

Independent Shorts

About 250 restaurants across the Canada, including a few in this area, are creating special menus for "Food Day Canada 2016," which is July 30. Little Red's Pub & Eatery are offering a salad of "Seasonal Summer Leaves & Flowers, Strawberries, Feta Cheese and Toasted Almonds," entrees including "Blanbrook Farm Bison, Gaufrette Potatoes, and Summer Vegetable Ratatouille" and a dessert of "Raspberry Blueberry Shortcake with Elderflower Cream." In Stratford, Mercer Hall Inn & Restaurant and the Bruce Hotel are also participating, as is Abruzzi in London. Call now to book a table!

On Thursday, August 25, the Thames Centre Community Choir is holding its Annual Pork BBQ at the Thorndale Community Centre. The meal includes barbecued pork, roasted potatoes, fresh corn on the cob, coleslaw and homemade dessert. Tickets are \$16 and sittings are at 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Tickets for children aged 5-12 are \$6 and children under 4 are free. Take-out dinners are also available. Contact choir members for tickets or call 519-461-1679. Tickets may also be purchased at Ace Hardware in Thorndale.

This fall, 40 communities across the province will hold walks in support of The Kidney Foundation of Canada and the 1-in-10 Canadians with kidney disease. Kidney Walk 2016 will be held in London Sunday, Sept. 25 at Gibbons Park, beginning at 11:15 am. Register online at kidneywalk.ca.

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Business of the Week

Fawcett Tractor Supply

By Dan Rankin

Our Business of the Week is Fawcett Tractor Supply, located at 2126 Perth Road 120 on the west side of St. Marys.

The business dates back to 1977 when Keith and Barb Fawcett started a small salvage operation specializing in tractor parts. Under the direction and ownership of their son Jeff and daughter-in-law Donna, they expanded to become Eastern Canada's largest salvage yard. Today, a third generation has taken the wheel, with Liz Fawcett overseeing human resources, administration and marketing.

"We supply new, used and after-market parts for agricultural and light industrial machinery," she said, noting that their staff now includes 36 employees. "We also sell some used units - those ones you see at the road, those are all for sale as running tractors and light industrial vehicles."

Their customers range from hobby farmers, on the small end, to large scale tractor dealerships, and the business regularly ships products around the world, Fawcett said.

"I just received a payment from someone paying in Australian



dollars," she said, pointing out that they market themselves internationally and have a strong online presence. "The majority of our business is shipping out parts. In this area there are plenty of customers, but most don't want to spend a couple of hours driving here to pick up one small part when it only costs \$15 to ship it to them. So, we have them calling from all over, and we also have a really great website (Fawcett.cc) for ordering parts."

They maintain an inventory system that includes virtually everything that they've had in their yard since 2004, she said. However, their slogan is "we're more than used parts," and it means that, nowadays, Fawcett Tractor Supply has access to far more than just the

parts sitting around on their shelves or in their yard. "If we don't have a used part here, we also have a network of other salvage yards all over that we source from," Fawcett said. "We also have a lot of other resources, so we might be able to find them that part, or an after-market or re-manufactured one, and order it."

Fawcett sources supplies from "all over the place" she said, making weekly and monthly orders from companies in the United States, United Kingdom, Turkey, and elsewhere.

Fawcett Tractor Supply has been a part of the National Tractor Parts Dealer Association since 1991, taking part in a trade show last year with the group in Kansas City and participating in industry discussion panels. They're also regular exhibitors at farm shows in Chatham, London and Ot-

tawa. "Every other year we alternate between Canada's Outdoor Farm Show in Woodstock, which is coming up in September, and the Atlantic Mechanization Show in New Brunswick," she said. "In Woodstock, we have an outdoor plot and we'll be out there with a trailer and a piece of equipment to showcase what we have going on."

"We want to be an engaging resource not just to our customers, but also our community," she said.

Fawcett Tractor Supply is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Saturdays from 8:00 pm until noon, except on holiday weekends.

For more information, call 519-284-2379, visit Fawcett.cc, or find them on social media including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (@Fawcett_Tractor).

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