca



Franklin E. Hinz



Donna L. Hinz

Maximize Your Return

Conservative Advice for Intelligent Decisions

196 Ontario St., Stratford, ON
519.273.1633 • franklinehinz.com

Explore THE WORLD with us!

YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS HERE

STONETOWN TRAVEL



**SHAMROCK
ROYAL IRELAND
JUNE 25 – JULY 10, 2027**



**RHONE RIVER CRUISE PLUS 2
NIGHTS IN FRENCH RIVIERA
August 30 to September 9, 2027**



**DISCOVER CROATIA, SLOVENIA
AND THE ADRIATIC COAST
September 11-22, 2027**



**VIETNAM, CAMBODIA & THE MEKONG
RIVER WITH HANOI & HA LONG BAY
January 21 to February 5, 2028**

Book Your Dream Trip Today! Limited slots available!

GROUP TRIPS HOSTED BY

**STONETOWN
TRAVEL**

ST. MARYS BRANCH: 143 QUEEN STREET EAST, ST. MARYS, ON N4X 1B4
519-284-2332 | agent@stonetowntravel.com | TICO #5003192

NEW HAMBURG BRANCH: 210 MILL STREET, NEW HAMBURG, ON N3A 1P9
226-333-9939 | newhamburg@stonetowntravel.com | TICO #5003193

www.stonetowntravel.com

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Call 519-284-0041 or email
info@stmarysindependent.com
to inquire about our directory

APPRAISALS

CAPSTONE APPRAISAL
AGRICULTURAL • COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL

AGRICULTURAL APPRAISALS COMMERCIAL APPRAISALS RESIDENTIAL APPRAISALS

REAL ESTATE APPRAISALS
LOCAL, PROFESSIONAL, TRUSTED.
Serving Southwestern Ontario

William Sumner, P.App., AACI

519-880-5631
info@capstoneappraisal.ca
capstoneappraisal.ca

EAVESTROUGH

SURE SEAL EAVESTROUGH

519.701.8838
suresealeavestrough@gmail.com

Seamless Eavestrough
Steel and Aluminum
Gutter Guard • Heavy Built
Fascia • Soffit • Trim Bending & More

WES BENNET • ST. MARYS ON

CLEANING

NOW ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS
Spotless Cleaning Plus

Laundry and Cleaning Service
Stratford and Surrounding Area

Sheila Leblanc
519-630-2665
spotless@write.me.com

Call or email for an appointment today

HOME CARE

Cricket Care
Where your at home care comes first
Personalized Home Care

Providing specialized care for:
Stoma - Cancer - Diabetes - Neurological Disorders
Epilepsy - Spinal Injury
In addition to every day care

Call 519-301-7791 (PSW1)
www.cricket-care.com

Serving St. Marys and Area since 2022

REAL ESTATE

LUCIE STEPHENS
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

519-703-0333

RE/MAX **4-B REALTY LTD**
BROKERAGE

SOLD!

DISPOSAL

Robson Scrap Metal

Open 8 to 4:30
Monday - Friday

519.284.2800

206-211 Carling St., St. Marys

ELECTRICAL

FORMAN ELECTRIC LTD.
Celebrating 20+ YEARS in business

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
AGRICULTURAL • INDUSTRIAL

BACK-UP GENERATOR SYSTEMS

Work with someone
you know you can trust!

519.284.0833
St. Marys

HEAT / COOL

HVAC SERVICES
Residential and Office equipment

B.F. GOODFELLOW

- AC/Furnace Service
- AC/Furnace Swap
- Water Heaters
- Gas Oil Propane
- Duct Installation

Phone Number: 519-857-4192
Instagram: @goodfellow_heatingcooling
Facebook: BFGoodfellow

INSURANCE

SIIG
St Marys Insurance Group Inc.

Offering Insurance Services for:
PERSONAL, COMMERCIAL,
FARM, RESIDENTIAL, BUSINESS,
TRANSPORTATION & MORE!
Give us a call today!

199 Elgin St E • St. Marys ON • 519-284-1900
inquiries@stmarysinsurance.ca

PEAK
each brokerage independently owned & operated

SELECT REALTY INC., BROKERAGE

163 Queen St. E.
Downtown St. Marys
519-284-4646
peakselectrealty@gmail.com

CONTRACTING

RLC
ST. MARYS LOCAL
RED LEAF CONTRACTING

• LANDSCAPING • JUNK REMOVAL •

519 317 8229
CHASE TOEWS

STONETOWN ELECTRIC

RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL,
INDUSTRIAL & AGRICULTURAL

YOUR LOCAL, FULL SERVICE ELECTRICAL
CONTRACTING COMPANY.

Contact Us Today or Visit Us Online
519-301-8411 • stonetownelectric.ca

FORMAN ELECTRIC LTD.
Celebrating 20+ YEARS in business

GAS WORK • HEAT PUMPS •
DUCTLESS SPLITS • AIR CONDITIONERS •
HOT WATER HEATERS • FURNACES

Work with someone
you know you can trust!

519.284.0833
St. Marys

PLUMBING

DRINKWALTER PLUMBING

RESIDENTIAL • AGRICULTURAL • COMMERCIAL

OFFICE: 519-284-4217 • CELL: 519-615-3518

Home & Company
REAL ESTATE GROUP, BROKER/REALTOR

Toni McLean Sales Representative

519-274-1120 Direct
245 Downie St, Stratford, N5A 1X5
tmclean@homeandcompany.ca

Proud St. Marys resident!

MCC CONTRACTORS LTD.
519-349-2256
ST. MARYS

485 James St S, St Marys
Email: mcc@quadro.net
Ph: 519-349-2256

General Contracting • Design-Build (A-CAD)
Renovations • Additions • Doors & Windows & More!

Hughes
ELECTRICAL SOLUTIONS

GREAT SERVICE
QUALITY WORKMANSHIP
EXPERT KNOWLEDGE

Full Service Electrical Solutions
226-921-1739
info@hugheselectricalsolutions.com
ECRA/ESAR 7016671

MUSIC

Rob Edney's The World's Coolest Music Store
226-688-8385
worldscoolest@hotmail.ca

CUBBERLEY
Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning

ST. MARYS
519-349-2420

Service from our Family to Yours since 1979

LANDSCAPING

Linda Vandermolen
Landscape Artist

519.276.7712

- Weeding
- Mulching
- Leaf Raking
- Transplant small plants

TUTORING

Sylvan of Stratford
Get ahead this summer with Sylvan!

Your child is unique, and our solutions are too!
Whether your child needs to catch up or get ahead, our teachers are ready to help create a one-of-a-kind personalized program that will work for your child. Get support with Sylvan today!

SUMMER SALE ON NOW!
Free Assessment PLUS sale. Offer valid in London and Stratford only. Expires 06/26/2026

145-103 Ontario Street, Stratford ON
519-657-7323
southlondon@SylvanLearning.com
SYLVANLEARNING.COM

ZIP OVERHEAD
519-284-1234

- Doors • Openers • Springs
- Cables • Rollers • Tracks
- Hardware • Maintenance

St Marys & Surrounding Areas

• 226-980-6199
• zipoverhead@gmail.com

BARBER

MACPHERSON'S BARBERSHOP
EST. 2020

YOUR ST. MARYS ON.
BARBERSHOP

108 QUEEN ST. E
macphersonsbarbershop.ca
226-661-0222

FIND US AND BOOK
ONLINE @   

medinasoft
A FULL LINE WATER TREATMENT COMPANY

SALES SERVICE RENTALS

Call Dave for more info
at 519.349.2040

Waterite
www.waterite.com

Better Ways For Seniors Ltd.
519.868.3021

DIGNITY INDEPENDENCE PERSONAL CHOICE
The services you need so you can keep living in your own home for as long as possible!

Don Ewert
don@betterwaysforseniors.com
www.BetterWaysForSeniors.com

BetterWaysForSeniors

BUY AND SELL

ST. MARYS COINS

BUY-SELL-APPRAISALS
Experienced-Trustworthy-Local
Call Today For Top Prices

519-777-0162
STMARYSCOINS@OUTLOOK.COM

PAINTING

Painting and Handyman
in and around St. Marys

Call Alex at 519-636-5874
for more information

SEAMSTRESS

Stonetown Alterations
Professional Seamstress
Ingrid Voermans

www.stonetownalterations.ca | stonetownalterations@gmail.com
519-703-2007

GRANT HAVEN MEDIA

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED TO BUY

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

WANTED

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

FOR SALE

Shade Trees; Maples, Oaks, Birch, Beech, Honey Locusts, Elms, Magnolia, Hydrangea Tree, Tulip Tree, Crab apples, Ivory Silk Lilac, Chanticleer Pear, Golden Weeping Willows and more. Apples, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Apricots, Nectarine, Blueberry, Haskap etc. Lots of healthy strong Spruce, Cedars and White Pine for your privacy hedges and windbreaks. Hundrceds of flowering shrubs. Reg Hours: 7am- 6pm Mon-Sat at Martins Nursery c/o Emanuel Martin. 42661 Orangehill Rd., Wroxeter, ON

WANTED

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

JUNK REMOVAL

Junk Removal - Garbage, Basements, Yards, Dump Runs Call Mike 519-276-7766

LEAF MULCHING

Have your leaves mulched, no raking or bagging required. Fully insured, reasonable rates.. Call 519-933-8636

FOR RENT

Unique mahogany panelled three bedroom apartment. Walk up. Prestigious downtown address in the old post office above Gilly's. Completely renovated new kitchen, bathroom, laundry & storage room (with washer & dryer). All utilities, water, electricity, AC, wifi included. Up to two parking spaces. Lease, References, first & last required \$2000/ month. OBO. Available Nov call 519-697-4985

WANTED

Need someone to visit a loved one? A retired pastor's wife looking for the satisfaction in caring for people. No formal training. However, many people want companionship. Families concerned about their loved ones. My pleasure to visit. No set fee but would appreciate financial remuneration. Phone 519-276-0162, speak to Sue.

St. Marys Independent

RUN YOUR CLASSIFIED

HERE FOR JUST \$10

PER WEEK

Call 519-284-0041 or email us at info@stmarysindependent.com

QUIZ ANSWERS

1.The Louvre Museum in Paris.
2.Honey.
3.Sedimentary.
4.Leo.
5.Skipper.
6.July.
7.2007.
8."I will always love you"
9.Graceland.
10.Harper Lee.

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

THE WEEK AHEAD

SPONSORED BY: McDonald's St. Marys
752 Queen St. E., St. Marys
Founding and Forever partner of Ronald McDonald House

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

St. Marys Public Library events – See Page 22

FRIDAY, OCT 23

- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog lunch at Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw – 6 p.m.
- Browns United Church presents “Elvis in Concert” – 7 p.m., Tickets \$25
- St. Marys Lincolns vs St. Thomas Stars at Joe Thornton Arena – 7:30 p.m.
- SMCP presents opening night of “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” at Town Hall Theatre – 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT 24

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 a.m. to Noon
- McCully's Hill Farm Fall Harvest Festival – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- SMCP presents “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” at the Town Hall Theatre – 2 p.m.
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw – 5 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCT 25

- Thorndale Lions Club community breakfast at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre – 8:30-11:30 a.m. Adults \$15, Kids 6-10 \$5, 5 & under Free
- McCully's Hill Farm Fall Harvest Festival – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- A.N.A.F General Meeting – 1 p.m.
- SMCP presents “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” at the Town Hall Theatre – 2 p.m.
- Perth South commemorative ceremony at the Rannoch Cenotaph – 2:30 p.m.

MONDAY, OCT 26

- Municipal election voting at the PRC – 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCT 27

- St. Marys Legion Buddy Check coffee at the Legion – 10 a.m. to Noon
- St. Marys Legion cribbage – 7 p.m. sharp

WEDNESDAY, OCT 28

- Happy Valley Health Team walk-in flu vaccine clinic at the PRC – 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCT 29

- South Perth Centennial School Pumpkin Walk – 6-8 p.m.

Are You A Newcomer To The St. Marys Area?

The Friends of the St. Marys Public Library (FOL) would like to welcome you! Visit our beautiful library, ask for a library card and pick up a Welcome Package filled with information about our community.

LIBRARY

St. Marys Public Library - 15 Church St., 519-284-3346

Looking Back

AMY CUBBERLEY
Independent Columnist

Bob gets a charge out of work

25 years ago (2001)

The majestic Holy Name Catholic Church, built in 1893, will see its impressive slate roof replaced with new slate, perhaps in time for Christmas services. Holy Name parish council member Gerry Teahen reported that Roof Tile Management of Mississauga, the company which tendered the successful bid, started putting up scaffolding last Thursday. Their bid of \$512,880 was the lowest of three companies to bid on the project.

Perth Middlesex MPP Bert Johnson contacted the Journal Argus just as the paper was heading off to press Tuesday morning to say that indeed, as had been rumoured, Premier Mike Harris just announced his resignation. Bert Johnson said the Premier did not give a reason for leaving, except to say it had nothing to do with his reconciliation with his wife.

50 years ago (1976)

The general public is invited to attend an open house at the James Street firehall on Wednesday evening. Fire Chief Don Swan feels the evening should be of considerable interest to many St. Marys and area residents, with demonstrations of varied types of fire extinguishers to be featured.

Plans for changes at the St. Marys post office could soon result in a second postal box lobby, from the south entrance of the building, being opened. It is expected several hundred additional boxes will be placed in this lobby with about half this number already on the waiting list for such a service here.

75 years ago (1951)

Bob Marriott, an employee of Dobson Motors, got the shock of his life on Monday morning when he was working with a steam car cleaning machine. A short in the electrical system of the machine plus a wet floor passed a heavy surge through Bob’s body. After a day’s rest he was back to work again, apparently little the worse for his experience.

The Uniondale Women’s Institute enjoyed wonderful success with the booth at the International Plowing Match where they served many hundreds of meals.

100 years ago (1926)

In Judge’s Criminal Court at Stratford on Tuesday, County Judge Killoran heard a case against Hugh McEwen of St. Marys, charged with failing to provide food and medical attention for his ailing sister. The charge was dismissed as it was shown that at the time there was no agreement whereby Mr. McEwen undertook to provide food for her.

St. Marys Tourist Camp opened its doors Wednesday night for the winter season. On Tuesday evening several of the neighbours gathered, the men removing work benches and making them into seats, the women and children cleaning up and attending to the decorations.

St. Marys Independent

GRANT HAVEN MEDIA WWW.GRANTHAVEN.COM

The Royal[®]
AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR

THE COUNTRY COMES TO THE CITY

WHERE LITTLE HANDS MEET NEW FARM FRIENDS



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO BUY TICKETS NOW

NOVEMBER 6 - 15, 2026
EXHIBITION PLACE, TORONTO

