THE PUB MAGAZINE

November 2026

DISCOVER ONTARIO'S BEST PUBS

pubmagazine.ca

The PUB crew visits:

Elora, Elmira, St. Jacobs, Vineland Station, Barrie, Seaforth

- **ELORA DISTILLERY**
- **ARTHUR STREET KITCHEN AND BAR**
- **BLOCK 3 BREWING COMPANY**
- **Winery of the month: THE FOREIGN AFFAIR WINERY**
- **CW. COOP'S**
- **THE BOOT**
- **Beer of the month: MacLean's CHERRY PORTER**

Welcome to the November issue of The Pub Magazine.

Wow! November already. Another bumper issue for you Pub Lovers', this issue The Beer Chaser visits Block 3 Brewing Company, guest writer Grant Ivens lets us know how his Elora Distillery visit went and I
popped into pubs in Seaforth, Leaside, Barrie and Elmira. Foreign Affair is our winery, MacLean's Cherry Porter makes our beer of the month.
So pour a warm Maple Fire, grab a stool and enjoy.
Cheers

Bill Perrie
The Pub Guy

Cheers
Billy Perrie

Send us your Pub Pic

Trish, Debbie and Brian at Seans Bar. Ireland's Oldest Pub

Sarah and Sarah enjoying cocktails at a beach bar in Puerto Viego, Costa Rica

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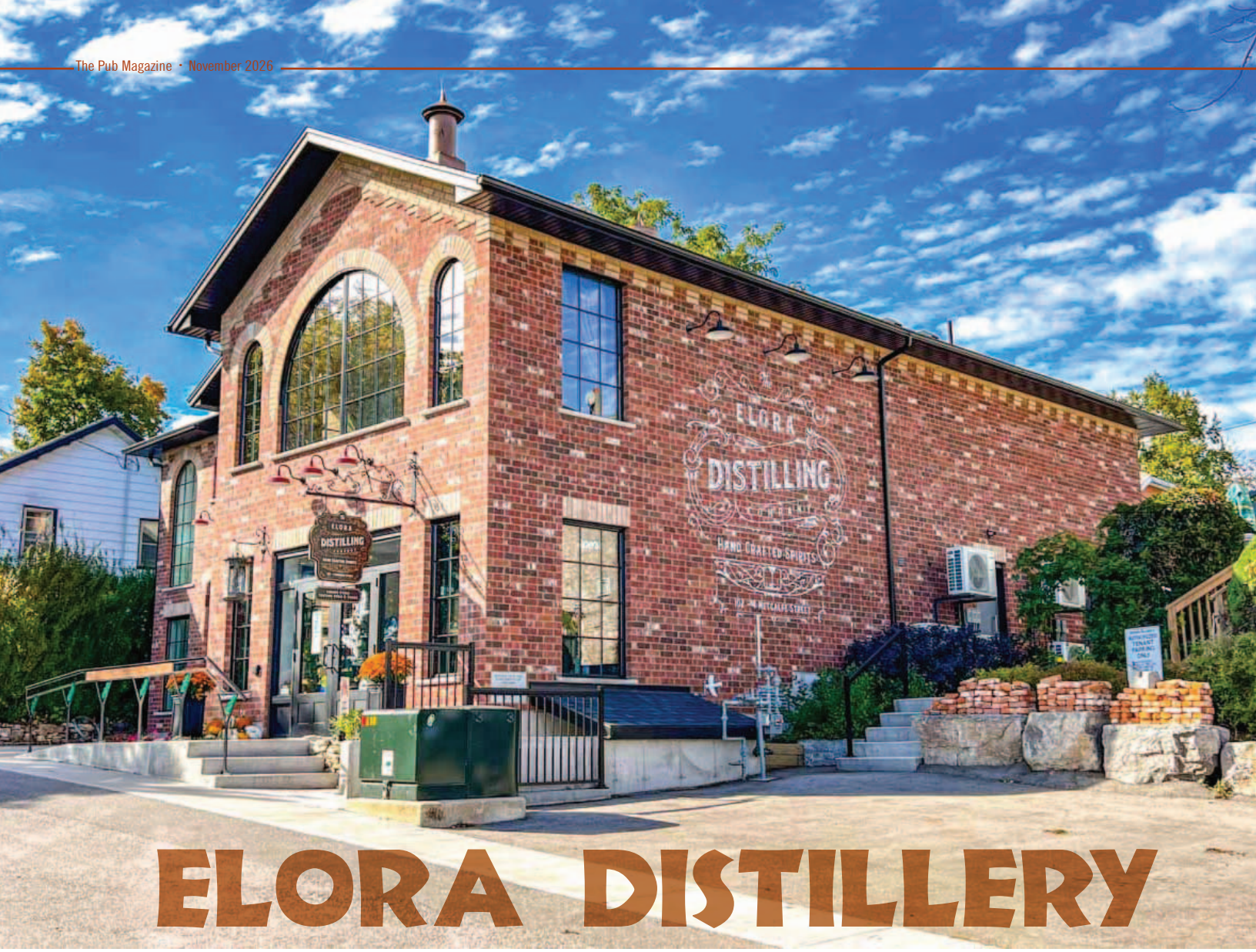

ELORA DISTILLERY

By Grant Ivens
Oct 24, 2026

Elora is known as one of the prettiest towns in Ontario. This historical place is located on the Grand River at the Elora Falls, about 90 minutes east of Toronto and just 20 minutes north of Guelph. It is filled with beautiful trails and paths and is a village that originated in in the 1860s. Elora is home to amazing shops and restaurants and a destination for visitors from around the world, and it is also my favourite place for incredible products from the Elora Distillery, a true Canadian gem. This high-quality craft distillery is housed in a beautifully restored 2 storey brown stone building in the centre of town and is known for its high-quality whiskeys, rums, vodkas and gins.

Elora is the perfect destination for a day trip, but I highly recommend staying for a one-or two-night getaway. There is so much to see and do, and after you visit the distillery, you'll be glad that you're on a walking tour!

It was a gorgeous sunny October afternoon as we climbed up the stairs and went back in time to the 1930s as we entered the Royal Room Cocktail Lounge. This spectacular space is on the second floor overlooking the distillery. It is a beautiful eclectic Art Deco room where you could feel the presence of Scott Fitzgerald and Jelly Roll Morton. When I walked into the lounge, I was suddenly taken back to that feeling I had the first time I sat down in the Observation Deck Bar on the Queen Mary; I could feel the presence of cocktail enthusiasts from the past… just like those party patrons that Jack shared drinks with from years gone past in the Colorado Lounge at the Overlook Hotel bar in Stanley Kubrick's take on Stephen King's 'The Shining'. Yes, spirits are everywhere.

My wife Jo and I planted ourselves into a pair of comfortable armchairs, looking over the historic town by a larger-than-life arched window adorned by a collection of vintage ceramic monkeys and figurines that just added to the vibe. Marlina, our incredible bartender, came over and explained the cocktails and tapas in vivid detail. Jo landed on a flight of three handcrafted mini cocktails. She chose the Royal Yacht Club made with their Royal Spiced Rum, the Cosmopolitan made with their Amethyst Vodka, and the Prado created with their exquisite Juniperus Maximus Gin. I, on the other hand, being a traditionalist and thinking, 'what would Jack drink' went for my go-to Dirty Gin Martini made with their fabulous Martini gin.

As Marlina prepared our incredible elixirs, I noticed she was also mixing and tasting other lovely cocktails. I, of course, jokingly asked if she tasted everyone's drink. She laughed and explained that she was preparing and testing a new specialty drink for the upcoming holiday session featuring their new limited-edition sessional blends. She asked if we would like to taste them and sample some of their special ingredients. We didn't need a formal invite, and on top of that, we were walking. So we said "hell yes".

After four samples of amazing flavoured gins and whiskies, we floated back to our chairs as our delicious orders arrived. Our cocktails were incredible, and each of Jo's came with a slice of dried and spiced orange and a sample of the spiced rum, vodka and gin. My gin Martini was ice cold, flavourful, and wonderfully dirty and anointed with a spear of three tasty olives… James Bond would have been envious, and so was my second one… of course we were walking.

We have sampled the menu and it is spectacular as well. If you are in search of a lovely place to visit for an afternoon or a few days you can't go wrong with Elora and the Elora Distillery, and I forgot to mention the wonderful patio and great pints at the Elora Brewery just across the road…

Arthur Street Kitchen and Bar

32 Arthur Street South, Elmira. 548 889 3433

This cool neighbourhood pub is a popular spot on Elmira's main street. As you enter, to the right is the bar area with the long sit down bar on the left hand side, opposite the bar is a row of four seat high top tables.

In a connecting room, is the cozy dining area, which has large booths and a capacity for thirty five. Upstairs has an event room for the likes of live music, karaoke and Euchre nights. This space with a capacity of one hundred is perfect for parties and comes complete with its own bar.
Plenty of televisions around for the sports fans.

The pub used to be a Chinese restaurant called Tien Lee's and was a mainstay in the town for many years. In honour of this restaurant and what it meant to the town, the Arthur Street Kitchen and Bar has kept a section of the Chinese menu as part of theirs. Many customers come in for their favourite items that was their regular order back in the day.

The bar has many specials including a 99 cent wing day on Thursdays. The menu has many traditional choices such as a Yorkshire roast beef dinner and Shepherd's pie. Kids eat free on a Sunday with the order of an adult meal. Daily drink specials include the house lager at $4.95 for a 20 oz. Pint. Great destination for a Sunday drive, great staff and great food.

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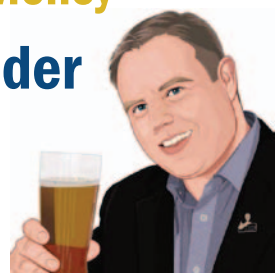

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BLOCK 3 BREWING COMPANY

1430 unit 2, King St N, St. Jacobs, Ontario

By The Beer Chaser

A free day available. Oh what to do??? Sounds like a good excuse for another ... Road Trip!

This day our destination is Block 3 Brewing Company, in St. Jacobs Ontario.

St. Jacobs is a community just north of Waterloo, located along the Conestoga River. It is home to Canada's largest year-round farmers' market and sits in the heart of Old Mennonite country.

The brewery, which recently celebrated its 13th anniversary, is located just off the main road and is a dog and child-friendly facility.

Families enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and can be seen playing cards or crocanole at the large picnic tables located in the taproom, or on one, of the two, outdoor patios. Even the family dog is treated kindly at Block 3. A Polaroid shot and a spot on the "Ales and Tails" wall awaits first time canine visitors.

The brewery also hosts community events, Euchre nights and offers, free, live music every Friday evening.

On tap, there is a wide variety of beverages, that made our decision of how to fill our two flights, a difficult one. Available beers included a rice lager, an Amber ale, a dry sour, and a 2.9% light lager, and more. Our staff of Kailyn and Jackson were helpful and knowledgeable when it came to beverage choices, so we selected our flights based on their recommendations. My favourite was the Lobsinger black lager but my beloved preferred the Fireside Amber ale with cacao nibs.

Block 3 does not have a kitchen, but bar snacks are available. Organic potato chips, beer nuts and pretzels can satisfy any nibbles you may have. For larger appetites, the brewery has an agreement with local sushi and pizza restaurants, which will deliver to your table. Or, as the brewery says, "Bring your own food. No judgment here."

Next time you're in the area, schedule a little time for a bevy and maybe a board game or two. Block 3 is well worth the visit.

Winery of the month:

THE FOREIGN AFFAIR WINERY

4890 Victoria Avenue N. Vineland Station, L0R 2E0

905 562 9898 • www.foreignaffairwinery.com

Founders Len and Marisa Crispiro were living as expats in Italy when they discovered the Appassimento wines. The more they learned about this method of wine making the more they were excited to bring this unique craft back with them to Ontario. In 2000 Len and Marisa bought 40 acres of prime farmland in the Vinemount Ridge sub appellation of Niagara's Twenty Valley wine region. Here they would become trailblazers of Appassimento winemaking in Canada.

Today, The Foreign Affair winery produce a unique and diverse selection of award winning wines all created in some way by the Appassimento process.

The winery has a beautiful barrel cellar lounge where you can experience an intimate and informed tasting, reservations are highly recommended. May to October premium small batch wines can be enjoyed by the glass on the lovely winery patio. The winery hosts many events throughout the year, please check the website for details.

Writer's Choice: Temptress 2018
(Cabernet Franc 61%, Cabernet Sauvignon 23%, Merlot 9%, Petit Verdot 2% and Malbec 5%)

Aged 18 months in American and French Oak barrels. Aromas of ripe red fruit such as ripe dark cherry, blackberry, stewed mulberry and hints of oak. A big bold wine with lots of complexity. Flavours of ripe red fruit such as tart raspberries and cherries supported by gentle notes of vanilla, cloves and baking spice.

NOVEMBER 2026

MAPLE FIRE® NOVEMBER CELLY-BRATION CALENDAR

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 SENS • NHL RAPTORS • NBA NATIONAL CINNAMON DAY TEAM CANADA U17 • OAKVILLE	**2** RAPTORS • NBA	**3** LEAFS • NHL GRAND SLAM CURLING BEGINS	**4** SENS • NHL RAPTORS • NBA	**5**	**6** RAPTORS • NBA TEAM CANADA WOMEN'S WORLDS BEGIN	**7** LEAFS • NHL SENS • NHL U17 MEDAL GAMES • OAKVILLE NATIONAL RAILWAY DAY JONI MITCHELL BDAY
8 LEAFS • NHL INDIGENOUS VETERANS DAY	**9** RAPTORS • NBA	**10** LEAFS • NHL SENS • NHL	**11** REMEMBRANCE DAY DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER RAPTORS • NBA	**12** LEAFS • NHL SENS • NHL RAPTORS • NBA NEIL YOUNG BDAY	**13** FRIDAY THE 13TH	**14** LEAFS • NHL SENS • NHL
15 RAPTORS • NBA	**16** WOMEN'S WORLDS FINAL	**17** LEAFS • NHL SENS • NHL RAPTORS • NBA GRAND SLAM CURLING	**18** RAPTORS • NBA	**19** LEAFS • NHL SENS • NHL	**20** RAPTORS • NBA	**21** LEAFS • NHL SENS • NHL
22	**23** LEAFS • NHL SENS • NHL RAPTORS • NBA	**24**	**25** SENS • NHL	**26**	**27** LEAFS • NHL SENS • NHL RAPTORS • NBA BLACK FRIDAY • SHOP LOCAL	**28** LEAFS • NHL SENS • NHL
29 RAPTORS • NBA	**30** LEAFS • NHL SENS • NHL					

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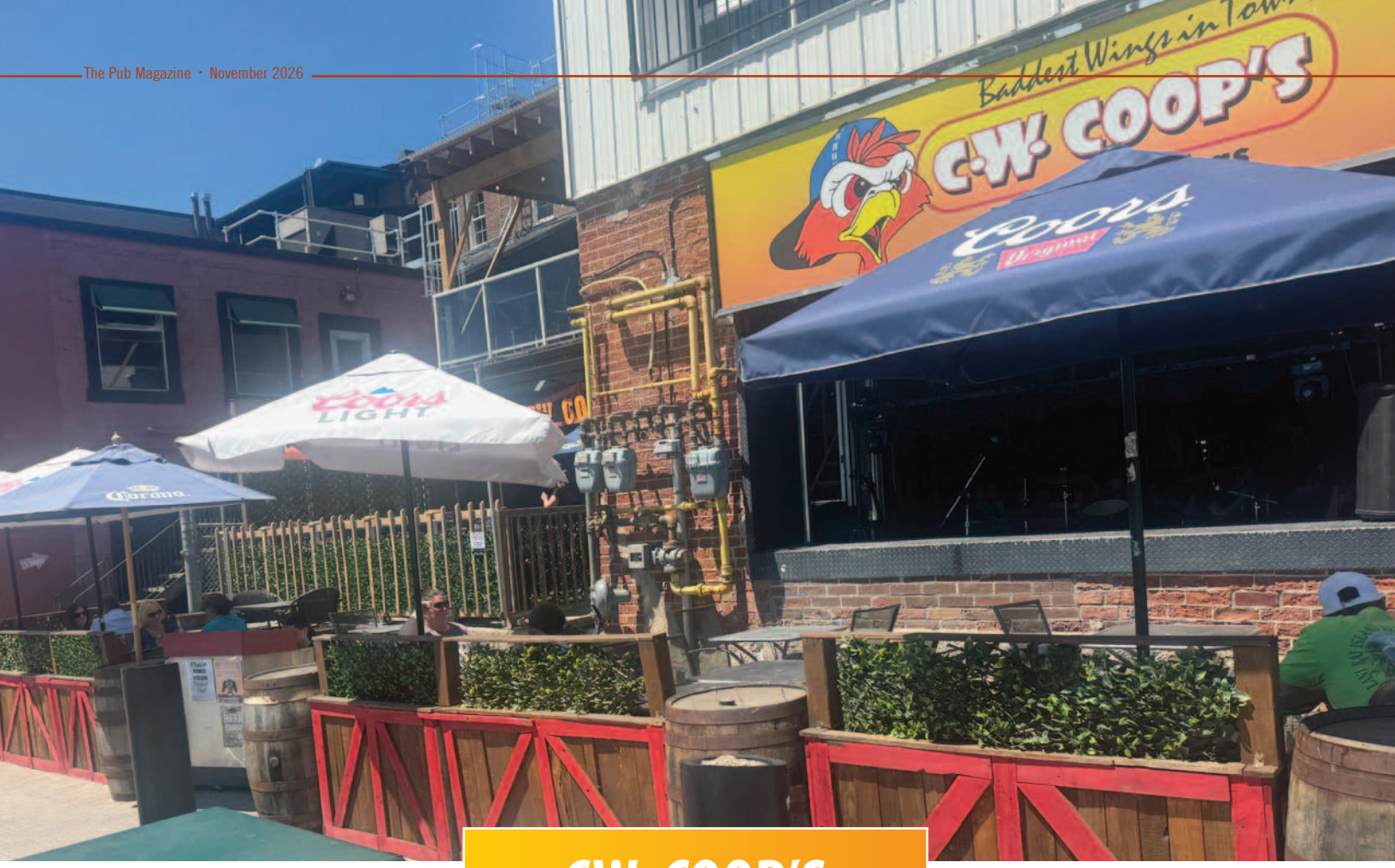

CW. COOP'S

3 Mulcaster Street, Barrie, 705 798 3597

CW. Coop's opened in 2022 and has since become a go to spot for the wings, the atmosphere and the weekly live music.

The large 138 seat back patio overlooks Lake Simcoe and has recently been voted Barrie's best patio.

The bar serves up more than 100 sauces and dry rubs for your fresh, never frozen wings. Traditional honey garlic is the most popular sauce but the abundance of choices makes sure that everyone finds their favourite. Many bars in Barrie claim to have the best wings in town but the locals put their money on CW.

Coop's and they are not wrong as their wings won gold at the 2026 Barrie Readers' Choice Awards along with best patio and best pet friendly patio.

If you like your wings really hot then enter the Coo Coo challenge, a one million scoville wing event, you might end up on either the wall of fame or wall of shame. The wings are 1/2 price on Wednesday along with other daily specials such as Fish and Chip.

Friday.

Live music most weekends with local bands and DJ's. The bar also hosts comedy nights and drag shows.

Tuesday is a popular open mic night and Thursday is karaoke with Gary.

The bar is a huge supporter of live music and this December on the 11th and 12th they will be hosting their own Coop's Fest with a DJ Friday night and a full day of Indie bands on the Saturday.

So for great wings and great music put CW. Coop's on your must visit list.

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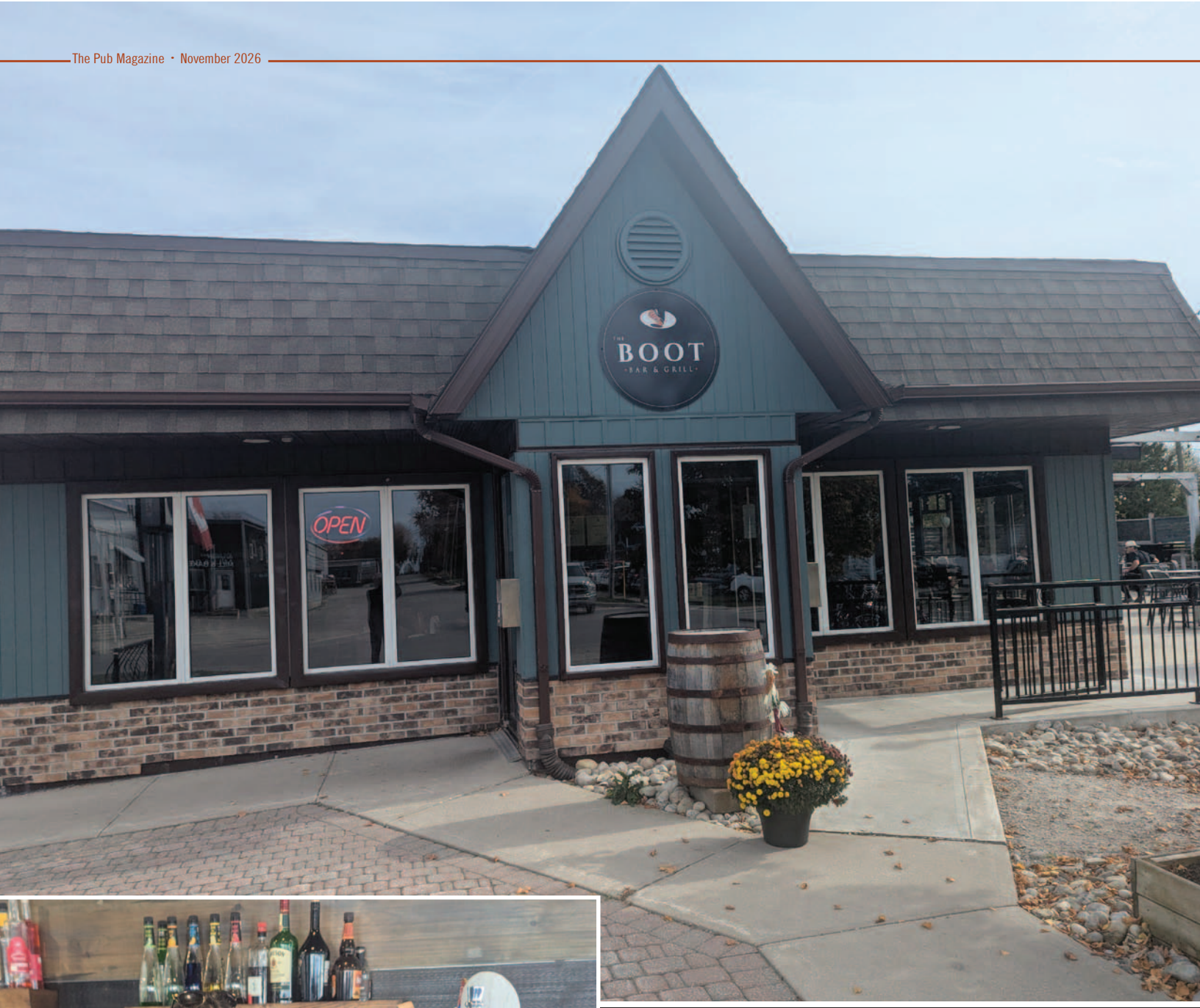


Megan

THE BOOT

164 Main Street South, Seaforth. 519 600 9381

This cozy little pub in the heart of Seaforth is at once welcoming and friendly. The sit down bar is to the upper right as you enter and here you will find a dozen draught taps that are mostly supportive of local craft breweries.

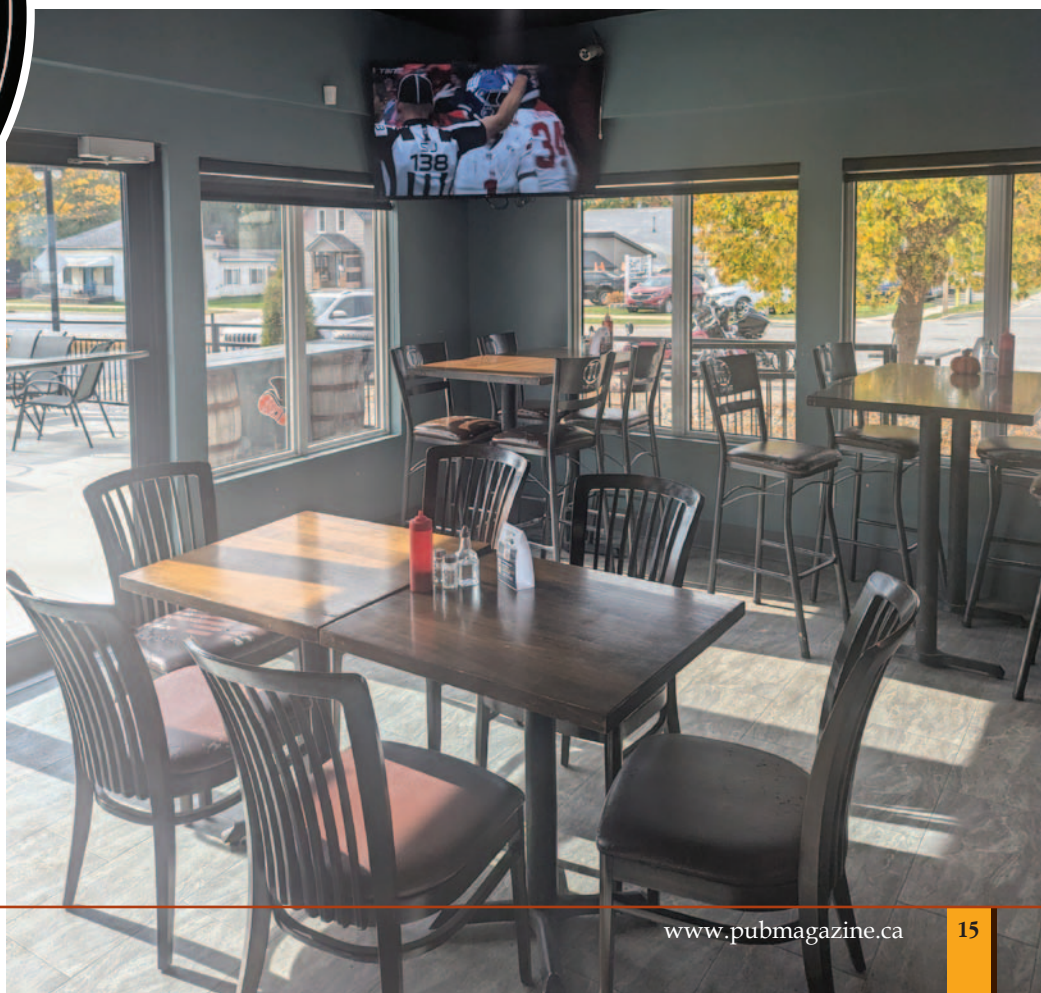
The dining area is open concept and surrounded by large windows creating a bright and larger atmosphere.

The side patio has to be one of the best in the area with its own full serve draught bar and many tables, regular and high top. In the

summer months the patio is home to regular entertainment and is the busiest spot in town.

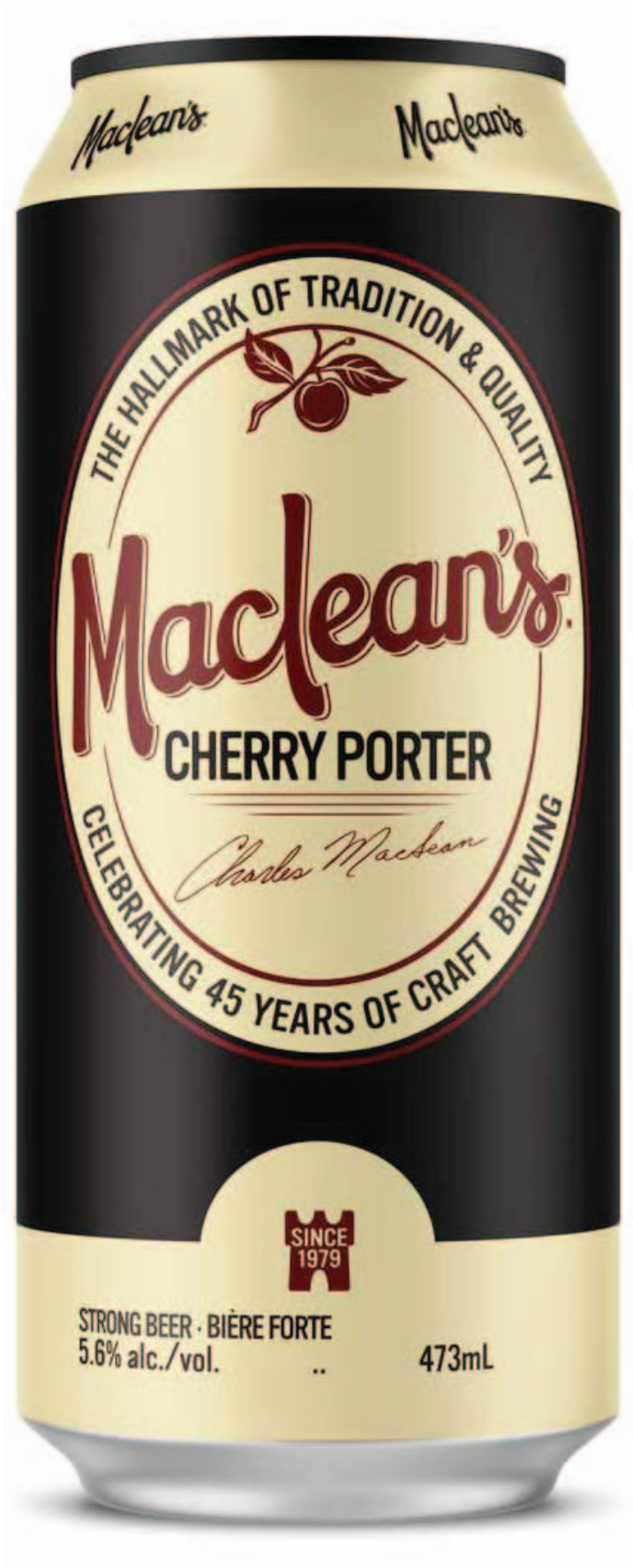
Many people ask where The Boot got its name from and the answer is that BJ and Angela Cullen, the owners of the bar also own the nearby Blyth Inn, which back in the day gained the nickname of 'The Rubber Boot' because earlier in the 1900's the local farmers would gather there to drink beer and gossip about their day. Over the years the nickname was shortened to 'The Boot', so when the couple had the chance to open up the Seaforth bar, they just had to call it The Boot.

THE BOOT
BAR & GRILL



The menu features apps such as the Bootine, with squeaky cheese curds, beef gravy, crispy fries and chicken fingers tossed in hot sauce then drizzled with ranch dressing. Entree's include a popular stir fry and a 10 oz. centre cut sirloin.

Wing days are on Tuesday and make for a very busy night. If you are ever in the area, you will enjoy this little local pub and if you are a fan of Old Vienna, you will enjoy it even more.



Beer of the Month:

MacLean's CHERRY PORTER

Charles MacLean is the leader of craft brewing in Ontario, having opened the first craft brewery back in 1979. His knowledge and brewing expertise is second to none.

His ales are well sought after and the good news is that MacLeans has now partnered with Thornbury Craft Beverage Co. to make for a wider distribution. I had the pleasure of having Charles as a guest on my radio show many years ago, one of the nicest guys you will ever meet in the beer business.

This month we feature his Cherry Porter (5.8%)
A medium bodied porter with a gentle sweetness and nuance flavours and subtle sour cherry undertones.
Ask for it at your local LCBO.