

Independent Shorts

The St. Marys Golf and Country Club's Thanksgiving Pub Night tonight features live music from Corduroy Gordon and Among Millions (Josh Doherty). It gets underway at 7:00 pm.

On Tuesday, Oct. 11, "Birds of St Marys and Vicinity," a new art exhibition at the St Marys Station Studios and Gallery featuring the photography of Herman Veenendaal is set to open, with a reception beginning at 7:00 pm. Veenendaal will speak about his passion for photography and refreshments will be served. The exhibition will run until Nov. 7, and is open Tuesday-Saturday from 10:00 to 4:30 pm.

Cox Construction Limited will be closing Highway 7 at Perth Line 20 for a period of no more than 28 calendar days starting next week. The closure is scheduled to commence on Oct. 11, with the highway re-opening no later than Nov. 7. A detour route has been set up off of Highway 7 at Perth Line 119 going south at the roundabout to Road 28, then east to Oxford County Road 6 North back to Highway 7.

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<p>7 am - 7 pm Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 7 am - 2 pm Monday, Tuesday, Sunday</p>	

Business of the Week

Perth County Ingredients

By Dan Rankin

Our Business of the Week is Perth County Ingredients, a local producer of dried egg products for both human consumption and pet food companies, and the only egg-drying facility in Canada. Perth County Ingredients is located at 20 Thames Road in St. Marys and overseen by plant manager Austin Currah, who sat down with the Independent this week to talk about what they do.

When Perth County Ingredients moved into the old Vanderpol's Eggs plant on Thames Road, it had been "basically empty for five years," Currah said. "There were two dryers existing here. We invested some money and had to do a lot of upkeep on the plant to get it back up and running."

Currently, on one half of the plant they dry whole egg powder for pet food, and on the other half they dry three varieties of human-grade egg white, he said.

Their 26 employees serve the needs of such customers as Royal Canin and Elmira Pet Products, on the pet food side, and ADM Milling, Primo Pasta and Italpasta.

"We serve all kinds of pasta people because they love to have that egg white and whole egg in their pasta," he said. Their products are also used in protein drinks, nutrition bars, fish cakes, sausages, sauces and more.

In 2015, they were the winners of the provincial Agri-Food Innovation Excellence Award "We're currently putting in a new dryer to dry human-grade whole egg and yolk powder," he said. It's very exciting."

If you've ever driven out of St. Marys towards Rannoch, you may have already seen the new dryer without even realizing it, as it is one of the taller structures on the western side of town.

"It's about a 45-foot tall dryer tower so, a different design from the two box dryers we currently have," he said. "We started building that in September of last year and it's almost complete. The actual dryer is built in Argentina, and all the electrical components are out of France."

They expect it to be ready for production by the middle of next month or December. "We'll be about 30 per cent bigger, in sales



Pictured are, from left, Perth County Ingredients secretary Eddine Grossett, plant manager Austin Currah and HR generalist Amanda Brandow.

and all," he said, noting that they'll be looking to hire between five and 10 new employees. "It's good news." Until the addition is complete, they bring in an average of a trailer-load of egg powder per week from the United States, Currah said. When the new dryer comes online, it will supply more of the Ca-

nadian market, he said. "The new dryer will run seven days a week," he said. "There's that much of a demand for the powder. And our pet food side runs seven days a week. It's nice and busy." For more information, visit PerthIngredients.com or call the plant at 519-284-3449.

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