

# Independent Shorts

- Festival Sounds Chorus is a chapter of Sweet Adelines International. They are a group of women that love to sing and entertain. Singing is in 4-part harmony, acapella in the barbershop style. They practice weekly in Stratford but also come from St. Marys, Embro, Milverton, Mitchell, Woodstock and Dashwood. Their next show is Saturday, June 4 at St. Michael Catholic Secondary School. To reserve your ticket please call 519-284-1917. Tickets can also be purchased at the door.
- This year's Drive 4UR Community event, presented by St. Marys Ford and taking place Saturday, June 11 will benefit the St. Marys Memorial Hospital Foundation. The event will run from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in the St. Marys Memorial Hospital Parking lot. For each test drive, \$20 will be donated to the foundation, up to a maximum of \$6,000. That means 300 test drivers will be accepted. Test drives are free, but pre-registration is suggested (drive4ur.com/en/driveforsomeoneiknow), and only one driver is permitted per household. Interested drivers can also register at the St. Marys Farmers' Market on Saturday – just look for the lemonade stand.
- In other Hospital Foundation news, the Brightest Night trestle cocktail party scheduled for Friday, June 24 is well on its way to selling out. Pickup tickets this at the St. Marys Farmers' Market, online at someoneiknow.ca, or by calling Andrea Macko-Hodges at 519-280-1240.
- Three films coming to theatres this weekend include the sequel to the 2014 series reboot "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows" (which currently has a poor 30 percent rating on the movie review site RottenTomatoes.com), the romantic tearjerker "Me Before You," starring Game of Thrones' Emilia Clarke (which has a rating of 51 percent) and the Justin Bieber-spoofing music comedy "Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping," starring Andy Samberg (which has a rating of 83 percent, making it this week's Indy Film Pick).

# Business of the Week

## Blanshard Nursery School



By Dan Rankin

Our Business of the Week is the Blanshard Nursery School, which the Town of St. Marys has operated for the past two years and is currently housed on Holy Name of Mary School's main floor.

The nursery school program has long term plans to operate out of Holy Name's upper floor, accessible from the school's adjacent church-side parking lot, said Early Learning Services supervisor Marilyn Greene. However, as the process

of preparing that space gets underway, the nursery school will move temporarily to the Pyramid Centre, where it will operate out of the Friendship Centre from September to December later this year.

"We're just in the first stages now basically," said Greene of the transition. "It will take some time. We're not anticipating to move upstairs until January."

At that time, Early Learning Services, which already includes toddler care for children 18

months and up, will also be expanded to serve infants up to 18 months old, Greene said.

The nursery school program currently operates during the school calendar, offering care from 9:00 am to 11:30 am on Wednesdays and Fridays for up to 16 children aged 30 months to five years. The nursery school held an open house this week so parents interested in registering their children for Wednesdays or Fridays in the fall could come in and see what takes place there in a typical morning, Greene said.

A normal day at the nursery school begins with

free play, followed by a mid-morning snack, and then special activities such as crafts, time in the gym or outside on the school grounds, she said. By then, it's 11:30 am and parents are picking up their kids.

Nursery school staff and registered early childhood educators Laura Truax and Patricia Foensenek oversee things, along with program assistant Dianne Archer, with a focus on teaching communication and social skills to the children, Greene said.

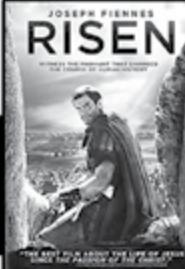
"A lot of the children this year have been country children, so it's good to get them out of their homes and into an environment where they meet other children and have a group experience," said Truax. "Some of these children will go to school together in September, so they've already made a friendship they can carry on into a new school."

Looking ahead, the crafts, songs and stories later this month will be based around Father's Day, Truax added. "Our programs and crafts correspond with what's happening on the calendar," she said.

It's not too late to register children for September, Greene said. For more information, call 519-284-3121 or email mgreene@town.stmarys.on.ca.

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**Princess Belle**  
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**Fun Fair**

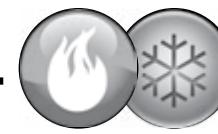
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