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**HISTORY OF ST. MARYS ROTARY CLUB RURAL URBAN**

**Rotary’s Rural Urban Night, a grand tradition of 94 years and counting.
Dan Needles to entertain the crowd on Thursday, April 9th at PRC.**

 **The Rotary Club of St. Marys was chartered in 1925 and one year later the first Rural Urban event was held to foster good fellowship between Rural and Urban residents. In the early years most travel was by horse and wagon thus Rotarians travelled to the communities of Kirkton, Thorndale, etc. for the meetings. The venues were the local churches because they were the heart of the communities and the community ladies put on a great country meal to enhance the relationships.**

**In later years, cars became common and Community Centers were built in Kirkton, Thorndale and St. Marys which accommodated the event. Caterers then provided food but local sourcing was always maintained.**

**We have enjoyed many speakers over the years that provided information and many laughs, along with the fellowship, before the busy spring planting. We are pleased that for many years we have been able to have welcome between 350 – 400 guests each year from Perth, Huron and Middlesex counties.**

**Rotary is proud that the Rural Urban event is celebrating its 94th year in 2020. Thus it stood the “test of time” in this unique Town of St. Marys and rich diversified agricultural area.**

**This year’s speaker is author, playwright and public speaker Dan Needles, who put on such an entertaining show here in 2018 that he is back by popular demand. Dan is a three-time nominee and 2003 winner of the Stephen Leacock Medal of Humour.**

**To obtain tickets for the April 9th event at the Pyramid Recreation Centre, visit Stonetown Travel, O’Grady’s Clothing, or through any St. Marys Rotarian.**

**Tickets can also be purchased online at** [**www.rotarystmarys.ca**](http://www.rotarystmarys.ca)

* **2020 Rural Urban Committee**