

Recreation . . .

St. Marys is perhaps one of the biggest sports towns in the area. You name it, we play it here. From lawn bowling, alley bowling, slo-pitch, and minor ball, to trail hiking, tennis, swimming and more. And that's just summer activities.

Badminton playing has been a regular weekly social activity in St. Marys over the past ten years. About 35 to 40 adults and older high school students play every Thursday evening from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the school gymnasium from October until the end of April.

The St. Marys Bowling Lanes are always open from the last week in August till the end of June. You're never too old to bowl, we have people in our adult leagues in their seventies and eighties.

Lawn bowling is another sport which is very active in St. Marys. Lawn bowling at the Flats starts on May 24 weekend, with a clean-up, and runs throughout the summer.

Fees for men are \$15, and \$7 for ladies, while 25 cents per person is charged for jitneys.

Last year, St. Marys Minor Soccer operated four teams in the Lucan and District Soccer League comprising teams from Lucan, Exeter, Thamesford, and St. Marys. The action is fast and for spectators, soccer is one of the favourites.

The growing sport of slo-pitch baseball is taking over St. Marys as well. The sport provides a lot of fun for about 300 young men in St. Marys and can be quite exciting for the spectator as well. Just go down to the Flats any Wednesday night for a free night of entertaining baseball.

In keeping with the Women's Liberation Movement, a ladies slo-pitch league was formed and now is one of the premier leagues in town.

Because of the number of teams in this popular league, the ladies were forced to expand their league play to two nights, Monday and Wednesday evenings, to accommodate the play.

Minor baseball in St. Marys is as popular as ever with hundreds of youngsters signing up each year for play throughout the summer.

Tennis can be enjoyed at four lovely courts located on Water Street across from the quarry pool.

The pool in itself is a recreation program to St. Marys providing a beautiful setting for those wishing to relax with a refreshing dip.

For the youngsters, there is the Cadzow Pool where the tiny tots can wade under supervision for the entire summer.

For pleasure swimming, the cost is \$15 for a book of 40 coupons, and \$25 for a book of 75 at the Quarry. At Cadzow, it costs \$6 for a book of 25, \$10 for a book of 50 and \$12 for a book of 75 coupons.

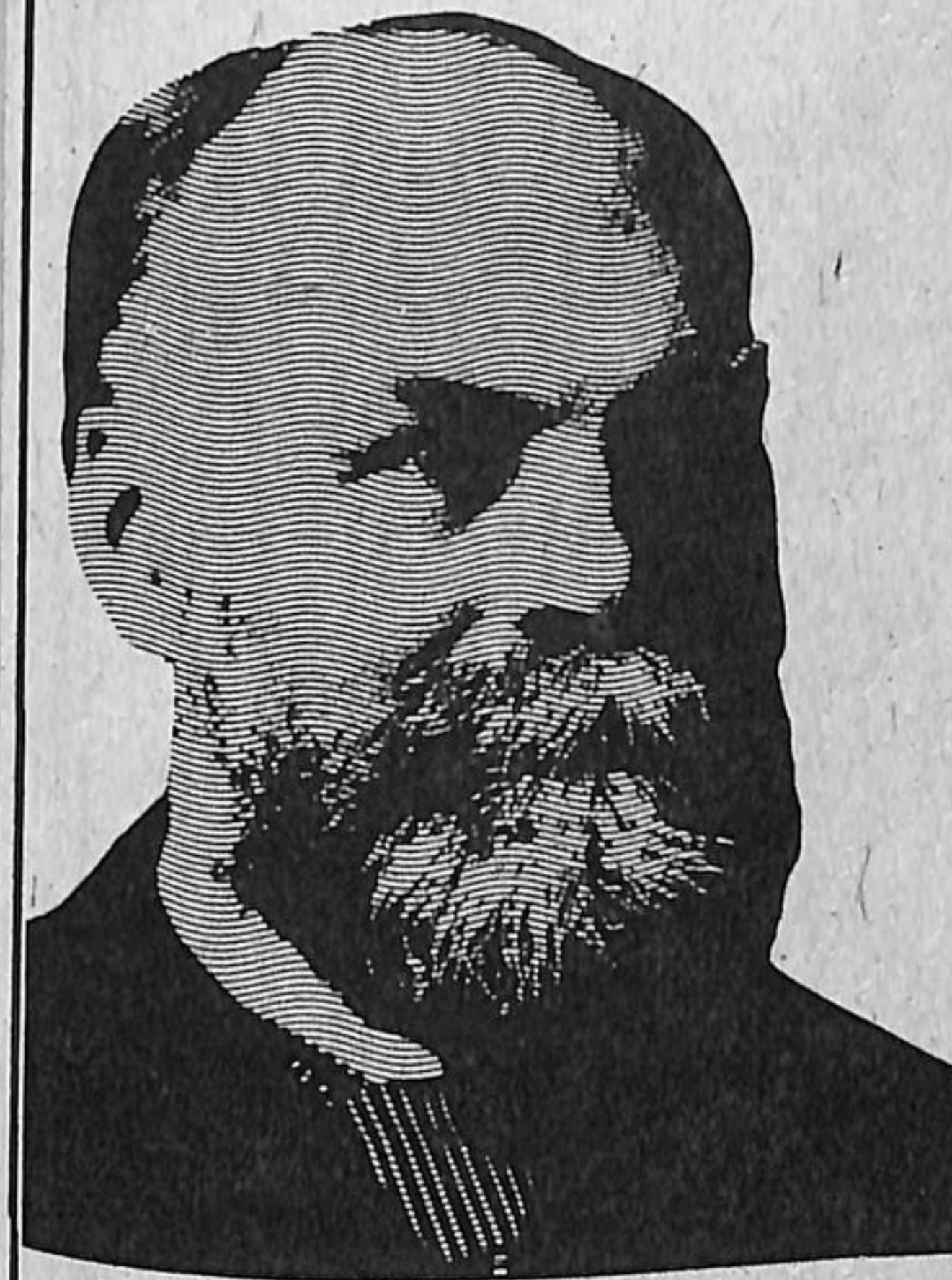
Finally, there is the new, ultra modern St. Marys area Arena and Community Centre where one can enjoy roller skating in the summer time and countless other activities in the fall, winter and spring.



The M & M Building

The M & M building is distinct as

the first privately owned structure in the community designated by the town under the Ontario Heritage Act.



Timothy Eaton

Although St. Marys cannot claim to be Timothy Eaton's birthplace and certainly it was far from the end of his famous merchandising career, St. Marys is proud of the fact that the man who founded the Canada wide department store spent many years in business here.

Through the passage of time, memories of exactly where Timothy Eaton had his store have become vague. It is known, however, the building now housing Ross Pharmacy was an Eaton store at one time. It was also thought that the building where Urbshott-Galloway is now located was an Eaton store.

One of the reasons for the uncertainty is probably the fact that there were many 'Eatons' in business in St. Marys, including Timothy's brothers and nephews.

Timothy Eaton was born in County Antrim in the northeast of Ireland in 1834. Two months before his birth, his father John Eaton passed away, leaving the family in the hands of Mrs. Eaton and Timothy's older brother Robert, eighteen years his senior.

The Eatons were farmers - good farmers - and survived the famous potato famine of 1846. But as the boys grew, it was obvious that not all could remain on the farm as grown men. Robert was the first to go, passing the farm on to John, the second son. The third son, James, followed Robert to Canada. Over the years, three sisters were to join them. Timothy, his mother decreed, was to stay in school until he had finished his education

and was old enough to face the new world of Canada.

After a stay in Georgetown, Timothy Eaton got his first retail training at a small village of Glen Williams.

Within a year, he moved to Kirkton, just west of St. Marys and with his

brother James and sister Sarah opened the first Eaton store.

By 1860, it is said that Timothy and his two brothers started a store in St. Marys, at first a general store but later

divided into two departments, groceries and dry goods. It has also been said that an Eaton was involved in a book store partnership somewhere on Water Street.

Two things about business bothered Timothy - credit and barter-

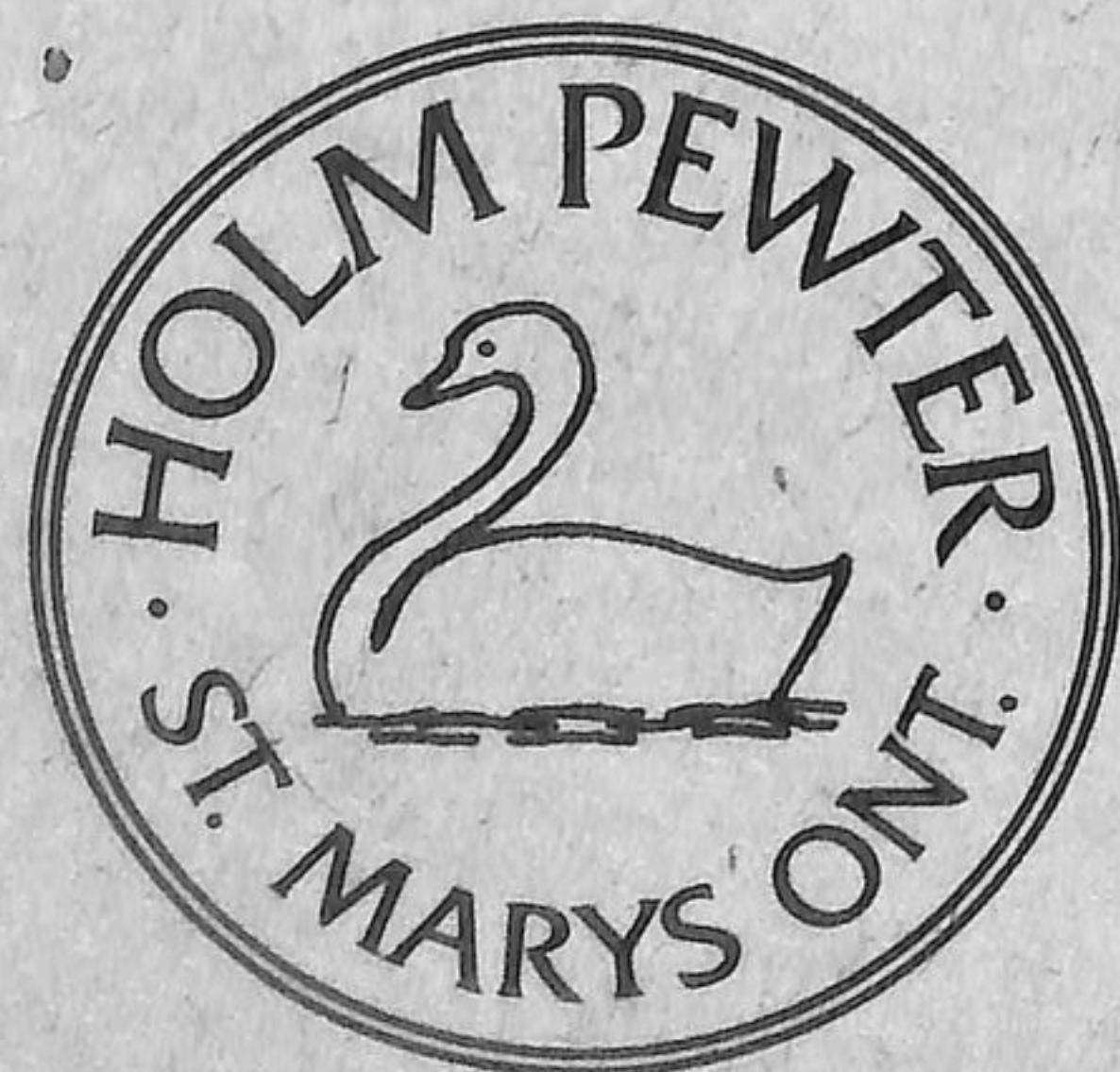
ing. For eight years as he worked with his brothers, he dreamed of having a store of his own and doing away with barter and credit. Robert gradually took over the grocery business, leaving the dry goods and millinery to his two brothers.

After marrying Margaret Beattie of Woodstock here at St. Marys, Timothy was assisted by his new wife, whose father was also a merchant.

Timothy dreamed of opening his new store, often discussing his dreams with his clever young wife. Frustrated, Timothy said he realized a store such as he wanted would never succeed in St. Marys and his wife's quick solution to his quandary was to suggest a store in the big city, the biggest city in Ontario, the city of Toronto.

On December 9, 1869, an advertisement announcing the opening of Timothy Eaton new store in Toronto appeared in Toronto Globe.

Timothy Eaton was on his way to making his dream a reality.



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