

# Independent Shorts

- Tickets for the St. Marys Memorial Hospital Foundation's first-ever Brightest Night party on the trestle are going fast! The donor recognition cocktail party takes place in just two weeks, on Friday, June 24 from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm right on the Grand Trunk Trail trestle bridge overlooking scenic St. Marys. Each \$50 ticket includes one alcoholic beverage from sponsors Steam Whistle Brewery or Niagara-on-the-Lake-based Big Head Wines, and a selection of appetizers. Seating will be available on the trestle to enjoy the view, and a golf cart shuttle is available from the event entrance on Wellington Street. Tickets can be purchased Online by clicking on "events" at someoneiknow.ca, or by calling foundation member Andrea Macko at 519-280-1240.
- Congratulations to Bickell Built Homes, for the four Stratford and Area Builders' Association (SABA) Awards they won Wednesday night at the association's Awards of Distinction Gala, including the award for 2015-2016 Builder of the Year. "These awards truly belong as much to our customers, trades and Suppliers as they do to Bickell Built Homes," the local builders recently posted on their Facebook page. "This was our best result ever at the awards gala and we couldn't have done it without our amazing team."
- Three films coming to theatres this weekend include the fantasy film Warcraft, based on the long-running video game series (currently rated 22 percent on the movie review site RottenTomatoes.com), the star-studded magic heist sequel Now You See Me 2 (with a rating of 40 percent), and the demonic possession sequel The Conjuring 2 (currently fresh at 67 percent, making it this week's Indy Film Pick).

# Business of the Week

## StoneTown Alterations

By Dan Rankin

Our Business of the Week is your destination for bridal, graduation or costume resizing and restyling, StoneTown Alterations, owned by professional seamstress Ingrid Voermans and located at 11 Margaret Court in St. Marys.

Voermans launched her business in January, but her 30 years of experience as a seamstress can be drawn back to her high school education in the Netherlands. She first learned to sew when she was 12, and then spent an extra year after college focusing entirely on making patterns for women's outfits. Her first job in the field came when she was 21, when she would hold sessions in her home three nights a week to teach young mothers the basics of sewing, "like how to make clothing for their child, and



repairing buttons and zippers," she said. A subsequent job with a dry cleaner helped her become an expert on working with fabrics of all kinds.

Voermans came to Canada in 2000, and worked briefly at a bridal shop in London, but soon decided to slow down her business while she raised her kids and learned the language. Though she kept up doing alterations around the house and for some neighbours, she describes this time as a bit of "a gap."

Last August, she decided she was going to make the leap and start her own business. "I knew I was a seamstress but nobody else did," she said. "So I got a phone number and a website – my husband is really good with all that stuff – and I focused on putting it all together with Facebook and a name and a logo. I launched StoneTown Alterations in January."

Since then, one of her most notable jobs has been creating the outfits for the character of Gwendolyn in the recent St. Marys Community Players production of The Importance of Being Earnest. "I would like to do work for them again if they do another play set in an historical time frame," said Voermans, who aspires to do costume work for dance and theatre groups in Stratford. "I'm really excited about the idea of creating costumes from scratch."

Today, she offers a wide range of services for women and men, including – for women – wedding, bridesmaid and prom dress alterations, restyling and resizing dresses, skirts and blouses, and shortening or lengthening garments, and – for men – hemming pants and jeans, hemming with a heel guard, replacing zippers, lengthening, letting out or resizing pants, jackets and shirts,

and work on a suit's cuff, waist, seat or crotch. She also can create and alter home décor items including, but not limited to curtains, pillow cases, table cloths, chair covers and barbecue covers.

Voermans said she recommends brides and bridal parties interested in having alterations done come in roughly two-three months before the wedding. "Then, when something happens to change the fit of the dress, they can come back and I can do one major alteration for them, rather than doing a lot of small ones," she said. "It's more frustrating for a bride to come back four or five times, getting stressed out because the dress doesn't fit."

Voermans has a flexible schedule to accept appointments and complete tasks. Appointments can take place in the evenings or on weekends, though she is closed Sundays. During an appointment, "they can show me what they have, and I'll let them talk about it," she said. "Then I step out and they'll try that on, and I start to picture how the garment can fit on them and give them some of my own tips and ideas."

She said it's important for customers to bring to fittings not only the garment they want altered, but also their undergarments, shoes, and accessories. "With all of the pieces in place, it'll be easier to envision your look," she said.

For more information, find StoneTown Alterations on Facebook, visit StoneTownAlterations.ca, email stone-townalterations@gmail.com, or call 519-703-2007.





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