

End of the line



A FAMILY FISHING EXPEDITION to the North Slip at Sarnia Harbour was a perfect way to close out the summer for this family. Here Harlan Beauvais, 9, finds a good spot to kick back and wait for a bite while twin brothers Malcolm and Mason, 12, and dad Aaron, unseen behind him, fish from the same jetty.

GLENN OGILVIE, The Journal

A good guy honoured

FALLEN FIREFIGHTER
GRAHAM EMSLIE
ADDED TO INTERNATIONAL
'WALL OF HONOUR'

TARA JEFFREY
THE JOURNAL

Graham Emslie would have done it all over again. In a heartbeat.

Even after cancer took over his body — a diagnosis linked to a 35-year career as a firefighter — he wouldn't have changed a thing.

"When he was sick, we asked him if knowing what he knew, would he change anything," said daughter Tiegan Scott.

"His response was, 'Absolutely not.' He would choose that job, knowing the outcome, every day of the week."

Captain Emslie, who died in December of 2016, three years after retiring from the service, was honoured in Colorado Springs, Colorado recently at the IIAF 2018 Fallen Firefighter Memorial.

His was one of 271 names added to the Wall of Honour, which commemorates fallen firefighters from the U.S. and Canada.

Members of Emslie's family along with retirees and active service members were on hand for the ceremony, which not only recognizes those who died in the line of duty, but those who succumb to occupational illnesses such as cancer, heart disease and post-traumatic stress.

"He was the guy everyone loved," said Scott. "Which showed by the turnout of firefighters that traveled to Colorado."

Continued on page 4

Clock striking midnight on Cinderella Story

CATHY DOBSON
THE JOURNAL

An innovative volunteer group that has provided more than 600 local girls with a free grad or prom dresses will fold unless a new organizer steps up.

Debbie Anderson founded The Cinderella Story in 2009 and says it's time for her to

move on to other causes. Other board members left when Anderson resigned.

"There is a need for this to continue and we hope that someone else will take it on under a new name," she said.

Organizing The Cinderella Story, which culminates in an annual one-day "boutique" for girls to select a dress, has taken five to 20 hours a week of Anderson's time for a decade.

She says she tried succession planning but it didn't work. Yet Anderson said she hasn't given up hope someone will ensure local girls graduating in 2019 can have a dress even if family finances are tight.

"It was not an easy decision for me," she said. "I've had sleepless nights over this, but I have other things I'm passionate about and I need to pursue

them or I will regret it."

Anderson came up with The Cinderella Story after an acquaintance in a grocery store line confided her Grade 12 daughter wouldn't be attending her prom because the family couldn't afford a dress.

"I called a couple of people and got her a dress and everything was perfect for her," Anderson recalled.

Continued on page 2



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DEBBIE ANDERSON is the founder of The Cinderella Story, which has provided prom and grad dresses to hundreds of girls free of charge. GLENN OGILVIE, file photo

Cinderella Story:

Continued from page 1

The first dress drive produced 100 donated dresses. Nine girls got a dress, no-questions-asked.

The event grew annually and became a provincially registered not-for-profit in 2016. The boutique was held in various locations, most recently at 100 Christina St. The peak year saw 127 girls receive dresses, shoes and jewelry.

Teachers aware of students who couldn't afford a prom or grad dress often brought girls to the boutique or supported it in other ways.

"We had tears every year, both from the volunteers and the girls,"

Anderson said. "One dad with three daughters came to us with each one. Every time, he was in tears."

"He said it was so nice to know there are people out there who care."

The Cinderella Story's not-for-profit status has been surrendered. Anderson said she still gets offers of donations but has to turn them down.

About 1,200 dresses are in The Cinderella Story's inventory and storage is paid until the end of December.

To inquire about resurrecting The Cinderella Story under a new name, contact Debbie Anderson at info@cinderellasarnia.org.

The way you listened to music has changed since the '80s...



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Local

Mudmen clean up nicely after 20 years in music business

Robby Campbell readily admits The Mudmen have played some pretty boisterous shows.

At bars, community centres and special events around the world, their unique blend of Celtic folk and rock music has been at the centre of some wild times.

It won them a stint with a record label, appearances at numerous NHL events, two shows on Parliament Hill for Canada Day and even a meeting with the Queen.

But after two decades, the group that originated with two brothers from Alvinston on bagpipes, is mixing it up with more family-friendly shows, says Campbell.

"We're not that punk rock band we were when we were younger," he said. "We've been winning people over with our Celtic folk rock. Even people who never liked the bagpipes before, say they like us."

Robby, at age 45, and his brother, Sandy, 48, with their



bandmates, are on their 2018 Old Plaid Shirt Tour to mark The Mudmen's 20th year. They are also working on a book and their 10th studio recording, both due out next year.

Increasingly the tour is focused on all-ages events at theatres and auditoriums. When The Mudmen come to Sarnia Oct. 12, they'll play an unlicensed show at the Sarnia Library Theatre. On Nov. 1, they play at the Kineto Theatre in Forest.

"People who are coming out to our shows like the stories and the personalities," said Campbell. "We're really liking the crowds we get with an early finish. They're there to listen to the music, not eat cheeseburgers and drink beer."



THE MUDMEN ARE, FROM LEFT: Sandy Campbell, singer-guitar player Mike Meacher, drummer Jimmy Burton, Dan Westenenk on bass and Rob Campbell.

Submitted Photo

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The Campbell Brothers grew up in rural Lambton playing the bagpipes and entertaining at Legion halls.

They were members of Toronto's 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band, then formed a group called The Campbell Brothers in the early 90s. In 1998, they signed with EMI Records and the label pushed for a new name.

"They thought Campbell Brothers was too traditional," Robby explained. "Sandy and I

were both doing the grunt work for some bricklayers at the time, so we came up with The Mudmen."

Over the years, the Mudmen have played with music greats like The Irish Rovers and John McDermott. They've opened for ZZ Top and The Guess Who. Their career highlights are many but the band's had some rough times too, Robby said.

"Our book, 'Twenty Years in the Mud', is going to have all the ups and downs, all the backstabbing. It's going to explain how Sandy and I were almost thrown out of our own band."

The CBC's Ron MacLean is writing the book's forward. MacLean has been a fan since The Mudmen performed on the

Hockey Night in Canada theme song in 2008.

These days, the band is self-managed and doing very well, said Robby.

"Times are good. We're playing with a good group of guys now."

"Our friends tell us we should teach a course in how to survive this business."

IF YOU GO:

WHAT? Celtic Folk Rock with The Mudmen. All ages.

WHEN? Friday, Oct. 12 at 8 p.m.

WHERE? Sarnia Library Theatre

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Local

New Jurassic flick not exactly triceratops, but not pteroble either



T-Rexes, raptors and brachiosaurus, oh my. The gang is back together for another installment of Jurassic Park in what should have been titled, "Dinosaurs – still not a good idea".

This time around, we learn the dinosaurs abandoned four years ago are in danger of re-extinction due to the impending eruption of a volcano on Isla Nublar.

Animal activists are trying to save them while Congressional hearings debate the ethics of letting them die. Everyone's favourite lover of chaos theory, Dr. Ian Malcolm (Jeff Goldblum), returns to testify the volcano is a great opportunity to reset the clock before man made the terrible mistake of reviving dinosaurs.

Five movies into the franchise I think we can all



OWEN GRADY, PLAYED by Chris Pratt, meets a vicious T. rex in a scene from "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom."

Universal Pictures Photo

agree with him – dinosaur theme parks are fun in theory but there's scientific movie proof dinosaurs just eat everyone.

The official decision: leave the dinosaurs to their fate.

But not so fast! A wealthy benefactor (James

Cromwell playing a colleague of the original park's inventor) steps in with his millions and an uninhabited island he just happens to own that would be perfect for dinosaurs to live out their lives in peace. What luck!

Claire Dearing (played by Bryce Dallas-Howard) who was in charge of the park in 2015's Jurassic World, and now a staunch dinosaur rights activist, is called in to help convince ex beau and dino-whisperer Owen Grady (Chris Pratt) to join the rescue operation.

Just when it looks like all is saved, we find out the benefactor's head honcho is secretly planning

to sell the dinosaurs as weapons to very rich and nefarious-looking people around the world!

Obviously our team has to try and stop this madness. Throw in a subplot (and pretty good surprise revelation) about the benefactor's young granddaughter, and there is A LOT going on in this movie.

Is the storyline of the latest installment ridiculous? Yes. Are there still good moments in the film? Also, yes.

But be warned – this Jurassic is different from previous installments. That's probably good news for viewers desperate to switch it up, and

heartbreaking for diehard theme-park lovers. Only about a quarter of the film takes place on Isla Nublar, with most of the 130 minutes putting the dinosaurs in our own backyards.

And it takes a more serious tone, with ethical debates about animal rights and the advancement of humans taking centre stage. We get intense dino vs. dino fights and the smoldering Chris Pratt stares that we've come to expect.

But it criminally underuses Pratt and Dallas-Howard. Somehow, their characters seem less complex with every film, and to write a movie for Pratt that doesn't let him

be funny is simply a waste.

Fallen Kingdom is equal parts awesome and cringe worthy, with a surprisingly large dollop of sad (one scene as they leave the island might make you cry).

If you love the Jurassic franchise for cranking out virtual clones year after year, this one may not be for you, but if you're looking for change, Fallen Kingdom delivers.

Vicky Sparks is a Bright's Grove native and movie critic for Global TV's The Morning Show, which airs nationally on Fridays. Her Journal Reviews cover movies playing at Galaxy Cinemas Sarnia.

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