

Independent Shorts

• Today from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Perth County, Stratford and St. Marys are holding another Virtual Job Fair. Job seekers can register for free, upload their resumes and apply for positions online at JobFairCa.com. Employers from across the region will be available to chat online and answer questions about their companies and job postings. Sectors represented include: Manufacturing, Healthcare, Technology and Professional Services. Booths will still be available for viewing on March 21 and 22.

• The snow is finally starting to melt and members of the St. Marys Social Tennis Club are counting the days until they can take to the new courts. All tennis players are invited to attend an open house information session Tuesday, March 24 from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm in the community centre at the PRC to learn about the new courts and the benefits of being a member of the St. Marys Social Tennis Club. A presentation will take place at 8:00 pm and memberships will be on sale. Join us and start getting into the swing of things!

For more information, email stmarysocialtennisclub@gmail.com or call Andrea Macko-Hodges at 519-280-1240.

• There have already been a couple bracket-busting upsets in the opening games of the NCAA's March Madness tournament. In the Round of 64, which kicked off yesterday, 14th ranked Georgia State beat third ranked Baylor 57-56 in the West Region, University of Alabama at Birmingham (14) ousted Big 12 champs Iowa State (3) 60-59 in the South Region, and also in the South, Southern Methodist University (6) lost to UCLA (11) 60-59. According to ESPN, only 5.1 percent of entries in its Tournament Challenge had UAB beating Iowa, while over 16 percent of bracket submissions had Iowa State reaching the Final Four.

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BUSINESS OF THE WEEK

Pass It On

Our Business of the Week is Pass it On, located at 31 Water Street in St. Marys and owned by Carey Pope. Pope opened the socially- and environmentally-conscious thrift store in 2004, expanding a "Pass it On Home" section dealing in furniture and décor last year.

Pass it On specializes in selling vintage fashions, décor and books at affordable prices. Donations of clothing and furniture are always accepted. Books start at \$1 and clothing is \$3 and up, Pope said. "I have Wicked Wednesday sales, when clothing is always half price," she added.

Pope recently learned that Pass it On has been nominated as part of the Stratford & District Chamber of Commerce's 19th Annual Business Excellence Awards. Pope said she was very excited about the

recognition. "I think I have an awesome chance," she said. "I've been nominated before but now with how the store's developed and everything - I hope I win."

If an ecologically responsible and socially conscious store like hers can get attention from the chamber of commerce, "that's kind of cool, the direction things are going," she said. "To think that a shop like mine is in the same calibre as some other amazing stores; that's one of the highlights that makes me so excited."

Two donation items Pope is especially pushing for at this time are bicycles, preferably mountain bikes, the refurbishment of which she oversees before sending them to communities in Haiti, Cuba and around Africa, as well as baseball equipment.

"I go down to the Domini-



can Republic a couple of times a year, and soon I'll be travelling to Samana there," she said. "I'm taking baseball equipment and a laptop to help one of the coaches keep track of the kids' data."

Pass it On is open 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Saturday and 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm Sundays. Find Pass it on Store on Facebook, visit PassItOnStore.com, or call them at 519-284-0059.



Tree Tips: Paperbark Maple



In this article we will return once again to the subject of ornamental trees. A very nice ornamental, that is often overlooked is the Paperbark Maple (*Acer griseum*). The Paperbark Maple is a small to medium size tree, and is mostly known for its rich chestnut colored peeling bark. This tree is attractive year round, and is a good choice for most home owners, due to its ability to withstand a fair

amount of urban pollution. Like all trees, the Paperbark Maple does have flowers, but they often come and go unnoticed. However with its dark bluish-green foliage, and unique leaves it will quickly become a garden favorite. After the growing season is over the foliage, then turns to an attractive red in the fall.

The Paperbark Maple is an excellent choice for

most homeowners, not only is it attractive, it is also low maintenance. This type of tree is fairly easy to find at most nurseries, and is an affordable option. The Paperbark Maple requires full sun, and should be planted in an area that has room for growth. The Paperbark Maple can over time, grow up to 25ft high and 20ft wide.

1- 800 - 563 - 7711. Thankfully there are a number of pesticides and fungicides available to treat the problem.

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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