

Independent Shorts

- Saturday Night Live's 40th anniversary special, which aired over three hours on Sunday evening, drew in over 23 million viewers. The show featured montages of old clips from the show dating back to 1975, as well as new sketches with an all-star cast of SNL alums from Martin Short and Will Ferrell to Jane Curtin and Tina Fey. Others who hosted or performed on the show over the years, such as Jim Carrey, Steve Martin and Paul Simon, also popped up during the evening.
- The deadline to enter a team in this year's Sno-Pitch tournament is today. Presented by the St. James Club of St. Marys, the 30-team tournament will be held at the Pyramid Recreation Centre grounds on Saturday, Feb. 28. That evening, the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum will host the dance, beginning at 9:00 pm in the community centre. Proceeds raised will be donated to local St. Marys charities. The cost is \$175 per team. Teams are guaranteed two games and receive 10 dance tickets.
- Wednesday, Feb. 18 was the last day of the Chinese year of the horse. This past Thursday was the first day of the year of the Goat (sometimes known as the year of the Sheep or Ram).
- The St. Marys DCVI has a new website. Parents and students are encouraged to check it out at www.stmarysdcvi.ca.

BUSINESS OF THE WEEK

Biliztik Sports Inc.

Our business of the week is Biliztik Sports Inc., located at 26 Water Street South in St. Marys and owned by Don Corby. The story of Biliztik Sports dates back to 2000, when Corby and his then-business partner Chris Mills came up with an idea for a unique line of sports-themed board games.

"You played them while you watched televised sporting events," Corby said. "Even back then we wanted to go online with them, but there was too much lag time. It was 2000 and the Internet was practically just born back then. It wasn't suitable to do so."

Though prototypes of the old games exist, the two were never able to bring those games to store shelves. But, fast forward to today, and the whole gaming industry has changed. That's why Corby incorporated his new business this past January.



"Now, everybody's got a cell phone and every business has an app," Corby said. "So, we're going to throw the games on an app and you'll be able to play it in real time as the televised sporting event is going on."

There are several different games in development to go along with different corresponding sports, he explained. With the baseball game, called "Touch 'Em All," players try to guess the outcome of every at bat. For the hockey game, "Drop the Puck," players try to guess the reason for the next stoppage of play.

And with the football game, "Take the Snap," they guess what the next play will be.

Other games and surprises are on the way, Corby said, encouraging people to follow the company's Facebook page (Biliztik Sports Inc.) and Twitter feed (@Biliztik_Sports). "Stay tuned for weekly updates," he said. One way Biliztik hopes to draw people to their social media accounts will be through an upcoming contest. "What we're basically looking at doing is giving away 10,000 shares of the company," he said.

Also on the horizon, Corby plans to have Biliztik-sponsored cooling stations on hand at a number of sporting events around the province in 2015, including the Walter Gretzky street hockey tournament in Brantford, the Diamond Duster baseball tournament in Uxbridge, and, of course, the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame induction weekend in St. Marys.

Thanks to a group of generous local investors, the company is about to move forward with an app developer to design and create the games, Corby said. "I'm finding the app process interesting, especially in the inventive side of it," he said. "You don't want to be the same as everybody else. You've got to set yourself aside somehow and make yourself noticeable."

Corby said he expects the first Biliztik Sports Inc. app to launch within six months.

Tree Tips: The Flowering Almond



one with a strong central leader.

The Flowering Almond is fairly resilient when given proper care; it is drought tolerant and can be planted in direct sun or in the shade. If you own a Flowering Almond it should be checked regularly for insects, as the species is susceptible to different pests.

All in all though this tree is definitely worth the time it takes to care for it properly as it grows well in most areas. It should not be planted however, in an area that is already infected with the fungus black knot.

If you have a question, you can email me at jtsquote@gmail.com, and I will respond either by email or in a future article. If you would like me to come and assess one of your trees, you can call me at 519-272-5742.

Joel Hackett is a Certified Arborist Residing in the St. Marys Area. Spending most of the year running Joel's Tree Service, he also teaches Arboriculture during the winter at Lambton College.

Joel Hackett does not assume any liability for any information in this article.

An ornamental tree that definitely adds character and beauty to your garden is the flowering almond. The flowering almond is one of the prettiest ornamental that can be chosen for this growing zone. The flowering almond is also known as a double flowering plum (*Prunus triloba*) and is of the Rosaceae family.

Blooming in the spring, it has gorgeous pink flowers, with double petals. Though it can be grown in zones 4 - 8, it can sometimes be difficult to manage. This is due mainly to that fact that the Flowering Almond cannot handle mechanical damage or man-made stress very well. Because it is an ornamental it can often be damaged before final sale. When choosing this tree at a nursery it is especially important to find one with healthy roots and trunk. It is also advisable to choose

Celebrate Canada's Heritage Week
with your community at the 19th annual

St. Marys Heritage Fair

Friday, February 20, 2015, 7 to 9 p.m.

Location: Community Centre, Pyramid Recreation Centre

317 James Street South

Sponsored by the St. Marys Historical Society and the St. Marys Museum

- Free admission
- Door prizes
- Terrific displays
- Silent auction
- Refreshments

Exhibitors include organizations, groups and individuals with an interest in the rich history of this area. Please join us to learn "what's new" in local history!

For information about the Heritage Fair, contact the Museum:

519-284-3556 or museum@town.stmarys.on.ca

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