

## Oldest Business

Over a hundred years ago, in 1869, William Andrews Sr. bought over the watch-making and jewellery business of Swiss watchmaker Charles VanGuntin, the man with whom he has been apprenticed. Fifteen years later Andrews opened the doors of his brand new store near the corner of Queen and Wellington Streets. The building still bears the name across the upper facade - Andrews Jeweller.

The jewellery business was carried on by Andrews' son (also named William) until 1963 when Gordon and Georgina Smith bought over the



operation. Renaming the store Smith Jewellers - the name which it still carries - the Smiths continued selling jewellery and other precious ornaments there. In 1977 the present proprietor of the store, Mike Griffin, took over from the Smiths but retained the name Smith Jewellers. Incidentally, Gordon and Georgina Smith still work in the store.

The building, which was completed under architect W. Williams in 1884, is one of the most outstanding in St. Marys. With its dominant clock tower - an addition of the 1890's - the store is a focal point in the heart of the town's shopping district. Not only is the exterior basically the same as it was before the turn of the century, but the interior has also been maintained in its 19th century style.

The roof with its hexagonal tiles and cresting, and the tasteful carpentry of the building's two cornices, attest to the workmanship of the craftsmen of the day. The mosaic floor of the interior made of Italian marble sets off and complements the hand carved display counters, many of which are original. Little wonder that the Smith Jewellers building was one of those selected for the composite poster marking the Peterborough conference on architectural conservation in 1978.

## Golf Course

Since 1928, the St. Marys Golf Club has been the site of many an enjoyable game for local golf fanatics. The nine hole 3,100 yard layout is situated in a beautiful natural setting located on the eastern outskirts of town.

Due to the splendid rolling fairways and the presence of several clear flowing streams, the course has proved to be challenging even to the experienced players.

Club manager Rick Fifield is usually on hand to greet visitors and give assistance if needed. Under his capable direction and best interest, many fine improvements have been made in recent years.

For visiting players green fees are \$4.00 from Monday to Friday and \$5.00 on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Weekly rates are \$20.00 per person or \$25.00 per couple.

The commodious club house which also includes and ice curling surface, has kitchen facilities and luncheon and snacks may be obtained in the dining area. Bar privileges are also offered for the convenience of those using the course.

The Science Hill Golf Course, located north of St. Marys on the West River Road is equally challenging.

According to president Carl Miller, the 6,100 yard layout is fully watered and ready for action this summer.

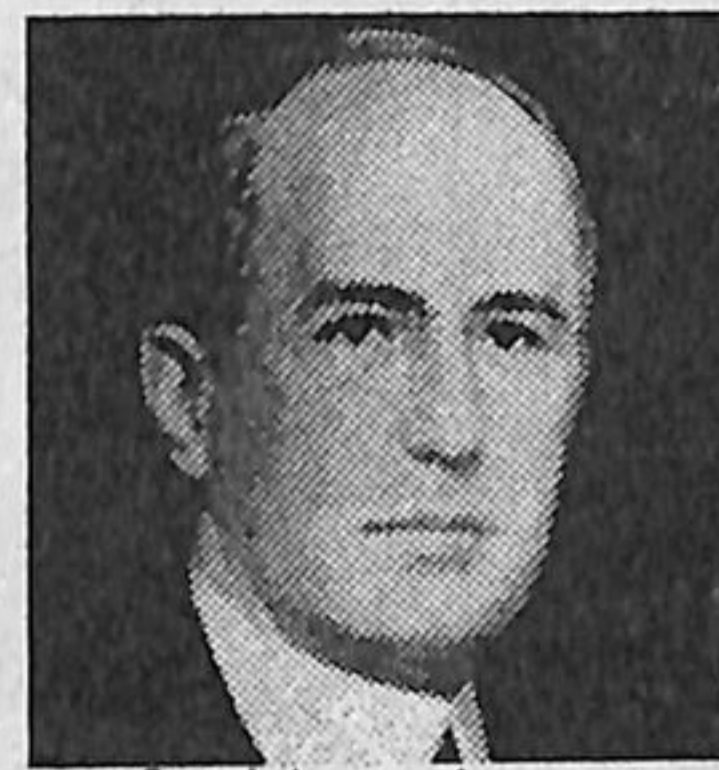
The first nine is two years old, and the newest nine offers another new and exciting challenge to golf enthusiasts.

Science Hill has expanded to include campsites for individuals or groups. A Miniature Golf Course has also been constructed. Later this summer tennis courts and a pool will be finished.

However, for the present, facilities include a lovely clubhouse, dining room, lounge, two banquet halls, and a pro-shop operated by Ron Stanley and his wife Eileen.

Green fees are \$4 on weekdays, \$5 on weekends, and memberships may be purchased at \$115 for men \$75 for the ladies.

To get to the Science Hill layout, just turn north off Queen Street at Adrian's Esso station, wind along the scenic Thames and you'll soon spot Science Hill Golf Club on your left.



## Arthur Meighen ... Prime Minister

Arthur's grandfather, Gordon, a schoolteacher who had arrived in Canada from Ulster, pushed his Canadian odyssey further west. In 1844 he came upon the small village of St. Marys and promptly became the schoolmaster.

Three or four years later, the elder Meighen applied to the Canada Company for a homestead. The site was to become Arthur's birthplace. It was a 100 acre farm on the Blanshard Township line, just seven or eight miles from St. Marys.

Soon after he received his patent for the tract of land, Gordon Meighen married Isabella Irwin, a young woman newly arrived from Ulster herself.

Gordon Meighen resigned from his teaching post in 1846 and he and his new family (the first of two children Joseph was born that year) moved out to their farm.

Not a year later, Meighen was building a new schoolhouse, a mile south of his homestead, in the hamlet which is still known as Anderson. He became its schoolmaster until his premature death in 1859 which left his wife and two children. Eliza Jane was born in 1848.

Joseph Meighen, father of Arthur, eldest child, was forced to leave school early because of his father's untimely death. In 1871 he married Mary Jane Bell, a local girl and they moved into the family stone house.

Arthur was born on June 16th, 1874, the second of six children. Twelve years later, the family moved to the western edge of St. Marys into a new dairy farm. A major reason for the move was so that the children could be within walking distance of the only high school in the vicinity, which was St. Marys Collegiate.

Not far from St. Marys is a stone house located on a farm, set back almost a mile from the road in an idyllic grove of trees. The farmhouse is the birthplace of Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen.

It was 1920 when Prime Minister Robert Borden decided that it was time he retire from office. Borden had been relying increasingly on a young junior cabinet minister, Arthur Meighen, to guide important legislation through Parliament. Though barely in his forties, Meighen was often at the centre of bitter controversy in the House, because it fell to him to draft many of the more significant bills which went through between 1911 and 1920.

He was responsible for closure resolutions, bills for nationalizing the Grand Trunk, Grand Trunk Pacific, and great Northern Railways. Perhaps the most notable piece of legislation which the young Meighen drafted and subsequently fought for was the 1917 conscription bill.

In 1919, he was involved in settling the Winnipeg strike and then helped rewrite the Criminal Code under which the strike leaders were tried.

By 1920 he had become so essential to the Conservative cabinet of the period that it was only logical that he receive the appointment to become Prime Minister of Canada - the nation's youngest at age 46.

Twenty years prior to his birth,

From the Collegiate, Arthur went on to Toronto where he studied business at University College. Later, he enrolled in a teaching course and in the late 1890's went to Winnipeg where he received his education in law. He was "baptized into politics" in 1904 when he vigorously supported the Conservative Parliamentary candidate for Portage La Prairie. Arthur had moved to this prairie city to practice his new law profession.

The campaign was not successful and in 1908, Arthur himself took up the Conservative banner, riding it all the way to a seat in Ottawa by a narrow but impressive margin.

The rest is history, as the young member raised in St. Marys became increasingly indispensable to the Conservative party, culminating in his appointment as prime minister in 1920.

Unfortunately, his term of office was to be a short one. Meighen lost out to the Liberals' Mackenzie King - a man to whom he was a complete opposite both in public as well as private affairs, only a year later.

Although he came close to regaining the office in the election of 1925, Meighen never quite recaptured the eminence he had known prior to his election defeat in 1921.

The family homestead still stands in Blanshard Township and one year ago in June, Arthur's grandson, Michael now an advisor to the federal Progressive-Conservative party, made a "pilgrimage" to St. Marys and visited the farmhouse in Blanshard for the first time.

A memorial plaque is displayed in the community park in Anderson - across the road from the schoolhouse which Gordon Meighen helped build.

## Enjoy dining at the Old Post Office

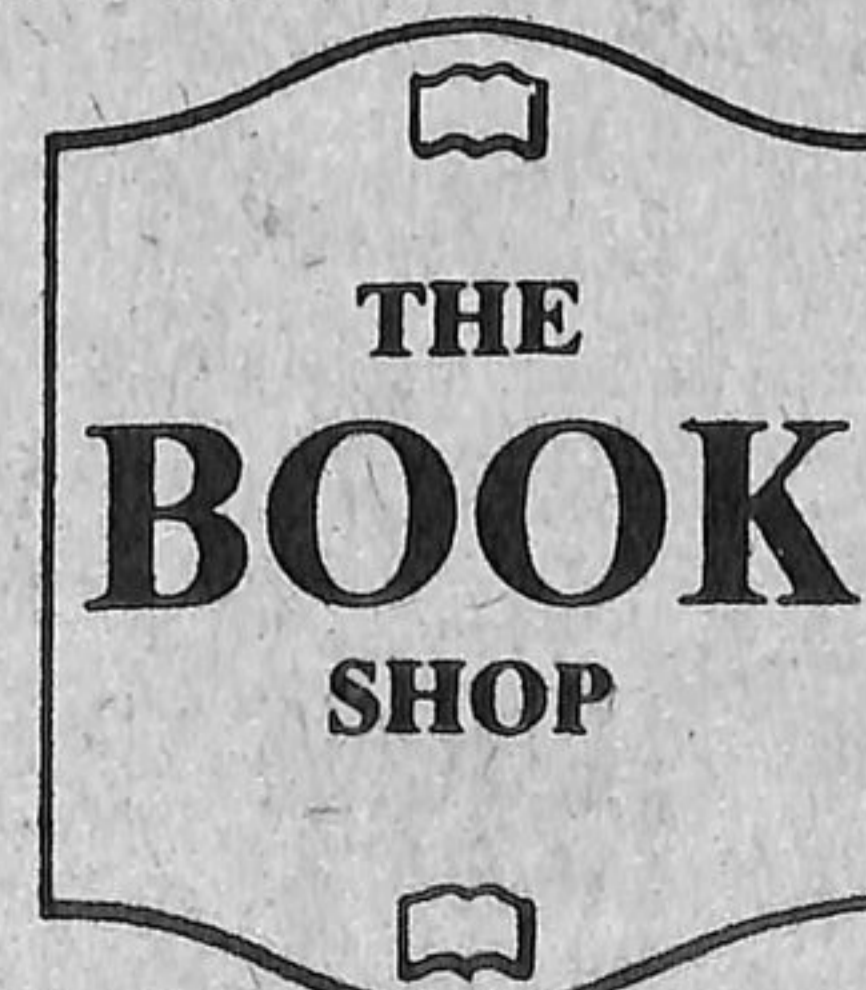
The former Post Office, now converted into Sir Joe Restaurant & Tavern is fully licensed under the L.L.B.O. The dining room, in its unique setting, boasts of its pleasant atmosphere, buffet, and menu consisting of Canadian and Italian food, charcoal steaks, seafoods and light snacks. Both the main dining room and the adjoining Amber Room are open for special occasions (weddings, banquets, private parties, meetings etc.)

**Sir Joe**  
17 WATER ST. ST. MARYS, ONT.

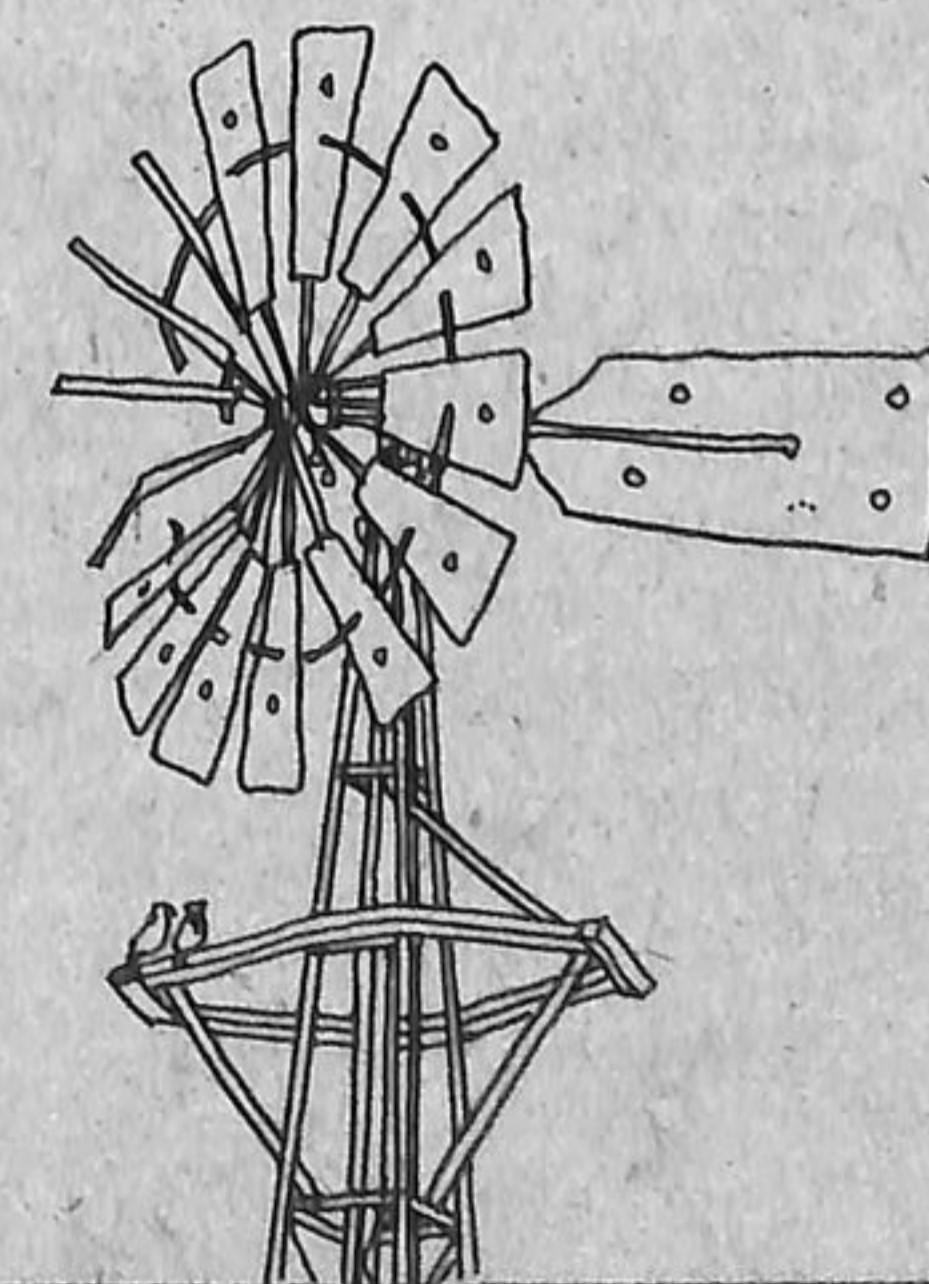
restaurant and tavern  
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