

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

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Woodstock City Council grapples with E-scooter regulation

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Woodstock's e-scooter climate won't be changing at any time in the near future, despite the mode of transportation being illegal. Any decision on whether to implement a by-law in the city will fall on the next council following the Oct. 26 municipal election.

After a presentation and extensive discussion, council directed city staff to work with the Woodstock Police Service on public education about the devices.

Police chief Nick Novacich explained e-scooters and other micro-mobility devices present both opportunities and challenges for a municipality.

"While they may offer residents another transportation option, they also raise legitimate concerns involving rider safety, underage use, sidewalk accessibility, insurance, modified devices, battery fires, and enforcement."

He added the challenges are made more difficult as the products can be purchased legally even when they are not allowed to be legally operated on public property.

"This has created considerable confusion for riders, parents, retailers and for us in the enforcement world."

The force's Media Relations and Community Service Officer, Pritpal Thind gave members of council a detailed presentation which included details on a provincial pilot was scheduled to end in November of 2024, but the province extended it by five years to November 27, 2029. That means any Woodstock by-law would be temporary and tied to the pilot, unless the province makes e-scooters permanent. For example, the city of London's by-law will automatically repeal when the provincial regulation is revoked.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



(LEE GRIFFI PHOTO)

HART HUB UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Construction at the physical HART Hub in downtown Woodstock has been ramping up recently as a potential opening date of late 2027 has been released. Story below.

Construction continues on permanent HART Hub in downtown Woodstock

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

As work on the permanent HART Hub site at the former Woodstock PUC building continues, treatment for those facing addiction continues at the temporary Wellness Centre at 369 Huron Street.

The site has four withdrawal management beds and six bedded supportive treatment (BST) beds. Clients may stay in the withdrawal management beds for up to 14 days, while the BST beds accommodate longer-term recovery

programming of up to approximately three months. Currently, all 10 beds at the Wellness Centre are occupied.

Funding for the temporary Wellness Centre location on Huron Street is provided through the Ministry of Health as part of the Oxford County HART Hub operating budget.

One of the questions most often asked by the community is what happens after someone leaves treatment. Do they remain in recovery, or do they return to substance use?

At this time, those overseeing the program do not have a firm grasp on how successful the programming is in terms of long-term recovery.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 3



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While illegal to use on public property, police taking education stance over enforcement

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

E-scooters are legal only where a council opts in which means a by-law would need to be passed, the Ministry of Transportation would have to be notified and annual reports on local use filed. After the pilot, the province will use municipal data to decide whether e-scooters become permanent.

Thind added there are basic rules which would need to be followed if the city eventually allows use of the devices.

"The top speed must be below 24 km/h on level ground, the motor...should have a maximum power of 500 watts, 45 kilograms maximum weight, two wheels with a 17-inch maximum size, brakes and a bell or horn. It must have a white front light, red rear light, side reflectors and no seat, pedals, motor modifications, or basket."

He added riders must be at least 16 years old, stand only and anyone under 18 must wear a bicycle helmet. No passengers or cargo are allowed, and bikes lanes must be used where available. They also are not permitted on 400-series highways, and any injury or damage collisions must be reported to police.

Thind said non-compliant e-scooters are sold legally meaning enforcement lands on the person operating it and added they are legal in other cities including Kitchener-Waterloo.

"It's confusing for (Woodstock) residents and visitors as well."

He added minor collisions go unreported meaning "big picture" data simply isn't available at this time and prosecuting drivers who do break a law or regulation is virtually impossible. When someone is found guilty of breaking a Highway Traffic Act rule, such as sitting down on an e-scooter, a fine can be laid.

"There is no set fine. The range is \$225 to \$2500 for contravening a pilot project regulation. Even if the person who is found contravening is willing to...plead guilty and pay the fine, they can not do that. They have to go to a provincial offenses court appearance and let Justice of Peace decide what penalty they get."

Coun. Liz Wismer-Van Meer said she

sees many benefits to allowing e-scooters, particularly since many families can't afford a vehicle let alone insurance for their children, and the mode of transportation presents a more viable option.

"For as many people making bad decisions with them, there are people making good decisions with them. It's the same as people driving cars. I see people drive cars as often erratically as I do young people driving these. The e-dirt bikes, those scare me. Those a whole different level for me."

Coun. Kate Leatherbarrow asked what police in Woodstock are doing when young riders are seen on e-scooters.

"Is there any point of contact with those kids to say, by the by, they aren't allowed, or any type of dialogue?"

Thind said police do occasionally get complaints but the focus is on education rather than enforcement. He added there are no rules on the books for officers to track down offenders.

"When they see a big police cruiser arrive in the area and they take off, I have no legislative authority to actually go after them. They have not committed a criminal offence and there would be a risk to public safety."

Leatherbarrow then asked if police had a plan to educate the public going forward.

"We will have a targeted social media and media campaign to let people know council's decision regarding it. Whether there's limitations or and outright prohibition. However council wishes to proceed we will have an education campaign accordingly."

Ultimately, councillors passed a motion to receive the police presentation as information and working with the force to educate the citizens of Woodstock on their proper use.

Acchione had a message for residents at the end of the e-scooter discussion.

"Currently, they are still banned and please stay tuned for more information by Woodstock Police and I am guessing the City of Woodstock will share some information as well."



theecho.ca

Temporary site serving up to 10 clients at a time

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"While aftercare programs are offered to everyone, participation is voluntary, and individuals may return to independent living following treatment," said Jilliane Blair, Manager of Outpatient Mental Health and Addictions at Woodstock General Hospital. "As a result, we are unable to reliably track whether an individual who has completed treatment returns to substance use, and where it has occurred, conclude it was because of a lack of housing."

Blair said she can confirm that no individual completing the Oxford Wellness Centre's 90-day Bedded Supportive Treatment (BST) Program has been discharged into homelessness. She also noted that not all clients were homeless when they entered the program.

"Clients who didn't have stable housing are either enrolled in the HART Hub's Transitional Housing and Supportive Recovery Programs, have been invited to return to live with their families, have accessed private housing options, or have accessed other housing partner units."

To date, 235 people have contacted the Oxford Wellness Centre's centralized intake phone number seeking information and connection to HART Hub services. At the temporary Wellness Centre, 98 people have been enrolled in Withdrawal Management Services and 37 in the 90-day Bedded Supportive Treatment program.

"Of the 31 people discharged from Bedded Supportive Treatment, 16 achieved their recovery goals and left with a detailed discharge plan. This represents a 52 per cent completion rate, consistent with residential addictions treatment programs," Blair explained.

The figures provide a measure of program completion, but they do not provide a measure of whether people remain in recovery after leaving the program.

Blair said the HART Hub was intentionally designed to connect treatment with ongoing supports, recognizing that recovery doesn't end when treatment does.

"The HART Hub's Supportive Recovery Program will include 10 abstinence-based housing units, two of which are currently occupied by people who completed the 90-day BST program, with additional units available in the coming months. The Hub also provides transitional housing support in Tillsonburg and Ingersoll, creating pathways between treatment, transitional supports, and longer-term housing."

Treatment is an important part of recovery, but completing treatment doesn't necessarily mean a person will never experience a return to substance use. Blair explained that recovery is an ongoing process, and people may require different forms of support at different points in that journey.

"Sustaining recovery often requires significant changes in many areas of a person's life and access to conditions

that support wellness, including stable housing, primary and mental health care, supportive relationships, meaningful community connection, education and employment opportunities, income stability, and ongoing substance use health supports."

She added that recovery is complex, and health care cannot address all of these factors alone.

"Sustaining recovery requires collaboration across health care, housing, social services, municipalities, employers, educational institutions, community organizations, families, and the broader community."

The goal is to open the doors to the permanent Oxford Wellness Centre at 16 Graham Street in the winter of 2027.

"The permanent site will substantially expand our capacity to provide integrated mental health and substance use health services and represents another important investment in Oxford County's continuum of care," said Blair.

The facility will have 10 withdrawal management beds and 40 supportive treatment beds. There will also be 10 additional transitional housing units located in Woodstock for clients who have completed treatment at the Wellness Centre.

"These are abstinence-based units. Clients may stay in the units for up to 12 months," she added.

The new facility will also have shared office and treatment spaces where community partners can offer programs and services directly to clients.

"For example, Oxford County Community Health Centre and CMHA Thames Valley will be able to use dedicated group therapy and counselling spaces at the Wellness Centre, making these supports more accessible to people receiving treatment," explained Blair.

This approach is designed to make it easier for clients to connect with a range of supports in one place and build a strong foundation for long-term recovery and stability. This will also include connections to housing, primary care, employment and education opportunities, and other community services.

The larger facility will also have more dedicated spaces for activities that support clients' overall health, wellness and life skills.

"An on-site fitness and wellness space will provide greater access to physical activity and wellness programming. Another example is that clients currently participate in activities that involve planning and preparing snacks using a set budget and available ingredients. A dedicated dining hall and teaching kitchen will provide additional opportunities for hands-on learning and skill development."

More information is available on the Woodstock General Hospital website at www.woodstockhospital.ca/oxford-hart-hub-initiative, or members of the public can email questions to info@woodstockhospital.ca.

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POLICE BRIEFS

Oxford OPP briefs

LEE GRIFFI
Editor

Weapons call results in scolding and education

Provincial police received reports of people with firearms at an abandoned business on Highway 59 near Salford Road in Norwich Township on the evening of Oct. 3.

Police attended the scene and located nine individuals with BB guns. There was an increased police presence while officers completed their investigation and it revealed that they were making a video. Police say they were educated on the safety and legal requirements of handling items that look like firearms in public.

The Oxford OPP wants to remind the public there are specific safety measures, permissions, and notifications that are required to be made in advance, if fake, replica or prop firearms will be visible to the public.

Impaired driver faces multiple charges

A young driver is facing several charges after police came across a collision on their way to an unrelated call.

Members of the Oxford OPP came across a single-vehicle collision on 37th Line in Zorra Township at 3 a.m. on Oct. 4. An investigation revealed that a driver left the roadway and then fled the scene.

With the assistance of West Region OPP Emergency Response Team, including Canine, and members from Oxford OPP, the driver was located. A 26-year-old resident of South-West Oxford man was charged with impaired driving, operation while impaired, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, operation of a motor vehicle while prohibited, and mischief.

The accused has been released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on Nov. 3.

Police looking to identify suspect after officer

injured during traffic stop

A member of the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police was struck by a dirt bike while on an unrelated traffic stop in Norwich Township.

A member of the Oxford OPP was on general patrol when they initiated a traffic stop on Friday, Sept. 25 at 3 p.m. While walking back to their cruiser, they were struck by an unknown driver doing a "wheelie" on a dirt bike. The individual struck the officer and fled the scene, leaving the officer with minor injuries.

The suspect is being described as a white male between the ages of 16 and 25. He was wearing a white San Francisco 49ers hoodie and blue jeans. The dirt bike is being described as having a black frame with a red seat, a single-pipe exhaust, a four-stroke engine and off-road tires.

If you know anything about this incident, please contact Oxford OPP at 1-888-310-1122. If you wish to remain



(OPP PHOTO)
Police are looking for this driver after an officer was struck by the driver and suffered minor injuries.

anonymous, you can contact Oxford County Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Two drivers taken to hospital after Zorra

Two people were taken to hospital with

non-life-threatening injuries after a transport truck and SUV collided on 19th Line north of Road 96 in Zorra Township.

Police and Oxford County Fire and Paramedic Services responded

to reports of a two-vehicle collision on Sept. 25 at about 5:30 a.m.

The lone occupants of the vehicles were transported to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Currently, no charges have been laid.

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Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

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Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

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City of Woodstock looking into potential name change of Indian Road

One resident calls for change while majority sign petition against it

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

One resident on Indian Road in Woodstock has asked council to review and potentially change the name.

Raylene Krohn sent a letter to the city and said the name feels outdated and, in her view, does not reflect Indigenous people today. The letter was first debated at the Sept. 17 regular meeting of council. There are 32 homes on the street.

"Before taking this step, I reached out to an Indigenous community member to ask for her perspective. She agreed that the name feels outdated and does not respectfully represent Indigenous people, and she felt it would be worthwhile for the city to formally review the name and consult with local Indigenous people and the First Nations connected to this land."

Krohn's letter said at this point, she is simply asking whether council would be willing to support a formal review of the existing road name and explore an appropriate consultation process.

"It feels especially poignant during Truth and Reconciliation month. I would appreciate hearing your thoughts on this issue and any guidance you can provide regarding the appropriate next steps."

Coun. Bernia Martin said the issue is some-

thing the city needs to act on and she added she is on her own journey of Truth and Reconciliation.

"I am currently reading a book called Talk Treaty to Me and it has prompted me to really do some thinking on issues like this. I don't want us to overcomplicate it but when you look at the word Indian Road, it is certainly a piece of language that has changed over time."

She added she is in favour of consulting with local Indigenous communities along with examining the implications of a street name change.

"Obviously, there are costs associated with that and what other agencies might have input."

Coun. Liz Wismer-Van Meer asked city staff if any compensation was available for residents should a name change eventually occur. Several residents on the street have permanent signing displaying their address on the street, but city staff are not aware of compensation ever being available.

"We have done a few over the years, in fact we did one quite recently, and I can't recall a time anyone has requested that," said Mayor Jerry Acchione. "I have had a number of residents from that street reach out to me in opposition. I am really looking forward to some key discussions and consultations with our Indigenous communities."

Resident Wendy Newell, who has lived on Indian Road since 1996, delegated to council at the Oct. 1 meeting where she presented a petition signed by approximately 125 people who oppose the request.

"There are 32 homes in Indian Road, of those, 27 homeowners support this petition. Three could not be reached because they are on vacation, and one is the homeowner who requested the name change."

Newell added among the supporters are a pair of Indigenous families who live in the surrounding neighbourhood, many of which also have native names such as Sioux, Blackfoot and Beaver.

"The names our of streets are more than just addresses. They are historical references that recognize and reflect the Indigenous communities that have lived along the Thames River. For many of us, these names have been part of our community and out lives for decades."

She added a street name change would also create a considerable financial and administrative burden for those affected, including the city itself.

"(It) would require residents to update numerous personal and legal documents including driver's licences, health cards, passports, insurance records, financial records, legal documents and other important correspondence."

Newell explained alternation to maps, municipal records, emergency services information and other systems would also have to be undertaken.

"We are here today to respectfully oppose the request and ask council to recognize the community support for keeping the name Indian Road. We ask council to reject the request rather than defer the decision so the residents...and our surrounding community can have certainty moving forward."

Her request was not granted nor discussed by council as the process to engage with area Indigenous groups has begun.

They city's project manager, Harold de-Haan, said when ready the staff report will include an estimated cost to residents should Indian Road be renamed in addition to comments from the public and consulted groups. He added staff has reached out to neighbours and to Indigenous groups.

"The letter we sent to the residents did have a timeline of when comments were due, I think it was 30 days. We've reached out to Indigenous groups and we are still waiting to hear back from them on when or how they would like to meet to discuss this."

With the upcoming municipal election on Oct. 26, it is highly likely the next Woodstock council will be the ones to debate and decide on staff recommendations.

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CMHA offering education and support for municipal election candidates

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) is offering municipal election candidates in Ontario education when it comes to mental health, addictions and homelessness. They are also worried about the mental health of candidates hitting the pavement on the campaign trail.

CMHA Ontario is launching what is called the CMHA Briefing Room, available at cmhabriefingroom.ca. The resource includes wellness tips to help candidates navigate the demands of a campaign, along with practical information about mental health, addictions and homelessness, and how community-based supports like CMHAs can help address these challenges.

"This isn't anything we have done before," explained CMHA Thames Valley CEO, Pam Tobin. "It was created really to support candidates during this campaign. There is a lot of persistent misinformation out there about mental health, addiction, homelessness, encampments, community safety, all those things."

She added the association felt it was important to provide candidates with evidence-based information candidates can use to answer questions they receive on the campaign trail. Tobin said there has been some interest shown by some candidates in Oxford County.

"They can enter the site and look at different fact sheets we've created. We don't necessarily take questions from them but they can look at

a wide range of information we have available. Some of those things may be supporting your own mental health on the campaign trail. It could be about housing and homelessness in the region or community safety and services. There are also fact sheets about encampments and housing crisis."

Information is also available on the topic of involuntary treatment for addicts, something Ontario Premier Doug Ford has said he isn't ruling out.

"I'd be open to it as long as we can help them and help the communities," Ford said recently. "There has to be a point with some good consultation with the mayors. Do we force these people into treatment? We have a duty as a society to take care of these people and make sure they get the help that they need, but I want to have that discussion with the mayors right now because they're very, very frustrated," he added.

The Briefing Room is intended to be a practical resource for candidates, municipal leaders, media and the public. It provides accessible information about:

- **Mental health and addictions:** What communities are experiencing and what the evidence tells us about effective responses
- **Homelessness and housing:** The relationship between housing, homelessness, mental

health and addictions

- **Community safety:** How mental health and addictions intersect with community safety and what approaches are supported by evidence

- **Solutions and policy:** The role of community mental health and evidence-informed approaches on key policy issues

"The resource will help municipal candidates understand how they can take action and where broader provincial and federal support is needed, recognizing that municipalities can't address these challenges alone. Municipalities, the province and the federal government – along with

the mental health and addictions sector – bear responsibility, and effective responses require co-ordination, sustained investment and strong community-based services," explained Tobin.

When a candidate accesses the site, they are able to leave their email address in order to receive weekly updates from the CMHA.

"They could be new and evolving issues in the community or just keeping them informed as they go," said Tobin, who added forced treatment does currently exist but isn't successful although it comes from a place of compassion and sometimes desperation. "There's no evidence (it) is effective. What some of the research actually

shows is there is potential harm and a higher risk of overdose after treatment."

She said there are many addicts looking to receive treatment voluntarily but there are no spaces available.

"To move straight into involuntary treatment without support for folks who are looking to get into treatment, there has to be a strong foundation put in place before involuntary treatment can be legislated. That may be new facilities or expanded facilities."

Adults in Ontario can be detained for up to 72 hours at a psychiatric facility under what is called a Form 1 Application. A 14-day hold refers to a Form 3 Certificate of Involuntary Admission, which permits detention for up to two weeks if the statutory requirements are met.

"Mental health and addiction are health care issues, but municipalities have been pressed to play a key role in their communities. Across Ontario, municipal leaders are doing their best to respond to these challenges, often working with limited resources and within complex systems," explained a CMHA press release.

According to the Association of Municipalities in Ontario, 85,000 people were estimated to be experiencing homelessness in Ontario in 2025. Municipalities contributed approximately 67 per cent of housing funding and nearly one quarter of homelessness funding last year, while total spending on homelessness programs across governments reached \$2.3 billion.

Visit cmhabriefingroom.ca to learn more.

"Running for municipal office means answering questions about mental health, addictions and homelessness. Some you'll expect; some you won't. So, this election, we'll make sure you're prepared."

Participating municipalities encourage residents to prepare for online and telephone voting

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

"Your vote. Your choice. Your convenience."

That's the message from five Oxford County municipalities utilizing the same voting system for the upcoming municipal election.

The Town of Tillsonburg, Townships of Blandford-Blenheim, Zorra, South-West Oxford, and East Zorra-Tavistock, will each use secure internet and telephone voting from Oct. 13 to Oct. 26.

Eligible electors will be able to vote from anywhere using their own computer, tablet, smartphone, or telephone. The voting system will be available 24 hours a day throughout the voting period, providing residents with a convenient and accessible way to cast their ballot. Whether you're at home, at work, or travelling, you'll be able to securely cast your ballot during the voting period. Voting closes at 8 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 26.

Eligible electors will receive a Voter Information Letter (VIL) in the mail before voting begins. It will include your name and address, your unique voting PIN, and instructions on how to vote online or by telephone.

Your PIN is required to access the vot-

ing system and cast your ballot. If you do not receive your VIL, lose your PIN, or require assistance, you can contact your municipality's Voter Help Centre.

All residents are encouraged to confirm that they are on the Voters' List and that their information is correct before election day.

Do not assume you are already registered. If you are not on the Voters' List, you may still be eligible to vote. Election staff can help add eligible electors to the list or update voter information when required.

The Province of Ontario's 2026 Municipal Voters' Guide is also available online and provides information about voter eligibility, municipal elections, and the voting process.

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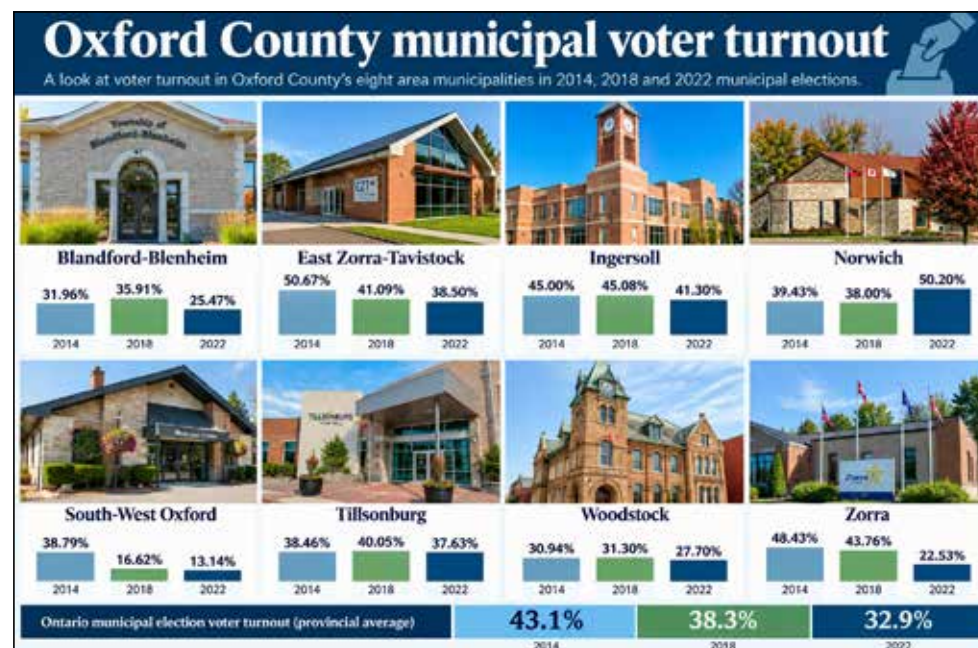
The participating municipalities have partnered with Intelivote Systems Inc., a Canadian company specializing in municipal election technology, to deliver secure internet and telephone voting services.

The voting system allows eligible electors to vote online or by telephone, uses security safeguards and encryption to protect voter information, prevents multiple votes from being cast by the same elector, and is tested and monitored throughout the election period.

Most importantly, voter privacy is protected. Votes are anonymous, cannot be connected to an individual elector, and municipalities never see how a person

voted.

For election information, voter resources, and important dates, visit your local municipality's website.



(CONTRIBUTED IMAGE)

The clerk at South-West Oxford Township provided the Echo with an explanation of its low voter turnout in the 2018 and 2022 elections. "We have six wards with one member of council representing each one and a mayor elected at large," said Denny Giles. "The mayor has been acclaimed for the last three elections, so it's only been based on ward votes." He added in 2018 each councillor was acclaimed meaning there were no votes cast. The only votes taking place were for school board trustee positions. "In the 2022 election, the only ward having a race was Ward 1 so the voter turnout looks low," he added.



MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

CANDIDATE PROFILES

Schadenberg hoping for a third term on Woodstock Council as City/County Councillor

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Woodstock is Mark Schadenberg's hometown, and he says it remains a wonderful place to raise a family.

"As my two kids grow up, it's easy to see that a positive and correct influence, and creation of stability and necessary amenities, should be nurtured and improved," he said.

Schadenberg, who has served eight years as an elected council member, is seeking a third term as Woodstock's city/county councillor.

He said he wants to use his experience to improve both Woodstock and Oxford County through forward-thinking ideas, strong planning and close monitoring of spending.

"Using the budget as an example, it must be pointed out that creating a smart financial game plan at both levels (tiers) is a balancing act of factoring in many areas — recreation and culture, infrastructure, fire and police, ambulance, long-term care homes, the unhoused, attracting employment, landfill services, and well-constructed bylaws, zoning and planning."

Schadenberg said the city needs to keep a close eye on its Asset Management Plan (AMP), arguing that infrastructure needs should take priority over beautification projects.

"The AMP refers to everything ranging from aquatics to arenas, artificial turf at indoor soccer, but more importantly the end-of-life condition of sewers, bridges, foundations and elevators, aging infrastructure, and perhaps a building's roof or computer equipment, or the recently renovated cupola at the museum," he said.

"The visible and invisible condition of depreciated components is the AMP. The city has a director in the engineering office who monitors this, and council must listen to that person and keep the flow charts in the position of improving and not depreci-

ating."

Schadenberg spent eight years in the Woodstock Sentinel-Review newsroom and was sports editor for much of that tenure in the 1990s. He also spent 20 years as a realtor, showing, listing and selling properties while gaining experience with zoning and subdivisions, bylaws and building permits.

"I have a thorough knowledge, and in my opinion, above all others on the current council," he said.

Community volunteerism is also important to Schadenberg. He has been a member of the Lions Club of Woodstock for 20 years and has served as chair of the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life and the WDDS Sports Celebrity Dinner.

He was inducted into the Woodstock Sports Wall of Fame in 2016 and has served on the Woodstock Recreation Advisory Committee for 25 years, including seven years as chair.

He has also served on the city's environment advisory committee and as a member of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA).

"In 2015, I was vice chair of the UTRCA. You can say it's leadership, but at the same time it's earned respect and admiration, as everyone around the table at the UTRCA is either an elected council member in their city/town or a former council member."

Schadenberg said one of the reasons he wants to continue on county council is to participate in the development of an updated Oxford Official Plan, which is currently underway through online surveys and public meetings.

"When a consultant like Watson & Associates projects phenomenal growth in population for our county, you want the best representation possible," he said.

"As a Woodstock member of county council, I want to analyze the many projects on their books that are not nearly as necessary as they may think. While many offices are integral, some others are not so

much. The Official Plan is much more integral than the Strategic Plan."

Schadenberg also said Woodstock's commitment to reducing development charges is important, arguing that doing so would result in provincial funding being returned to the municipality for new amenities associated with growth, such as a fourth arena, second pool or satellite library.

"The number of issues is endless, but the number of available dollars is not," he said.

"Replacing the Civic Centre Arena does not qualify as a development charges item, as it's not something brand new depicting growth."

Schadenberg said one of the biggest issues facing local government is the proposed shelter for unhoused people at the former YMCA.

"The County paid too much for the building, didn't conduct enough public discussion, hired a single-source architect-contractor, and the facility could have overall renovation costs balloon to the \$10-million range before an operating budget is created," he said.

"The city gave the county a cheque for \$2 million from the Building Faster Fund; was that 'gift' spent properly? Certainly not."

Schadenberg said Woodstock needs



Mark Schadenberg. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

wraparound social services for everyone, as well as a 24/7 shelter.

"Especially so unhoused people have a place to keep their belongings and don't have two homes — The Inn and also day space at Operation Sharing — but the YMCA is the wrong location, and the evolution of its creation has been incorrect and poorly handled," he said.

Schadenberg can be reached at 519-608-8219 or through his website, www.mark-schadenberg.blogspot.com.



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AI and municipal elections in Ontario

It's the Wild West as province has no rules over its use or abuse

LEE GRIFFI
Editor

The emergence of Artificial Intelligence in literally every facet of life is upon us amid warnings of how powerful the technology could become. Now, there are warnings AI has landed in municipal election campaigns.

Ontario's Municipal Elections Act has no provisions addressing AI-generated content, synthetic media, or deepfakes in campaign advertising.

Carmi Levy is one of Canada's top tech experts and said there isn't a sector anywhere immune to the encroachment of AI and we all would have had to have been naïve to think politics would escape its spread.

"The sad reality is we are seeing more and more AI being incorporated into political messaging up to and including the dissemination of misinformation and disinformation and deep fakes. The use of synthetic assets within political advertising and the use of social media for non-legitimate content is designed to sway political opinion."

He added voters can no longer believe what they see and can't assume the message in their inboxes or social media feeds are legitimate. Levy said it's hard to figure out who to trust these days.

"It's pretty much a buyer beware and

voter beware scenario where we literally have to mistrust at first glance what we see and consume until it is proven otherwise."

Levy admitted it is becoming increasingly difficult to tell the difference between something legitimate and something AI generated. He added we need to look for the origins of an asset.

"When you receive a message that is politically motivated and you want to look at who sent it, is it a recently created account? Does it use original assets or were these assets scraped off existing accounts? Who is interacting with this account, is it part of a large network or is it known as a zombie account which doesn't have a lot of interaction but has a significant amount of content posted recently?"

He said legitimate accounts have a years long footprint and others will post and react on the content whereas fake accounts show none of those signs. Levy added humanity is very difficult to recreate in a human space and with a little bit of investigation it is easy to determine all is not what it seems. He also offered some advice to eager voters.

"Verify before you engage. Make sure you are absolutely certain it is in fact a legitimate account, human, and political candidate before you decide to engage with them. By responding to non-synthetic content you amplify the algorithms of

others and make it easier for non-legitimate content to be distributed and find its audience."

Levy said everyone can be part of the solution by simply changing behaviours, very slightly, in the digital space.

"By verifying first we ensure false content doesn't find an audience and others are not duped. By reporting content to the platforms they are on we also ensure the algorithm dials them down so they don't find an audience."

He added it is better to not respond and instead click in those three dots to report questionable content that tells the social media platform to reduce its priority in the algorithms so it won't find an audience.

"That is an absolutely critical step toward ensuring we do not give power to the benevolent actors who use misinformation to misinform us. Unfortunately, as the tools become more powerful, accessible and easier to use, they are going to be-

come more widespread and we are going to have our eyes wide open."

Some municipal candidates are not overly savvy in the ways of IT but Levy said everyone on a ballot needs to keep their eyes wide open for bad actors in the race who will use digital tools against their opponents.

"Make sure you are scanning social media platforms for signs your content is being lifted and misused. In many cases we have seen ghost accounts created by political opponents made to look like the original one but spewing content that increases the likelihood of them being perceived in a negative manner."

He added candidates need to keep an eye out to make sure they are not being targeted as they run their campaigns and skills needed as candidates build their campaign team.

"It's bad and its going to get worse. I hope voters are smart enough to see through this," added Levy.



(CHATGPT IMAGE)

Here is an AI generated version of a legitimate election profile (left) and a fake profile beside it.



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Back to school support from Home Hardware stores in Ingersoll and Woodstock

Woodstock Home Hardware Building Centre and Ingersoll Home Hardware Building Centre recently donated backpacks and school supplies to Youth Unlimited, helping support local children and families with some of the essentials they need for the school year.

The donations are part of a larger initiative across eight Home Hardware locations owned by Adam Moulton, with each store partnering with a local orga-

nization to support families in its community.

"We believe every child deserves to head into the school year feeling prepared, confident, and excited for what lies ahead," said Adam Moulton, Dealer-Owner. "By providing these backpacks and supplies, we hope to ease some of that burden and help students begin the year with the tools they need to succeed."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Organizers pose with backpacks and school supplies at Ingersoll's Home Hardware store.

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Answering your call

Changes to emergency medical dispatch

Beginning in October 2026, Oxford County Paramedic Services will use a new system to prioritize 911 medical calls. Police and fire calls are not affected.

The Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) will help ensure those with the most serious medical conditions are seen first.

WHAT STAYS THE SAME

- When you call 911 for a medical emergency, an emergency communications dispatcher will be there to take your call.
- Calls involving life-threatening emergencies, such as cardiac arrest, stroke symptoms, severe allergic reactions or unconsciousness, will continue to receive the highest priority response — as they do now.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT

- When you call 911 for a medical emergency, you may be asked a few more questions to help dispatchers understand how serious or severe your condition is.
- If your needs are less urgent (flu-like symptoms or sprains) and the demand for paramedic services is high, you may wait longer for an ambulance to arrive.
- You may receive basic guidance over the phone while paramedics are on their way. You may also get a call back to check on your status during longer waits.

LEARN MORE

www.oxfordcounty.ca/medical-dispatch

Woodstock recognizes Migratory Bird Day

SHARRON SKEVINGTON

Echo Contributor

World Migratory Bird Day is Oct. 10 and the City of Woodstock will officially declare the date which matches a peak migration period for birds in the area.

The World Migratory Bird Day theme this year is “Every Bird Counts, Your Observations Matter!”. In keeping with the theme and based on the fact that Woodstock has recently been deemed a Bird Friendly City, the public is encouraged to participate in bird counts and bird walks on October 10th. Citizen observations help researchers collect data on bird numbers and they help identify areas of conservation concern requiring further action.

Here are some things you can do to help migrating birds:

1. Download the free eBird app on your cell phone. Learn how to use it by asking a local birder, such as a Woodstock Field Naturalist member, or tune into YouTube for an eBird tutorial.
2. Download the free Merlin app on your cell phone. Use it to confirm your bird sightings in the field, which you can then enter on the eBird app.
3. Go for a birding walk (see details below for opportunities).

4. Go bird watching in your own backyard or neighbourhood.

You can protect migrating birds in your home and yard by providing trees for shelter, particularly evergreens, as well as providing a source of fresh water. Keep cats indoors. There is a bylaw in the City of Woodstock which prohibits cats roaming free. Recent research from the University of Guelph estimates that in Canada cats kill an average of 60 million birds annually. This is the largest source of human-related mortality for birds.

Another deadly issue for migrating birds are window collisions. Birds see reflections of trees and sky and don't realize there is a pane of glass blocking their flight path. Buildings, particularly those that are brightly lit at night, kill thousands of migrating birds. Birds migrating at night are disoriented by the bright building lights. Turning off lights during migration periods can save thousands of birds.

At home you can prevent window collisions by using products such as the dots sold by Feather Friendly. These are applied in strips creating a 5-centimetre x 100-centimetre grid on the window. The dots are inconspicuous when looking through the window from inside, but they are easily visible to birds outside.



Black-capped Chickadee.

(RICHARD SKEVINGTON PHOTO)

Bird feeders should be kept at a safe distance from windows.

Woodstock Field Naturalists will be leading bird walks on Oct. 10 at Roth Park, Standard Tube Lions Club Trail, and Standard Tube Burgess Park Rotary Club Trail. Please come and join us.

Arrive at one of the three parking lots at 9 a.m. and bring binoculars if you have them but we will have a few loaner pairs available. This is a wonderful opportunity to get a guided tour of migrating and resident birds which can be found in Woodstock. We hope you can join us.

New Family Physician opens new practice in Woodstock

STAFF

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

The City of Woodstock is welcoming Dr. Hamza Aman, a family physician who is establishing his practice at Oxfordia Medical Centre in the city.

Dr. Aman is a UK-trained family physician who holds a Certificate of Completion of Training and Membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners, reflecting the United Kingdom's recognized general-practice training pathway. He is registered with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and holds Certification in the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

At Oxfordia Medical Centre, Dr. Aman will provide comprehensive, evidence-based family medicine for patients of all ages. His approach emphasizes respectful, culturally sensitive care, with a focus on listening to patients, explaining care options clearly and partnering with patients in decisions about their health,” said a City of Woodstock press release.

“Woodstock is home to families from many backgrounds, and it is important that local health care reflects the diversity of our community,” said Kristy Hons, Physician Recruiter for the City of Woodstock. “Dr. Aman’s commitment to making patients feel heard and understood, including through care in multiple languages, will be a valuable addition to Woodstock’s primary-care community.”

Dr. Aman is fluent in English, Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi, helping patients discuss their health concerns in the language in which they are most comfortable.

Recruiting and retaining family physicians remains an important priority for the City of Woodstock and its health-

care partners. As Woodstock and Oxford County continue to grow, expanding access to primary care remains essential to supporting the health and well-being of local residents.

“We are proud to welcome physicians who choose to build their practices here and contribute to a healthy, inclusive and growing community,” said Hons.

Patients interested in registering with Dr. Aman are encouraged to visit the Oxfordia Medical Centre website at <https://oxfordiamedical.com/> and select the “New Patient Registration” option on the website to register.



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VON hike raises money for Sakura House



A long line of walkers snaked through Roth Park.



Steve and his extended family from Hamilton, touched by cancer, posed for a photo with a Terry Fox poster.

Residents across Oxford County were invited to take part in the annual Hike for Hospice, held on Sept. 19 at Roth Park in Woodstock. The event served as an important fundraiser for VON Oxford and Sakura House Hospice, supporting compassionate end of life care for individuals and families throughout the region. Funds raised through the hike helped sustain programs that offered comfort, dignity, and essential support to those facing life

limiting illness. Participants of all ages joined the walk—many in memory of loved ones, others in support of local hospice services, and many simply to enjoy the scenic waterfront trails while contributing to a meaningful community cause. Volunteers and staff from VON and Sakura House were on site to welcome attendees, share information, and highlight the impact of community driven fundraising efforts.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)

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Authorized by Lou D'Orazio.

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Lithium-Ion Battery Safety



Lithium-ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, e-scooters and e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. If not used correctly, or if damaged, these batteries can catch on fire or explode.

The Problem

- These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for a specific use can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

Safety Tips

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

Signs of a Problem

Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call 9-1-1.

Recycle Batteries Responsibly

Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could start a fire. Recycle your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location. Visit call2recycle.org to find a recycling spot near you.

Charging an E-bike

Charge your battery in a flat, dry area away from children, direct sunlight, liquids, tripping hazards, and in a location where the e-bike is not at risk of falling.



A SAFE THANKSGIVING IS SOMETHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR

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ERNIE HARDEMAN
MPP - Oxford






FIRE PREVENTION WEEK: OCTOBER 4-10, 2026

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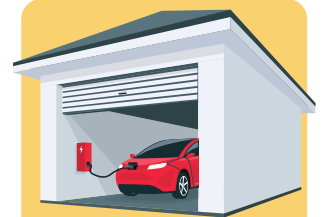
Electric Vehicles: Safe Charging at Home

Warning!

- ⚡ Electric vehicles have high voltage batteries.
- ⚡ Battery maintenance should be performed by the manufacturer.
- ⚡ Do not touch the orange high voltage cables.

SAFETY TIPS

- Use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Read and follow all manufacturer directions.
- Check chargers and cords for damage before using. Never use if damaged.
- Do not use extension cords with the charger.
- Install charging equipment in safe locations. Keep away from busy areas and things that could catch fire.
- Keep charging items out of reach of children and animals when not in use.
- Cover charging station outlet to keep water out.
- Before charging an electric vehicle at home, have a qualified electrician:
 - ~ Check your electrical system to see if it can handle charging.
 - ~ Install a new circuit just for your charging device.



For Level 1 Charging:

- Use the charging cord that came with the electric vehicle.
- Use a standard household plug.
- Make sure charger or outlet has GFCI protection.
- Use only a dedicated circuit to charge.

For Level 2 Charging:

- Use a 240-volt outlet. A qualified electrician needs to install this type of outlet.
- Only use outdoor rated charging stations outdoors.
- Keep cords off the ground.

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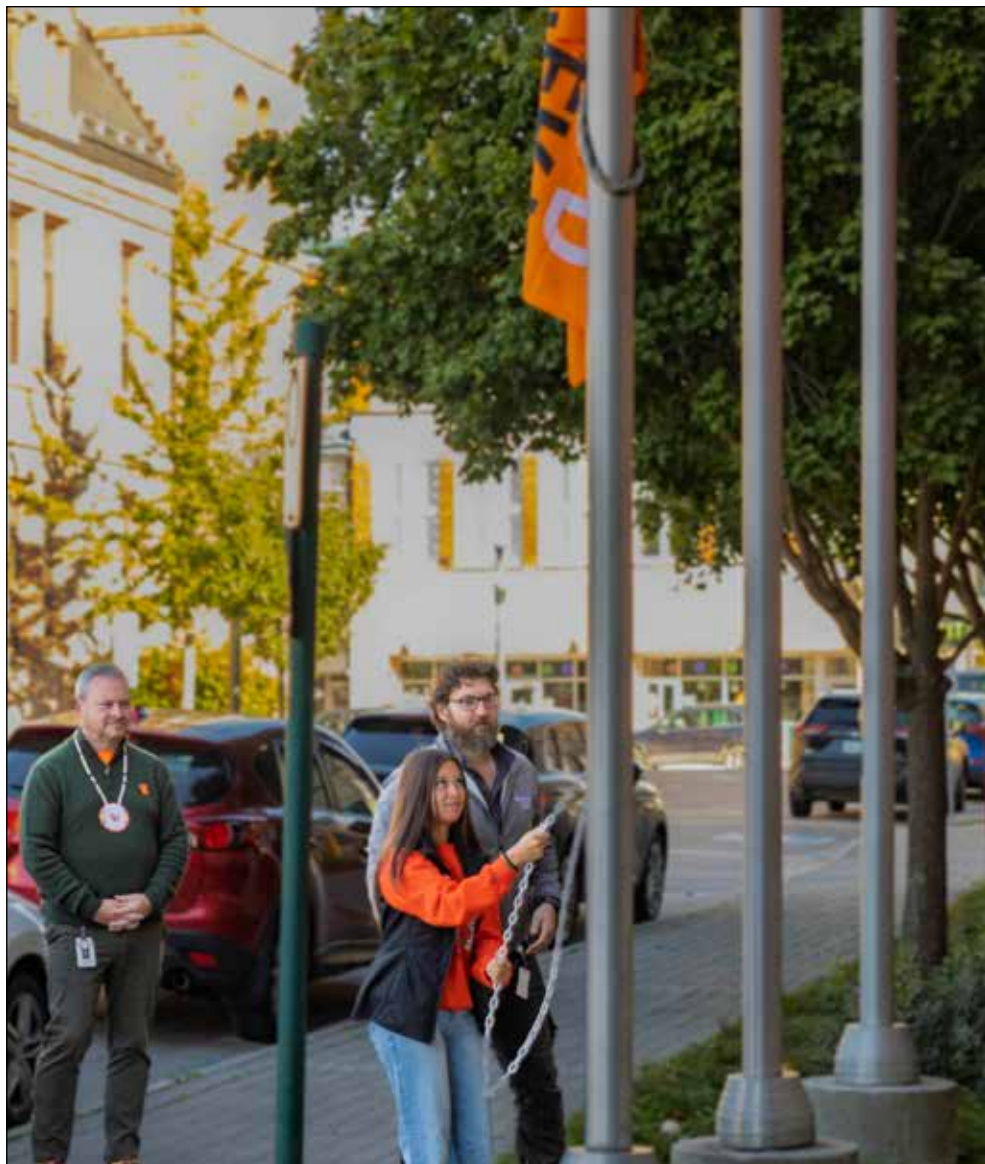
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Woodstock holds Truth and Reconciliation March and Every Child Matters Flag Raisings



Brooklin raised a flag commemorating the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

Woodstock's Museum Square became a powerful place of remembrance, learning, and unity on Sept. 27 as hundreds of residents gathered for the 2nd Annual Truth and Reconciliation March, hosted by Two Row Culture and Community Centre. The event brought Indigenous and non Indigenous community members together in a shared commitment to honour Survivors, remember the children who never returned home, and continue the work of Truth and Reconciliation. The afternoon opened under the theme "Walk in Honour with Us – For the Children, For the Survivors, For the Future." Attendees arrived wearing orange, carrying signs, and bringing their

families to participate in a day centred on reflection, culture, and meaningful action. Museum Square was filled with the sound of drums, the movement of dancers, and the voices of Elders and Knowledge Keepers who guided the gathering with teachings, stories, and messages of healing.

The community also gathered in Woodstock on Sept. 25 to honour residential school Survivors, their families, and the children who never made it home. The morning started with a flag raising ceremony at the Oxford County Administration Building where an Every Child Matters flag was raised in a moment of reflection and solidarity.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Participants joined the Truth and Reconciliation March along Dundas Street.

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Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

SPORTS

TVRA 2026-27 season tips off inside packed WCI Devildome

JEFF TRIBE
Echo Correspondent

There are few better places to kick off the 2026-27 Thames Valley Regional Athletics Southeast season than a Woodstock CI Devildome packed with a student buyout in support of The United Way.

Loud, raucous and upsold even further

TVRA SOUTHEAST SENIOR GIRLS BASKETBALL	
OCT. 1	
WOODSTOCK CI	52
WOODSTOCK HURON PARK	32
WOODSTOCK ST. MARY'S	38
LORD DORCHESTER	36
INGERSOLL DCI	31
TILLSONBURG	30
SEPT. 29	
AYLMER EAST ELGIN	32
ST. MARY'S	12
HURON PARK	42
ST. THOMAS CENTRAL ELGIN	27
WOODSTOCK COLLEGE AVENUE	32
TILLSONBURG	12
WOODSTOCK CI	37
INGERSOLL DCI	17
SEPT. 24	
WOODSTOCK CI	32
ST. MARY'S	12
JUNIOR GIRLS	
OCT. 1	
WOODSTOCK CI	30
HURON PARK	10
ST. MARY'S	26
LORD DORCHESTER	21
INGERSOLL DCI	45
TILLSONBURG	25
SEPT. 29	
WOODSTOCK CI	46
INGERSOLL DCI	26
COLLEGE AVENUE	30
TILLSONBURG	29
CENTRAL ELGIN	33
HURON PARK	31
EAST ELGIN	45
ST. MARY'S	25

courtesy of MC Jason Poole's player introductions, it was an atmosphere even the visiting team could appreciate.

"It was fun," said Woodstock St. Mary's Warrior senior girls' basketball forward Samantha Nelson Sept. 24 at WCI. "The adrenaline and the nerves, and they're a really good school."

Each high school team opens its season with a mixture of excitement and expectations, the Warriors and homecourt Red Devils being no exceptions.

The latter hit the court running, bringing the crowd to life as Natalie Sutherland pulled down a defensive rebound off a rimmed Warriors three-point attempt, outletting to a streaking Avery Molinaro for a fast-break lay-in. The Red Devils followed up with 1-2-1-1 full court pressure, a high-octane combined offensive and defensive assault which established early control of a game finishing 60-12 in their favour.

"We came out pretty strong," said Sutherland, very much liking the atmosphere. "I think it made it better."

"Off to a good start," agreed WCI forward Brooke Halward, excited to get into what historically has been a full year of high school athletics. "The gym had good, loud energy, it was great."

Reese Crown paced the Red Devils attack with 13 points, Halward added nine, Molinaro eight, Sutherland seven, Eden Fraser six, Layla Graham, Hannah Thistlewaite and Addison Weicker four each, Jillian Trepanier and Lilli Taylor three apiece and Alison Van Der Wyngaard one field goal. E. McCormick led the Warriors with six, Perkins added three and Oriana Belmonte and Nelson two apiece.

As Red Devils coach Eric Molinaro reaffirmed, his goal each and every season is winning the league and qualifying for and winning Western Ontario Secondary Schools Athletic Association (WOSSAA) finals, thereby earning a provincial championship berth. That annual outlook is enhanced by WCI's successful bid to host the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Associations (OFSAA) 2027 AA senior girls basketball tournament.

Looking toward being competitive provincially within that longer-term vision is backdropped by this season's goal of



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

St. Mary's Warriors (left) and (centre) battle for the ball against WCI Red Devil Addison Weicker (right).

seeing a young team adapt and compete at the senior TVRA and WOSSAA level, a challenge the Red Devils have historically proven up to.

"Hopefully that's the case this year," he said.

Those two goals are in the minds of the Red Devils, the season-opener the first step along that journey.

"So, we got at it early with high intensity," said Halward.

Bringing that level of intensity consistently and cohesively will be a key, says Sutherland.

"Positive energy and trusting each other."

St. Mary's coach Cooper Wilson says

the Warriors are looking at more of a development season but is equally excited to get it underway.

"Our goal is to have fun, become better people, learn basketball and enjoy the game," he summed up.

Cooper's two in-game targets were to hit ten points - achieved - and break the Red Devils press.

"We did not, but we showed some progress."

The Warriors also gave a 32-minute effort, staying positive throughout.

"That's probably the number one thing," Nelson concluded, noting that if players get down, the whole team gets down. "And that's a loss right there."



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

The 2026-27 TVRA Southeast season unofficially tipped off Thursday, September 25 inside a packed and energetic Woodstock CI Devildome.

Falcons, Marauders look back while paying it forward at Pink Ribbon Challenge

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

London Fanshawe Falcons guard Isabella Bertucci enjoyed a look back as she continued to pay it forward at the 7th Annual Oxford Pink Ribbon Basketball Challenge Saturday, Oct. 3 at Woodstock St. Mary's.

A Thames Valley Regional Athletics product, the Arva Medway Cowboys graduate and former London Rambler could see something of herself in the Oxford Attack U11 and U13 girls cheering in the stands and scrimmaging at half-time.

"One hundred per cent," Bertucci smiled. "I just loved watching (older girls compete), I always wanted to play that level."

A collaborative effort between the Attack and Oxford Basketball Officials Association, the Pink Ribbon challenge celebrates women's basketball through an exhibition game between the Falcons and the Hamilton McMaster Marauders. Timed to coincide with Breast Cancer Awareness Month, event organizers and officials wear bright pink shirts, with proceeds supporting the Canadian Cancer Society.

"It's just a very positive girls' basketball weekend," said Attack President/Treasurer Paul Cowan.

"It's a great community event," credited Marauders coach Isabel Ormond, happily following in a tradition established by her predecessor Theresa Burns. The Pink Ribbon challenge is well organized and run Ormond continued, playing for a worthy cause added incentive.

"It's a great connection. We can use this game for something that matters."

Like Bertucci, McMaster's Teja McCormick grew up watching older players play, dreaming of being in their shoes.

"It's cool to be on the other side of that."

Beyond putting on a fine exhibition of top-notch post-secondary women's basketball Attack members can aspire to, the varsity players' buy-in included cheering



The Pink Ribbon Challenge collective 'team' Oct. 3 at Woodstock St. Mary's.

(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

on their younger counterparts and lining up in offsetting corridors of 'high fives' both coming onto and leaving the court.

"I couldn't stop smiling," said Marauder Keira Daly, a 5'10" guard from Hamilton Cathedral, studying kinesiology. "It was very cute."

"It's nice to see how many more leagues there are and how they all want to be involved in basketball and get better," Bertucci added.

Growth in the women's game from the youth level on up through the WNBA, including Toronto's own Tempo is 'great to see,' agreed Daly, extending an invitation for fans to check out the compete level and entertainment value in post-secondary competition.

"Watch it and watch it court-side," she said, hoping fans realize the commitment required including practice, conditioning and weight training in addition to learning the X's and O's.

"It's a lifestyle," Daly said. "A sisterhood. You're doing what you love with the people you love."

She finished with 13 points through an 88-61 Marauders victory, including a trio of three-point field goals. Teammates Tayler Scott (13), Emily Frankovic (11) and McCormick (10) also reached double digits with Sophia Urosevic adding a trio of treys. Bertucci finished with 11 in a losing cause for the Falcons with Edith Esem leading Fanshawe's offence with 18 points, Sidney Deleary adding 13 and

Addison Deelstra seven.

An event bringing high-level women's basketball to Oxford and financially supporting the CCS comes together as a collective effort says OBOA president and co-organizer Nino DeLuca. It's a lengthy list including volunteers, major sponsors Honda, Home Hardware, Leon's, Shoppers Drug Mart and Boston Pizza; ongoing commitment from the two teams and support from players young and older, along with their parents.

"All-in-all, everyone pulls together. It's a great day and a lot of fun."

The Pink Ribbon challenge provides an intentional female focus and early introduction to a broader Attack program featuring 11 teams this year. The girls' program has U11, U13 and U15 squads with male counterparts in the U10, U11 and U12 through U17 divisions, and a two-year U19 entry. Although many hail from Woodstock, 'Oxford' recognizes those coming from rural areas and smaller centres including Ingersoll, Hickson, Norwich and Tillsonburg.

"We get players from all over," said Cowan.

Last year, the Attack hosted over 300 Ontario Basketball Association (OBA) games in Woodstock. Seasonal highlights included the U19 Attack's OBLX provincial championship and a Division I title for the U16 squad. In recognition of the Attack's ongoing and expanding commitment to the sport, the organi-

zation has been awarded the U15 girls' Ontario Cup, the division's provincial championship Friday, April 30 through Sunday, May 2nd.

"It will be the biggest basketball event in the history of Oxford County," said Cowan, anticipating 50-plus teams contesting titles in eight-team divisions. Based on performance during in-season tournaments, each team is seeded, beginning with the top group in OBLX level on down through Division I and so on.

"The goal is all eight teams in each division are relatively equal and the games are fun," said Cowan.

Seven gyms will be in play in Oxford: St. Mary's, Huron Park, Cowan Park, College Avenue, Ecole Notre Dame and Woodstock CI in Woodstock, along with Glendale in Tillsonburg. Each will feature 16 divisional games, four Friday, eight Saturday and four Sunday, including bronze and gold medal finals.

Although convenors and volunteers are anticipated to be in place for the event, sponsorship inquiries are welcomed via the email paul@hicksoncowans.ca.

The U15 championship will have significant positive financial, branding and basketball implications for Woodstock and Oxford County, as well as the opportunity to support local favourites competing among the best female Grade 9 players in the province.

"That's going to be fun to watch," Cowan concluded.

Blue Bombers field hockey season features wins, potential - Huskies looking to grow, develop

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

One's opponent celebrating a field hockey game's first goal and the umpire's whistle signalling the end of the match are not sounds one hopes to hear in close proximity.

But while a bit of a bitter pill to swallow, the experience was also expected to provide positive medicine energizing the Ingersoll DCI Blue Bombers moving forward.

"Incentive to do better next time," agreed

Bombers centre mid Ali Elliott.

IDCI goalie Kenna Pelton could not be faulted on the game-winner, making the initial save before a surging Wildcat buried the rebound. The 1-0 Thames Valley Regional Athletics girls field hockey loss to the West Lorne West Elgin Wildcats Sept. 24 at London City Wide #2 was a new experience for a Blue Bombers team which had opened its season with back-to-back 5-0 wins.

"Everyone was quiet, that's good," said IDCI co-coach Hillary Poyntz.

"We'll channel that," added compatriot Ange Matches.

"And not do it again," smiled Poyntz.

The aforementioned one-goal loss aside, the Bombers start to the season has been a positive one for a young but promising squad.

"There is a ton of potential on our team," said Matches. "They're thirsty to learn and improve."

IDCI lost a lot of veterans from last year's team Elliott conceded.

"But we also gained a lot of fresh, new

players who are a lot of fun to play with."

Low D Reese Ellery is among the rookies, enjoying the opportunity to try something different.

"It's just a new experience with a lot of athletic girls," she said. "I think we have a strong team in the making."

"We're a pretty connected team," agreed Pelton, coming to the sport from a background including hockey, volleyball and soccer with the shared goals of improving and contributing. "Just get better at the sport."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 18

TVRA field hockey season underway

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Pelton earned her first shutout of the season through a 5-0 win over St. Thomas Central Elgin Sept. 22 at City Wide, fuelled offensively by two goals from Charlie Parsons and singles from Elliott, Kayla Ponting, Ava Bruinsma and Sophia Paterson.

The Bombers were looking to rebound in their next game against Woodstock Huron Park Huskies, closing the back end of a September 24 double-header.

“Try our hardest,” said Elliott.

“Come out strong with a positive attitude,” added Ellery.

The Bombers would rebound with a 5-0 victory over a Huskies squad, which says co-coach Hillary Jack, features a lot of multi-sport athletes, enjoying their introduction to the sport. Admittedly, neither she nor co-coach Derek Belore have much field hockey coaching experience.

“We’re pretty much out there to give the girls an opportunity to play, develop and have some fun.”

Huron Park opened its regular season on the 24th against Ingersoll DCI and Strathroy, and says Jack is stoked to get back out and continue with an enthusiasm and positive attitude the coaching staff finds heartening.

“They’re a fantastic group of girls, so supportive of each other. We can’t wait to go out there and watch them.”



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Huskies Hannah Bast (centre) and Xazharia Sevensma (right) challenge a Strathroy opponent (left) for possession of the ball.

TVRA GIRLS VARSITY FIELD HOCKEY	
SEPT. 29	
INGERSOLL DCI	2
HOLY CROSS CHS	1
STRATHROY	2
INGERSOLL	1
SEPT. 24	
WEST LORNE WEST ELGIN	1
INGERSOLL DCI	0
INGERSOLL DCI	1
WOODSTOCK HURON PARK	0
STRATHROY	5
HURON PARK	0
SEPT. 22	
INGERSOLL DCI	5
ST. THOMAS CENTRAL ELGIN	0
INGERSOLL DCI	5
AYLMER EAST ELGIN	0



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Knights open with victory in highly competitive TVRA Southeast senior boys volleyball division

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

The Woodstock College Avenue (CASS) Knights senior boys volleyball team winning a regular-season match is not a usual thing.

Nor arguably is a team 'celebrating' by committing to a 6:30 a.m. practice the following morning.

"They're going to come out and put the work in," credited coach Mike Gryssels following a 3-1 (19-25, 25-21, 25-22, 25-20) Thames Valley Regional Athletics (TVRA) Southeast season-opening victory over the visiting Tillsonburg Gemini Sept. 29 at CASS.

A traditionally slow-starting Knights side saw the Gemini take the opening set, CASS playing point-for-point in its second half, but unable to make up an early deficit. The home side's height advantage began to tell in the second set, strength at the net both on offence and defence.

"We're a tallish team," said CASS middle Nicholas Horinga, who a quick check revealed had grown an inch or two from last season's 6'8". "Everyone is on the taller side."

The Knights' Owen Procenko closed out the final two set two points, powering home a left side kill for a 24-20 lead and following a miss-hit on a subsequent attempt, finished it off 25-21 on a centre kill.

CASS took the pivotal third set by a narrow two-point margin, a Dierk Beintema block at centre scoring the final point. Tillsonburg opened the fourth set with a quick 4-1 lead, but a Procenko jump service ace and back-line attack helped even the score at six. A Horinga kill and block capped a run to 15-10, and following a brief lapse allowing the Gemini to close from 24-17 to 24-20, CASS's Greyson Padfield hammered a centre kill just inside the line to his right, finishing off a five-point set and 3-1 match victory.

"Kick-start the season," said Procenko, adding to the best of his recollection, the match was the first non-exhibition win he can recall since Grade 9, the mark of a team where everyone knows what they're doing, and is



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

College Avenue junior Knight Liam Phanlouvang sets up a first pass in the match against Tillsonburg.

there to compete.

"We feel this is the best team we've had in a long time," said Beintema.

"If we keep playing and know what we're doing, we could go far," added Horinga.

A team with a core group of Grade 12 players came into the season with higher expectations, said Gryssels.

"But you need proof," he said, pleased to open with a win. "It was really good to have a game we could get into, battle and pick each other up."

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The Knights are determined their first win will not also be their last, but nothing will come easily in a highly competitive TVRA Southeast division featuring defending Western Ontario Secondary Schools Athletic Association (WOSSAA) AA champion Woodstock Huron Park and traditional powers Ingersoll DCI and Woodstock CI and St. Mary's. There will be no free passes to one of the two available WOSSAA berths says Gryssels, even before factoring in TVRA South competition.

"If you're going, you've got to earn it. And that's the gameplan."

Junior

The junior Knights came up two points short of a first-set victory against Tillsonburg, finding positives despite a 3-0 (26-24, 25-17, 25-19) defeat.

"We were serving and receiving pretty well," said CASS's Sauran Tamang.

He felt the Knights needed to work on their rotation and setting.

"But overall, we were pretty good."

TVRA SOUTHEAST SENIOR BOYS VOLLEYBALL

OCT. 1

INGERSOLL DCI	25, 25, 25
TILLSONBURG GLENDALE	16, 14, 22
WOODSTOCK ST. MARY'S	25, 25, 25
LORD DORCHESTER	21, 16, 16
WOODSTOCK CI	25, 25, 22, 25
WOODSTOCK HURON PARK	9, 16, 25, 22
COLLEGE AVENUE	25, 25, 25
E.S. NOTRE DAME	19, 10, 14

SEPT. 29

ST. MARY'S	26, 25, 25, 25
AYLMER EAST ELGIN	28, 19, 18, 15
ST. THOMAS CENTRAL ELGIN	25, 25, 25
HURON PARK	22, 22, 21
COLLEGE AVENUE	19, 25, 25, 25
GLENDALE	25, 21, 22, 20
INGERSOLL DCI	25, 25, 24, 23, 15
WOODSTOCK CI	21, 22, 26, 25, 12

SEPT. 24

WOODSTOCK CI	25, 17, 25, 25
LORD DORCHESTER	19, 25, 21, 18

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Woodstock St. Mary's junior football Warriors 'get up again'

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

Tubthumping's 1997 release preceded any of the current Woodstock St. Mary's Warriors junior football team members' birth dates.

JUNIOR BOYS	
SEPT. 30	
LONDON ST. THOMAS AQUINAS	20
INGERSOLL DCI	14
LONDON REGINA MUNDI	21
WOODSTOCK ST. MARY'S	6
SEPT. 25	
INGERSOLL DCI	35
LONDON CLARKE ROAD	0
SEPT. 24	
STRATHROY DCI	35
ST. MARY'S	0
SENIOR BOYS	
SEPT. 30	
INGERSOLL DCI	21
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS	20
LONDON REGINA MUNDI	27
COLLEGE AVENUE	20
SEPT. 25	
LONDON CLARKE ROAD	26
INGERSOLL DCI	25
LONDON MONTCALM	20
COLLEGE AVENUE	17

However, the players did live up to the Chumbawamba hit's thematic 'get knocked down, but get up again,' chorus through a 35-0 Thames Valley Regional Athletics season-opening defeat to the Strathroy DCI Saints Sept. 24 at Woodstock College Avenue.

It was the first game for a lot of junior Warriors said coach Jeff Almeida, a lot of first times getting hit, 'getting knocked down.'

"And they they got up and go, 'I'm OK,'" he continued.

The first half featured a bit of shock and awe, Almeida continued, before a 'switch turned' in the second half.

"We can play, we can play."

St. Mary's fullback/defensive lineman Mike Anastasiadis runs about 5'11", 215, maybe 220 pounds, solid by any standards, however not large when compared to the Saints, both numerically and physically.

"Big team, big team," he said.

Strathroy had "stuff going on, some plays," Anastasiadis credited, operating behind large and talented offensive and defensive lines.

"(But) heck, first game of the season for us. First game for a lot of these guys playing football.

"I'm proud of the boys, they played their best. We did what we could, we have a lot to learn but I'm excited for the season, see what we can do."

"It's a learning process," agreed Warriors quarterback Callum Lawton, a Jordan Love fan who lists himself at 5'1".

"On a good day," laughed teammate Jackson Roberts. "With cleats."

"As long as we try our best," continued Lawton, who like many teammates, was in his first competitive football game.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

A pair of St. Mary's Warriors tacklers bring down a Strathroy runner.

Roberts recorded his team's defensive highlight, an end zone 'pick' resulting from 'lurking' in the back corner out of sight of the Saints' QB.

"The ball went over him (the intended receiver) and I caught it."

Almeida referred to that moment in his post-game message, part of a much-improved second half, 'little things' that start to embed and foster collective improvement.

"It starts tomorrow," added Warriors coach Cheddi Achan. "The sun comes up, go to school and come to practice."

Games have two outcomes says Almeida, winning or learning, with the season-opener falling into the latter category.

"Now we know what we're up against, and hopefully we can go to work. Our focus is always the next game, the next game. What do we need to do?"

"Today we learned, we're going to get better."

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SPOTLIGHT ON

WOODSTOCK NAVY VETS

Navy Vets earn a pair of points on busy GOHL weekend as Forte makes regular season debut

LEE GRIFFI
Editor

Woodstock Navy played three Greater Ontario Hockey League games in three days and came away with two points after a 4-2 home-ice victory over Listowel on Minor Hockey Night at Southwood Arena.

Defenceman Colby Branton led the attack with one goal and two assists while Maddyx Chaput, Even Giannone and Jaxon Bagshaw also found the back of the net for Woodstock. Landyn Quirk made 24 saves in goal for his second win of the season as the Navy Vets outshot the Cyclones 31-26.

At home on Friday, Woodstock dropped a 4-2 decision to LaSalle after taking a 2-1 in a first period that saw five pucks find the back of the net. 16-year-old rook-

ie Sebastian Fortin scored both goals for the Navy Vets in his first regular season game since returning from a hand injury in a preseason game. Fortin, a 16-year-old hometown defenceman, was drafted in the fifth round (95th overall) by North Bay in the 2026 Ontario Hockey League draft.

Friday night's game was also the first ice time seen by Jacob Scarpelli, Maddyx Chaput and Hudsyn Chaput.

On Sunday, Woodstock travelled to Chatham to face the powerhouse Maroons, consistently one of the league's best teams. They Navy Vets fell behind 3-0 early in the second period but goals by Giannone (shorthanded), Jordan Jacobs and Fortin tied it up by the half-way mark of the third. Bagshaw added a pair of assists in the losing effort while

Landyn Quirk stopped 26 shots.

Woodstock now sports a record of four wins against five losses and sits in seventh place in the GOHL's Western Conference.

The Nay Vets will host Strathroy Rockets on Friday night at Southwood Arena for Breast Cancer Awareness Night and then travel to Cambridge to face the Redhawks on Saturday night.



STANDINGS



WESTERN CONFERENCE	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS	GF	GA
1 - ST. MARYS LINCOLNS	8	7	1	0	0	14	46	22
2 - ST. THOMAS STARS	8	7	1	0	0	14	32	16
3 - CHATHAM MAROONS	7	6	1	0	0	12	34	20
4 - LASALLE VIPERS	7	4	3	0	0	8	24	28
5 - LISTOWEL CYCLONES	7	3	2	2	0	8	34	23
6 - ELMIRA SUGAR KINGS	8	4	4	0	0	8	32	34
7 - WOODSTOCK NAVY VETS	9	4	5	0	0	8	30	39
8 - KOMOKA KINGS	10	4	6	0	0	8	20	40
9 - LONDON NATIONALS	8	3	4	1	0	7	29	37
10 - STRATFORD WARRIORS	5	2	3	0	0	4	18	22
11 - STRATHROY ROCKETS	8	1	6	0	1	3	24	37
12 - SARNIA LEGIONNAIRES	5	0	5	0	0	0	12	27

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Woodstock Minor Baseball Association names 2026 volunteer award winner



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Congratulations to Jerry Kleiner, our 2026 Volunteer of the Year."

That is how a social media post from the association started before adding it was difficult to identify an area of WMBA that Jerry did not contribute to this year.

"Beyond his formal responsibilities, Jerry was consistently one of the people willing to step forward whenever something needed to be planned, improved, or simply done. He played a major role in modernizing the delivery of WMBA's in-season tournaments, helping create a stronger and more professional experience for visiting teams and families."

Jerry was also instrumental in developing and delivering the WMBA High-Performance Program, contributing to its structure, player evaluation, and selection

process.

"His commitment was perhaps most visible during the 13U National Championships. As a member of the organizing committee, Jerry helped grow the volunteer base from the ground up and then spent extraordinarily long days on site helping ensure Woodstock delivered a national championship experience our association and community is very proud of.

Organizations like WMBA are only able to succeed and grow because people are willing to contribute their time, expertise, and energy well beyond what is expected of them. Jerry exemplified that spirit throughout 2026, and we are incredibly grateful for everything he contributed."

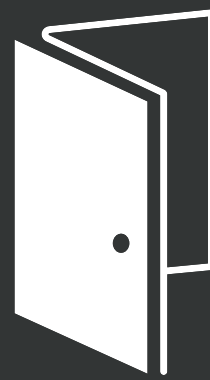
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Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday 10:30 a.m.
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Woodstock launches Friendly City Volunteer Recognition Award to celebrate outstanding volunteers

STAFF

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

The City of Woodstock is launching a new awards program to celebrate the people and organizations whose volunteer efforts help make Woodstock a strong, welcoming, and connected community.

The new Friendly City Volunteer Recognition Awards will recognize outstanding volunteers who give their time, skills, and energy to make a difference in the lives of others and contribute to the community.

"As the Friendly City, we know that so much of what makes Woodstock a great

place to live is thanks to the people who generously give their time to help others," said Deputy Clerk, Jeff Bunn. "The Friendly City Volunteer Recognition Awards gives us an opportunity to celebrate these incredible contributions and say thank you to the volunteers who make a difference in our community every day."

Each year, Council may recognize up to five individuals or organizations through the program. Nominations can be submitted in six categories:

- **Youth of the Year** – recognizing an outstanding young volunteer aged 18 or younger.
- **Senior of the Year** – recognizing

a resident aged 55 or older who has made significant contributions to the community over at least five years.

- **Environmental Stewardship Award** – recognizing an individual or group demonstrating exceptional leadership and dedication to environmental sustainability.

- **Good Neighbour Award** – recognizing an Oxford County resident who makes a difference in the lives of Woodstock residents.

- **Organization of the Year** – recognizing a Woodstock not-for-profit organization that has made significant contributions through volunteer service

and/or sponsorship.

- **Citizen of the Year** – recognizing a Woodstock resident aged 18 or older who has made significant, long-standing contributions to the community over at least five years.

The city is accepting nominations for the inaugural Friendly City Volunteer Recognition Awards from Nov. 1, until Dec. 31.

Winners will be recognized by Woodstock City Council in April during National Volunteer Week.

Watch for more information about the nomination process coming in November at www.cityofwoodstock.ca/awards.

Election is determined by the people who show up

ELECT

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**FOR WOODSTOCK
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Authorized by Connie Lauder.





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8:30 am - 4 pm Open Woodshop*	8:30 am - 12 pm Open Woodshop*	8:30 am - 4 pm Open Woodshop*	8:30 am - 4 pm Open Woodshop*	9 am - 12 pm Billiards - Snooker
9 am - 12 pm Snooker	9 am - 12 pm Billiards - Snooker	9 am - 12 pm Snooker	9 am - 12 pm Beginners 8 Ball	9 am - 9:45 am Stretch & Tone
9 am - 10 am Keep Fit	10 am - 10:30 am Men's Only Cardio & Strength	1 pm - 3:30 pm Progressive Pepper	9:15 am - 10:15 am Keep Fit	10 am - 10:45 am Qi Gong
10:15 am - 10:45 am Booty Sculpt	10 am - 11:30 am Line Dancing Beginner Plus	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Keep Fit	10 am - 11 am Men's Coffee Club	10:15 am - 11:30 am Trailwalkers
11:15 am - 12 pm Seated Gentle Stretch	11:15 am - 12:15 pm Sit Fit		10:20 am - 11 am Just Weights	11:15 am - 12:15 pm Total Body Workout
1 pm - 4 pm Klaverjas	1 pm - 2 pm MindFlex (Oct 13 & 27)		11:15 am - 12:15 pm Sit Fit	11:15 am - 12:15 pm Sit Fit
1 pm - 4 pm Darts	1 pm - 3 pm Beginners 8 Ball		1 pm - 3 pm Book Club (Oct 15)	12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Good For the Soul (Oct 9)
1 pm - 4 pm Euchre	1 pm - 3:30 pm Progressive Pepper		1 pm - 3 pm Billiards - Open	1 pm - 3:30 pm Bingo
6 pm - 9 pm Billiards - Open	1:30 pm - 3:30 pm Cribbage		1 pm - 4 pm Euchre	1 pm - 4 pm Darts
	6 pm - 9 pm Bid Euchre		1 pm - 3 pm Musicares	1:30 pm - 3 pm Ukulele - Strum & Sing
	6 pm - 9 pm Snooker		5 pm - 9 pm Billiards - Open	4:30 pm - 6 pm The Monthly Mix (Oct 30)
	6 pm - 9 pm Come Dancing		7 pm - 10 pm LION'S BINGO	



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Pottery: Appetizer Plates
Thu Oct 15 & 22 • 9:30 am - 12 pm

Beginner Acrylic Painting
Mon Oct 26 & Nov 2 • 9:30 am - 12 pm

Pottery: Christmas Trees
Tue Nov 3 • 1 pm - 4 pm

Beginner Card Making
Tue Nov 3 • 9:30 am - 12 pm

Pottery: Christmas Ornaments
Tue Nov 10 • 1 pm - 3:30 pm

Mind & Meditation
Wed Oct 21 • 10:30 am - 11:30 am

Chair Yoga: Hybrid
Tue Oct 20 - Nov 24 • 8:30 am - 9:30 am

Chair Yoga: Fully Seated
Tue Oct 20 - Nov 24 • 10 am - 11 am

Gentle Flow Yoga
Fri Oct 23 - Nov 27 • 8:30 am - 9:30 am

Functional Movement
Mon Nov 9 - Dec 21 • 10 am - 10:45 am

Functional Movement
Tue Nov 10 - Dec 22 • 11:45 am - 12:30 pm

MELD: Mat Pilates + Barre
Thu Nov 12 - Dec 17 • 11:15 am - 12 pm

Lifelong Learning Through Human Stories
Tue Nov 3 - Dec 8 • 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
No class Nov 10

Tech Literacy
Fri Oct 30 - Nov 27 • 2 pm - 4 pm

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ICAC and Ingersoll Community Comes Together for the Poppy Project

KYRAH SMITH

Echo Correspondent

For the first time, the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre (ICAC) is partnering with the Royal Canadian Legion for the community's "Poppy Project." The project has already received an overwhelmingly positive response from the people of Ingersoll.

"We are amazed at how many we actually received," said Lois Wheatley, an ICAC member and one of the project leads. "There's been close to 7,000 donations."

Originating in Winnipeg with Sheilah Lee Restall, the Poppy Project has since spread to communities across Canada. The project brings local volunteers together to knit and crochet thousands of poppies, which are then used to decorate sculptures, cenotaphs and buildings each November as a way of showing support and gratitude.

Members of the centre began planning and preparing for Ingersoll's project in early February, with countless hours of work going into bringing the display together.

Wheatley told the Echo that the Poppy Project was something many members of both the Arts Centre and the wider community had expressed interest in.

"It's been a big collaboration," she explained.

The finished piece measures 10 by 20 feet and represents countless hours of dedication and care from volunteers and community members.

"At first, we were trying to space them out, but because we had so many dona-

tions," Wheatley laughed, explaining that the sheer volume of knitted and crocheted poppies meant volunteers had to change their approach.

The project quickly became about more than just members of ICAC.

"People that aren't members of the guild or the art centre have brought in poppies, or have come in and helped tie," she added.

She recalled two twins who had recently moved to Ingersoll. After seeing ICAC's post about the project online, they wanted to contribute and ultimately brought in hundreds of poppies.

To keep track of the tremendous community response, volunteers have also been maintaining a book listing the names of those who contributed, along with the number of poppies they donated. Wheatley said ICAC plans to present the book to the Legion as a memento of the community's involvement.

"It's nice that the community got behind the project. It's something that goes out year after year, not just a one-time thing. Hopefully it becomes an annual tradition. The hardest part is making sure you thank everybody."

ICAC is no longer accepting donations for Ingersoll's Poppy Project. However, those who have already made poppies or would still like to contribute can have their donations passed along to participating neighbouring communities, including Woodstock and Tillsonburg.

For Wheatley and the other volunteers involved, the project has become a reflection of what can happen when a community comes together behind a shared cause.



(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

Nearly 7,000 crocheted and knit poppies have been donated by community members for Ingersoll's Poppy Project.

DEB TAIT

I believe in the importance of public service, community leadership, and I am driven to improve our city's future.

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Authorized by Deb Tait.

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- Voted against the county budgets that have escalated to the point becoming unsustainable

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Cheesecake and tacos team up in the Friendly City

The Woodstock Cheesecake & Taco Fest wrapped up its two day celebration on Sunday afternoon, drawing steady crowds to the Woodstock Fairgrounds for a food focused weekend filled with live entertainment, artisan shopping and family activities. The festival ran October 3 and 4, transforming the fairgrounds into a lively mix of food vendors, music stages and market spaces. Guests spent the weekend sampling unique cheesecake creations, specialty taco flavours, and drinks from the popular margarita bar, which was a major attraction throughout both days. Live music played continuously, creating a relaxed, upbeat atmosphere as visitors explored the indoor and outdoor arti-

san market, posed for photos at themed selfie stations, and enjoyed lawn games set up across the grounds. Families appreciated the complimentary kid's zone, which offered activities designed to keep younger guests entertained while parents browsed and tasted. Early attendees each day received free loaded swag bags, and all visitors were entered into the festival's grand prize basket draw, adding an extra layer of excitement to the weekend. Organized by KB Events Canada, the Woodstock Cheesecake & Taco Fest continued its reputation as one of the region's most anticipated food themed gatherings, offering a blend of culinary creativity, community spirit and family friendly fun.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Shannon and Paxtynn of Cherry On Top were busy serving attendees.

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Woodstock CAO retiring after decades of dedicated service

STAFF

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

After 35 years of service in the City of Woodstock, David Creery, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), will retire in the new year.

A city press release said Creery has been a steady and trusted leader throughout his career, supporting staff, strengthening municipal services, and helping shape the long term direction of Woodstock.

“When David joined the city in 1992 as the Development and Facilities Engineer, Woodstock was a community of about 30,000 residents. Today, our population is more than 50,000, and about 40 per cent of that growth has occurred since he became CAO in 2011. His leadership during this period has played an important role in supporting the city’s ability to grow, adapt, and continue delivering services that meet the needs of a changing community,” it added.

Over the years, Creery worked with 10

different city councils, helping guide the corporation through periods of change, major projects, and significant challenges, including the cyber-attack and the pandemic.

“His calm, thoughtful leadership and commitment to teamwork have been hallmarks of his service,” added the release.

“I’ve always believed that everything we accomplish in municipal work is a team effort. The best part of this job has been the people - the dedicated staff, the supportive Councils, and the community members who care deeply about Woodstock. I’ve been fortunate to lead dedicated teams who bring their best every day, and I’m proud of what we’ve achieved together,” Creery said. “Serving our community has been a privilege. It has been genuinely rewarding to assist so many homebuilders, contractors, business owners, and residents on their projects.”

Across his roles, including Development and Facilities Engineer, Deputy

City Engineer, City Engineer, and CAO, Creery contributed to many major initiatives, including:

- Leading the development of the city’s 2013 community based strategic plan.
- Leading and playing an integral role in many public building projects such as the Reeves Community Complex, Woodstock Public Library renovation and addition, Museum restoration and expansion, Market Building renovation, and Cowan Park Sportsplex.
- Advanced improvements to many city services such as recycling and public transit.
- Streamlining the development approval process, giving the city a reputation as a good place to invest.
- Assisting numerous industrial investments and developments through their due diligence processes, helping projects advance smoothly and achieve successful outcomes.
- A focus on strengthening the financial sustainability of the city and im-

proving the condition of assets with an emphasis on the quality of our roads.

Creery said it has been an honour, and he is grateful for the support and friendships built along the way.

“Working with each of you and for this community has been one of the greatest privileges of my career, and I’m grateful for everyone who supported me along the way. Seeing our city evolve over the past 35 years and playing a role in that journey has been incredibly meaningful.”

Creery’s last day in the office is planned for Feb. 5, 2027.

“Mr. Creery’s dedication to Woodstock has been remarkable. It’s been a pleasure working with him over the past 12 years and he’s continually led with integrity, compassion, and a deep commitment to our community. We are grateful for everything he’s contributed over the years and while we will miss him, we wish him all the best in his much deserved retirement,” said Mayor Jerry Acchione.



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Woodstock hosts Fall Fest in Museum Square

Downtown Woodstock welcomed the community for an afternoon of autumn celebration as Woodstock Fall Fest returned to Museum Square on Saturday afternoon. The free community event brought together seasonal activities, local vendors, family fun, and the warm spirit of fall in the heart of the city. Residents

and visitors enjoyed a full afternoon of attractions, including live entertainment, fall-themed crafts, local artisans, food vendors, and interactive activities for children and families as well as a 3-on-3 basketball tournament. The event highlighted Woodstock's vibrant downtown while offering a festive, relaxed atmosphere for all ages.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Outdoor basketball returned to the streets of downtown Woodstock this past weekend as the BIA and Why Not Us presented the 3V3 From Downtown Basketball Tournament.



Idris posed with Spider Gwen and Spiderman.

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Theatre Woodstock presents a gothic romance production highlighting vocal talent

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

Just in time for Halloween, Theatre Woodstock will kick off its 2026/2027 season with *Dracula: The Chamber Musical* - the first of three musicals on the docket.

The show will run from Oct. 16 to Oct. 25 and is based on the classic Bram Stoker novel, the musical by playwright Richard Ouzounian and composer Marek Norman. It follows Count Dracula's travels from Transylvania to England as a solicitor escapes his capture and a group under Dr. Van Helsing's leadership run to stop Count Dracula from preying on Lucy Westenra.

"It's going to be different from what they expect from a musical. It's going to be gothic, and sexy, and moody so I think it will be exciting and different and showcases the talent that we have in Oxford County," said director Kim DiLello.

The musical production stays true to Stoker's novel, so the portrayal is more of a tragic romance rather than other de-

pictions of Count Dracula that are more comedic.

"It's not campy and it's not fluffy. It's definitely a love story," said DiLello.

"There's definitely a lot of tragedy," added stage manager Karen Vance. "Their voices give me chills."

Under the musical direction of Shannon Wijnker, who oversaw the production in Petrolia, there are seven singers performing the songs that carry out the story including actors who appeared in other widely attended previous Theatre Woodstock musicals like *Roger and Hammerstein's Cinderella*, *Cabaret*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. *Dracula: A Chamber Musical* is DiLello's first musical production as a director.

"It's very exciting," said DiLello. "It's definitely a big learning curve but we have such stunning voices and Shannon's fantastic at directing."

Tickets are \$32 each and can either be bought at the box office on 22 Reeve St. by calling 519-537-2582, or online by visiting <https://theatrewoodstock.com>.



Derek Dysieveck, left, will play Count Dracula and with James Callaghan taking on the role of Johnathan.

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. What is the capital city of New Zealand? | how many face cards are there? |
| 2. Which element has the chemical symbol, Fe? | 7. Which everyday product was originally marketed in the 1890s as a wallpaper cleaner? |
| 3. Who painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel? | 8. True or False. Bananas are botanically classified as berries, while strawberries are not. |
| 4. Which country is credited with inventing paper? | 9. Which famous novel begins with the line "Call me Ishmael"? |
| 5. Which boxer was nicknamed Smokin' Joe? | 10. Which Canadian province is the smallest by land area? |
| 6. In a standard deck of 52 playing cards, | |

This week's answers are found on pg. 39



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COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

**OCTOBER 10 | STARTS 9 AM
BIRDING WALKS**

- Standard Tube Park, Lion's Trail, 98 Dundas Street, Woodstock, ON
- Standard Tube Burgess Park, Tecumseh Street (Trail entrance next to Oxford Pool and Spa), Woodstock, ON
- Roth Park (large parking lot near the Roth park sign), Woodstock, ON

Celebrating World Migratory Bird Day. Join the Bird Friendly Woodstock team for a birding walk. Get to know Woodstock's birds on a guided walk led by expert birders. Bring binoculars (we will have a few loaner pair available). Everyone is welcome!

**OCTOBER 13 | 7 PM
HANGINGS, HAUNTINGS AND HALLOWEEN-
TALES FROM OXFORD ARCHIVES**
Beachville District Museum

Beachville District Historical Society speaker series welcomes Liz Dommasch with “Hangings, Hauntings and Halloween-Tales from Oxford Archives”. Join us at the Beachville District Museum for an evening of haunting stories with lunch and treats to follow. All are welcome.

**OCTOBER 13 & 27 | 1 PM
SACRED HEART PARISH EUCHRE**
Henderson Hall, 133 John Street Ingersoll
We invite everyone to join us for a Euchre afternoon. Refreshments provided.

**OCTOBER 17 | 2 PM
NORWICH DISTRICT CURLING CLUB OPEN
HOUSE & GRAND RE-OPENING**
17 Phebe St Norwich

Join us as we "pass the torch" with the first rocks being thrown by three-generation families of the NDCC. Light refreshments will be available. More info curlnorwich@gmail.com

**OCTOBER 17
HEARTS FOR ETHIOPIA HOSTS A WALK IN
THEIR SHOES**

A Walk in Their Shoes invites participants to step into the daily experiences of women and children in Ethiopia, while raising vital funds to support those living in extreme poverty. Participants will learn how the money raised will change the lives of women and children in Ethiopia. Be a part of something special, a fundraiser that makes life-changing projects possible in Ethiopia. **Don’t wait — register as an individual or gather your friends, form a team, and register today at www.heartsforethiopia.com. Every dollar raised makes a difference!**

**OCTOBER 18 | 2 - 4 PM
AN ORCHID EXPEDITION ON THE RIO
NEGRO, BRAZIL**
Richards Memorial Church, 360 Edgeworth Avenue, London, ON

The London Orchid Society meets the third Sunday of each month. Join us for a presentation by Deb Boersma from Windsor, ON. Her presentation is An Orchid Expedition on the Rio Negro, Brazil deep into the Amazon Rainforest. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting for more information at www.londonorchidsociety.com; contact Daryl at 519-666-2927.

**OCTOBER 19 | 7 PM
EVOLUTION AND PRESERVATION OF
OXFORD BARNS AND THEIR GIZMOS**
Oxford County Branch – Ontario Ancestors (Online Zoom Meeting)

Join us for Don Hilborn’s presentation. Don has a lifelong interest in the evolution of Ontario barns. He grew up on a farm with a massive historic barn and has since owned two farms with older barns. As a board member of the Ontario Barn Preservation Association, he is particularly fascinated by the ingenious “gizmors” that farmers developed over the years to make their barns more efficient. Visit our website at <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca> and click on the link to register. The zoom meeting is free and everyone is welcome.”

**OCTOBER 24 | 10 AM - 3 PM
OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY CIRCUIT**

BOOK (STAMP) FAIR
Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7
Free Admission & Parking. Stop in and buy some stamps and meet fellow stamp collectors. About 8 participating stamp clubs. Contact: dheaton3e3@gmail.com. Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

**OCTOBER 27 | 2 - 4 PM
190TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
ST. JOHN’S ANGLICAN CHURCH
EASTWOOD
FALL TEA**
685860 Oxford Rd2(Hwy2), Eastwood, On N4S 7V9
Tea and confections, baked goods, books and community. Featuring music by Denise.

NOVEMBER

**NOVEMBER 7 | 11 AM - 2 PM
TREATS AND TREASURES BAZAAR**
Old St Paul's Church, 723 Dundas St, Woodstock
Don't miss our famous bake table and the book and puzzle sale. Then drop by the frozen food table (featuring homemade soups and meat pies) and the "This and That" table (file it under Treasures). Rest your weary feet at our Cafe and enjoy a beverage and a sweet treat. See you there!

**NOVEMBER 21 | 11 AM - 2:30 PM
FAMILY FUN DAY**
Emmanuel Reformed Church, 170 Clarke St. Woodstock, ON
Penny Sale - Silent Auction - Bake Sale - Games for all Ages - Delicious Soup - Chili - Hot Dogs - Buns - Yummy Desserts - Drinks. FREE ADMISSION - EVERYONE WELCOME.

ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

**SECOND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH
(SEPTEMBER THROUGH JUNE) | 7 PM
JOIN THE WOODSTOCK COIN CLUB!**
Friendship Room at St. David's United Church
190 Springbank Ave, Woodstock, ON
Are you looking to make sense of your collection? Want to meet local folks who truly know your worth? Whether you are a seasoned numismatist or just found an old jar of coins, we want to meet you. Come trade stories, share your treasures, and talk shop with fellow collectors. WEBSITE: woodstockcoinclub.ca, EMAIL: woodstockcoinclub1957@gmail.com, FACEBOOK: Search "Woodstock Coin Club"

**WOODSTOCK SEA CADETS AND NAVY
LEAGUE CADETS ARE FREE PROGRAMS**
New Address: The Oxford School, 595459 Hwy. 59, Woodstock, ON N4S 7W1. 519-539-2111

SEA CADETS:
12 – 18 years Tuesdays 6:30 – 9:00 pm
Contact: 153sea@cadets.gc.ca

NAVY LEAGUE CADETS:
9 – 12 years Wednesdays 6:30 – 9:00 pm
Contact: nlccunicorn@navyleagueon.ca

**EVERY 3RD THURSDAY | 5 - 7 PM
ARTISTS OPEN MIC | POETRY, PROSE,
MUSIC & MORE**
Blueink Bookstore & Cafe, 491 Dundas Street, Woodstock, ON
www.blueinkbookstore.com. Go to “Events” Tab for information and to register

**FOOD TRUCKS AT GRACE UNITED CHURCH
TAVISTOCK**
116 Woodstock St. S. Tavistock

AUGUST 31 | 4:30 - 7:30 PM
Born2Eat, Los Rolling Tacos, Fo'Cheezy
Donations to Tavistock Agricultural Society

**EVERY OTHER FRIDAY | 1 - 4 PM
BE FALL-ISH AND COME TO 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! September 4 & 18, October 2, 16 & 30, November 6 & 20, and December 4.

**3RD 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 or email oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca for more information.**

**EVERY FRIDAY | 1 PM
TILLSONBURG DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB**
Tillsonbur 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.

**2ND TUES. OF MONTH (SEPT. TO MAY) | 2 - 4 PM
4TH 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. Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

**LAST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH | 10 AM - 12 PM
MONTHLY VON BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC**
Ingersoll Pharmasave, 19 King St. E., Ingersoll
Last Tuesday of every Month.

**3RD WED. OF MONTH | 6:30 - 8:30 PM
PEER SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS &
CAREGIVERS**
21 Wellington St., Woodstock (Virtual options available)
PCMH is a peer support program providing support to parents and caregivers across Ontario with lived experience raising children and youth with mental health challenges. For more information, please visit family.cmho.org or oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca. We are also on Facebook: Parents for Children's Mental Health ~ Oxford County

**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 healing. 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.

**OXFORD COUNTY DIABETES EDUCATION
PROGRAM**
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. Appointments are available at Alexandra Hospital Ingersoll and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital and by phone. **SELF REFERRALS ARE WELCOME.** Please call 519-485-9611 to book an appointment. Let’s work together!

THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF OXFORD COUNTY
The Optimists bring out the best in Youth, Community, and Themselves. If anyone is interested in coming out to meet us and learn more about us please email brenda7621@outlook.com

COMING EVENTS

THE LIONS CLUB OF WOODSTOCK

The Lions Club of Woodstock has been serving the community and Oxford County with kindness and generosity since 1931. The Lions always place the needs of neighbours and communities first. Through the dedication and hard work of our volunteer members, we are serving those in need together. If you are interested in becoming a member or simply wish to learn more by attending one of our monthly meetings, please email Steve Iorio at steveiorio4@gmail.com for more information.

OXFORD COUNTY BRANCH OF ONTARIO ANCESTORS

Are you looking to start a summer pastime? Are you interested in your family history? Oxford Branch has an extensive collection of family history and genealogical resources that can help you.

Come visit our Resource Centre at 82 Light Street, Courthouse Square, Woodstock. We are open Tuesdays to Thursdays 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Volunteers are ready to help you get started or help you research for missing information. You can also connect with us on the web at <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca>. We are dedicated to supporting and promoting genealogical research in Oxford County. Hope to see you through the summer!

**BEACHVILLE LEGION EVENTS:
434852 ZorraLine, Beachville**

**WEDNESDAYS | 7-8 PM
GENTLE CHAIR YOGA**

**WEDNESDAYS | 7:30 PM
HUMP DAY DARTS, FREE POOL**

**THURSDAYS | 7 PM
EUCHRE**

**FRIDAYS | 8 PM
DARTS (REGISTRATION AT 7. PLAY AT 7:30), FREE POOL**

**THURSDAYS | 7 PM
LINE DANCING**
Salsa and West Coast Swing 8:15. No partner required.

**SATURDAYS | 1 - 4 PM
THAMES VALLEY BLUEGRASS
AND OLD TIME COUNTRY
PICKERS**

Open Mic (acoustic only). Come enjoy the music!

**OCTOBER 16 | DOORS OPEN 6 PM
BINGO STARTS AT 7 PM
OXFORD COUNTY FELINE
WELLNESS BINGO**

**OCTOBER 14 & 28 | 4:30 - 6 PM
OX ON THE RUN MOBILE
LIBRARY**

**OCTOBER 23 | 5:30 PM
STUFFED PORK CHOP DINNER**
To order call 519-423-6363 or rcl495.
suppers@gmail.com

**OCTOBER 24 | 8 PM - MIDNIGHT
HALLOWE'EN PUB WITH 50/60S
BROTHERS. \$5 WEAR YOUR
COSTUME**

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
BRANCH 55 EVENTS:
642 Dundas St, Woodstock, ON**

**MONDAYS (STARTING SEPT. 14)
CADETS**

**TUES, WED, THU & FRI
DART LEAGUE**

**THURSDAYS | 1:30 PM
SHUFFLEBOARD**

**SATURDAYS | 7 - 11 PM
EVENING ENTERTAINMENT:
OCTOBER 3 - BACK - TO - BACK
OCTOBER 10 - 2 FOR THE ROAD
OCTOBER 17 - MIKE THROPE
OCTOBER 24 - JEFF DAWDY
OCTOBER 31 - DJ KELLY**

**OCTOBER 13 | 7:30 PM
BRANCH GENERAL MEETING**
Something special will happen that night members should attend.

**OCTOBER 14 - 25
RUMMAGE SALE**

**OCTOBER 17 | 3 PM
MEAT DRAW**

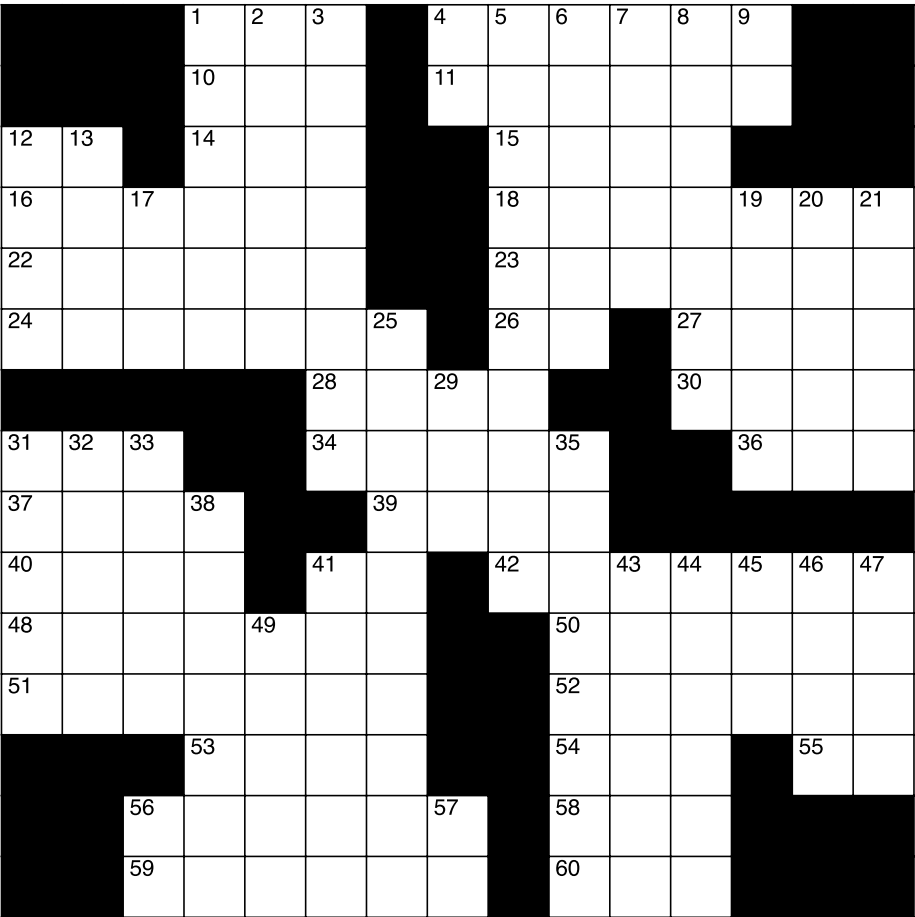
**OCTOBER 25 | 5 - 6 PM
FAMILY DINNER CABBAGE ROLLS**
Contact the Office at 519-537-3112 or email rclbrach55@rogers.com for more info on pricing per person with dessert per-order by October 21st.

**OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 10
ANNUAL POPPY CAMPAIGN**
We are in need of volunteers.

**OCTOBER 31
HALLOWEEN THEMED DANCE**
We are having a Halloween Themed Dance best dressed, October 31st come on down and get your tickets before their all gone tickets with pizza that night. For more info email at rclbranch55@rogers.com.

**DECEMBER 6 | 9 - 11:30 AM
ANNUAL SANTA BREAKFAST**

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Small Eurasian deer

4. Province in Northern Ireland

10. A major division of geological time

11. Broadway actor Lane

12. Canadian province (abbr.)

14. Human gene

15. Two

16. A notable one was “blue”

18. Utter repeatedly

22. Ring-shaped objects

23. Sullies

24. Occurs

26. Commercial

27. Near

28. Tools you may need

30. A pledge

31. They start the alphabet

34. Silk garments
36. Soviet Socialist Republic

37. Longtime mayor of Rio

39. Hot meal

40. A type of gin

41. Atomic #84

42. \$10 bill

48. About ground

50. Medicine man

51. Seedless raisin

52. National capital of Albania

53. Appendage

54. OJ trial judge

55. European government entity (abbr.)

56. Bike parts

58. Friend to “Barbie”

59. Stretched to see or hear

60. Commercials

CLUES DOWN

1. Make up for

2. Baltimore ballplayer

3. Wages

4. International organization of countries

5. Engravers of gems

6. Declared as fact

7. One who steals

8. Jewelry

9. Hospital worker

12. Nonsense (slang)

13. Town in Galilee

17. Value

19. Alternative identity

20. Sheep in their second year

21. Town in Surrey, England

25. Appropriate to a time of year
29. Creative work

31. Recesses

32. Largely forested municipality in Germany

33. Rider of Rohan

35. Ancient symbol co-opted by Nazis

38. Pioneer

41. Scribe

43. Painted a bright color

44. Member of British nobility

45. “Pulp Fiction” actress Thurman

46. Helps people walk

47. Crest of a hill

49. People of southeastern Alaska

56. One’s own device

57. The Mount Rushmore State

Solution found on page 39

CORRECTION:

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 55:

- The date for the Bake Sale was incorrectly listed as October 24. The correct date was October 3.
- The start date for the Poppy Campaign was incorrectly listed as October 3. The correct date is October 24.

We apologize for the error and any inconvenience caused.

Riddles

What has many rings but no fingers?

A phone.

I sometimes run, but I can't walk. What am I?

A nose.

It has keys, but no locks. It has space, but no room. You can enter, but can't go inside. What is it?

A keyboard.

What has hands but cannot clap?

A clock.

Poor people have it. Rich people need it. If you eat it you die. What is it?

Nothing.

What kind of tree can you carry in your hand?

A palm!

They come out at night without being called, and are lost in the day without being stolen. What are they?

Stars!

Sudoku

by PeterS 2026

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

Solution found on page 39

Featured Pet





BOBBIE



Nominate your pet to be a Featured Pet by emailing info@theecho.ca

Word Search

THANKSGIVING TABLE

R	G	M	K	A	T	C	T	D	C	Y	W	H	W	Y	E	K	R	U	T
I	M	E	R	G	T	R	O	F	H	A	R	E	W	O	L	F	Y	A	M
A	L	W	B	R	A	P	B	R	D	E	P	H	I	M	H	L	C	O	A
E	E	D	K	D	A	L	Y	G	N	I	F	F	U	T	S	M	H	F	W
U	F	E	C	G	K	H	V	N	L	B	F	G	T	P	E	L	G	E	S
S	T	E	L	T	C	V	I	G	Y	R	R	E	B	N	A	R	C	N	M
E	O	C	U	O	G	D	R	H	H	T	P	E	O	M	G	G	U	N	H
E	V	E	E	B	R	I	N	G	V	A	M	B	A	G	N	O	K	Y	U
F	E	I	K	K	M	E	D	S	R	R	H	V	R	D	I	U	R	V	F
M	R	P	N	S	B	Y	S	A	L	S	D	A	I	H	R	R	T	N	V
P	S	R	I	W	B	C	D	S	I	E	T	H	S	B	E	D	R	H	S
O	E	E	A	A	W	E	H	W	A	I	I	H	T	W	H	C	E	I	C
B	C	T	E	M	W	Y	F	Y	T	C	A	P	N	G	T	Y	S	A	I
V	O	N	W	P	L	C	H	U	E	R	W	R	N	T	A	T	S	H	Y
G	G	E	T	A	M	A	D	U	V	R	B	S	A	I	G	A	E	R	F
R	M	C	A	N	U	E	M	E	R	F	D	B	V	B	K	T	D	Y	K
A	V	A	V	O	M	T	S	A	E	F	L	E	B	H	O	P	T	U	L
V	W	A	I	A	F	T	F	M	V	E	W	M	F	E	F	P	M	B	V
Y	M	E	Y	G	S	E	O	T	A	T	O	P	T	E	E	W	S	U	I
H	D	P	C	O	R	N	U	C	O	P	I	A	F	W	B	I	Y	D	P

CASSEROLE
CENTERPIECE
CORNBREAD
CORNUCOPIA

CRANBERRY
DESSERT
DINNER
FEAST

GATHERING
GOURD
GRATITUDE
GRAVY

HARVEST
LEFTOVERS
MAYFLOWER
PARADE

PILGRIMS
PUMPKIN PIE
STUFFING
SWEET POTATOES

TABLE
TURKEY
WAMPANOAG
WISHBONE

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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Water Treatment | Wells & Pumps | Septic Services | Bin Rentals | Directional Drilling
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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

Show Your Community Spirit.
Support Local News!

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

			R	O	E			U	L	S	T	E	R			
			E	R	A			N	A	T	H	A	N			
B	C			C	I	R				P	A	I	R			
L	A	G	O	O	N				I	T	E	R	A	T	E	
A	N	N	U	L	I				D	E	F	I	L	E	S	
H	A	P	P	E	N	S			A	D			N	I	G	H
					G	E	A	R					G	A	G	E
A	B	C			S	A	R	I	S				S	S	R	
P	A	E	S				S	T	E	W						
S	L	O	E			P	O			S	A	W	B	U	C	K
E	A	R	T	H	E	N				S	H	A	M	A	N	
S	U	L	T	A	N	A				T	I	R	A	N	A	
			L	I	M	B			I	T	O			E	P	
			P	E	D	A	L	S			K	E	N			
			C	R	A	N	E	D			A	D	S			

ANNIVERSARY

Diamond Jubilee!
75th Wedding Anniversary!
of
William & Margaret
Armstrong (McBurney)
October 13, 1951
Our family invites you to an open house
to celebrate Bill and Margaret's 75th
Wedding Anniversary!
Join us October 18, 1-4 pm at
Mt. Elgin Community Centre
Best Wishes only




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LOCAL** 

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newspaper.**

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LOCAL**



COW AUCTION

Herd Dispersal Live Auction Sale of 135 Bred Cows/Heifers Saturday November 21, 11:00am

to be held at 554447 Mono-Amaranth TLine, Mono, ON

Preview on day of sale, or by appointment

Directions: Go west through Orangeville on Hwy 9 to County Rd 16 (Veterans Way at Greenwood Cemetery), turn north 5 miles to farm on East side. OR From Shelburne go east on Hwy 89 for 2 miles to Mono-Amaranth Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side. Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.

Cattle: (79)Heifers: (18)Char, (17)Blk Simm, (33)Angus, (11)Red -1st time calvers, bred Angus & Limo, vacc. (18) X-bred Heifers - bred Black Angus, vacc. (17) Angus Heifers - bred Black Angus. (10) Blk Angus cows - all bred Black Angus, vacc. (8) Charolais Cows - bred Charolais, vacc. (3) Mixed Cows - with calf at side, vacc. All Cows will be preg checked prior to sale.

Lunch Booth **Washroom Available**

Terms & Conditions: Cash or cheque with proper I.D. on day of sale. Owner & Auctioneer will not be responsible for any accidents or loss on day of sale. All announcements on day of sale will take precedence over printed ads.

Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264 Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083

Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com

www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur - full listing & photos

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Wellington
2. Iron
3. Michelangelo
4. China
5. Joe Frazier
6. Twelve
7. Play-Doh
8. True
9. Moby-Dick
10. Prince Edward Island

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

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 theecho.ca

Echo

**Contribute to your local
community newspaper! Send
articles, sports or event
recaps, and photos to
info@theecho.ca**



Woodstock, Ontario



Settle in Before Winter.

We'll Take Care of the Rest.

This winter, enjoy the beauty of a fresh snowfall from the comfort of your chair, not from behind a shovel.

With snow removal, housekeeping, maintenance, and daily dining taken care of, you'll have more time to relax, connect with friends, and focus on what matters most.

Secure today's rates before 2027 pricing takes effect.

Book your Complimentary Lunch & Tour Today!
Call 226-741-3626 to Schedule!

Why Cedarview?

- Beautiful Spacious suites
- Bi-weekly housekeeping
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Book a Tour Today!



226-741-3626

511 Finkle Street Woodstock, ON N4V 0C4 CA

