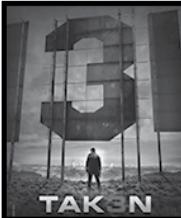


Independent Shorts

- Tomorrow (Saturday, April 25) beginning at 10:00 am, the St. Marys Kinsmen present their third 'Storage Battles' auction at St. Marys Mini Storage, located just south of town at 1894 James Street South. Along with auctions of the contents of a few genuine delinquent lockers, the Kinsmen have dressed up some other lockers with donated goods perfect for home owners, students, sports enthusiasts, and antique collectors. The day's events will be run in the style popularized on the hit TV show Storage Wars, overseen by professional auctioneer Roger McKay. Sales are cash-only and bidders are responsible for removing their items the day of the auction. It will be a rain, snow, or shine event. Entry is free; show up early to register. For more information, visit StMarysKinsmen.com.
- With just over a week to go before the third edition of the (heart) Beat Goes On Gala on May 2, members of the St. Marys Memorial Hospital Foundation are pleased to announce that all 240 dinner tickets for the fundraiser have been spoken for. The past two galas raised over \$50,000 for the St. Marys Memorial Hospital and Wellness Centre. Thanks to broad community support in terms of ticket sales and auction items, they expect this gala will greatly bolster that total. All funds raised remain in St. Marys as part of the \$5 million "Someone I Know" capital campaign for the hospital and Wellness Centre. Dance-only tickets are still available at Sam's Home Hardware, the Municipal Operations Centre (on James Street South), and at the hospital foundation office (519-284-1332, ext. 3306). The tickets are \$25 each, and allow for entry beginning at 9:30 p.m., when the Chris Brine Band will be taking the stage.
- The St. Marys Community Players production of Harvey opens tonight at 8:00 pm at the St. Marys Town Hall Theatre. The show continues this weekend with matinee performances beginning at 2:00 pm Saturday and Sunday. Thursday, April 30 through Saturday, May 2, Harvey shows at 8:00 pm each night. The show closes with a matinee Sunday, May 3 at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$20 each and are on sale at The Flower Shop and More in St. Marys (519-284-2013) or online at StMarysCommunityPlayers.ca. Restaurant and show packages are also available.

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BUSINESS OF THE WEEK

The Hitching Post Ltd.



Our Business of the Week is agricultural retailer The Hitching Post Ltd., located at 480 Queen Street West and owned by Stephen and Stephanie Hutton. Since 2001, the Huttons have owned the Hitching Post, a dairy centre of excellence selling Shur-Gain products for dairy farmers and a wide range of other products and services.

Besides providing products for farmers of all kinds, ranging from hardware and work wear to animal feed and fertilizer, the Hitching Post also helps dairy farmers balance their rations, owner manager Stephen Hutton said. "We take feed samples, run it through the program Shur-Gain gives us and that gives us a report on what products we can feed the animals to maximize milk production and minimize cost," he said.

"One farmer's haylage might have higher protein than someone else's, so each formula we make is 100 percent custom to the farm." Hutton grew up on a farm south of St. Marys in Uniondale and began working at Shur-Gain in 1991. "I was in dairy sales, and also working for the Hitching Post one day a week," he said. When the opportunity to buy the business came from the previous owner, Hutton decided to take it.

The history of the business can actually be traced back to the Great Star Flour Mills of St. Marys, which were formerly located behind the Opera House, Hutton said. The Hitching Post has been operational in its current location since 1974, he added. With spring in bloom, some of the products and services offered by the Hitching Post that will be in high demand include grass and garden seeds, fertilizer, pool chemicals, patio furniture by C.R.

Plastics of Stratford, and trees. Hutton said some trees were scheduled to arrive at the store this week, while late frost meant other varieties wouldn't be delivered until next week. This is also the time of year to take advantage of the store's "Chick Days," with various kinds of chickens, turkeys and waterfowl available for order. Place an order before May 8 for pick up on June 16.

This is the second year the Hitching Post will offer fence installation and repair, to go along with the fencing equipment available in store. Rounding out the list of items for sale at the Hitching Post is flour, bird seed, pet food, farm collectibles and water softener salt.

For more information, visit TheHitchingPost.ca or call 519-284-2360.

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Tree Tips: Reasons to Remove



Sooner or later every homeowner will have to ask themselves the question, when is tree removal really necessary? In this article we will look at a variety of reasons, for why and when to remove a tree. Nobody likes to see a tree go; it changes the landscape, leaves a big gap, and affects the environment. However sometimes it is necessary.

The number one reason for removing a tree would be that it is dead. Dead trees should be removed immediately, the longer you

wait, the more dangerous it becomes. The next reason would be if the tree is in decline or diseased. If you know a tree is in serious decline or diseased, it is often better to remove the tree before it dies, as it is much safer to work with. It can also be cheaper in some cases.

Sometimes trees are damaged seriously in storms, if possible it is recommended to save the tree, but often this is not an option. If the damage is too devastating for the tree to heal and re-

cover, the tree should be removed and replaced.

Anytime a tree is a danger to human life it should be removed, for example when a tree is leaning towards a house or playground. Safety concerns could also include serious rot or decay in high traffic areas. Sometimes it could just be that there is too much over growth blocking the view, when turning into traffic.

There are also less serious reasons to consider removing a tree, property damage, such as roots growing into a foundation. The tree is making a major mess with sap, dead branches, leaves, and seeds. Lastly, that the tree grew or was planted in an area, that had no room for growth.

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 Marys 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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