

# Tillsonburg POST



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## Program gives students a taste of rural medicine

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A program designed to give medical students a taste of rural medicine may result in future doctors locating in Tillsonburg.

Four medical students from Western University's Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry spent last week in Tillsonburg as part of the 28th annual Discovery Week. The program raised awareness about rural medicine.

Lana Yacoub of Windsor had not considered rural medicine before last week, but it is now a consideration after she was impressed by the community's closeness and how physicians interact with patients.

"The team dynamics are different than in a bigger hospital like University Hospital," she said.

Lauren Ling, originally from Toronto, had similar sentiments.

"The pace feels a little different than I experience in larger hospitals in large cities," she said, adding she is impressed with how kind the staff and patients were. "I feel if you work in a community setting, it's easier to feel you are making an impact."

Ling had not considered working in a rural location, but now may.

"This experience has definitely opened my eyes to what rural medicine has to offer, or community medicine in general," she said.

Tillsonburg is a little closer to Mitchell Pallister, who grew up in Shedden, on the west side of St. Thomas. Rural medicine was on his radar. He liked the idea of helping people in small communities who don't have access to facilities in larger cities.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 5



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

## RECORD-BREAKING FUNDRAISER

The 13th annual MSC Trail Walk and Run, held Sunday at Memorial Park, was a record breaker on several fronts. The 121 participants in the event was an increase over last year while the \$25,000 raised exceed organizers' goals and was the most ever. All funds raised stay local to support Tillsonburg Multi-Service Centre enhancements, including volunteer recruitment for Meals on Wheels, transportation and literacy tutor programs, the purchase of new literacy materials and technology, and assistance with transportation and meal costs for seniors facing financial challenges.

## Gilvesy files paper to run for mayor

JEFF HELSDON

Editor


Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy filed her papers last week to run again as mayor.

Completing her first term as mayor, Gilvesy has several projects she wants to see to completion. She reflected that projects don't always move as quickly as she would like, and she has learned there are pro-

cesses, timelines and circumstances beyond council's control.

Talking about the decision to run again, Gilvesy said, "I did not make this decision lightly. The past four years have not always been easy, but I never expected they would be. The position of mayor requires dedication, resilience, and, at times, a great deal of patience, something I continue to work on every day."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



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# Gilvesy running again to continue unfinished initiatives

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Tillsonburg has seen record industrial growth over the past two years, and Gilvesy wants to continue that momentum. She explained industrial land is taxed at a higher rate than residential, which will impact future residential tax ratios positively. She advocated with the province for economic development funding to assist with this growth.

Noting health care is a provincial responsibility, Gilvesy has still been a strong advocate for improved local health care. One big win announced recently was provincial funding for the Ingersoll Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic, which was announced in Tillsonburg.

"This new clinic will provide primary care to many residents who currently do not have a healthcare provider," she said. "We must continue supporting efforts to attract and retain healthcare professionals in our community. We are on the verge of

implementing some new and exciting recruitment tools, and I would like the opportunity to see them through."

The issue facing town council that has generated a lot of input from the public is building a new town hall.

"For seven years, I opposed building a new town hall because I believed there was a more fiscally responsible option. The solution council ultimately selected reflects that commitment," Gilvesy said, explaining financing costs for the new town hall will be less than the rent costs the town was paying the mall, and will not result in a tax increase.

One large change that will have future implications is the pending partnership between Tillsonburg Hydro Inc. and Erth. Both council and the THI board unanimously approved the partnership, which is currently before the Ontario Energy Board.

"While I recognize this is a topic that

generates strong opinions, the reality is that Tillsonburg Hydro has faced significant challenges for more than a decade without a viable long term solution," Gilvesy said. "Those challenges must be addressed, as failing to do so could result in substantially higher costs for consumers, potentially leading to a doubling of rates."

Another big change for the mayor's role in this term was the province naming Tillsonburg as a community which has Strong Mayor powers. The biggest change on this front was to the budget process, which the mayor led with staff.

Gilvesy is proud of the transformation of the airport from an entity requiring tax pay dollars to one generating an operational surplus in 2025.

The mayor is the town's representative at county council, and Gilvesy said she advocated for fiscal responsibility from her county seat.

"I opposed increases to bag tag fees, and voted against some county budgets because I believed they did not adequately respect taxpayers and included expenditures that were not essential," she said.

Speaking to the future, Gilvesy said she will push for changes in Oxford County's governance model to better reflect Tillsonburg's growing population, seek efficiencies while ensuring the taxpayer is respected, address the town's aging infrastructure, attract industrial development, and follow through on a motion she introduced recently that will see the town receive a portion of the airport taxes from the Township of South-West Oxford and Oxford County to pay for infrastructure improvements.

"I also believe it is time to undertake a comprehensive review of municipal operations, supported by public engagement, to identify efficiencies, modernize service delivery where appropriate, and ensure residents continue to receive the best possible value for every tax dollar spent," Gilvesy added. "Responsible growth must be matched by responsible government."

Asked about a boundary adjust, which is something the town's economic development committee called for but no decision has been made on, Gilvesy answered, "Any successful boundary adjustment will require a clear plan, strong evidence, and

respectful negotiations with neighbouring municipalities. At this stage, it would be premature and potentially counterproductive to publicly discuss every aspect of a future n

Homelessness is an issue that has generated much discussion amongst residents, and will continue to be an issue for the next council. To this end, Gilvesy said she recently signed a letter, which will be coming to council shortly, asking the province for legislative changes to deal with this problem.

"For example, current legislation does not provide the same authority for police to intervene when an individual is publicly impaired by drugs as it does for public intoxication involving alcohol," she explained. "This is a gap that requires provincial attention."

Oxford County is responsible for delivering social services to help homelessness, and Gilvesy pointed to two in-progress initiatives: a 24-hour low-barrier support center in Woodstock to service the entire county and the provincially-funded HART Hub. The HART Hub model includes crisis beds, recovery beds, transitional housing supports, and pathways to permanent housing.

The town implemented a parks bylaw to prohibit overnight camping and close parks overnight. The Police Detachment Board is also recommending the creation of a nuisance bylaw for the downtown core that will come forward to a future council meeting.

"I believe positive change is on the horizon," Gilvesy said. "For the first time, there is a coordinated plan that brings together housing, healthcare, mental health supports, addiction services, outreach programs, and legislative advocacy. As these initiatives become fully operational, I am confident they will make a meaningful difference."

Gilvesy was elected as mayor in 2022 after serving one term on council. Prior to that, she was a director and vice-chair of the former Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board. She was a business owner, and worked for CJDL for 10 years. Gilvesy spent 20 years as a volunteer basketball coach.



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

## NEW SIGN

Brian Allen and Nancy Griffin show off the new sign at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. The sign is one of many recent updates at the church, including installing air conditioning and increasing accessibility access.



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## EDITORIAL

# The untold betrayals with Parliamentary floor crossings

By Jeff Helsdon, Editor

Floor crossings are back in the news with the federal NDP introducing legislation to ban floor crossing without voter consent.

To step back to earlier this year, Prime Minister Mark Carney secured a majority government by convincing five MPs from other parties to join his governing Liberals. Floor crossings are nothing new, but this is the first time in Canadian history where a minority government has become a majority due to floor crossings.

When Canadians elect a majority government, it's a signal of total trust in the party elected. This did not occur when ballots were cast last year, but did through individuals changing party affiliation. No matter what your party affiliation is, this should be a bigger deal than it is. However, it's not, and most Canadians weren't talking about it when it occurred. My belief is this is due to Canadians not paying enough attention to their own politics.

With the stories of each floor crossing, there was news coverage in each area, with generally just a passing mention on the national news. Often, somewhere in the stories were interviews with local constituents, and sometimes members of local riding associations to see if they felt betrayed. Responses varied amongst voters at large, but were consistently negative amongst riding association members.

To provide more insight into this, at the federal level, each major party has an Electoral District Association (EDA). These associations hold fundraisers, and although circumstances vary slightly in each area with individual campaigns, the EDA volunteers are the mechanisms that organize and run campaigns at the riding level. In other words, they are the ones who are responsible for getting an individual MP elected.

EDA volunteers are usually a tight-knit group, who are often friends with the candidate. They solicit donations, knock on doors and are the boots on the ground on election night. Often, they give their own money to the campaign. Some would envision EDA volunteers as people with large bank accounts looking to influence their elected official. Sure, those individuals exist, but most are average folk with strong political beliefs who devote long hours during a campaign to the cause. They are individuals with average salaries helping to elect an MP who will be making a salary they could never dream of.

Enough money is raised locally, that in normal circumstances, the EDA is expected to fund the local campaign entirely. The party will lend financial assistance in close races, but a large part of party dollars pay for the national campaign.

When a MP crosses the floor, the ultimate betrayal is to their EDA team. These are their campaign workers, the

people who got them elected, and they often read of the floor crossing in the news like everyone else. How is that for a slap in the face for their toiling?

The sad part is the majority of Canadians aren't aware EDA volunteers even exist.

As I said, Canadians don't follow their own politics closely enough.

Of course, there is the partisan political angle as well. Floor crossers betrayed the party and the voters of a political group as well. And let's face it, the majority of MPs are elected for their political affiliation, not their personal popularity.

Some readers may be wondering what makes me such an expert on this topic, and why the national news isn't talking about the story. I have volunteered as part of the campaign team for numerous campaigns at the provincial level and helped with door knocking on election day for federal campaigns. When the MPP I worked for, Toby Barrett, retired and his chosen replacement, Bobbi Ann Brady, wasn't selected as the provincial PC candidate, I was the co-chair of the campaign that elected her as the first MPP who was not previously elected with a party in more than 100 years. This has given me an insight on Canadian politics most people don't have.

Many say Canadian politics is boring. Sorry, but history was just made.

Or, how about the floor crossing with the romance twist? When Belinda Stronach crossed from the former Pro-

gressive Conservatives to the Liberals two decades ago, she left not only the party but a romance with party leader Peter MacKay.

And then there was the whole incident with Jody Wilson-Raybould, who left Justin Trudeau's Cabinet to sit as an Independent after he asked her to do something she deemed unethical. Was that boring when a Cabinet minister resigns from not only her position, but the party? Jane Philpott then also left. Obviously, Canadians didn't follow that story enough to not re-elect Trudeau.

Getting back to the NDP bill, the legislation would not ban MPs from crossing the floor, but would require them to either sit as an Independent until the next election, or run in a byelection. This legislation, which there is no doubt won't pass, would be a step forward. Polls have found the majority of those surveyed believe floor crossers should either sit as an Independent or face a byelection. Pundits would argue the whole thing is political posturing for the NDP, as they know the bill won't pass. But, Canadians don't follow their own politics and most aren't aware of the poll or the story behind the bill either.

It's time that the coffee shop and water cooler conversations should shift from the latest thing U.S. President Donald Trump did (although some of this greatly impacts Canada, which is an exception) to what is going on with politics north of the 49th Parallel.

## Misadventures of taking Grade 8 students on class trips



WRITER'S  
CORNER

NORMA COLLIS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

A longtime friend of ours, a retired doctor, now organizes and leads small tour groups on European adventures titled "off the Beaten Track." He is presently leading a group in Greece and during a recent Skype call, told me how stressed out he was. One of his travelers had left his vital meds on board a sailing yacht that they had been on while another left his cell-phone behind on a bench in the very busy port in Athens.

"I'm exhausted!" complained our friend.

I just chuckled. "That is exactly what it was like taking grade 8 kids on their June overnight trips," I told him.

The school board I worked for, allowed cross border school trips back in the day.

One memorable trip to Boston found four staff members tasked with the responsibility of leading 40, rambunctious Grade 8 kids through various historical experiences and sights in an extremely busy city.

On these extended outings there always seems to be at least one young traveler who just doesn't listen. We would tell the group that we were now all turning right, and this kid would turn left. Crossing the busy city streets was a potential "daring dance with death" as this young man would just step out into traffic completely oblivious to the fact that Boston drivers all seem to have side hustles as stunt drivers.

Somehow, this kid became my special "charge" and he presented a constant challenge. One day, a short break for shopping had been built into the schedule. He and I spent the time trudging 12 blocks, in sweltering heat and humidity, back to the restaurant where we had all had lunch. He had forgotten his wallet. I'm not sure why he even needed to remove his wallet from his pocket as the lunch was prepaid. When we finally returned to the shopping area, it was time to leave. Everyone else proudly displayed their purchases, I was empty handed except for one very sweaty kid who kept asking when he would get to go shopping.

On day three, we departed the big city to spend the morning in the historic village of Salem, followed by lunch at a nearby harbour where we would then embark on an afternoon whale watching boat cruise. There were three different fast-food cafes close to our departure point. These students were told that they could choose where to buy their lunch from one of the three places, and that we had 40 minutes before boarding the boat.

My young charge headed off with the other kids, and it looked as if a hamburger was going to be his dining choice. We teachers took turns going to buy something to eat for ourselves, while each of us took our turn being "on point" to make certain that all our group stayed within the perimeters of the designated cafes.

It was now time to board our boat. No amount of counting heads, could deny that we were coming up short by one kid. You have probably already guessed who was missing. Before complete panic set in, some of the other students said, "Oh we saw him heading into that restaurant way down at the end of the dock."

Our principal was one of the chaperones.

"I will go and get him," he declared.

It wasn't long before man and boy ap-

peared a quite some distance away. When ever our principal got really mad, he would turn beet red and two veins would pop out on either side of his forehead. Even at that distance, we could see that all too familiar crimson colour and almost hear the beat of those two veins pulsating.

The young man in question had gone into a high-end restaurant and ordered a complete lobster dinner, which he did not have enough money to pay for. Our poor fearless leader had to pay for the dinner, which had just arrived as the principal entered the restaurant.

"I didn't get to eat," complained our young gourmand.

"Don't even go there," he was sternly told.

At the end of the week, we returned to our school, exhausted.

"Did you have a nice holiday?" asked one of the teachers who had not gone on the trip.

"Don't even go there," said four voices in unison.

"You've never been on one of these trips, have you?" I added.

The other teacher wisely said no more. Norma Collis is a Tillsonburg author of several books, including "Tales from Holly Cottage".

# A Wilde historical experience awaits at Annandale house

## TILLSONBURG CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

JASON PANKRATZ

*Tillsonburg Post Columnist*

Oscar Wilde was an Irish playwright, lecturer and cultural icon of the late 1900's. His work, character and historical importance is known all over the world. And interestingly, Tillsonburg and Woodstock have direct connections to him. And so do I, but we'll get to that at the end of the article.

Oscar Wilde came to North America in 1882 and spent the year traveling Canada and the United States. For such an upper-class character, his lectures were open to all audiences. He spoke to the rich and the poor. His visit was warmly received when giving a lecture to the miners in Matchless Silver Mine in Leadville, Colorado. Additionally, prominent and cultured citizens also purchased tickets to see this dandy of the Arts Aesthetic Movement. And for all who witnessed his presence, it could be said that, as his fame grew at the end of the 20th Century, they had experienced his early and upcoming celebrity.

He lectured audiences on the benefits of the Arts Aesthetic Movement and claimed that everybody could live with beauty in their life. It was not just the rich in big houses and with wealth that could afford visual appealing decorations. Beauty should be seen wherever you look. The movement also rejected the mass-produced baubles and furnishings of the Industrial Revolution. Homes should be decorated with natural woods and materials, depicting natural subjects of all type of flora and fauna. The use of "the outside on the inside" with colourful applications was a direct association to the arts and crafts movement, as well as the symmetry in design using shapes, vines/leaves,

and geometric patterns.

I write this article, not only to teach about Wilde and the Arts Aesthetic movement, but also because it is the anniversary of his visit to Oxford County. He spoke at 8pm on Monday, May 29, in the Woodstock Town Hall. This building is now the Woodstock Museum, National Historic Site. He spoke on the second floor opera stage. He then spent the night across the road from the hall at the O'Neil House, later renamed the Hotel Oxford, which is now being renovated for commercial use.

It is said that Tillsonburg's first Mayor E.D. Tillson and his wife Mary Ann attended this lecture. Unfortunately, there is no direct evidence of them attending. But there is evidence of their knowledge and admiration of Wilde and his cultural theories. They owned a small personal steamboat that they named "The Oscar Wilde" that they used on Lake Joseph. Sadly (and surprisingly to me) there are no pictures of this.

The greatest connection to Wilde by the Tillson's is the internal decoration of Annandale House. They employed the visual characteristics that defined the Arts Aesthetic Movement. The flooring on the main hall is made up of local woods in different hues in geometrical patterns. The painted ceilings include colourful geometric designs, shapes, and images of nature. Look way up to the third floor and you can witness a peach and parrot. Truly, wherever you look, you see design and beauty.

So where do I come in? My Uncle Tom's father, Donald Thomson, was mayor of Woodstock from 1947-1948. Additionally, (you know I am a Tillsonburg historian) I worked at Annandale House and know it like the back of my hand. In 2021, I had an article published in Our Canada Magazine about Wilde's Woodstock visit. I have also given lectures about Oscar Wilde. Most recently, I delivered a presentation in Woodstock at the museum, on the same stage where Oscar Wilde spoke in May 1882.

I ended my article and my presentation acknowledging that Wilde's Canadian tour has been largely forgotten. This includes the localities and specific buildings



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Oscar Wilde, photographed by Napoleon Sarony in 1882.

where he spoke and stayed. It is my pleasure to reinforce OUR direct connection with Oscar Wilde, the world-renowned literary and cultural figure.

*Dr. Jason Pankratz is a local historian and published author of several articles and books, including Tillsonburg at 200.*

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# Program gives students a taste of rural medicine

CONTINUED FROM FRONT



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Students with Western University's Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry received a taste of working in a rural hospital during Discovery Week. Left to right are: Lauren Ling, Mitchell Pallister, Lana Yacoub and John Wayne Eugenio.

"Maybe I'm not as open to family medicine, but could see myself as a hospitalist or in internal medicine in a rural setting," he said, adding he spent time working with Dr. Carroll Harder in emergency and was impressed.

John Wayne Eugenio completed his education as a registered nurse before applying to medical school, and his first clinical placement was in Tillsonburg. He noticed many differences at that time, saying in particular, he noted, "How productive a small town can be with limited resources. The community has to come together, and everyone has to wear many hats."

Discovery Week including rotations in the operating room, ER, clinics, surgi-

cal and orthopedic departments. Along with their counterparts who were experiencing Discovery Week in Woodstock and Ingersoll, the students visited a dairy farm. At the end of the week, each student had to complete a video assignment.

Rural Roads Health Services President and CEO Nadia Facca explained that small hospitals have a different pace, allowing for better explanations and more time spent with patients.

"It's important in the first year before they get their minds set on other things," she said of the program.

Facca said there is evidence the program works.

"A lot of it is gaining awareness of rural medicine," she said.

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## WEEKEND QUIZ

by Jake Grant

1. What zodiac signs fall in June?
2. What important historical event occurred on June 6, 1944?
3. What is the oldest national park in Canada?
4. What was Blackbeard's real name?
5. In what Canadian town is the World Crokinole Championships held?
6. When did the Peasants' Revolt take place?
7. Who is the film The Social Network about?
8. What boarding device was used by ancient Roman ships?
9. Canada uses what measurement system?
10. What is Moscow's famed opera house?

This week's answers are found on pg. 34

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# County keeping eye on Potter's Road fixes

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Oxford County public works department is listening to public feedback and determining if further action is needed to fix drainage issues on Potter's Road.

Formally known as Oxford County Road 37 from Tillsonburg town limits to its terminus at Base Line Road in the Township of Norwich, the road and its maintenance are a county responsibility. After a \$1.4 million repaving project that rehabilitated the existing roadway surface to improve ride quality and extend the road's service life. However, following the work, residents have reported ponding in some areas adjacent to the road and issues with the shoulders.

Township of Norwich Mayor Jim Palmer provided some insight, saying he had some complaints last fall.

"The newly paved surface was wider than the original surface," he explained. "The contractor attempted to make new shoulders, but in many cases, there wasn't any of the original shoulder width remaining. Where possible, they added some topsoil to the remaining shoulder. The material they used was not a good choice, and the replacement of that was part of last fall's rework."

Rueben Davis, Senior Manager, Engineering Services with Oxford County, explained county staff have not identified any widespread drainage deficiencies, but have found "localized ponding after a rainfall, or from snow melt rather than an overall drainage issue associated with the repaving work".

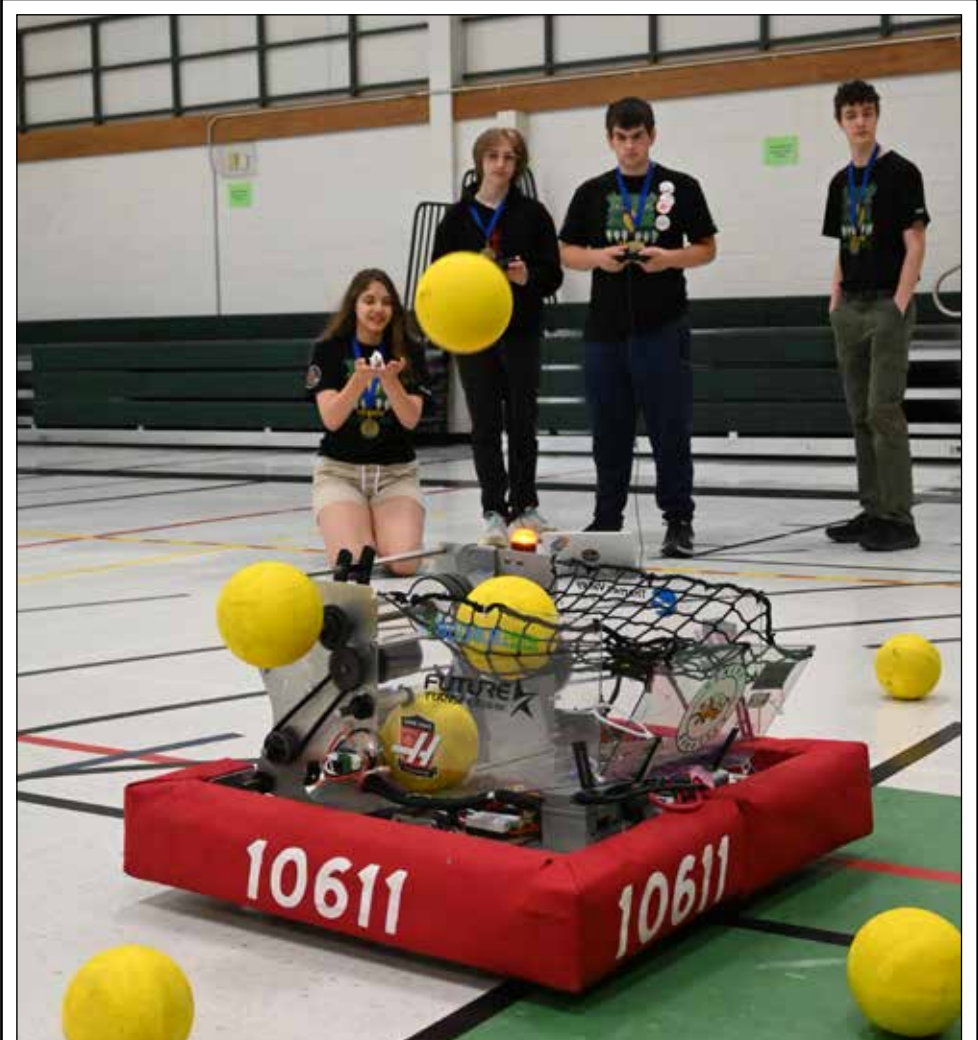
"County staff will continue to investigate and assess any concerns brought forward by residents," he added.

Speaking to the issue of the shoulders, Davis said some challenges were identified with the topsoil shoulder along portions of the road. After staff reviewed the construction, a decision was made to remove the topsoil with granular material.

Assessment of the problem areas is continuing, based on feedback.

"County staff have conducted site reviews of the locations identified through resident feedback," Davis said. "The concerns are currently being assessed to determine whether any additional work is warranted. No decisions have been made at this time regarding further remedial measures."

As for the cost of the repairs, Davis said, "Responsibility for remedial efforts to address localized ponding issues is a contractual issue that is being negotiated with the contractor."



## ROBOTICS DEMONSTRATION

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Members of Glendale High School's robotics team demonstrated the robot they built to the students recently. The robot, which was built from the ground up, had to pick up balls and then shoot them into a basket as quickly as possible. It has a top speed of about 18km/h. The team finished first in a competition in barrie but were 31st of 50 teams at the provincials against longer-established teams. Left to right are team members Anneliese McCarter, Ellis Cole, Zachary MacRae and Theodore McCarter.

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## SOBEY'S GRAND RE-OPENING

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

As part of its grand re-opening on June 4, Sobeys's Tillsonburg owners John and Wendy Cameron donated \$1,000 to the Tillsonburg Helping Hand Food Bank and the Station Arts Centre. Left to right are: John Cameron, Station Arts Centre Executive Director Tabitha Verbuyst, food bank Coordinator Samantha Hamilton, Wendy Cameron and food bank volunteer Dianne Vitias.



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# Graham calls awards show a win

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Local rising country singer Olivia Mae Graham called last weekend's Country Music Association of Ontario awards show a win despite not being chosen for any of the awards her debut album was nominated for.

Graham was nominated for Breakthrough Artist of the Year and Female Artist of the Year. Her debut album Nobody was up for Album/EP of the Year and Music Video of the Year. Nobody producers Jay Allen and Aaron Murray were nominated for Record Producer of the Year, and her guitarist, Nolan Gibson, was considered for Musician of the Year.

She didn't win any of these awards, but was one of a select few asked to perform at the awards.

"Being able to perform on that stage and being there with my team was the win," she said.

Graham debuted a new song, What's It

Going to Take, at the show.

"It's been so special," she reflected. "I had people message to me that they heard it on the awards show, and they just keep listening to it on repeat. As an artist, that's what you want."

Graham conceded that she was up against some of the top names in the province for some of the awards.

"Honestly, to be top six in all of Ontario is a win," she said. "I couldn't be prouder of every single person on the team, and all the work we've done."

Since the awards show, Graham has been conducting interviews and talking about the new single with country radio stations across the country. Performing on the CMAO awards has also opened door for her summer touring schedule, which includes Rockin' Wheel outside London on July 3.

She doesn't have a local date, but said she wants to have a big hometown show locally.

"It's just a matter of scheduling - definitely before the end year," she noted.



(@ADAPTIVEMMG PHOTO)

Local singer Olivia Mae Graham was amongst the performers at the Country Music Association of Ontario awards on May 31 in Mississauga. Although nominated for six awards with her team and not winning, she said the win was being one of a select number to perform live at the event.

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# Tillsonburg Legion member honoured by Quilts of Valour presentation



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Matt Brinn, centre with the quilt wrapped around him, was presented with a Quilt of Valour during veteran's coffee hour at Legion Branch #153. He is surrounded by the other attendees to the private event for veterans.

## JEFF HELSDON

Editor

In his role as Tillsonburg Legion's Sergeant at Arms, Matt Brinn's face is a familiar one to local residents who see him at the front of veteran parades. But what locals may not know is what he did for his country.

Brinn joined the Canadian Armed Forces in April of 1997 in the infantry. He was in Bosnia and

Afghanistan in that role and then changed roles to an electrical distribution technician for the remainder of this time in the military. He also did tours to the United Arab Emirates, Nepal, the Congo and South Sudan.

For his military service, Brinn was recognized by the Quilts of Valour program after being nominated by Legion Branch 153 President Tom Brown. He received a quilt during the

regular veteran's coffee hour on June 4.

During the ceremony, Marsha Fishleigh of Quilts of Valour said only one per cent of the population serves the county in the military. All show great courage, bravery and strength.

"That is the trait of a hero," she said.

She explained the quilt is symbolic of the many different experiences those in the military en-



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Tillsonburg Legion Sergeant-At-Arms Matt Brinn was presented with a Quilt of Valour to recognize his military service by representatives of the Quilt of Valour program, Brad Fishleigh, left, and Marsha Fishleigh.

sure. The top part, pieced and stitched together, is a reminder of the diverse people the recipient served with in the military. The middle of the quilt brings warmth and comfort,

while the backing provides strength, which is characteristic of the recipient.

"A piece of our hearts are sewn into each quilt," she said.

Brown was looking at some of the different programs available to veterans, and when he

learned more about Quilts of Valour, he thought of Brinn.

Brinn, now retired and is as is jokes a "semi-pro golfer", wasn't surprised with the award as he knew Brown nominated him, but was still honoured and humbled.



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## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation Board of Directors would like to announce the Annual General Meeting of the Foundation.

The meeting will be held on:  
**Monday June 22, 2026 at 12:30 PM**

The purpose of this meeting is to receive the respective Annual Reports, Financial Statements and to announce the Board of Directors for the 2026-2027 term.

Interested citizens direct your enquiries to:

**Gerry Dearing, Executive Director at either  
519-842-3611 ext. 5311 or  
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# Gilvesy deescalates emotional debate on YMCA purchase

LEE GRIFFI

Post Contributor

Oxford County councillors heard emotional pleas on both sides of a plan to purchase property in Woodstock to house what is being called a homeless shelter and support centre.

Grant Haven Media broke the story of the county purchasing the former YMCA at 808 Dundas Street in Woodstock at a cost of \$4.55 million dollars. Renovations to the property to accommodate the shelter and professional office spaces are budgeted at \$3 million.

The biggest problem one delegation had with the purchase is the absence of any public consultation before the cheque was written.

"One of our offices has already been the target of a homeless individual threatening to harm everyone inside our facility with a gun. When the possibility of catastrophic failure exists, you owe this community a voice," said Justin Byer who spoke to council with his wife Tracy. The pair own a business immediately across the street from the Y.

"There is also real concern from the more than 200 people who have signed a petition against this facility that Dundas Street could begin to resemble parts of East London. Why spend all that money revitalizing downtown, only to risk damaging the same corridor 600 meters away," he added.

The couple, who are well known for their community engagement and support of causes, said their opposition comes from lack of a clear plan, and lack of communication with stakeholders in the process.

"When I found out that neither the police nor Inn out

of the Cold were meaningfully consulted, I knew that we had to speak up. My ask today is simple. Pause and consult this community, especially local stakeholders, before spending another dollar," said Tracy.

"Right now, a building has already been purchased. And now, the county is asking for \$250,000 for architectural drawings without issuing an RFP to ensure competitive pricing, and without meaningful input from the people most affected. Neighbours, business owners, police, fire, EMS, Inn out of the Cold and Operation Sharing. Where were they in this process?" she added.

"I can't believe I'm standing up here to be against this," added Justin. "The process of how you have run this behind closed doors and to find out through a leaked media report is where we're standing today? It's ridiculous. Every county person should be embarrassed at how that happened."

A back and forth between Mr. Byer and Warden Marcus Ryan was testy at times, prompting Coun. and Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy to comment.

"Quite frankly I'm a little bit disappointed at the tones of the voices I am hearing around council chamber today. I think we can have a civil discussion about this and I think its very important the public is involved."

She added the concerns raised by the Byers are valid.

"We are here to listen to the public and these processes have to be open. I'm glad people feel free that they can come and speak. That's what democracy is all about and that's what this council should be about."

Ryan said the only thing council should be held ac-

countable for is the purchase didn't get done sooner.

"We've had upwards of a dozen locations in front of us over the past three and a half years that we were not able to make a decision on. We've made one and we need to get this done because there are people who are unrepresented here today that we shouldn't forget and that's people sleeping under tarps tonight, people who slept in tents last night in parks."

Woodstock resident Tracy Sherman, whose son Travis struggles with schizophrenia and homelessness, spoke to council and thanked them for making the move to being a permanent structure on line.

"For years our family has lived with the heartbreaking reality of navigating a system that simply does not have enough support for people struggling with severe mental illness, trauma, homelessness and addiction."

She added she has watched her son struggle in ways she would never wish on any family.

"I have experienced the fear of not knowing where he is. My son almost froze to death two years ago and a police officer found him outside in a snowbank. I fear the phone call. I fear whether someone vulnerable will survive another night outside."

Sherman, who struggled to hold back tears for much of her presentation, said the new building gives her hope because people need more than a temporary place to sleep. She also praised council for making a tough decision.

"Leadership is not always about making the easiest decision. Sometimes it is about making the compassionate one and sometimes it means making difficult choices knowing there will be criticism, pushback and political pressure."

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# ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION'S 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Mike Toneri, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 153 Tillsonburg member, played billiards Saturday during the 100th anniversary open house.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Celebrating 100 years of service at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 153 open house in Tillsonburg on Saturday are, from left, Jean Wood, Dennis Murray and Harry Wood. Tours of the Legion were available.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Saturday's 100th anniversary open house at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 153, in Tillsonburg featured historical photos, programs, and displays, including the Tillsonburg Military History Club with Frank Moore and Randy Wallis.

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(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 153 in Tillsonburg celebrated 100 years of service with an open house on Saturday. From left are Branch 153 Padre Paul Robinson, Chuck Matheson, Branch 153 president Tom Brown C.D., first vice-president Vera Struyk, Claude Archambault, Dianne Hodges, Chris Boldy and Mike Pritchard.

# What's New

in Tillsonburg and surrounding areas

## Hurley's Mattress & Appliance expands into new location

Jacob and Lena Knelsen, owners of Hurley's Mattress & Appliance in Tillsonburg, love their new location.

"The location is fantastic," said Jacob, pleased with their move to 518 Broadway last November. "A lot more people coming in."

Inside, the former movie theatre has been completely transformed.

"It had to be opened up and we did everything we could as far as we were structurally allowed to do," said Jacob.

"We were thinking of the square footage, brainstorming and just drawing it up," said Lena. "How it looked from the outside, and how it could look on the inside – everything was just so open."

"People love it," Jacob smiled. "Even last week, we had one of the bosses from Serta Simmons mattress company. He was here with their rep and he was amazed with our new store and the room that we have."

With more retail floor space, Hurley's Mattress & Appliance expanded their product lines and servicing.

"We doubled our appliance department, we doubled our mattress department. And we brought in some furniture," said Jacob, "and we're planning to bring a lot more in."

"The other exciting thing is that we are now a certified Whirlpool servicing dealer. It's a huge milestone for us."

In addition to Whirlpool, which includes brands like Maytag, KitchenAid, and Amana, they have Electrolux (Frigidaire), GE, Huebsch, and Stirling Marathon appliances.

Mattresses include Serta Simmons (including Beautyrest), Sealy (Tempur-Pedic), and Dreamstar.

The furniture is from Elran – Canadian made – and International Furniture Distribution Centre.

"Great company, great product," he said, pleased with their Elran line of recliners and chairs.

"We are quite selective, even when it comes to what mattresses to carry, because we have a lot of options. We would much rather sell better quality, and we want to make sure the customer is happy when they have invested in a mat-



Lena and Jacob Knelsen, owners of Hurley's Mattress & Appliance in Tillsonburg.

tress... because it's a big decision."

Helping customers make those decisions is an experienced sales staff.

"Richard and Dave - our sales staff is amazing. Six days a week, we have a very knowledgeable, good sales person on the floor. When people come and they want a mattress, you have a much better chance of getting a good mattress - and a good recommendation – at Hurley's than at a big box store."

Hurley's has two full-time technicians on staff for repair services, and 10 employees in total, including Jacob and Lena, all moving with them to their new location.

"We are very fortunate to have a great team," said Jacob.

Hurley's delivers in Tillsonburg and surrounding areas, including Simcoe, Ingersoll, Woodstock, Delhi, Port Rowan, Langton, Port Burwell, Aylmer and St. Thomas.

"We even take the old stuff, the old mattresses, away. We don't charge anything extra for that yet. I know a lot of companies do, we don't..."

"For a very cheap delivery, too," Lena noted.

"The service that we provide to our customers is a lot," Jacob nodded, "and it's cheap when you factor in everything we do for the customers."

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# Splash into Stories with Oxford County Library



## OCL BOOK TALK

KATELYN BENNETT

Literacy Program Specialist,  
Oxford County Library, Tillsonburg branch.

Summer is right around the corner and Oxford County Library is getting ready to Splash into Stories from June 9 – August 22.

OCL invites the public to participate in the TD Summer Reading Club and OCL Summer Reading Challenges (SRC) for teens and adults. Haven't participated in the past? Come visit us at our Tillsonburg Branch on Saturday, June 27th for our SRC Launch Party to learn more. Library staff will assist you with registration and provide your themed registration package. Our SRC Launch Party will be filled with fun under the sea-themed family activities, including crafting your own shark or

fish puppet, green screen photo booth and a performance by Canada's premiere female ventriloquist, Yvette Locke.

Can't make it in person for our Launch Party? We've made registration and reading tracking simple through the Beanstack app for iOS or Android devices. Register on the app anytime after June 9, and come visit us at our branch to collect your registration package at your earliest convenience. Books, comics, magazines, newspaper articles; what stories will you splash into this summer? Check out these water themed book recommendations for all age groups to kick off your summer reading!

### Picture books:

#### *Ahoy!* written by Sophie Blackall

Embark on a nautical adventure with a parent and child, all from the comfort of their living room. The rug is the ocean; the broom is the ship's mast – what else can you see with your imagination? In this sea inspired tale, the child reminds the parent that adventures can take place anywhere, with a little imagination.

#### *Fish and Crab* written by Marianna Coppo

All the underwater creatures say good-

night and settle in to sleep inside the aquarium. Best friends Fish and Crab close their eyes but suddenly, Crab is woken up by Fish who is full of questions and worries! This delightfully funny and fishy tale is sure to make you giggle.

#### *I, Sea* written by Suzanne Sutherland

A seemingly simple pirate story, but with a clever use of homonyms. Featuring beautiful patchwork illustrations by Ashley Barron, this tale follows an orange Tabby cat pirate who learns the difference between "Aye" and "eye".

### Junior books and graphic novels:

#### *Axolotl – A First Field Guide to the Amphibian That Never Grows Up* written by Dr Jessica LaMae Whited

Dive into all things Axolotl with this non-fiction read. Learn facts about these cute amphibians, including how they re-grow their legs.

#### *Spooky Lakes – 25 Strange and Mysterious Lakes That Dot Our Planet* written by Geo Rutherford

As a Forest of Reading 2026 Yellow Cedar Honours Award winner, this book is a must read. Spooky Lakes highlights some of Earth's creepiest wonders that lie beneath the surface in lakes around the world.

#### *Puffin and Penguin* written by Helaine Becker

We can't forget about our avian friends who live by the sea! In this adorable new graphic novel, Puffin relocates to "Brook-loon" with his parents and must attend a new school. He is assigned a new buddy, Penguin, and peers can't help but notice their striking similarities. A perfect combination of bird facts and humour, this graphic novel is sure to be a new favourite.

### Books for teens:

#### *The Map That Led to You* written by Ella McLeod

This 2025 release is told from three different perspectives and timelines. From history assignment to pirate adventures, Teens are sure to enjoy this tale of legends and discovery.

#### *A Drop in the Ocean* written by Léa Taranto

Another Forest of Reading 2026 Honours recipient! This novel follows 16-year-old Mira Durand as she is checked into the Residency Adolescent Treatment Centre for OCD disorders. This story weaves together themes of friendship, identity, first

love and trust while exploring the complexities of cognitive health.

#### *Across the Atlantic Blue* written by Genevieve Jane

A whimsical tale about a young girl, Evie, who can't help but feel out of place in her home in Nova Scotia. Learning of her mysterious past, she makes friends with mermaids, kid-pirates faeries and enchanted animals who say they can "bring her home". Where is her home if not where she is? Evie embarks on a dangerous and dark journey to discover the mysteries of her past and save an unknown world alongside her new friends. For fans of the classic tale of Peter Pan, this novel is sure to present familiar ideas in a whole new light.

### Books for adults:

#### *The Shark House* written by Sara Ackerman

Set in Hawaii 1998, this newly released novel follows marine biologist, Minnow Gray, as she investigates an increased amount of shark attacks affecting the Kohala coast.

#### *Remarkably Bright Creatures* written by Shelby Van Pelt

A debut novel for Van Pelt; this story explores feelings of loss, connection and loneliness through a triple narrative. Featuring the unlikely connection between a giant Pacific octopus, Marcellus, a 70-year-old widow, Tova, and a 30-year-old drifter, Cameron. This story showcases the wit and strong detective skills of Marcellus, with a focus on the cold case disappearance of Tova's 18-year-old son.

#### *The Underworld* written by Susan Casey

In this 2023 non-fiction release, Casey takes readers on a captivating journey to explore the secrets of the ocean. Taking you through the history, myths, legends and new discoveries through cutting-edge technologies, readers get a true in-depth overview. Including extraordinary life forms, smouldering volcanoes, increasing threats from climate change, interviews with marine biologists and oceanographers, this is sure to be an informative and unforgettable read.

If you enjoy these recommendations, visit our online catalogue at ocl.net to find more water-themed picks for each age group. Looking for more ways to splash into reading and learning this summer? Visit our program calendar at ocl.net to view our full line up of children, teen and adult programs!



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## Fire department event uses innovative approach



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Fire dispatcher Chelsea Stevens shows Kurtis and Kya Oosterveld cards used for communication during a sensory-friendly event held recently by the Tillsonburg Fire Department. The no-sirens, no-lights, no-crowd event was designed for youth who are on the spectrum.

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A recent event at the Tillsonburg Fire Department differed from the usual mould for such events: there were no lights, no sirens and no crowds.

The sensory friendly event, held on May 27, included displays from Oxford EMS and the OPP, as is often the case at fire department public events. The first-time event was by registration only.

"It's for those families that can't attend our open houses because it's crowded and loud, it's a more quiet environment," said Sarah Barclay, Public Educator with Tillsonburg Fire Department.

The concept for the night came from a conversation with Kristen Parsons, daughter of former fire chief Bob Parsons, whose son is on the spectrum and didn't feel comfortable attending traditional fire department events.

The evening came with similar opportunities for those attending traditional events at the fire hall to see fire trucks, an ambulance and police vehicle up close. A chance to climb into a fire truck was also part of the night.

Barclay used the night to garner feedback on the sensory support kits that will eventually be put in all the fire trucks. These include cards for communication with non-verbal children, a stress ball, a fidget toy, headphones, sunglasses and paper and pen for communication. The concept for the kit came from former Tillsonburg resident Jamie Kovacs, who is now the executive director of the Fire Safety Council. That group put the kit together with Autism Canada.

"I thought this would be a perfect opportunity to get feedback from families of what they think of the kit," Barclay said.

She was impressed with the response to the event and is planning on holding another.

## Police investigate stabbing in Tillsonburg on Tuesday

### One person taken to hospital with serious non-life-threatening injuries

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are investigating a stabbing incident in Tillsonburg.

On June 9, at approximately 3:26 a.m., members of the Oxford Detachment of the OPP, in coordination with Emergency Medical Services, responded to a report of a weapons-related occurrence at a residence in the Town of Tillsonburg.

Upon arrival, officers located one individual suffering from serious, non-life-threatening injuries consistent with being caused by an edged weapon. The individual was transported to a local hospital for treatment. A second individual present at the residence was taken into custody without incident and here is no threat to public safe-

ty.

The investigation remains ongoing, and further details will be released as they become available.

Police confirmed there is a connection between the stabbing and a press release early Tuesday morning advised of an increased police presence on Quarter Line Road. Several police vehicles were seen at 390 Quarter Line Road where police tape was stretched across the front of a residence.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is requested to contact the Ontario Provincial Police at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, you may contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or submit a tip online at Ontario Crime Stoppers. Information that leads to an arrest may be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$2,000.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Police were called to a residence on Quarter Line Road early Tuesday morning for a weapons-related charge. One individual was treated for serious non-life-threatening injuries at hospital as the result of a stab wound.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

## WILDLIFE HABITAT FUNDRAISER

The Ruffed Grouse Society's North Shore chapter held its annual banquet in Courtland on May 30 to raise funds for improving forest habitat for ruffed grouse, woodcock and other forest wildlife. Committee member Dave Finley holds a decoy by local carver Adam Schram during the live auction.

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# TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH NEWS



## Norwich lowering development charges on industrial and commercial

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

It's going to be a little less expensive to build commercial and industrial development in Norwich Township.

Councillors voted to reduce development charges on those two sectors by 35 per cent at the May 26 meeting. The decision came after councillors requested a staff report on the current DC bylaw, which was approved in 2024. Since that time councillors have come to worry that the charges for non-residential, set at \$33.38 per square metre, is stifling potential industrial and commercial growth.

CAO Matt Smith told councillors that development charges are an incredibly complex area with provincial rules in

place on what municipalities can and can't do.

"(It's) a phenomenally complicated piece of legislation," he said.

Still, his report offered several options, ranging from doing nothing to offering exemptions, to reducing charges by a set percentage. Some changes, namely increasing the charges, could have resulted in a lengthy background study and public consultation process.

Councillors quickly gravitated around two options, to either reduce by a set percentage or create an upper limit.

Coun. Adrian Couwenberg wanted to see an aggressive reduction, as a way to make Norwich more appealing to businesses.

"I don't want to scare them away, especially when we have neighbouring municipalities

at a lower or reduced or zero rate of development charges," he said, adding new and expanded business increases the tax base and helps the bottom line.

"If we don't get the businesses, we don't get the development charges."

But others pushed for a more modest approach.

"I feel like we're sort of swinging from one extreme to the other, possibly," said Coun. Karl Toews. He also pointed out that should they take an aggressive approach and later decide they need to raise DCs, they may be forced to go through the lengthy background study process.

In the end, councillors supported a 35 per cent reduction for both commercial and industrial. That brings the costs to

\$21.70 per square metre.

Total DCs paid include a portion to Norwich and a portion to Oxford County. The changes by Norwich don't affect Oxford's DCs.

DCs are meant to ensure development pays for any infrastructure required by the development. For Norwich, they cover: services related to a highway, fire services, parks and recreation services and growth-related studies.

Mayor Jim Palmer warned councillors any reduction could end up costing the general taxpayer.

"Any development dollar that's not raised will have to be raised through taxes," he said.

Couwenberg countered by saying an increased tax base with more businesses could offset those potential tax increases.

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# New exhibit highlights E.D. Tillson's farming innovations

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A new exhibit at Annandale National Historic Site highlights the farming innovations for which E.D. Tillson was responsible.

Widely known for changing the process for preparing oatmeal after he was given a doctor's diagnosis that he needed to increase his oatmeal intake, Tillson invented a new pan-dried process for preparing oats because he didn't like the flavour of commercial oats available at the time. That technology was eventually purchased by Quaker. His innovations went further, though, and are highlighted in the exhibit "A Marvel Farm: Annandale's Farm", currently on display at Annandale National Historic Site.

The display, which runs until Aug. 30, commemorates the 145th anniversary of the 600-acre farm that surrounded what is now Annandale National Historic Site.

The three-storey brick barn was innovative for the time.

"It was a marvel of technology, especially with the ventilator E.D. put in," said Kate Bakos, Cultural Heritage Manager/Curator. One of the unique things about the ventilator was that a profile of ED's face was cut into the ventilator's vane.

It's also possible Tillson was the first person in Canada to try ensilage in silos. And while Woodstock is famed as the dairy capital, Tillson was the first to bring Holsteins to Oxford County. Bakos said

the farm was a passion project for Tillson, for which he first laid out the idea in a letter written in 1870.

Tillson wrote papers about the farm and invited other farmers to come and see what he accomplished. There are records showing that, on one occasion, about 2,000 farmers came by train to Tillsonburg for a tour of the farm.

"It was a marvel," Bakos said. "He didn't spare any expense with his farm."

The farm contained an apple orchard, grazing fields, corn, cherry orchards, trout ponds, and was home to sheep, pigs, and cows. It had a complete waterworks with wooden pipes moving water around the farm.

The display is unique in that it is part artifacts and part interactive activities designed for youth and adults.

The interactive portion of the exhibit allows youth to colour farm animals and place them in a drawing of the barn. It also has a component to match cows' names to photos of the cows.

"With the farm, we have a lot of good paper content, but don't have a lot of artifacts," Bakos explained for part of the reason. "It's also a way to make our exhibits more interactive," she explained. "We expect large crowds of families at Turtlefest, Canada Day and through the summer."

The cows were a particular passion of Tillson's, as seen in the names he gave them, which reflected his wife's name, but there were also unique names such as Anne Laurie of Norwich, Madonna Butter



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Annandale National Historic Site Heritage Manager and Curator Kate Bakos places a coloured cow in an outline drawing of Annandale Farm's three-storey barn. The exhibit A Marvel Farm: Annandale's Farm is currently on display in the Pratt Gallery at Annandale House.



(ANHS PHOTO)

Ever wonder how Maple Lane received its name? This photo shows the street when it was just a lane, complete with cows from E.D. Tillson's herd walking down it.



(ANHS PHOTO)

This historical photo shows Annandale Farm's three-storey brick barn. Horses were on the first storey, cows on the second and hay on the third.

Girl, Scotland Lucy, and Canary Starlight Lassie B.

"WE know ED loved his cows," Bakos said. "There's more pictures of his cows than his house."

Tillson's love of the cows is also seen in the high ratio of help, which was one working person per three cows. The creamery, which was part of the farm, made its own quality butter, which was sold as far away as Toronto.

Soon after Tillson's death in 1902, the land was parceled out, and the family sold it relatively quickly.

"It seems his family didn't share his passion for farming," Bakos said.

Part of the 600 acres now includes the block that has Annandale School and, at one time, also included Maple Lane Senior Public School and Tillson Ave Public School. Another part of the farm is now Annandale subdivision.

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# TASTE OF SUMMER



Taste of Summer is more than just fun, it's a fundraiser for Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation, with the proceeds used to purchase medical equipment for the hospital. Hospital CEO and President Nadia Facca, right, was joined by board members Stephen Molnar and Susan Goble-Hall in the Rural Roads Health Services booth to explain the foundation's purpose and show some of the equipment that needs to be replaced.



The Kinsmen's food booth was one of the new food vendors at Taste of Summer, offering a variety of festival food such as sausage on a bun, hamburgers and fries. Club members pitched in through the day to cook and prepare food.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTOS)

Little Hobby Hill Petting Zoo gave not only the chance to pet domesticated livestock, but also to feed them. Ashleigh McNamara enjoyed her one-on-one time feeding this cow at the event.



A variety of bouncy castles were set up at Taste of Summer and attracted a steady crowd of young people to enjoy the fun.



Local band Blurr Rodeo was the headliner at Taste of Summer's main stage, performing from 6 to 8 p.m. Five different musical performers took to the stage through the day.



Captain Corbin's Magical Pirate Show was a hit for the younger attendees at Taste of Summer.



Flying Furballs put on an amazing show with dogs jumping obstacles similar to a jumper event for horses, but started the show with simple tricks that dog owners can teach their pets to do at home.



Paul Wilton enjoyed the slide at Taste of Summer, climbing it and sliding down several times.

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## Torpedoes' swimmers medal at competitions

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The Tillsonburg Aquatic Torpedoes are winding down their first competitive season since reforming with multiple swimmers winning medals.

"Our season has been fantastic," said Paul Armstrong, head coach.

Highlights of the season include youth swimmers winning at regionals and a masters swimmer winning a medal at nationals.

Matt Charlton won two gold medals at the Western Region championships in the 100 and 200m butterfly. This 14-year-old swimmer came to Tillsonburg from the Aylmer Arrows. Charlton has a family connection to the Torpedoes, with his father, Cameron, and Uncle Brent both being former Torpedo swimmers.

Although the gold medals qualified him to compete in the provincial championships, which are held in early July and again next March, Armstrong and the family decided to aim for next March.

"He's in Grade 9, so we have lots of time to focus on him while he's in high school," Armstrong said. "We decided let's make that our focus for next year and not worry about this year."

"It's a new ballgame when you compete at that level. He'll be ready, and there's not a big rush to do that right now."

Bridget Woolley also medalled at the Western Region championships, winning bronze in 50m breaststroke. Armstrong explained that provincial championship qualification is based on a time standard, not a finish in the regional competitions. He said Woolley is on the cusp of qualifying.

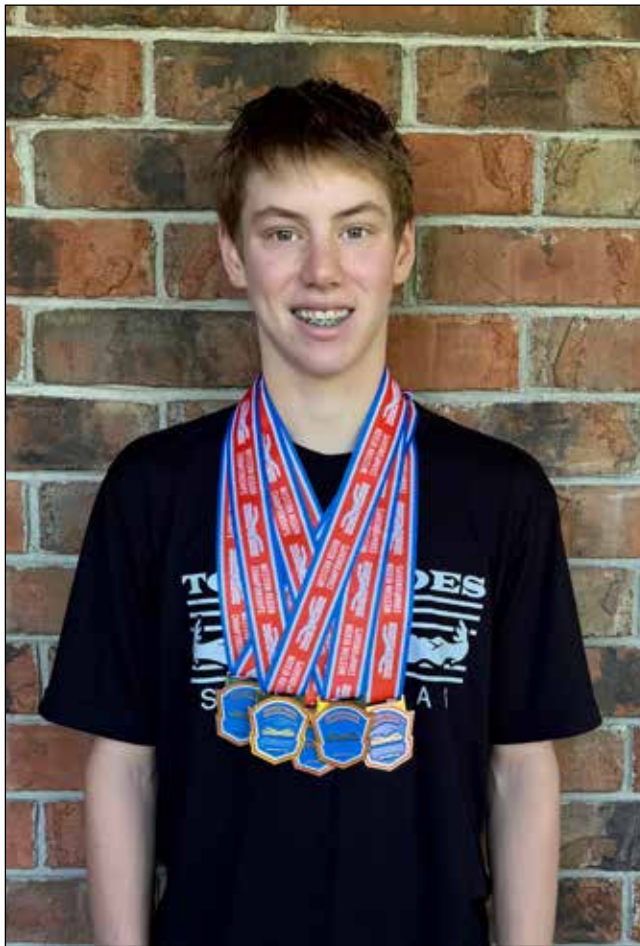
"Your positioning doesn't matter, with the exception of making four or Olympic meets," he said.

Masters' swimmer Kathy Sinden won two medals at the Masters Nationals on May 22 to 24 in Windsor, capturing bronze in both the 50m fly and 100m fly.

A Torpedoes swimmer when she was younger, Sinden swam at the University of Toronto, and then came back to the Torpedoes as a masters' swimmer.

"When the masters have been running in Tillsonburg, she's been a part of it pretty steadily," Armstrong said.

Masters is for swimmers aged 18 and over. Competition is broken down into five-year increments. Sinden won



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTOS)

**Matt Charlton, left photo, and Bridget Woolley both won medals at the recent Western Region championships. This season was the first the newly-reformed Tillsonburg Aquatic Torpedoes entered competitions and several swimmers were successful through the season.**

her medals in the 55-59 age group, and it was the first time she had competed in more than a decade.

In addition, Armstrong was proud of how the team as a whole did in its inaugural competitive season.

"We have lots of swimmers new to competitive swimming who have come a super long way," he said. "They've made huge strides in the water, and we're looking forward to seeing what they can do next year."

Many of the swimmers in the program come from the summer swimming programs in Otterville and Delhi.

The other big news on the Torpedoes' competitive front is the team will be hosting a competitive meet at the Tillsonburg Community Centre for the first time in many years. Dates have been set for Oct. 17 and 18 for the meet.

"We're hoping to bring some out-of-town folks in and bring some people to the community," he said.

Matthew Jones of Tillsonburg, who is an unattached swimmer not with the Torpedoes, also did well at the masters competition. He finished third in the 800m free-style.

## Red Sox trounce Woodstock in tourney opener

GRAHAM NICKERSON

Post Contributor

The 49th anniversary of the Red Sox tournament started off on the right foot for Tillsonburg when they took down the Woodstock Nationals 7-1 in five innings on June 5.

The battle of Oxford saw Jordan Vitias toe the slab for the home club and turn in a tri-

umphant performance going four-and-two-thirds innings of three-hit ball while striking out five. The crafty right hander faced traffic in each frame but reached back to escape the jam every time.

Tillsonburg got on the board in the first on a Brett Pond walk and Laird McPherson two-out double to deep left. The Sox stranded runners on second and third in the next

two innings, unable to push across a run but broke out in the fourth.

Alex Fishback reached on an infield error and advanced to second on Ky Miners' single. Paxton Bale got aboard on a fielder's choice, then Iron Ring Rachar walked. Next up was Pond, who Baltimore chopped the ball to first that squibbed between fielder's legs Bill Buckner. The error was good for

two runs that helped to pad the lead.

Woodstock failed to gain any momentum with runners on base for four innings. The National's only run came in the fifth, when nine-hole hitter Craig Meindl bunted back to the mound that was misplayed, allowing the runner aboard. Eric Lindsay slapped a double to right to bring around the unearned run. With two outs and the bases loaded, Jesse

CONTINUED TO PAGE 19

# Red Sox trounce Woodstock in tourney opener

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Froese was called on to relieve Vitias. The hard-throwing righty induced a groundout to send the 'Burg back up to bat.

Woodstock elected to stick with Bailey Davis pitching in place of starter Shawn Watt as the home half of the fifth began. Owen West led off by taking first on an error, then speedy Landon Hepditch legged out an infield single for his first hit in a Red Sox uniform. Three walks to the bottom of the order brought home three more runs. Rachar's sacrifice fly plated the seventh Tillsonburg run and that is where the game would end as the two clubs reached their curfew time.

The win was Tillsonburg's first under new skipper Graham Nickerson, who has taken over manager duties from Alex Fishback following Fishback's planned departure from the team at the conclusion of the tournament.

Woodstock.....00 01 - 1 3 3  
Tillsonburg.....00 24 - 7 3 2

## Offense non-existent in Sox loss to Port Dover

The second game on the tournament schedule had Tillsonburg matched up against league rival Port Dover. The Sox were still rubbing the sleep out of their eyes when they showed up to the diamond for their morning matchup, and seemed to

have forgotten their bats at home as they got blanked 7-0.

Up and down the lineup Tillsonburg could not figure out Port Dover's ace Jeff Davis. At one point, the left hander sat down 13 of 14 lost Red Sox batters. Davis went the distance, allowing four hits, one walk while striking out nine.

Tillsonburg countered on the bump with young Paxton Bale. Bale, who is still classified as a junior, got into trouble early when a first inning single, balk and past ball brought home one run for the Clippers. In the second, Bale faced traffic again, giving up four hits in the frame capped off with a bases-loaded triple by Simon Storshuk that plated three.

Dover wasn't finished spoiling Bale's day when they clubbed two more hits to start the fourth. Combined with two free passes, Bale's outing was done after four innings, allowing nine hits, three walks for six earned runs.

In the sixth, Clipper's slugger Storshuk knocked relief pitcher Ky Miners' first offering deep over the centerfield fence for a solo home run. Miners locked in following the long ball and ended the frame by accomplishing the rare feat of striking out four batters as one of his punch-outs was dropped and the runner was able to reach first.

The only bright spot in Tillsonburg's meager lineup was lead-off man and short stop

Iron Ring Rachar, who went a perfect 3-3 and handled everything hit his way. The accomplished veteran always seems to crack the toughest pitching nut no matter the situation and plays every game with a passion that radiates throughout diamond.

Tillsonburg.....000 000 0 - 0 4 0  
Port Dover.....130 201 X - 7 11 0

## Red Sox walloped by Beamsville to end tournament hopes

With their backs to the wall and needing a win to advance to Sunday, Tillsonburg did battle with the Beamsville Stingers, and what a war of attrition it was with a combined 30 runs, 29 hits and six errors in a nearly three-hour affair.

With five Tillsonburg regulars out of town, manager Nickerson was forced to call upon his depleted pitching reserves to get through seven innings of ball. Kid Appleford made his first appearance in the box this season and managed to get two quick outs before the wheels fell off completely. Nine straight Stingers reached base as they batted around and knocked the Kid out of the game before the inning was over. Ky Miners was called in to mop up what was left of the inning but not before the Red Sox found themselves in an 8-0 hole even before they took up the willow.

Tillsonburg scratched one across in the last of the first when Rob Verhoeve singled, then was brought home on Vitias' booming triple.

Miners would take the ball and pitch brilliantly over the next five innings only being tagged for two earned runs on two hits while putting up five strike outs. At one point, the deceiving lefty sat down eight straight Beamsville bats.

In the fourth, Tillsonburg mounted a small comeback sending 10 batters to the plate, scoring five runs on five hits highlighted by Verhoeve's two -un single to center. Verhoeve ended up going 4-5 with a double and two runs scored.

The afternoon heat, combined with the prolonged game time had the two teams irritable as the sixth inning began. After Vitias led off the inning with a strikeout, Beamsville's hurler had choice words for the Sox backstop. Verbal barbs from both



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

sides were hurled across dugouts at fielders and runners alike as the game wore on.

With Miners' day done after five-and-a-third, Verhoeve took up the pill and was battered around in a seemingly never-ending carousel of Beamsville hitters. Ten straight hits tallied 10 runs before an out could even be recorded. Two errors by outgoing second baseman Fishback extended the onslaught. The sixteenth plate appearance of the inning was a strikeout that finally ended the frame and sent the Red Sox to their dugout with the proverbial tail between their legs.

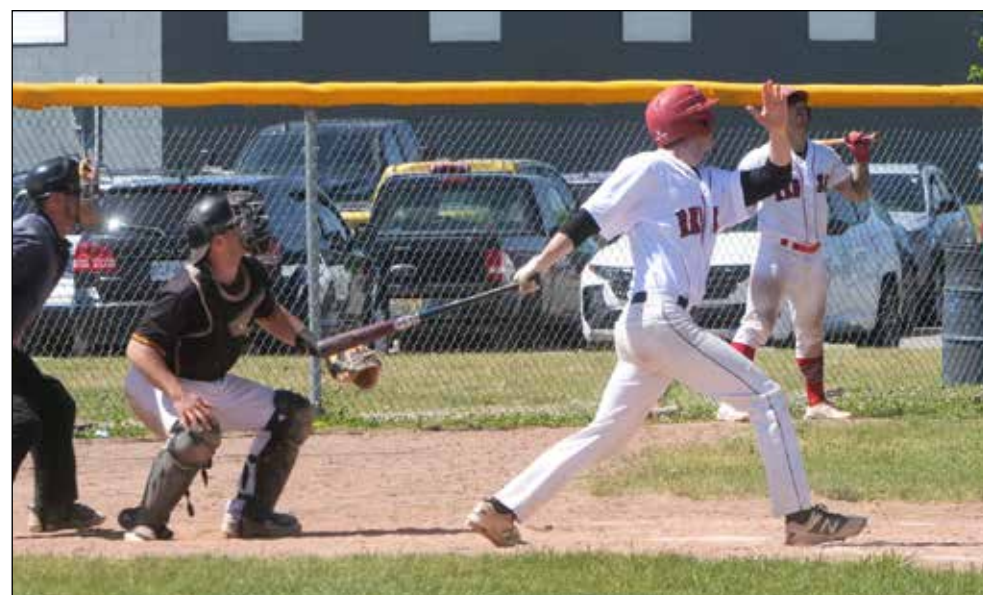
Beamsville.....820 020 10 - 22 16 1  
Tillsonburg.....100 510 1 - 8 13 5

## Port Dover Captures Championship

In the final, the Port Dover Clippers won handily over Woodstock 12-4. Simon Storshuk was unanimously named the tournament MVP as the Dover centerfielder crushed six home runs in as many games and turned in three shutout innings on the mound in the final. The storied tournament trophy was awarded to the champions by Red Sox executive and tournament convenor Kevin Listar.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Tournament hosts the Tillsonburg Red Sox had a tough go in a must-win game against Beamsville on Saturday afternoon. The Sox ended up losing a high-scoring game with five of their players unable to attend.

## Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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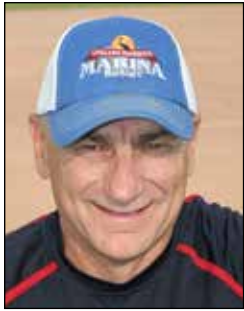
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# Tournament season heating up for slo-pitch players



**EYE  
ON  
SLO-  
PITCH**

**DAVE WEAVER**

Post Columnist

This past Saturday, myself, Kurt Vaughan and Mike Schmeltz had the pleasure of umpiring in the Courtland Landscape and Grounds O.R.C.S. Coed Three-Pitch Tournament. It is such a well-organized event with many volunteers, whether it be for diamonds set up, erecting advertising signs from local business who sponsor, or those who cooked all day and manned the concession booth. Convenor Gary Markus kept things running smoothly all day!

This coming Saturday will be the annual Tillsonburg vs St Thomas All Star Challenge in St Thomas. Unfortunately, this year participation will be lower this year due to many events going on in the local area.

## Ladies' Division

Cooks Concrete Jays continue to dominate the ladies' division, winning easily in both of their games last week. They got revenge on their championship series loss to Foldens Machine Works last year, mercying them on Wednesday night, and then mercied Queen Bees in the second part of their doubleheader. Simmonds Mortgages won a pair as well, mercying Queen Bees and a close win over SunSpace/Bill Klyn Carpentry. Foldens had a .500 week as they mercied Resting Pitch Face on the Monday. Resting and Sunspace had victories over Wildcats.

## **Sunspace/Bill KlynCarpentry-19, Wildcats-3**

Sunspace-Gemma Ladosz 4-4; Kim Hurd 4-4.

Game Synopsis-Sunspace's Gemma Ladosz led their offence, hitting a pair of doubles and scored four runs. Kim Hurd doubled and scored four runs.

## **Resting Pitch Face-14, Wildcats-12**

Resting-Amber Smith 4-4; Brittany Wolf 4-.

Wildcats-Ling Wong 4-4; Christine Phillips 4-4.

Game Synopsis-Michelle Socholotiuk scored four runs for the winners, and Brittany Wolf scored three.

## **Foldens Machine Works-15, Resting Pitch Face-1**

Foldens-Amber Woolgar 4-4; Jen Francis 3-3.

Resting-Hailee Beckett 2-2; Taylor McLean 1-2.

Game Synopsis-Ten of 11 Foldens' batters crossed the plate at least once.

## **Cooks Concrete Jays-15, Foldens Machine Works-1**

Jays-Maddi Obar 3-3; Mayra Baelde 3-3.

Foldens-Monica Barnes 2-2; Roxanne Dekeyser 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Maddi and Candi Obar each scored three runs for the winners.

## **Simmonds Mortgages-16, Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-11**

Simmonds-Katy Wilkinson 4-4; Brooklyn Carroll 4-4.

Sunspace-Chanyi Homewood 4-4; Nicole Morgan 4-4.

Game Synopsis-Simmonds broke open a close game with a five-run sixth, Katy Wilkinson and Anita Dahl hit doubles in the rally.

## **Cooks Concrete Jays-17 Queen Bees-1**

Cooks-Mayra Baelde 3-3; Candi Obar 3-3; Kayden Thornton HR.

Queen-Jayden Hanniman 2-2; Sylvia Brooks 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Kayden Thornton homered and scored three runs for the winners.

## **Simmonds Mortgages-23, Queen Bees-0**

Simmonds-Shannon O'Neill 4-4; Connie White 3-3.

Queen-Sam Norman 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Shannon O'Neill drove in six runs for the winners. Tracey Caruthers and Kyla Long knocked in three.

## Men's Division 1

1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks is the only team still undefeated in the group. They knocked off previously-unbeaten The Mill on the Tuesday night winning by 10. The Mill rebounded with a mercy over Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts. The Cubs walked off the Dirty Mitts to improve their record to 3-1. Cobra Chickens earned the division's other win a nine-run decision over Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry.

## **1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks-26, The Mill-16**

Hawks-Johnny Klassen 6-6, 3 HR; Peter Epp 5-5; Johnny Epp 2 HR; Ben Bueckert HR; Cam Bueckert HR.

The Mill-Tim Morgan 4-4; Mike Supinski 3-4; Bryan Deblaire HR.

Game Synopsis-The Hawks scored 15 runs over their final three at-bats, Johnny Klassen hit three three-run homers on the night.

## **Cubs-15, Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts-14**

Cubs-Jamie Teichroeb 3-4, 2 HR; Chris Dyck 3-4; Johnathan Dyck HR; Ivan Dyck HR; Marcus Enns HR.

Leeswood-Greg Onaitis 4-5; Joe Fanshew 3-4; Thom Puhr 2 HR.

Game Synopsis-The Cubs walked it off on Jamie Teichroeb's three-run homer, his second consecutive homer.

## **The Mill-29, Leeswood Construction**

## **Dirty Mitts-9**

The Mill-Joe Thorburn 3-4; Steve Byron 4-4; Bob Evans HR; Matt Evans HR; Darren Pace HR; Bryan Deblaire HR; Jeremy Roy HR; Josh Stubbs HR; Tim Morgan HR.

Leeswood-Stephen Deblaire 2-2; Thom Puhr 2-3; Jarrett Anderson HR; Kent Collings 2 HR.

Game Synopsis-Tim Morgan and Darren Pace each homered and scored four runs for The Mill.

## **Cobra Chickens-19, Sunspace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-10**

Cobra-Wyatt Blatz 4-4; Marcus Peters 3-4, HR; Matthew Reimer HR; Caleb Reimer HR; Johnny Froese HR.

Sunspace-Nathan Boldt 3-4; Rob Stortz 4-4, 2 HR.

Game Synopsis-Wyatt Blatz and Caleb Reimer each scored three runs for the winners.

## Men's Division 2

Pelicans and All Seasons Estate Care Bandits remain unbeaten after each won a pair of games last week. Pelicans easily beat Underhill Farm Supply and defeated Mavericks by four in their next game. All Seasons mercied Papa's Auto Spa and came from behind to defeat Sticky Bandits. Mavericks collected their first victory edging out the Quackheads. Designated Drinkers also got in the win column with a win over Quackheads. At My Playground/IQT Logistics and Papa's Auto Spa played to a draw. Strike Force continued on their winning streak defeating Underhill.

## **All Seasons Estate Care Bandits-16, Sticky Bandits-14**

All Seasons-Timmy Dyck 3-3, 2 HR; Ben Neufeld 3-4; Jake Sawatsky HR; Corny Sawatsky HR.

Bandits-Caleb Enns 4-4; Kurtis Friesen 2-3, HR.

Game Synopsis-A four-run sixth keyed All Seasons win. Jake and Corny Sawatsky each homered in the rally.

## **Mavericks-11, Designated Drinkers-9**

Mavericks-Ryan Sinden 3-3; Ryan Landry 3-3.

Drinkers-Johnny Abele 3-3, HR; Kevin Postma 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Mavericks scored two seventh-inning runs to take the win.

## **Papa's Auto Spa-23, At My Playground/IQT Logistics-23**

Papa's-Duncan McLean 5-5; Travis Lamb 3-5; Connor Smith HR; Brandon Balazs HR.

Papa's-Jake Rempel 3-4; Dylan Denomy 4-5, HR; Shawn Brooks HR.

Game Synopsis-A.M.P. tied the game with a six-run seventh.

## **Strike Force-26, Underhill Farm Supply-15**

Strike Force-Henry Teichroeb 5-5; Tony Klassen 4-4; Jake Friesen HR.

Underhill-Dave Phipps 3-3; Aaron Dyck 3-4, HR; Curtis Chambers 2 HR.

Game Synopsis-Henry Teichroeb drove in five runs for the winners.

## **Pelicans-15, Mavericks-11**

Pelicans-Steve Leacock 4-4, HR; Andrew Garnham 3-3.

Mavericks-Chris Hass 4-4; Ryan Landry 4-4.

Game Synopsis-Pelicans scored 13 runs over the two middle innings. Steve Leacock and T.J.Neville each scored three runs in the game.

## **Pelicans-21, Underhill Farm Supply-9**

Pelicans-Rob Down 3-4; Ryan Verbuyst 3-4; Adam Jensen HR; Jeff Cadotte HR.

Underhill-Jay Lampert 3-3, HR; Ty Cadotte 2-3, 2HR; Curtis Chambers HR.

Game Synopsis-Ryan Verbuyst led the winners with a pair of doubles and three runs scored.

## **All Seasons Estate Care Bandits-25, Papa's Auto Spa-7**

All Seasons-Corny Sawatsky 5-5, HR; William Loewen 4-4; Jake Sawatsky HR.

Papa's-Phil James 3-4; Jesse Legg 2-2, HR.

Game Synopsis-Corny Sawatsky was a triple shy of hitting for the cycle for the winners.

## **Designated Drinkers-16, Quackheads-8**

Drinkers-Cole Palen 3-4; Kevin Postma 3-4; Curtis Verboom HR; Kyle Postma HR.

Quackheads-Bob Long 2-3; Calvin Smith 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Cole Palen reached and scored three times for Drinkers.

## Men's Division 3

Sluggers recorded a pair of victories over John Beere and Wolfpack to lead the division. Wolfpack evened their week with a win over NAPA/Coward's Pharmacy Maulers. Maulers beat Bird's Golf to round out the division week.

## **Sluggers-18, John Beere-4**

Sluggers-Tyler Rowe 5-5; Jake Superales 5-5.

John Beere-Shaun Elliott 4-4; Keith McMerty 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Lead-off batter Tyler Rowe reached and scored five times for Sluggers.

## **Sluggers-20, Wolfpack-13**

Sluggers-Isaak Harder 4-5; Gary Woolner 5-5.

Wolfpack-Dustin Smith 5-5; Ryan Coping 4-5, 2HR.

Game Synopsis-Nine of Sluggers' 11 batters scored at least one run, Jake Superales scored four runs.

## **NAPA/Coward's Pharmacy Maulers-23, Bird's Golf-12**

Maulers-Damion Bancroft 4-4; Dillon Outerbridge 3-3.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 21

# Tournament season heating up for slo-pitch players

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

## Wolfpack-18, NAPA/Coward's Pharmacy Maulers-11

Wolfpack-Kevin Hmeil 4-4, HR; Gulbir Sekhon 3-3; Jarryd Roest 2HR.

Maulers-Brandon Tilford 4-4; Dillon Outerbridge 3-4; Steve Vandergulick HR.

Game Synopsis-Jarryd Roest homered in consecutive at-bats for Wolfpack.

## Men's Division 4

Brickhouse Boys are an improving team and handed N.I.M. their first loss of the season. They edged out R.L.P. Melanie Luksys in their other win. Smokin Bases swept a pair of games over Tornadoes. N.I.M. collected a pair of victories over Diamond Kings. R.L.P. swept a doubleheader with Diamond Kings.

### Brickhouse Boys-21, N.I.M.-7

Brickhouse-Shaun Knelsen 5-5, 3HR; Kyle Loucks 5-5.

N.I.M.-Cory Chambers 3-4; Justin Dy-

gos 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Shaun Knelsen homered in three consecutive at-bats to lead the winners.

### Smokin Bases -19, Tornadoes-16

Smokin-Ian Barrett 5-5; Josh Vanhaverbeke 5-5.

Tornadoes-Hayden Lounsbury 4-5; Tyler Bouck 5-5.

Game Synopsis-Smokin Bases scored seven in their final at-bat to steal the win.

### Smokin Bases-20, Tornadoes-19

Smokin-Ian Barrett 4-4; Josh Vanhaverbeke 4-4.

Tornadoes-Tyler Bouck 3-3, 2HR; Mark Locker 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Smokin scored five runs in their last at-bat to take the win.

### R.L.P. Melanie Luksys-17, Diamond Kings-15

R.L.P.-Caden Craggs 4-4; Natan Granger 3-3.

Diamond-Henry Froese 4-4; Johnny Wall 3-4.

Game Synopsis-R.L.P. scored 11 runs over their final two at-bats in the win.

### R.L.P. Melanie Luksys-20, Diamond Kings-14

R.L.P.-Cole Toth 5-5; Braeden Redling 4-5.

Diamond-Lucas Thiessen 4-4; Dave Wall 4-4.

Game Synopsis-Lead-off batter Cole Toth scored four runs for the winners.

### Brickhouse Boys-17, R.L.P. Melanie Luksys-16

Brickhouse-Court Cronheimer 4-4, HR; Cooper Desroches 4-4.

R.L.P.-Blake Ash 5-5, 2HR; Natan Granger HR.

Game Synopsis-Court Cronheimer was a triple shy of hitting for the cycle scoring three runs.

### N.I.M.-22, Diamond Kings-7

N.I.M.-Jake Denobriga 5-5; Brodie Earls 4-5.

Diamond-Henry Froese 4-4; Lucas Thiessen 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Justin Dygos led the winners with six runs driven in.

### N.I.M.-26, Diamond Kings-17

N.I.M.-Jordan Friesen 5-5, HR; Joe Alin 5-5.

Diamond Kings-Ben Bueckert 5-5, HR; Willy Martens 3-4; Henry Froese HR.

Game Synopsis-Lead-off batter Cory Chambers scored five runs for N.I.M.

### Smokin Bases-22, R.L.P. Melanie Luksys-21

Smokin-Josh Hollis 5-5; Tim Miners 4-5.

R.L.P.-Landon Boughner 3-3, HR; Caden Craggs 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Josh Hollis crossed the plate with the winning run for Smokin Bases.

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Most drivers are not mechanics, nor should they be expected to know everything about their vehicles. That's why I've decided that, beginning in July, I will provide monthly tips and advice to help local drivers better understand vehicle maintenance, recognize small issues before they become major repairs, and keep their vehicles operating safely and reliably.

I hope these simple insights will help save you time, money, and unnecessary stress down the road.

- Aaron Thiessen

  
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(STUART BLOWER PHOTOS)



Nehemiah Page, left, of the Tillsonburg U9 Otters waits to catch the ball as Wesley Freeman steps on first during a Tillsonburg vs. Ingersoll game.



A U9 Optometrists On Broadway runner makes it safely to first despite the best defensive efforts from the OPID Technologies defence led by first baseman Jackson Buday.



U11 Vernes Carpet One catcher Issac Walda tries to tag Walsingham Senators runner Leo Adams during a recent rep game between the two rivals.



Batter Lucas Verhoeve of the U11 Select Verhove Funeral Home & Lightweight Gym Tillsonburg team takes a swing at the ball during a game against Dutton Royals.



Blake Pleli of the Tillsonburg C.L. Smith Insurance U-15 team dives for home plate trying to evade the tag from Walsingham's catcher.



The home plate dance by this Tillsonburg U-18 Pioneer Cabinetry player helps him evade the tag from Walsingham's catcher.

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# Spring brings with it the annual task of pruning roses



**IT'S  
STILL  
JUST  
DIRT**

**CRYSTAL TROJEK**

*Tillsonburg Post Columnist*

Pruning roses is difficult, and painful. I don't like doing it.

It has been a hard winter in my garden, and we have been discussing if the results this spring are from too much heat and drought last year, or rabbits, or a polar vortex that arrived when they should have been long gone until next winter. I have had to resolve myself to the fact that I must do much cutting, and dead wood serves no good purpose to roses. It's also depressing to look at day after day. I have purchased new pruners, sharp and lively they are.

Mixing buckets of water-soluble fertilizer, dumping each hopeful pail on rose feet. The ground is dry already, and I'm scattering water soluble fertilizer to tempt rose roots with a healthy snack. Hoping for growth and blooms like no other year, I have great expectations.

I remember each rose as it looked last May, the time of year when disease has not

yet discovered its leaves, and insects have not yet attempted to defoliate rose canes. I imagined how the rose looked covered with green buds, how often I checked each one for the first sign of colour, the way the first rose looked as it began to open on the finest of spring mornings. I dreamt of how rose perfume sometimes came hunting me, when the dawn was shy and new, when the scent of that first rose stepped out into my garden and wandered the earth, young and cheerful.

I clipped dry canes away from roses, some with multiple brown rose hips left behind on frosty autumn mornings. I imagined the canes struggling to hold all the blooms, how the rain filled roses drenched in a spring shower reached for the earth. Almost upside down they were, they danced a little, swaying in that fresh-bathed breeze that follows the rain when everything is clean once more.

I walk with roses on fine spring days. I pull old brittle leaves away and uncover rose feet. Lady bugs are waiting there in the remnants of autumn, the speckled predators climb the green canes that are dimpled now with the anxious buds of new green leaves. They will discover aphids there - a favourite snack. The heart of the rose lives, and beats green in the weeks of May. The waking leaves stretch out, the green buds follow, new rose canes streak towards the sun, laughing with the spring daffodils.

I have left some of the larger canes for further thought, distributing time for

more signs of sprouting rose leaves. There are some thick, gnarled rose branches that I do not like to sever with the loppers, but I must. I thin rose branches that have been knit and purled together, already a dappled greening blanket without rose embellishments. It will come.

I remember 'The Crocus' will send them in deep shades of cream. An opportune break from pruning roses found me, and the new roses have arrived at the garden centres. The air is still winter scorned, but the sun shines brightly, scoring the air with warmth. The roses huddle silently waiting for adoption. I choose three more Austins, because I doubt the strength of a few of the roses I have in my garden to survive. I fear I shall not see them again. We visit a few other garden centres, as early shoppers get the best selection. I buy two more roses.

All of them wait for me on the lower deck. It is almost three weeks later, and one rose waits to find the ground in my garden. In between May planting, we have been blessed with two good rains that deliver fertilizer to the winter-worn roses. They rise. The canes spring into the warming air, in multitudes. They soar daily for the skies, and I ask for forgiveness that I doubted their rose hearts. The leaves stretch and yawn by the light of the moon, and under the deep and pleasant care of the sun. Each new day more roses awake; they are coming, they are coming for me in June. They are coming in numbers, the tiny green buds are peeping

out amongst the leaves. I purchased one rose named 'Amberness' this year who already carried flowers, because it called my name as I was passing by, shivering in a cold breeze. I wandered into one greenhouse, a new clematis hopped easily onto my cart. I went back for the sweet rose, and purchased a floribunda companion.

Today, I have my camera with me, documenting the spring garden for the grey winter days when I forget what lies sleeping out there under inches of snow beyond a frosted window. The winter days are long, pictures of yesterday comfort those who remember the lost and provide hope for tomorrow. 'Amberness' does not speak of the ravages of winter, but of the sweetness of spring. There are buds, many buds, on all my roses. I whisper their names out loud as I pass, as if meeting a long-lost friend. When the roses take their first breath and begin to sing, I walk amidst their sweet perfume and listen to every note. I carried them the year before, and now they carry me..

*Tillsonburg Horticultural Society members will be opening their gardens to society members during the upcoming Garden Tour on July 7. It's not too late to purchase a membership and enjoy all the society events, monthly meetings, and discover just what is being accomplished in the community. Visit our Facebook page or the website tillsonburghorticultural.ca for more information. New gardeners, seasoned gardeners, are all welcome - come garden with us.*

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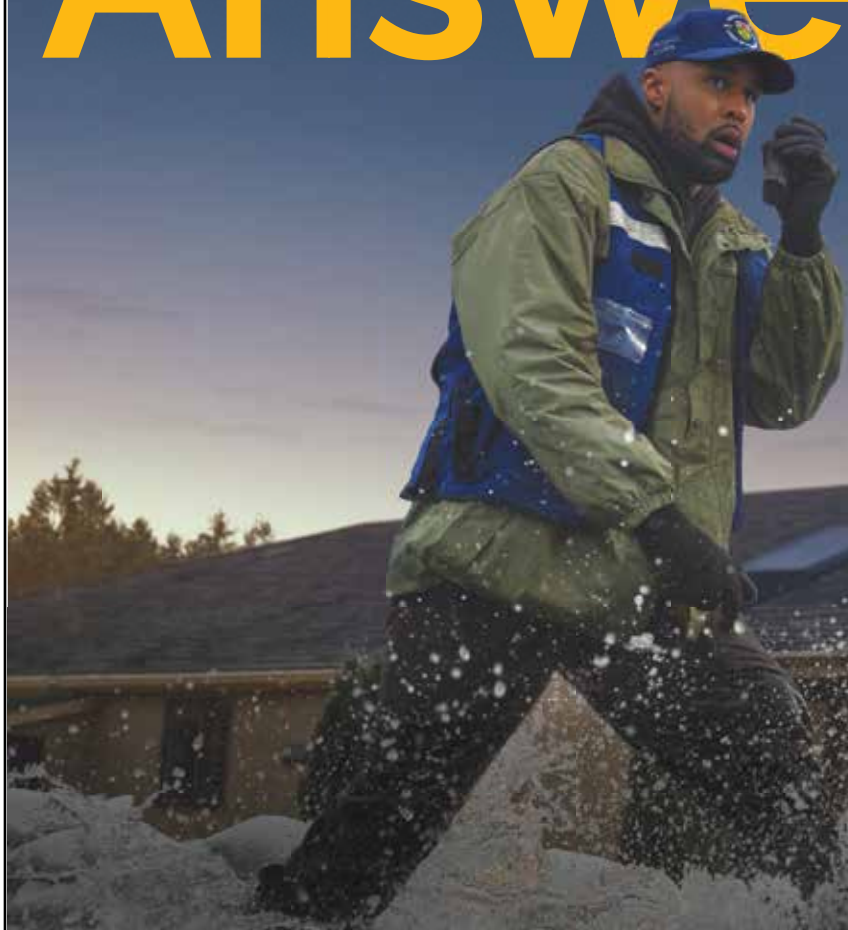
(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Larry and Nancy Lester from Tillsonburg walked in last Sunday's Simcoe-Norfolk MS Walk. Thanks to generous support from the community, Nancy raised nearly \$10,000 this year for MS Canada, achieving her goal of raising more than \$250,000.

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# Downchild Blues Band legacy lives on with Chuck Jackson and Tyler Yarema



## MUSIC CORNER

**BEN ADDRESS**

*Tillsonburg Post Columnist*

For more than five decades, The Downchild Blues Band was cemented as one of Canada's most influential blues acts, helping shape Canada's blues landscape while inspiring generations of musicians.

Next weekend, Tillsonburg will have the opportunity to experience a piece of that legacy when former Downchild members Chuck Jackson and Tyler Yarema perform in town at The Copper Mug.

Although The Downchild Blues Band's remarkable run came to an end in 2024, the band's music continues to strike a chord through the artists who helped define the band's sound.

"Downchild unfortunately is no longer together," explains Jackson. "Our final show was in London, Ontario during the fall of 2024 after a 55-year run because of the illness of our leader Donnie 'Mr. Downchild' Walsh."

The band became a cornerstone of Ca-

nadian blues shortly after being founded in Toronto back in 1969 by brothers Donnie "Mr. Downchild" Walsh and Richard "Hock" Walsh. Their influence extended far beyond Canada's borders with several of their songs finding new life through The Blues Brothers and their first album Briefcase Full of Blues that featured two Downchild compositions including I've Got Everything I Need (Almost) and Shot Gun Blues. The Blues Brothers was a musical comedy act created by John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd that debuted on Saturday Night Live in 1978.

The Downchild Blues Band was often referred to as pioneers of Canadian blues and earned numerous accolades including a 2014 Juno Award for Blues Album of the Year and multiple Maple Blues Awards. Music historians have credited the band's work with helping establish a thriving Canadian blues scene at a time when few opportunities existed for homegrown blues artists.

Chuck Jackson joined the band in 1990, and quickly became one of the most recognizable voices in Canadian blues. A professional musician since the 1960s, he previously fronted Toronto's acclaimed Cameo Blues Band from 1978 to 1992 while building a reputation as a powerful vocalist and harmonica player.

His contributions to Canadian music extend beyond performing. In 1999 Chuck co-founded Port Credit's South-

side Shuffle Blues and Jazz Festival which has grown into one of the country's premier blues festivals.

Reflecting on the band's lasting success Chuck points to the band's unwavering commitment to the music.

"Our longevity and dedication to the blues has brought us many awards and acknowledgements by many of the world's blues legends," Jackson said.

Joining Chuck on stage at The Copper Mug will be pianist, singer and songwriter Yarema who is one of Canada's most accomplished blues and boogie-woogie performers.

Born in Thunder Bay and now based in Toronto, Yarema is a self-taught pianist whose style draws inspiration from stride piano legends such as Willie "The Lion" Smith, Lionel Hampton and Duke Ellington. His energetic blend of jump blues, swing and boogie-woogie has made him a favourite across North America.

After moving to Toronto in 1994, Yarema established himself on the city's club circuit by performing alongside notable artists including Jeff Healey. His talent has been recognized with several major honours including the 1999 Maple Blues Award for Piano Player of the Year and Now Magazine's Best Keyboard Player Award in 2002. Yarema joined The Downchild Blues Band in 2021 following the passing of longtime keyboardist Michael Fonfara.

For Jackson some of his fondest memo-

ries come from the experiences with the band and the Southside Shuffle Festival.

"Getting to perform around the world with the band and across Canada in every nook and cranny," Jackson recalls with joy. "Being able to start the Southside Shuffle Festival that has run for 28 years and employed over 10,000 musicians in that time."

While Downchild may have taken its final bow, Jackson and Yarema remain committed to keeping the music alive.

"Tyler Yarema and myself are both long-time members of Downchild," Jackson said. "As a duo, we will perform many Downchild classics and tunes from our new band the Hogtown Allstar."

Music and blues fans attending their performance in Tillsonburg can expect an evening filled with classic Downchild favourites, stories from the road and a celebration of one of Canada's most important blues legacies. The event promises to be a rare opportunity to hear two celebrated Canadian musicians performing the songs that helped define a genre.

Chuck Jackson and Tyler Yarema of The Downchild Blues Band perform Friday, June 19 at The Copper Mug in Tillsonburg located at 79 Broadway Street. This is a free concert that starts at 8 p.m.. For more information about Jackson, including upcoming tour dates and his music, you can follow him on his official website at [www.chuckjackson.com](http://www.chuckjackson.com)

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**JUNE 12 - MUSIC TRIVIA NIGHT**  
The Copper Mug  
8 p.m.

**JUNE 13 - KARAOKE NIGHT**  
The Copper Mug  
Free Entry - 8:30 p.m.

**JUNE 14 - KICKIN KOUNTRY**  
The Copper Mug  
Free Entry - 5 p.m.

**JUNE 19 - CHUCK JACKSON & TYLER YAREMA OF THE DOWNCHILD BLUES BAND**  
The Copper Mug  
Free Entry - 8 p.m.

**JUNE 20 - RIGHT TURN CLYDE**  
The Copper Mug  
Free Entry - 10 p.m.

**JUNE 27 - CONNOR PETKAU**  
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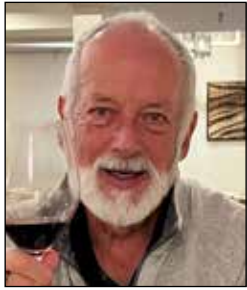


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# An award-winning distillery arises from initial failures



**OH,  
THE  
PLACES  
WE'LL  
GO!**

**PAUL KNOWLES**

*Tillsonburg Post Columnist*

"I failed." What a depressing idea! But there are some great thoughts about failure that put it in an entirely different perspective. For example, Thomas Edison said, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." And my literary hero, C.S. Lewis, wrote, "Failures are finger posts on the road to achievement."

And what, you may ask, does this have to do with travel? Come with me to Saskatchewan, to meet a feisty woman named Barb Stefanyshyn-Cote. Barb and her husband, John Cote, are the founders and co-owners of Black Fox Distillery, located just outside Saskatoon.

Barb will tell you, with lots of witty anecdotes to prove the point, that Black Fox, now a notable success, was born out of a whole series of failures, mistakes, and mis-steps.

Today, locals and visitors alike enjoy the ambience, the events and the products of Black Fox. But it took a while to get here.

John and Barb are fifth-generation farmers. Their "roots" go back for generations, and they continue to be deeply committed to agriculture in Saskatchewan. Both have studied and consulted on agricultural practices world-wide, and are recognized nationally and internationally for their industry leadership.

Once upon a time, they were grain farmers. But – and this where an Ontario perspective on agriculture may cause some bafflement – they only had 5,000 acres of land, and that was not enough for a sustainable operation.

So they pivoted, sold the 5,000 acres to a much bigger operator, and bought the

property that is now home to Black Fox Distillery.

But they didn't come there with any thought of creating an award-winning distillery. Barb explains that they tried growing vegetables, but that was not a success. They tried fruit, planting acres of orchards, but that, too, was a commercial failure.

Barb says that they then thought of creating a winery, but there was one hitch: "We don't like wine."

And thus, through trial and error, they arrived at the idea of creating a distillery. It's named for a real black fox, one that took up residence one season on their original grain farm.

And although the idea of a distillery was new, their agricultural philosophy was bred in their bones. They explain: "We are proud to be part of a movement of pioneering craft distillers who advocate for terroir, believe in the provenance of place, and understand the ways in which soil, climate, and topography influence the bounty a land bears."

They also argue that "ecology and economy can live in harmony." They state: "Through incorporating environmentally-conscious, efficient systems across our business we pledge ourselves to a more sustainable way of life."

"From ingredient production to distillation, transportation, packaging, and water conservation, our agronomic practices emphasize environmental stewardship and a love of the land. As its current custodians, we take seriously our responsibility to leave it better than when it came into our care."

"We recognize that each step of the production process has an impact on the land and those who work it. Better soil management leads to more fertile soil, better crops, increased biodiversity, and improved climate regulation."

The couple brought all of their experience, their education – and what they learned from their initial failures – to the development of Black Fox Distillery. And, Barb explains, this worked almost too well – when they began to produce their whisky, and to win awards, they were ac-



**Black Fox Distillery co-owner Barb Stefanyshyn-Cote.**

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

cused of being "charlatans". They are one of only two distilleries in the province making craft whisky from scratch, and some of the "experts" felt that their product was simply too good to come from a fledgling operation.

Barb says that there were two keys to the exceptional quality of their whiskies. First, they used a unique rye/wheat blend, producing an unusually dark whisky. Second, even in Saskatchewan's climate, the whisky is aged in barrels kept outdoors. The changes in weather actually promote the development of flavours. No one else is doing this.

They couple grow most of their source products right on the property, and use them for their whiskies, gins, and cocktails. They still have fruit, although they don't grow fruit as an end product. They have a haskap orchard, rhubarb gardens, and are in the process of converting apple orchards into elderflower patches.

When we visited Black Fox, we tasted three excellent whiskies, and enjoyed an unexpectedly tasty haskap gin cocktail.

We were certainly not the only visitors – the outdoor patio had welcomed a fair number of drop-in customers, including some who clearly knew and loved the place.

Black Fox offers a full menu of ways people can enjoy the place. Of course, you can simply drop in. But there are also organized tours, mixology classes, organized tastings, and unusual "u-pick" opportunities – not apples or pears, but flowers (peonies, gladioli and others) and, in mid-September, a u-pick pumpkin patch.

You're probably not going to travel to Saskatchewan simply to visit a distillery, no matter how much you enjoy whisky. But when you do visit the province – and there are an incredible number of reasons why you should – be sure to include a visit to Black Fox Distillery on your itinerary.

*Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and Past-President of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email [pknowles@golden.net](mailto:pknowles@golden.net).*



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

**Remembering the original black fox, which inspired the name of the distillery.**



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

**Black Fox staffers, ready to make some whisky-loving customers very happy.**

# COMING EVENTS

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2026**  
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PRICE OF  
THE YEAR\***

\*Lowest price of the year is the lowest price of 2026 to date.

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PRICE**  
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## JUNE

### JUNE 13 | 8 AM - 1 PM GIANT YARD SALE, BAKE SALE AND BBQ TENT

Springford Baptist Church, 422 Main St West, Springford Ont

Featuring Sausage on a Bun, Hot Dogs, Potato chips, Pop. Also on site will be Girl Guide Cookies for sale and free popcorn. **Fill a Bag for \$5** (we supply the bags) and stuff it full with items from the Yard Sale. Larger items will be priced singly. There will be no clothes or furniture at this event. Lots of parking on the street. Lots of homemade baking at the Bake Table. Stop by for all the deals and join us for a midmorning snack or lunch at the BBQ tent.

### JUNE 19 | 7 PM WHEN TOBACCO WAS KING The Edison Vienna Museum, 6209 Plank Road, Vienna, Ontario

A History of Tobacco by Author Paul Allen. For more information email [bayhamhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:bayhamhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com)

### JUNE 20 | 10 AM - 10 PM PLATTSVILLE'S 175 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION Plattsville Park and Arena

10 am Firefighter Breakfast, Heritage Displays 10-4, Portraits of Honour, 12 noon Parade, 1pm Opening Ceremony, 1-4 Car & Tractor Show, 2 thru 10 pm Live Music & Entertainment, Kids Activities, Vendor Market, Lions BBQ and the grand finale, an 18 minute Drone Show at 9:45 pm. Free admission. Fun for all ages. Thanks to our Platinum Sponsors - Canadian Heritage and North Blenheim Mutual Insurance celebrating 165 years. [www.plattsvilledistrictheritagesociety.com](http://www.plattsvilledistrictheritagesociety.com)

### JUNE 20 | 1 - 4 PM LIVE BAND KICKN KOUNTRY Tillsonburg Legion

Food available from noon to 2pm. Cash Bar. \$8 admission at the door. All Welcome! Doors open at noon!

### JUNE 20 | 10 AM - 2 PM NATIVE PLANT SALE Friendship House, 452 Grey St, Brantford, ON N3S 7T4, Less than a 5-minute drive from Highway 403

Featuring 61 different species of native perennials, shrubs, and grasses! Accepting Cash or E-Transfer.

### JUNE 21 | OPENS 12:30, ENTERTAINMENT STARTS AT 2 PM NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY CELEBRATION Memorial Park adjacent to the Kinsmen Band Stand, 49 Hardy Avenue in Tillsonburg, ON

The Tillsonburg and District Historical Society will be holding a National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration. June is National Indigenous History Month in Canada, a time to recognize the rich history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis. The Indigenous Eagle Flight Singers and Dancers led by Gordon Nicotine-Sands will be featured. There will be Indigenous Food and Craft Vendors in attendance. Bring your lawn chairs as seating will be limited. Opening Ceremonies and Entertainment will start at 2 pm with site open at 12:30 pm. Admission is free. Please spread the word. Invite your friends and family. All are invited!

### JUNE 26 | 1 - 4 PM KEN LIGHTHEART AND THE NORTHSHORE RAMBLERS Tillsonburg Legion

Cash Bar. \$7 admission at the door. All Welcome!

### JUNE 26 | 5 - 6 PM ROAST BEEF DINNER Tillsonburg Legion

\$18 per person includes mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, buns, desserts, tea, and coffee and HST. Cash at the door. While quantities last. All Welcome.

### JUNE 27 (RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 28) | 9 AM - 4 PM FLY DAY & OPEN HOUSE

Tillsonburg Regional Airport, 244411 Airport Road, Tillsonburg  
FREE Admission. Come fly with us! Join us for our June Open House and Fly Day. We welcome everyone to this FREE-admission, family-friendly outdoor event that offers aviation enthusiasts the opportunity to see our collection of vintage Harvard aircraft up close, tour our hangars, explore our restoration projects, purchase souvenirs, and best of all, go for a flight! (additional cost for flights). Come explore North America's largest fleet of Harvard aircraft and what the volunteers are doing to keep the history and legacy of these Second World War warbirds alive. While pre-booking flight experiences is not necessary, it is recommended. Contact [crewflights@harvards.com](mailto:crewflights@harvards.com) to ensure your seat! In case of inclement weather, check our Facebook page for RAIN DATE updates.

### JUNE 28 | DOORS OPEN NOON, GAMES START 1 PM CHILDREN'S CANADA DAY BINGO

Tillsonburg Legion  
Free for children ages 5-14 (must be accompanied by an adult). Door prizes, bingo prizes, snacks available.

## JULY

### JULY 17 & 18 BRANTFORD UKULELE FESTIVAL

Tickets for the 2026 Brantford Ukulele Festival, set for July 17th and 18th are going fast! Register before April 17th to get in on the Early Bird special. Get details on performers, workshops and more at [brantfordukulelesociety.org](http://brantfordukulelesociety.org).

### JULY 19 | 2 PM DECORATION DAY FOR FORESTVILLE CEMETERIES Hillcrest Cemetery, 638 Charlotteville Road 1, Forestville

Rain or shine. Bring your lawn chair, a friend, and umbrella. Music will be provided by "Blue Chicory". Everyone welcome!

## ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

### 3<sup>RD</sup> TUE. OF MONTH | 6:30 - 8:30 PM CAREGIVER CONNECTION Revel Realty Woodstock, 111 Huron Street (Virtual/hybrid options available)

Are you worried about your child or youth? Parents and Caregivers for Mental Health (PCMH) is here to listen, support, and walk alongside you on this journey. Our free Caregiver Connection peer support groups offer parents and caregivers a community of support. Can't make it in person? Join one of our virtual or hybrid groups! Visit [family.cmho.org](http://family.cmho.org) or email [oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca](mailto:oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca) for more information.

### OXFORD COUNTY DIABETES EDUCATION PROGRAM Appointments are available at Alexandra Hospital Ingersoll and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital and by phone

Are you looking for support with your Diabetes? Our Team of Registered Nurses, Registered Dietitians and a Social Worker is here to support YOUR goals. We can help with medication adjustments, lifestyle and diet changes, stress management, weight reduction strategies and more. **SELF REFERRALS ARE WELCOME.** Please call 519-485-9611 to book an appointment. Let's work together!

### MONDAYS | 7 - 9 PM MODERN SQUARE DANCING IS FOR YOU!

Thames Valley Dance Club  
Looking for something to do in the evening or something new to try? Modern square dancing is a great way to learn something new, have fun, meet new friends, relieve stress, and get some exercise! All you need

is comfortable shoes and casual clothing. No experience or partner is required and anyone over the age of 12 is welcome (children from 12-15 with an adult, please). The 2025-2026 season has started at the **Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall, 108 Wonham St. S. Ingersoll.** The first night is free, and after that the cost is \$7.50 per person each Monday, paid monthly at the start of the month. For more information, contact Julie at 519-535-3314.

### 2<sup>ND</sup> TUES. OF MONTH (SEPT. TO MAY) | 2 - 4 PM 4<sup>TH</sup> TUES. OF MONTH (SEPT. TO MAY) | 7 - 9 PM

### OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7

If you have never belonged to a stamp club, now's the time. Meet new friends, grow your knowledge and collection. Contact: Don Eaton [dhfe@silomail.com](mailto:dhfe@silomail.com). Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

### 3<sup>RD</sup> WED. OF MONTH | 10 AM - NOON LYNN RIVER PROBUS CLUB Army, Navy & Air Force Club, Simcoe, ON. Corner of Water St. and Culver St. Simcoe. Enter via Culver St.

Our retired and semi-retired members enjoy diverse interest groups, friendship and fellowship. We have interesting speakers at our monthly meetings as well as time to socialise.

Current and prospective members are welcome to join us at the Army, Navy & Air Force Club, Simcoe, which is on the corner of Water St. and Culver St. Simcoe. Enter via Culver St. For more information, please visit our website at: [lynnriverprobus239.com](http://lynnriverprobus239.com) or email [lynnriverprobus239@gmail.com](mailto:lynnriverprobus239@gmail.com)

### TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS | 7 - 9 PM SATURDAYS | 10 AM - 12 PM LEARN BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU (BJJ)

North Broadway Baptist Church  
Thanks to donor support, we've been able to purchase mats and uniforms, and our instructors generously volunteer their time. This isn't a business—any donations go straight back into the program to help buy more uniforms, mats, and equipment. If it's within your means, a \$20 monthly donation helps support the program, but if not, classes are completely free. **Classes are open to anyone 14 and older.** If you'd like to try a class, please arrive about 15 minutes early to sign waivers and get fitted for a uniform. Information can be found at: <https://www.northbroadwaychurch.ca/nbmfa>, <https://www.facebook.com/northbroadwaymfa>, <https://www.instagram.com/northbroadwaymfa/> Inquires can be made at: [nbmfa@northbroadwaychurch.ca](mailto:nbmfa@northbroadwaychurch.ca)

# COMING EVENTS

**EVERY OTHER FRIDAY | 1 - 4 PM**  
**SPRING INTO THE INGERSOLL COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE**  
 Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S., Ingersoll  
 Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications - love 50-70's country music. Perform, listen, dance & enjoy! May 1, 15 & 29, June 5 & 19.

**FRIDAYS | 1 PM**  
**INTERESTED IN BRIDGE?**  
**JOIN US AT THE TILLSONBURG DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB**  
 Tillsonburg Senior Centre - 45 Hardy Ave, Tillsonburg  
 Don't have a partner? Come anyway and we will match you up with someone. For more information, visit their Facebook page: TburgBridge.

**SATURDAYS, JUNE 6 - SEPT. 19 | 10 AM - 4 PM**  
**PLATTSVILLE & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY**  
**2026 EXHIBIT - HOLIDAYS & CELEBRATIONS THAT BRING US TOGETHER**  
 Archive & Museum at Chesterfield, 816661 Oxford Rd 22, Bright (June 20 - visit us at Plattsville 175)  
 Donations accepted. Refreshments. For private viewing email plattsvilleheritage@gmail.com or call 519.535.1417.

**1ST AND 3RD TUES. OF MONTH**  
**TILLSONBURG LIONS**  
 The Tillsonburg Lions meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. You are invited to their dinner meetings in the Lion's Den at the Community Centre. If you are interested in giving back to your Community contact Jim at 519 409 0876 for more information.....all are welcome.

**1ST WED. OF MONTH | 7 PM**  
**WAGNER MEMORIAL TEETERVILLE LEGION BRANCH 526 - MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING**  
 The Wagner Memorial Teeterville Legion Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, ON  
 Not a member? Contact us to join. For More Information Call, the Legion 519-443-5588. www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT ONE OF OUR EVENTS? WE WELCOME YOU!**  
 The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, ON  
 You do not need to be a member to Volunteer, Just contact the legion and leave your name and number and purpose of your call. Someone will get back to you as to where you might be needed. Students and Adults welcome. **Open hours. Wed.-Fri. 3 pm-10 pm, Sat.1 pm-10 pm, Sun.1 pm-6 pm.** For More Information call, the Legion at 519-443-5588 or teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

**VON OXFORD SUPPORTIVE CARE PROGRAMS**  
 Navigating any form of grief can feel overwhelming; however, with the right support, guidance, and education, individuals can discover a pathway to help in the healing of grief.  
 VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs offer assistance for grief stemming from various circumstances, such as the death of someone, caregiving, serious illness diagnoses, and life transitions. Through education, connection, and compassion, our programs create a safe space for individuals to explore their emotions and learn effective coping mechanisms during the grieving process.

Contact us today to learn more about VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs:  
 Email: oxford.griefsupport@von.ca  
 Phone: 1-888-866-7518  
 All Programs are Free-of-charge.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## TREES

For Sale: Shade Trees; Maples, Oaks, Birch, Beech, Honey Locusts, Elms, Magnolia, Hydrangea Tree, Tulip Tree, Crab apples, Ivory Silk Lilac, Chanticleer Pear, Golden Weeping Willows and more. Apples, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Apricots, Nectarine, Blueberry, Haskap etc. Lots of healthy strong Spruce, Cedars and White Pine for your privacy hedges and windbreaks. Hundred of flowering shrubs.  
 Reg Hours 7am- 6pm Mon-Sat at Martins Nursery c/o Emanuel Martin. 42661 Orangehill Rd., Wroxeter, ON



## LOCAL MATTERS.



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**BOOK NOW**

# RIDDLES

I follow you all the time and copy your every move, but you can't touch me or catch me. What am I?

*Your shadow*

What can you hold in your left hand but not in your right?

*Your right elbow*

What is black when it's clean and white when it's dirty?

*A chalkboard*

What gets bigger when more is taken away?

*A hole*

I'm light as a feather, yet the strongest person can't hold me for five minutes. What am I?

*Your breath*

I'm found in socks, scarves and mittens; and often in the paws of playful kittens. What am I?

*Yarn*

Where does today come before yesterday?

*The dictionary*

What invention lets you look right through a wall?

*A window*

What can't be put in a saucepan?

*It's lid*

What goes up and down but doesn't move?

*A staircase*

If you're running in a race and you pass the person in second place, what place are you in?

*Second place*

It belongs to you, but other people use it more than you do. What is it?

*Your name*

# SUDOKU

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	7	6	9		3		8	
	1							4
5	9				6			

Solutions on Page 34

Level: Beginner

# PET OF THE WEEK



**HANK**

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Tillsonburg, ON  
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Mon - Fri: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Sat: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

Nominate your pet to be Pet of the Week by emailing [info@tillsonburgpost.com](mailto:info@tillsonburgpost.com)

# WORD SEARCH

## GREAT OUTDOORS

S	E	M	T	F	M	V	F	G	H	G	I	P	F	Y
N	Y	O	N	R	D	A	E	H	L	I	A	R	T	T
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|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|---------|------------|
| ALPINE      | CRAG      | GORGE      | OVERLOOK  | RIDGE   | TRAILHEAD  |
| BACKCOUNTRY | EVERGREEN | HINTERLAND | PLATEAU   | SUMMIT  | VALLEY     |
| CANYON      | FOLIAGE   | MEADOW     | PRECIPICE | TERRAIN | WILDERNESS |
| CASCADE     | GLACIER   | MESA       | RAVINE    | THICKET | WOODLAND   |



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<sup>1</sup>Download and upload speeds vary based on your technical configuration, traffic, servers, and other factors. Acceptable Use Policy and Internet Traffic management Policy applies to all packages, see [xplore.ca/policies](https://xplore.ca/policies). Unlimited plans allow residential usage profile only. <sup>2</sup>Taxes extra. \$59.99 offer for the Fibre 100 plan available to new residential customers only and subject to change at any time. From month 1-24, a \$30/month discount applies. Regular price, currently \$89.99 applies after month 24. Plans are subject to network availability at your location. <sup>3</sup>Free standard installation offer subject to change any time, only valid for new fibre customers. Additional fees apply where enhanced installation measures needed. Site check fee may apply. Plans are subject to network availability at your location. See Xplore website for details. © 2026 Xplore Inc. "Xplore" is a trade-mark of Xplore Inc. © 2026 Xplore Inc. "Xplore" is a trade-mark of Xplore Inc.

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*Tillsonburg* **POST**

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# LOCALS

## Have More Fun

Get out and support our local shops, restaurants and events!

*Tillsonburg Post is available for free in print and online:*  
**tillsonburgpost.com**

**QUIZ ANSWERS**

1. Gemini & Cancer
2. D-Day
3. Banff
4. Edward Teach
5. Tavistock, ON
6. 1381
7. Mark Zuckerberg
8. The Corvus
9. Metric system
10. Bolshoi Theatre

**SUDOKU**

1	3	4	6	2	7	9	5	8
9	6	7	5	8	1	4	3	2
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5	9	2	8	4	6	3	7	1



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# Maurice J. Verhoeve FUNERAL HOMES



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