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Issue #1324

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Kinsmen part ways with midway provider after Summerfest complaints



HAVING FUN AT SUMMERFEST

Kids ride the dragon coaster during the Kinsmen Summerfest at Milt Dunnell Field. See more photos on pages 8-9.

(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

Outreach worker says growing demands are stretching St. Marys program to its limits

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

St. Marys' community outreach program continues to meet a growing need in the community, but the town's lone outreach worker says increasing demand and growing case complexity are making it difficult to keep up without additional support.

Presenting her annual report to council

July 21, community outreach worker Jade Orquin said the program supported 109 residents between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026, while averaging four service calls a day during the first quarter of 2026. By June, that number had climbed to five calls a day as housing affordability and economic pressures continued to worsen.

"The needs that I am seeing in the com-

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

The Kinsmen Club of St. Marys says it will not invite Magical Midways back for future Summerfest celebrations after a weekend that saw complaints about ride operations, wastewater disposal and the midway closing a day early.

The decision comes after the midway operator, which had been contracted to operate from Thursday through Sunday, informed organizers it would not open on the event's final day.

"We sincerely apologize to our community," the club said in a Facebook post. "Despite being contracted to operate Thursday through Sunday, Magical Midways has informed us they will not be operating today – Sunday. This decision was made by the midway operator and was completely beyond our control.

"We are extremely disappointed that they failed to honour their commitment."

The Kinsmen are offering refunds for unused Sunday all-day ride passes. Email stmaryskinsmenclub@gmail.com by Aug. 7 to request a refund.

In a statement released after the event, the club said it is proud of delivering its largest Summerfest to date but acknowledged it is investigating several concerns involving the midway's operations.

"While we formed a great connection and partnership with Magical Midways in the past, the actions of many of their employees this past year have created an environment that doesn't reflect what the Kinsmen stand for and as a result, we regretfully announce that we will no longer be inviting them to our future SummerFest events," the statement reads.

One concern circulating online alleged sewage had been dumped onto one of the baseball diamonds in Cadzow Park. The Kinsmen said the

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COMMUNITY

Outreach worker says growing demands are stretching St. Marys program to its limits

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

community are much higher than when I was first in this role,” Orquin said.

“I’m seeing a lot more youth. I’m working within our schools with high-risk youth, which is not something that I did when I was first in this role. So, it’s been a bit of an eye opener to what the needs are in this community and it’s been great and I enjoy it, but it is a lot and it requires a lot of time.”

The report notes the position now serves as a coordinator for increasingly complex case management involving agencies such as Children’s Aid Society, Canadian Mental Health Association, Stratford Social Services, Huron Perth Centre, Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program. As those agencies become stretched themselves, Orquin has found herself filling service gaps while trying to coordinate care.

“It has become increasingly difficult to address the community engagement part

of this role as case management has taken a significant portion of time,” Orquin said.

Orquin told council the coordinator role has developed naturally because outside agencies often cannot respond quickly enough to urgent situations.

“I have become a coordinator for individuals in the community,” she said. “It’s simply because ... those external agencies won’t do the work.”

“I continue to reach out to those external agencies to push for that work to be done, but it seems to be on a slow process. ... It’s not in my job description, but it is something that has just developed naturally because of the lack of support from external agencies.”

The report also highlights a continuing lack of affordable housing, rising demand from middle-income families struggling to pay utility bills and buy groceries, and increasing referrals for food and financial assistance.

Coun. Marg Luna asked whether additional help could allow Orquin to spend more time on community engagement while maintaining client services.

“I think that certainly on a part-time basis would be helpful, especially with the admin that takes up a lot of time to do as well,” Orquin replied. “Getting the paperwork to the ODSP office, those types of things, those little things that do take up a lot of time; it would be helpful to have an additional individual on a part-time basis for sure to do that admin work.”

CAO Brent Kittmer said the town has explored options with United Way Perth-Huron and other agencies for additional outreach support, but no solution has materialized. He said the priority has always been ensuring residents receive immediate assistance, even if proactive community engagement initiatives must sometimes take a back seat.

Mayor Al Strathdee said the discus-

sion reflects a broader challenge facing municipalities as social-service responsibilities increasingly fall to local governments.

“This is year 12 for me, and if you had said to me 12 years ago, ‘Hey, you should hire a social worker for the Town of St. Marys,’ I would have thought you were crazy. Now I wish we had two.”

Later in the discussion, Strathdee said the situation is another example of provincial downloading.

“The reality is the province should be funding Jade’s position 100 per cent, and they’re not.”

Despite the challenges, Orquin’s report also highlights the program’s continued success in strengthening partnerships, providing wraparound supports and connecting vulnerable residents with housing, food, financial, health-and-safety services through office hours, educational events and collaboration with local organizations.

St. Marys Fire Department receives sensory kits to enhance emergency response support

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The St. Marys Fire Department recently announced it was selected by North City Insurance Brokers to receive two First Responder Sensory Kits through the Fire Marshal’s Public Fire Safety Council’s Sensory Kit initiative.

The sensory kits were developed to help firefighters and other first responders create a calmer, more supportive environment during emergency calls, particularly for individuals with autism or sensory sensitivities. Emergency situations can be especially overwhelming, and these tools help responders better meet the needs of all community members.

“We are very thankful to receive these kits and add them to our emergency response resources,” said Chris St. Clair, chief fire prevention officer with the St. Marys Fire Department, in a press release. “Every member of our community deserves to feel safe and supported, especially during emergencies. These kits will help us better connect with individuals experiencing sensory challenges and provide a more positive response experience.”

Each sensory kit contains carefully selected tools designed to assist with communication, reduce sensory stress and help build trust during emergency situations. Items may include non-verbal communication boards, sensory and fid-

get tools, noise-reducing earmuffs, visual supports, comfort items and a firefighter-themed companion plush.

The addition of these kits reflects the

St. Marys Fire Department’s ongoing commitment to providing accessible, inclusive and compassionate service to all residents.

St. Marys Independent

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Accessible dock concerns prompt St. Marys accessibility review

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

A St. Marys resident is urging the town to improve accessibility at the Thames River dock at Milt Dunnell Field, saying several barriers prevent people with disabilities from fully using the facility.

Speaking before council July 21, Sean Finch, who said he is disabled and works as a rehabilitation therapist, outlined concerns with the accessible dock, including large boulders that prevent vehicles from pulling up beside the dock to unload kayaks, the distance between the Yak Shack and the dock, and other accessibility challenges.

"I've noticed the town dock and ... before the town dock even got put in place, I've sent out many emails," Finch told council. "The dock got put in. I was amazed. It was awesome. Pretty happy. And then ... all of a sudden these big boulders got put up."

Finch said he was told the rocks were installed to prevent people from parking near the dock but believes they unnecessarily prevent people with disabilities

from unloading watercraft close to the launch.

"I want the boulders removed," he said. "Whether it be a parking area down there ... but for now, we can move the boulders so people can at least go down there, put some no-parking signs on there, so it's not a parking lot. We have permission right now ... to be able to drive down there. We have that. So, there's no reason that should be taken away from disabled people."

According to a staff report, the Yak Shack is approximately 102 metres from the dock, requiring users to carry kayaks along a gravel pathway. Finch argued that distance presents a significant challenge for people with mobility limitations.

"People can't get ... from the road to the dock. It's very hard," he said. "Now imagine a disabled person in a wheelchair. It'd be impossible to carry their kayak down there."

He also questioned why the Yak Shack could not be relocated closer to the dock and asked to participate in the town's accessibility review, noting his education as an occupational therapy assistant and

physiotherapy assistant.

"I feel that I am more than qualified to help out with that," Finch said.

Responding to questions from council, CAO Brent Kittmer said the town has retained Julie Sawchuk of Sawchuk Accessible Solutions to complete an accessibility audit of the dock, pathway and surrounding area.

"She will be doing an accessibility audit of the dock, of the pathway, the access, and providing us with an opinion related to our compliance with AODA, the design of public spaces," Kittmer said.

"But really what her specialty is, is to look beyond those and then to give us ... improvements to the area to improve access."

Kittmer said staff are also asking Sawchuk to examine how people can safely and easily move watercraft to the dock, while balancing accessibility with pedestrian and public safety.

He explained the pathways leading to the dock were designed primarily to allow town equipment access for seasonal dock installation and removal, not for public vehicle traffic.

"The staff of the day put the rocks in place because they were concerned about pedestrian safety," Kittmer said. "There is a competing interest of public safety, traffic safety and accessibility, and they're trying to do their best to find a solution."

The Yak Shack's location was also chosen because it sits outside the area's highest flood-risk zone, he added, though the town plans to review that location with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority during an upcoming site visit.

Kittmer said council will receive the consultant's recommendations once the review is complete.

"If she says, 'You did the best you could, but here's some improvements,' we'll make those improvements," he said. "And if she says you were totally wrong and you need to do this differently, we will do it differently."

While thanking Finch for bringing the concerns forward, Kittmer cautioned there is no guarantee the boulders will ultimately be removed if the review concludes they remain necessary to balance accessibility and public safety.



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EDITORIAL

For the first time since I’ve lived here, I didn’t have to drive to Toronto



GALEN SIMMONS
Regional Editor

Feet up, headphones on and a game on my phone to pass the time.

That’s how I prefer to travel, whether it be across the country or just an hour or two away. Low stress and relative comfort is the name of the game for me, but since I’ve lived in Stratford, that hasn’t always been possible.

For too long, residents of Stratford, St. Marys, Perth County, East Zorra-Tavistock, Wilmot and Wellesley had gone without a reliable and cost-effective form of public transportation that could take us to London, Kitchener-Waterloo, Toronto and beyond.

That simple reality of rural life – only those who can drive their own cars can escape the confines of our agricultural surroundings – has begun to change as new forms of public transit have been introduced, re-introduced or promised to the region. Flix Bus has started serving riders in Stratford and St. Marys; a Grand River Transit expansion is in the works for residents of Wellesley and Wilmot; and my beloved Go Train has returned to Stratford, hopefully permanently, after it was

discontinued following a failed pilot several years ago.

While I don’t tend to use public transit to get to London or Kitchener-Waterloo – it’s just easier for me to drive myself – travelling to Toronto is another story.

I hate everything about it – the traffic on the highway, the congested city streets, the other drivers who just seem to know when to abruptly change lanes without causing an accident. It’s all very overwhelming and I avoid it whenever I can.

But I have friends in Toronto who I like to visit and there is plenty to see and do in the big city, so, until very recently, I would brave the often-two-hour drive in rush hour on a Friday night just so I could have a little fun and spend some time with the people I care about.

Recently, I had the opportunity to review a Toronto Fringe Festival Play, Orbit, that a friend was starring in. I was excited about the opportunity to see a Fringe Festival play, but I wasn’t so excited about driving two hours to Toronto for a 10:15 p.m. performance on a Saturday night.

My friend asked if I was planning to take the train or the bus and I quickly realized, for the first time since I’ve lived in Stratford, those were both viable options. So, I looked into taking the Go Train, something I used to do all the time as a kid growing up in the Hamilton and Burlington area.

It turns out, Metrolinx, the company that operates Go Transit, had just introduced a \$10 weekend day pass that allows for unlimited rides on Go

Trains and Go Buses for a single day on the weekend. Looking at the weekend train schedule, I saw the Go Train leaves Stratford at 6:15 p.m. and arrives at Union Station in Toronto at 8:45 p.m. – perfect timing for me to make it to the play.

And though it was an early start after a late night with my friends, the Go Train left Toronto at 8:45 a.m. the next morning and arrived in Stratford at 11:15 a.m., giving me plenty of my Sunday to sleep off the previous night’s festivities.

So, for a grand total of \$20 and a sandwich I made at home to eat on the train, I managed to get to Toronto, see the play, spend time with friends and return home the next morning.

Now that’s how I like to travel.

Bravo	Boo
We have no Bravos this week	We have 1 Boo this week 1) Boo to whomever took the Teddy Bear Reunion Bear. Marlene Forman works hard on this event and does not need to deal with theft. Please bring it back.
*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

“Here’s a more natural, flowing version of that section that reads like a legislative speech rather than a series of short points.”

- Bill Oliver, Member of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, not realizing that he had read aloud an AI prompt during a recent speech in the provincial legislature.

Overheard
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The Gordie Howe bridge looks great, maybe I’ll try it in 2029.

Magical Midways leaving Summerfest a day early is going to give carnies a bad name.

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

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Thoughts
OF THE WEEK

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STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news
from the Town of St. Marys



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Nomination packages are available for pickup by appointment only during the construction of the Church St. stairs at Town Hall. Please call 519-284-2340 ext. 212 or email clerksoffice@town.stmarys.on.ca.

Municipal nomination forms must be filed in person (by appointment) at St. Marys Town Hall by Friday, August 21 at 2 PM. Nomination forms for school board candidates shall be filed with the respective municipalities.

More details: townofstmarys.com/elections

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WEST QUARRY REOPENED

Council recently approved an updated Quarry By-law to allow for the use of human-powered watercraft, such as canoes, kayaks and paddleboards, as well as fishing between dawn and dusk from April 1 – November 30. Swimming remains prohibited.

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Senior of the Week



Our seniors of the week are Jack and Ruth Constable who celebrated 60 years of marriage on July 23. Jack has lived all of his life in St. Marys and Ruth grew up on the family farm on the Sunshine Line, Woodham.

They have three children, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Ruth is a retired nurse who loves to spend time in her beautiful garden and also loves to bake. Her scones are very much enjoyed by family and friends. Jack loves reading, walking or bicycling and spending time with his lovely wife. They both help out at the Community Bible Church on Hwy 7. They both like to travel and will be cruising through the Panama Canal to celebrate their 60th anniversary.

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

Alzheimer Society session to help families navigate dementia and driving

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

For many people living with dementia, giving up the keys can be one of the most difficult transitions they face. An upcoming education session hosted by the Alzheimer Society Perth Huron aims to make that conversation easier.

The society, in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, will host a Dementia and Driving education session Aug. 18 at 1:30 p.m. The session will be offered in a hybrid format, allowing participants to attend in person at the society's Stratford office or virtually through Zoom.

Jessica Lawson, public education coordinator with the Alzheimer Society Perth Huron, said the session was created after she noticed more people in the community struggling to understand how cognitive changes associated with dementia can affect driving.

"Driving is one of the most common things we do in the community. It's how we get from here to there," Lawson said. "It's not to tell someone they can't drive. We're not telling people when to give up their licence. It's more about that education piece and that support and how to have those conversations."

The session is open to people living with dementia, family members and care partners, health-care providers, friends and anyone interested in learning more about the topic.

Lawson said driving depends on a range of cognitive abilities, including memory, judgment, attention, problem solving, reaction time and visual-spatial skills. Because dementia affects everyone differently, there is no single point at which a person should stop driving.

"There isn't one single sign that tells us it's time for someone to stop driving," she said. "It really differs from person to person and overall functioning."

However, she said warning signs can include getting

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SESSION TOPICS
Understanding Dementia and its Impact on Driving
- Public Education Coordinator

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lost on familiar routes, becoming confused behind the wheel, slower reaction times, difficulty making decisions at intersections or roundabouts, unexplained dents or scrapes on a vehicle, or increasing concern from family members.

Beyond explaining how dementia can affect driving, the session will outline the Ministry of Transportation's medical review process and connect participants with community transportation options available when driving is no longer safe.

"If someone loses the ability to drive, that is a huge loss of independence," Lawson said. "Just because you lost your driving ability doesn't mean that you can't still get from A to B."

Ultimately, Lawson hopes the session encourages people to start talking about driving before it becomes a crisis.

"When we talk about it early, approach it with compassion and understand the resources available, we can help people living with dementia and their families navigate these decisions with confidence and dignity," she said.

WEEKEND QUIZ

By Jake Grant

1. What is extracted from the ore cassiterite?
2. How many weeks are there in a fortnight?
3. Who tight roped across the twin towers?
4. What animal is known as the king of the jungle?
5. What company was initially known as "Blue Ribbon Sports"?
6. What is the hottest planet in our solar system?
7. What was the original name of the Boston Red Sox?
8. What is the main ingredient in hummus?
9. Ash Wednesday marks the first day of what?
10. What is the name for the process of electing a Pope?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31



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Locals send supplies to wildfire evacuees



(PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY SMITH)

Cheryl Firby and Katie Nightingale try to get a few more boxes into a very full truck. Looking on are Ivan Facey, Arlene Callender and Diana Boland. Volunteers at St. James Anglican Church spent last Tuesday morning packing donations for Indigenous communities in northern Ontario, forced to evacuate because of the wildfires. The bags and boxes are filled with clothing donated specifically for this purpose by the community, supplemented by clothing from the Community Closet. Nightingale drove the load to Tyendinaga, east of Belleville. From there, a large shipment was sent north.

Kinsmen part ways with midway provider after Summerfest complaints

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

claim was investigated immediately by club members and the Town of St. Marys. Town CAO Brent Kittmer confirmed parks staff found no evidence of sewage or human waste.

“Over the weekend it does appear they allowed grey water to drain directly onto the ground from their trailers (grey water is wastewater from sinks and showers),” Kittmer said in an email. “Based on parks staff’s inspection, there does not appear to be any evidence of sewage or human excrement present.”

Public works director Jed Kelly added cleanup of the park was completed by 10 a.m. Monday and was no more extensive than in previous years despite the heavy traffic through the park.

Magical Midways did not respond to a

request for comment by press time.

The company’s safety record also came under scrutiny last year when it pleaded guilty to a violation of Ontario’s Technical Standards and Safety Act and was fined \$30,000 following a 2022 incident at the Campbellford Fair in which a Tilt-A-Whirl car detached during operation, injuring three riders. An investigation by the Technical Standards and Safety Authority found the company failed to maintain required inspection records for the ride.

Looking ahead, the Kinsmen said planning for Summerfest 2027 will begin when the club reconvenes in September, though what the event will look like without a midway operator has yet to be determined.

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St. Marys and area residents enjoy a combined Stonetown Heritage Festival and Kinsmen Summerfest



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

The Stonetown Heritage Festival took over downtown St. Marys Saturday, July 25, with an abundance of local vendors, food trucks, live entertainment and so much more.



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

Briland Cunningham throws a pitch at the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's Baseball Hot Pitch game during the Stonetown Heritage Festival July 25.



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

Sponsored by Quadro, this trackless train carried kids and their families throughout downtown St. Marys.



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

Dad Jeff MacDonald and his little girl, Elyse, three, were having fun at the Stonetown Heritage Festival. Elyse had her face painted and received a fun balloon character.



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

Todd Sleeper and his wife, Deanna, had fun showing off their colourful hats at one of the local vendors.



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

Some local artists took advantage of the large crowds downtown to create some interesting chalk art on the roadway.

St. Marys and area residents enjoy a combined Stonetown Heritage Festival and Kinsmen Summerfest



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

The midway was hopping with locals and visitors young and old during Kinsmen Summerfest Saturday afternoon.



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

Jerica Gowan, who works for Magical Midway, poses for a photo with Sydney Hawkins and Mya Grose as they try for a prize fishing in the duck pond.



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

There were plenty of rides to enjoy on the midway in Milt Dunnell Field.



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

There were plenty of midway games to play during Kinsmen Summerfest.



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

Pictured are Sandra and daughter Olivia McCurdy barbecuing hotdogs and sausages on a bun along with some other treats for anybody to enjoy visiting the Summerfest carnival.



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Lucid Musings celebrates grand opening of studio and retail space at 95 Queen St.



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Sean Camp of Lucid Musings took time to explain where his gift vendors are from, and how the space came to be during his business' grand opening of a new studio space. Here he is sharing with Riverwalk Commons owner Melissa Barton on where the honey is from.

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

On Thursday, July 23, exciting things were happening at 95 Queen St. E the community celebrated the grand opening of Lucid Musings Photography.



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Sean Camp and wife Erin Camp happily greeted visitors at Lucid Musings newly opened studio.

Owner Sean Camp has been working hard getting the beautiful studio and retail space ready for the public. Though Camp is no stranger to beautiful photography, his vision for the retail space is just as welcoming with so many wonderful gift options like cards, puzzles, co-

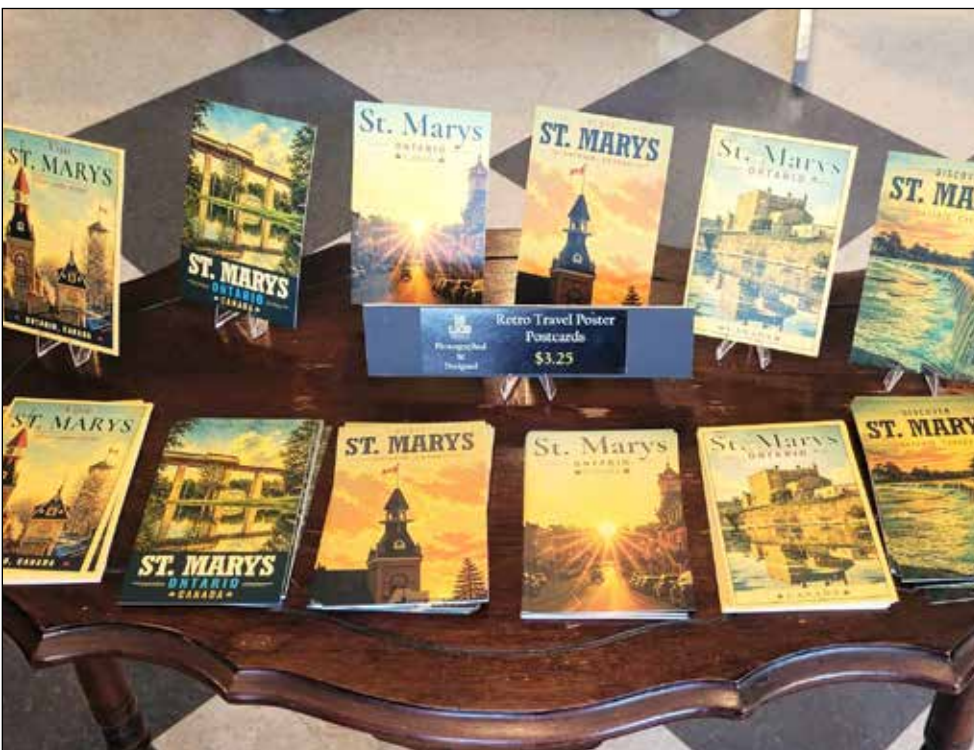


(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Jaron Camp, Sean Camp's son, played live music for the guests who mingled about, checking out the space.

louring books, art, books and so much more.

Along with the retail business, Camp will be offering custom framing, archival printing, restoration services and passport photos. Visitors to the grand opening were greeted with food, drinks and live music.



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

One of the gift ideas available are vintage-style post cards of St. Marys.



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Another great gift idea for purchase are 1,000-piece puzzles created from Camp's photos of our beautiful town.

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St. Marys Kinsmen celebrate their members after Summerfest



(PHOTO COURTESY OF KINSMEN CLUB OF ST. MARYS)

St. Marys Kinsmen Craig Jacobs was presented with the club's Rookie of the Year award by incoming club president Mark King and past president Trevor Schram after the Summerfest festivities wrapped up over the weekend.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF KINSMEN CLUB OF ST. MARYS)

St. Marys Kinsmen Jeremy Savile was presented with the club's Kinsmen of the Year award by incoming club president Mark King and past president Trevor Schram after the Summerfest festivities wrapped up over the weekend.

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Model T Ford Club International visits St. Marys



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Daniel Bratcher from San Antonio, Texas, enjoyed his treat from Hearn's in front of his 1926 Model T pick-up.

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

Anyone driving by Hearn's on Thursday afternoon would have seen a stop on the agenda for approximately 150 Model T vehicles.

The Model T Ford Club International 69th annual tour was hosted this year by the Ontario Region Chapter naming the tour the Thames Valley Tour. It began at the Four Point by Sheraton Hotel in Lon-

don. The tour took place from Saturday, July 18, and finished on Friday, July 24, with many stops throughout the week at places like Storybook Gardens, Labatt Park and Fanshawe Pioneer Village.

The vintage cars also travelled to nearby towns like Dorchester, Oil Springs, Mt. Brydges, Stratford, St. Thomas, Port Bruce and Port Stanley Beach. Members of the club travel from all over to take part in the annual tour.

The Model Ts are mostly brought by



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Participating in their 21st tour, Bob and Barbara Zabola along with dog Dixie from Albany, N.Y. toured around in their 1920 Ford Touring "convertible" car.

trailer to the hotel and driven from there to the stops on tour. Through the week, there is also a car-judging event that takes place at Plunkett Estate, and the host club puts on a farewell banquet and awards night.

In St. Marys, the club visited the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and then stopped at Hearn's Dairy for a treat before heading back to London. Drivers came from San Antonio, Texas, Richmond, Va., and Albany, N.Y., as well as from Aus-

tralia. The 70th tour taking place next summer will be hosted by the Kentucky chapter of the club.

The Model T Ford, which was manufactured between the years 1908 and 1927, can travel up to approximately 64 km/hr at top speed. The international club tour had a variety of Model Ts including touring cars, speedsters, roadsters and pick-up trucks.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Around 170 Model T cars came through St. Marys July 23, which was capped off by many of the participants stopping by the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum (CBHFM), where the cars were on display while the owners toured the hall of fame.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

The parade of Model T cars coming through St. Marys and the CBHFM was part of the 69th Thames River Model T Tour, an annual gathering for vintage car enthusiasts based out of London.

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New bridge celebrates power of community in Harrington

AMANDA NELSON

Independent Reporter

After nearly four years of fundraising, planning and navigating approvals, the Harrington and Area Community Association is inviting local communities to celebrate the completion of a new bridge over the pond along the trail at Harrington Conservation Area.

The bridge officially reconnects the six-kilometre trail loop around the Mill Pond. Before the bridge, hikers would need to walk around the pond or through the water.

The family-friendly celebration will take place Saturday, Aug. 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Harrington Conservation Area, 963656 Elizabeth St., Harrington. The event includes a tour of the restored grist mill, a bridge ceremony, live music, a magic show, a food truck, a historical bridge display and other activities.

While the celebration marks the completion of the bridge, association member Michael Kukhta said the project represents much more than that. It reflects years of determination and the willingness of a small community to work together toward a common goal.

“We haven’t had a bridge for about, I’m going to say, maybe four years, and through various trials, it’s always ... hard to get one of these things done because of the different people involved.”

The Harrington and Area Community Association has managed the conservation area since the early 2000s, raising funds to maintain and improve the site for visitors. Replacing the bridge became one of its biggest projects after the previous crossing was removed.

Before the new bridge was installed, visitors relied on a makeshift concrete slab. Once that was removed, they either had to walk through the water or detour around the pond, making it impossible to complete the trail loop.

“For years, we had no bridge, so everyone had to walk to one side and then walk back the other and not be able to complete the loop,” said Kukhta. “That’s pretty frustrating; when you have a pond, you want to be able to walk over it. You can walk through the water if you want, balance on the rocks if you’re up for it, but your bound to get wet.”



(AMANDA NELSON PHOTOS)

Harrington will celebrate the completion of the new bridge located at the Harrington Conservation Area on Aug. 8. All are welcome to come out to explore all Harrington has to offer.

Kukhta said bringing the project to life required support beyond Harrington itself. Throughout the process, the association built new working relationships with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and the Township of Zorra, which helped navigate administrative requirements and approvals.

He said those partnerships became just as meaningful as the bridge itself.

“Through all the bureaucracy, we followed the tedious processes and we got a beautiful bridge, and we’re happy to celebrate that and build bridges, but not just physically, but with people and with the community and outside the community who helped.”

Though Harrington is home to only about 150 residents, Kukhta said the project demonstrates what a small community can accomplish when people work together.

“We often feel left out,” said Kukhta. “You know, we’re a small cluster of about 150 people up in the north end of nowhere. For our shopping or getting out, we of-

ten go to Tavistock, Stratford, or St. Marys and to host an event like this, we really needed to scrimp and save, but we want to showcase our community. It’s something we are all very proud of.

“There is a pride, maybe even a stubborn pride in what we accomplished and what we were able to pull off, and we want to showcase that.”

The Harrington Conservation Area has long been a gathering place for the community. Interest in preserving the site dates back to 1948, and the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority purchased the dam and pond in 1952 before later acquiring the historic grist mill in 1966. The mill, rebuilt after a 1923 fire, remains one of the few surviving water-powered grist mills in western Ontario.

For the association, the new bridge is the latest chapter in that history – one built not only with steel and timber, but through years of community support, fundraising and volunteer effort.

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Arts and Antiques Show explores creative history

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

Coinciding with the Stonetown Heritage Festival, a variety of artwork was showcased at Riverwalk Commons.

Riverwalk Commons held the Arts and Antiques Show and Sale during Heritage Festival Weekend from July 24 to 25. The event featured works by Judith Williams, Old Soul General, J.A.R. Collectables and Stonetown Arts.

Williams, the featured artist, got lots of positive reception for her multimedia pieces featuring painted wool landscapes, gardens, animals and flowers. Members of Stonetown Arts showcased an array of needle-felted items, paintings, woodcarvings and glasswork.

Jean Rowcliffe of J.R. Collectibles held the pop-up with a purpose display that shared her collection of vintage items from her adventures. Melissa Barton, Nancy Bolton and Ann Watt of Old Soul General sold handmade items like tote bags, pouches, hand-appliqued shirts and denim with visible mending. Photographer Yousef Karsh gave a portrait of a young Queen Elizabeth and her corgis to fluffy social media influencer Ernie the Corgi.

"Together, the artists and antique exhibitors demonstrated how creativity has evolved over time while continuing to reflect the values, skills and stories of our community and the fascinating people who choose to make St. Marys their home," Barton, also the owner of Riverwalk Commons, told the St. Marys Independent.

The event brought in plenty of visitors, including some travelling from England.

"It was wonderful to have the event part of the Heritage Festival celebrations. The atmosphere was warm, welcoming and full of conversation, with people connecting directly with local artists and vendors," Barton said. "Events like this remind us how much our community values creativity, history and the people who keep those traditions alive."



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

Stonetown Heritage Festival attendees stopped in at Riverwalk Commons for the Arts and Antiques Show Saturday afternoon to peruse the pieces available for purchase from local artists and antique collectors.

As the annual St. Marys Heritage Festival honours local landmarks and heritage buildings, Barton wanted to celebrate the history of creativity and visual art.

"Events like arts shows in town provide an opportunity to recognize the talented people who continue those traditions today while inspiring future generations to appreciate and support handmade work. When we purchase locally made art or handcrafted items, we're not just buying a product, we're investing in our local econ-

omy, encouraging creativity and helping ensure these valuable skills continue to thrive in our community," she said.

Riverwalk Commons will host the St. Marys Creative Retreat from Oct. 20-22, which will feature 21 workshops over seven locations. More information about the retreat and other Riverwalk events can be found online by visiting rwcommons.com.

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Garden tour showcases St. Marys’ blooming backyard retreats



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

Alison and Don Robinson pose at their St. Marys home. The couple has transformed their property into a vibrant garden retreat over the past three years.



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

Jean Rowcliffe’s backyard features a glass garden pavilion where she hosts teas and other gatherings. The structure is surrounded by mature trees and an array of colourful perennial gardens.



(NANCY BICKELL PHOTO)

A decorative water feature surrounded by a variety of perennial flowers is one of the highlights of the garden created by Dave and Laurie Ainsley during the 36th annual St. Marys Horticultural Society Garden Tour.

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Hospital auxiliary continuing Super Summer Sale

JANIS FREAD

St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary

We had a great day at the Heritage Festival where we chatted with visitors, enjoyed the perfect weather and sold lots of stock to support our fundraising efforts.

Even though everything has been moved back to the hospital Boutique, we are continuing our Heritage Festival Super Summer Sale, with all garments 25 per cent and 50 per cent off. Stop by and stock up!

Save the date for our next fundraising event, our popular Bingo night! We'll be at the Friendship Centre on Wednesday evening, Sept. 23. More details will follow on the other attractions we'll be offering that evening. Proceeds from this event will purchase more than half a dozen over-the-bed tables for hospital in-patients.

We were heart broken to lose one of our valued and active auxiliary members this month, Marlene Weston. Marlene joined the group about seven years ago and has been our very efficient secretary for the last five years. Her infectious laugh and determined attitude will be missed.

The Boutique is open all summer, Monday to Friday, noon to 4 p.m.

Follow the Auxiliary on Facebook at The Boutique at St. Marys Memorial Hospital or email smmhauxiliary@gmail.com.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF JANIS FREAD)

Pictured at the St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary booth at the Stonetown Heritage Festival are, from left, volunteers Mary Woods, Janis Fread, Joyce Mulholland and Marianne Betteridge.

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Town of St. Marys

NOTICE OF OPEN HOUSE



TOWN OF ST. MARYS ZONING BY-LAW REVIEW

PURPOSE AND EFFECT OF PROPOSED ZONING BY LAW: The Town of St. Marys is undertaking a review of its Zoning By-law to align with its new Official Plan. St. Marys' updated Official Plan was approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) in October 2024.

The Zoning By-law is a legal document outlining the set of regulations that determine how a piece of land can be used and developed. The Zoning By-law regulates the use of land and buildings; the location and setbacks of buildings and structures; the types of buildings permitted; lot sizes; heights; parking requirements; and performance standards such as landscaping requirements.

An Open House will be held to provide residents, business owners, and members of the community with the opportunity to give input, ask questions, and submit ideas and feedback for consideration. A formal public meeting will be held following the Open House, at a date to be determined, prior to the adoption of the Zoning By-law Amendment.

A key map has not been provided, as the Zoning By-law Amendment applies to the entire Town of St. Marys.

DATE & TIME: The Open House will be held on Wednesday, August 12, 2026 between 2:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M.

NPG Planning Solutions Inc. will be presenting proposed changes to the Town's Zoning By-law at 3:00 P.M and 7:00 P.M. If you are unable to attend the presentation materials will be made available at your request by contacting the undersigned.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND MATERIALS: Additional information including a Background Reports and Technical Briefs are available to the public for inspection at the Open House noted above, on the project webpage townofstmarys.com/home-property-roads/zoning-by-law/, or contact the under Contact Information below via an appointment to review the documents.

LOCATION: The Open House will be held in the following location: Municipal Operations Centre, 408 James St. S

CONTACT INFORMATION:

To find out more about the project and follow along, or if you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town of St. Marys on the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment, you must make a written request to:

Grant Brouwer
Director of Building & Planning
Town of St. Marys
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Phone: 519-284-2340 ext. 215
Email: gbrouwer@town.stmarys.on.ca

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council of St. Marys to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of St. Marys before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to St. Marys before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

St. Marys Independent **SPORTS**

U15 HPFL Blue Rockies win gold at Goderich tourney



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Wildwood Care Centre U15 HPFL Blue St. Marys Rockies won gold at the July 17-19 Goderich Seahawks Tournament. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Laine Leis, Lexi Leis, Nora Pearn, Chloe Phillips, McKenna Ross and Rylee Cunningham. In the back row, from left, are Scott Walsh, Lilly Murphy, Ally Van Bakel, Morgan Reid, Reese Crawford, Tea Walsh, Julia Gracey, Dennis Pearn and Deanna Cunningham.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Wildwood Care Centre U15 HPFL Blue St. Marys Rockies celebrate winning the Goderich Seahawks Tournament after their 8-6 victory over Elma in the finals.

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The Wildwood Care Centre U15 HPFL Blue St. Marys Rockies lifted the championship trophy of the Goderich Seahawks Tournament, hosted July 17-19, above their heads.

Head coach Scott Walsh said everyone played a role in the Rockies winning gold.

"It was a total team effort on the diamond," Walsh told the Independent. "The girls delivered an all-around performance, with great defence, clutch hitting and dominant pitching all coming together for a successful tournament."

Walsh added the "total team effort" came on both sides of the ball.

"They saved their best baseball for when it mattered most. Ally Van Bakel and Reese Crawford led the offence with two hits apiece despite an 8-0 round-robin loss to Elma. The bats woke up against Stratford Blue, where Julia Gracey's three-hit, two-RBI performance propelled St. Marys to a decisive 14-5 victory. The offensive momentum carried into the third game against Brussels; McKenna Ross racked up three hits, Chloe Phillips delivered four hits and three RBIs, and Rylee Cunningham drove in three more to cap off an 18-4 win. Throughout the tournament, Lexi Leis provided clutch at-bats and aggressive baserunning that sparked several key runs in the victories.

"Lexi (Leis) and Reese (Crawford) made timely plays in the outfield, while catchers Morgan (Reid) and Julia (Gracey) locked down the defence behind the plate to save crucial runs," Walsh continued. "Leading the charge for the pitchers was starter Chloe (Phillips), who took the mound in all five games of the tournament."

St. Marys found themselves in the midst of incredibly tough competition, which Walsh explained could only be defeated by virtually flawless play.

"In the semifinals and finals, we faced two incredible opponents, both undefeated in the tournament and boasting a combined total of just two losses all season," said

Walsh. "We knew we had to play near-perfect ball to stand a chance against them."

In their semi-final matchup against Chatham, the game was deadlocked at 4-4 until the sixth inning when the Rockies' offence erupted, putting up five runs in the sixth followed by four in the seventh to put the game out of reach. St. Marys racked up a total of 17 hits, including three from Van Bakel and Tea Walsh. Nora Pearn registered three RBIs, with Van Bakel, Phillips and Lilly Murphy each scoring two RBIs.

The finals proved to be a thrilling back-and-forth battle in a rematch of their eight-run loss against Elma, who jumped out to an early 2-1 lead before the Rockies answered with two runs in the third and four in the fifth. Elma fought back, scoring three in the fifth and one in the sixth to narrow the gap to 7-6 heading into the final inning.

St. Marys tacked on a crucial insurance run in the top of the seventh, and Phillips went the distance on the mound, securing a complete-game win by a score of 8-6 when the final out flew into the glove of Morgan Reid. Tea Walsh carried a hot bat in the championship game, driving in five RBIs on two hits to seal the tournament victory.

Scott Walsh noted the team's loss to Elma earlier in the tournament gave the team a lesson in what they needed to find success in the tournament, which ultimately helped them win the tournament's top prize.

"Facing some of the best pitching we've seen all season, our tournament started with that tough 8-0 loss to Elma," Scott Walsh said. "We knew from that moment on, every game was a must-win to stay alive. Our mindset in every tournament is simple – we might not be the best team but get to Sunday and you never know what will happen. The girls completely bought into that message, and on this Sunday, they proved they were the best team."

According to the head coach, the team spirit that was such a big part of them ultimately lifting the championship trophy has been a constant theme throughout the year.

"This team has impressed us all season. They play for

each other, lift one another up when times are tough and truly value winning and losing as a team. We couldn't be more proud of how they conduct themselves on and off the field. But the job isn't done yet. With our year-end tournament just a few weeks away, we'll once again be underdogs in a tough field. This time though, the girls are walking in with a whole lot of confidence after everything they proved to themselves in Goderich."



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U11 HPFL Rockies claim silver at Goderich tournament

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The Dunny's Source For Sports U11 HPFL Red St. Marys Rockies took home the silver medal in the July 17-19 Goderich Seahawks Tournament.

Coach Pat McLean credited the team for rising to compete and faring very well amongst the tough field of teams during the tournament.

"We ran into some tough competition, and all our girls rose to the challenge," McLean said. "How far pitching has come has really helped us be able to be competitive, and it's been so fun to watch. The bats really came alive, and it was right through the whole lineup. Everyone was able to contribute."

McLean added the tournament reflected the team's steady development over the course of the season.

"We are really starting to hit our stride," McLean said. "The girls have come so far in being able to support each other and gel as a team. As a coach, it's so nice to be able to not have to stress too much about what spot the girls are going to play because they've all been able to develop the skills to play anywhere. We have become aggressive at the plate and are really focusing on good contact and getting good quality at-bats."

After their first game was nullified to a tie due to poor air quality, the Rockies battled back from behind to earn an 11-9



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Dunny's Source For Sports U11 HPFL Red St. Marys Rockies earned a silver medal in the Goderich Seahawks Tournament July 17-19. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Kristen Maddock, Ivy Smith, Lola Gropp, Lydia Harris, Aurora Darling and Scarlett Maddock. In the back row, from left, are Calvin McKay, Noelle McKay, Ava Wilder, Monica Hinz, Madelyn Weber, Hailey Wilson, Sianna Sicilia, Izabella Feltz and Jacquie Wilson. Not pictured were Grace McLean and Laura Parkinson.

walk-off victory on the morning of July 18 against one of two Mitchell teams. Later that day, they fell to a strong Exeter squad by a score of 15-10. Monica Hinz

added a homerun during their round-robin play.

This set St. Marys up for a semi-final clash against the second Mitchell team,

with an outstanding effort lifting the Rockies to a 15-13 win, securing a berth in the final in a rematch against Exeter. Though falling narrowly in the gold medal game after a walk-off homerun gave Exeter a 13-12 win in the bottom of the fifth inning, the Rockies still delivered a gutsy performance before taking silver.

Izabella Feltz hit a massive homerun in the final, and Lola Gropp and Scarlett Maddock both threw great games from the pitcher's mound in the championship final.

Gropp, Hinz, Maddock, Noelle McKay, Hailey Wilson and Aurora Darling all pitched exceptionally well throughout the weekend, and Grace McLean and Ava Wilder were outstanding defensively all weekend.

Pat McLean noted he and his fellow coaches had nothing but positive take-aways for the team's showing over the weekend.

"The coaching staff was extremely proud of the effort and commitment shown by every player all weekend long," said Pat McLean. "While the result wasn't quite what they hoped for, bringing home tournament finalist medals after such a competitive weekend is a great accomplishment. Most importantly, the girls really came together as a team and showed tremendous character, determination and sportsmanship throughout the tournament."



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For further information about the HPHA Board of Directors, Board Committees and Governance Resources, please visit the HPHA website – www.hpha.ca

The HPHA is committed to equity, inclusion, diversity and anti-racism.



Information Session (Virtual)

Thursday, August 6, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

RSVP to Sue Davey, Executive Assistant
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MINOR SPORTS **SCRAPBOOK**



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
Stevie May MacLean rockets a long-range shot on net during the U10 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm game this past Sunday.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
Landon Weber steps into a shot inside the box during last Thursday's U13 Boys Tier Three St. Marys Storm game.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
Lexxandre Nieto-Estapan launches the ball through the midfield during last Wednesday's U15 Boys Tier Three St. Marys Storm game.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
Vaida Graham sends the ball shooting up the midfield during the U15 Girls Tier Three St. Marys Storm game last Tuesday.



(CHARIS MUHTAR PHOTO)
Griffin Ball blasts the ball into the net for a goal during the U18 Boys Tier Three St. Marys game last Wednesday.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
Kyle Johnson rips a shot towards the goal during this past Monday's U11 Boys Tier Two St. Marys Storm game.

COLUMNS

UKRAINIAN CORNER: In the driver's seat of your DNA – why lifestyle beats genetics

ALONA VASYLIEVA

Independent Columnist

How many times have you caught yourself looking at someone who seems to effortlessly stay fit, or wakes up early with a smile, and thought, “Well, good for them, they just got lucky with their genes?”

Or have you ever noticed what happens when your kids misbehave? We immediately ask ourselves, “Where on earth is this coming from?” You look at your spouse, you think about it, think again and then – with a quiet sigh – you realize it might actually come from your own genes, even though it's pretty hard to acknowledge!

It's an extraordinarily comforting thought to blame biology, isn't it? Because if our ability to stay healthy, manage our weight, or build good habits is entirely written in our DNA, then we are completely off the hook. We get a free pass to blame our ancestors for our sweet tooth, our slow metabolism, or our urge to scroll on our phones instead of going for a walk.

Sometimes, when I listen to discussions about health, it feels like people just give up. They hand over the steering wheel of their lives to their DNA and whisper, “It's beyond me; it's all genes.”

I've always been curious about how these things really work. And from my perspective as a non-scientist, the deeper I look into the research, the clearer it becomes; we actually have far more control than we think.

To understand where our power lies, it helps to separate two simple terms. You inherit genes and DNA from your parents, and that is what we call genetics.



(ALONA VASYLIEVA PHOTO)

Why your inherited genes are only a starting point, and how your daily lifestyle writes the rest of your health story.

It sets your height, your eye colour and your starting frame. But you can actively influence how those genes behave in your daily life. That process is called epigenetics.

Think of identical twins – they share 100 per cent of the exact same DNA. Yet, when they grow up and choose different diets, habits and stress levels, their health

and bodies end up completely different. Modern research confirms that while DNA sets our starting point, our daily lifestyle ultimately shapes our health, how we feel and how long we live.

I love how researcher Dr. George Bray described this relationship.

“Genes load the gun, lifestyle pulls the trigger.”

Looking at this through the lens of common sense, I completely agree.

Of course, science acknowledges our natural limits. For instance, researchers say that whether you are a natural “early bird” or a “night owl” is largely influenced by your genes. Our internal biological clock is real. However, there is a big difference between a genetic tendency and a daily decision.

I know how hard it is to build a morning routine. When my alarm goes off at 5 a.m. for an early workout, there is no magic “early riser gene” that gently lifts me out of bed. My DNA doesn't pull back the warm blanket when it's cold outside and it certainly doesn't force me to move. In those first few quiet seconds of the morning, it's just a simple, human choice between comfort and my long-term goals.

Discipline isn't an inherited gift passed down like a family heirloom; it's a muscle. Every time we choose a healthy habit over a quick comfort, we make that muscle a little bit stronger.

Yes, you might inherit a slower metabolism or a genetic tendency to love the snooze button, but a predisposition is not a life sentence. It is our daily environment, our food choices, our movement and our rest that decide which genetic switches get flipped. Genetics won't build a consistent routine for you, and it won't choose a nourishing meal over quick junk food. We do that.

At the end of the day, science gives us a message of hope and personal power, not defeat. Your genetics provide the canvas, but every single day, through the small choices you make, you are the one holding the brush.

Straight From The Shelves

By Laura McAsh, St. Marys Public Library

During the Friendship Centre re-fresh, “Mahjong” will be temporarily re-located. On August 5 and 19, the program will meet in the 1/3 Hall of the Pyramid Centre (317 James St. S). August 12 and 26, “Mahjong” will be at the St. Marys United Church (85 Church St.). Thank you for your co-operation as these beneficial updates to your community spaces take place. Stay tuned for future updates on the program.

UP THIS WEEK

- Fri., July 31: Open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Sat., Aug. 1: Open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Mon., Aug. 3: CLOSED
- Tues., Aug. 4: Reading Help* (10:30 – 11:30 a.m.), Crafty Kids* (1:45 – 3 p.m.)
- Wed., Aug. 5: EarlyON Play & Read (9:30 – 10:30 a.m.), Picnic in the Park*^ (12-1 p.m.), Mahjong~ (1-4 p.m.), Imagination Station (2-4 p.m.), Reading Help* (2:30 – 3:30 p.m.), Teen Program* (6-7 p.m.)
- Thurs., Aug. 6: Mini Makers* (10:45 a.m. to 12 p.m.), Fluency Fitness*^ (2-3 p.m.)

*Registration Required ^Held at Kin Park (109 James St. N)
~Held at the PRC, 1/3 Hall (317 James St. S)

Ask the Arborist

By Joel Hackett • 519.272.5742 • jtsquote@gmail.com

Joel Hackett is a certified Arborist residing in the St. Marys area. Currently, he spends most of the year running Joel's Tree Service. For contact call 519.272.5742 or email jtsquote@gmail.com



Dear Arborist,

I have a maple tree. A limb is cracked and it's leaning over my house. Lately the crack has started oozing black goo. Should I be concerned?

Thanks, Ellie

Dear Ellie,

Yes, that is concerning. Normally that is an indication that the crack has opened

up, meaning the limb is starting to fail. When the crack opens up it allows water in, as well as dirt and bacteria. This causes a black goo also known as slime flux. Eventually it will decay the tree. The crack widening is more concerning than the slime flux.

Sincerely, The Arborist

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: St. Marys Fair, part two

MARY SMITH

Independent Columnist

By the late 1870s, the South Perth Agricultural Society was well established on a property on Queen Street West in St. Marys. But even with a spring livestock show and a full exhibition in the fall, the society only used the entire property a few days of the year. The historic minutes show that the acreage was sometimes rented to local farmers to be cropped or used as pasture. Although the town had an athletic field on the Flats by the Thames River, in the 1870s both the cricket and baseball clubs rented space on the agricultural grounds, possibly as practice fields. The Driving Club also had an agreement to use the racetrack on special occasions. On May 24, 1875, as part of the celebrations of Queen Victoria's birthday they held a series of horse races at the Agricultural Grounds. In one of the trotting races, Dr. Hall's bay horse, "Baby," raced against Robert Edgar's gray mare, "Little Nell."

But holding the annual fair was the Agricultural Society's main purpose. Before they had purchased the property, livestock judging took place on a smaller, rented portion. Because of limited space, ladies' handwork, fruits and vegetables, arts and crafts, local merchants' wares were exhibited on tables set up downtown in the town hall auditorium. To have all the displays and competitions on their own spacious site, the Society directors decided to construct their own exhibition building. On May 20, 1875, the Society published a notice in the Argus, inviting contractors to submit: "Tenders for erecting a new Agricultural Hall on the grounds of the Society in St. Marys."

The inspiration for rural fair buildings was the famous Crystal Palace, the giant glass, iron and wood hall built in 1851 in London, England, to house the Great Exhibition. Promoted by Queen Victoria's consort, Prince Albert, it showcased displays of industrial, scientific, and cultural achievements from Britain and many other countries. It was, in fact, the first World's Fair. From that time on, the main exhibition building for even the smallest fair was locally called the "Crystal Palace." None of these buildings had glass walls – they were frame or brick construction – but still the nickname persisted. The term was certainly used in St. Marys by the Argus. The building commissioned by the South Perth Agricultural Society was of the bricks and mortar variety and, while it was hardly a



(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE STOREY COLLECTION, R. LORNE EEDY ARCHIVES, ST. MARYS MUSEUM)

Children from St. Marys and area schools marching from the town hall to the fairgrounds on Queen Street West, 1920.

palace, it was an ambitious undertaking for a small community. At the Society's meeting, the following motion was passed: "That Mr. Martin's tender be accepted at the sum of \$1,240, the society to provide brick, provided the Finance Committee shall report that they have been able to find the money."

In accordance with the terms of the contract, construction began on July 1 and was completed by September 15, 1875, in time to set it up for the annual fall fair, held that year in the first week of October. The Argus followed the construction closely and had a tour of the building in late September. This description appeared in the September 30 edition: "The Crystal Palace is now completed, and it reflects great credit on the directors. Built in brick in the form of a Greek Cross, 84 feet each way in its largest dimension, surmounted with a tin dome, it presents a massive and attractive appearance. Inside, the walls have been plastered and a full set of tables and platforms erected for the display of articles. All that is wanting now is for farmers, for whose benefit it has been built, to come in on Tuesday and Wednesday next, and fill the place with their best articles."

On October 7, the Argus reported that the fair had been successful, and, despite heavy rains on the second day, thousands of people had passed through the gates. "The fine new building and grounds which the Society have acquired since their last Exhibition contributed very materially to the success of the whole affair. The heavy rain, no doubt, had the effect of keep-

ing many farmers and their families at home, but notwithstanding this fact, large crowds of people were in attendance who were not to be disappointed in their visit to the best county fair in the Dominion." The Crystal Palace was completely filled with exhibits. They included articles to be judged and awarded prizes – poultry, honey, vegetables, fruit, house plants, ladies' handwork and a fine art department. Local collectors displayed a variety of items: "Thomas Gordon had some beautiful cases of stuffed birds, animals and insects. Mr. Burley Hudson had an excellent collection of ancient silver and copper coins, swords and a large number of articles of very ancient date." Local businesses also took advantage of the opportunity to display their wares – "the most complete and handsome assortments of hardware from the establishment of Messrs. R. Harstone & Son, and an endless variety of flannels, blankets, yarns, etc. from the St. Marys woollen mills."

As the decades passed and the agricultural fair moved into the 20th century, there were changes. The exhibition and judging of livestock, poultry, crops and other agricultural produce was still the main focus – and a requisite for receiving a grant from the Ontario government. As farming became more mechanized, displays of new implements increased. Local carriage makers, cooperages and blacksmiths were replaced by gas-powered machinery agents and automobile dealers. In 1911, Niagara Hydro Electric power reached St. Marys. That year, electricity was installed in the

exhibition building, and visitors were impressed by demonstrations of electrical household appliances. Horse races, the midway, games of chance and sideshows became increasingly attractive fair components. Not everyone approved; some saw these as threats to the serious purpose of the fair. But historian William Johnston, a strong supporter of rural fairs, wrote: "Every skillful manager of an exhibition will provide means of rational entertainment for its patrons along with that instruction to be received from its exhibits.... To make life worth living, there must be some relaxation. Amusements at public gatherings are indispensable and form an important part in every condition of our lives."

The midway, of course, attracted families with children and the Agricultural Society capitalized on this. St. Marys and area school children were encouraged to submit entries of crafts, penmanship, artwork and vegetables from their own gardens. These were judged and the winners were delighted to receive recognition and some extra spending money for their efforts. The school boards were persuaded to grant a half-day holiday during the fair. Vi Proudlove's fair history reports that 1914 was the first year that school children marched in classes from the town hall to the fairgrounds, led by the local kiltie band. The best marching class won a trophy, and some teachers and parents went all out, making fancy hats and sashes for the children to wear to impress the judges. The school children had free entry to the grounds. Their parents who met them there had to pay admission – a great way to boost attendance and to increase the takings at the gate.

But the 1920s brought major challenges to the South Perth Agricultural Society. Although improvements had been made to the fairgrounds – an 800-seat grandstand facing the racetrack and the show ring was built in 1912 – the Crystal Palace was deteriorating and becoming expensive to maintain. Although all Ontario fall fairs were struggling with higher costs, the government did not increase the annual grant. The fair in St. Marys had several successive years of rainy weather, meaning lower attendance and lower gate revenue. The Society had to borrow money from the Royal Bank to pay out prize money. Mortgage payments on the fairgrounds were falling behind. On the eve of the Great Depression, disaster loomed. However, the Agricultural Society found a solution. To be continued next week.

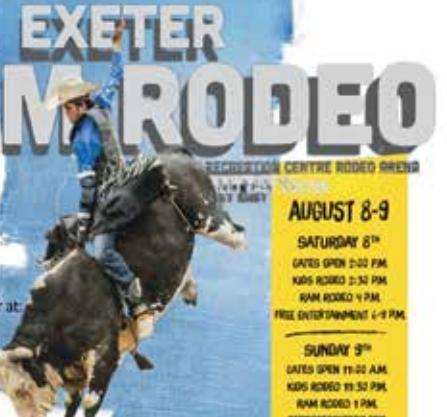

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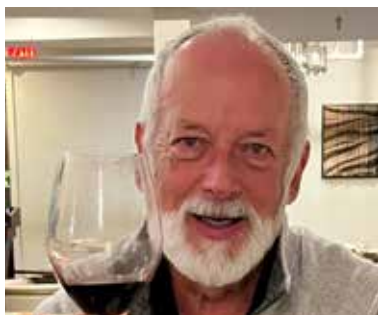


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OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: 'Foodie' quality at sensible prices – amazing dining at Punch Ltd.



PAUL KNOWLES

Independent Columnist

If you have eaten in hotel dining rooms, you will probably agree that some can be really good; many can be ridiculously pricey; some are just run-of-the-mill or worse, although still often overly expensive.

So, when Germain Hotels' France Savard invited us to dine at Punch Ltd., the new restaurant in Le Germain Hotel Toronto on Mercer Street, I did not know what to expect.

What I did not expect was one of the finest meals I have ever enjoyed, but that is exactly what we got. Amazing, unique food in a very elegant setting with superb service. A perfect experience.

Am I exaggerating? Well, at one point during the meal, my partner simply said, "This food is absolutely full of flavour!"

That's the work of executive chef Mandar Kulkarni and his eight-person kitchen crew. Mandar, who is from Mumbai, India, chatted with us and explained that the culinary model at Punch Ltd. is "modern London ... British food with softer Indian touches." This is not, in any way, stereotypical Indian cuisine; it's in a category all its own.

Punch Ltd. opened its doors

last October in the hotel that opened in 2003. Le Germain Hotel Toronto was the first Germain establishment outside the province of Québec, though most certainly not the last. Germain hotels now exist all across Canada, still independently owned and operated by the Germain family based in Montréal.

Back to the dining table; while you can certainly order individual meals off the menu at Punch Ltd., there are a couple of more interesting ways to dine here. The dinner menu lists the options as "Small Shares," "Large Shares" and "Sides." So sharing is a great way to go.

But the advice at the top of the menu is, "Let our chefs take the lead. ... Enjoy a personally curated tasting journey."

Now, I have been in restaurants where a "personally curated tasting journey" costs hundreds of dollars. Not here. That option comes with a very reasonable price tag of \$95. In fact, in the holiday months, there is also a "Summerlicious" option – your choice of small share, main dish, sides and dessert, for \$65. That is definitely not a "foodie restaurant" price, but the food will delight the most demanding foodie.

One other difference; some tasting menus involve minute portions of a variety of food. The portions at Punch Ltd. are very satisfactory.

Our meal? We wisely decided to trust the chef, as well as Lauren Hall, the warm and welcoming director of food and beverage and Punch Ltd.'s sommelier. She matched our courses with truly excellent wines.

Mandar started us with a

unique amuse bouche – a vegetarian version of steak tartare, with beetroot substituting for the steak. Delicious.

We were then served Mumbai Chat-Slaw mixed at the table, an amazing mélange of radishes, beets, green apple, pomegranate, boondi (deep-fried chickpea flour), potato straw, crispy leeks and tamarind yogurt.

Next came duck sausage with raisins in puff pastry topped with a unique, dark, spicy house brown sauce.

Then came what may have been our favourite taste of the meal (except, perhaps, the desserts), Agnolotti, a stuffed pasta with morels, English peas, snap peas, porcini mushroom broth and maggie butter.

This was followed by exceptional Beef Wellington, one of the many house specialties. The menu lists "tenderloin, prosciutto, wild mushroom duxelles, Swiss chard, sunchoke purée and rogan josh jus." The jus brings that soft, Indian spin to the very British Beef Wellington – again, a perfect culinary marriage.

And then came desserts – yes, plural because there were, after all, two of us. One was a Punch Ltd. standard – absolutely luscious sticky toffee pudding. The other involved a surprise. Our server brought a white chocolate mousse with a red fruit sauce, and at the table, poured extra virgin olive oil on the mousse and added cracked black pepper. I was dubious until my first taste.

That dessert included both saffron – the most expensive spice in the world – and cardamom, third most pricey. Mandar explained both are essential to his recipes, so he insists on them,



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

The dining room at Punch Ltd.

regardless of cost.

Lauren matched our courses with terrific wines from around the world: a Gruner Veltliner from Austria, Cerisier en Fleur from Alsace, a terrific Bordeaux and a couple more. The wine list at Punch Ltd. covers 10 pages; there are three more for spirits and that doesn't include their wide selection of unique cocktails and beer.

The restaurant features low light, pleasant background music and wait staff in black suits and white shirts – it all speaks of elegance. But the diners' clothing tended toward smart casual – no formality, here.

I don't

write a lot of articles about any specific restaurant, but Punch Ltd. clearly earned the attention it's getting this week.

You don't have to be a foodie to love Punch Ltd. Sure, foodies will love it, but Punch Ltd. is perfect for anyone who enjoys a dining adventure. You will not be disappointed!

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



The bar at Punch Ltd. with a very enthusiastic bartender.



Le Germain Hotel Toronto, home of Punch Ltd. restaurant.


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MEREDITH A. STOKES

Independent Columnist

Artificial intelligence. Just those two words alone probably make you feel sick. Maybe you're one of the few who support it. Maybe you think it's the greatest invention since micro-

wavable burritos or something. This is a highly controversial topic and people can have their own opinions on it, I don't care. But I am here to tell you how it's affecting us teenagers now, and how it affects our future.

Most teenagers are pro-AI. It's a fact. I wish I could say I don't regularly catch my classmates using it in ways they probably shouldn't, or that there aren't at least three clear "Chated" presentations every assignment. I am, I'll admit, anti-AI, although I do believe there are places for it in the world. Someday I'll get into why I think other kids my age use AI, but for now, I'm focusing on something else; that

there is a common theme I have found when talking to my fellow teenagers about this topic and that is what it means for our futures.

It is hard to decide what you want to be in 10 years. It's even harder when you can't be sure what jobs will still exist in that time. The amount of people I have spoken to who have given up on their goals out of fear is astonishing. Let me tell you about a teenage boy we'll call Tim. His family is very successful and for as long as I have known him, Tim has wanted to be a realtor. He has recently abandoned that dream because "that market is being taken over by technolo-

gy, so I'm not so sure anymore."

I have met dozens of kids like Tim. Kids who know what they want to be, but also know they can't actually be it. With the rate at which technology is developing, we have to worry about the very real possibility of going through school for a job, only for it to be taken over by AI and having to start all over again. I've already touched on how hard it is to decide on a career (key word: touched) and this adds a whole other level to it. No career is guaranteed. Worse yet, no one seems to care because the current working generation just wants it to be easier for them, and they'll all

be retired by the time technology takes over. It doesn't seem to matter to them that AI leaves us unemployed in an overly inflating world.

So yeah, AI scares us too. Sure, it makes things a heck of a lot easier, but we're not blind. Lazy sometimes, but not blind. The technology explosion terrifies us just as much as you, possibly more, because we'll have to try to make a living through it.

If you have any specific questions or ideas, feel free to reach out to the St. Marys Independent and I will do my very best to answer.

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Riddles

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

Why can't your nose be 12 inches long?
Because then it would be a foot.

What word is spelled incorrectly in every dictionary?
Incorrectly.

Why did the student eat his homework?
Because the teacher said it was a piece of cake.

Why did the scarecrow win an award?
Because he was outstanding in his field.

Why did the golfer bring two pairs of pants?
In case he got a hole in one.

Why did the banana go to the doctor?
Because it wasn't peeling well.

What has one head, one foot, and four legs?
A bed.

Why did the computer go to the doctor?
Because it had a virus.

What did one ocean say to the other ocean?
Nothing, they just waved.

Why did the tomato turn red?
Because it saw the salad dressing.

Why did the melon jump into the lake?
It wanted to be a watermelon.

- Word Search -



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The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What did the plumber say to the singer?



Nice pipes!

Levi Garniss (9)

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



Summer BBQs are fun, but keep pets safe! Hot grills, open flames, and tasty but unsafe foods can pose serious risks. Keep pets at a safe distance from the cooking area, avoid feeding harmful scraps, and provide fresh water and shade.
Happy grilling, happy pets!



SUSIE SNOWFLAKE

Our Pet of the Week is Susie Snowflake, a dwarf albino rabbit. John and Marie Stevens rescued Susie five years ago when she was about six months old. She is only allowed out of her cage when John picks her up for a cuddle. Then she is placed on the window sill to sit in the sun. Susie doesn't let you near her when she is out unless there is a treat involved. Her favourite food is kale, followed by apple and pear slices.



Thorndale News

A section within the
St. Marys Independent



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Celebrate Food Day Canada on Aug. 1

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

Ontario is agriculturally rich with farmers who take pride in what they grow, gardeners who grow food for their families and neighbours, and chefs who know the value of local, healthy food.

These community members strengthen local sustainability, keep regional food traditions alive and embody the spirit of Food Day Canada.

Food Day Canada, celebrated on the Saturday of the August long weekend, began as a movement in 2003. It became an official bill in May 2023 as the “Food Day in Canada Act.” The national recognition acknowledges market gardeners, farmers, fishers, chefs and inspires everyone to shop, cook and dine Canadian.

One market garden enterprise in the Thorndale area is Arch & Ember Garden Fare. Six years ago, sisters Alyson Wills and Erin McAllister wanted to start a small business growing vegetables and flowers with their main concept to grow nutritious food for their families and the community.

Their philosophy on growing is organic, supporting pollinators with a large cottage garden of perennial flowers.

“We grow over 20 different types of vegetables, most of which are kitchen staples,” said Wills. “We like to grow a few new crops or varieties each year, but most of our growing space is dedicated to the favourites – carrots, lettuce, squash and tomatoes.”

A heated tunnel – the arch in their name and logo – allows them to start early seeding in the spring, continue growing after first frost in the fall and to grow greens through the winter. Their self-serve farmgate stand is open Sundays and through the week in late summer into the fall.

“Growing food is so rewarding, and we are so grateful for our customers and the community who appreciate knowing where their food comes from,” Wills said.

On Food Day Canada, Aug. 1, celebrate the flavours of our country. But here in our area, the celebration continues throughout the year. Eating local is an act of gratitude for the seasons and the producers who grow healthy food to nourish our community.



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

Arch & Ember Garden Fare owners Alyson Wills and Erin McAllister.

Flashback to the ‘80s at the Back40 Bash

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

The summer highlight in Thorndale is the Back40 Bash, a community celebration where friends and neighbours gather to enjoy backyard games and great live music.

This year’s organizing committee, made up of members from I Love Thorndale and the Thorndale Agricultural Society, introduced a fun new theme, “Back to the ‘80s.” The fresh twist on this popular event was a hit, with attendees arriving in their brightest neon colours, puffy hairdos and retro graphic T-shirts.

Beyond being a lively community

gathering, the Back40 Bash is also an important fundraiser for I Love Thorndale and the Thorndale Agricultural Society.

“The Back40 Bash organizing committee would like to thank everyone for another successful BFB!” said Moya Eastlake, director of I Love Thorndale. “Without our wonderful sponsors, volunteers and the support of our community, this event would not take place. Mark your calendars for July 24, 2027; expect bigger and better.”

The Back40 Bash continues to show what makes Thorndale special – a community that shows up, pitches in and celebrates together.”



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Pictured from left to right are I Love Thorndale director Moya Eastlake, Matt and Laura Langford and Thorndale Agricultural Society director Ian Ferguson at this year’s Back40 Bash in Thorndale.

What’s happening at the Thorndale Library this August

MIDDLESEX COUNTY LIBRARY

Contributed Article

There’s something for everyone at Thorndale Library this month!

Families with young children can enjoy Thorndale Storytime every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., featuring stories, songs,

rhymes and fun for all ages.

The EarlyON Play & Learn program runs Fridays from 9-11 a.m., offering a free drop-in space for families with children ages zero to six.

Crafters can connect at Stitch n’ Chat, held twice monthly, with opportunities to share projects and meet fellow needlec-

raft enthusiasts.

Young creators can take part in a variety of summer programs, including Pet Rocks, DIY Diva Fan, Easy Painted Flowers and Make a Friendship Bracelet. These hands-on activities offer opportunities for children and teens to explore creativity, learn new skills and have fun.

Registration is required for all craft programs.

For program dates, times and registration details, visit us online at library.middlesex.ca or contact the Thorndale Library. We look forward to seeing you!

OBITUARY

Seymour



David Ian Seymour, 56, passed away on July 25, 2026, surrounded by his family and under the remarkable care of the staffs of the Victoria Hospital in London and the St. Marys Memorial Hospital. Born in Scarborough, Ontario, on November 5, 1969 to parents Christine and Ian Seymour,

David was the family's gentle, kind, and sensitive soul. He was Christine and Ian's second child, and loved and appreciated by his two brothers, Andrew (Lori) and Jason (Sophia). He was a caring uncle to Marisa (Jon) and Spencer, and great-uncle to Tyler, Lauren, and Olivia. David was a loving partner to Ellen, with whom the pair had a daughter, Milan, the most important thing in David's world and his greatest accomplishment.

After raising Milan in Taiwan for many years where he operated a bar, David moved back to Canada to be closer to his family and raised Milan in St. Marys until his passing. David devoted his life to being a present and supportive father to Milan, and is beloved and missed deeply by his entire family.

David is remembered for treating everyone he encountered with compassion and grace. He treated everyone as if they were his close friend, and to Milan's friends, he was an inviting and welcoming presence in their lives who they trusted to care for them as if they were his own.

David had a deep love of music, especially classic rock, that he shared with many people, and he spent many years travelling the world, gaining experiences and stories that will stay with his family forever and that his family would often recall as things only David could have experienced.

In recent years, David enjoyed time spent with his family playing trivia games and watching hockey, including his favourite team, the Toronto Maple Leafs, who would often cause him to shout and jump around the house. David was a friend to anyone he met and his caring, compassionate nature will never be forgotten and will be greatly missed by all who were fortunate to meet him.

Cremation has taken place and a private ceremony will be held with David's immediate relatives. David's family also thanks Marisa Gennaro and Pam Caldwell, the best friends of David's mother Christine, for their support during this difficult time. In lieu of flowers, the family asks anyone capable to donate to CAMH or CMHA.

OBITUARY

Ogletree



Marlene Sarah Ogletree
1950 - 2026

Marlene Sarah Ogletree passed into the presence of the Lord, at St. Marys Memorial Hospital on July 25, 2026. Beloved wife of David, married for 49 years. Sister of Harmon Brodhagen (Mary Lynn), June Simmons (Lloyd, deceased) and Bruce

Brodhagen. Also survived by nieces and nephews. A private burial will take place in St. Marys Cemetery.

Online tributes at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

OBITUARY

Ready



It is with heavy hearts that the family of Robert (Bob) Ready announce his passing. He left peacefully surrounded by family and friends at St. Marys Memorial Hospital on July 25, 2026, the day after his 76th birthday. Bob was a beloved Husband, Brother, Father, Grandfather, Uncle, loyal friend,

devoted farmer and proud member of his community.

He was born and raised in Downie Township, on Line 15. He created his own home beside his parents'/childhood farm. When he was not tending to the land as a cash crop farmer, he worked at the Stratford, St. Marys and Rannoch Co-ops for over 20 years and then for 28 years selling insurance for Downie/Tradition Mutual Insurance, with many of his clients becoming good friends. After retiring from selling insurance, he became an egg farmer.

He was a member of the Downie Optimist Club and St. Marys United Church. He was always up for a visit with friends, a crop tour, checking out farm equipment, and a card game. He did not miss too many community events as he enjoyed gathering friends to support local fundraising suppers, hosting gatherings and watching his children and grandchildren play sports. Community was the heart of who he was: his quiet acts of service and willingness to lend a helping hand without hesitation earned him the respect and admiration of many.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife of 54 years, Marion (Ross), his children Laurel and Jamy Poirier, Mike Ready and Julie McIntosh, grandchildren Brett, Alia, Ellie and Lena. Brother to Roy and Bev Ready, Mary and John McIntosh, Jamie and Nancy Ready, Nancy and Allan Coghlin. Brother-in-law to Nancy Ross, Jim and Mary Ross, and Joanne Ross, and Uncle to many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents Charlie and Reta Ready, Father-in-law and Mother-in-law Lorne and Ethel Ross, brother-in-law Bob Ross and nephew Andy Coghlin.

Visitation will be Thursday, July 30 at St. Marys United Church (85 Church St. S, St. Marys), from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. and from 7p.m. – 9 p.m. A Memorial Service will be held at the St. Marys United Church on Saturday, August 1 at 11 a.m. A Celebration of Life Open House will follow at the Downie Optimist Community Centre (3185 Road 122, St Pauls) from 12:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

The family would like to thank the many doctors and staff over the years who provided Bob with guidance throughout his life's journey, and especially Dr. Gatfield, Dr. Hahn and their teams the last few years. In lieu of flowers, donations made be made in Bob's memory to the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation, St. Pauls New Playground and the St Marys United Church Food Grain Bank.

Online condolences at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

OBITUARY

Rath

Homer Rath, after a courageous battle with Lymphoma, passed away on July 22, 2026 at St. Marys Memorial Hospital at age 85 surrounded by his family. Survived by his wife Sandy (nee Elgie) of 65 years. His kindness and devotion live on through his children Colin (Pat), and Josh (Kelly). Grandfather of Sarah Lynn (Brian), Rachael Rath, and great-grandfather of Lucas. Dearly missed by brother Gordon (Ruth Ann), Irene Hansford (Carl) and predeceased by Carl (Lynn) and sister-in-law Evelyn. Homer will be missed by special feathered friend Luther and grand dog Darby. Special thank you to Dr. Hepburn and staff at St. Marys Memorial Hospital. We have the best hospital around! Memorial donations may be made to Lymphoma Canada or the Parkinson Society.

My dear family and friends,

*Just a message to let you know I have simply "moved on."
It has been a great life for me! Life is really how we live it.
Not how short or long.*

*I have been very lucky to have had Sandy as my partner
and a wonderful family and good friends.*

*Thanks for being a part of my life and the fun times we
have had.*

*Look after each other and always look on the bright side.
Homer*

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	9			8			

Solutions on pg. 31

THANK YOU

Spence

Thank You for all the cards, phone calls and gifts given to me after my hip operation.

Doris Spence

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Sharon & Tom

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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. We are at the Pinery Market at Grand Bend every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call or text Stan anytime 519-868-3814.

WANTED

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

FOR SALE

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Exercise equipment for sale: AFG (brand name) treadmill, rowing machine, and indoor trampoline. All three items for \$700. In mint condition, contact 226 301 4442

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2 Burial plots with deed, 2 vaults, gold cross certificate & memorial bronze marker. Located in Forest Lawn, London. Today's prices \$13,000 - \$15,000. Priced at \$5,500.00 for quick sale. Please leave message or text at 519-670-7107.

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3. Philippe Petit
4. The lion
5. Nike
6. Venus
7. Boston Americans
8. Chickpeas
9. Lent
10. Papal Conclave

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

THE WEEK AHEAD

SPONSORED BY: McDonald's St. Marys
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PRC & Friendship Centre events – See the Stonetown Crier on Page 5

St. Marys Public Library events – See Page 22

Thorndale Library events in August – See Page 27

FRIDAY, JULY 31

- A.N.A.F. meat draw – 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUG 1

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

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

SUNDAY, AUG 2

- Classic & Antique car show at Windmill Campground, 2778 Perth County Rd 163 – 12-4 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUG 4

- St. Marys Horticultural Society flower show and meeting at the Legion hall – 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUG 5

- Melodies at the Museum at Cadzow Park – 7-8 p.m., The Faultliners

THURSDAY, AUG 6

- HPHA virtual info session on joining the board of directors – 7 p.m. RSVP to Sue Davey 519-272-8205 or email susan.davey@hpha.ca

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Looking Back

AMY CUBBERLEY

Independent Columnist



Lightning strikes church

25 years ago (2001)

The eight hospitals in the Huron Perth Hospitals Partnership have received over \$3.6 million in base funding for the 2001-2002 fiscal year from the provincial government. St. Marys Memorial Hospital gets \$93,499 of that total.

Police in St. Marys were patrolling the parking lot of the Community Centre this past Saturday night during a buck and doe celebration. During the patrols, police charged six people for Liquor License Act violations.

50 years ago (1976)

The Avonbank United Church had the misfortune of being struck by lightning last Wednesday evening. Considerable damage inside the building was suffered, particularly to the lighting system, wiring, and plaster.

One of the more recent acquisitions of the local fire department is a very useful piece of equipment known as a “bull horn”. If readers hear this item in use at a future fire, the aptness of the term will quickly become evident. The horn was one of the purchases, along with a Scott air-pak and other items, picked up when the civil defense set-up went out of business in Stratford recently.

75 years ago (1951)

The fine new home built by Clayton Sheldon on his farm on the north side of No. 7 highway on McCully's hill does not get the admiration it might from passing motorists since it is so far back from the road. This two-storey home was recently finished and the grounds about it have been smoothed down ready for planting.

A trailer containing a horse came loose from Ed Dunseith's car at the Victoria Bridge on Friday but fortunately no damage or injury resulted.

100 years ago (1926)

Mr. William Woods, who lives down the river on Concession 2, West Nissouri, found himself out of luck when he visited his driving shed one morning last week. Mr. Woods found that a thief had been there in the night and had stripped his Ford car. The visitor took three tires off the auto and helped himself to several attachments. He even drained off the gas and oil before leaving.

Gordon and Mabel Zurbrigg, children of Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Zurbrigg of St. Marys, are spending their holidays in Listowel and vicinity.

St. Marys Independent

SCAN TO READ THE ONLINE PAPER

www.granthaven.com



CORRECTION:

An error was printed in the story, “Prairie drama *Ruby in the Dust* to be Performed at Snapping Turtle,” on page 9 of the July 9 edition of the St. Marys Independent. In the story, Chet Greason was misidentified as Chet Baker. We regret any confusion this may have caused.

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