POLICE OFFICER WINS AWARD PAGE 5 | REMEMBRANCE DAY FEATURE STARTS PAGE 10

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

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Ingersoll re-elects top two council officials

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Ingersoll Mayor Brian Petrie will serve a second term as the town's top elected official as will Deputy Mayor Lindsay Wilson.

Petrie received 2,496 votes with challenger Tim Lobzun getting 1,896. The incumbent said he's

"I can't thank everyone enough for the support that came out. It was a good election process and you always want to see the greatest number of people possible vote. We had about 38 per cent with the same number of voters we had last time but out population grew. I want to thank everyone who came out, did their part, and made their choice."

He added there were a few contentious election issues, including installing a second ice pad at the future MURC.

"I know that is something people want to have, but the cost would be a lot on our community and would have led to about a 10.5 per cent tax increase. That was a debate during the election so I understand how that would away some voters."

Petrie said elected officials may not always make the popular decision but the job is to make the right one.

"If someone chooses to vote for someone else because of that, it's fine. I am here to work with everybody to make the goals of Ingersoll move forward."

He explained voters told him during the campaign trail to focus on needs as opposed to wants.

"We want to be an affordable place to live. CAMI is not in production and there is a lot of uncertainty with the United States. We need to be cautious, replace what we need to replace and move forward, but do it responsibly."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



ACCHIONE ELECTED MAYOR OF WOODSTOCK (RON YUZARK PHOTO)

Mayor Jerry Acchione and wife Sarah react as the election results for the City of Woodstock were posted on Oct. 26. He will serve his second term as mayor and will be sworn in on Tuesday, Nov. 17.

Acchione re-elected as Friendly City mayor

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

While there are many familiar faces who will be serving the City of Woodstock over the next four years, two newcomers will be also be taking a seat in council chambers.

Jerry Acchione will serve his second term as mayor after defeating Anthony Scalisi by just under 1,000 votes. The Echo spoke to the mayor at Upper Thames Brewery just after the results were released.

"I feel fantastic. Having a few hundred people here, my closest friends and supporters, and every single person around those tables who helped me in some way to get to this point, I am so thankful."

He added while it isn't an easy job, he has more work to do.

"There are a lot of emotions, a lot of hate that comes towards the mayor. Some days have been harder than others but at the end of every single day I have been proud to serve. We have more to do – we have gotten started, and this gives me four more years now to put everything else in place."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 4



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Two new faces will also take seats in the chamber

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Deputy Mayor Lindsay Wilson was re-elected to her post, topping Mike Tucker by over 1,000 votes. Wilson released a statement on social media and said she doesn't often struggle to find the right words, but there really aren't words for this experience.

"How do you describe the feeling of having your community's trust in this way? It blows my mind when I really think about it, to be trusted with this responsibility is incredibly special. Thank you for trusting me, supporting me, challenging me and inspiring me. I cannot wait to see what we can accomplish in another four years."

She also thanked Tucker for running a respectful campaign.

"We had the opportunity to chat when he called me shortly after the results came in. I appreciate this tradition because this is the call no candidate wants to make, yet he did it with kindness and grace."

Wilson also tanked everyone who put their name on the ballot and noted not many people get to experience a win or loss in an election. She also thanked her family and town residents.

"To my husband, thank you for never doubting me. It's a lot to ask of a partner, especially with kids as part of the juggling act. Your unconditional support means more than anyone could ever know. To the residents of Ingersoll, thank you from the bottom of my heart. Many of the people who supported me are people I have learned from and look up to."

Two of the five councillors elected in Ingersoll are new to the current council. Dave Cripps, former Thames Valley District School Board trustee, and Fred Freeman, a former Ingersoll deputy mayor and a previous member of council.

Cripps thanked voters for their trust, encouragement, conversations, and for taking the time to have their say in the future of the town.

"Throughout this campaign, I've had the opportunity to connect with so many incredible people. I've listened to your concerns, heard your ideas, and been reminded time and again of what makes Ingersoll such a special place to call home."

He added he is incredibly grateful to his family, friends, and everyone who supported him along the way.

Your belief in me means more than you know.

"I've always believed that Ingersoll's greatest strength is its people. We have a strong foundation, tremendous opportunities ahead of us, and some important decisions to make. My commitment remains the same: to listen, to ask thoughtful questions, to make responsible decisions, and to work hard for the community we're all proud to call home."

He added the campaign may be over, but his commitment to Ingersoll is just getting started.

Three incumbent councillors were re-elected. Kristy Van Kooten-Bossence, Mike Bowman and Rick Eus. Shannon Hutson was not re-elected after receiving 103 fewer votes than Fred Freeman who will serve his first term on council.

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS - INGERSOLL	
MAYOR	
CANDIDATE	**NUMBER OF VOTES**
BRIAN PETRIE	**2,496**
TIM LOBZUN	1,896
DEPUTY MAYOR	
LINDSAY WILSON	**2,680**
MIKE TUCKER	1,584
COUNCILLOR	
MIKE BOWMAN	**2,150**
DAVE CRIPPS	**2,213**
RICK EUS	**2,147**
FRED FREEMAN	**2,043**
KRISTY VAN KOOTEN-BOSSENCE	**2,516**
SHERRY ASHBY	1,669
MATTHEW CHAMBERS	1,756
MATT DALTREY	1,290
LOUIE D'ORAZIO	1,151
SHANNON HUTSON	2,003

The Life and Art of Charles M. Schulz comes to Woodstock Art Gallery

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

Peanuts Comics fans of all ages can explore the world of beloved characters and learn more about the creator behind it in Woodstock until early 2027.

The Woodstock Art Gallery (WAG) will feature the Life and Art of Charles M. Schulz travelling exhibition until Feb. 20, 2027. The exhibit features information about the Peanuts comic creator's life, plus 30 comic strips, photographs, and quotes, along with interactive activities for all ages involving drawing, tracing, and reading.

"Everyone can get excited to engage with the *Peanuts* world through this exhibition," said Danielle Hoovenaars, head of collections at the Woodstock Art Gallery.

Hoovenaars is thrilled the Life and Art of Charles M. Schulz has come down to Woodstock.

"We have been working on this project for well over a year and so to see it come to fruition and come to life in the gallery is really exciting," she said.

The Life and Art of Charles M. Schulz is from the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center in Santa Rosa, California, and honours his legacy through the Peanuts comic strip, wit 18,000 strips from the 1950s until 2000, and other media featuring the beloved characters.

"With Snoopy, Charlie Brown, and the Peanuts gang, Schulz was able to explore so many happy emotional subjects like friendship, tolerance of one another, play, and childhood, and for these reasons it's been such an enduring and nostalgic topic for so many of us. Through the Peanuts Apple TV series, it's been exposing a whole new generation to Peanuts as well."

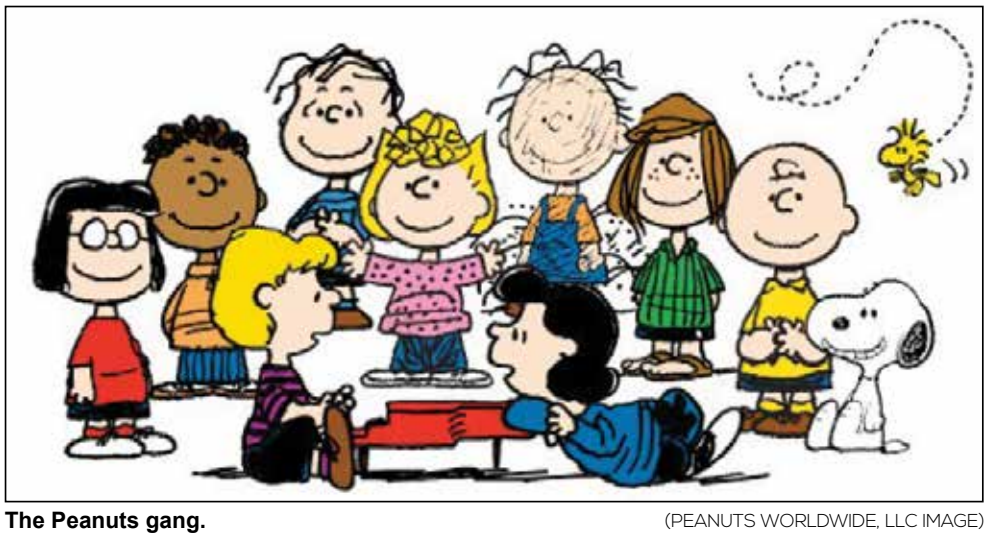


Charles M. Schulz, 1969. (TOM VANO PHOTO)

The exhibit had its official opening during the WAG Annual Open House on Oct. 17, the same day as Doors Open Woodstock. The Your Woodstock exhibition, which honours the 125th anniversary of the city, also opened that day and features local visual artists from Oxford County with pieces reflecting on what Woodstock means to them. In a way, the WAG celebrated the City of Woodstock and Woodstock, Snoopy's canary friend, during its open house.

"That is a fun connection between the Life and Art of Charles M. Schulz Exhibition and Woodstock's 125th, of course, being the beloved Woodstock character in Peanuts and his playful relationship with Snoopy and Charlie Brown and the rest of the gang," said Hoovernaars.

More information about WAG and its programming can be found online by visiting www.woodstockartgallery.ca.



The Peanuts gang. (PEANUTS WORLDWIDE, LLC IMAGE)



Two new faces as Brown and Mazur win councillor race

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Acchione said the toughest task going forward will be dealing with a growing city and the growing budget that comes along with it.

"It's the toughest part of this job. The needs and wants, some people consider what others wants are to be needs. Things like the North Recreational Facility which has a huge price tag with it, it's got to happen some way."

He will continue to work with the province to maximize any available funding streams to ease the burden on the taxpayers of the city.

Scalisi said while he is disappointed in the result, he is proud of the campaign he and his team ran and is grateful to everyone who supported him, volunteered, asked questions, or took the time to share their concerns.

"To those who voted for me, thank you for your trust. To those who chose another candidate, I respect your decision and appreciate that you took part in the election. I ran because I care deeply about Woodstock, and that hasn't changed."

He added he plans to stay engaged in local politics over the next term.

"I'll continue following council's decisions, speaking up on issues that matter to residents, and looking for constructive ways to contribute."

Scalisi added two major challenges for the next council will be keeping Woodstock affordable while managing its growth.

"Residents need clear, responsible decisions about spending, and growth needs to be matched with the roads, services, recreation, and other infrastructure people rely on. Public safety and the challenges facing downtown will also need steady attention. I'd like to see the city work with residents, businesses, police, and community organizations on practical approaches that make downtown welcoming and safe while responding to homelessness and addiction with both compassion and accountability."

Sitting City/County Councillor and Oxford County's Deputy Warden Bernia Martin was defeated by another incumbent, Deb Tait, for the new role of Deputy Mayor/County Councillor. Tait received close to 2,800 more votes and said she was very happy and honored the voters of Woodstock elected her.

"Regardless of if anyone did or did not vote for, I represent everyone. If someone has an issue or concerns it makes no difference. we are elected to represent all in the City of Woodstock. We all have the same goal - make Woodstock a great place to live and work."

She added her main priority is at county council-stop the large increases in spending and keep the taxes down, but the homelessness remains top of mind.

"I still hear from people everyday about it. The other is the cost of living and the increases in taxes. We have a number of issues to address while still keeping it affordable-another fire hall in the north and transit on Sundays."

Incumbent City Councillor Mark Schadenberg was defeated by Kelly Gilson who will serve as a City/County Councillor and newly elected to City Councillor roles are Joe Brown and Wes Mazur.

Mazur, who came up short four years ago running for a council seat, said he loves the Woodstock community and has worked hard in it over the last four years.

"I am very grateful to the voters for placing their trust in me and I am looking forward to working with everyone else who was elected and I think we have a good council to look forward to."

He added his first priority is to learn.

"I was chatting with the CAO and I asked what the first order of business will be and that will be the budget. Then I'll roll up my sleeves and dust off my strategy plan and see what it looks like. Normally it's a four-year plan but I think we need to look at 12 and 16 years and beyond."

Perhaps the most disappointing part of the campaign was the voter turnout which barely cracked the 33 per cent mark. Just over 13,000 eligible voters out of more than 40,000 cast a ballot. 53.4 per cent of voters cast ballots online with 46.6 voting in person.

2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS
WOODSTOCK

CANDIDATE	NUMBER OF VOTES	PERCENT OF VOTES
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR		
JERRY ACCHIONE	**6458**	**49.16%**
ANTHONY SCALISI	5483	41.74%
AARON GORLICK	914	6.96%
ASJAD HUSSAIN	282	2.15%
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR - COUNTY COUNCILLOR		
DEB TAIT	**6469**	**49.77%**
BERNIA MARTIN	3705	28.50%
JARROD ERB	2825	21.73%
OFFICE OF CITY - COUNTY COUNCILLOR		
KELLY GILSON	**7371**	**57.72%**
MARK SCHADENBERG	5400	42.28%
OFFICE OF CITY COUNCILLOR		
KATE LEATHERBARROW	**6512**	**15.54%**
JOE BROWN	**5787**	**13.81%**
CONNIE LAUDER	**5547**	**13.24%**
WES MAZUR	**5486**	**13.09%**
MAUREEN RALPH	5122	12.22%
DANIEL LEDUC	3618	8.63%
DAVE BLOXSIDGE	3508	8.37%
KURT SUTHERLAND	3203	7.64%
SANDEEP SIDHU	3117	7.44%

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Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

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6. Newspapers strengthen communities
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8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

Oxford OPP officer wins prestigious award

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Oxford Provincial Police Constable Randi Crawford is this year's recipient of OPP West Region's Laurie Hawkins Community Services Memorial Award. The award is given to community engagement or media relations officers for exemplary service.

"From school and community presentations to high-pressure media demands, Cst. Crawford does it all and does it well."

That was a comment from the OPP on its West Region social media channels this week as the announcement was made. The award is presented by the West Region to recognize officers who provide exemplary service in community engagement or media relations.

Cst. Laurie Hawkins was an OPP officer who died in 2008, along with her husband, Richard Gignac, and their two children, Cassandra and Jordan, from carbon monoxide poisoning in their home in Woodstock.

"I am so honoured to receive such a meaningful award. The fact that Laurie Hawkins was a community officer in Ingersoll makes this award even more special to me," said Crawford, who added while she did not have the privilege of meeting Laurie, she feels like she knows her and has been inspired by her through the stories that have been shared by her peers and community members.

"This award comes at time where the world feels very challenging. For those who don't know, this past year I have been faced with numerous health challenges that resulted in surgeries and impaired mobility. Although I am heartbroken to not currently be able to physically be in the community, I am doing everything else I can to spread positivity and safety messaging throughout Oxford County," Crawford explained.

"My desire to try to do at least something to help, along with the wonderful support from the Ontario Provincial Police, enabled me to come back in some capacity. To have my good intentions, hopes, wishes and efforts for this community recognized, feels incredible."

Crawford added she has the fortunate opportunity to represent her peers and superiors from OPP and work with so many community partners such as other first responders, schools, media partners, social services and other organizations.

"Those are relationships I don't take for granted and am grateful for, every day. I sincerely care about the safety and wellness of everyone in and around Oxford County and I will continue to work hard to help keep everyone safe and secure."

The tragedy led to the introduction of the Hawkins-Gignac Act in Ontario in 2013. The legislation requires carbon monoxide alarms in homes with fuel-burning appliances or attached garages.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The West Region OPP's *Laurie Hawkins Community Services Memorial Award* has been awarded to Oxford Provincial Police Constable Randi Crawford. Crawford was given the award by Oxford OPP Detachment Commander, Inspector Tony Hymers

The award honours her memory and commitment to community service and recognizes OPP officers whose work goes beyond traditional policing, particularly building relationships with schools and community organizations, delivering public education and crime-prevention presentations, and promoting public safety.

It also takes into consideration maintaining positive relationships with local media and communicating effectively with the public during emergencies and major investigations.

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Oxford County vet facing 14 sex-related offences

Police take rare step of releasing accused's name as publication ban implemented

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

The Oxford Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police has laid additional charges in an ongoing sexual assault investigation in the Town of Tillsonburg.

Muhammad Haris Aziz, a 38-year-old Tillsonburg resident, has been charged with four new counts of sexual assault and one count of sexual exploitation, in relation to three additional victims. The charges were laid on Oct. 23.

Aziz had previously been charged on Oct. 7 with nine counts of sexual assault, in relation to two victims. He remains in custody pending a bail hearing before the Ontario Court of Justice.

Police said Aziz worked as a veterinarian in the Oxford County and North Bay areas. Investigators are urging anyone who may have experienced similar circumstances to contact police.

A publication ban has been issued, and as a result, the OPP will not release any further information.

Edwards Veterinarians declined to confirm whether Aziz was still actively practicing at the business.

"As of right now, no statement. The publication ban is in effect by court order, so no one is allowed to violate it," said an employee.

Aziz's photo remained on the Edwards website until late last week.

Grant Haven Media also reached out to the College of Veterinarians of Ontario, the licensing body for veterinarians in the province. Jan Robinson, the college's Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, released the following statement.



(SCREENSHOT PHOTO)

The College of Veterinarians of Ontario has Aziz listed as active with a restricted license on its website. His status with the college remains active, and he is free to practice.

"As licensed professionals, veterinarians are expected to uphold high moral and ethical standards in their role and reflect the values of the profession. We are aware of the serious charges brought against one of our licensed members, Dr. Muhammad Haris Aziz. Criminal charges of sexual assault are contrary to the values and standards the College expects of its members."

She added the college has started a thorough investigation and will take all available steps to protect the public pending the disposition of the criminal charges.

"We are unable to provide further details on this investigation at this time given the confidentiality provisions of the Veterinarians Act," she added.

A check on the college's website shows Aziz is practicing under a restricted license



(SCREENSHOT PHOTO)

Muhammad Haris Aziz is seen here in a photo on the Edwards Veterinary Services website.

Investigators are asking anyone with information in relation to this investigation to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

Police are also encouraging any victim of sexual assault to get support through Victim Assistance Services of Oxford County at 519-537-2824.

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To all the volunteers who helped me, I could not have done it without you, and to the citizens who have entrusted me to serve another term on council.

CONNIE LAUDER



POLICE BRIEFS

Woodstock City Police briefs

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

Two teens charged after Southside Park incident police describe as hate motivated

A 14-year-old faces hate-motivated threats and weapons charges, and a 17-year-old has been charged with assaulting a police officer.

The Woodstock Police Service (WPS)received a report that a youth at the park had displayed what appeared to be a handgun to two other young people on Oct. 27 at about 6 p.m.

"The investigation found that the young offender approached the two youths and started an argument. During the argument, the accused allegedly directed racial slurs at them, displayed what appeared to be a handgun and threatened to shoot them. The two youths left the area safely and reported the incident. No one was physically injured," said a WPS press release.

Officers responded to the park, located the 14-year-old and took them into custody. During the arrest, a second youth allegedly struck an officer and was also arrested. Police seized a replica handgun and a folding pocketknife.

A 14-year-old youth has been charged with possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, two counts of hate motivated uttering threats, and resisting a peace officer. The 17-year-old youth has been charged with assaulting a peace officer.

Both accused were released on undertakings with conditions and are scheduled to appear in court at a later date.

The Youth Criminal Justice Act prohibits the release of the name of a young person. As a result, the identities of the young persons charged in this investigation are protected.

"Police take all reports of hate-motivated crime seriously. Replica and airsoft firearms can be impossible to tell apart from real firearms, and officers and the public must treat them as real until proven otherwise," added the release.

Woodstock man charged in connection with Waterloo Region restaurant robberies

Waterloo Regional Police have charged a Woodstock male in connection with multiple cash thefts from restaurants in Waterloo Region.

Between July 5 and July 28 of this year, officers responded to five reports of thefts from restaurants in several areas of the region, including Fischer-Hallman Road and Bleams Road and Bleams Road and Highway 7.

In each incident, an unknown male stole cash from a till and then fled in a motor vehicle.

"As part of the investigation, on Oct. 23, WRPS' Central Division Direct Action Response Team (DART) executed a search warrant at a residence in Woodstock and arrested a 43-year-old male. He has been charged with five counts of theft under $5,000 and five counts of disguise with intent," said a WRPS press release.

Police held the accused in custody for a bail hearing, and they are thanking the public for their help with this investigation.

Police arrest suspect following retail theft and foot pursuit

A 39-year-old male was arrested following a retail theft investigation that resulted in a foot pursuit through the downtown area on the afternoon of Oct. 20.

Police responded to a report of a theft in progress at a business on Dundas Street. Two individuals, a male and a female, were reported to have left the store with a substantial quantity of merchandise without paying before departing in a vehicle.

"While responding to the call, an officer observed a vehicle matching the description travelling on Dundas Street. The vehicle was subsequently located in the area of Fidler Avenue, where police attempted to conduct a traffic stop," said a press release. "As the officer approached, a male matching the suspect's description exited the vehicle and fled on foot. The officer pursued the suspect through the surrounding area and eventually took him into custody."

Further investigation confirmed that approximately $700 worth of merchandise had been stolen from the business. A 39-year-old male from London was charged with resisting a peace officer and theft under $5,000. He was released on an undertaking with conditions.

WPS officer wins policing award

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

The Woodstock Police Service is proud to congratulate Sgt. Akeem Guy on receiving the Rising Star Award at the A.B.L.E. Awards.

"With a policing career spanning two countries, Sgt. Guy's journey reflects dedication, perseverance, and a commitment to professional excellence," said a WPS social media post.

The Rising Star Award is one of the honours presented at the annual A.B.L.E. (Association of Black Law Enforcers) Scholarship and Awards Gala.

It recognizes an individual with less than 10 years of work experience who has demonstrated excellence in their field and consistently exemplifies professionalism, dedication and teamwork. The award recognizes emerging talent and achievement within the law enforcement community.

Beginning his career with the Jamaica Constabulary Force in 2010, Sgt. Guy distinguished himself through investigative achievements, leadership, and academic excellence. His accomplishments earned him a scholarship to pursue a Bachelor of Laws degree at the University of Technology, Jamaica, and he went on to become one of the youngest members to attain the rank of Sergeant.

"Since joining the Woodstock Police Service in 2021, Sgt. Guy has continued to build on that experience, earning multiple commendations for his investigative work, developing specialized expertise in collision reconstruction, and demonstrating leadership through mentorship and community engagement. His dedication and achievements led to his promotion to Sergeant in 2026," added the social media post.

"From Jamaica to Canada, Sgt. Guy's career exemplifies a commitment to public safety, continuous learning, and service to the community."

The awards program was established in 2023 and also includes the Rising Star, Community Leadership, Program Innovation and President's Award.

The 34th annual A.B.L.E. Scholarship and Awards Gala was held Oct. 24, at RBC Place in London in partnership with the London Police Service.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

gt. Akeem Guy right) recently received the Rising Star Award at the A.B.L.E. Awards. The WPS member started his career in Jamacia and is seen here with his wife at after receiving the honour.

THANK YOU, INGERSOLL!

I want to sincerely thank everyone who supported me and placed their trust in me to serve on Town Council. I am truly humbled and grateful.

The kind words, conversations and encouragement throughout this journey have meant more to me than you know.

Ingersoll is a community I care deeply about, and I look forward to working hard, listening and doing my very best for all residents.

Thank you for believing in me. I'm excited for what we can accomplish together!

Dave Cripps
Town Councillor-Elect

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EZT mayor re-elected as two new councillors join township council

AMANDA NELSON

Grant Haven Media Director of Community Engagement

The Township of East Zorra-Tavistock held its 2026 municipal election Monday, Oct. 26, and the council will look largely the same, with a few new members joining for the next four-year term.

Re-elected with 1,597 votes, or 65.1 per cent of the vote, was Mayor Philip Schaefer. Deputy Mayor Brad Smith was acclaimed, while Ward 1 Coun. Steven Van Wyk and Ward 3 Couns. Matthew Gillespie and Jeremy Smith were re-elected for another four-year term.

New to council this term are Nicolas Faye in Ward 1 and Angie Brenner in Ward 2. Schaefer said he plans to mentor the new councillors while also benefiting from their feedback.

"Our new council will be a blend of veterans and new members of council," said Schaefer. "I am confident this make-up will make for another successful term of council to keep this township the envy of many."

"I want to make sure our two new councillors receive the support they need to hit the ground running on township business. Our secondary plan is of immediate importance, as well as looking at initiatives to address road safety."

EZT's previous council had seven men, including the mayor and deputy mayor. The new council will have six men and one woman, with Brenner's election in Ward 2 marking a change in the council's composition.

"Growing up in Waterloo Region, I was taken by the strong female voices at the school board, at the regional council table and in our MPP at the time. They were present in our school, at local events, and they worked to engage children and youth in local matters," said Brenner. "Community, order and procedure have always been important to me, and I hoped then that one day I could be a strong female voice in my community.

"I look forward to following in the paths of other women who have had roles at the council table in East Zorra-Tavistock, and I am humbled to fulfill a vision, formed way back then, by 8-year-old me."

Brenner said she is thrilled with the results and plans to work diligently to communicate effectively with the community.

"I believe in the next term we must focus on effective and efficient communication, safety, recreation, infrastructure and planning," she said. "Through open discussion, meaningful opportunities for feedback and active engagement with residents, we can preserve the strong rural values that make this a safe and thriving place to live."

Brenner also said she was pleased with the number of candidates who put their names forward in the election, adding that it made her hopeful about the future of local government in the community.

Schaefer said he is eager to get moving on township priorities and is thankful for the ongoing support of the community, friends and family.

"I am feeling both humbled and thankful for the support I received last night, and I am looking forward to working with this new council for the betterment of the township over the next four years."

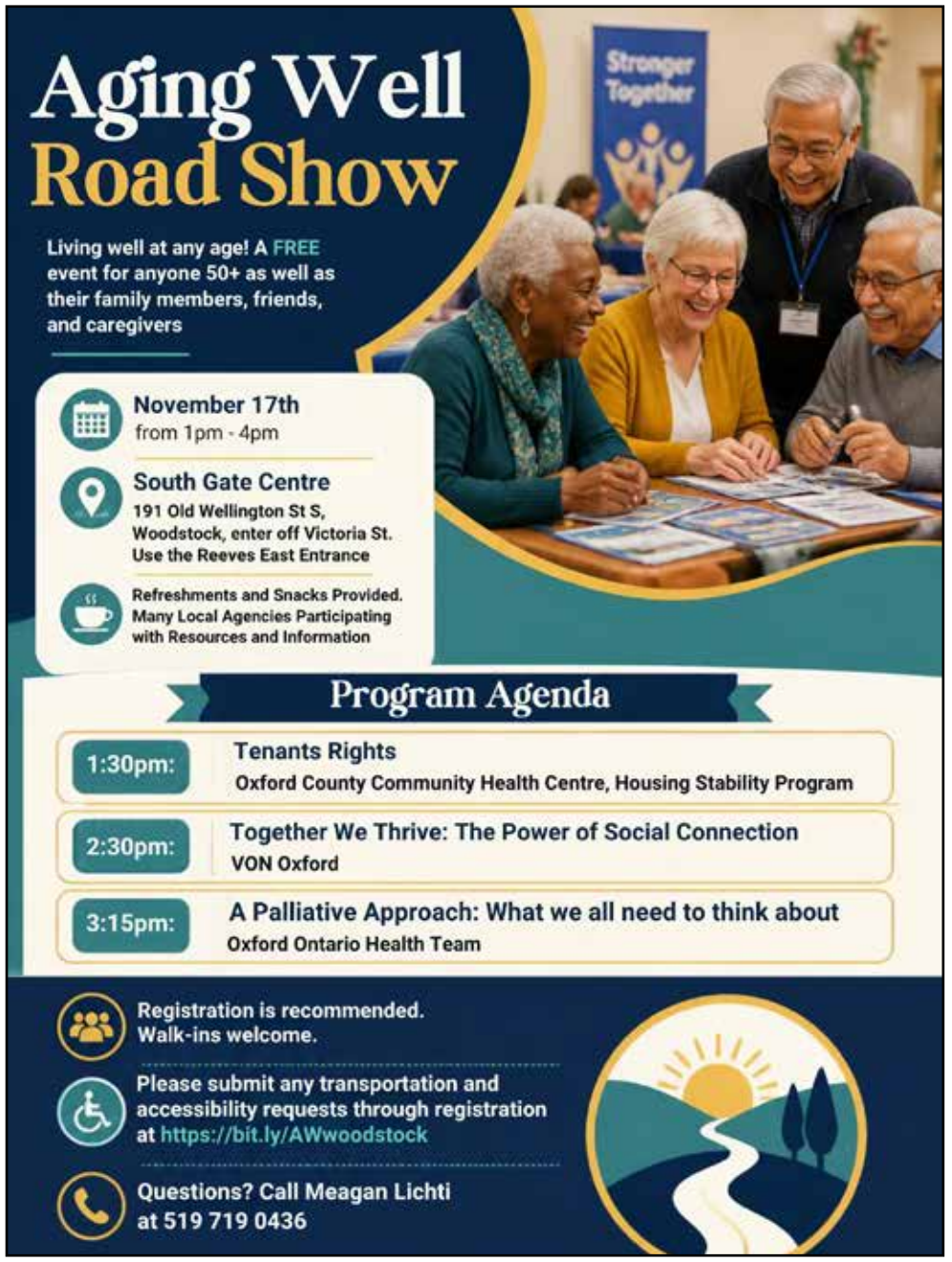
Right away, Schaefer is committed to completing the Hickson fire hall and developing family-oriented community spaces.

"As I mentioned, our secondary plan is overdue to be completed," he said. "We need to deal with our former offices and get started on our new Hickson fire hall. I am also hoping the Innerkip community will partner with us for a potential Innerkip splash pad, and I am hopeful the township can secure some much-needed daycare spaces."

Schaefer said he was pleased with the election results and encouraged by the respectful relationships between candidates and the community throughout the 2026 race.

"The races in the township demonstrated respect between the candidates, and I want to commend all candidates for stepping up for their communities, regardless of outcome."

theecho.ca



Ontario Investing in Life Saving Surgeries

STAFF

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

The Ontario government is investing $500,600 in Oxford to improve access to life saving surgical procedures at Woodstock Hospital and Rural Roads Health Services hospitals in Ingersoll and Tillsonburg. This is part of a provincewide investment of $381 million annually, as part of a 4 per cent increase in hospital funding.

"This funding will help Woodstock Hospital and Rural Roads Health Services provide more life-saving surgeries and reduce wait times for patients," said Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford. "Whether it's cancer treatment, heart surgery or other important procedures, people need to know they can get the care they need, when they need it, close to home. This investment will help our local hospitals continue to provide that care."

This investment is part of the more than $1.1 billion in additional funding for 2026-27, continuing Ontario's historic investment in hospitals for a fourth consecutive year. It includes $331 million in base funding to update funding rates for select volume-funded programs and up to $50M in one-time funding to reduce wait times for select globally funded programs in the hospital sector.

Woodstock Hospital will receive $249,000 for volume-funded programs and $135,800 for globally funded programs. Rural Roads Health Services will receive $24,100 for volume-funded programs and $91,500 for globally funded programs.

"Our government is making record investments to protect Ontario's health-care system and connect people to the care they need, when they need it," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "Through these additional investments, we are providing Ontario's hospitals with the support they need so they can deliver life-saving surgeries and high-quality care for the people of Ontario."

Through Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care, the Ontario government continues to take bold and decisive action to protect the province's health-care system and ensure people and their families have access to high-quality care closer to home for generations to come.

More information can be found at https://www.ontario.ca/page/your-health-plan-connected-and-convenient-care.

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF COMPLETE APPLICATION

pursuant to Section 34(12)
of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended

APPLICATION FOR ZONE CHANGE

CITY OF WOODSTOCK

Please be advised that the Community Planning Office has received an application applying to the following lands:

File No.:	ZN 8-26-22
Applicant:	City of Woodstock
Location of Property:	All lands within the City of Woodstock
Description of Application:	The purpose of the application is to undertake a general amendment to the City's Zoning By-law that will provide administrative updates for clarification as well as update provisions that are commonly supported through previous planning proposals. More information can be found in the report provided to City Council on September 17, 2026 (CP2026-285). The following is a brief summary of the proposed changes: • Amend the definitions for Home for the Aged and Towing Compound. • Amend General Provisions for uses excluded from setbacks, permitted projections into required yards, parking areas, same privileges for corner lots, additional residential units, parking areas, loading spaces, required off-street parking, and parking for downtown residential uses. • Amend the Residential Type 3 (R3) zone provisions to establish provisions that support back-to-back townhouses. • Amend the Highway Commercial Zone (C4) zone provisions to clarify that more than one dwelling unit is permitted above the ground floor of a permitted non-residential building; • Amend the Central Commercial Zone (C5) zone provisions to reference the correct section (Section 15.1.1), to permit a 12-storey maximum height regardless of use, and to amend Schedule E associated with this zone to reflect the recommendation for heights in the Woodstock Central Area Design Study. • Amend the Future Development (FD) zone minimum lot area to support consents granted by the Oxford County Land Division Committee. • Amend the title block of Special Residential Zone 1 (R1-13) to more accurately reflect the locations of the zone. • Amend the Special Highway Commercial Zone (C4-52) to apply the H suffix (Holding provision) to the zone which was omitted in error. • Rezone properties located at 177, 179, 183, 189, 191, 195, 199, 205 Bower Hill Road from 'Residential Existing Lot Zone (RE)' in the Township of South-West Oxford Zoning By-Law to 'Residential Zone 1 (R1)' in the City of Woodstock Zoning By-Law to bring them under the jurisdiction of the City of Woodstock Zoning By-Law.

Please note this is not a notice of Public Meeting. Prior to the Public Meeting, you will receive a "Public Notice" informing you of the date, time and location of the public meeting, together with a description of the proposal.

If you have any questions regarding the application, please contact this office to arrange an appointment with **Justin Miller, Development Planner.** Written inquiries may also be forwarded to the regular mail or email addresses provided below. Please include the applicant's name and file number on all correspondence.

Justin Miller
Development Planner
Community Planning
County of Oxford
P. O. Box 1614, 21 Reeve Street
Woodstock ON N4S 7Y3
phone: 519-539-9800 x 3210
email: planning@oxfordcounty.ca

Dated: November 6, 2026

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026

Lest we forget

Woodstock ready to remember its fallen veterans and military history

Royal Canadian Legions celebrate 100 years in 2026

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

The City of Woodstock, along with the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 55, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the group on Nov. 11.

The Remembrance Day ceremony will take place at the Cenotaph and everyone is welcome to gather to pay tribute to the courage and sacrifice of those who served and continue to serve our country during times of war, military conflict and peace.

For those unable to attend in person, the ceremony will take place on Nov. 11 starting at 10:30 a.m., in Victoria Park. Rogers TV Woodstock will broadcast the ceremony live starting at 10:45 a.m. and will re-broadcast at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

For the full ceremony details, visit www.cityofwoodstock.ca/remembranceday.

Branch 55 Office Manager Kelly-Ann Van Marrum said overall the Legion is in good shape.

"Our membership numbers have grown over the last year, as it has been free for some, that being said some have stayed on as members and some have left. We have also noticed that we are starting to get more volunteers as well which is wonderful. I also want to mention that it's great to see some of our Afghanistan vets coming in to the Legion again and it's wonderful to see everyone working together as a family."

She added change is happening in the Legion for the good.

Branch 55 is celebrating 100 years of the Legion with a gala on Dec. 18 at the Woodstock's Unifor Hall. Tickets are $100 and are only available at the Branch office. The event will be catered by Sixthirtynine.

"We are still looking for donations to keep this going and make it a success," explained Van Marrum.

Local military historian, researcher, speaker and soldier, Stephen J. Smith, is playing an important role locally as Remembrance Day approaches.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

"Oxford County's military history goes back to the formation of the Oxford Militia when the County was brand new in 1798, formed with local defence in mind the Militia played a roll in the War of 1812," said Smith.

"There were at least a few dozen members present at the capture of Fort Detroit, as well as other well know battles, including the last official land battle in Canada referred to as the Battle of Malcolms Mill near Oakland which at the time was within the borders of Oxford County."

He added local soldiers were redesignated in 1863 to the more well know name of 22nd Oxford Rifles.

"These men took part in most of the formative actions of Canada like the repelling of the Fenians in the Raid of 1866. Members volunteered en masse for WW1, WW2, and Korea."

Smith said as the Branch historian he is responsible for the care and preservation of an educational collection, not only keeping the history of the Branch, but also to help preserve and tell the stories of our Veteran members and their families.

"I also assist in researching family members service, often assisting families in deciphering service files to better understand what they did during the war."

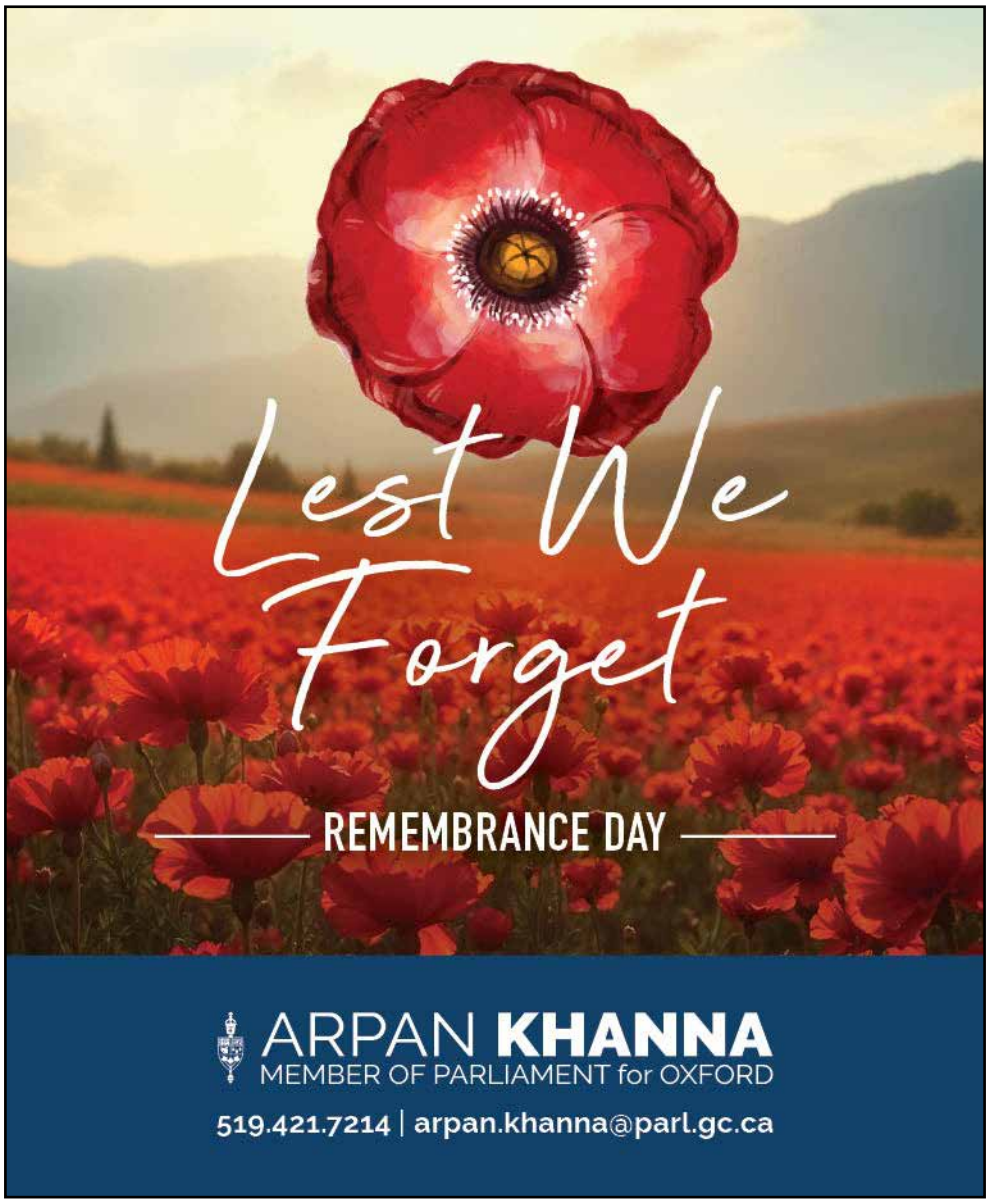
He added members of the legion and the public can help by sharing their family military history with him.

"We can scan documents and photos if they would like to share them. If they are looking to donate their items, photos or documents we can help them find a good home."

If people would like to learn more, they are welcome to contact the Branch.

"Oxford has many wonderful small to medium-size museums where some of the local stories have been preserved and I always encourage people to visit Oxford County Archive who have been our partners in preserving local military history for years," he explained.

Follow the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 55's social media to hear about more historical preservation and presentation projects in the future.







Ingersoll Remembrance Day Ceremony 2026

All community members are invited to participate in this year's Remembrance Day services and procession:

10:00 AM – Church Service at St. Paul's Presbyterian (56 Thames Street S)

10:30 AM – Ingersoll Pipe Band procession begins at St. Paul's Presbyterian and proceeds south to Town Centre

10:45 AM – Ceremonial laying of the wreaths at Town Centre

Join the Ingersoll Cheese Museum and students from Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute (IDCI) for a special evening of remembrance, reflection, and local history at the opening of:

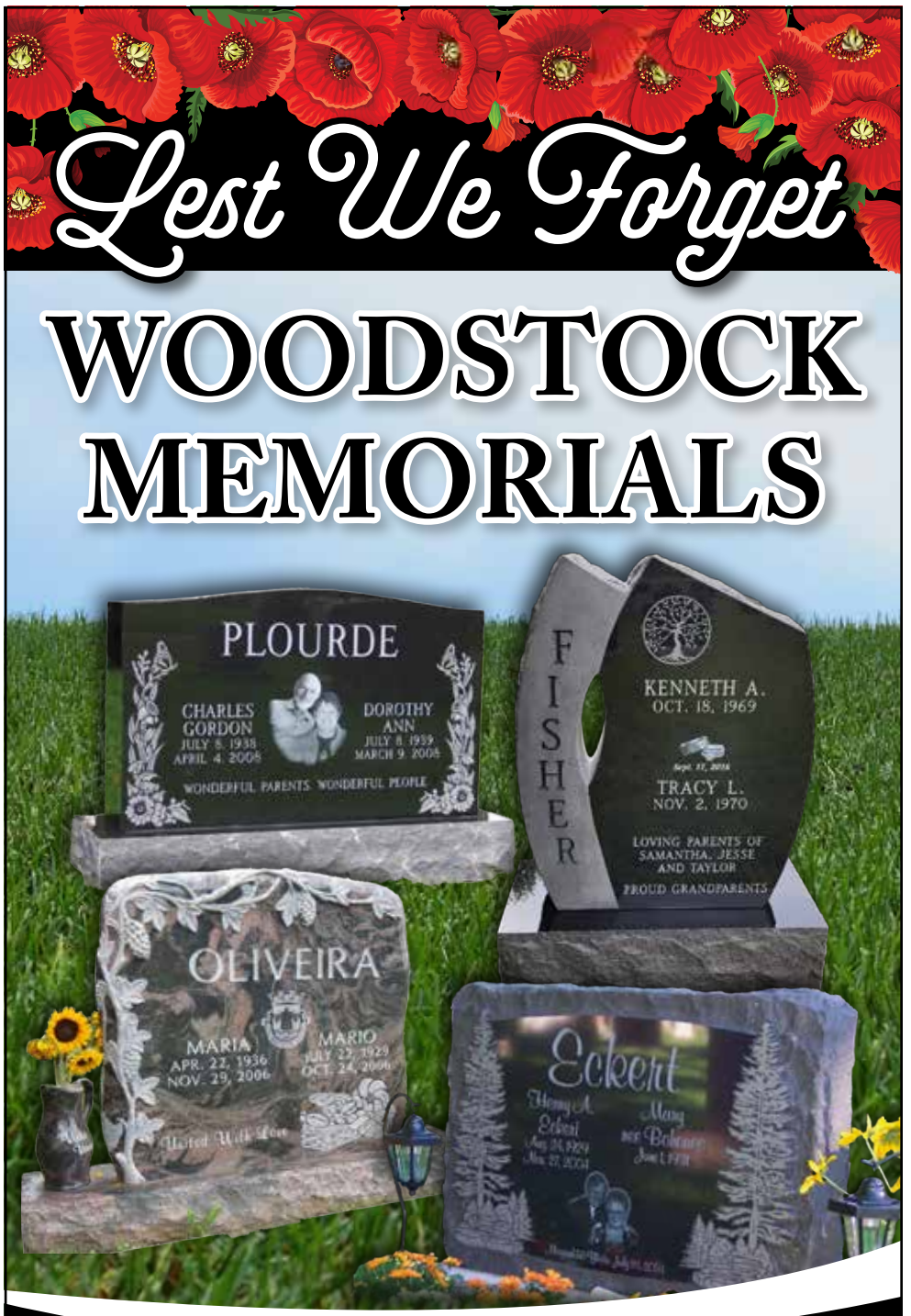
"A Small Town, A World at War: A Remembrance Day Exhibit"

Wednesday, November 11, 2026
6:00–8:00 PM
Ingersoll Cheese & Agricultural Museum (Main Building)

Discover the stories of Ingersoll during the World Wars through a collaborative exhibition researched and created by local high school students







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REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026

Lest we forget

Collaborative Remembrance Day exhibit with IDCI highlights local military history

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

The Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum and Grade 10 history students from Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute (IDCI) collaborated on A Small Town, A World at War: A Remembrance Day Exhibit, which will be on display from Nov. 9 to 14. The exhibit features artifacts that tell the stories of Ingersoll's involvement during the World Wars with research from the students.

"The fact we're doing this over Remembrance Day is really meaningful, that we're able to appreciate the peace we experience right now in Canada and are reminded of the sacrifices that our own community members have given over the past decades," said Jennifer Rowe, head of the history department at IDCI.



(MONICA VAN ITTERSUM PHOTO)

The exhibit will feature the commemorative Princess Mary 1914 Christmas Tin, an item from WWI funded by a public appeal in 1914 by the princess, who was 14 years old at the time. The tin contained a Christmas card, a photo of Princess Mary, and either cigarettes or sweets.

"I also think it's much more meaningful than me teaching them history; they're experiencing it. They're looking at artifacts and looking at real residents of Ingersoll and their stories and their impact on our community, and I think that resonates stronger with the students than say, a textbook does."

Two of the students, Luca D'Ambrosio and Gurnoor Dhaliwal, researched a WW2 Brodie helmet that belonged to J.C. Herbert, who was also a member of the Kiwanis Club of Ingersoll and an educator in history and mathematics and a principal at IDCI.

"It was really fun to research Mr. Herbert because he's so important to our school," said D'Ambrosio.

"I really like the fact that he was actually teaching at the school and the principal," Dhaliwal added.



(MONICA VAN ITTERSUM PHOTO)

A photograph from the scrapbook of John "Bud" Gayfer, pictured on the right-hand side, will be featured in the Remembrance Day exhibit "A Small Town: A World at War" in collaboration with Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute (IDCI) students and the Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum. Gayfer was the first Ingersoll man to enlist in WW2 upon declaration in 1939 and served up until his death in a plane crash in 1942.

The students have also been helping out with exhibit set up, came up with the name, and demonstrated lots of enthusiasm.

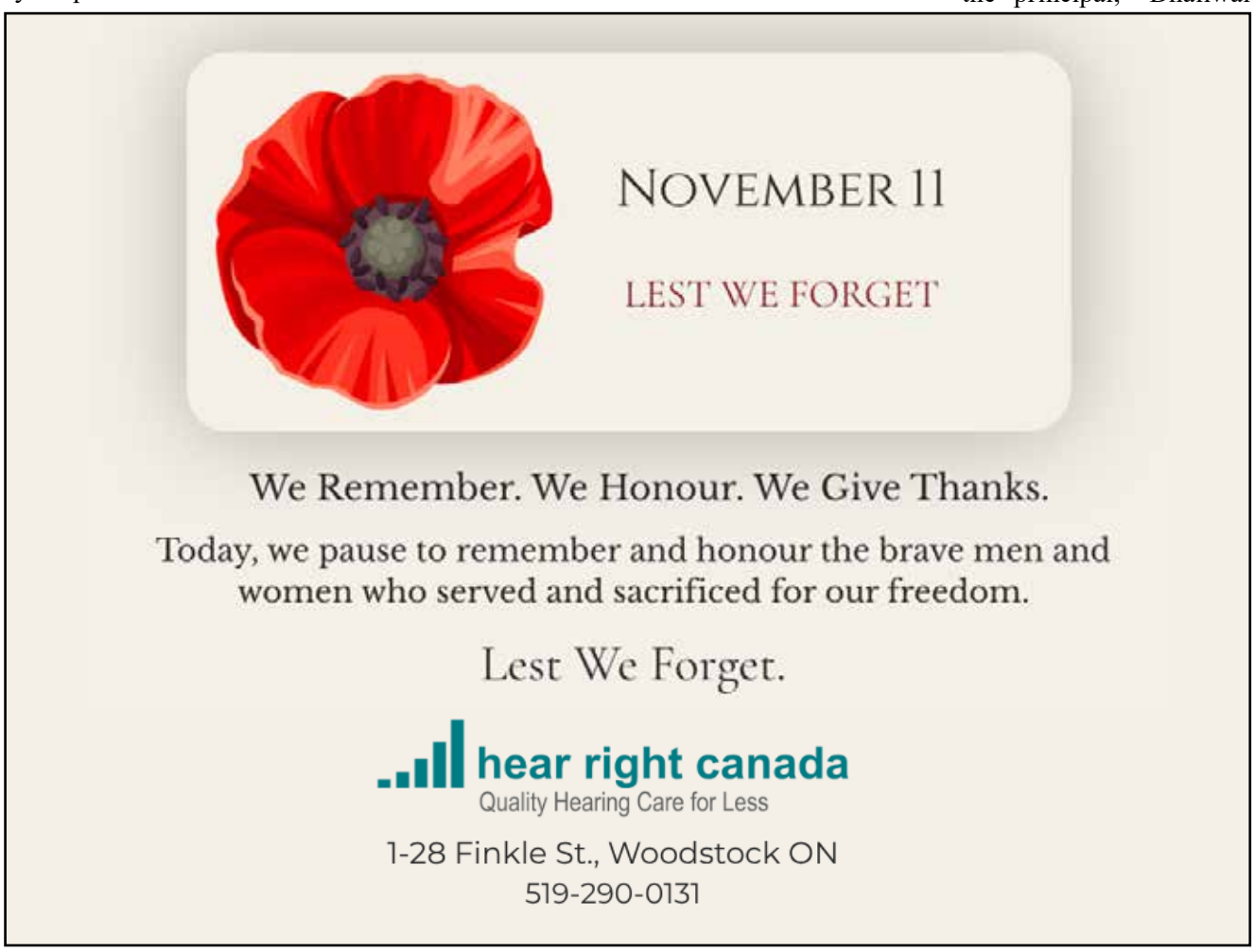
"They've been really engaged, asking questions, clarifying research with us, which has been so great to see," said Monica Van Ittersum, education programmer.

The students are helping the museum provide more information on its collection of artifacts.

"The Ingersoll Museum has thousands of objects and we have a very small staff because we're just a small local museum, so having more community members and researchers involved really helps us grow the research that's within our own collection as well," Van Ittersum said.

A Small Town, A World at War will have its opening on Nov. 11, the evening of Remembrance Day, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the museum's main building. The event will include speeches from the students involved with the project, activities like a scavenger hunt and postcard decorating, a reading of the poem In Flanders Fields, and a Remembrance Wall.

More information about the Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum's exhibits can be found online via the Facebook and Instagram pages.





REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026

Lest we forget

Ingersoll's Poppy Project Finds a home at Legion Branch 119

KYRAH SMITH

Echo Correspondent

Members of the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre (ICAC) officially presented the Poppy Project to its rightful home, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 119 on Oct. 8.

The crocheted and knitted creation features nearly 7,000 handmade poppies, lovingly crafted by ICAC members and Ingersoll residents alike.

On Oct. 24, the Ingersoll Legion proudly unveiled the project, draped over the organization's cannon in a display of community spirit and remembrance.

This marks the first year Ingersoll has participated in the nationwide project, with hopes of making it a lasting tradition for years to come.

In keeping with the National Poppy Campaign, the Poppy Project will remain on display from Oct. 24 through Nov. 11, giving residents an opportunity to admire the community's handiwork while honouring those who served.

The public is invited to visit the display at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 119, located at 211 Thames St. N., Ingersoll.



(ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 119 PHOTO)

The Ingersoll Royal Canadian Legion unveils the community's "Poppy Project" for all to see, on October 24th and will remain on display until November 11th.



(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

On October 8th, members from the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre presented the "Poppy Project" over to its rightful home, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 119. Pictured are (from left to right) ICAC members Marg Charron and Lois Wheatley, Royal Canadian Legion member Barb Jackson and Linda White ICAC member.

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REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026

Lest we forget

Royal Canadian Legion celebrates veterans with massive Toronto mural

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

The Royal Canadian Legion has unveiled four uniquely designed murals, each of which tells the story of a fallen Canadian service member.

The featured mural tells the story of Allan "Scotty" Davidson who at just 22 years old was the captain of the Toronto Blueshirts, the team that would become the Toronto Maple Leafs. In 1914, he led his team to that city's first Stanley Cup. Five months after that victory, he left his team, his career, and his home behind to become one of the first professional hockey players to volunteer for the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Serving in France and Belgium, accounts describe acts of remarkable bravery, including rescuing wounded officers and fighting on the front lines.

Lance Corporal Davidson was killed in action on June 16, 1915, when a shell exploded near him in the trenches. The mural honours him and the more than 120,000 Canadians who gave their lives in service to our country, whose names and stories should never be forgotten.

The mural was unveiled on Oct.24, the first day of the Poppy Campaign. It stands 23 feet tall and 13 feet wide and Davidson was chosen because of his connection to Toronto and the fact it was going to be located inside Union Station.

"He, and others, their faces and their stories represent all Canadians who have died in the line of duty," explained Nujma Bond, the Legion's National Communications Manager. "It encourages people to think about that, to remember all of them, connect a little more deeply with their personal stories and realize, just like you and I, had lives and hopes and passions."

The mural is made out of about 5,000 sticky notes and on those notes are messages from Canadians across the country speaking about their gratitude for veterans.

"There are also memories people have of family members who served. They are all very personal messages and those are what compose that huge mural. It's quite amazing to see it in person but you can get a good sense of it online in the photos at www.legion.ca."

Bond said Canadians will be fascinated to read about the stories behind the people in the three other murals.

"It puts a face to the name and helps us tell the story of remembrance itself, why we do this and why it is so important. It all leads back to the freedom we have in Canada today and the ability to live our lives as we wish."

In addition to local Poppy campaigns, the Royal Canadian Legion launched its official Amazon.ca storefront on Oct. 25, 2024. The storefront offers lapel poppies, available for donations of $2, $5, $10 or $20, red neon window poppies, We Remember lawn signs and other official Remembrance merchandise.

100 per cent of the money raised through poppy donations goes directly to its Poppy Trust Fund to support veterans and their families. More than 20,000 lapel poppies were distributed through Amazon in 2024 and all sales broke the $200,000 mark.

New this year is the ability to tap to donate to the campaign with a debit card, credit card or digital wallet via tap-on-phone. Legion volunteers from participating Branches can use their own compatible smartphones to collect contactless donations.

"This is very exciting. It allows the Region to increase its reach and as these methods expand across the country and more Branches take part, it means a Legion volunteer who has an app on their phone can potentially donations anywhere they are. Not just at their Branch, but maybe at the grocery store where someone is looking to donate."

Bond said society is becoming more and more cashless, although there is no plan to eliminate the Poppy cash boxes located across the country. There are also about 2,000 tap to donate boxes available in some areas.

The Legion's inaugural year of rolling out the new technology is supported by BMO.

"For a century, the Poppy has carried a profound promise: that the sacrifice of Canada's Veterans will never be forgotten," says Mike Bonner, the head of Canadian Personal and Business Banking Distribution. "BMO is honoured to stand with The Royal Canadian Legion in keeping that promise. Having recently had the privilege of addressing delegates in Winnipeg at the Legion's 50th Dominion Convention in celebration of their 100th Anniversary, I remain humbled by how much those in uniform have done and continue to do in service to Canada."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Allan "Scotty" Davidson mural on display in Union Station, Toronto.

The Legion continues to offer free memberships, something Bond said has resulted in huge increase.

"We have seen well over 100,000 people join this year. We were already seeing an increase over the past few years and we are really excited. With new members come new ideas, new energy, and we are able to harness that and allow people to use their skillsets and put them to use at the local level."

She added there are now over 300,000 members across the country.

"It really tells us that Canadians are very supportive of the Legion's mission and they want to be a part of it. They are supportive of our veterans, our families, and they see the Legion as a community hub and community supporter. It bodes well for the future."

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REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026

Lest we forget

Route to the Past: The Tale of Two Turners

SCOTT GILLIES

Echo Contributor

Frank Allen Turner, son of Walter and Elizabeth Turner, grew up at 68 Chapel Street in Woodstock. His father worked as a labourer at the local wagon works. Frank lived up to his last name as a 'turner' and had been employed as a lathe operator when he enlisted with the 168th Battalion in March of 1916. His younger siblings included brothers Gordon and Howard and sisters Marion and Lena.

Along with the other lads from Oxford County, Frank shipped out to England on board the troopship SS Lapland, 110 years ago this week, arriving in Britain on November 11, 1916. For the next few months, he was part of various reserve battalions undergoing additional training in the trade of war.

Immediately following the Canadian success in capturing Vimy Ridge in April of 1917, Frank was taken on strength by the 1st Canadian Battalion in France; no doubt to help fill the gaps in the line created by that monumental assault.

It was only a few days later that he went missing.

The 1st Canadian Battalion was involved in the attack on the French hamlet of Fresnoy, a small village of red-roofed houses that had been little damaged by the war. The Germans had created defensive strongpoints along the perimeter including well-wired trenches and artillery in the woods both north and south of the village.

Three Canadian battalions were engaged in the assault. The 2nd Battalion attacked the village itself while the 1st and 3rd battalions headed for the woods on the left and right. Ironworker Turner of Woodstock was part of that charge into the maelstrom.

The combined attack began on schedule with Canadian gunners laying down a powerful barrage on no man's land and the German trenches. This was immediately followed by retaliatory machine gun fire which cut down many of the Canadian infantrymen. Despite the challenges, all three Canadian battalions achieved their targets, but at a price. One of the more than 1000 casualties was Frank Allen Turner. His body was never recovered.

No doubt motivated or urged on by feelings of guilt and a desire for retribution for his brother's death, Frank's younger brother Gordon Morris Turner, enlisted with the 63rd Battery in May of 1918. He was still a 19-year-old teenager. Or was he only 18? The Canadian Census shows his birth year as 1899, but his attestation paper stated 1898. Had he aged a year while travelling from Woodstock to London?

A machine operator at one of the Woodstock factories (possibly the same wagon factory as his father and brother), Gunner Gordon Turner had enlisted with the 63rd Heavy Battery Depot in May of 1918 and after just three weeks of basic training had been shipped overseas to England. While part of the Reserve Brigade of the Canadian Field Artillery, he celebrated his birthday at No.12 General Canadian Hospital in Bramshott England, suffering from influenza. Just days after his birthday, Gordon Morris Turner died from this pandemic described as the Spanish Flu. He was buried in his mother's homeland; in British soil in a military cemetery adjacent to the hospital.

The announcement of Gordon's death must have come as yet another shock for Walter William Turner and his family. He had been widowed in 1910 when his wife Elizabeth had died. This, combined with the loss of his eldest son Frank the year before must have weighed heavily on the hearts of all who knew and loved them.

Both sons' names have been inscribed on the Woodstock Cenotaph and on the hearts of their Minler Family nephews.

But wait, if you examine this monument, you will notice that there is a third Turner name. As fate would have it, this was Henry William Turner who had been born in Tottenham England in 1897, but who was living with his siblings and parents Joseph and Eliza Turner at 328 Dundas Street in Woodstock when he too enlisted, along with Frank Turner, with the 168th Battalion. Both men were taken on strength by the 1st Canadian Battalion following Vimy Ridge, and it appears that both would have been involved in the same battle in May of 1917. Frank was killed while Henry was wounded. He would survive wounds to his right arm and leg to be able to fight another day only to be killed in action on August 30, 1918.

Would Henry William Turner have known that he was taking part in what historians have since described as a "skillfully planned operation" to capture Upton Woods? That probably brought little consolation to his family back home in Oxford County.

On November 11th, as we mark Remembrance Day, pause for a moment and say a silent prayer of thanks for the memory of these brave young men from our hometowns.

route2thepast@gmail.com



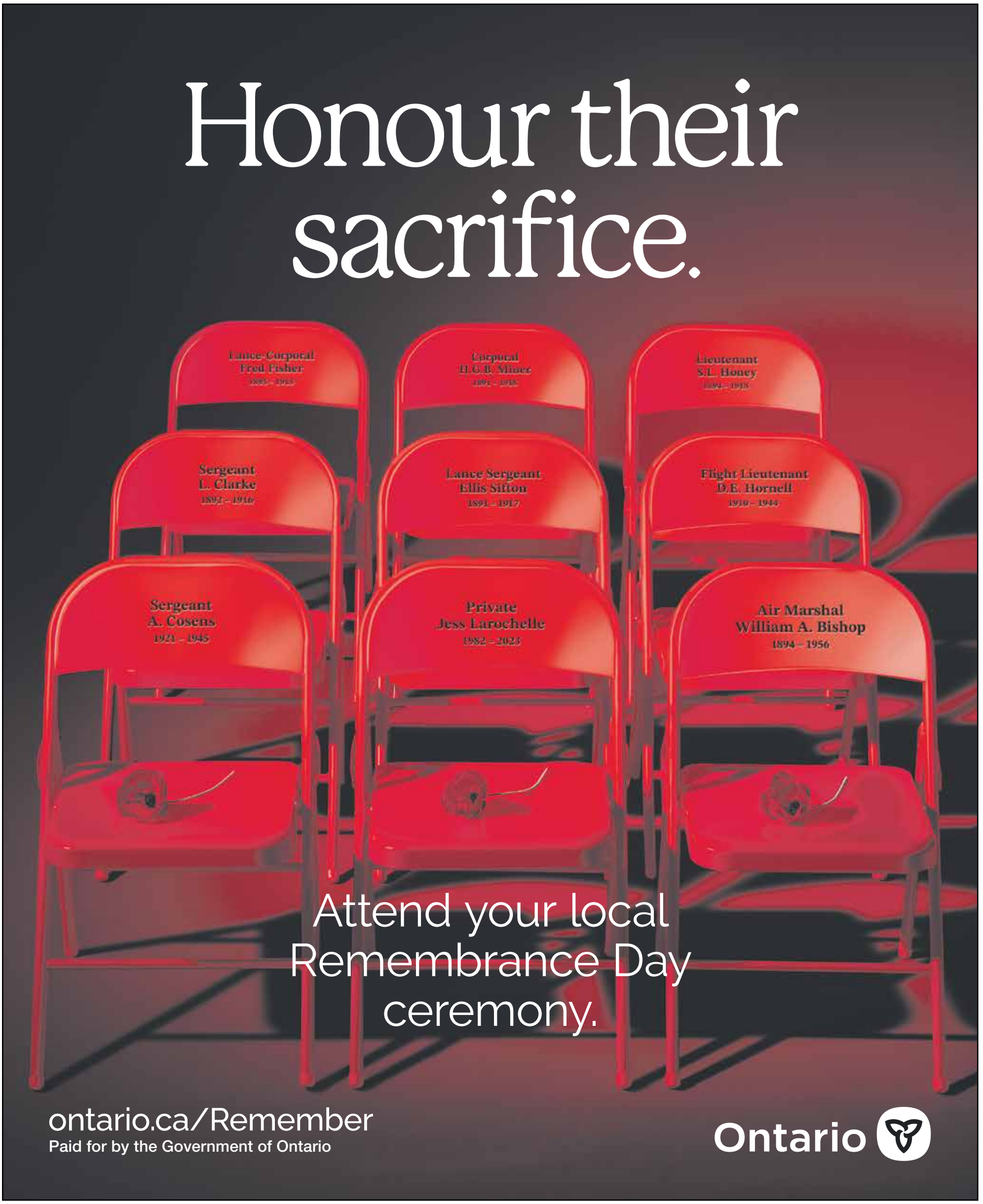
Woodstock Cenotaph. (CONTRIBUTED IMAGE)

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Nominations open for *20 Citizens Who Make Oxford Better* award

LEE GRIFFI
Editor

Oxford County MP Arpan Khanna is inviting residents to nominate individuals who go above and beyond to strengthen their communities and make Oxford a better place to live.

Nominations are now open for 20 Citizens Who Make Oxford Better, an initiative which will recognize 20 outstanding residents whose actions and contributions have made a meaningful, positive difference in Oxford County.

"Our communities are only as strong as the people who step up to make a difference," said Khanna. "Across Oxford, there are incredible people who give their time, support their neighbours, volunteer with local organizations, mentor young people, and lend a helping hand when someone needs it most. Many of these individuals do their work quietly, without ever expecting recognition. This initiative is an opportunity to celebrate their contributions and thank them for everything they do."

He explained the idea grew out of the Coronation Medal ceremony, which was such a heartwarming and inspiring event.

"We wanted to create another way to recognize and celebrate the individuals in our community who go above and beyond, bring hope to others, and inspire positivity through their contributions."

The inaugural 20 Citizens Who Make Oxford Better initiative will celebrate people whose contributions reflect the very best of Oxford. This includes volunteers, community builders, service club members, mentors, local leaders, dedicated neighbours, and everyday citizens whose actions have a lasting, positive impact on others.

"Behind every strong community are people who dedicate their time and energy to making it a better place," added Khanna. "Whether they are volunteering their evenings and weekends, supporting families in need, or bringing people together, these individuals help make Oxford the incredible community we are proud to call home. I encourage everyone to think about someone who deserves recognition and take a few minutes to nominate them."

Volunteerism is something on the decline today, but Khanna is hopeful the initiative could turn that trend around by recognizing the people who do give so much of themselves.

"Absolutely. Volunteers are the heart of Oxford. They give their time and energy to make our communities stronger, often without expecting anything in return. Oxford is a special place because of the people who step up to help their neighbours. Through this program, we want to recognize these incredible individuals, celebrate their contributions, and inspire more people, especially the next generation, to get involved and give back."

He added everyone has something to contribute, and even a small act of service can make a big difference.

Nominations will be reviewed by a committee that will carefully consider each submission against the established criteria.

"Our goal is to make sure every nomination receives fair, thoughtful, and thorough consideration," said Khanna.

The awards will be presented at a special ceremony in early 2027, where recipients will be recognized for their outstanding contributions to the community. Additional details, including the date and location, will be announced in the coming weeks.

To be eligible for consideration, nominees must be a current resident of the federal riding of Oxford, be nominated by another individual or organization, have demonstrated a positive contribution to the Oxford community, reflect the spirit of the initiative through actions and conduct that positively impact others and the community, and be 14 years of age or older.

Residents are encouraged to nominate someone who has made a meaningful difference in their community.

To submit a nomination, visit https://arpankhannamp.ca/20citizens/. Nominations close on Jan. 17, 2027.

South Gate Centre hosting a delicious fundraiser

LEE GRIFFI
Editor

Woodstock's Tempo Restaurant and Cheezy Cow retail store have teamed up to hold a delectable evening in support of South Gate Centre.

Cheese and Cheer, a Tapas Experience, will happen on Friday, Nov. 6 at the facility for older adults with a ticket price of $110. The event is being billed as an intimate culinary experience featuring delicious tapas with artisan cheeses, paired beverages, live music and a live auction—all in support of South Gate Centre. Only 100 seats are available.

"The idea really came together through a shared passion for great food, bringing people together and giving back to our community," said centre Executive Director Chris Cunningham. "Chef Simon Mathias and Cheesemonger Wes Mazur both love creating unique culinary experiences, and when the opportunity came up to partner with South Gate Centre, it seemed like a perfect fit."

She added the pair wanted to do something a little different from your typical fundraiser.

"Something where people could enjoy an incredible evening of food, drinks and entertainment while supporting a project that will benefit the entire community for years to come."

Proceeds from the Cheese & Cheers Tapas Experience will go directly toward outfitting the Rotary Community Kitchen at South Gate with essential commercial equipment and prep stations. $15k would complete the project.

"This multifunctional space will support senior meal programs, food rescue initiatives, cooking classes, community groups and small food businesses that need access to a professional kitchen. It's an investment that goes well beyond one evening. It's about creating opportunities, supporting local businesses and helping feed our community," Cunningham explained.

Helping guide everyone through the evening will be Brad Janssen, who will serve as Master of Ceremonies. Cunningham said she wants the event to feel like a fantastic night out, not just another fundraising dinner.

"Along with the food and drinks, guests will enjoy the vibrant, genre-blending sounds of the PlankLiners, great company and plenty of opportunities to mingle. One of the highlights will be our live auction, featuring Mike Crabbe as auctioneer. Mike will be helping us raise additional funds for the kitchen by auctioning off some pretty incredible locally inspired packages."

She added it will be a fun evening with a little friendly bidding competition, all while supporting an organization that means so much to Woodstock and the surrounding community.

"Without giving away all the surprises, guests can look forward to a six-course tapas experience created through a collaboration between Chef Mathias and Mazur. Each course will be thoughtfully paired with a selection of fine wines and craft beers to complement the flavours and make the experience that much more memorable."

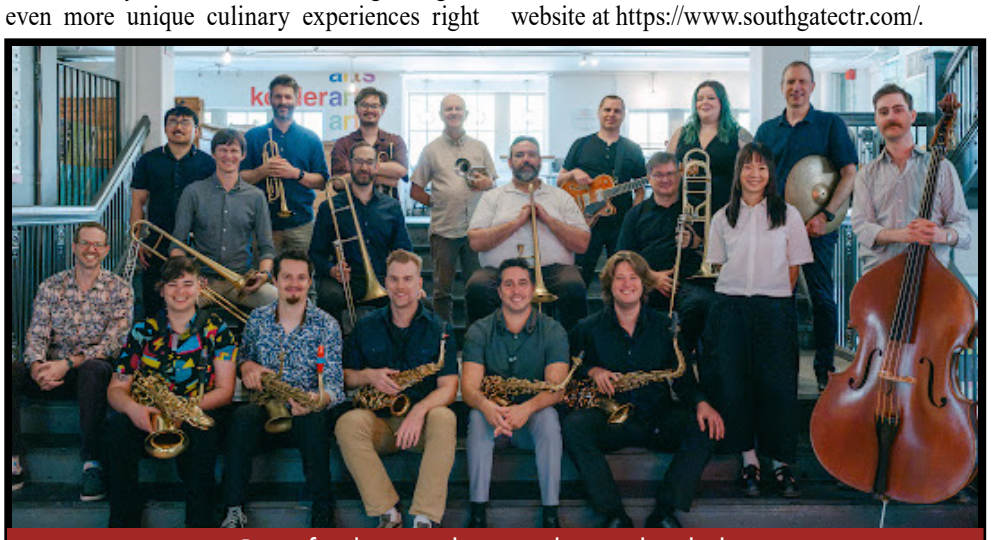
Cunningham added the idea is to offer something a little different from a traditional dinner, with smaller, creative courses that allow guests to explore a variety of flavours and combinations they might not normally experience.

"And with a chef and a cheesemonger putting the menu together, you can probably expect a few delicious surprises," she said. "This event brings together so many things they're passionate about: great food, supporting local businesses, community partnerships and giving back to our seniors."

Cunningham said everyone involved is looking forward to welcoming guests on Nov. 6. Whether people are coming as a couple or purchasing a table for six friends, she said it is going to be a fantastic evening for an even better cause.

"Only 100 tickets are available for this exclusive experience, and they're going quickly! Anyone interested in attending is encouraged to get their tickets before they're gone. And who knows? Maybe this will be the beginning of even more unique culinary experiences right here in Woodstock."

You can buy tickets by searching Cheese and Cheer on Facebook or on the South Gate Centre website at https://www.southgatectr.com/.



Woodstock Ingersoll Echo SPORTS

SPOTLIGHT ON WOODSTOCK NAVY VETS

Navy Vets captain combining love of hockey with love of the law: *McGregor able to juggle university responsibilities with busy sports schedule*

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

It isn't very often a young man can combine excellent on the ice with a demanding university course, but that's just what Will McGregor is doing.

The Ottawa native is in his second full season with Woodstock after a year south of the border with the Elmira Impact of the United States Premier Hockey League (USPHL) in New York. He is on a President's Scholarship at the University of Guelph studying Justice and Legal Studies.

"It's a full ride, the top scholarship the school can give out. The goal is to enter law school a few years from now and then become a practicing lawyer," explained the 19-year-old.

The program has developed a very positive reputation, particularly for students interested in pursuing law school or careers involving the legal system, government, public policy and social justice.

McGregor had a few offers to continue playing stateside or the Ottawa area but made the decision to come to Woodstock after getting word he was successful in receiving the scholarship.

"I decided to play here and the scholarship had a pretty strict GPA requirement so I decided to move down to Junior C last year to focus on school. I actually went to the Ayr Centennials camp but Woodstock saw me and the assistant general manager, Chad Paton, reached out to me and the coach at the time came all the way to Ottawa to meet me."

He said he enjoyed playing for the team last year and loved the city along with the professionalism of the Navy Vets organization. McGregor added despite the more demanding schedule which comes with the league, he is managing the workload.

"I don't find it as difficult as you might think. I was able to do it through high school so I have developed a lot of good habits. So far this year I have a 95 average through the first semester. It takes some dedication, obviously, and I don't have a lot of free time but this is what I signed up for and I love it and I wouldn't trade it for anything."

The captain said the quality of play in the USPHL is on par with that of the GOHL but it does have more older players looking for other opportunities.

"I was there as an '07 in grade 12 but most of the league was '04 players hoping to move up. Most of them were hoping for Division III scholarships, maybe the odd Division I. It was a very good stepping stone into junior for me."



(LAUREN HABINSKI, CAPTUREDBYLAREN_ PHOTO PHOTO)

Woodstock Navy Vets captain Will McGregor has found a way to work hard both on and off the ice. The 19-year-old Ottawa native is in his second year of a scholarship at the University of Guelph with the end goal of becoming at attorney.

McGregor, a defenceman, scored 17 points all of last season as the Navy Vets played in the Ontario Junior Development League and has already equalled that total through just 16 games. He said the increased output comes out of more responsibility on the ice.

"I stepped into a different role this year. Being one of the older guys and knowing that opportunity was there was important to me and something I was working towards all summer. I was playing more of a checking, shutdown role last season. We had a d-man putting up about 60 points so you know he's going to get most of the offensive opportunities."

McGregor is referring to Charley Barnes Games who scored 22 goals and added 36 assists in Woodstock's last season in the Provincial Junior Hockey League. He finished fifth overall in the Doherty Division scoring race and was named the division's top defenceman for the second consecutive season.

He added he took pride in his shutdown role last season, playing against the competition's top players.

"It's something I took pride in last year and something I still take pride in. I still play the majority of my minutes against the other team's top lines which I love. It's been more of a focus to make simple plays and they are leading to offence for the team. I am definitely getting more opportunities to contribute offensively."

As far as the seven win and nine loss start to the season, McGregor said while it has been what he expected, he added he isn't satisfied.

"We have a young program with a lot of rookies so we aren't upset with where we are. We didn't think coming out we would be 50-0 but I think if you took a poll of the room there are a lot of guys who think they can give more. We lost a few games to teams we don't think we should have lost to, giving away some leads and points. We aren't upset with where we are, but we are looking to push for the playoffs and establish ourselves in the league."

The second-year Vet ended the Echo interview with some kind words about head coach Andy Bathgate.

"He's super nice on and off the ice and someone we can learn a lot from. He has a very strong hockey background and leads by example. We are blessed to have him and see where he takes us over the next few months."

On the ice, the Vets have split their last two games with a 9-4 victory over hapless Sarnia on Sunday and a 6-2 loss in LaSalle last Thursday. The Legionnaires have just one win in their last 64 games dating back to the 2025-26 season.

STANDINGS

WESTERN CONFERENCE	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS	GF	GA
1 - ST. MARYS LINCOLNS	15	14	1	0	0	28	94	31
2 - ST. THOMAS STARS	15	11	3	0	1	23	55	33
3 - LISTOWEL CYCLONES	17	10	4	3	0	23	68	52
4 - CHATHAM MAROONS	15	11	4	0	0	22	68	42
5 - STRATFORD WARRIORS	14	9	4	0	1	19	51	44
6 - LONDON NATIONALS	16	7	8	1	0	15	58	64
7 - STRATHROY ROCKETS	17	6	8	2	1	15	69	69
8 - WOODSTOCK NAVY VETS	**16**	**7**	**9**	**0**	**0**	**14**	**57**	**68**
9 - ELMIRA SUGAR KINGS	17	6	10	1	0	13	57	69
10 - LASALLE VIPERS	14	6	8	0	0	12	40	57
11 - KOMOKA KINGS	18	5	13	0	0	10	56	76
12 - SARNIA LEGIONNAIRES	14	1	13	0	0	2	29	91

Senior girls' basketball Knights, Huskies renewing acquaintance in TVRA Southeast quarterfinals

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

Two teams preparing for the Thames Valley Regional Athletics Southeast post-season laid it on the line Wednesday, October 21st at Woodstock Huron Park.

"Gearing up for playoffs," said Woodstock College Avenue (CASS) Knights point guard Payton Jones following a hard-fought 40-32 victory over the host Huskies.

There was no shortage of intensity from the opening jump, Huron Park coming after the Knights with a full court person-to-person defence.

"They were right around the ball," said College Avenue's Myla Reissner. "When someone had it, they had two girls (on them)."

"It was crazy," agreed Knights post Julia Baer. "We did not do well at first."

Huskies pressure countered the Knights height advantage, a 2-3 defensive zone featuring Baer, Reissner, Emily and Kat Pye on the back end an intimidating, shot-altering prospect for opponents approaching the basket, backed up by the physical presence of Jill Strik.

"She's feisty," credited Baer. "I would not want to play against her."

CASS led 12-5 after a first quarter dominated by transitional rather than halfcourt offensive play. The Knights extended their lead into double digits (20-9) on a six-point run beginning with 2:34 remaining in the second frame. Strik knocked down back-to-back buckets in transition, followed by a smooth Baer stroke from the foul line following a turnover. As expected, the latter scored her share of two-footers from under the hoop, but also displayed a nice midrange shooting touch, contributing to a team-high 14 points.

The Knights pushed their lead to 13 by halftime and 17 (33-16) heading into the final frame. Huron Park's Ema-Leigh Hamilton knocked down a three-pointer 18 seconds into the fourth quarter, but the Knights appeared to seal the deal as Lexi Padfield fired a pass to Kaitlyn Vanderspek streaking down the baseline for a lay-in and 35-19 lead with 6:02 remaining.

Rather than folding up their tent, the Huskies battled to the final whistle, point guard Reagan White cutting the gap to 11 on a lay-in with 2:27 to play. White scored all 13 of her points through the final eight minutes, including a three-point field goal and a final lay-up with 3.2 seconds remaining, cutting the final gap to eight.

"It's always fun to fight back at the end even if it doesn't work out," she said.

"Play our hardest," added Huskies teammate Feyikemi Soyinka.

"Play with our hearts, not just to win," agreed Hamilton.

The game had not been Huron Park's best said White, but the team showed up in the third and fourth quarters, playing said Hamilton, like it wanted to from the beginning.

"Not even winning, but just to be proud of ourselves when the game was over."

Mission accomplished according to Huron Park coach Tyler Anderson, crediting a hard-working group who likes to be on the court working, grinds and does not quit.

"They're (CASS) tall and the ball was dropping for them tonight," he credited, adding that while it does sting to lose, the Huskies had put in the effort and hustled for the full 32 minutes. "We couldn't be prouder of them."

Hamilton paced Huskies scoring with 14 points, White added 13, V. Caskannette and K. Baan a field goal each and Soyinka one free throw. Baer led a balanced Knights attack with 14, Strik had eight, Maddie Wettlaufer and Vanderspek four apiece, Emily Pye and Elora Baker three each and Reissner one field goal.

It will be Deja vu all over again Thursday, November 5 as the Knights and Huskies renew their cross-city rivalry to open TVRA Southeast quarter-final playoffs. CASS closed the regular season with a 6-2 mark, the Huskies 4-4. The Woodstock CI Red Devils finished with a 7-1 mark following a four-point loss to the St. Thomas St. Joe's Rams and will host a quarter-final matchup against the seventh seed, that same day.

The 3-5 Woodstock St. Mary's Warriors and 2-6 Ingersoll DCI Blue Bombers were scheduled for a preliminary round game on Nov. 3 at St. Mary's, with the winner advancing to quarterfinals.

On the junior side, the 6-2 Red Devils will host the sixth seed at a Nov. 5 quarter-final, while the College Avenue junior Knights, who finished a solid 5-3, head to Aylmer East Elgin looking to extend their post-season run. The Knights lost to the Eagles 39-25 on Oct. 15, but coach Matthew Keith, pleased with a 'nice little turnaround' 2026 season, is looking forward to the rematch.

"We're a different team than when we first played them," he said. "We're hoping that will help us."

The 4-4 Woodstock St. Mary's Warriors and 3-5 Ingersoll DCI Blue Bombers are hosting St. Thomas Central Elgin and Woodstock Huron Park respectively, on Nov. 3. Winners advance to quarterfinals.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Huron Park Huskie Ema-Leigh Hamilton heads to the hoop against CASS 'defence by committee' including, left to right: Emily Pye, Myla Reissner, Julia Baer and Payton Jones.

TVRA SOUTHEAST SENIOR GIRLS BASKETBALL	
OCT. 29	
ST. MARY'S	47
CENTRAL ELGIN	33
HURON PARK	35
EAST ELGIN	32
CASS	30
IDCI	10
OCT. 28	
ST. JOE'S	60
WCI	56
OCT.27	
WCI	51
PARKSIDE	40
INGERSOLL DCI	37
HURON PARK	33
ST. MARY'S	33
GLENDALE	31
OCT. 21	
CASS	40
HURON PARK	32
OCT. 20	
WCI	43
EAST ELGIN	23
ST. JOE'S	42
IDCI	22
CASS	35
ST. MARY'S	15

JUNIOR GIRLS	
OCT. 29	
ST. MARY'S	49
CENTRAL ELGIN	41
EAST ELGIN	41
HURON PARK	21
CASS	35
IDCI	15
OCT. 28	
ST. JOE'S	55
WCI	35
OCT. 27	
IDCI	46
HURON PARK	26
ST. MARY'S	37
GLENDALE	31
PARKSIDE	50
WCI	33
ST. JOE'S	49
CASS	29
OCT. 21	
CASS	36
HURON PARK	16
OCT. 20	
WCI	50
EAST ELGIN	37
CASS	44
ST. MARY'S	27
ST. JOE'S	39
IDCI	19

Gridiron Blue Bomber juniors, seniors headed back to TVRA semis



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Junior Blue Bombers (centre, then moving right) Owen Stead, Dean Bayer (who took the brunt of the ball's impact), Kingston Davis and Noah Youkhanna combine to block a Glendale point after try by Cohen Hall, with Lucas Gullage on the hold.

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

Both 'goalies' played exceptionally well.

Which is another way of stating the obvious: the Ingersoll DCI Blue Bombers 3-1 TVRA AA senior football quarter-final victory over the St. Thomas St. Joe's Rams Oct. 30 in St. Thomas was dominated by defence.

"Defence played amazing, amazing," emphasized Bombers head coach Markus Lakatos.

The Rams were admittedly missing their starting quarterback, however Lakatos also gave full marks to IDCI's defensive coordinator for exhaustive pre-game prep.

"Our defence came in and was prepared."

St. Joe's did pick up a few first downs Lakatos conceded. "And then we'd stop them."

The Blue Bombers had averaged over 30 points a game prior to meeting the Rams, whose defence also had a stellar outing.

"It didn't feel good, not going to lie," admitted Lakatos, of a 1-0 lead established on a rouge and extended via a two-point safety. St. Joe's answered with a fourth-quarter rouge to round the unusual final score.

"Three points - the hard way," said Lakatos, able to laugh in arrears of a victory which advances IDCI to TVRA AA semi-finals against London South. The game kicks off Nov. 6 at St. Thomas' 1Password Park.

"The team is very excited," said the coach, as well as fully aware South will be a formidable opponent which played at the TVRA Tier I level this season. On the plus side, Lakatos reports the Blue Bombers are healthy as they approach an opportunity to extend a season, which this year includes a path to an Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) tournament.

"That's the goal, that's the plan - now, we just have to execute."

The junior Blue Bombers also advanced to TVRA semis, via a comparatively comfortable 35-14 win over the Aylmer East Elgin Eagles.

Coach Ben Griffiths pre-game speech was quick, focussing on intensity, work ethic and leaving their game on the field. Its impact, however, was only emphasized by the team's returning Grade 10 members' memories of the previous season's regular season and TVRA Southeast championship losses to East Elgin counterparts. Not to mention, the desire to return to another TVRA championship final.

"The guys were very motivated," said Griffiths.

IDCI was coming off a regular season-closing 34-6 win over the visiting Glendale Gemini Oct. 22 at Ingersoll. The Blue Bombers Deacon Janess made varied contributions to the offence. He kicked four point after tries, received one passing touchdown from quarterback Aidan Thomson and threw for another to Peter Salverda on a trick play, answering the age-old question whether it is more rewarding to give, or receive?

"Honestly, give," Janess said with scant hesitation. "So, you can help your teammates get better."

Mason Morris had two rushing touchdowns and Salverda two via the air for IDCI. Gemini running back Vincent Vanhooydonk scored the lone Glendale TD on the game's final drive.

'Intensity, work ethic and leaving one's game on the field' are consistent messages from the coaching staff said IDCI defensive and offensive lineman Connor Beemer.

"Keep the intensity up," he said. "Strong every series, never let up on the gas."

The approach worked through what was at the time of the Glendale game, a 4-1 regular season.

"That was the easy part," said Thomson, looking forward to playoffs. "Now comes the hard part."

"We're already at a high," added Salverda. "Might as well go higher."

Having taken a successful first post-season step, the junior Blue Bombers looked forward to a TVRA AA semi-final matchup Nov. 5 against St. Thomas Parkside Stampeders, kicking off at 2:15 p.m. at 1Password Park. Griffiths is certainly not underestimating a quality group of athletic opponents, extremely well-coached, who competed at the Tier I level this season.

But in the sense his underlying goal is building players, program and representing the school well, the fact Griffiths is taking a comparatively young roster, split roughly between Grade 9 and 10 athletes, into a bowl semi-final represents a victory unto itself.

"Can't lose," he agreed with a laugh. "But definitely it's always more fun to win, for sure."

TVRA AA SENIOR FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS	
OCT. 30	
INGERSOLL DCI	3
ST. THOMAS ST. JOE'S	1
JUNIOR AA PLAYOFFS	
OCT. 30	
INGERSOLL DCI	35
EAST ELGIN	14
TVRA SOUTHEAST REGULAR SEASON SENIOR	
OCT. 22	
IDCI	32
GLENDALE GEMINI	32
OCT. 21	
CASS	40
HURON PARK	32
SEASON	
OCT. 22	
IDCI	34
GLENDALE	6



theecho.ca

End of the beginning for TVRA boys' volleyball teams

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

To paraphrase Winston Churchill, it was not the beginning of the end for the Thames Valley Regional Athletics Association (TVRA) fall season.

Rather, the end of the beginning for teams endeavouring to line up pre-playoff seeding with post-season aspirations.

"That was a big test," said Woodstock St. Mary's Warriors junior boys volleyball coach Denys Reid following a 25-16, 25-17, 25-13 sweep of the Woodstock CI Red Devils Oct. 22 at St. Mary's.

The Warriors were arguably buoyed by an energetic gym full of 'buyout' fans supporting both their team and the United In Sport initiative.

"The guys played hard, banded together and fed off the energy," said Reid, calling the effort the team's best of the season.

"Today is a great step," he said. "But we have to keep getting better day after day, game after game if we want to win WOSSAA (Western Ontario Secondary Schools Athletic Association).

"We keep going, push it through," agreed Warrior Christian Da Costa. "Don't stop, keep pushing."

On the other side of the net, WCI coach Pauline Schubert indicated the Red Devils had played an excellent team which exposed some of their weaknesses.

"The loss doesn't shut any doors for us," she said. "We come back next week and play harder."

"It's a tough loss," agreed setter Xavier Molinaro. "But we'll bounce back next practice, next game.

"Hopefully get the win and build on that toward the playoffs."

Tough as losing is, playing quality competition is the route to improving said WCI's Liam Roper.



WCI libero Lex Schubert hits the deck in pursuit of a St. Mary's serve. (JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

"It's a great thing," said Roper. "We love the competition, we love the challenge."

Red Devils Libero Lex Schubert pointed to a bunch of 'silly mistakes', fixable moving forward.

"I think we just have to be better, based on what they're doing, and adjust after a mistake."

"We just need to bounce back," added middle Jack Litchty. "Nothing we can't fix."

The Red Devils did indeed bounce back in their next match, taking a four-set (25-21, 25-19, 25-27, 25-21) win over St. Thomas Parkside, before dropping a regular season-closing 25-20, 25-11, 25-23 decision to the St. Thomas St. Joe's Rams.

The Warriors closed out their regular campaign with a 27-29, 25-18, 25-16, 25-13 win over the Tillsonburg Glendale Gemini, before experiencing their lone loss, a 25-17, 25-20 25-17 setback to the St. Thomas St. Joe's Titans.

The Titans' unblemished 8-0 mark tops final TVRA Southeast standings, followed by St. Mary's at 7-1, WCI at 6-2, Ingersoll DCI Blue Bombers and Glendale tied at 5-3. The Huron Park Huskies were scheduled to host a preliminary round match against Parkside Nov. 3, with Woodstock College Avenue on the road to Lord Dorchester the same day.

IDCI opens TVRA quarter-finals Nov. 5 at Glendale with the Warriors and Red Devils hosting opponents dependent on preliminary round results.

In the senior division, WCI was scheduled to host Glendale and College Avenue Dorchester on Nov. 3, while Huron Park heads on the road to Aylmer East Elgin.

Quarter-finals open Nov. 5 with the 7-1 Warriors and IDCI Blue Bombers, both at 7-1, hosting opponents dependent on preliminary round results. Central Elgin also finished 8-0 at the senior level and will host, while 5-3 Parkside travels to fourth-place 6-2 St. Joe's to round out quarter-final action.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Red Devils setter Xavier Molinaro (centre) and middle Jack Lichty (right) get up in an attempt to block a Warriors shot.

TVRA SOUTHEAST JUNIOR BOYS VOLLEYBALL	
OCT. 29	
IDCI	25, 25, 25
CASS	20, 22, 14
ST. JOE'S	25, 25, 25
WCI	20, 11, 23
HURON PARK	25, 25, 24, 25
EAST ELGIN	15, 16, 26, 18
CENTRAL ELGIN	25, 25, 25
ST. MARY'S	17, 20, 17
OCT. 27	
ST. MARY'S	27, 25, 25, 25
GLENDALE	29, 18, 16, 13
HURON PARK	22, 25, 25, 25
IDCI	25, 19, 20, 23
ST. JOE'S	25, 25, 25
CASS	12, 12, 16
WCI	25, 25, 25, 25
PARKSIDE	21, 19, 27, 21
OCT.22	
ST. MARY'S	25, 25, 25
WCI	16, 17, 13
CASS	25, 25, 17, 24, 15
HURON PARK	21, 10, 25, 26, 11
OCT. 20	
ST. MARY'S	25, 25, 25
CASS	16, 20, 24
WCI	26, 25, 25
EAST ELGIN	24, 19, 17
IDCI	17, 25, 25, 25
ST. JOE'S	25, 11, 18, 18

SENIOR BOYS	
OCT. 29	
INGERSOLL DCI	25, 25, 25
CASS	21, 13, 20
ST. JOE'S	25, 25, 25
WCI	22, 7, 22
EAST ELGIN	22, 25, 25, 16
HURON PARK	25, 17, 16, 27, 14
OCT. 27	
INGERSOLL DCI	25, 25, 25
HURON PARK	15, 13, 22
PARKSIDE	23, 17, 25, 25, 16
WCI	25, 25, 23, 23, 14
ST. JOE'S	25, 25, 25
CASS	19, 19, 12
ST. MARY'S	25, 19, 25, 25
GLENDALE	13, 25, 20, 18
OCT.22	
ST. MARY'S	25, 25, 29, 25
WCI	22, 20, 31, 22
CASS	25, 26, 12, 25
HURON PARK	15, 24, 25, 23
OCT. 20	
ST. MARY'S	25, 25, 25
CASS	12, 22, 22
WCI	25, 23, 25, 25
EAST ELGIN	21, 25, 23, 17
IDCI	25, 25, 25
ST. JOE'S	22, 19, 20

Woodstock Hockey Day a huge success

Hockey fans, families, and community members came together on Oct. 24 for Woodstock Hockey Day at the Reeves Community Complex for a full day of family-friendly fun, community spirit, and hockey celebration. The event welcomed attendees of all ages, with trick-or-treating and costumes encouraged throughout the day.

Highlights of the day included a meet-and-greet with the Woodstock Navy Vets, a penalty box photo booth, henna tattoos and a colouring contest, a balloon artist and giant yard games, and a special appearance by Sparky from the Woodstock Fire Department, along with tours of a fire truck.

Additional excitement was available throughout the complex, including a video game trailer, a dunk tank fundraiser featuring local team coaches, an Oxford Source for Sports merchandise pop-up, used Junior Navy Vets jerseys and Navy Vets apparel for sale, door prizes and more.

The event also focused on giving back as the annual Fill the Net Food Drive was held during the day, with attendees encouraged to bring non-perishable food donations to support local families in need.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Posing with Vets team members were MacKenzie, Kaydence and Kaylee.



Bryce, Isabella, Madalyn, Mila and Andrea had plenty of things to see at the event.

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Khanna tackling home invasions with bills

JEFF HELSDON

Echo Contributor

With two home invasions making the news within a week, Oxford MP Arpan Khanna is calling for all-party support for a bill to tackle the issue.

One of the invasions hit close to home in the north end of Oxford, where two individuals, one of whom was armed with a shotgun, forced their way into a home on 29th Line in Zorra Township, shortly after midnight on Oct. 26. According to police records, a physical altercation ensued between the homeowner and the two suspects that resulted in the shotgun being discharged. One of the suspects was struck and sustained unknown injuries. The suspects fled in a vehicle and are still at large. The homeowner sustained minor injuries.

Although police believe this incident was targeted and assured the public is not at risk, that was not the case in a home invasion in Toronto last Thursday. In that incident, a father and his two daughters were shot, and the mother was struck with a hammer.

"Home invasions are happening across our country at an alarming rate," Khanna said. "Toronto Police released stats yesterday that said there were 119 home invasions in 2026 alone, a 50 per cent increase from last year."

The Oxford MP said the Liberals say crime numbers are down, yet the number of incidents and people's worries say otherwise.

"Canadians don't feel safe in their own homes; that's the one place where everyone should feel safe, that's where your family is, your most precious belongings are," he said, saying that's a dramatic swing from a few years ago when people kept their doors unlocked and garage doors open.

Statistics say home invasions are already up 50 per cent over last year. To address safety concerns, the Conservatives have been exploring ideas in consultation with police forces, premiers, mayors and other stakeholders. Khanna's Jail Not Bail Act, which was voted down on second reading, was one part of what he saw as a solution. While researching that bill, it was found that home invasion is not a standalone offence.

"There is no criminal code offence for home invasions; it results in multiple offences like break and enter, robbery, forcible confinement," Khanna said, adding that when the multiple charges go to court, "it gets pleaded down to one small charge so the actual criminals never get a hard sentence for that."

In partnership with his colleague MP Michael Guglielmen, Vaughan-Woodbridge, the Conservatives tabled the Safe at Home Act two weeks ago. If passed, this legislation would make home invasions a standalone offence with a five-year minimum sentence. It would also strengthen the bail laws for repeat home invaders.

In addition, six months ago, Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre and his team announced the Stand on Guard Law. This legislation would give home occupants more rights when it comes to self-defence.

"It would allow reasonable force to be used to defend your family, to defend your belongings," Khanna said. "As a father, I can tell you if someone broke into my house, I would use any possible means to keep my family safe. It shouldn't be that my rights are trumped by the rights of the criminal."

In the meantime, Khanna said the Liberals are only proposing band-aid solutions and running television ads telling Canadians how safe they are.

"Every single day we are seeing that's absolute nonsense," he said.

Khanna also put in an order paper question asking the government how much was spent on the ads, money he said would be better spent on front-line policing or sent to victim services groups.

"It's the government's number one job to keep Canadians safe, and they are failing at that," he said.

Speaking to the incident in Zorra, he said this reinforces home invasions aren't just a city problem.

"Once they are finished the turf in the city, they are going to look for other easy targets. What we saw a few days ago in Zorra is very concerning for us," he said.

Both bills have passed first reading and should come up for second reading within six months. If passed at that stage, the bill would be referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, which Khanna serves on as the opposition justice critic. Then the bills would need to come back to Parliament for third reading, adding up to a long process.

Khanna is suggesting all-party support could expedite the bills.

"Get it done, Canadians can't wait. Lives are at risk," he said, saying his request isn't without precedent. "When there is support across party lines, those can pass at a very fast rate. We are hoping they will put their partisanship aside and do what's right for Canadians."

Khanna met with Justice Minister Sean Fraser after the Post's press deadline and planned to discuss expediting passage of the legislation.

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Partial evacuation at Woodingford Lodge in Ingersoll after sprinklers triggered



Woodingford Lodge in Ingersoll. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

STAFF

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

Oxford County's long-term care home in Ingersoll evacuated 16 residents this evening following a fire suppression valve failure that activated the home's sprinkler system on Oct. 28. The mishap caused water damage in some areas.

The home was evacuated at approximately 7:20 p.m. by staff and Ingersoll Fire Services. A total of 16 residents were transported by Ingersoll Fire Services and Woodingford staff to the Rural Roads Health Services–Alexandra Hospital site, where they remain in temporary accommodation under the care of Woodingford and hospital staff.

15 of the 16 residents temporarily located at Rural Roads Health Services–Alexandra Hospital returned to their original rooms on Oct. 29, with a remaining resident repatriated to an alternative, temporary location until repairs to their room are complete.

"The investigation continues but Woodingford Lodge can confirm the HVAC and sprinkler/fire system was audited as being in a good state of operation," said Director Mark Dager. "We cannot rule out inadvertent contact with the sprinkler head that could have triggered the suppression valve to emit water in one resident room."

"Woodingford Lodge extends its thanks to Alexandra Hospital and Ingersoll Fire Services for their response and support, to staff for their quick emergency response, and residents for their patience and cooperation," said an Oxford County press release.

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Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What are the two birthstones for November?
2. What is the more common name for the Fibonacci sequence?
3. What is the color of liquid oxygen?
4. What is the largest power plant in Canada?
5. In what year did Korea split?
6. What is a popular 1990's slang for very short cutoff jeans?
7. What is a full moon in November called?
8. What kind of stone is the Taj Mahal made of?
9. What are the small bones that make up a backbone called?
10. What continent is Andorra in?

This week's answers are found on pg. 35

Notice of Public Consultation

on a licence transfer for Caressant Care Courtland located in Courtland, Ontario

The **Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC)** is reviewing a licence request from Caressant-Care Nursing and Retirement Homes Limited for Caressant Care Courtland (the "Home"), a 55-bed long-term care home located at 4850 Hwy #59 in Courtland, Ontario.

The proposal involves:

- The transfer of the Home's licence from Caressant-Care Nursing and Retirement Homes Limited to St. Thomas Long-Term Care Centre Inc. subject to meeting all licensing requirements under the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021* (the Act).
- St. Thomas Long-Term Care Centre Inc. is a newly incorporated subsidiary of Jarlette Health Services.
- The transfer of all 15 long-term care homes licensed to Caressant-Care Nursing and Retirement Homes Limited to subsidiaries of Jarlette Health Services.

In accordance with section 109 of the Act, public opinion is being sought prior to the Director, Capital Lending and Development Strategies Branch, making a final decision related to the proposal. The management of this consultation has been delegated by the Director to an independent third-party, Burson Canada.

If you have comments or opinions and would like to bring them to the attention of the MLTC, you can present them orally at a Zoom public meeting:

On **November 26, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. ET:**

1. By Videoconference: Join online via the following link: **https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83560974746** or;
2. By Phone: Dial-in to the public meeting using the following Zoom dial-in information +1-647-374-4685 or +1-647-558-0588. When prompted, please key in the participant passcode 835 6097 4746#

Submit them in writing on or before **December 18, 2026**, by:

a) an email at LTCHomes.Licensing@bursonglobal.com; or

b) a letter by mail to:

MLTC Long-Term Care Licence Consultations
c/o Burson Canada
45 O'Connor St., Suite 1240
Ottawa, ON K1P 1A4
Project Name: Caressant Care Courtland
Project Number: #26-027

Please include the name of the Home "Caressant Care Courtland" and quote 'Project #26-027' on all written submissions. As part of the MLTC's review, the Director will consider all written submissions before making a final decision relating to the proposal.

Ontario

SWOX voters elect all-male council, with three new councillors

DEBBIE KASMAN

Echo Correspondent

South-West Oxford (SWOX) voters elected three new councillors in the 2026 municipal election, producing an all-male council.

Craig Gillis was acclaimed as mayor, and Paul Buchner was acclaimed as Ward 1 councillor. In the contested races:

- **Incumbent Peter Ypma retained Ward 2, defeating Jennifer Young by 219 votes.**
- **Incumbent George Klosler held Ward 3, defeating Mike West by 130 votes. Klosler had been appointed to the seat in June to replace Councillor Valerie Durston, who passed away in April.**
- **John de Bruyn won Ward 4, defeating Isaiah Friend by 253 votes.**
- **Aaron Lonsberry won Ward 5, defeating Perry Wall by 171 votes.**
- **David Mitchell won Ward 6, defeating Tanya Gillis by 208 votes.**

Mayor David Mayberry announced at the Jan. 6 council meeting that he would not seek re-election. Mayberry first served as a SWOX councillor in 1994, was elected mayor in 2006, and served as Oxford County Warden from 2015 to 2018.

Ward 5 Councillor Jim Pickard also chose not to run again. First elected in 2010 and acclaimed in 2014, 2018 and 2022, he is concluding 16 years on council.

Asked why he ran for mayor, Gillis said, “Why not?” He added that two terms on council had given him a solid understanding of municipal processes and that he was ready for a larger role. “I’ve always enjoyed working with others as a team and hearing about their perspective on things.”

Gillis identified finishing the township’s broadband-Internet project as a priority so service reaches every premise in SWOX. “Not just business needs quality Internet service anymore,” he said. “People working from home, school and education programs, agriculture, and many more need a steady Internet connection in today’s world.”

He cited his work on the Beachville Museum Board as a point of pride, noting that efforts to raise the museum’s profile and increase its use for community events have paid off. “A small museum doing big things is a great mantra they have.”

Looking ahead, Gillis said the main challenges will be managing rising costs for infrastructure, equipment and projects so funds are used efficiently, and navigating shifting provincial policies on development and conservation authorities.

When asked whether he regretted any past council decisions, Gillis said he did not. “I feel I’ve been confident in the choices that I’ve made in the past.”

The township approved new ward boundaries last July; they take effect when the new council is organized on November 17. The changes aim to give each ward a more equal population so residents’ votes carry comparable weight and each councillor represents a similar number of constituents.

Overall voter turnout in SWOX was 27.3 per cent. That figure includes Ward 1, where no election took place. Voter turnout for Wards 2 through 6 was 31.8%.

Oxford County Pride reflects new executive and looks towards the future

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

Oxford County Pride held its first annual general meeting since Tera-Russell Curtis became the new president of the organization during the evening of Oct. 21 at Unifor Local 636 Hall. The committee reflected on the past year of Oxford County Pride with a new executive under the leadership of Russell-Curtis.

"I feel like we had a solid team this year that was able to pull together all of the events that we did. I can't take credit for all of that; it's definitely a team effort,” Russell-Curtis said after the meeting. “We had a great turnout at the AGM and for the first time since I've been on the committee, we have filled every position by the AGM so it's a promising look going into 2027 for us."

The committee elected three new executive members including Marnie Cuthbert as volunteer coordinator. The website and shop coordinator and disability and accessibility ambassador were also elected.

"We added the disability and accessibility ambassador to broaden our representation in Oxford County,” said Russell-Curtis. “We felt like that was a demographic that didn't have great recognition and we wanted to create an opportunity for us to hear from that demographic and be able to organize Pride events around everybody and include everybody."

The meeting also outlined future plans including participating in the Woodstock Santa Claus Parade on Nov. 21 and the annual Ugly Christmas Sweater and Bowling party on Dec. 5 at C&D Lanes.

Pride Family Fun Day will return to Museum Square on June 12, 2027, with a Rocky Horror Show themed after party at the Southgate Centre, in collaboration with Lit Productions.

For the fiscal year between Sept. 1, 2025, and Aug. 31, 2026, the organization received $15,600 in sponsorships, $7,000 in grants and $939.75 in donations. In 2027, Russell-Curtis hopes Oxford County Pride continues to receive sponsorships and donations to continue events and keep them affordable and accessible to all.

"We try to offer free or low cost so it's a great opportunity to get involved in the community and be able to bring people together in a budget that everybody can afford,” she said.

More information about Oxford County Pride and their upcoming events can be found online either via Facebook or Instagram or by visiting https://oxfordpride.ca.







November Wellness: A month of awareness, education and compassion



REBECCA KITCHEN
Echo Contributor

November is a month filled with important health awareness days and initiatives that encourage us to reflect on our physical, mental, and emotional well-being. As Canadians prepare for colder temperatures, shorter days, and the approaching winter season, it's a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our health and the challenges others may be facing.

Here are some of the important health awareness initiatives recognized throughout November, both in Canada and around the world.

All Month – Movember

Movember is a global movement that raises awareness about men's mental health, suicide prevention, prostate cancer, and testicular cancer. It encourages open conversations, regular health check-ups, and breaking down the stigma surrounding men seeking help. If you see some extra mustache wearing men this month, its not just a fashion statement, its also about awareness.

All Month – Osteoporosis Month (Canada)

Osteoporosis affects bone strength and increases the risk of fractures. This month highlights the importance of maintaining bone health through physical activity, strength training, proper nutrition, and understanding individual risk factors.

All Month – Fall Prevention Month (Canada)

Falls are a significant health concern, particularly among older adults. Fall Prevention Month encourages Canadians to focus on balance, mobility, strength, and creating safer environments to help prevent injuries and maintain independence. Balance can come from weakness in muscles, but also from standing up to quickly, not having proper nutrition as well as not having the correct eye glasses or medications needed for your ears, nose and throat.

All Month – Crohn's and Colitis Awareness Month (Canada)

Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are chronic inflammatory bowel diseases that affect many Canadians. These conditions can cause pain, fatigue, and other symptoms that may not be visible to others. Raising awareness helps reduce stigma and encourages greater understanding of those living with chronic illness. This conditions is a full body reaction of inflammation and pain and can be exhausting to your system and an over all real pain in the butt.

November 4 – International Stress Awareness Day

Stress can affect our physical and mental health, contributing to sleep disturbances, muscle tension, headaches, fatigue, and changes in mood. This day encourages us to recognize stress and develop healthy coping strategies, including movement, relaxation, meaningful connections, and adequate rest. Stress is a major aspect in everyday life, some people only see stress as the negative kind, however putting too much on our plate even when we enjoy it can also be stressful on our bodies and minds. Too many activities, sports, days at the gym, late night, more take out than usual can all be good in the moment but stress the body.

November 13 – World Kindness Day

Kindness can have a meaningful impact on emotional well-being and community connections. Whether it's offering a helping hand, checking in on someone, or simply showing patience and understanding, small acts of kindness can make a difference. Remember that being kind to yourself is just as important.

November 14 – World Diabetes Day

World Diabetes Day raises awareness about diabetes, including prevention, early detection, and ongoing management. Millions of people worldwide live with diabetes, including many Canadians. Education helps us better understand the condition and the importance of accessible healthcare and healthy lifestyle habits. Knowing the early signs can help you and those around you identify if you need to have some testing done or change your lifestyle.

November 17 – National Grief and Bereavement Day (Canada)

Grief is a natural response to loss, but everyone's experience is different. It can affect emotional, mental, and physical health. This day reminds us to approach others with empathy and compassion, recognizing that many people carry grief that may not be visible. People who experience chronic/long term grief often feel it in their chest/lungs long term. Holding in such deep emotions can make it harder to take deep breaths and exhale everything that needs to leave your body as well as expanding your diaphragm and rib cage is good to prevent pneumonia and other respiratory conditions.

Seasonal Wellness and Mental Health

As November progresses, Canadians experience fewer daylight hours and colder weather. These seasonal changes can affect energy levels, sleep patterns, motivation, and mood.

For some individuals, this may contribute to Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), a form of depression associated with seasonal changes.

Staying connected with others, getting natural daylight, maintaining regular physical activity, and seeking professional support when needed can help support mental well-being throughout the winter months. Even though the weather isn't as nice, being outdoors is still important for our mental and physical well-being.

Every Day Is an Opportunity to Prioritize Health

While November highlights many important health conditions and awareness initiatives, our health deserves attention every single day of the year, as well as gaining empathy for those around us and their health conditions.

We may not personally experience all of these conditions, but that doesn't mean they aren't important to understand. Taking the time to educate ourselves allows us to become more informed, compassionate and supportive in our community.

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Pro wrestling visits the Friendly City to benefit Sakura House

Independent Pro Wrestling (IPW) delivered an Epic Fight on the Town to a packed house at the Oxford Auditorium on Oct. 24. The evening featured a special attraction appearance by Robb Wells, Ricky from Trailer Park Boys, who served as guest referee and took part in a VIP meet-and-greet.

The card was headlined by national-level talent, including ECW original Tommy Dreamer, former AEW Dark Order member Stu Grayson, former MAPLE LEAF PRO Canadian Women's Champion Gisele Shaw, and former TNA World Champion EC3.

The full IPW roster of champions and challengers were also in action, with titleholders and division standouts featured across the card.

The event was held in support of VON Sakura House, with a portion of every ticket sold donated directly to the local palliative care residence.

Independent Pro Wrestling (IPW) is an Ontario-based independent professional wrestling promotion that has presented family-friendly live events across Southwestern Ontario for over 20 years.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Robb Wells, Ricky from Trailer Park Boys, and Mayor Jerry Acchione traded ringside stories before the matches began.



The match of Jon Jon Tavious, the "Bad Man," vs. Stu Grayson got underway to the cheers and boos from the hyped crowd

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Ingersoll home to unique Halloween event

Halloween enthusiasts and thrill seekers experienced the haunting world of the Melrose Asylum on Oct. 23 in Ingersoll. Attended by Dark Batzy, the immersive attraction transformed the venue into a mysterious asylum-themed experience complete with eerie sights, gothic atmosphere, dramatic décor, spooky storytelling, and haunting visuals that captured the spirit of the Halloween season. The event drew visitors of all ages for an evening of seasonal entertainment and community spirit. Non-perishable food donations were accepted on-site throughout the evening for the local food bank. Guests contributed canned goods, boxed foods, and other non-perishable items, with donations of all sizes collected to help support individuals and families in need throughout the Ingersoll area. "Our goal was to create a fun and unforgettable Halloween experience while giving back to those who may need a helping hand," said organizers. "Community support can make a real difference, and every donation helps." (RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Touring Melrose Asylum were Grayson, Matt, Daisey and Makayla.



Host, Angela, calmly settled in for the evening's event.



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Oxford municipalities unite to defend their right to reject new landfill proposals

LEE GRIFFI

Editor

As the Ontario Government considers changes to provincial legislation for new landfills, Oxford's municipalities are asking for a commitment to maintain existing the "right to approve" for all municipalities.

Oxford County, with its local municipalities, has been working to fulfill Strategic Plan commitments to reducing waste, maximizing resource recovery, and promoting a circular economy.

"We are in agreement. Ontario should continue to explore waste management alternatives and revisit the strategy for a waste-free Ontario," said the statement, signed by all current mayors and mayors-elect.

It added that when it comes to Ontario's Proposed Actions to Address Landfill Capacity, now undergoing public consultation through the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO), all mayors and mayors-elect share a conviction that municipalities must maintain their right to approve future landfills in their communities.

The statement went on to say the message was unequivocally delivered by 150 municipalities in 2018, led by the Town of Ingersoll in Oxford County as part of the We Demand the Right campaign. Bill 197 in 2020 subsequently provided municipalities with the right to approve or deny new landfills within their own communities and if the landfill is sited within 3.5 kilometres of an adjacent municipality.

"We commend Minister Todd McCarthy for his public statement that municipalities will retain the ability to decide whether to accept a landfill in their communities. Maintaining this in legislation will continue to give Ontario's municipal governments and citizens the ability to engage with landfill proponents, and to ensure their needs are respected and addressed," the statement said.

The mayors added this right does nothing to diminish a proponent's ability to develop a fair proposal that fully considers the social, economic and environmental impacts of its operations. Amending section 17.5 of the Environmental Assessment Act, would leave municipalities without leverage or meaningful voice at the table, with little to no opportunity to negotiate the necessary terms to safeguard their communities.

"We are committed to protecting the same rights for municipalities for landfill development as those afforded to other projects that have high local impact, such as nuclear waste storage and renewable energy. This is the only way to achieve the best possible outcome for all involved."

The statement added the issue is too important to Oxford County and all of Ontario for ambiguity: the right to approve must be protected.

"Oxford County municipalities will continue to collaborate with the province on this important issue. We will be working to raise awareness of the impacts of this potential legislative change and encourage the residents of Oxford and beyond to share their thoughts through the ERO process at https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/026-1056."

The provincial government is proposing to amend the Environmental Assessment Act to remove the requirement for municipal support before a proponent can submit a comprehensive environmental assessment for a new large landfill.

Under the existing rules, established through Bill 197 in 2020, a new landfill proponent must obtain support from the municipality in which the landfill would be located and an adjacent municipality if the proposed site is within 3.5 kilometres of lands with authorized residential uses in that municipality.

The province wants to remove that requirement as it is running out of landfill capacity. Only one large new landfill has been approved in the last 20 years and approximately 25 per cent of Ontario's waste is shipped to the United States.

McCarthy has suggested Ontario's landfill capacity could be exhausted within 10 years. He has also warned that U.S. tariffs on Canadian waste could accelerate the problem.

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See You @ the MOVIES

WOODSTOCK ART GALLERY

tiff FILM CIRCUIT

Market Centre Theatre | 4:00 & 7:00 p.m. | $12

November 9 The Choral

December 7 Once Upon a Time in a Cinema

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

Halloween celebrated with family market in Woodstock



Vendor Breanda of As Close As Your Phone dressed in a fine represented Halloween Costume for the evening's event.

The Woodstock Fairgrounds and Agricultural Society was transformed for a spooky celebration on Oct. 30 as Luna Events Canada presented the Wicked Witches Halloween Market: Night of the Vampire. The event served as the final stop on Luna Events Canada's Halloween road trip. The indoor, family-friendly market welcomed visitors of all ages for an evening of Halloween-themed shopping and entertainment. The market featured over 45 vendors, themed treats and refreshments, family activities, and costume contests.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Dylen, Emila, Kurt and Anne stopped by this blood curtailing Halloween display.

Oxford Creates Artisan Market celebrates 20 years of local creativity

MARY-ANNE MURPHY

Echo Contributor

The 20th annual Oxford Creates Artisan Market is soon set to fill the South Gate Centre with colour, craftsmanship and community spirit.

On Saturday, Nov. 14 and Sunday, Nov. 15, the beloved annual event will bring together more than 40 talented artists from across Oxford County, showcasing an impressive variety of fine art and handmade work. Expect to see paintings, pottery, jewellery, drawings, collage, woodworking, fibre arts and more. Local authors will also be there.

To make this anniversary year special, organizers have added live art demonstrations, baking demonstrations and even a local cheese vendor who will be teaching visitors about Charcuterie Board design. Try your hand at cake decorating, learn how pottery is made, watch a weaver weave, or learn how collage is done. “We want people to come in, look around, ask questions and maybe even discover a new passion,” says Mary-Anne Murphy, event organizer and Volunteer Arts Coordinator at South Gate Centre. “You don’t have to be an artist to enjoy art, and you certainly don’t need experience to get started."

The market has become a cherished tradition for both artists and visitors since it began two decades ago. Organizers would love to celebrate this milestone with the community that has supported them along the way.

“Oxford Creates is more than an art show - it’s a celebration of creativity and community,” Murphy said. "Every piece here is made with heart and skill by someone who lives and works right here in our county. When you buy from a local artist, you’re not just purchasing something beautiful; you’re helping to keep our creative community thriving.”

This event is free to attend, making it a perfect weekend outing for families, art lovers, and anyone looking for unique gifts or home decor. Visitors can meet the artists in person, learn about their processes, and take home one-of-a-kind works that reflect the region’s vibrant artistic talent.

The Oxford Creates Artisan Market will be held at South Gate Centre, 191 Old Wellington Street S., Woodstock. Admission and parking are free.

Oxford residents are invited to come out, connect with local artists, and experience the best of Oxford County’s creative spirit - all under one roof.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The 20th annual Oxford Creates Artisan Market is set for Nov. 14 and Nov. 15 at Woodstock’s South Gate Centre, where a variety of art and other handmade creations will be up for sale.

The event takes place on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 15, from noon to 4 p.m.

Visit us online at theecho.ca

Grenada's ever-changing Underwater Sculpture Park



PAUL KNOWLES

Echo Contributor

There is a conundrum that faces travel journalists: should we constantly visit new destinations, or is it okay to return to those we love? Well, obviously, it's ideal when we – and therefore, our readers – discover somewhere new. And that's usually the goal, and I usually manage to accomplish it.

But there are some places so special that they almost demand our revisited attention. And the Underwater Sculpture Park at the Caribbean island of Grenada is one of those.

I first experienced the sculpture park in 2023. I had the great good fortune to be on the spot as many new sculptures were added to the attraction. And I was able to spend a lot of time with the primary sculptor who has produced the amazing works – Jason deCaires Taylor.

So when I got the invitation to return to Grenada, and pay another visit to the underwater attraction, I was delighted.

Here's the back story. Taylor, a very talented artist, is also an experienced scuba diver. He came to Grenada in 2004, planning to open a dive shop. That didn't happen.

But something much more significant did take place. He became aware of a bay on Grenada's west coast where all the underwater life had been decimated by a hurricane. To the artist in Taylor, this was an easel begging to be filled.

So he did. In 2006, the first sculptures were lowered into the bay. Life-sized or larger, they were intended to attract the attention of divers – including, of course, tourists – and also, to serve as artificial reefs that might encourage the regrowth and return of coral and other marine life.

The project grew – both expanding, and successfully fostering oceanic growth – eventually including over 40 sculptures by a number of different artists.

Then came 2023, when the "park" nearly doubled in size, with 31 sculptures added – again, most by Taylor – to bring the total to 75. The new sculptures included "Coral Carnival" – many large statues representing figures from Grenada's folk culture. The entire installation has been named one of the 25 wonders of the world, by National Geographic. And I was blessed to be on hand as the works were lowered into the sea, and then to be able to don my snorkel, and swim among them.

Taylor never sees his works as finished products. He loves the fact that as they remain in their aquatic setting, they inevitably change. Some of the changes to the earlier works involved the erosion of some features, but Taylor and his artistic colleagues have constantly improved their materials – always aware of causing no environmental damage – so today, the changes involve natural additions. Coral and sea plants grow on the sculptures, changing their appearance in often dramatic ways.

And I got to see this, up close and personal, on my return visit this year. I don't dive, but I do love to snorkel, and the works in the Underwater Sculpture Park are in water sufficiently shallow that snorkelers can get a very good look at each one without diving. Taylor says the sculptures are all at depths of no more than 8 meters.

During this 2026 trip, I and a few travel journalist colleagues went out on a tour with folks from Eco Dive, a dive shop deeply committed to environment protection and education.



(PURE GRENADA PHOTO)

Vicissitudes by Jason deCaires Taylor is one of the early works in the Underwater Sculpture Garden, clearly visible to snorkelers as well as divers.

Led by a well-informed guide, we snorkeled around the Molinere Beauséjour Marine Protected Area (the official name of the bay) to see every one of the 75 works.

And yes, time and salt water have certainly collaborated with the original artists to bring continual change to the sculptures. The most exciting changes reflect the success this project has had in turning static pieces of art into living, artificial reefs. In my opinion, the pieces are continually becoming more beautiful, more interesting, and more compelling.

Taylor was also asked to create and place an underwater sculpture off the shore of another island – Carriacou – which is officially part of Grenada. Carriacou was slammed by Hurricane Beryl in 2024, but is well on the eay to recovery, and a visit – by small plane or ferry – can be a fascinating part of your visit to Grenada.

From time to time, I get asked for my opinion about travel destinations. Especially now, when many Canadians are avoiding travel to the U.S., people wonder about warm weather holidays including in the Caribbean.

I have not visited every Caribbean island. But having sampled quite a few, I can easily say that my favourites are the Windward Islands – those in the eastern Caribbean, including Dominica, Barbados, Grenada and their neighbours.

They are all great spots for a cold weather getaway. But Grenada is undoubtedly special, for a number of reasons – warm hospitality, superb beaches (especially Grand Anse), terrific food, unique culture, fascinating history (where else will you find a child's playground sharing a park with the hulks of abandoned Russian war planes?).

But first on my list of great Grenadian treasures is the ever-changing Underwater Sculpture Park. Grab your snorkel and go!

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



(JASON DECAIRES TAYLOR PHOTO)

The author was an on-the-spot spectator for the installation of 31 new sculptures in 2023.



(JASON DECAIRES TAYLOR PHOTO)

Coral and other sea life constantly changes the appearance of the sculptures, as the installation succeeds as an artificial reef.

WCI RedPlayers say 'I do, I do, I do' to Mamma Mia!

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

Mamma Mia, here WCI RedPlayers Musical Theatre goes again.

Knowing themselves, knowing their audience, the company is taking not much of a chance on the community saying I do, I do, I do, to a 'Swede' ABBA-inspired production, a winner that takes it all, rather than meeting its Waterloo.

"It's catchy, it's fun and it's got heart," said Simone St. Amand, one of two actors playing the female lead, Sophie Sheridan, in alternate performances.

"You'll want to get up and dance," added RedPlayer Kaleb Parolin, who is taking on the role of Sam Carmichael, one of Sophie's three potential biological fathers. "I hope that comes across to the audience and they're not just vibing in their seats."

Set on a Greek island, Mamma Mia! tells the story of a bride who invites three men from her mother's past to her wedding, with the hope of identifying her birth father. Drama, hilarity, self-discovery, multiple ABBA songs and dance routines ensue, with a happy ending as dependable as an evening of energetic entertainment.

Mamma Mia! opens Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. inside the renovated Woodstock Collegiate Institute Auditorium, kicking off a four-evening run extending through Saturday, Dec. 12. A 1 p.m. Saturday afternoon matinee has been added.

Advance tickets are $30 each through www.onstagedirect.com, choosing the Woodstock tab under Choose City at the top right portion of the website. If still available, tickets can also be purchased at the door for $35. Proceeds support WCI's arts programming including costumes, sets, lighting and performance rights.

Mamma Mia! is directed by David DeJonge, Adriano A. Burgo is musical director, Christina Cannella choreographer, Mckinnley Robinson stage manager, Deb Erb in charge of set design while Scott MacIntosh heads up lighting. The cast is 50-plus students strong, supported by a 30-member technical crew and roughly 40 volunteers. Auditions were held in March, cast lists finalized in the spring and rehearsals began during the first week of school, formalizing pre-emptive summer work.

St. Amand came to the stage from origins in dance, falling in love immediately with theatre's storytelling and other aspects. She always enjoyed going to see theatre, seizing the opportunity for more active participation in high school at WCI. St. Amand approaches Sophie as a complex character, well supported through a 'pretty good life' while being raised by a single mother. Sophie is by nature an optimist says St. Amand, although challenged by an all-consuming search for her biological father's identity as her nuptials approach.

"She goes through a lot and has a change of heart," said St. Amand, who is trying to have a lot of fun with her.

Sam (played by Pierce Brosnan in the Mamma Mia! movie) finds the wedding's setting and personnel, Sophie's mother Donna in particular, a driver for reflection on the happiest point in his life.

"Trying to relive that moment in time since he's back on the island," said Parolin.

"And find it again," St. Amand interjected.

The ABBA tunes have been a bit of a departure for Parolin, whose musical tastes range from being Ahead by a Century (The Hip), to musicals, Into The Woods at the moment, to being behind by a couple of centuries - classical opera, Handel in particular.

"Any Handel, I'm on a Handel kick," smiled Parolin, who began voice training 10 years ago, the last eight of which have focussed on opera.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

The WCI RedPlayers are presenting Mamma Mia! the musical, from Dec. 9 through 12 inside the school's auditorium. From left to right, are Director David DeJonge, Kaleb Parolin, who plays Sam Carmichael, and Simone St. Amand, who will be playing the female lead Sophie in alternate performances.

ABBA has proven a whole new beast, considerably less swords, death and mayhem, considerably more bell bottoms, platform heels and sparkly jumpsuits, requiring vocal ranges well outside his established comfort zone.

"But it's been a really fun chance to explore different styles and sounds in my voice."

The music has proven something of a wormhole for both, emblematic of a fun and friendly experience awaiting theatregoers, along with believes Parolin, quality young actors combined with great choreography.

"I think there's something in the show for everybody," said St. Amand.

"People are going to walk out entertained," Parolin predicted.

"With some ABBA stuck in their heads," St. Amand concluded with a smile.

info@theecho.ca

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ESCAPE ROOM
Fridays and Saturdays
Nov. 6 – Dec. 19



1 hour time slots 4 – 9 p.m.
$20 per person
4 – 6 people
Ages 14+
woodstockmuseum.ca

WOODSTOCK MUSEUM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

COMING EVENTS

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 7 | 10 AM - 2 PM
FRIENDS OF THE WOODSTOCK PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK SALE
Woodstock Public Library
Email: fotwpl@gmail.com, **Website:** https://www.facebook.com/share/19atYxUuvB/

NOVEMBER 7 | 10 AM - 2 PM
KNOX YULETIDE MARKET & LUNCH
Knox Presbyterian Church, 59 Riddell St., Woodstock, ON
Baking, Preserves, Frozen Food, Sewing, Knitting, Quilts, and more. Call 519-537-2962 for details

NOVEMBER 10 | 7 PM
MAJOR GENERAL BROCK AND CHIEF TECUMSEH ON FRIENDSHIP IN THE WAR OF 1812
Beachville District Museum
The Beachville District Historical Society welcomes Bob Rennie as Major General Brock. Join us at the Beachville District Museum for an evening of history with lunch to follow. All are welcome.

NOVEMBER 10 & 24 | 1 PM
SACRED HEART PARISH EUCHRE
Henderson Hall, 133 John Street Ingersoll
We invite everyone to join us for a Euchre afternoon. Refreshments provided.

NOVEMBER 11 | 10:30 - 11:30 AM
REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE
Innerkip Cemetery Cenotaph
Lawn chairs welcome. Refreshments to follow at Innerkip Lion's Centre

NOVEMBER 14 | DOORS OPEN 10 AM, DRAWS AT 2 PM
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
Holy Trinity Church, 1420 Devonshire Ave, Woodstock
Penny Sale, Raffle, Baking, Crafts, Silent Auction, Yesterday's Treasures, Religious Goods and our Christmas Cafe.

NOVEMBER 14 | 12:30 PM
AUTHENTIC VICTORIAN TEA & MUSICALE
Fellowship Hall, 184 Oxford St, Ingersoll
Early Bird tickets: $50 https://sycamore-centre.raiselysite.com/ OR at ThriftCo, 50 Thames St.S. Gents & Ladies come assist Sycamore Centre drop-in space & the new transitional house Sycamore Home. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=sycamore%20centre. Tasty edibles; refined entertainment; borrow costumes; photo-booth; prizes; purchases; Fun! Ph519 990 1240 Emailpeacetpau@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 15 | 2 - 4 PM
DAN DOUCETTE, NIAGARA FALLS, ON; HIDDEN GEMS OF WEST AFRICA
Richards Memorial Church, 360 Edgeworth Avenue, London, ON
The London Orchid Society meets the third Sunday of each month. Join us for Dan Doucette from Niagara, ON. His presentation is on the Hidden Gems of West Africa, Wildlife, History and Landscapes of Sierra Leone and Mauritania. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting for more information at www.londonorchidsociety.com; contact Daryl at 519-666-2927.

NOVEMBER 16 | 7 PM
OXFORD COUNTY BRANCH – ONTARIO ANCESTORS PRESENTS "SNAKE OIL AND LEECHES ... WHAT DID YOUR ANCESTORS DIE OF?" BY COLLEEN MAGUIRE
Online Zoom presentation
Often, during her genealogical research Colleen would come across an unusual cause of death and wonder about it. Integrating her love of history, genealogy and medicine prompted her to be curious about what ailed our ancestors who didn't have the benefits of today's modern medicine. Eventually this led to an "encyclopedia" of sorts containing odd and antiquated medical terms. Colleen will be sharing some of her discoveries. This is a virtual meeting and everyone is welcome. Visit our webpage (https://oxford.ogs.on.ca) to register and you will be sent a link to join the meeting.

NOVEMBER 18 | 1 - 5 PM
MERRY MOO-Y CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & CAFE
Dundas St. United Church, Woodstock
Admission $2 which includes refreshments. Come visit our many booths (deli, sweet shop, knitting and sewing, bows and boughs, cheese balls) and silent auction.

NOVEMBER 14 | 10 AM - 2 PM
VICTORIA'S QUILTS CANADA, WOODSTOCK/ OXFORD CHAPTER ONLINE QUILT AND CRAFT AUCTION PREVIEW
330 Lakeview Dr Woodstock
Raising funds to make quilts for cancer patients. We are a Canadian charity that makes and gives quilts to cancer patients. This year the auction is **November 18-22** and we are having a preview of the over 80 items that we have for auction. The website for the auction is www.32auctions.com/VQC2026

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.

NOVEMBER 25 | 7 PM
OXFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY FLIGHT LIEUTENANT OLIVER BROCK ROBERTSON, DFC
Chartwell Oxford Gardens 433 Devonshire Ave. (Main Entrance)
Born in Innerkip and raised in Norwich, Flt. Lt. Robertson and his crew flew 28 missions as part of the 97th Squadron ("The Pathfinders") of RAF Bomber Command in WW2. Come join Bob Van Wyk as he recounts the history of O.B. Robertson, his brave crew and their heroic missions in honour of their memories and service on Remembrance Day and everyday. Free Event, No Registration, Parking, Donations Welcome! www.oxfordhistoricalsociety.ca or email us at info@oxhs.ca

NOVEMBER 27 | 7 - 9 PM
NOVEMBER 28 | 9 AM - 2 PM
WHIMSICAL WINTER MARKET AT SOUTH GATE CENTRE
191 Old Wellington St S, Woodstock, ON
VENDORS ~ HOLIDAY BAKING ~ SANTA'S SECRET SECONDS ~ NANA'S BOUTIQUE ~ HOLIDAY GREENERY AND POINTSETTIAS ~ SILENT AUCTION ~ WOODSHOP TREASURES. FREE ADMISSION

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 5 | 1 - 4 PM
CEDARVIEW RETIREMENT HOME ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
511 Finkle Street, Woodstock
Free Event.

DECEMBER 12 | 9 AM - 1 PM
CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE HOMEMADE HOLIDAY TREATS
St. James' Anglican Church: 130 Thames St. S., Ingersoll
Proceeds supporting several local charities.

DECEMBER 13 | 2 PM
ENJOY DICKEN'S "A CHRISTMAS CAROL"
Old St Paul's Church, 723 Dundas St. Woodstock.
That classic tale of villainy and redemption, as read by Stephen Bourne with musical arrangements by Stephanie Tulloch and James Turner. Adults are only $20.00 and kids under 12 are free.

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

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 (Virutal/ hyrbid 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

COMING EVENTS

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

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 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!

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

SATURDAYS | 1 - 4 PM
THAMES VALLEY BLUEGRASS AND OLD TIME COUNTRY PICKERS
Open Mic (acoustic only). Come enjoy the music!

NOVEMBER 10 | 4:30 - 6 PM
OX ON THE RUN MOBILE LIBRARY

NOVEMBER 13 | 5:30 PM
GARLIC CHICKEN PARMESAN DINNER
To order call 519-423-6363 or rcl495.suppers@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 14 | DOORS OPEN 7 PM SHOW STARTS 8 PM
MUDMEN
$30 tickets 519-423-6363. www.ticketscene.ca and at door.

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

MONDAYS
CADETS

TUES, WED, THU & FRI
DART NIGHT
No darts no November 27th. Private Function. Canteen is open till 5pm

THURSDAYS | 1:30 PM
SHUFFLEBOARD

SATURDAYS | 7 - 11 PM
EVENING ENTERTAINMENT:
NOVEMBER 7TH - PIRANO BROS
NOVEMBER 14TH - LOOSE CHANGE
NOVEMBER 21ST - FLASHBACK
NOVEMBER 28TH - RANDY THOMAS

UNTIL NOVEMBER 10
ANNUAL POPPY CAMPAIGN

NOVEMBER 1
ARMISTICE DINNER

NOVEMBER 3 | 7 PM
EXECUTIVE MEETING

NOVEMBER 5 | 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM
SOUP N SANDWICH

NOVEMBER 10 | 7:30 PM
GENERAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 11
REMEMBRANCE DAY
Come back to the Legion after the Cenotaph for chili.

NOVEMBER 29 | 5 - 6 PM
FAMILY DINNER
Roast Beef plus dessert for more details contact the branch 519-537-3112 or email rclbranch55@rogers.com.

DECEMBER 6 | 9 - 11:30 AM
ANNUAL SANTA BREAKFAST
With the Grinch and Santa

104.7 HEART FM LIVE ON LOCATION

WOODSTOCK

BLACK FRIDAY starts with

RED THURSDAY

HOT DEAL

Thursday November 26

In Store 7 AM to 9 PM

465 NORWICH AVE - SMARTCENTRES PLAZA

Riddles

What has branches, but no fruit, trunk or leaves?

A bank.

What thrives when you feed it but dies when you water it?

A fire.

What do you buy to eat but never consume?

Cutlery.

Two fathers and two sons are in a car, yet there are only three people in the car. How?

They are grandfather, father, and son.

A bus driver goes the wrong way down a one-way street. He passes the cops, but they don't stop him. Why?

He was walking.

Where is the only place where today comes before yesterday?

The dictionary.

What can you put in a bucket to make it weigh less?

A hole.

Sudoku

by PeterS 2026

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

Solution found on page 35

Featured Pet



DAISY

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

Word Search

OCTOBER NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

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

FLYDUBAI ATTACK
ROLLER COASTERS
ALBERTA VOTE
FRENCH RIOTS
BC ELECTION
MESSI RETIRES
STARLINK
RUSSIAN ASSET
CFB WAINWRIGHT
MILWAUKEE BREWERS

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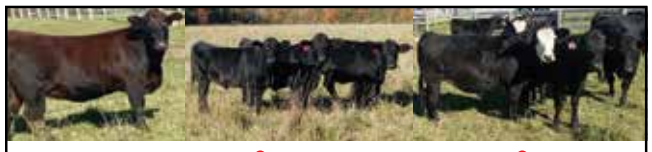
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COW AUCTION



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. Topaz and Citrine
2. The Golden Ratio
3. Blue
4. Bruce Nuclear Generating Station
5. 1945
6. Daisy dukes
7. The Beaver Moon
8. Marble
9. Vertebrae
10. Europe

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

LOCAL MATTERS.



Remember that time when **Amazon** sponsored your church fundraiser?



Remember when **Facebook** bought a case of Girl Guide cookies to support your daughter?



Remember when **Google** provided free pizza to your child's soccer team when they won the championship?

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185,043 km
$29,998



2021 HONDA CR-V SPORT AWD
70,513 km
$29,998



2022 CHEVROLET SILVERADO K1500
146,997 km
$25,998



2018 HONDA ACCORD SDN SPORT
99,843 km
$19,998



2025 MAZDA MAZDA3 GT
51,750 km
$27,998



2024 NISSAN ROGUE S AWD
40,426 km
$24,998



23 KIA SPORTAGE LX
78,896 km
$24,998



2020 KIA FORTE EX
73,265 km
$15,998



2018 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN C
112,934 km
$16,998



2025 HYUNDAI SONATA PREFERRED
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$30,998



2017 HYUNDAI SANTA FE SPORT
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