

# Independent Shorts

## Blood needed!

Canadian Blood Services is calling on 122 donors in St. Marys and area to help meet patient needs this summer. The next opportunity to donate blood is a mobile clinic on Monday, Aug. 1, 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the Pyramid Recreation Centre, 317 James Street South. To book an appointment to give blood, use the Give Blood App or visit [blood.ca](http://blood.ca). Those with appointments are encouraged to keep their appointment and, if possible, bring a friend or family member to donate with them. Walk-ins are also welcome. Check out the status of our national blood inventory on [blood.ca](http://blood.ca).

## Fire Ban Still In Effect

All open air fires are still prohibited in Perth County. Open air fires are defined as any fire outside of a building and include bonfires, campfires, burn barrels, outdoor fireplaces/chimineas or any other fires set in open air. The only exceptions to the ban are cooking fires within approved campgrounds and campfires within the City of Stratford. Cooking fires in approved campgrounds are permitted on campsites from noon (12:00PM) to midnight (12:00AM) only. After midnight, all fires must be completely extinguished. This fire ban is being imposed due to the extreme dryness of all vegetation in Perth County. Provincial forest and wild-land fire indicators are all at extreme levels. This ban shall remain in effect until further notice. With the pending grain harvest, farmers are encouraged to exercise extreme caution with combining, as field fires can quickly overtake equipment, neighbouring crops and these fires can spread quickly into adjacent woodlands. If you discover an open air fire, it is very important that you report fires immediately to 9-1-1. Do not delay reporting while attempting to control or extinguish the fire.

All burn permits in Perth County are suspended. No burn permits will be issued until the ban is lifted.

## DVD RENTALS

\$3.49 / 2 Days

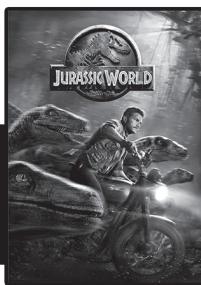
NEW RELEASES WEEKLY!

## M&M Variety

Movie Rental of the week:

Jurassic World

PG



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7 am – 7 pm Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
7 am – 2 pm Monday, Tuesday, Sunday

# Business of the Week

## Dale's Performance Automotive



By Dan Rankin

Our Business of the Week, Dale's Performance Automotive, located at 5980 Victoria Avenue in Kirkton and owned by Dennis Dale, is the go-to destination for a wide variety of automotive maintenance needs for drivers of all kinds of vehicles, specializing in the repair and restoration of hot rods and classic cars.

Dale's was first established in Stratford in 2001, but the owner points out that his family has been involved in automotive repair for a lot longer than that.

"My great grandfather had Dale's Transport in Stratford back in 1925," said Dennis, showing off a restored 1931 Model A Ford near the garage's entrance that his father Gary customized with a 'Dale's Transport' sign. "It goes back a long time. There are a lot of cars in the Dale family."

Another car populating the colourful parking lot at Dale's is an orange 1956 Chevrolet Belair that was his very first ve-

hicle. "I've had it since I was 16, so, 25 years," he said. "I've always been into old cars."

Despite that interest, he wasn't always sure he wanted to be a mechanic. "In high school I had a car, but I wasn't really a 'car guy'," he said. "I thought I would go through to be a machinist."

But, after school, he got a job at Stratford Motor Products and, "it just progressed," he said. "Eventually, they said, 'do you want to go to trade school? It's free because GM pays for it.' I said sure, and they sent me to Fanshawe for the GM-ASEP (General Motors Automotive Service Educational Program) course back around 1995. That's where I did my apprenticeship."

After eight years at SMP, Dale opened his own shop in October 2001. He operated there for 14 years until learning the owner of that building intended to sell it. Dale said he was faced with a decision, and wasn't much interested in buy-



ing the old two-bay garage. However, right next door to the Kirkton home where he and his wife Sara lived, he saw an opportunity in the building that once housed Nesbit Electric Ltd.

"I came over and looked at it and thought it was a cool building," he said, noting that he was especially fond of the much larger workspace. "I knew it would give me room to do the more specialized old car work I love to do. We've always been a general repair shop, and we still do a lot of the typical, day-to-day kind of work, but in Stratford I never had room to work on both kinds of cars."

On Sept. 1, Dale's will have been operating in its new Kirkton home for one year.

He said he's grateful for the Stratford customers who have followed him out to his new location, and has also enjoyed meeting new customers from Mitchell, St. Mary and the surrounding area. Now, he gets a variety of work, from the regular day-to-day work, such as "brake jobs, wheel bearings, tuneups

and that kind of thing," to bigger projects on classic cars that may involve 20 hours of work, or even as many as 200. "It's a labour of love," he said.

But that certainly doesn't mean he won't work on your non-classic automobile. "I don't want people to think, 'oh, he won't fix my Toyota Corolla, because he only fixes '55 Chevys and '32 Fords.' We still do regular customer work and all the other stuff too," he said. "I have a mini-van and a Volkswagen up on the hoists right now."

Describing the services Dale's offers, Dennis said, "The only thing we really don't do is paint."

"Other than that, we do all the mechanical stuff, anything drive train-related, or welding on sheet metal," he said. "We can pretty much fabricate anything."

Their prices are competitive with other garages, and they can provide estimates or price jobs over the phone, he said.

Dale's Performance Automotive is open Monday to Friday from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. For more information, call 519-229-6532.



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