

Business of the Week

Nick & Dan's Collision



By Dan Rankin

Our Business of the Week is your local destination for automobile collision repair and detailing, Nick & Dan's Collision, opening Monday from its new location at 897 Erie Street Stratford and owned by siblings Andrew and Kate Tapley. Started by their parents in 1980, Kate and Andrew began to assume bigger roles with the business in 2014. Following the passing of their father Al in October, they fully took over, Kate said. "We've worked in the business on and off throughout the years," Andrew said. "I came back a few years ago and started taking care of the

books, then Kate came on board. She has a strong H.R. background and has been involved with a lot of shops out west." According to Andrew, things had started to become cramped in the old Nick & Dan's location in Stratford, at 632 Lorne Ave. East, which was roughly the same size as the St. Marys shop at 34 Wellington Street North. "It was just time for us to expand," Andrew said. "We wanted to make a big statement and do something that's new, and here we are." Nick & Dan's will be closing the St. Marys location today, however they will retain ownership

of the building. The old shops were both around 6,500 square feet he said; in their new space, they're just under 20,000. Indicating their new neighbours on Erie Street, including Stratford Toyota, Hudson's Stratford Kia and Expressway Ford, Andrew said "it made sense to do it here amongst the dealers and to make it look like a dealership, so it would fit in." "We already do a lot of business with them, whether we're buying parts from them or they're sending cars to us to fix," he added. "They always refer their customers to us as well. It'll be handy to be out here with them." Now, they can practically carry the parts from the dealerships by hand. "The location's perfect," Andrew added. "It made sense to do this on this side of Stratford, where everybody from St. Marys can come here as well." St. Marys and area customers who need work on their car can benefit from the Nick & Dan's concierge service, he said. "If you had an accident and your car was at your house, we can come and pick it up with a tow truck, or we can come and appraise it on site and leave a rental car," he said. "We still want to be part of the community, so that's how we're going to mitigate that, by offering the concierge service. We'll be able to offer better service than we did before. You don't even have to come in to the shop." Checking out their modern

new front desk and waiting room, let alone the massive new shop space, that's almost a shame. Some features will include an in-house discount car rental office, heated floors, additional bays with full painting capabilities, as well as a new parts booth, where they "can paint anything that can come off a car, like a hood or fender or door or bumper, or anything like that," Andrew said. "That will be handy to have because we do so much of that type of work. We can be painting fully three cars at a time." From their new board room, they can offer training opportunities to insurance brokers as well to staff. Kate said some new employees will be added to the team, however they are most excited about bringing all of the employees from their old locations under one roof. "Everyone's really excited about it," she said. "It's a good change. This really doesn't happen in this area very often, where people want to build a new building for their body shop to go into." With the update has come a focus on efficiency, including an improvement on natural lighting and the wide use of LED lights. "Even if it is a much bigger shop, I'm excited to see where my hydro bill will be," Andrew said. Their old phone number will stay the same, and simply ring through to the new shop. So, to contact Nick & Dan's Collision, call them at 519-284-2772 or visit NickandDansCollision.com.

Independent Shorts

- Local organizers say a scarcity of registered teams has caused them to call off the annual winter Sno-Pitch tournament, which had been scheduled for Feb. 27. The Sno-Pitch Dance, which traditionally follows the tournament, was not being planned to take place this year as last year's dance had not been a successful event, according to organizers.
- US Presidential candidate Jeb Bush's campaign team forgot to renew their ownership of the domain name JebBush.com, so this week it was bought by Donald Trump's campaign and now forwards users automatically to DonaldJTrump.com.
- St. Marys native Montana McLean appeared on CTV Morning Live in Vancouver alongside host Keri Adams on Wednesday to tell her breast cancer survival story and help promote an upcoming fundraiser, the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation's annual Wild Lilies Gala. It takes place Friday, Feb. 26 at Vancouver's Fairmont Waterfront Hotel. Find video of the interview on CTVNews.ca.
- Three films coming to theatres this weekend include Risen, starring Joseph Fiennes, which tells the story of Christ's resurrection from the point of view of a Roman Centurion (currently rated 82 percent on the movie ratings site RottenTomatoes.com), the Jesse Owens biopic Race (63 percent) and the 17th Century horror film The Witch (86 percent).



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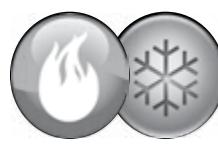
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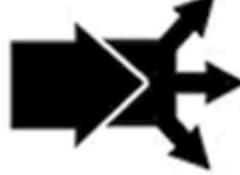
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