

Independent Shorts

On Sunday, Aug. 14, a Swim-A-Thon is being held at the Quarry in support of the St. Marys Memorial Hospital Foundation's "Someone I Know" capital campaign. The event starts at 1:00 pm and runs until 5:00 pm, event organizer Amy Brennan said. Teams of four are invited to participate. Swimmers of all skills are welcome, provided that have passed the Quarry Test. "This is a fun event, so while we are encouraging teams to swim in relay-fashion for the four hours, they are welcome to stay as long as they can, take breaks to relax, and jump on the trampoline," Brennan said. Participants will receive a "Someone I Know" swim cap and a BBQ lunch will be provided for all swimmer. As a guideline, Brennan said they hope each team of four can raise \$500 in pledges. Register for the event, sponsored by Tradition Mutual Insurance, online at StMarysMHF.com/someone-i-know-swim-a-thon or by calling or emailing Brennan at 519-284-1135, or a.o.brennan@sympatico.ca.

The fifth annual St. Marys Car Show is set to take place on Saturday, Aug. 20 in the new location of Milt Dunnell Field. The event is open to all vintage vehicles and is an opportunity for owners and enthusiasts to come together in a celebration of classic cars. Registration for the event begins at 10:00 am and is open until noon, while the Show 'N Shine portion of the event runs from noon until 3:00 pm. There is a \$10 entry fee for each car, but the event is free to spectators. The first 150 owners to arrive will receive a goodie bag that includes a souvenir dash plaque. The owner of the car that is voted "Best Vehicle" will also receive a prize pack. Registrants will also be entered to win a variety of door prizes, which will be drawn between 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm. A free shuttle will run from Milt Dunnell Field to Queen Street throughout the event. For more information, visit TownofStMarys.com/downtowncarshow or the St. Marys Car Show Facebook page.

Business of the Week Cascade Dry Cleaners & Launderers



By Dan Rankin

Our Business of the Week is your local destination for when that spot absolutely has to come out, Cascade Dry Cleaners & Launderers, owned by Marlene Forman and located at 34 Water Street South in St. Marys.

Longtime owner Stan Culbert bought the business in 1947, one year after it was first set up, Forman said. A fire ripped through the building in 1981, and Culbert was left without the money to cover repairs when his insurance company went broke, she said. "My husband and I bought into the business and carried it on across the street until the store was rebuilt," said Forman, who said she's been around Cascade for over 50 years. "Too long!" she said with a laugh.

Forman became full owner of the store 12 years ago when Culbert passed away.

Cascade offers a full dry cleaning service and laundry service, Forman said, adding that all materials are cleaned on the premises except suede, which they send away to Toronto.

Most items can be cleaned and returned in two days, she said. "We also have same day service, if it's an emergency." Besides everyday dry cleaning, Cascade also offers clothing alterations, shoe repairs and table cloth rental, Forman said.

Over the years, the demand for dry cleaning has stayed steady, she said, however demand from hospitality businesses for laundry has gone way up – particularly this

summer.

"We do laundry contracts with businesses including Queen's Inn in Stratford and Stone Willow Inn, as well as some other bed and breakfasts out of Stratford," she said. "The inns are really busy this year. Our laundry business depends on how busy they are, and I think they're had the busiest summer ever, which is good for everybody. There obviously must be a lot of tourists in Stratford."

Another recent dry cleaning job that kept her and her staff busy was for Grand Bend's Huron Country Playhouse. "I just finished with 123 pieces for Anything Goes," she said.

For the past 12 years, Forman has served as chairperson for the Teddy Bears' Reunion, the 31st installment of which is rapidly approaching. It's set to take place on

Sunday, Aug. 21, with a parade beginning at St. Marys DCVI at 1:00 pm and festivities to follow at East Ward Park.

"My dad used to run that," she said. "He left it in his will that I was to carry it on."

Teddy Bears' Reunion raffle tickets are available at Cascade, with prizes including a fine glass lantern, a teddy bear quilt, cushions, a child's Adirondack lawn chair, and more. A number of other prizes will be awarded by judges to those whose stuffed bear best fits several different categories, including "Best Career-Oriented Teddy," "Largest Teddy," and "Best Owner Look-alike." Other attractions include pony rides, games, crafts and a bear repair station. For more information, visit teddybearreunion.ca. To contact Cascade Dry Cleaners and Launderers, call 519-284-1390.

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