

# Independent Shorts

• (Thames Centre, ON) – On February 23 The Middlesex County Ontario Provincial Police responded to the scene of a sudden death. At approximately 2:02 p.m. the Middlesex County OPP were dispatched to a residential property in the 6000 block of Cobble Hills Road. A 53 year old male from Thames Centre, Ontario, had been cutting down a tree. The large tree fell and struck the male. The victim suffered fatal injuries, and was pronounced dead at the scene. He has been identified as Garnett Smith. Foul play is not suspected.

• March 1 is St. David's Day, which celebrates St. David, the Patron Saint of Wales believed to have died in the year 589. He is credited with founding several churches and a monastery in Wales and eventually became an archbishop. Though not a public holiday, many communities in the United Kingdom recognize the celebration with parades and other special programs. The Welsh flag, which features a red dragon on a white and green background, is flown proudly and many people pin daffodils or leeks to their clothes.

• The big winners at the 87th Academy Awards last Sunday were Birdman and The Grand Budapest Hotel, which both took home four Oscars. Awards won by Birdman, starring Michael Keaton and directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu, included Best Picture, Best Director, Best Cinematography and Best Original Screenplay. The Grand Budapest Hotel, directed by Wes Anderson, won Best Costume Design, Best Makeup, Best Production Design, and Best Original Score.

## BUSINESS OF THE WEEK

### Wildstone Bar & Grill



Our Business of the Week is the Wildstone Bar & Grill, located in the Stone Willow Inn at 940 Queen Street East in St. Marys. The reason we've turned to them this week is because, beginning this Monday, March 2 and continuing throughout the month of March, Wildstone is holding its first ever Craft Beer Festival.

From 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm for the next four Mondays, a different representative from a fine Ontario craft brewery will be on hand offering samples at the Wildstone. The first craft brewery represented will be Steam Whistle, based in Toronto. "They'll be here and they're bringing beer to sample and other giveaways, everybody will be dressed in branded gear and we'll be offering recipes and menu features all week featuring Steam Whistle beer," said food and beverage manager Rhonda Klein. Those featured menu items will carry on all week, with Steam Whistle Pilsner available at the

bar for all of March. "Also, all week long, people can enter to win a prize from Steam Whistle with no purchase necessary."

Next up will be Flying Monkeys Craft Brewery, with sampling taking place March 9 and its themed week running March 9 – March 14, followed by Railway City Brewing Company March 16 – March 21, and Mill Street Brewery March 23 to March 28.

Up for grabs from Steam Whistle will be a vintage wall beer opener, Klein said. The other breweries taking part will also all be bringing prizes. "The

Mill Street prize later this week will be a vintage cooler, she said. "Every Saturday night in March at 8:00 pm we'll draw for that week's prize," said Klein.

The reason to hold a festival like this, Klein said, was to inject a little life into the normally "blah" month of March. "We thought March needs some life," she said. "So this festival was a brain storm that took on a life of its own. When I started contacting craft breweries, they were excited to be a part of it and they're bringing far above and beyond what I had hoped they'd bring."

Klein said she also intends to use the response patrons give regarding the different craft beers as a guide for the beers Wildstone carries this spring and summer. "We'll see what people like, and if people love something we'll feature it all season," she said.

Wildstone Bar & Grill is open 11:30 am to 9:00 pm Monday to Thursday and 11:30 am to 10:00 pm Fridays and Saturdays. They're closed Sundays, but available to be booked for private functions. For more information, visit StoneWillow.com, or call 519-284-4140.

## Tree Tips: The Magnolia Tree



Magnolia is a large genus, which includes about 210 flowering plant species. The most common Magnolia in this area, is commonly known as the Japanese Magnolia. The Japanese Magnolia is properly referred to in Latin as Magnolia Liliiflora. This tree is very well known, and is commonly seen even in movies, such as "The Last Samurai," which featured Tom Cruise as the main actor.

Though all trees flower in one way or another, the Japanese Magnolia is normally the second obvious flowering tree of the season. The Japanese Magnolia has a large pink and white flower, which normally blooms a week after the Red Bud Tree blooms. It is a moderately fast growing tree, and can be found in different sizes from a small shrub, up to 25 ft. tall and 30 ft. wide.

This species of Magnolia tree is normally fairly low maintenance, and when placed in the proper horticultural conditions. The Japanese Magnolia tree should be planted in full sun or partial shade. It prefers moist soil, but one should be careful not to

place it somewhere that gets flooded or waterlogged.

The number one problem that is commonly seen with this tree is Magnolia scale. An insect pest that forms lumpy and messy colonies all over the leaves. This is normally treated by spraying the tree with horticultural oil.

If you have a question, you can email me at [jtsquote@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**ML** **McCOTTER**  
**LAW OFFICE**

**Stephen McCotter**

Barrister, Solicitor & Notary Public

[www.mccotterlawoffice.com](http://www.mccotterlawoffice.com)

[stephen@mccotterlawoffice.com](mailto:stephen@mccotterlawoffice.com)

50 Water St. S., St. Marys

226-661-5297 519-284-2840

*My Needle Crafts*  
by Cheryl Bage

519-284-8060  
169 James St. South

**Sewing and Alterations**

Can't get out? No problem. Pick up service available!

*Westover Inn*

**BRASSERIE NIGHT!**  
Every Thursday 4:30 - 9:00pm  
**NEW MENU**  
all menu items under \$20

☎ 519.284.2977

300 Thomas Street, St. Marys, Ontario. | [www.westoverinn.com](http://www.westoverinn.com) | [reservations@westoverinn.com](mailto:reservations@westoverinn.com)

St. Marys Independent

**"Since moving my business to St. Marys, I have been overwhelmed by the positive response of the community to my advertisement in the St. Marys Independent paper!"**

~ Katherine Ballantyne, RMT, Stonetown Chiropractic & Wellness Centre