

Independent Shorts

- Perth County, the City of Stratford and the Town of St. Marys are hosting a 'Virtual Job Fair' today from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. A release calls it a "great opportunity to connect with over 18 employers from across Perth County participating in the event from a variety of sectors (Manufacturing, Agriculture, Transportation and Healthcare)." For more information and to register, go to JobFairCA.com.
- The Stratford Community Players' production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella continues tonight and throughout the weekend at St. Michael Catholic Secondary School's Eckert Hall. Performances take place tonight and Saturday at 7:30 pm, as well as Saturday at 2:00 pm and Sunday at 12:30 pm. Tickets are \$20 per person. For more information call 519-274-0490 or visit StratfordCommunityPlayers.com.
- The Science Hill Drifters snowmobile club will try for a Guinness World Record on Sunday, Feb. 8, beginning at 11:00 am. The club, and about 800 of their friends, will travel a marked route of just over nine km, beginning and ending at the club's headquarters northwest of St. Marys. Registration is open until 11:00 am Sunday. A registration form can be found on the club's Web site at ScienceHillDrifters.com. There is a registration fee of \$10 per sled. For more information, find the group on Facebook.

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BUSINESS OF THE WEEK

Purple Hill Country Music Hall

Our Business of the Week is the Purple Hill Country Music Hall, owned by George and Anna Taylor and located at 20903 Purple Hill Road, between Thorndale Road and Dundas Street.

After a trip to Alberta to buy cattle in the early 1990s, the Taylors came back to their farm near Thorndale with an idea. "We saw two auction barns, one in Fort Macleod and one in High River, that were absolutely beautiful," said George. "I said to my two boys who were also auctioneers that we should go home and build something like this."

The auction barn was completed in 1992, and for a little over 10 years the Taylors hosted regular auctions there. But soon another type of event overtook the auctions. "The weddings really took off and were in competition with the auctions," he said. Since 2005, they have stopped holding auctions, and now host about two weddings per week during the busy season between



April and November. When couples aren't getting hitched at the hall, the Taylors regularly welcome country music performers for concerts. The hall hosts roast beef dinner "Opry Shows" on the first Sunday of every month that have featured performances from Country Music Hall of Famers, Juno Award winners, Canadian step dancing champions and many other Canadian recording artists.

The atmosphere, décor and surroundings of the

hall are unmistakably country. Situated on land belonging to the Taylor family since 1853, the Hall is surrounded by seven acres of lawns and gardens, an outdoor bandstand and a 60 foot steel bridge spanning spring-fed ponds, all of which are accessible for outdoor weddings. Inside the wheelchair-accessible banquet hall are 20 foot ceilings, a pair of stages, space for a dance floor and seating area, and 140 feet of balcony. All around on the walls and doors are agricultural artifacts

and Canadiana, from the "Tree of Life," made of real grape vines, stringed lights and nine rotary hoe teeth to the antique horse-racing sulky. The hall can hold gatherings of over 300 people.

Two upcoming events at the hall include their Valentine's Day Special, on Saturday, Feb. 14 at 8:00 pm, featuring Amberley Beatty's "Patsy Cline and Loretta Lynn Show." Beer and wine will be available at the one-of-a-kind tribute show. Tickets are \$25 per person. Next month, come see "The Ladies of Classic Country" at 2:00 pm on Sunday, March 1. The variety show includes Country Music Hall of Fame singer Marie Bottrell, three-time Canadian singing champion Joan Spalding, stepdancer Tiffany Fewster and more. Call Anna at 519-461-0538 to book tickets for these and other events. Visit purplehillcountryhall.com or [Facebook.com/purplehillcountryhall](https://www.facebook.com/purplehillcountryhall) for more information.



Dormancy is the period in a life cycle of a plant where growth and development is temporarily halted. In plants there are two different kinds of dormancy, endo-dormancy happens in between the growing seasons (e.g. winter) and eco-dormancy. During endo-dormancy the plant will actually track chilling hours, or hours when the temperature is above freezing, and not put energy into growth for a short time. But as the weather becomes colder for longer the plant will enter into a deeper dormancy or eco-dormancy. Eco-dormancy is where growth and development is stopped and the tree begins to conserve energy due to

Tree Tips: Dormancy

environmental changes. In a deciduous tree it is especially easy to see when it has entered its eco-dormant phase. The leaves begin to lose their green color and fall off the tree. This only happens in deciduous and some conifer trees, it should not be happening with your evergreen. Evergreens do become dormant but, it is harder to determine.

During eco-dormancy, a tree begins to use the nutrients and sugars that have been stored over the past growing season. Since the metabolism of the tree has slowed considerably these resources are used up very slowly, over an extensive time period.

Dormancy is extremely important to the life cycle of a tree. If the tree did not go dormant over the winter, it would quickly be killed by the extreme cold, and lack of nutrients.

*If you have a question, you can email me at [jts-
quote@gmail.com](mailto:jts-
quote@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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