

Independent Shorts

• The Stonetown Grans are planning another Fabric and Yarn sale to raise money for the Stephen Lewis Foundation's 'Grandmothers to Grandmothers' Campaign. Funds go to promote the well-being of grandmother- or child-led households in sub-Saharan Africa in communities ravaged by HIV-AIDS, and towards the education of children orphaned by the pandemic. The sale will be held at St. Marys United Church on the morning of Saturday, May 9. The Grans will begin taking donations of unused fabric and yarn, as well as sewing notions, during the month of April, and from 9:00 am to noon at the United Church on Saturday, May 2. If you have donations for this event, contact Nancy Vermond at 519-284-2698 or nvermond@sympatico.ca. Pick up is available. In St. Marys, items can be dropped off at the Hyggeligt Fabrics Store, 144 Queen St. East, during store hours (Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Saturdays 10:00 am to 3:00 pm). For drop-off information in Stratford, call Jinny at 519-273-5028. To learn more about this partnership between Canadian and African grandmothers, visit GrandmothersCampaign.org.

• The Thorndale Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 4 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre. Attendees are asked to RSVP on the event's Facebook page with the number of children who will be attending. Don't forget your Easter basket!

• Earth Hour 2015 is tomorrow, Saturday, March 28 from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Homes and businesses around the world are encouraged to "go dark" for one hour to promote energy conservation. Environmental groups also want to people to be mindful of energy consumption year-round.

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BUSINESS OF THE WEEK

College Pro Painters

Our Business of the Week is the new College Pro Painters franchise owned by proprietor Jesse De Groot. De Groot, 21, is a DCVI grad and is currently studying business at McMaster University.

College Pro Painters began in 1971 and soon became a small business success story that created a new industry: student painting. Each year, on average, College Pro entrepreneurs serve 50,000 customers by doing exterior painting work in local communities across 28 U.S. states and 7 Canadian provinces. Since the 1970s, College Pro has given college students such as De Groot the chance to pay for their schooling and develop entrepreneurial skills for their post-graduation careers.

According to their Web site, the company receives over 25,000 applications annually, picking the most enthusiastic and promising entrepreneurs to run businesses employing painters and door-to-door marketers. "All represent the College Pro brand, so we are particular about who enters the system, and very supportive of those we choose, coaching, training and mentoring them every step of the way as they run their businesses," reads the site.

De Groot said he heard about the opportunity this past November from a colleague of his father's, who had previously run a successful business through College Pro. "I want to go into business for myself and want to know the ins and outs of a business,"

college pro
PAINTERS
together, realizing potentials

De Groot said. "I thought it would give me a lot of background knowledge along with some firsthand experience."

Beginning May 4, De Groot and the team of painters and door-to-door marketers he's currently hiring will begin offering their services to St. Marys and area, including exterior painting and staining "anything from windows to doors, decks and fences,"

on residential and commercial buildings. College Pro franchises are fully insured.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of De Groot's College Pro painting team, or who has a painting project that needs done this summer, is invited to contact De Groot by phone, at 519-949-0499, or email at jesse.degroot@rogers.com.



Tree Tips: Spring into Action



Spring is finally here, and with it hopefully some warm weather. We have finally made it through one of the coldest winters on record. Now is the best time of year, to get out in your yard and inspect your trees. It is important to do this before the leaves are back on the tree, blocking the view.

When inspecting your trees you are looking for deadwood, branches without any buds, discoloration of bark, holes

or cavities, and broken branches. All trees will have some kind of problem, and often it is not practical to address every one of them. However it is important to identify hazardous problems that can injure people or destroy property. It is also important to identify health problems that will impact the life and quality of the tree.

This time of year is also a good time to identify what trees are overcrowded; often trees will have heavy

interior growth, resulting in crossing branches, and wounds. Overcrowding will also restrict wind flow, which can cause fungus to form on the canopy, due to a buildup of moisture. If you identify that a tree is overcrowded it is best to have the tree thinned.

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 Mary's 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.

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