

Independent Shorts

- A ban on all open fires has been implemented across all Perth County municipalities due to hot, dry conditions. The only exceptions to the rule are cooking fires within approved campgrounds from noon until midnight only. After midnight all cooking fires must be fully extinguished. Anyone who discovers a fire in the open is asked to call 911 immediately. All burning permits are suspended and none will be issued until the ban is lifted. For more information call your local fire department.
- The Happy Valley Family Health Team will be holding a garage sale at 268 Maiden Lane to benefit the St. Marys Memorial Hospital Foundation on Saturday, July 16 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. All items are being sold by donation with proceeds going to the hospital foundation
- Tired of travelling to London or Stratford to shop for your favourite products? CanadianTire.ca offers a great solution for residents of St. Marys. "If you're looking for a larger or specific item that we don't have in-store, simply purchase online and the item will be delivered to the store within a few days," said April Lee, of Team Canadian Tire, St. Marys. "Let us do the work for you, making local shopping easier and more convenient than ever." Customers simply need to follow a three-step process: First, go online to CanadianTire.ca and choose St. Marys as your store. Next, select your products for purchase, and place them in your virtual shopping cart. An email notification will be sent to customers when the order is ready to be picked up.
- This Saturday and for the rest of the farmer's market season, the St. Marys Farmer's Market will be returning to its old home, the Jones Street Parking lot next to the Source.

Business of the Week

Robson Scrap Metals Ltd.



By Dan Rankin

Our Business of the Week is Robson Scrap Metals Ltd., owned by Kent Robson and located at 206 Carling Street, Suite 211 in St. Marys.

The old idiom "One man's trash is another man's treasure" takes on a whole new level of meaning out at Robson's, where they buy and recycle all non-ferrous scrap metal, such as copper, brass, aluminum, tin and steel.

"The most common things brought in are farm machinery, pop cans, aluminum siding, and copper and brass out of houses," Robson said, adding that other popular drop-offs include automobiles, propane tanks, lawnmowers and batteries. "We process material, and then send it to Hamilton to a shredder to be processed into new machinery, or new cars, or whatever the steel mills are looking for."

Robson said the yard has been around since the mid 1950's, while

he has worked there in some fashion since 1980. One of the major reasons for their continued popularity over the years? Not everyone pays you to recycle. "Every time you throw out an empty case of pop, you basically throw away 50 cents," he said, indicating that there is a better spot to bring your spent pop cans than to a landfill.

"When we receive cars we safely drain all the fluids ourselves," he added.

Five people work at the two-acre yard which is open year-round and recently has been serving between 50 and 75 customers per day, Robson said. In the yard, machinery they operate includes some industrial weight scales, as well as "scrap handlers, that are basically like the excavators you see working and moving dirt on Queen Street downtown," and a "big material handler for seeing into loads from tractor trailers, with a big magnet and a grapple on

it," he said.

Robson called the current prices of scrap and other metals "fair," noting that "they're not as high as they were in 2008, but they are to where they've been for a few years now."

According to Robson, the price for scrap metal reached a peak of \$230 per tonne around April 2008, but shrank to \$25 per tonne by December of that year. One might expect the stock market downturn and the so-called "Great Recession" that struck in 2007-2008 to have been behind the downturn in scrap metal prices. But, while Robson admits that had some impact, the bigger factor he contributes to the price dip was the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics.

"The market crashed once the 2008 Olympics started," he said. "When they were starting to get everything ready for the Summer Olympics, the prices went through the roof. Any building over there that was over 15 years old, they knocked down and put new ones

up before the Olympics. As soon as the games started, they quit buying. There was a dramatic slowdown after that for about six months."

When Beijing and the Chinese city of Zhangjiakou won their bid to host the 2022 Winter Olympics last summer, the scrap metal trade publication ScrapRegister.com reported that domestic demand for steel for venue and infrastructure construction would increase once again. "During the 7-year's preparation for the Beijing 2008's Olympic Games, around 85 million tonnes of construction steel was consumed annually," they wrote. "Despite a much smaller investment scale of 2022's Games, it will give a boost to domestic steel demand." So, keep an eye out for another price uptick as those Games rapidly approach.

Robson Scrap Metals Ltd. is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, and Saturdays 8:00 am to 11:30 am. For more information, call 519-284-2800.

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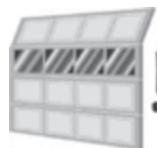
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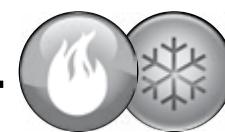
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