

Independent Shorts

- Ostomy Stratford and Area will be meeting for a fun evening June 7 at Crabby Joe's in Stratford, at 6:00 pm. For more information call 519-273-3364.
- Our Business of the Week in this issue is the St. Marys Farmers' Market, which begins its 2016 season on Saturday. However, another nearby Farmer's Market starts up soon: The Thorndale Community Farmers' Market. It opens for the first time this year June 4, and continues Saturdays from 8:00 am to noon until Oct. 10. The market is located at 172 King Street in Thorndale, on the lot of St. George's-on-the-Wye Anglican Church.
- Toronto-born journalist Morley Safer, longtime contributor to CBS' 60 Minutes who announced his retirement from the show mere days ago, died Thursday at the age of 84. His journalism career lasted over 60 years, 46 of which he spent working at 60 Minutes. CBS aired a special tribute to him on Sunday entitled Morley Safer: A Reporter's Life, chronicling his prolific body of work from the front lines of Vietnam to his later years interviewing such celebrities as Betty Ford, Jackie Gleason and Alec Baldwin. Available to view online, that special episode does a better job paying tribute to Safer than we ever could here.
- The Thames River Paddling Club is hosting a Youth Dragon Boat Challenge on Sunday, May 29 at Wildwood Conservation Area. Races between teams from across the region consisting of athletes between the ages of 11-18 will take place between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm. Registration and practice starts at 10:00 am. There is a \$25 registration fee per person. For more information, email info.trpc@gmail.com or call 59-301-2540.

Business of the Week St. Marys Farmers' Market



By Dan Rankin

Our Business of the Week is the St. Marys Farmers' Market, which opens for its 2016 season tomorrow morning beginning at 8:00 am. The market began in its current form in 1992, and since then has been offering community-focused, locally grown vegetables, baked goods, preserves and other fresh food to the people of St. Marys and area.

Regular patrons of the market and its vendors are reminded that beginning tomorrow and for the duration of the downtown construction, while parking is at a premium around the core, the market will not be located in its regular spot in the Jones Street parking lot next to The Source.

Instead, thanks to a generous offer from Andrew L. Hodges Funeral Home Ltd. co-owners Andrew Hodges and Andrea Macko-Hodges, on Saturdays throughout May and June the market will be located in the parking lot located adjacent to the south side of the local funeral home (47 Wellington St. South), Farmers' Market manager Lynette Geddes said.

"We're hoping that Heritage Weekend we'll be back at our usual site," she said. "That's when we start to get a lot more vegetables, so we need more space, and also we have our big pancake breakfast on Heritage Weekend."

Apart from the Heritage Festival pancake breakfast, planned for July 9, other special days planned for the Farmer's Market include Strawberry Shortcake Day, set for June 18, Apple Pie Day, planned for Oct. 1, a pair of Soup Days, in mid-September and October, and a Demonstration Day, tentatively scheduled for August, Geddes said.

"The vendors will have some featured items with recipes, so, for instance, ways to use certain vegetables in meals," she said. "That's still a work in progress that will be new for this year."

By the time the market is in full swing, it will include as many as 20

vendors including such returning businesses as Sheldon Berries, Ann Slater's Fresh Organic Vegetables, Eschol Farm, Breadtopia, and Transvaal Farms. However, tomorrow the items on offer will mainly include baked goods, preserves, frozen meats and salad greens, Geddes said. "There isn't a lot of produce for the first couple of weeks," she said.

Geddes said judging by the people she sees week in and week out at the farmers' market, it appeals to people "who are interested in having a connection to where their food comes from."

"This is all local food," Geddes said. "It's a pro-

ducer-based market. We're a lot different from the grocery store or even some farmers' markets, like in Stratford, where they import food. Ours has a real local connection."

Goods sold at the St. Marys Farmer's Market must be locally produced by the vendor. New vendors are always welcome. The market runs Saturdays from 8:00 am until noon through until Oct. 29. For more information, visit StMarysFarmersMarket.ca, find the farmers' market on Facebook, or contact St. Marys Farmers' Market Association chair Ann Slater by email at ASlater@quadro.net or phone at 519-349-2448.

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Our Business of the Week article on Black's Financial Services last week incorrectly identified RRSP interest income as fully taxable. The sentence should have read, "With non-registered funds and GICs, interest income is fully taxable."