

St. Marys Independent

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

Issue #1337

Thursday, October 29, 2026

FREE

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

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

FOR MORE PRODUCTS AND FINANCIAL ADVICE CALL US TODAY!

PERTHSTONE KITCHEN
"Where local supports local"
(226) 301-4036 | www.perthstone.ca | 159 Queen St E, St Marys

RIVER VALLEY

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

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

CALL US FOR INQUIRIES AT
519.225.2329
WWW.RIVERVALLEYGOLFANDTUBE.COM

STONETOWN KARATE
STK
Karate • Cardio Kickboxing

CELEBRATING 30 years
KARATE & CARDIO KICKBOXING

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

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

Brogan Aylward earns a win for the ages



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Keri Lush and new councillor Ryan Leaman congratulate newly elected Mayor Brogan Aylward after the results were released on election day Oct. 26.

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

An astonishing 88.8 per cent. That's the share of the mayoral vote that Brogan Aylward captured Monday night, delivering a landslide victory for the 27-year-old who will become the next mayor of St. Marys – and the youngest mayor in St. Marys' history.

A packed house at Broken Rail Brewing erupted in celebration at 10 p.m. Monday when the results were released. Aylward, a three-time deputy mayor, received 2,491 votes, while former town councillor Don Van

Galen received 313.

Voter turnout increased significantly over the 2022 election, when incumbent Mayor Al Strathdee was acclaimed to a third term and no mayoral contest was held. This year's total of 2,824 votes in the mayoral race was up 82.8 per cent from the 1,545 ballots cast in 2022. As a percentage of eligible voters, turnout rose to 43.5 per cent from 24.9 per cent.

Andrea Macko and Bill Pickering led the councillor race, receiving 2,155 and 2,087 votes, respectively, in their first bids for council seats. Incumbents Jim Craigmile (1,766), Fern Pridham (1,690) and Marg Luna (1,578)

finished in the next three spots, while newcomer Ryan Leaman rounded out the six elected councillors with 1,533 votes.

Ryan Lush (1,443) and Stephen Hearn (1,070) each earned more than 1,000 votes, underscoring one of the campaign's positive storylines; St. Marys had a strong field of candidates interested in serving the community.

In the school board trustee elections, Sheila Armstrong-Marshall retained her seat on the Avon Maitland District School Board, while Derek Van De Walle defeated incumbent Mary Helen Van Loon for the Huron-Perth

CONTINUED TO PAGE 9

CB

RON MORRISON

Broker for Coldwell Banker Homefield Legacy Realty, Brokerage
150 Queen Street East, St. Marys, ON
Cell: 519-272-7666 | Office: 519-284-2381

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

COLDWELL BANKER
COLDWELL BANKER HOMEFIELD LEGACY REALTY, BROKERAGE

MLS

COMMUNITY

Outgoing St. Marys Mayor Al Strathdee reflects on 12 years of challenges, accomplishments and community spirit

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

After 12 years at the helm of St. Marys council, outgoing Mayor Al Strathdee says he is leaving office grateful for the opportunity to serve his community, proud of what council and staff have accomplished together and hopeful for the town's future.

With his third and final term drawing to a close, Strathdee is preparing to step away from municipal politics after announcing in January he would not seek re-election in the Oct. 26 municipal election.

"As I approach the end of my time as mayor, I feel incredibly fortunate for the experiences I've had, the friendships I've made and the remarkable people I've met along the way," Strathdee said. "St. Marys is a special community, and I continue to be amazed by the commitment of its residents to making our town a better place."

Looking back, Strathdee said his proudest accomplishment is not any single project, but the collaborative approach successive councils and town staff have taken to addressing challenges while maintaining respectful political discourse.

That approach, he said, has allowed the town to modernize its infrastructure, preserve historic buildings and expand services while keeping tax increases among the lowest in the region.

Among the accomplishments he highlighted were upgrades to Milt Dunnell Field, the recreational quarries, library services and day care, the transition to Stratford Police Service, downtown reconstruction and improvements to municipal facilities.

He also pointed to the preservation and restoration of heritage landmarks, in-



Al Strathdee

cluding the Green Bridge, town hall bell tower, historic water tower, McDonald House and Junction Station.

"I have had the pleasure of working with staff and councillors who have not been afraid to take risks and move our town forward," Strathdee said.

However, his time in office has not been without frustrations.

Asked what he would have done differently, Strathdee said he wishes he had been more successful in convincing neighbouring municipalities to take a regional approach to addressing shared challenges.

He pointed to ongoing litigation between Stratford and Perth County over the cost of shared services as an example of how financial pressures have strained relationships between municipalities. Strathdee argued that increasing responsibilities downloaded from the provincial

and federal governments have left municipalities competing for limited funding while struggling to pay for services never intended to be funded through property taxes.

"Mental health, addiction, social housing and increased emergency service costs are creating unbearable pressure on municipalities," he said. "There is only one taxpayer and municipalities need a funding model that recognizes that reality."

One piece of unfinished business Strathdee hopes future councils will pursue is the proposed Community Commons project at 14 Church St. N, which he believes could address the town's long-term need for accessible library space, cultural facilities and municipal services while supporting downtown revitalization.

"I do wish that the Community Commons project was further along," he said. "I think that this project is a long-term strategic initiative for the town that will prove to have saved the town a lot of money in the future."

Looking ahead, Strathdee said the incoming council will face difficult decisions about service affordability, transportation, child care, health care, housing and continued growth.

He said protecting and expanding St. Marys' strong industrial tax base, including developing a new industrial park, will be essential to maintaining muni-

pal services.

Strathdee also expressed concerns about Ontario's strong mayor powers legislation, arguing it risks undermining the collaborative approach he considers central to effective municipal government.

"I do not believe that any mayor can be successful without the support of a majority of a democratically elected council," he said. "In our small town, working hard to gain a majority consensus is vital on any issue."

His advice to the next mayor and council is straightforward: do their homework, ask questions, understand the issues and avoid making decisions based solely on social media.

As for Strathdee, he is looking forward to spending more time with family and friends, travelling and pursuing new adventures without the responsibilities of public office.

He leaves with particular appreciation for the community spirit he witnessed throughout his three terms, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I would like to say thank you to the people of St. Marys for your trust, your encouragement and your willingness to support me, even when I've taken a few risks along the way," Strathdee said.

"Serving as your mayor has been one of the greatest honours of my life, and I will always be proud to call St. Marys home."



STONETOWN
 FINANCIAL SERVICES

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

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

*Rates subject to change without notice *Minimum may apply

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



Jeff Swan
 BRE, CFP



Greg Swan
 Investment Representative



Cheryl Campbell, CFP
 Life Insurance Specialist

jeffswan@stonetownfinancial.com



GRANT HAVEN MEDIA
St. Marys Independent
BE IN THE KNOW!
Get the Latest Edition Delivered Straight to Your Inbox!
granthaven.com/st-marys-independent

7 Day Forecast
 Sponsored by:


The Hitching Post


Wednesday Oct-28th	Thursday Oct-29th	Friday Oct-30th	Saturday Oct-31st	Sunday Nov-1st	Monday Nov-2nd	Tuesday Nov-3rd
Mainly sunny 19 °C Feels like 18	Mainly sunny 20 °C Feels like 21	Mainly sunny 15 °C Feels like 14	Cloudy 16 °C Feels like 14	Mainly cloudy 18 °C Feels like 18	Potential showers 17 °C Feels like 16	Showers 15 °C Feels like 16

SERIOUSLY COMFORTABLE.

SURPRISINGLY AFFORDABLE.

Discover **Stressless** Comfort at Austin & Taylor

Exceptional support. Exceptional prices.

FREE
Delivery to
St. Marys
Weekly

Sunrise Chair \$2399

100% Genuine Leather Chair & Ottoman
Available in four colour options
In-stock & available for immediate delivery



Consul Chair \$1999

100% Genuine Leather Chair & Ottoman
Shadow Blue or Bordeaux
In-stock & available for immediate delivery



SPECIAL PURCHASE

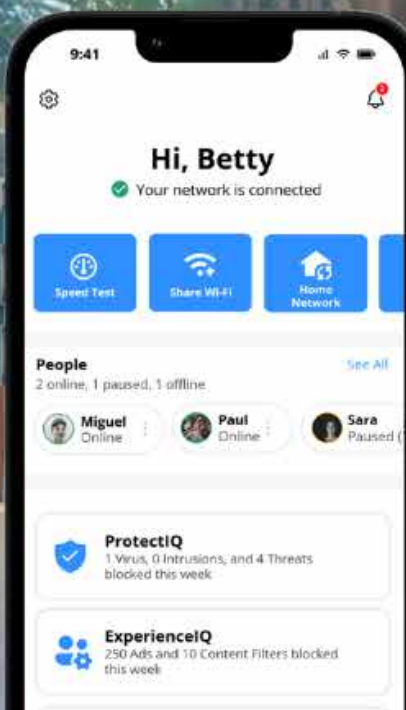
AUSTIN & TAYLOR
HOME FURNISHINGS INC.

1350 Fanshawe Park Rd W
London, Ontario

(519) 473-5400
www.austinandtaylor.com

Monday-Friday: 10:00am-6:00pm
Saturday: 9:30am-5:30pm
Sunday: Closed

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



Be the boss of your connected home.

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

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

QUADRO

EDITORIAL

Congratulations, St. Marys, on electing your youngest mayor in history



GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

The morning after an election can sometimes feel like collective hangover.

Those of us who stayed up late watching the results roll in are tired, everybody seems to be talking about how last night went and we all know we did

something monumental, but we're not entirely sure how that might impact us over the next four years.

For St. Marys, though, it really does feel like the decision voters made yesterday and in the weeks leading up to the election was sound, and the people who have been elected to lead have the best interests of the town at heart.

In my opinion, the council-elect has that perfect balance of experience in returning councillors Jim Craigmile, Marg Luna and Fern Pridham, with a sprinkling of fresh faces who have proven track records as staunch supporters of the town, its business community and the people who live here – Ryan Leaman, Andrea Macko and Bill

Pickering.

And leading that group is a young man who embodies that balance between experience and a fresh perspective, Brogan Aylward.

At 27, Brogan is the youngest mayor in St. Marys' history – a remarkable feat in and of itself.

Not surprisingly for those of us who know him, Brogan was able to garner endorsements from some of Stonetown's most influential residents, including outgoing Mayor Al Strathdee, in his bid for mayor. He also has four years experience serving on council and three as deputy mayor – a position that gave him a taste of what his new mayoral duties will entail.

He is not afraid to speak his mind and ask the difficult ques-

tions on issues important to St. Marys and its residents, whether it's around the council table, one on one with residents, or with town staff.

Brogan will serve most of his inaugural term as mayor while still in his late 20s. As St. Marys' first Gen-Z mayor, Brogan has a different understanding and perspective on issues like the need for affordable housing, economic development and retaining youth because those are issues he's dealt with personally.

At his young age, Brogan is also humble enough to know he doesn't have all the answers. He knows how to listen in a way that makes people feel heard, and he factors what he learns from residents into the decisions he makes as a member of coun-

cil. He also knows when to look to people with more experience or expertise than he has for the answers the town needs – a skill some much older than him haven't yet learned.

While I am not a resident St. Marys and therefore couldn't vote in this election, I am very happy with the outcome, and I look forward to seeing how this council steers St. Marys down the path set by the previous council.

And to the candidates who didn't win a seat on council this time around, I want to thank you for putting your name forward and running your campaigns. Democracy doesn't work without choice, and your dedication to your town and the people who live here is abundantly clear.

Bravo

We have 4 Bravos this week

- 1) Bravo to Mrs. Mohr at South Perth Centennial School for taking time out of her lunch break to give me math help. Her kindness, effort and understanding means more to me than she knows.
- 2) Bravo to the Town of St. Marys for flying flags at half mast to honour CFB Wainwright. It makes me proud that I come from such a caring community.
- 3) Bravo to Bruce and Nancy White for the amazing food and service they provided for Dales Performance Automotive 25th anniversary open house. Thank you so much for the great food and great vibes.
- 4) Bravo to Will Harris who works so diligently at our Independent Grocery Store. This young man is surely an asset to the store, always greets the customers, not only with a smile but also by their names. I don't know how he does it, but it's such a great welcome to the store. Only in St. Marys!

Boo

We have 2 Boos this week

- 1) Boo to the spectators, parents or caregivers of small children at hockey practices or games at the Pyramid Rec. Centre who allow them to roam around alone, unsupervised, in hallways, stairs, bathrooms, elevators etc. For the safety and protection of your small children, please keep them in your line of sight, intervene and correct behaviours when necessary.
- 2) Boo to all of the dog walkers in St. Marys who do not have control of their dogs and as a result pedestrians are getting attacked and bitten. Your hesitation to control your dog has resulted in time in the emergency department of our local hospital and days on antibiotics. This is even more concerning when it is happening in the area of our local schools and the PRC.

*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

"What's with the gold? ... He's got the White House looking like Saddam Hussein opened a Cheesecake Factory."

- Former U.S. President Barack Obama quipped on Oct. 24 regarding current U.S. President Donald Trump's White House reconstruction.

**GRANT
HAVEN
MEDIA**

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

St. Marys Independent

Publisher

Stewart Grant • stew@granthaven.com

Regional Editor

Galen Simmons • galen@granthaven.com

Graphic Design / Sales Inquiries

Tyler Carruthers • info@stmarys-independent.com

Business Development

Heather Dunbar • heather@granthaven.com

Billing Administrator

Cindy Boakes • boakescindy1576@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant

Wendy Lamond • wendylamond74@gmail.com

Contributors

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

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



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



SPONSORED BY:



395 Queen Street West,
St. Marys, ON 519.284.2566

Don't let frustration
steal your inspiration.

When we give
cheerfully and accept
gratefully everyone is
blessed.

Be with the people
who are good for
your mental health.

Own your own
enoughness and the
right people will find
you.

Overheard AT THE COFFEE SHOP

Sponsored by: *Tim Hortons.*
201 Queen St. E, St. Marys, ON 519.284.4555

The beauty of the
farmers' market this
time of year is you can
get frozen vegetables.

Be sure to turn your
clocks back an hour
this weekend giving
you extra time to eat
Halloween candy.

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

Alzheimer Society

HURON PERTH

2026 DEMENTIA EDUCATION NIGHT

Join on ZOOM for an evening with
Dr. Heather Keller, RD, PhD
Professor and Schlegel Research Chair,
University of Waterloo

Diet and Brain Health

HOW WE SHOULD EAT AS WE AGE

FREE!
Register
Today

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 5
7:00 - 8:30 PM



REGISTRATION: www.bit.ly/Dementia-Night2026

For more information, contact Alzheimer Society Huron Perth

info@alzhp.ca | 1-800-561-5012



EVENT SPONSOR



STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news
from the Town of St. Marys



HOWL-O-WEEN PET PARADE & COSTUME CONTEST

October 31 | 12:00PM | Town Hall

Meet at Town Hall at 12:00 p.m. We'll parade on the sidewalk, downtown to Water St. and back to Town Hall for the judge's announcement of the most creative, best duo, and cutest costume prizes. First 50 pets will receive a treat bag sponsored by Pet Valu St. Marys for participating!

Visit discoverstmarys.ca/Scaretacular

FALL WATER FLUSHING

October 5 -30

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

townofstmarys.com/flushing



COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION

We can help your community project grow! The Community Grant Program applications are live. This program provides funding for programs, projects, activities and events that enrich the community and advance Council's strategic goals. Applications close November 30th

townofstmarys.com/grants



JOIN A BOARD OR COMMITTEE!

Apply by November 4, 2026

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

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

townofstmarys.com/boardsandcommittees



SHOWER PROGRAM Pyramid Recreation Centre

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

Visit Guest Services or call 519-284-2160



St. Marys Giving Tuesday 2026

Won't You Be My Neighbour?

Here Is What Your Neighbours are Planning...

Organizations and businesses are starting to share their Giving Tuesday initiatives with us. Here are a few that have been shared.

The Hitching Post and Kerry Vergeer Photography – have teamed up and are having photos with Santa at The Hitching Post on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 8 am to 12 noon. All proceeds will be donated to **Rotary Hospice Huron Perth!**

St. Marys Dental Clinic – will be collecting non-perishable food items and feminine hygiene products to donate to our community on Giving Tuesday.

Petals and Foliage – in the fall all sales from the Farm Stand were donated to **St. Marys Imagination Library.**

Bruce and Nancy White and the Social Committee of Holy Name of Mary Church – are making and selling "a meal in a mug", doing "Cooking with the Whites" and letting local photographers use their 1952 Dodge Pickup for Christmas photos. Proceeds from all of these events will be donated to the **St. Marys Salvation Army** and the **St. Marys Public Library.**

St. Marys Bowling Lanes Bowlers – will be collecting for the **St. Marys Library Pantry.** We can't wait to hear what you are planning. Please let us know so we can "Catch You Giving" and share something wonderful. Please share your initiative with us at jdockjohnson@gmail.com.

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

**GIVING
TUESDAY**

**DEC
1
2026**



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

Contact us

519-284-2340

communications@town.stmarys.on.ca





566 Queen St. E. • 519.284.4348

Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Bianca Marcaccio who will celebrate her 100th birthday on Oct. 30. She was born in Porto Sant'Elpidio, Italy. At a young age she came to St. Marys and has lived here since approximately 1932. She was a homemaker and her passion has always been cooking and family. She was married to Claudio for 68 years. The couple loved to travel. Bianca has three children, seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Happy birthday Bianca.

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

WEEKEND QUIZ

By Jake Grant

1. Who played the role of Hannah Montana?
2. Andy Bernard from "The Office", attended what University?
3. How many Prime Ministers has Canada had?
4. What year was Make-A-Wish Foundation founded?
5. What major network bought Warner Brothers?
6. What is the name of Thor's hammer?
7. A 24-clock is known as, ____ time.
8. What was Rasputin's cause of death?
9. Who was the first female commander of NASA's Space Shuttle?
10. Ascorbic acid is commonly referred to as what?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

Community Christmas Dinners returns for seventh year

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

Rachael Roberts O'Neill, who began the Community Christmas Dinners in St. Marys, is already looking for help to make sure everyone can enjoy a warm meal over the holidays.

Roberts O'Neill is collecting monetary donations to purchase ingredients for the dinners and toys for the children, as well as turkey donations to be used for the dinners. Local businesses also donate ingredients like vegetables. The meals are prepared by The Creamery and a team of drivers deliver the ready-to-reheat meals throughout the community on Christmas Eve.

"The first time I did this, I thought if we got enough for 20 people, then I'd be happy and now, last year, we were over 130 people," Roberts O'Neill said. "Year after year, the need gets greater, so I always get nervous when it comes to asking for donations. I just hope we'll be able to get enough and we always do. We always end up getting enough just close to the end."

She's expecting to provide the dinners for more than 130 people this holiday season. Monetary donations can either be e-transferred to roberts_rachael@hotmail.com with the password Christmas or arranged for pickup. Turkey donations are also welcome.

"Either one goes a long way," Roberts O'Neill said.

Roberts O'Neill began the initiative during COVID-19 restrictions to provide a turkey dinner to those who were alone at Christmas and didn't have anywhere to attend. As the years went by and the demand for the dinners increased, it expanded to those who were unable to afford Christmas dinners and any individuals or families of up to six people who request one.

"I just don't want to see people alone on Christmas or not having a warm meal on Christmas. Anyone that wants it can get it. We can make it work," she said.

As grocery prices and the cost of living continue to soar, Roberts O'Neill said the initiative is more important than ever.

"It's important that we're able to raise the money to make this happen because we need to raise more money," she said. "Just like everybody else spends more money on groceries, we need to raise more money to get this to happen. I just feel that there's going to be more and more people who aren't going to have a Christmas dinner this year because of the cost of living."

In the meantime, she's thankful for past, present and future donations towards the cause.

"Year after year after year, it's just gotten bigger and the amount of people who have donated every year blows my mind," said Roberts O'Neill.

Christmas in Downtown St. Marys



MERCHANTS' OPEN HOUSE

SHOP. DINE. CELEBRATE. NOV 20, 21, 22

Kick off the weekend with the Santa Claus Parade on Friday!

Spend the weekend shopping and enjoying seasonal food and drinks. Enjoy horse-drawn carriage rides, visit Santa & Mrs. Claus, and festive surprises.

SPECIAL OFFERS AT PARTICIPATING SHOPS

Enjoy giveaways, special discounts, and other in-store promotions — with select shops covering the tax of your purchase!

Are You A Newcomer To The St. Marys Area?

The **Friends of the St. Marys Public Library (FOL)** would like to welcome you!



Visit our **library**, ask for a **library card**, and pick up a **Welcome Package** filled with information about our community.

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

St. Marys Hospital Auxiliary continues raising funds to make life easier for patients

JANIS FREAD

St. Marys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary

Thank you to everyone who supported our Bake Sale and a special thank you to Dan Troyer for once again welcoming us into Troyer's Spices and providing the tables and space to hold our sale.

Proceeds from the sale will be directed towards equipment to make it easier for hospital patients to watch and/or listen to their favourite programs on electronic devices.

For those who love our embellished jean jackets, we will have a good assortment of women's and children's sizes available at our table at Country Roots Market's Christmas Open House on Nov. 14. For more unique gift-giving ideas, we'll have one-of-a-kind clips and hair combs plus scarves and gloves.

And we're baking again! This time, we'll be selling mini sticky toffee puddings (you can freeze them) with the very necessary accompanying jar of rum sauce! This is perfect for Christmas gift giving, or to enjoy now to put you in the Christmas spirit!

The boutique is open Monday to Friday, noon to 4 p.m.

Follow the Auxiliary on Facebook



(PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. MARYS HOSPITAL AUXILIARY)

The St. Marys Hospital Auxiliary's embellished jean jackets will be available to purchase at Country Roots Market's Christmas Open House on Nov. 14.

at The Boutique at St. Marys Memorial Hospital or email smmhauxiliary@gmail.com.

100 ACRE FARM FOR SALE BY TENDER

23796 Valleyview Rd.,
Thorndale, Ontario

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

LAND

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



HOME FEATURE

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

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

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

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



SOURCE FLOORING FALL SAVINGS EVENT

—EVERY SCRATCH REVEALS A DEAL!—

SCRATCH —AND— SAVE STOREWIDE



3 DAYS ONLY! OCTOBER

FRIDAY 30TH 8AM – 9PM

SATURDAY 31ST 9AM – 6PM

SUNDAY 1ST 10AM – 5PM

VALID OCTOBER 30TH, 31ST, AND NOVEMBER 1ST 2026. 1 COUPON PER CUSTOMER, IN STORE ONLY. MAXIMUM SAVING \$3000. DISCOUNT CAN ONLY BE APPLIED TO ONE TRANSACTION. OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS MAY APPLY.

SOURCE FLOORING

St. Marys Imagination Library reaches full funding goal

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

An ambitious goal nearly six years in the making has finally been reached, ensuring young children in St. Marys will continue receiving free books through the St. Marys Imagination Library for generations to come.

The milestone was celebrated Saturday, Oct. 24, when a fundraising yard sale organized by local business owner Chantal Lynch pushed the program's endowment fund past its \$300,000 target. The sale, held at 150 Queen St. E., featured donated fabrics, quilting supplies, books and other materials, with proceeds going directly toward the fund.

Dennis DesRosiers, who has worked alongside Lynch to establish and finance the endowment, also offered to match every dollar raised at the sale with a contribution of two dollars, providing an additional incentive for shoppers to support the cause.

By Saturday evening, the goal had been achieved.

"Congratulations St. Marys, your Imagination Library program is now 'fully funded,'" DesRosiers announced in a Facebook post following the event.

The achievement means eligible children living in the N4X postal code area will continue to receive a free, age-appropriate book every month from birth until their fifth birthday, with the program's costs supported by investment income from the endowment.

The story began a little more than five

years ago when Lynch, owner of Hyggeligt Fabrics in downtown St. Marys, approached DesRosiers about bringing the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program to the community.

At the time, DesRosiers was chair of the St. Marys/Stratford Perth Community Foundation. He helped Lynch explore how the initiative could be funded sustainably.

Rather than relying on annual fundraising campaigns to pay for the books, the pair decided to establish an endowment through the local community foundation. Their goal was to raise \$300,000, invest the money and use the returns to cover the program's ongoing costs.

The approach required considerably more fundraising at the onset but offered a much greater measure of long-term security.

With approximately 300 children enrolled at a time, the program costs roughly \$15,000 annually to operate.

Lynch and DesRosiers initially contributed \$100,000 to launch the fund and subsequently donated another \$100,000. Local residents, businesses and the Town of St. Marys also contributed to the campaign.

In addition, the two organizers personally covered the monthly cost of the books rather than drawing on the endowment's investment returns, allowing the fund to continue growing.

The final push came from the yard sale, which Lynch organizes every two years by collecting surplus fabrics and quilting supplies from the many quilting guilds

that are customers of her business.

This year, every dollar raised was directed to the Imagination Library endowment, with DesRosiers' matching offer helping turn the popular sale into a decisive fundraising event.

While the endowment represents a significant financial achievement, the program's greatest impact can be measured in the children and families it has touched.

Since its launch in December nearly six years ago, the St. Marys Imagination Library has distributed close to 30,000 books to local children. More than 300 children have graduated from the program after turning five, while registrations have continued to bring new families into the initiative.

DesRosiers reported enrolment recently climbed to nearly 350 children following an increase in interest after the death of Dolly Parton, whose Imagination Library program has helped promote early childhood literacy around the world.

The local program has also distinguished itself nationally. According to DesRosiers, St. Marys has ranked first in Canada for the percentage of eligible children registered for four consecutive years.

He credits Lynch with the initiative's success, describing the project as her idea and praising her determination to see it through.

In a recent conversation, DesRosiers shared a story about a young local child that illustrated why the work matters. A parent had sent him a video of a two-year-old reading one of the program's books to

a one-month-old sibling.

Stories like that, he said, reaffirm the value of encouraging families to read together from an early age.

"What's different is the hundreds of parents in St. Marys who cuddle up with their little one and read one of Dolly's books to them almost every night," DesRosiers wrote in his post celebrating the fundraising success.

The books do more than put reading material into children's hands. They also provide parents and caregivers with a regular opportunity to share stories, build language skills and make reading part of everyday family life.

Though their initial funding goal has been reached, DesRosiers subsequently clarified that, based on updated calculations, the endowment is expected to support the program for approximately 85 to 100 years, depending on inflation and birth rates, rather than indefinitely as originally anticipated.

He said he and Lynch will continue looking for opportunities to grow the fund and extend its lifespan.

There is also room to expand participation. With nearly 350 children registered, DesRosiers estimates another 50 to 100 eligible children may not yet be enrolled, particularly those in families that have recently moved to the community.

Parents can register children from birth until age five through the St. Marys Imagination Library website at stmarysimaginationlibrary.com. Registration information is also available at Hyggeligt Fabrics at 144 Queen St. E.



(STEWART GRANT PHOTO)

Chantal Lynch was busy handling the cash register during Saturday's fundraising yard sale in support of St. Marys Imagination Library.



(STEWART GRANT PHOTO)

The storefront at 150 Queen St. E was packed full of shoppers whose purchases of fabrics, quilting supplies and books helped push the St. Marys Imagination Library past its initial fundraising goal.

THE QUARRY'S EDGE **SWEET TREATS & BIG FUN!**

Ice Cream
Dirty Sodas
Treats
Movies
Workshops

OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND

Downtown St. Marys
12 Water St. N | thequarrysedge.ca **Visit Us Today!**

KNIGHT MECHANICAL SYSTEMS
HVAC • REFRIGERATION • ELECTRICAL

knightmechanicalsystems@gmail.com

226-584-4425

Serving St. Marys and Stratford for over 25 years

ST. MARYS DENTISTRY

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

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

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!

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

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

[f](#) [i](#) [in](#)

Brogan Aylward earns a win for the ages



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

The Broken Rail was open as a spot for all of those running in the election as well as friends and family. The results were shown on the television with lots of excitement as the numbers came in.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Catholic District School Board.

Prior to Monday’s vote tally, Aylward reflected on his first term on council and the campaign that propelled him to the mayor’s office.

“Four years ago, I was given the opportunity to represent the town I’ve called home my entire life. Serving on council, and more recently as deputy mayor, has been an incredible experience and something I’ll always be grateful for,” he said.

He said his first term had given him a greater appreciation for the work involved

in running the town, the challenges it faces and the decisions council must make.

He said his conversations with residents on the campaign trail reinforced his appreciation for the community.

“I’ve had so many great conversations with residents, whether it’s been at their front doors, at local businesses, during community events, or just running into someone around town. I’ve heard plenty of ideas, concerns and different perspectives, and I appreciate everyone who has taken the time to share them with me.”

He also thanked the volunteers who

helped with door knocking, flyer delivery and campaign signs, along with his friends and family for their support.

“Growing up in St. Marys, I always knew this was a special place. Having the opportunity to serve this community has only strengthened that feeling. I care deeply about this town, the people who live here, and the future we’re building together.”

According to town staff, Aylward is the youngest mayor in the town’s history. Prior to this election, the town’s youngest mayor was Harold Lang, elected at 30 years old and serving as mayor from 1930-1931.



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

A very proud Aylward family is all smiles as they celebrate Mayor Brogan Aylward’s win after the election. Aylward won with 2,491 votes. Pictured from left to right are Jayden, Darrin, Brogan and Tracy Aylward.



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

New councillor Bill Pickering and returning councillor Jim Craigmile share a pose for a photo together on election night.



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Returning councillor Marg Luna was patiently awaiting the results with friends and family at the Broken Rail.

TOWN OF ST. MARYS 2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION (UNOFFICIAL RESULTS)

MAYORAL VOTE TOTALS

Brogan Alyward	2,491
Don Van Galen	313

COUNCILLOR VOTE TOTALS

Andrea Macko	2,115
Bill Pickering	2,087
Jim Craigmile	1,766
Fern Pridham	1,690
Marg Luna	1,578
Ryan Leaman	1,533
Ryan Lush	1,443
Stephen Hearn	1,070

TRUSTEE - AMDSB (English Public)

Sheila Armstrong-Marshall	1,184
Ginny Rolph	472

TRUSTEE - HPCDSB (English Separate)

Derek Van De Walle	243
Mary Helen Van Loon	164

TRUSTEE - AMDSB (French Public)

Rachid Barrima	acclaimed
----------------	-----------

TRUSTEE - HPCDSB (French Separate)

Michael Salvatore	acclaimed
-------------------	-----------

PERTH SOUTH 2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION (UNOFFICIAL RESULTS)

MAYORAL VOTE TOTALS

Sue Orr	acclaimed
---------	-----------

COUNCILLOR VOTE TOTALS

Jeff Bell	acclaimed
Sam Corriveau	acclaimed
Jaime Martin	acclaimed
Paul Smith	acclaimed
Jim Van Nes	acclaimed
Robert Wilhelm	acclaimed



St. Marys Independent

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

granthaven.com/st-marys-independent

GRANT
HAVEN
MEDIA

St. Marys Creative Retreat brings artists together to create and connect

STEWART GRANT

Publisher

Creativity was on full display in downtown St. Marys last week as artists and aspiring creators gathered for the inaugural St. Marys Creative Retreat, a three-day event designed to inspire artistic expression, foster connections and showcase the town as a destination for cultural experiences.

Held Oct. 20–22, the retreat featured 14 creative workshops, morning walks along the Thames River, opportunities to connect with fellow artists, a community dinner and a closing show-and-tell celebration. Workshops took place at several downtown businesses, making the town itself an important part of the experience.

The response exceeded organizers' expectations. A total of 104 people attended workshops, while 75 took part

in morning and evening plenary activities. Approximately 60 per cent of attendees were local, with the remainder travelling from elsewhere, including Toronto, Owen Sound, Thornbury, Windsor and Port Huron.

For Melissa Barton, owner of Riverwalk Commons and the retreat's lead organizer, those numbers represented more than a successful first event.

"It's what we dreamed of at the start, and it was very special to have this idea come to life," Barton said.

The idea emerged from weekly gatherings at Riverwalk Commons, where local creatives meet to work on projects and socialize. The venue also partners monthly with Stonetown Arts to offer beginner-friendly workshops.

In late 2025, conversations among the Wednesday regulars turned to the Town of St. Marys' updated Economic Development Strategy, particularly its goal of positioning culture, heritage and tourism as key economic drivers.

The group began considering how activities at Riverwalk Commons could be expanded into an event that would attract visitors, support local businesses and provide meaningful paid opportunities for artist instructors.

The vision grew to encompass downtown St. Marys, with local businesses offering creative workshops invited to join the planning process.

A committee of local artists and business owners developed a plan built around collaboration, inclusivity and fair compensation for artists. Its guiding tagline became "Create, Connect, Renew."

The retreat brought activities to Riverwalk Commons, Zenfire Pottery, MacPherson Yarns, Lucid Musings, 162 Queen Street, The Flower Shop and More, and Perthstone Kitchen.

The three days began with an opening-night gathering at Riverwalk Commons, featuring a welcome from Oneida Nation member Patsy Day, a presentation on the town's cultural heritage by St. Marys Museum curator and archivist Emily Taylor, and a keynote presentation and musical performance by singer-songwriter Emm Gryner.

Other highlights included early morning walks along the river with members of the St. Marys Poetry Circle and the town's archivist, a community dinner with artists at Perthstone Kitchen, and a closing show-and-tell

CONTINUED TO PAGE 11

WATER STREET
DENTISTRY

(226) 661-0192

60 Water Street South, St. Marys



*Accepting
New Smiles!*

www.waterstreetdentistry.ca
waterstreetdentistry@gmail.com

f Find us on Facebook



(CLAIRE THOMAS PHOTO)

The Encaustic (painting with beeswax) Workshop with local artist Anna Koot was one of many workshops held during the Oct. 20-22 Creative Retreat in St. Marys.

BEWARE

BONE CHILLING WEATHER IS COMING

☛ OVERALLS ☛ COATS
☛ HATS ☛ GLOVES
☛ COVERALLS ☛ BOOTS

**THE
HITCHING POST**

480 Queen Street W 519-284-2360
8am-5pm: Mon-Fri 8am-Noon: Sat
customerservice@thehitchingpost.ca

Bill Pickering St. Marys Town Council

Thank you to everyone who voted, offered their support and took part in this election.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to connect with our community and hear what matters most to you.

Your support and participation make our community stronger.



Advertisement
authorized by
Bill Pickering



St. Marys Creative Retreat brings artists together to create and connect

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

where participants shared work completed during the retreat.

"Seeing groups of artists moving throughout the downtown on their way to the workshops or community events, enlivening the streets during a time of year when things are typically a little slower, was very special," Barton said.

Gryner's opening-night keynote offered a fitting theme for the retreat: finding inspiration in everyday life and learning to create for the joy of it.

Gryner, who lived in St. Marys for 20 years and raised her children here before moving to London, has enjoyed a varied

career, including three Juno Award nominations, collaborations with David Bowie and a music video created with astronaut Chris Hadfield while he was aboard the International Space Station.

Despite those accomplishments, her message was that artistic fulfilment cannot be measured solely by commercial success or public recognition.

She recalled receiving a \$250,000 major-label album deal at age 21, only to lose her position following a corporate takeover. She subsequently made Science Fair, one of her favourite albums, at a cottage for approximately \$500 using a small recorder. The experience reinforced

the distinction between making art and achieving commercial success.

Gryner also cautioned that social media can make artists overly focused on followers and external validation, sometimes at the expense of the satisfaction that comes from creating something simply because they want to.

During a difficult period in her own life, a recreational therapist encouraged her to try crafting. Making things by hand helped her rediscover the pleasure of the creative process.

Her message resonated with the retreat's broader purpose: creativity can foster connection, personal renewal and

wellbeing, regardless of whether the finished work attracts an audience. She concluded by reading Mary Oliver's poem "Wild Geese" and performing her song, Blackwinged Bird.

As Barton put it, echoing Gryner's central message, "Creativity is everywhere."

The planning committee will review feedback from attendees and volunteers before deciding whether the retreat is feasible to hold again next year.

Barton hopes community members who attended will share their feedback and ideas for future events by emailing StMarysCreativeRetreat@gmail.com.



(CLAIRE THOMAS PHOTO)

The Watercolour Landscape Workshop with local artist Krista Beckett was one of many workshops held during the Oct. 20-22 Creative Retreat in St. Marys.



(CLAIRE THOMAS PHOTO)

Emm Gryner delivered the keynote address of the St. Marys Creative Retreat on opening night held at Riverwalk Commons.

MACKO ON COUNCIL

With
sincere
thanks



What's always amazed me about St. Marys is how much you care about its past, present and future. This week's election turnout, and participation during the campaign period, showed this in spades. Thank you for your passion. I share it.

I'm eager to get down to work with my fellow councillors and mayor. I promise to work hard and continue listening so I can make decisions that are in the best interest of the most residents. I promise to help you make the most of your life here.

It's an honour to represent a town I love so much. Thank you for our trust. I intend on keeping it.

519-280-1240 • andrea.h.macko@gmail.com
This advertisement was paid for by Andrea Macko

KEEPING ST. MARYS MOVING

TEXO TERRA

CONTRACTING LTD.

SNOW REMOVAL

RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL | INDUSTRIAL

Local. Reliable. Professional.



SNOW REMOVAL

FOR ST. MARYS HOMES AND BUSINESSES


RESIDENTIAL
 DRIVEWAYS & WALKWAYS


COMMERCIAL
 PARKING LOTS & SITES


SNOW PLOWING
 FAST & EFFICIENT


RELIABLE SERVICE
 ALL WINTER LONG

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

Community Commons capital campaign reaches \$200,000 as committee calls on residents to help bring project to life

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

With roughly \$200,000 already raised toward its \$1-million fundraising goal, the committee tasked with supporting the transformation of 14 Church St. N. into an intergenerational community and cultural hub, the Community Commons, is calling on St. Marys residents to help make the long-term vision a reality.

The Community Commons capital campaign committee hosted an open house at the former Mercury Theatre building Oct. 24, inviting residents inside to learn more about the project, its potential benefits and how they can contribute. “We are doing well. We’re at about \$200,000,” said St. Marys Public Library CEO Sarah Andrews, who is helping lead the campaign. “We have two donors who are going to purchase naming rights coming forward after the election and maybe some more.”

The campaign aims to raise \$1 million through community donations and grants to offset the estimated \$3.73-million cost of renovating and outfitting the building.

The town’s funding strategy also includes development charges, existing reserves and borrowing, with the goal of completing the project without requiring additional tax-levy increases.

For Andrews, the Community Commons represents an opportunity to address a longstanding shortage of public programming space in St. Marys, particularly at the library, which has not expanded in four decades.

“It’s going to allow us to grow some of the important services we’re offering, like the Makerspace, where we’re packed into the library right now,” Andrews said. “It triples the space we have, lets us offer some new things to the community for skill building, development, fun.”

Beyond the library, the Community Commons is envisioned as a shared gathering and programming space for residents of all ages, with opportunities for youth activities, adult learning, seniors’ programming and community organizations.

Capital campaign committee chair Colin Coburn said the response from local businesses approached for donations has been encouraging, and the committee is preparing to broaden its efforts to include residents, families and schools.

“The community itself, we were hoping to start approaching the residents and the kids because we want this to be a community project,” Coburn said, suggesting students could organize fundraisers through their classrooms or schools.

Andrews said the committee is en-

couraging residents, particularly young people, to organize fundraisers ahead of Giving Tuesday on Dec. 1.

One of the project’s priorities is creating more opportunities for youth and teenagers, including expanded Makerspace activities, video games and other programming.

Coburn also hopes to establish a working group involving the St. Marys DCVI student council, giving local teenagers an opportunity to help shape the activities and programming offered in the new space.

Andrews encouraged young people interested in participating to speak with her at the library.

For Coburn, the Community Commons

name reflects the broader purpose of the project.

“It wasn’t the library extension. It wasn’t the town hall extension. It’s the Community Commons,” he said.

Donations of any size are welcome, from \$25 contributions to larger commitments that could include naming rights for rooms within the building.

Residents interested in donating, volunteering or helping shape the project are encouraged to contact Andrews at the St. Marys Public Library by emailing sandrews@stmaryspubliclibrary.ca.

Editor’s note: The author of this article is also a member of the Community Commons capital campaign committee.



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

St. Marys Public Library CEO Sarah Andrews (left) and members of the Community Commons capital campaign committee were inside 14 Church St. N in downtown St. Marys Oct. 24 giving locals a chance to see inside the building and ask questions about the Community Commons project and why they should support it.



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Members of the community who stopped in to see inside 14 Church St. N, home of the town’s future Community Commons intergenerational cultural community hub, were able to see the layout of the building and the vision for what it will look like once complete. The committee hung posters on the wall featuring comments from local organizations like the Canadian Mental Health Association, Huron Perth Public Health and the Downtown St. Marys BIA outlining how they think the Community Commons will benefit St. Marys. The floor of the building has also been taped off to help visitors see the future layout.

HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL DAY

October 31 | 8 AM - 12 PM

Municipal Operations Centre, 408 James Street South

ACCEPTED ITEMS:



Visit townofstmarys.com/mhsw
for full details

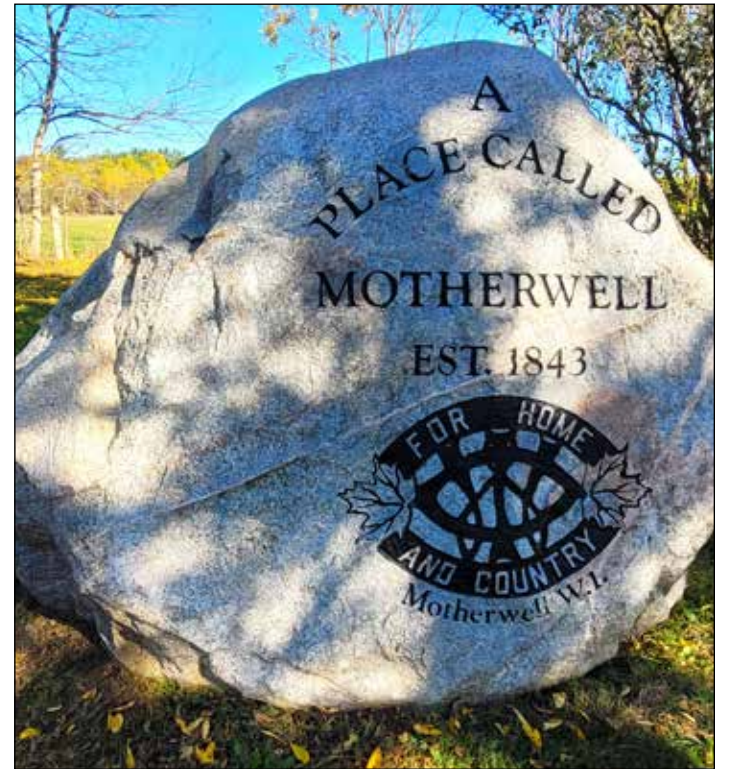


Motherwell rock dedication honours the history of a caring community



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Members of the Motherwell Women's Institute met to dedicate the newly engraved rock that sits as a meaningful tribute to the village. Pictured from left to right are Elaine Smith, Audrey Mills, Edythe Petrie, Orrie Hartwick, Elaine Standaeven, Donna McIntosh and Pauline Crawford. The rock has the Motherwell Women's Institute crest engraved.



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Sitting in Motherwell is this newly engraved rock weighing between 12 and 14 tonnes as a reminder of the once thriving Village of Motherwell.

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

On Tuesday, Oct. 20, members of the Motherwell Women's Institute met to dedicate the large rock that now resides in a village that at one point in time was a thriving community.

Much of the area through the village is owned by Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. Over the last decade, many of the farm and village buildings were removed. The current Motherwell heritage committee and the Motherwell Women's Institute wanted to do something so the history of Motherwell can be remembered and observed.

On Sept. 15, 2025, a rock that weighs between 12 to 14 tonnes originating from a forest on Rudy McIntosh's property, was transported by McLean Taylor

and brought to Motherwell where it was placed on the former bowling green. This piece of land is owned by West Perth and once held outdoor dances. The rock will pay tribute to the beautiful space.

The rock, which is now engraved, has the Motherwell Women's Institute crest on it as well as "A Place Called Motherwell EST. 1843" inscribed.

The Motherwell Women's Institute currently has 14 members, and the Motherwell chapter is the last one in Perth County. They meet monthly for fun events, but they also work hard to support local organizations including Optimism Place, the Children's Hospital at London Health Sciences Centre and the local food bank. They also take part in community events like the Kirkton Fall Fair as well as the upcoming farm machine parade taking

place on Nov. 27.

The members of the women's institute said they were very proud to be part of

this project and are glad there is something there as a reminder of the village for years to come.



MONEY WORKS™

Education & Solutions

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

Drop in from Noon to 6pm @

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



BEAT THE SLUSH BEFORE THE RUSH

GET YOUR SNOW TIRES BOOKED TODAY!

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR AND TIRE SERVICE

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



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



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



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

Certain conditions apply. See details on manufacturer rebate site

KEEP YOUR VEHICLE SAFE AND RUNNING AT ITS BEST!



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



EXHAUST REPAIR
Mufflers • Exhaust Leaks
Pipes • Complete Exhaust Service



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



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



WHEEL ALIGNMENTS
Improve Tire Wear • Handling
Steering & Vehicle Stability

\$40 OFF - BOOK YOUR UNDERCOATING TODAY!

519-284-3851



SPECIAL PRICE FOR OIL, LUBE, & FILTER CHANGE (most vehicles, up to 5L of full synthetic oil) **\$89.99**
Offer expires Oct 15

WINTER BUMPER TO BUMPER (peace of mind inspection) **\$69.95**

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




Perth County named Canada's safest public-sector employer at national awards ceremony

GALEN SIMMONS

Regional Editor

Perth County has been recognized as Canada's safest public-sector employer, an achievement county leadership says reflects years of commitment from staff, management and council to building a workplace culture where health and safety are everyone's responsibility.

The county received the national honour at the 2026 Canada's Safest Employer Awards ceremony in Toronto Oct. 22, recognizing its workplace safety record, innovative programming and ongoing efforts to protect employees and the public.

"I think what set Perth County apart is that safety isn't just a program here, it's part of our workplace culture," CAO Lori Wolfe said. "We take a proactive approach by identifying risks, investing in meaningful training, listening to employee feedback and continuously improving our practices."

The county's health and safety initiatives include monthly workplace inspections, job-specific hazard assessments, specialized defensive driving training, regular safety education for employees who interact with the public and a proactive mental health program for paramedics.

According to Wolfe, the county's approach goes beyond meeting legislated safety requirements by empowering employees to identify potential hazards and suggest improvements.

"Safety is a shared responsibility, and this achievement belongs to our employ-



(PHOTO COURTESY OF PERTH COUNTY)

Perth County representatives celebrate being named Canada's safest public-sector employer at the 2026 Canada's Safest Employer Awards ceremony in Toronto Oct. 22. Pictured, from left, are Krystal Holmes (HR generalist), Bill Wilson (director of public works), Vanessa Giroux (executive assistant to the CAO), Charlotte Gravlev (manager of legislative services/clerk), Lori Wolfe (chief administrative officer), Ian Brown (commander, paramedic services), Marion McKeen (director of human resources), Sue Orr (deputy warden), Stefan Zhelev (executive director of legal/corporate services) and Jill Pacheco (court services clerk).

ees, managers, health and safety representatives, council, and management team," Wolfe said.

Perth County Warden Dean Trentowsky credited the consistency of the county's health and safety programming and the collective commitment of employees, management and successive councils for the recognition.

"It brings credibility to everyone in the

organization – credibility in the decision making, the planning and the execution of the corporate health and safety program, a program that is designed to protect all of our employees and to protect all of the public that we serve," Trentowsky said.

Beyond recognizing the county's existing practices, both Wolfe and Trentowsky said the award could help Perth

County attract and retain employees by demonstrating its commitment to providing a safe, supportive and respectful workplace.

"People want to work where they feel valued, supported and safe," Wolfe said. "This award reinforces that Perth County is an employer that prioritizes employee wellbeing and invests in its people."

The Canada's Safest Employer Awards have been presented annually since 2011. Winners are selected through a multi-stage evaluation process involving research, verification, employee perception surveys and assessment by an independent panel of occupational health and safety experts.

Despite the national recognition, Wolfe emphasized the county's commitment to workplace safety will continue evolving through training, investment in equipment and resources, and ongoing assessments of both physical and psychological workplace risks.

"This recognition is something we're incredibly proud of, but it's not the finish line," she said.

Trentowsky echoed that sentiment, emphasizing that continued learning, improvement and attention to detail will remain essential to the county's success.

As warden, Trentowsky also extended his gratitude to current and former county employees and councillors whose contributions helped establish and maintain the program.

"This award belongs to every employee," Wolfe said. "We're incredibly proud of this recognition, but even more proud of the people behind it."



Herd Dispersal Live Auction Sale

of 135 Bred Cows/Heifers
Saturday November 21, 11:00am

to be held at 554447 Mono-Amaranth TLine, Mono, ON
Preview on day of sale, or by appointment

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

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

Lunch Booth

Washroom Available

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

Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264

Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083

Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com

www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur

- full listing & photos

SHERWIN & LAW
LAWYER & MEDIATOR

MCDONALD, SIMON,
STEWART & REIDY
LLP

STRONGER TOGETHER



SHAWN J. STEWART, J.D.
Family Law & Civil
Litigation Lawyer

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

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

519.284.0898 info@sherwinlaw.ca

SERVING ST. MARYS FOR
30
YEARS

SURROGATES NEEDED!

Receive Expense
Coverage of up to
\$45,000

Help make a family's
dream come true.
Your generous gift can help
intended parents welcome the
baby they've been dreaming of.

Contact us Today!

SURROGACY
IN CANADA ONLINE

(519) 527-2404

www.surrogacy.ca

sally@surrogacy.ca

Canadian Law Compliant Experienced Trusted

Clocks go back and it's a great time to check your batteries

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

Get ready for an extra hour of sleep this weekend as Daylight Savings comes to an end for the year and we turn our clocks back an hour.

The official time of the change is on Sunday, Nov. 3, at 2 a.m. We will have more light in the morning, but it will get dark earlier in the evening. The clocks for many devices such as phones and computers will automatically change but there may be some non-smart devices that will need to be changed manually.

During this time, the St. Marys Fire

Department would also like to remind everyone to make another change that could be lifesaving and a great habit to get into when changing the clocks. That would be to replace the batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

Most fatal fires occur at night when people are sleeping. Changing smoke and CO alarm batteries, testing them and reminding others to do the same is the simplest and most effect way to stop these tragedies from happening. Approximately two-thirds of all fire deaths occur in homes where there are no working smoke alarms.

St. Marys Fire Chief Phil West is re-

mind everyone to check for expiry dates while testing alarms and changing batteries. Carbon monoxide detectors should be replaced every seven years, and smoke alarms should be replaced at the 10-year mark.

This is also a good time for families to

review their home fire escape plan with your family so everyone knows the plan.

For more information on smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, contact the St. Marys Fire Department at 172 James St. S. or call 519-284-2340.



(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

The Stonetown Travel team is reminding locals to turn their clocks back this weekend. Pictured from left to right are Darlene Dundas, Vanessa Triemstra, Stephanie Hodgson and Lily Camden.

Marg Luna

My heartfelt thanks to all who supported me in the election. I'm honoured to represent this great community for another 4 years.

I also thank my family for their love and support. Special thanks to Mayor Al Strathdee for his leadership and guidance these past 8 years.

To present councillors and those joining at the table, thank you for running good friendly campaigns. I'm really looking forward to the next 4 years!

THANK YOU!

Advertisement authorized by Marg Luna



FALL in love with the St. Marys Farmers' Market

SATURDAY, OCT. 31 - FINAL OUTDOOR MARKET

Savour the end of the season before heading downtown for the Howl-o-Ween pet parade at noon!

SAVE THESE DATES FOR INDOOR MARKETS

November 7, December 5, December 19
at the Pyramid Recreation Centre from 8 a.m. to noon

Thank you for an amazing outdoor market season!



Keep recyclables loose.



Learn more:
circularmaterials.ca/recycleontario

St. Marys Independent **SPORTS**

Lincs rout Legionnaires; secure measure of payback in St. Thomas thriller

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The St. Marys Lincolns extended their winning streak to 12 consecutive games with wins over the Sarnia Legionnaires and St. Thomas Stars.

That said, the way they got those two victories couldn't have been more different.

Plain and simple, in Sarnia Oct. 22, the Lincolns outclassed the Legionnaires for 60 straight minutes, handing them their 66th consecutive loss, a streak of winless hockey dating back more than a year and a half. The Legionnaires' last victory was a 6-1 win Feb. 17, 2025, over the Komoka Kings.

The Lincolns continued their run of hot starts to games, outshooting Sarnia 25-5 in the first period and leading 3-0 at the end of 20 minutes.

Heading into St. Thomas, the Lincolns had outshot their opponents 174-45 in the first 10 games of their now 11-game unbeaten stretch and scored 30 total goals while allowing just two.

Ryan Hodkinson finished the game with two goals and an assist, while Owen Bruining had a goal and an assist and Callum McAuley registered three helpers. Devun Colebrook, Cullen Kerslake and Ethan Weir also scored for the Lincolns while Kobe Nadalin backstopped the Lincolns to a 6-0 shutout.

Kerslake's goal – the first of his Greater Ontario Hockey League (GOHL) career – was the highlight of an otherwise ho-hum blowout for Lincs' head coach Jeff Bradley.

"It was great to see Cullen get one," Bradley told the Independent. "Cullen does everything right. I don't think he makes many mistakes at all, and to say that about a rookie is really impressive. He is just such a fantastic hockey player and a great kid who loves to be a part of this team, and we're so happy for him to actually get rewarded with a goal."

Bradley credited his group for maintaining their level of dominance throughout the game, even well into the third despite being in a position of playing a team so dramatically inferior to the roster iced by the Lincolns.

"There wasn't much good that could come out of a game against an opponent like that, but I commend the players for doing as well as they did considering what we had to play against," said Bradley. "It can become frustrating when you get in those games against such inferior teams. After the second, we just talked about having no penalties or suspensions. We didn't care about scoring. We really just wanted to run the time out and then get to St. Thomas."

Waiting for the Lincolns in St. Thomas



(CHARIS MUHTAR PHOTO)

Callum McAuley, pictured, had his best game of the season Oct. 23, scoring the game-tying goal and helping the Lincolns to a 3-2 shootout victory over the St. Thomas Stars.

was an opponent they have been championing at the bit to face after the Stars. Led by goaltender Dylan Durno, St. Thomas handed the Lincolns their only defeat so far this year on Sept. 18, a 5-3 St. Thomas win. On that night, the Lincolns had a sluggish start before dominating the final 40 minutes, but a stellar effort by Durno in the Stars' crease guided St. Thomas to the win.

Just over one month later, the Lincolns were determined to not let that happen again. Fortunately for St. Marys, they managed not to repeat that sluggish first period. While their physicality could have been a bit better, the Lincolns still controlled the majority of the play in the opening period.

Unfortunately, the part about Durno standing on his head did happen again. And again. And again. With 31 shots on goal through two periods and plenty more coming in the third, Durno was single-handedly holding the Stars in the lead after the game's icebreaker in the first by Andrei Gudín, followed by Tyson Orr scoring five minutes and 44 seconds into the third.

The Lincolns were dominating the play, but down 2-0 well into the third, with Durno once again stonewalling them.

Then, as they had been doing all night, a Stars' defender got their stick in the lane of a Blake Elzinga shot, but rather than sending the puck out of play, it instead sent the puck on a perfect arc to float over Durno, who had dropped into the butter-

fly position.

In an update to the "Chase of Chase," with an assist on the goal, Hodkinson tied the GOHL-era Lincolns' franchise record for career assists, recording his 113th career assist, the same as last year's Lincs' captain Chase MacQueen-Spence.

Finally, the Lincolns proved Durno was human, and almost exactly four minutes after Elzinga got St. Marys on the board, Callum McAuley tied the game at two apiece.

Bradley had nothing but praise for his team for their gutsy comeback performance.

"I think it speaks to the belief they have in themselves. They knew that we deserved better and we just have to keep going, and that's the nice thing in a season where a lot has gone right for us sometimes; it's good to know we can come back. That belief and that refusal to quit was an X-factor we had last year.

"We haven't really been put in that many positions to have to come back this year," Bradley continued. "So, to be down 2-0 midway through the third period and score two goals on a goaltender that has had our number for 110 minutes or so, it was great to see and just another thing to add to our bag."

McAuley also delivered arguably his best game of the season, with Bradley stating McAuley's stellar showing came down to one thing.

"Competing; that's it," Bradley said. "Callum (McAuley) is so good that some-

times he can get away with not doing that, and I haven't seen him compete and fore-check like that in a long time. For him to do that speaks to why he's a leader on our team, and he knew how important that game was, and he took the bull by the horns and brought us back in the game."

Up front, Bradley was also very happy with the well-rounded play of Owen Miniotas.

"Owen was really good. I think some people might see how skilled he is and think of him as a pure offensive guy, but he's more than that, and when games start to get tight in the playoffs and you get into big games, you're looking for guys that do the right things. That, to me, was Owen's most effective game with us. I just thought he was good everywhere. When we put him in the middle, he'd win draws. He was physical. He didn't turn pucks over. He made a lot of really smart, good little plays, and he was just a positive every time he was on the ice."

With the game tied 2-2 at the end of 60 minutes, the game went into a thrilling three-on-three overtime, with chances aplenty at both ends, and even better stops by Durno and Lincolns' netminder Brogan Colquhoun, who ended the night with 30 saves before turning away four of five St. Thomas shooters in the shootout to secure the 3-2 victory.

Bradley called it Colquhoun's best showing of the season.

"That was a big game for Brogan (Colquhoun), and we needed it. He was challenged at practice in a meeting and we said, 'You were basically begged to come back to be the guy and for it to be your turn to take this team,' and he wasn't quite doing it at the level we know he can, in my opinion, and he agreed," said Bradley.

"He came in against St. Thomas and had an amazing game, which is a hard game for him to win because the goalie across from him is playing like the second coming of Patrick Roy. It's hard to watch that, I'm sure, and not get in your own head, and for him to make those saves in overtime and then in the shootout, it was massive for us."

Gudín had the only goal for the Stars in the shootout, while Hodkinson and Weir scored for the Lincolns.

According to Bradley, the win meant a great deal to the squad given St. Thomas boasted the only loss suffered by the Lincolns this year.

"I was obviously really happy with the result, but with the effort as well. I think wins like that really bond a team. They had their rookie party (on Oct. 24), and then we had a good practice (on Oct. 25), and I just think we're in a really good spot right now.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 17

Carlberg, Grogan, Jackson win SMGCC Three-Man Scramble

SPENCER SEYMOUR
Independent Sports Reporter

The trio of Joel Carlberg, Patrick Grogan and Bo Jackson finished atop the field at the St. Marys Golf and Country Club’s (SMGCC) Three-Man Scramble tournament Oct. 18.

The team won with a score of 11 under par and won the only skin of the day with an eagle on Hole 15.

Jackson told the Independent a hot start to the tournament put them on a good track for the rest of the round.

“We were able to grind through the wind and tough green conditions,” said Jackson. “They were the best greens I have ever played out there. Our putting made the day, but we also had some incredible shots that saved our score. We started on Hole 9 with a solid par, but on Hole 10, Patrick (Grogan) self-eagled it, and we followed that by a birdie on 11. We were fired up pretty quickly.”

Already with an eagle under their belt, the team added another on the front nine to further increase their lead and set the stage for a strong finish on the back nine.

“On Hole 15, we made an incredible eagle. I drove the ball to the fairway. Patrick (Grogan) hit his four-hybrid to the right

side of the green on the fringe, leaving us with a 70-80-foot putt to the front left side of the green. I took a second shot right at the hole and left our second option in the rough behind the pin, much closer to the hole. We decided to take Patrick’s shot because the putters were hot,” Jackson said.

“In order, as we had been doing all day, sticking to the plan, and on our second attempt, Joel (Carlberg) made the massive eagle putt. The back nine was a wild one, and it ended with two eagles, four birdies, a par and two nasty bogeys. I think if we hadn’t made the eagles, our bogeys would have hurt our back nine score too much, and we may not have had the same drive to win.”

Jackson added the team kept each other playing to win throughout the tournament.

“Throughout the day, we had held each other up. If someone made a bad shot, the others made up for it and we were always pumping each other up. Finishing on the front nine, we stayed positive, making simple pars and taking advantage of birdie opportunities. Looking back at the card, two very important birdies were on holes 18 and five, which are both par threes. Those are two holes that could



(PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. MARYS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB)

Pictured from left to right are Bo Jackson, Patrick Grogan and Joel Carlberg, who finished 11 under par Oct. 18 to win the St. Marys Golf and Country Club’s Three-Man Scramble tournament.

have easily been each par. Honestly, the only way to really ride the wave is to read the card. You almost had to be there to believe it. It was absolutely wild.”

There was a three-way tie for second place, including team one of Scott Rinn, Dave Shepley and Cole Stewart, team two of Darryl Sterkenburg, Mike Glover and Mike Kochanowski, and team

three of Steve Fisher, Bruce Kraemer and Mike McMullan. All three trios finished at eight-under par. A closest-to-the-pin shootout on Hole 7 was held to break the tie, with Shepley getting the closest ball on the green and winning second place. Sterkenburg was the third-place winner and Fisher’s team took fourth place.

Lincolns overcome Durno for 11th straight win

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

“We don’t really want that many blemishes. We don’t want doubts in our minds as we move forward throughout the season,” Bradley added. “I don’t think great teams lose back-to-back games, and that would have been back-to-back against St. Thomas, and we just refused to let that happen.”

While the result was ultimately the same as almost all of their games before it, the Lincolns won their 11th straight in very different fashion than many of their oth-

er wins, with many of their other wins being blowouts against teams closer to the bottom than the top of the standings.

Contrast that with their 3-2 shootout win over the Stars, which marked the first time in this winning streak the Lincolns didn’t score at least five goals, and just the second time all season the Lincolns have surrendered more than 30 shots in a game.

Bradley said it was useful to the group to have to win in a different way other than simply shooting the lights

out.

“It’s very valuable (to have to win in a different way). I know it was only game 14, but in our minds, it was a must-win game. That was a team that had beaten us on home ice in a game that we thought we deserved better in, and then the same thing was happening to us in St. Thomas. So, for us to overcome that was great, and not only that, but even when we were tied, they got some saves that could have easily been goals for us, but we just kept going.”



(CHARIS MUHTAR PHOTO)

Cullen Kerslake, pictured, got rewarded for his excellent play on the St. Marys Lincolns’ blueline with his first career GOHL goal during the Lincolns’ 6-0 win Oct. 22 over the Sarnia Legionnaires.

GOHL Leading Point Scorers and Goalie Save Percentages					
(as of Oct. 27, 2026)					
Player	Team	GP	G	A	PTS
Ryan Hodkinson	SMY	14	12	24	36
Blake Elzinga	SMY	14	8	19	27
Reid Gammage	CAM	14	12	14	26
Matteo Gauthier	SCF	16	12	14	26
Jack Samek	LON	14	14	11	25
Owen Bruining	SMY	12	11	14	25
Dylan Richter	CHA	13	9	16	25
Callum McAuley	SMY	14	9	15	24
Viktor Dudenkov	PCS	12	14	9	23
Dylan Searles	SRY	15	13	10	23
Eddie Hickson	CHA	14	7	16	23
Askar Mustaev	PCS	12	6	17	23
Tyler Graham	CAM	14	13	9	22
Matthew Klatil	SCF	16	10	12	22
Tyler Lee	PEL	14	9	13	22
Zachary LeBlanc	SRY	15	6	16	22
Goalies	Team	Record	GAA	SV-%	
Dylan Durno	STT	8-1-0-1	1.76	0.956	
Logan Snyder	CAL	11-1-0-0	2.16	0.936	
Brock Grein	WAT	4-2-0-2	2.07	0.935	
Kobe Nadalin	SMY	7-0-0-0	1.43	0.930	
Tanner Gibson	FEM	6-0-0-0	1.82	0.926	
Nicholas Soliman	SCG	3-6-0-0	3.35	0.925	
Mitchell Nouwens	SCF	7-2-0-0	2.25	0.924	
Noah Bender	SFD	4-0-0-1	2.52	0.917	
Viljami Kukkola	PCS	3-2-0-0	4.49	0.907	
Dante Bertolin	LON	3-6-0-0	3.06	0.906	

DCVI Senior Girls Basketball team stays unbeaten against Madill

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The St. Marys DCVI Senior Girls Basketball team won their fourth straight game of the regular season Oct. 21 against F.E. Madill, winning 49-32.

Head coach Monica Ryan was very impressed with her squad's ball movement, which showed improvement from their previous games.

"I was really proud of how we competed," Ryan told the Independent. "Last week, we talked about reversing the ball, and that was our focus, and today, knowing that Madill didn't slide particularly well on defence, we were able to reverse the ball. We got some strong drives that we hadn't had in other games, and we got to the free-throw line a lot because of their patience to reverse the ball."

One of the standout performers for the Salukis was Holly Black, who played some of the best basketball of her high school career.

"Holly is really intuitive with how she moves on the court," said Ryan. "We do a lot of game-based stuff in practice because, when you only have five league games, you're relying on tournaments and any extra gameplay to get confidence. I hope they are realizing that I want them to take risks when they're out there, and Holly just thrives in that situation where she's got the green light to go get it."

Alanna Savile also delivered a strong effort for the Salukis. After a very strong first half of the game in which DCVI established the 17-point lead they eventually won by, the game got a bit scrumbly for the Salukis, but Savile stepping back into the game off the bench in the third quarter seemed to instantly settle things down for St. Marys.

"It's all about Alanna's communication and leadership," Ryan said. "We know she handles the ball well and she knows how to score, but it's how she helps out and directs traffic on offence and on defence. She's really exceptional."

Savile, along with Charlotte Richardson and Lena Thompson, led the Salukis with 10 points each. The team had set a goal of getting every player on the score-sheet and were very close to accomplishing that, with all but one player putting up points.

Aryn Sheldon scored six points, while Black and Emma Hodgkinson each scored three, and Regan Jones, Morgan Reid, Raegan Story and Melody Weber all scored two.

The team's rebounding was especially strong throughout the game, with Ryan noting, as good as it was in the first half, improved positioning in the second half made their board work even better.

"We actually tightened up to have more box outs in the second half. We got rebounds in the first half because we are an athletic bunch that won the ball, but in the second half, we tried to focus more on actually physically boxing them out, so, although we were successful in rebounding in the first half, we felt we could be even better."

"We've got a really athletic group of people that have a broad background in sports," Ryan continued. "And, when you put the kind of athletic understanding that they have with the desire to play defence, good things happen."

With the team having little in the way of corrections to make to their game, Ryan described a supportive moment shared by the team after the second quarter.

"How much they support each other really stands out to me," said Ryan. "At halftime, we went outside and, from a coaching aspect, there wasn't a lot to work on, so I just had them recognize each other for all of the strengths that they see in each other, and we had a really nice moment out there in the sunshine."



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTOS)

Pictured on the left, Aryn Sheldon puts up a shot from under the basket during the St. Marys DCVI Senior Girls Basketball team's 49-32 win over F.E. Madill Oct. 21. On the right, Melody Weber launches a shot from the arch.

SAVE 25%

BEAUTITONE RUST COAT

WAS ~~\$31.99~~ | NOW **\$23.97**
 Until November 4

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

McCully's Hill Farm

PRESERVE OF THE MONTH

10% OFF Salsa

FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL

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

FRESH ONTARIO APPLES & CIDER

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

STORE HOURS IN OCTOBER

Monday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 4074 Perth Line #9, St. Marys, ON • www.mccullys.ca • 519.284.2564

The Royal[®]

AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR

THE COUNTRY COMES TO THE CITY

THE BEST OF CANADA IS HERE



SCAN THE QR
CODE TO BUY
TICKETS NOW

OR VISIT ROYALFAIR.ORG

NOVEMBER 6-15, 2026

EXHIBITION PLACE, TORONTO



St. Marys bowlers compete at Fall Master-Youth tourney



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

On Oct. 25, the St. Marys Bowling Lanes sent six Youth Bowl Canada (YBC) bowlers and three Master bowlers to the Fall Master-Youth Tournament at Fairmont Lanes in London. The teams were composed of a Bantam, Junior and Master bowler. It was a three-game pins-over-average tournament. Pictured on the left, from left to right, are Leia Slaney, Scott Rinn, and Harley Robertson, who placed fifth. Slaney also won a medal for highest points over average in the Junior division with 60 points over her average. Coming in ninth place was the trio of, as pictured in the middle from left, Brendan King, Scott Jackson, and James Van de Gevel. Pictured on the right, from left, is the team of Derek King, Aisla Fisher and Ivy Kittmer, who placed 20th. Most of the young bowlers bowled above their average, and a special thanks to our Master bowlers for supporting the young bowlers from St. Marys.



LUCKHARDT
LANDWORKS

FOR ALL YOUR SITEWORK NEEDS

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



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

Rory and Jesse Brockman, Fares, Rinn win Strike-13 tournament



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Pictured from left to right are Rory Brockman and Jesse Brockman. On Oct. 23, bowlers took to the St. Marys Bowling Lanes to compete in a four-game Strike-13 tournament. Winners of the high-game prizes were Jesse Brockman, who won twice, as well as Rory Brockman and Kaitlin Fares. First place went to Jesse Brockman with a total of 1,003 points. Rory Brockman placed second, only 16 points behind with a score of 987. Scott Rinn took third place with a score of 962.

MINOR SPORTS

SCRAPBOOK



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
Ivy Smith sends a shot towards the opposition’s net during the Core Fuels U11 C Girls St. Marys Rock game this past Sunday.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
Griffin Queen takes a long-range shot on goal during last Saturday’s Core Fuels U11 LL Boys Red St. Marys Rock game.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
Logan Bos takes a shot in the slot area during last Wednesday’s McKinley Hatchery U13 A Boys St. Marys Rock game.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
Emily Chateauvert fires a shot from the blueline during this past Sunday’s McKinley Hatchery U13 B Girls St. Marys Rock game.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
Mason Schwarz blasts a shot from the point during the No Snow U14 A Boys St. Marys Rock game last Thursday.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
Olivia Davis releases a quick shot during this past Sunday’s No Snow U15 BB Girls St. Marys Rock game.

COLUMNS

UKRAINIAN CORNER: Walking to Quebec for coffee – a capital mini-vacation

ALONA VASYLIEVA
Independent Columnist

It’s funny how time flies. One day you’re packing your bags to move, and the next, it’s already been four years since our family made Canada our home! To celebrate, we packed up the car and took a road trip to Ottawa.

We’ve heard so much about the capital over the years, and I was really curious to see it myself. Even though we didn’t fly anywhere, a road trip definitely counts as a real vacation. There’s just something nice about getting out of your daily routine, setting the GPS and seeing new places.

Of course, leaving town meant I had to miss my French lessons for the week. But I promised my teacher not to worry; I told him I’d practice by reading every single sign, menu and poster in Quebec. And I’m happy to say it worked! I even managed to order my coffee in French without any trouble.

That was one of the coolest parts of the trip – visiting two provinces at once! Ottawa sits right next to Quebec, so we just walked across the pedestrian bridge into Gatineau. Talking to locals there was so much fun. They made sure to tell us, with big smiles, that life in Quebec is definitely better than in Ontario!

Ottawa itself was a wonderful surprise. Going in late October meant no big crowds, just a calm and welcoming vibe. The buildings and architecture are huge and impressive, it really feels like a capital. It also struck me as a very safe and quiet

city to visit with kids.

Usually, I try to avoid big tourist spots and look for quiet, hidden places instead. But this time, I was happy to just be a tourist. I googled the main attractions, didn’t stick to any strict schedule and just enjoyed walking around.

We also found out that Ottawa is known as the shawarma capital of Canada. We had to try it, and it really was delicious. Picking a hotel took some extra time because I’m pretty picky about breakfast. Pancakes and sugary cereals aren’t my thing – I need real protein and fresh veggies in the morning. Finding European-style food in Canadian hotels isn’t always easy, but our hotel got it right.

Besides the food, I love people-watching during breakfast. It’s so interesting to observe guests from all over the world, see what they eat and notice how they start their day.

Lying awake in the hotel at 5 a.m., I remembered my old days as a flight attendant. It reminded me of early mornings in New York on layovers, wide awake from jet lag, just waiting for the hotel breakfast to open.

I also realized how much I missed that big-city feeling. Small-town life and nature are where I relax, but big cities give you a fun pop of energy. Watching people in suits with leather bags and coffees rushing to work felt just like a scene from a movie.

Trips like this – mixing new family memories with a little bit of nostalgia – are the best. Ottawa gave us a great break, and it was a wonderful way to start our fifth year in Canada!



(PHOTO COURTESY OF ALONA VASYLIEVA)
Proof that a quick walk across the bridge gets you a whole new province.

UNDERSTANDING GEN Z: Trick or treat



MEREDITH A. STOKES
Independent Columnist

Everyone loves candy. Whether you’re a fan of horror or more of a Casper the Friendly Ghost person, that’s something we can all agree on. Halloween is a win-

win for everyone.

Kids get to go door to door dressed as their role models and demanding sweets in a perfectly legal manner. You guys can buy the Walmart value packages of Mars brand chocolate bars in September claiming it’s for Halloween, then magically make it all disappear before then. We’re onto you.

As a high-school freshman, I now find myself in a sort of limbo state. My entire life, I have trick-or-treated with my family, in my neighbourhood, getting the same five kinds of chocolate bars and a juice box if I’m lucky. Last year, I was told that I was

getting too old for trick-or-treating, so my parents said that this year I would be handing out candy, and that was that.

I accepted this fate. The logic was sound enough, and I never went with friends anyway. In September, however, my parents had a sudden change of heart and I couldn’t say “no” to trick-or-treating when given the chance. This time though, I had to go with a friend and make sure there was plenty of effort put into my costume. So, arrangements were made and my youth continues.

However, us ninth graders are all over the map. I know a few kids handing out candy, a few

going to sleepover horror-movie marathons, some trick-or-treating and some going to Halloween field parties with classmates. It all depends on your social circles, your personality and your parents.

What you may be surprised to learn is that most of the kids who aren’t trick-or-treating chose to do so. It wasn’t their parents’ decision. It was purely them deciding they would rather stay home or hang with friends, or whatever they’re doing. When your kid reaches that phase in their lives, they’ll acknowledge it, but it comes at different times for everyone.

I’m not going to deny that a lot of teenagers who go out to get candy cause nothing short of trouble. My house has been victim to its fair share of raids when the basket is left out. Yet, when it comes down to it, isn’t that their choice? If your kid wants to cause trouble, I’m pretty sure there are worse ways to do it than taking an extra helping of Skittles (as long as it stays at that). It’s not my place to tell you how to parent. I just wanted to put that out there.

So, to keep it short and sweet, Happy Halloween, St. Marys. Let’s spread some joy this spooky season.

2026
Elimination Draw
WINNERS

Thank you to everyone who supported our Elimination Draw held October 17th.
A total of **\$4,500** in prizes was awarded throughout the evening!

CONGRATULATIONS
to our **\$2,000 Grand Prize winner**
Barb Thurkettle!
Ticket #564

OTHER WINNERS

DRAW	WINNER	TICKET #	PRIZE	DRAW	WINNER	TICKET #	PRIZE
Early Bird	Terry Muir	206	\$400	#300	Charlie Brunston	590	\$300
#1	Bev Kiddy	497	\$200	#350	Bill Boon	111	\$90
#50	Dave Cariberg	220	\$50	#400	Rene Smith	249	\$200
#100	Charlie Cameron	387	\$150	#450	Winona Sands	054	\$50
#150	Carlie Shotton	087	\$50	#500	Sandra Forrester	456	\$200
#200	Gary Brunston	578	\$150	#550	Ernie Gilham	288	\$100
#250	Bob Huston	316	\$50	#598	Kelly Heald	027	\$250
				#599	Sandra McCurdy	341	\$300

Thank you again to everyone who purchased a ticket
and helped make this year's draw such a success.

Franklin E. Hinz

Donna L. Hinz

Maximize Your Return
Conservative Advice for Intelligent Decisions

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

A.N.A.F. Unit 265
23 Wellington St. N.
519.284.4390

FUN DAY DARTS
Sunday, Nov. 15th - Noon registration

DART LEAGUES
Thurs at 6:45pm | Sat at 12:45 pm

SAUSAGE ON A BUN
Starts every Thursday from
Nov. 5th to April - Noon to 1:30pm

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

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: Cazimir Gzowski and St. Marys

MARY SMITH

Independent Columnist

On the Toronto waterfront, just south of High Park beside Lake Shore Boulevard, there is an intriguing monument. It honours Polish Canadian engineer and entrepreneur, Sir Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski (1813-1898.) The structure is in the form of an open concrete tripod with a row of steel beams embedded at the top and a path of railway ties at ground level. These features acknowledge Gzowski's contributions to railway building. Gzowski's bust on a pedestal inside the structure is the focal point. There are also several information panels, more or less protected from the Lake Ontario weather, that provide details about his life and work. The monument was built in 1968 and placed in Sir Casimir Gzowski Park to celebrate his services to Canada. Gzowski established his permanent family home in Toronto, but his story does have a strong connection to St. Marys.

The plans in the mid-1850s to build a line of the Grand Trunk Railway from Toronto to this part of southwestern Ontario led to Gzowski's interest in the village of St. Marys. As contractors for the railway, Gzowski and his business partners (Gzowski and Co.) would decide the exact location of the line and the placement of the stations along the way. The importance of railway service in the 19th century cannot be over emphasized. If a community was on a rail line, it could develop and thrive. If it was bypassed, it would eventually dwindle in size and importance. And so, there was great excitement in St. Marys when municipal officials learned that the main line to Sarnia would pass through the village's northern limits and a branch line to London would go southward, just east of the downtown core. They immediately began negotiations to secure the placement of a new railway station on an advantageous site within municipal boundaries. Led by the village reeve, Gilbert McIntosh, the council was made up of prosperous and confident property owners and businessmen. But they had never negotiated with anyone quite like the chief contractor, Casimir Gzowski.

A lengthy biography of Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski can be found on-line in the Dictionary of Canadian Biography. To summarize, Casimir was born in Russia in March 1813, the oldest son of a minor Polish aristocrat. His father was also a career army officer, stationed in St. Petersburg when Casimir was born. At age nine, Casimir was sent to a prestigious Russian military school where he was taught languages, literature, architecture, medicine, and surveying. When he graduated in 1830 and received his commission, he was posted back to Poland where he became part of a Polish uprising against Russian domination of his country. The rebels were defeated by the Russian army, forced across the border into Austria and interned there for two years. In 1833, Casimir was one of the Polish soldiers sent on two shiploads as permanent exiles to the United States.



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

This undated photograph was taken when the Junction was still an active passenger station. The frame baggage sheds can be seen behind the limestone station, farther along the platform.

Casimir Gzowski quickly found his place in a society that was sympathetic to rebellion against foreign authority. He first earned his living by teaching languages, music, and skills, such as fencing and shooting. He then found work in a law office, and, by 1837, he had become an American citizen, qualified as a lawyer and established a practice in the small town of Beaver in Pennsylvania. There were many ambitious building projects underway at that time – roads, bridges and canals were under construction. Reverting to his training at school in Russia, Gzowski found it was more rewarding to work as an engineer than as a lawyer. He moved to Erie, Pennsylvania, the engineering headquarters of canal construction, and worked there as a civil engineer for the next four years. During that time, he married a doctor's daughter, Maria Beebe, established a home and began to raise a family.

In 1841, his engineering firm sent him into Upper Canada to assess the possibility of work on the Welland Canal. While there, he met the Governor of Canada, Sir Charles Bagot, who, as ambassador to St. Petersburg in the 1820s, had known his father. Bagot recruited this promising young engineer, convincing him to relocate to Canada, and appointing him superintendent of roads and waterways in the London district. Although Casimir was only in southwestern Ontario for two years, he gained knowledge about the area that proved useful when, a dozen years later, his contracting company was preparing to build the railway lines from Toronto. When he met with the St. Marys delegation in April 1857, Casimir Gzowski, now 44 years old, was a charming, highly educated man who spoke at least five languages and had extensive legal and civil engineering experience. He was also, at that time of his life, almost recklessly ambitious. He and his partners were determined to make a profit on the rail line from Toronto to Sarnia.

Following their meeting, the village

corner of St. Marys. A letter to the Argus from an angry citizen stated: "The station will stand a monument to the stupidity of some and the cupidity of others of our council for ages." The village dealt with the inconvenient location. A road was built to the Junction Station and, as a partial compromise, the GTR located freight yards and loading docks on James Street near Elizabeth. In 1878, when Gzowski and Co. were long gone, a small passenger station was built near the freight yards and in 1907 – half a century after the Junction Station was built – the GTR built a proper station near the southwest end of the London Bridge, still in use today.

Casimir Gzowski went on to other projects, prospered and received many honours in his lifetime. He designed and built the international bridge between Fort Erie and Buffalo, New York in the early 1870s. He was the first chairman of the Niagara Parks Commission and planned the park system along the Canadian bank of the river. He was a founder of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers and served in the Canadian militia, attaining the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He was appointed aide-de-camp to Queen Victoria in 1879 and knighted in 1890. Sir Casimir Gzowski died in Toronto in 1898, age 85.

For more than six decades, the Junction Station served passengers travelling between Toronto and Sarnia or London. But after World War I, usage declined and eventually the railway abandoned the limestone station. It fell into disrepair and was threatened with demolition. St. Marys residents who knew its history rallied to save the building. Through the intervention of Perth MP J. Waldo Monteith, it was saved and declared a National Historic Site in 1973. The building was protected and stabilized until an appropriate use for it could be found. On August 29, 1982, in an impressive ceremony, with political and local dignitaries in attendance, CBC Radio personality, Peter Gzowski unveiled a bronze plaque that explained the station's importance and honoured his great-great-grandfather, Sir Casimir Gzowski. The plaque is still there, near the entrance to the Junction Station, now the Broken Rail Brewery.

council believed that Gzowski had accepted their offer to invest in a station on George Tracy's farm near the intersection of James and Elizabeth Streets. They signed an agreement with Gzowski but then discovered it did not specify the exact location of the station, only that it would be within the municipal boundaries. Meanwhile, work continued on the rail line and construction started on the two large trestle bridges over Trout Creek and the Thames River. With still no news about the station, concerned citizens demanded a public meeting. According to the St. Marys Argus, the reeve and council were "condemned in the most emphatic manner" for failing to get a firm guarantee that the station would be placed in a central location.

Gzowski probably never seriously considered the Tracy property as a possible site. An old friend of his, David Glass, a London politician, had purchased Lot 15, Concession 18, within the village limits. Gzowski and Co. bought a parcel of land from Glass at a good price. In May 1858, tenders were called for the building of the GTR station at the extreme northeast



Hubbard Pharmacy² Limited

Your locally owned and family run Pharmacy

- Pharmacist Consultations
- Medication Reviews
- Compliance Packaging

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



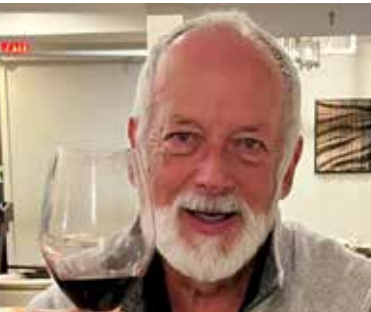
155 QUEEN STREET EAST, ST. MARYS ON | PHONE: 519 284 1380

PharmaChoice

VISIT US ON:



OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: The incredible dining options in a small town in the Gatineau region



PAUL KNOWLES
Independent Columnist

Roberto Catervi is an Italian, Michelin Star chef. He won that highly prestigious honour at the age of 27 in his restaurant in Rome, Italy. He told us, “I have loved food since I was very young.”

Today, Roberto is making pizza in a small Canadian town. And behind this, there is a story.

It’s actually a love story in two parts. It starts in his restaurant in Rome where a Canadian tourist, Geneviève Parent, came to dine. She was so impressed with the meal that she sent a glass of wine back to the chef. He was so impressed with the gesture that he came out to thank her and their lives changed because they fell in love and he followed her back to Canada and married her.

That’s Roberto’s first love story. The second has to do with the small town in which they now live and work, Chelsea, Que., only about 20 minutes from Parliament Hill in Ottawa. Chelsea (also apparently known as Old Chelsea) is in the Gatineau Region, an area famous for hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, birding, beaching and all manner of outdoor activities. Roberto told me, “I like living in the park. ... We don’t regret moving to Canada at all.”

Chelsea is mere minutes from the ominous iron gates that guard Harrington Lake, the country retreat of Canadian prime ministers. And while uninvited visitors are not wel-

comed past those gates, Chelsea residents will tell you that prime ministers, past and present, frequently pop into town for a meal or a beverage.

That is not surprising because Chelsea offers some of the best eating options we have ever encountered, including, of course, Roberto Pizza Romano. This is pizza like you have never encountered before – Roman style, prepared with an infinite variety of ingredients and served in squares. We opted for five different options, each divided in half so we could sample all five tastes. They tasted like “more.”

Geneviève staffs the food counter; she told us Roberto is constantly creating, using local ingredients. “Our food counter is never the same,” she said. So, I’m not going to recommend any specific pizza because the pizzas may have changed by the time you get there. But I promise it will be equally amazing.

You can eat indoors, but in fine weather, most guests opt for the patio in the lovely gardens. Except for a break in November, the restaurant is open year round.

Geneviève was delighted to tell us that she and Roberto now own the building that houses their restaurant after leasing for a number of years. They have no intention of depriving Chelsea of their amazing restaurant.

Honestly, while Roberto and Geneviève’s restaurant may be our favourite in Chelsea, because who doesn’t love a great love story, they are not alone in making this community a food-lovers’ heaven. Just outside town is the award-winning Les Fougères (The Ferns). Here, Chef Simon Beaudry creates culinary masterpieces using seasonal and regional ingredients, including food from his extensive (and beautiful) gardens that surround the

restaurant.

We hugely enjoyed meals that included artisanal bread, wild-caught Atlantic halibut, Gaspeian bluefin tuna crudo, and ravioli with scallops, shrimp, cod and mussels. Yum!

And one thing that Les Fougères has in common with all of the eateries we visited in Chelsea is terrific, personal service. Ten out of 10 in every place.

Less upscale but a lot of fun is the Chelsea Pub, where in good weather, you can dine on the deck and watch the other tourists pass by – and also the locals! We met a lot of locals who are fully aware of the quality of food being served in their little town.

We opted for traditional pub food; I tried to order ribs, which are smoked on site, but they are so popular they were sold out and off the menu for a few days. Our fluently bilingual server (the norm here) recommended the pulled pork poutine. Well, we were in Québec, so it seemed almost obligatory. It was amazing and even I could not quite finish the serving!

Our fourth meal in Chelsea was at Biscotti & Cie (Biscotti & Company), where we had breakfast – delicious pastries, tea and coffee. But don’t let the name “Biscotti” fool you; this is another excellent wood-fired pizza restaurant, with lots of other options.

People come to Chelsea to enjoy Gatineau Park, hiking, biking, skiing and swimming. There is also a thriving arts community. And yes, we did visit art galleries, we did hike and we did enjoy the forests and especially the lakes (Meech Lake, Pink Lake, the Gatineau River and other lakes are within min-



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

Roberto Pizza Roman, home of incredible, unique pizzas.



Michelin Star chef Roberto Catervi and Geneviève Parent, the owners of Roberto Pizza Romano in Chelsea, Que.

utes of downtown Old Chelsea), but we would encourage visitors to be sure to set aside time and opportunity to explore the culinary opportunities offered in this amazing small town.

You’ll travel a long way before you find a small, friendly community with dining opportunities like Roberto Pizza, Les Fougères, the Chelsea Pub and

Biscotti & Cie, and there are still more. We just didn’t get to all of them, which seems a shame.

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.

FOR HALL RENTALS
CALL 519.271.5343
calendar@optimistclubdownie.ca

Oct 18 - Jeff Rolston St Marys	\$50.00
Oct 19 - Vanessa Dunsmore Tavistock	\$50.00
Oct 20 - Jim Schneaker Milverton	\$50.00
Oct 21 - Judy Wood-Hubill Mitchell	\$50.00
Oct 22 - Kim Boyce Cambridge	\$50.00
Oct 23 - Chris Montgomery Toronto	\$50.00
Oct 24 - Reid Dundas St Marys	\$200.00

FRASER ASPHALT PAVING INC

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



Chelsea Pub in the heart of this charming village.



Geneviève Parent at the food counter of Roberto Pizza with the incredible array of taste options.

FROM THE GARDEN: Plants that inspired witches, legends, and fear



NANCY ABRA

Independent Columnist

Halloween may conjure up images of witches stirring cauldrons and black cats crossing moonlit paths, but some of the most frightening characters in folklore are rooted firmly in the garden. Besides the beautiful blossoms and glossy berries of some plants lurks an evil feature. These malicious floras have inspired legends, been used in murders, healed diseases, and filled generation with both wonder and fear.

There are many plants in our gardens that are rich in folklore and mystery. Belladonna (*Atropa belladonna*) also known as Deadly Nightshade, with its purple flowers and shiny black berries is on the most infamous poisonous plants in history. Native to Europe, North Africa and Western Asia, it has naturalized in parts of North America. It is a bushy plant, growing to a height of one to one-and-a-half metres, with dark green leaves. All parts of this plant are toxic,

especially the roots and berries. A few berries can be fatal to humans. During the Renaissance Era, women crushed the berries to make a juice for eyedrops to dilate their pupils for a striking appearance, yielding the name 'belladonna' or beautiful lady. European folklore linked belladonna to witches and magical flying ointments. Some traditions held that it could carry the spirit to other realms.

Monkshood or Wolfsbane (*Aconitum* spp.) originally from Central and Western Europe grows over a metre in height. It is a striking perennial with hooded blue-purple flowers that bloom in the fall. All parts of the plant are extremely poisonous, with the highest concentration of toxins found in the roots. It has a rich folklore as protection against werewolves and vampires. The name 'wolfsbane' came from its historical use as a poison for wolves. Shakespeare mentions it in his play *Henry IV*, and J.K. Rowling in one of her *Harry Potter* books. And if you are a fan of English murder mysteries, Monkshood (*Aconitum*) is a classic fictional murder weapon because it contains aconitine, a fast-acting and deadly neurotoxin that is nearly impossible to detect.

Mandrake (*Mandragora officinarum*) is the most legendary poisonous plant of all. This species grows naturally in countries across Southern Europe in the

Mediterranean region. It typically thrives in open, disturbed, or arid habitats, including light woodlands, olive groves, fallow land, and deserted fields from sea level up to about 1,200 meters. All parts of the mandrake plant are potentially poisonous and dangerous if ingested, with the highest concentration of toxic compounds found in the root and leaves. Its root resembles a tiny human figure, with Medieval lore claiming it would scream a fatal shriek when pulled from the ground. Mandrake is associated with magic rituals and pagan traditions throughout history. J.K. Rowlings included this plant in another one of her *Harry Potter* books.

Foxglove is the common name for *Digitalis*, a genus of tall, leafy flowering plants in the plant family Plantaginaceae (historically grouped under the snapdragon family). It is a cottage garden favourite and is best known for its dramatic spikes of tubular, bell-shaped flowers in shades of purple, pink, white, yellow, or red. Medicinally, it is used to treat heart failure and abnormal heart rhythms (arrhythmias) such as atrial fibrillation but if eaten, it is very toxic to humans and other mammals and can cause serious illness or death.

The Yew (*Taxus* spp.) is a common tree/shrubbery used as a foundation plant around homes and grown in graveyards and



(NANCY ABRA PHOTO)

Monkshood (*Aconitum* spp.) also known as Aconite or devil's helmet. All parts are poisonous. Gardeners are advised to wear gloves when handling this plant.

churchyards. All plants – needles, bark, wood, and the hard seed inside the red berry are highly poisonous. Dried trimmings and fallen leaves remain toxic for months. In Celtic and English tradition, yews were linked to death, immortality, and the underworld. Their longevity made them symbols of eternal life.

There are many poisonous

plants that we innocently grow in our gardens, such as Lily-of-the-Valley, Rhododendron, Castor bean, Daffodil bulbs, and Hellebores. Gardeners are surprised to learn that some of the most toxic plants are also among the most beautiful. Appearances can be deceiving as beauty and danger often bloom from the same stem.

Legion 100
Branch 236 St Marys 1926 - 2026 25

BINGO

PRIZE BOARD
\$2000
GREAT DOOR PRIZES

\$15.00
MIN BOOK PLAY

DOORS OPEN AT 11:30
GAME TIME
1-4PM

NOV 1
12:45
EARLY BIRD

FOOD AND DRINKS AVAILABLE

66 CHURCH STREET ST. MARYS

IF YOU PURCHASE MIN \$40 WORTH OF PAPER YOU WILL GET A
FREE REMEMBRANCE DAY DABBER THIS MONTH

lone Grover
invites you to the launch of her new book
THE UNFOLDING
Exploring the mystery through poetry and prose

Monday, November 9, 2 to 4 pm
At the Riverwalk Commons
84 Water St S, St. Marys

All donations for the book go to the
Coyote Nature School - St. Marys
A nature educational program for children
- Kendra Martin, director.

THE GROOMER

Grooming Service
& Pet Sitting
Available



— WELLINGTON STREET —
GUEST HOUSE



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

wellingtonstreetgh.wixsite.com/mysite
wellingtonstreetguesthouse@gmail.com

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

Riddles

What do skeletons play music on?
Trom-bones!

What do birds say on Halloween?
Trick or tweet!

What follows you in the moonlight but
disappears in the dark?
Your shadow!

What has many bones but no heartbeat?
A skeleton!

What do you get when you cross a snowman
and a vampire?
Frostbite!

What can you break without ever touching it?
A spell

What can you hear but never see or touch?
A whisper

What has a spine but no bones and can tell
scary stories?
A book

What can you see in the dark but never in the
daylight?
Stars

What is full of holes but can still catch a fly?
A spiderweb!

- Word Search -



SPONSORED BY:

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

HALLOWEEN

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

Ghosts
Goblins
Haunted house
Candy
Trick or Treat
Pranks
Witch
Spooky
Tombstone
Vampire
Zombie
Costumes
Pumpkin
Skeleton
Dracula
Haunted
Cauldron
Creepy
Monster
Scary



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK

What is black
and white and
red all over?



A newspaper!

Quinn Lippert (8)

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

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

PET OF THE WEEK



Colder weather doesn't mean your pet's exercise routine
has to stop! Regular walks, indoor play, and enrichment
activities help keep pets healthy, happy, and mentally
stimulated.

Bundle up, get moving, and enjoy the season together!



BERT

Our Pet of the Week is Bert, a
cockatiel. Missy Little is the owner of
this cherished bird. Bert loves to eat
and get head rubs. He can talk and
can tell you he is Bert the bird. Bert
loves Missy and enjoys company.



Thorndale News

A section within the
St. Marys Independent



Thorndale community group's suppers and breakfasts play a vital role

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

Community church suppers and Lions Club breakfasts play a crucial role in Thorndale.

These meals offer the opportunity for locals to gather and connect with friends and neighbours, and they are vital for social cohesion and community building. These meals support the organizing groups as well as foster a sense of belonging. Additionally, these events serve as a platform for young people to earn their volunteer hours and community service, further strengthening the bonds within the Thorndale community.

Last week, the Thorndale United Church hosted their annual roast beef supper, selling 802 tickets, with both take-out and dine-in meals. The amount of food acquired from area suppliers and prepared by the organizing committee and volunteers was 182 kilograms of both beef and potatoes, 40 kilograms of cole-

slaw, along with 27 kilograms of corn and additional fixings, with pie and ice cream the finishing touches to this delicious meal.

Yvonne Elliott, a member of the organizing committee, said they were grateful for several student volunteers to help serve coffee and tea, work in the takeout area and clean tables.

"We appreciate the support of our church family and our community with proceeds of this beef supper and our ham and strawberry supper in May going to our church's expenses and our outreach projects," Elliott said.

Last Sunday, the Thorndale Lions Club hosted their annual fall breakfast, one of three community breakfasts they cook and serve up for the community, at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre. The Lion's Club's hearty morning meals usually draw a crowd of approximately 300, with the proceeds of these breakfasts going towards the many projects the Thorndale Lions support locally.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Thorndale United Church members donated 143 fruit pies for dessert after their roast beef supper. There was a wide assortment of pie slices to choose from along with vanilla ice cream, and it was the perfect ending for their community supper.

Thorndale Country Mills Open House

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

Last Saturday, Oct. 24, Thorndale Country Mills held an open house at their new retail store at 197 King St.

The spacious 2,500 square-foot store is bigger and brighter, housing a wide variety of products, some from area suppliers such as frozen foods, eggs and cheeses. Other products they carry are animal-care products, pet and animal feed, winter clothing and apparel, and Blundstone footwear. And with Christmas coming, they have a wide section of children's books, puzzles and farm toys.

In celebration of their store at their open house, Thorndale Country Mills featured barn-door crashers, giveaways, a barbecue and a raffle of amazing prizes.

"Our customers are loving our new facility and the wide array of products we carry for the home, garden and the farm," store manager Leslie Andrew said.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Pictured during the open house at Thorndale Country Mill's new retail store are staff member Wendy Worte, store manager Leslie Andrew and staff member Allana Wonnacott.

THAMES CENTRE 2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION (UNOFFICIAL RESULTS)

MAYORAL VOTE TOTALS

Michelle Smibert	3,326
Tim Stanlick	1,054
Greg Smith	553

DEPUTY MAYORAL VOTE TOTALS

Ed Lee	1,995
Paul Holbrough	1,437
Cindy Williams	1,348

WARD 1 COUNCILLOR VOTE TOTALS

Brad Andrews	1,133
Dave Cole	744

WARD 2 COUNCILLOR VOTE TOTALS

Danielle Deveau-Lockie	acclaimed
------------------------	-----------

WARD 3 COUNCILLOR VOTE TOTALS

Chantel Crockett	1,236
Adam Vervoort	261

OBITUARY

Needles



Kathleen Marie Needles passed peacefully in Amherst, Nova Scotia surrounded by her family. Katheen had many roles - daughter, sister, friend, wife, mom, Nana - she leaves us having created a legacy of love with each of them. From her childhood on the farm to high school in Stratford to adventures with her family in Toronto, Kemptville, Omaha, Waterloo and St. Marys - Kathleen was always a warm, calming presence to everyone she met along the way. Predeceased by her beloved Charlie in 2021, the two of them created a household where their four children - and all of their friends - felt welcome and comfortable. She cherished those memories. She was a brilliant chef, creative seamstress, avid gardener, and passionate reader - always willing to lend a hand to those in need of her vast array of skills. Kathleen leaves behind sons Craig (Stacey) and William (Ashley), daughters Meagan (Mick) and Caroline, as well as grandchildren Charlotte and Peyton. She'll be missed by sister Esther Vander Hyden (Harold), brother Bill Anderson (Gail) and mother Daisy, as well as cherished friend Ann LaRocque. Kathleen was also loved by Charlie's many siblings and inlaws, including Mary Ann Dempsey (Bob), Beth Pulchinski (Les), Nano Needles (Jeff), Mike Needles (Anna), Diane Needles, and George Needles (Sue) - as well as many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her father Dan Anderson and in-laws Bud, Ann Marie, Bill and Pat Needles. In lieu of flowers, donations in Kathleen's memory may be made to the Breast Cancer Society of Canada at www.bcsc.ca or the Southwest Chapter - MS Society of Canada at www.mssociety.ca.

OBITUARY

Foster



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Harold Foster, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend. Harold passed away on October 22, 2026, at St. Marys Memorial Hospital in his 89th year. Born on August 30, 1938, Harold was the son of the late Herbert and Harriet Foster. He was also predeceased by his brothers, Earl and Lorne Foster. Harold is lovingly remembered by his wife, Marion; his daughter, Karen (Ron) Lemon of Harrington, Ontario; and his son, Mark (Erin) Foster of St. Louis, Missouri. He was a proud grandfather to William, Carson, and Gillian Foster, and Kaitlyn Lemon. He is also survived by his sister, Mary (Bill) Fisher, and his sister-in-law, Jean Foster. A lifelong farmer, Harold operated his own farm, raising beef cattle and growing cash crops. He also worked countless hours at local grain elevators throughout the Kirkton area. He took great pride in every harvest season and enjoyed the friendships he built through years of conversations with local farmers and members of the agricultural community. Farming was not just Harold's occupation; it was his passion and way of life. When he wasn't working, Harold enjoyed following his favorite sports teams, especially the Toronto Maple Leafs, London Knights, and Toronto Blue Jays. He valued time spent with family and friends and will be remembered for his strong work ethic, quiet devotion, and steady presence. Family and friends will be received at the Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home, 47 Wellington St. S., St. Marys, Ontario, on Thursday, November 26, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations to the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation or a charity of one's choice would be greatly appreciated. Harold will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew and loved him. Online tributes at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

OBITUARY

Hammond



Diane Carol Hammond (nee Shearer), passed away at St. Marys Memorial Hospital on October 20, 2026 at the age of 82 with family by her side. Predeceased by her husband Herbert Hammond (2019), parents' Bob & Agnes Shear and brother Bruce Shearer (2020). She is survived by her brothers-in-law Robert (Barbara, deceased) and William (Ellenor) Hammond. Loving Aunt to Greg (Kara), Sandra, Brian (Kelly), Paul, David, Pam, and Great Aunt to Sean (Emma Jane), Sarah, Liam, Justin, Ashley, Matthew, Cassidy, and Makala. Diane will also be missed by her life-long best friend Donna Gregory, good friends Barb Johnston, and Stephen & Karen McGinnis & Family. Diane was born and raised in Etobicoke. She was always an independent and successful woman, working at the Eaton Centre in Toronto, later moving her skills to the Badminton & Racquet Club of Toronto. In retirement, Diane and her husband Herb moved to Lake Saint Peter, near Bancroft where family and friends visited with regularity. More recently they relocated to St. Marys. A Celebration of Life Open House will be held at the St. Marys Golf & Country Club, 769 Queen St E, St Marys on November 22, 2026 from 1 - 3 pm. A private family interment will take place in Aurora Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society. Online tributes at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.

HAVE YOU BEEN AFFECTED BY SOMEONE ELSE'S DRINKING?

Al-Anon Family Groups could help YOU! Call for time and place
1-800-706-9833 OR APP AVAILABLE



Sponsored by:



SHACKLETON'S
Real Estate & Auction Co. shackletons.com
FERN PRIDHAM - Real Estate Broker
519.274.2885
fernpridham@gmail.com

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

Solutions on pg. 31



FARMLAND FOR LEASE BY TENDER – 3 YR TERM

Part lot 19, Conc. East Mitchell Road
Blanshard Ward – approximately 18.2
acres adjacent to landfill site

Tenders are to be submitted
no later than 12:00 noon on
Tuesday, November 10, 2026.

Tender forms are available at the Perth
South Township Office, 3191 Road 122,
St. Pauls, ON N0K 1V0 or online at
www.perthsouth.ca

Please direct inquiries to Will Jaques,
CAO email wjaques@perthsouth.ca or
Phone 519.271.0619 ext. 231

Andrew L. Hodges FUNERAL HOME

Helping you design
affordable and personal
services including:

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

DID YOU KNOW

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



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

Explore THE WORLD with us!

YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS HERE

STONETOWN TRAVEL



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



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



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



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

Book Your Dream Trip Today! Limited slots available!

GROUP TRIPS HOSTED BY

**STONETOWN
TRAVEL**

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

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

www.stonetowntravel.com

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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

APPRAISALS

CAPSTONE APPRAISAL
AGRICULTURAL • COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL

AGRICULTURAL APPRAISALS COMMERCIAL APPRAISALS RESIDENTIAL APPRAISALS

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

William Sumner, P.App., AACI

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

EAVESTROUGH

SURE SEAL EAVESTROUGH

519.701.8838
suresealeavestrough@gmail.com

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

WES BENNET • ST. MARYS ON

CLEANING

NOW ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS
Spotless Cleaning Plus

Laundry and Cleaning Service
Stratford and Surrounding Area

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

Call or email for an appointment today

HOME CARE

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

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

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

Serving St. Marys and Area since 2022

REAL ESTATE

LUCIE STEPHENS
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

519-703-0333

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

SOLD!

DISPOSAL

Robson Scrap Metal

Open 8 to 4:30
Monday - Friday

519.284.2800

206-211 Carling St., St. Marys

ELECTRICAL

FORMAN ELECTRIC LTD.
Celebrating 20+ YEARS in business

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
AGRICULTURAL • INDUSTRIAL

BACK-UP GENERATOR SYSTEMS

Work with someone
you know you can trust!

519.284.0833
St. Marys

HEAT / COOL

HVAC SERVICES
Residential and Office equipment

B.F. GOODFELLOW

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

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

INSURANCE

SIIG
St. Marys Insurance Group Inc.

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

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

CONTRACTING

RLC
ST. MARYS LOCAL
RED LEAF CONTRACTING

• LANDSCAPING • JUNK REMOVAL •

519 317 8229
CHASE TOEWS

STONETOWN ELECTRIC

RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL,
INDUSTRIAL & AGRICULTURAL

YOUR LOCAL, FULL SERVICE ELECTRICAL
CONTRACTING COMPANY.

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

FORMAN ELECTRIC LTD.
Celebrating 20+ YEARS in business

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

Work with someone
you know you can trust!

519.284.0833
St. Marys

PLUMBING

DRINKWALTER PLUMBING

RESIDENTIAL • AGRICULTURAL • COMMERCIAL

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

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

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

Hughes
ELECTRICAL SOLUTIONS

GREAT SERVICE
QUALITY WORKMANSHIP
EXPERT KNOWLEDGE

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

MUSIC

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

CUBBERLEY
Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning

ST. MARYS
519-349-2420

Service from our Family to Yours since 1979

ZIP OVERHEAD
• Doors • Openers • Springs
• Cables • Rollers • Tracks
• Hardware • Maintenance

St Marys & Surrounding Areas

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

RETAIL

Little Falls 519.284.0433

Available now:
Ladies jockey briefs, buttons, gutermann thread, DMC embroidery floss, and more.
Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm
83 Queen St E St. Marys, ON

Artisan Crafters Market

WATER TREATING

medinasoft
A FULL LINE WATER TREATMENT COMPANY

SALES SERVICE RENTALS

Call Dave for more info
at 519.349.2040

Waterite

Better Ways For Seniors Ltd.
519.868.3021

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

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

BUY AND SELL

ST. MARYS COINS
BUY-SELL-APPRAISALS
Experienced-Trustworthy-Local
Call Today For Top Prices

519-777-0142
STMARYSCOINS@OUTLOOK.COM

Available now:
Ladies jockey briefs, buttons, gutermann thread, DMC embroidery floss, and more.
Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm
83 Queen St E St. Marys, ON

Artisan Crafters Market

PAINTING

Painting and Handyman
in and around St. Marys

Call Alex at 519-636-5874
for more information

SEAMSTRESS

Stonetown Alterations
Professional Seamstress
Ingrid Voermans

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

LANDSCAPING

Linda Vandermolen
Landscape Artist

519.276.7712

- Weeding
- Mulching
- Leaf Raking
- Transplant small plants

TUTORING

Sylvan of Stratford
Get ahead this summer with Sylvan!

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

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

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

GRANT HAVEN MEDIA

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED TO BUY

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

WANTED

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

FOR SALE

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

WANTED

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

LEAF MULCHING

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

WANTED

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

FOR RENT

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

HELP WANTED



COUNTRY MILLS IS HIRING! AZ/DZ TRUCK DRIVER (THORNDALE, ON)

- \$25 – \$28/HOUR
- MINIMUM 3 YEARS OF PROVEN COMMERCIAL DRIVING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
- LOCAL ROUTES – HOME DAILY
- MUST HAVE A VALID AZ/DZ LICENCE, CLEAN DRIVING RECORD

INTERESTED APPLICANTS CAN SEND THEIR
RESUME, DRIVER'S ABSTRACT AND LETTER OF
EXPERIENCE TO CAREERS@COUNTRYMILLS.CA

THE WEEK AHEAD



SPONSORED BY: McDonald's St. Marys
752 Queen St. E., St. Marys

Founding and Forever partner of Ronald McDonald House

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

FRIDAY, OCT 30

- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog lunch at Noon
- A.N.A.F. meat draw – 6 p.m.
- SMCP presents “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” at the Town Hall theatre – 7:30 p.m.
- St. Marys Lincolns vs Elmira Sugar Kings at the PRC – 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT 31

- St. Marys Farmers Market at Milt Dunnell Field - 8 a.m. to Noon, Final outdoor market
- Hazardous waste disposal day at the Municipal Operations Centre – 8 a.m. to Noon
- McCully's Hill Farm fall harvest festival – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- A.N.A.F. dart league – 12:45 p.m.
- SMCP presents “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” at the Town Hall theatre – 2 p.m.
- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw – 5 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOV 1

- Legion bingo – Doors open 11:30 a.m., Early bird 12:45 p.m., Game time 1-4 p.m.
- SMCP presents “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” at the Town Hall theatre – 2 p.m.

MONDAY, NOV 2

- Community dinner at St. Marys United Church – 5 p.m., Sponsored by Town Council

TUESDAY, NOV 3

- St. Marys Legion Buddy Check coffee at the Legion – 10 a.m. to Noon
 - St. Marys Legion cribbage – 7 p.m. sharp
- #### THURSDAY, NOV 5
- A.N.A.F. sausage on a bun – 12-1:30 p.m
 - A.N.A.F. dart league – 6:45 p.m.
 - St. Marys Lincolns vs Sarnia Legionnaires at Pat Stapleton Arena – 7 p.m.
 - Alzheimer Society dementia education night on Zoom – 7-8:30 p.m. Register at www.bit.ly/Dementia-Night2026

Looking Back



AMY CUBBERLEY

Independent Columnist

Elliott motors on

25 years ago (2001)

Tyler McCurdy and Jean Babcock, both of St. Marys, won the Toronto Maple Leaf jerseys in draws during last Friday night's Jr. B. Lincoln's game. McCurdy won the Curtis Joseph autographed sweater, and Babcock the team autographed jersey.

Twenty years ago, the Anstett family opened their new store in St. Marys. Pat Anstett has been the manager since that day, and she and 20-year employee Marlene Brownlee have been serving the St. Marys and area community ever since.

50 years ago (1976)

Some citizens have questioned the absence of retaining rails or even rail ties to block both sides of Jones Street East at the C.N.R. tracks following a recent auto mishap at the side. Warning signs should be augmented somewhat, it is believed.

Weird-shaped vegetables are often reported this time of year, but Orville Iredale of Elgin Street East came up with a new twist recently when he pulled up a carrot which had grown through a small hole at the top of a plastic cornflake prize and bulged out the top and bottom.

75 years ago (1951)

The lumber sheeting on the arena roof has been completed, and the application of shingles has commenced.

The inaugural meetings of the newly formed Housewives Club was held Wednesday evening last week with an attendance of 20. Mrs. Tom Sweeney was elected president with Mrs. Clarence Martin as secretary. The November meeting will be held in the home of Mrs. W. Martin, Church Street.

100 years ago (1926)

Three former residents of St. Marys claim to have seen and followed Edward Harlton down Yonge Street in Toronto on Sunday, and called the attention of the Toronto police, whom they claim took no action. This is the second time since the London murder that Harlton has been reported by former residents of St. Marys as being seen in Toronto. It is now assumed that he is living there.

Mrs. William Elliott, who was seriously injured when knocked down by an auto a week ago Saturday night, is making slow but steady progress. It will be some weeks or more before she will be around again.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Miley Cyrus
2. Cornell
3. 24
4. 1980
5. Paramount Skydance
6. Mjölmir
7. Military
8. Gunshot wound
9. Eileen Collins
10. Vitamin C

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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

St. Marys Independent



WWW.GRANTHAVEN.COM

BUILDING A **STRONG** ECONOMY FOR ALL **CANADIANS**

The Government of Canada is taking action to build a stronger economy:

- | Driving major nation-building initiatives expected to create 337,000 jobs
- | Securing more than 20 economic and security partnerships across four continents
- | Reducing trade barriers across provinces to create one strong Canadian economy
- | Creating Build Canada Homes to build affordable homes faster than ever

**LEARN MORE
ABOUT OUR PLAN.**

canada.ca/BUILDSTRONG



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada 