

Tillsonburg POST

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Veteran-themed bench unveiled at Station Arts Centre

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

A colourful year-round reminder of the sacrifices made by Canadian veterans was unveiled outside the Station Arts Centre on Thursday morning.

More than a dozen Legion members, Station Arts Centre members, and Mayor Deb Gilvesy gathered in front of the Bridge Street facility to unveil a newly-painted bench with a poppy theme.

"The Station Arts Centre is always trying to expand on who we can partner with and how we can show support for the community, especially with those who made a difference in the community," said Station Arts Centre CEO Tabitha Verbuyst.

She noted the old benches outside the Station Arts Centre and was looking for ideas to bring new life to them. Verbuyst proposed the concept of the poppy design to her board and then reached out to the Legion with a proposed design. The Legion agreed and put \$100 towards the cost of the paint.

The bench dates back to when passengers used the Great Western Railway station, and it was used by those waiting for trains in the waiting room. It had some decay, and volunteer John Lamont started by rebuilding it. Verbuyst painted it personally.

"I wanted it to be artistic, beautiful, and pay tribute to our veterans," she said.

The bench's permanent location will be in front of the Lake Erie and Pacific (CP) station.

"We thought that would be suiting since the (Remembrance Day) walk starts there and people driving by will still see it," Verbuyst said.



POPPY BENCH

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

A bench with a poppy design was unveiled Thursday in front of the Station Arts Centre. Taking part in the unveiling were, left to right: Tabitha Verbuyst, Station Arts Centre CEO and the artist who painted the bench; Rev. Paul Robinson, Legion padre; Louise Richel, vet and Legion member; Mayor Deb Gilvesy; Mike Pritchard, Legion service officer; Darrell Ball, Air Cadet liaison officer; and Sarah Senior, chair of the Station Arts Centre board of directors.

Tillsonburg Hydro and EARTH Power exploring collaboration

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Tillsonburg Hydro and EARTH Power are exploring a collaboration that will strengthen the local utility and meet the community's future needs.

The Town of Tillsonburg is the sole shareholder and owner of Tillsonburg Hydro Inc. EARTH Power started with the former Erie Thames Powerlines in 2000, which saw the utilities

for Ingersoll, Thamesford, Otterville, Norwich, Tavistock, Aylmer, Belmont, and Embro amalgamate. The name was changed to EARTH Power, and Clinton, Mitchell, Dublin, and Goderich joined in.

It was stressed that no decision has been made yet, and two public input sessions have been scheduled. The first is Sept. 29 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Lion's Den in the Tillsonburg Community Centre, and the second is the same hours on Oct. 6 at the Tillsonburg Town Centre.

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Tillsonburg Hydro and EARTH Power exploring collaboration

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Several factors have driven the proposed collaboration, but one of the main drivers is the need to expand Tillsonburg’s electrical capacity and the cost of such an expansion. Tillsonburg currently has only 10 megawatts of capacity available, and two industries under construction will require four megawatts, leaving only six megawatts remaining.

Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy said the need to expand is imminent, as another new industry could cut into the remaining six megawatts.

A press release announcing the potential merger explained the cost of such an expansion would be at least \$29 million. With 8,600 customers, Tillsonburg Hydro would have to double at least the fixed distribution portion of the monthly utility bills to cover the costs.

Other factors playing into the issue are:

- **Capability** - As the energy sector evolves, there is an increasing demand for specialized expertise in engineering, regulatory compliance, and senior leadership.
- **Connectivity** - Utilities must modernize outdated systems to ensure reliability, enable automation, and protect against cybersecurity threats—all of which requires ongoing investment and technical expertise.
- **Compliance** - Smaller utilities are held to the same regulatory standards as larger utilities, yet often lack the resources and capacity to meet these obligations efficiently.
- **Consolidation** - Recent history has demonstrated that proactive consolidation among like-minded local utilities can result in improved service delivery, increased operational efficiency, and long-term benefits for customers, communities, shareholders, and employees.

"The community’s need for increased hydro capacity has been building for more than a decade," says Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy. "With Tillsonburg’s rate of industrial growth, our system has reached a critical juncture. Key decisions must be made to secure the future and ensure that rates remain fair and sustainable."

A potential collaboration would involve Tillsonburg exchanging the infrastructure owned by Tillsonburg Hydro for EARTH shares. This would make it the second largest of 10 shareholders in EARTH. Gilvesy said that current employees would be guaranteed jobs and would retain the same union and pension plan. Rates charged in Tillsonburg would not change if the merger took place, although there will still be inflationary increases.

"Through all the estimations and calculations we ran, the rate would be sustainable in the future and similar to what we have today," Gilvesy said.



Continuation of a partnership

ERTH is not a new partner to Tillsonburg Hydro.

After a small stint several years ago, the company replaced the general manager in spring 2023. EARTH is also contracted to replace the streetlights. Gilvesy said one of the concerns was a guarantee that EARTH would provide in-kind work like hanging up Christmas lights and the veteran’s banners, which has been secured. The two utilities also collaborated on storm response, delivering conservation initiatives, and participated jointly in community events.

"I don’t think from a consumer standpoint, they would notice a difference."

The potential of a merger started with the Cost of Service Rate Application that all local distribution companies are required to file every five years with the Ontario Energy Board. Tillsonburg CAO Kyle Pratt explained companies are "required to demonstrate that they have considered collaboration and consolidation opportunities as part of their strategic planning, in order to improve efficiency, reduce duplication and enhance customer value."

"ERTH and THI have worked closely through the past several years and this has been a natural next step to be considered in order to deal with the challenges facing utilities to further enhance efficiency and enhance customer value," he said.

The application itself is a complicated process, Pratt explained, requiring Tillsonburg Hydro to retain out-

side expertise. EARTH, on the other hand, has this expertise in-house.

Benefits

If approved, the partnership would provide Tillsonburg hydro ratepayers with:

- **Economies of Scale**
Sharing administrative, regulatory, and capital costs across a larger customer base will help stabilize rates and improve cost-efficiency.
- **Enhanced Financial Stability**
Financial flexibility and diversified revenue streams will support long-term stability and profitability while helping to protect against significant rate increases.
- **Expanded Expertise and Capacity**

A larger, locally owned utility will have access to a broader pool of skilled professionals and expertise, enabling infrastructure modernization, efficient emergency response, and opportunities for employee growth.

- **Empowered Communities**

Local oversight will remain a top priority, with continued reinvestment in our communities and decisions that reflect local values and customer needs.

"Hydro board and council did not make this decision lightly - to borrow \$25 would affect the town’s borrowing capacity. We value the town’s feedback and that’s why we are seeking public input," Gilvesy said.

Besides the public engagement sessions, input can also be provided at tilssonburg.ca/strongertogether

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EDITORIAL

Be informed about potential Tillsonburg Hydro merger

The decision before Tillsonburg council on the future of Tillsonburg Hydro Inc. is one of the most important in recent history.

In brief, Tillsonburg needs more power, with only six megawatts available. That expansion could have a bill of up to \$29 million. Spread across the utility's 8,000 ratepayers, the upgrade cost is massive. Divided equally, it would equate to more than \$3,600 per customer. Of course, that cost would be spread over several years, however, this calculation doesn't take into account any ongoing expenses.

Examining the history of local distribution companies in Ontario is crucial for understanding how Tillsonburg Hydro found itself in this situation. The Electricity Act, 1998 changed the face of utilities across the province. Before the passing of this legislation, the province's utilities were run as commissions. Long-time residents may remember the Tillsonburg Public Utilities Commission as an example. As commissions, municipalities didn't have the ability to sell their utilities. The Electricity Act, 1998, changed that.

Prior to 1998, there were more than 300 utilities in the province. That has been whittled down to 59 through mergers and sales to Hydro One.

Using local examples, Hydro One purchased Norfolk and Woodstock within the last 10 years. With the sale of a local distribution company, the local council loses all control. In the case of Norfolk, after the five-year moratorium on rate increases, an application was made for a large increase in the cost of power, but was not granted by the Ontario Energy Board. Still, it's indicative of what can happen.

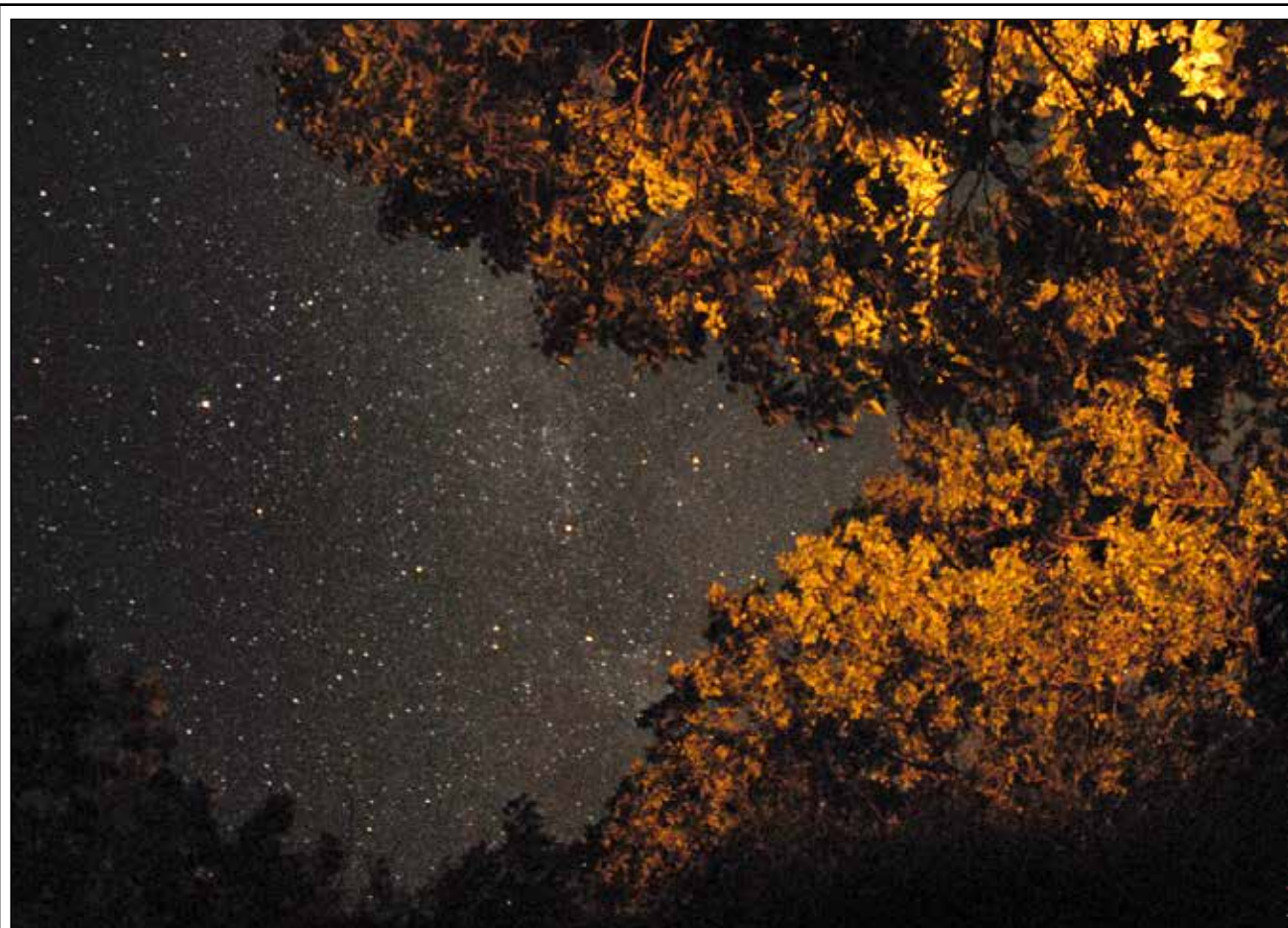
In contrast, a merger means that the Town of Tillsonburg remains a shareholder and retains a voice in the company's operation. In the case of the proposed ERTM merger, Tillsonburg would be the second largest of 10 shareholders in the company. Only Ingersoll is larger due to its industrial base.

Town residents are being allowed the opportunity to provide input through two public sessions and the avail-

ability of online comments. This is the time to ask questions about rate increases and the impacts on the average ratepayer, not online through forums on Facebook and other social media.

The overall question is if this is right for the ratepayers of Tillsonburg Hydro Inc. Tillsonburg Hydro isn't the

smallest of the remaining distribution companies in the province. Still, it is in the bottom quarter when judged on the number of customers. The writing is likely on the wall for a change, so it's up to town residents to make their voices heard and ensure this is done correctly since there is only one shot at it.



Starry night.

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The spark that lit the way for one boy who paid it forward



**EVERYONE
HAS A
STORY
TO TELL**

ROBIN KRAFFT

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

You may have met Tom McLarty at the Lions Club Monday night bingo or had him wrap your Christmas gifts at the mall at the Eastern Star table.

He and his wife Donna, who he lost two years ago, were active in numerous community groups. They were also regulars at the Queen's Cafe. Tom is now a member at the Tillsonburg Senior Centre, where he graciously shared his story with me.

In the midst of Big Brothers Big Sisters month, and Oxford County's Spark Campaign, it's the perfect example of a spark story: how a mentor can help a child reach their potential and have a profound impact on their lives.

Tom grew up in the west end of Toronto and he didn't have the easiest start in life. There was alcoholism and abuse in his home. His father moved out when he was seven years old, leaving trauma and emotional scars be-

hind. By the time he was eleven, Tom was getting into trouble and going down the wrong path. His Scout leader suggested a Big Brother. Tom recalls interviewing four or five times, and in 1962 he was paired up with Wilf.

Wilf was an only child, 12 years older than Tom, and lived in the east end of Toronto, in an upper middle-class neighborhood. Wilf's father was an accountant and his mother was English, "a real British ladies' lady," McLarty said, smiling. Wilf was into music, and played guitar, organ and piano.

"The whole family made such a difference in my life," McLarty said. They had a cottage in Fenelon Falls and they often invited Tom to go along with them. In time, he began to refer to them as mom and dad. "Dad taught me how to fly fish," McLarty said, "and he taught me a lot about life. He gave me the opportunity to see that there are options in life, responsibilities in life, and repercussions to anything that you do."

Tom's new trajectory and values led him to a like-minded partner, and mom and dad were there for their wedding. When Tom and Donna's daughter was born, mom was moved to tears when she discovered that they had named their daughter after her.

"You become a family," McLarty said, "it wasn't just a one day a week commitment for them, it was long-term. He's still my big brother. This is why I've always supported Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Wilf comes to all the important events, and our kids call him Uncle Wilf."

He and Donna had both grown up in Toronto, but they agreed that they wanted a small-town upbringing for their children. They lived in Bolton for 29 years. Tom worked for Kodak from 1967 to 2003 as an electrician and then as an electrical technician, but he was also a volunteer ambulance attendant for 23 years. Wanting to contribute even more to their communities, they were active in their church, the Lions and Lioness Club, the Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star, and the Women's Institute.

Tom eventually became a district governor with the Lions Club. The couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Boston International Lions Convention, with over 4,000 Lions from around the world, Tom in a snazzy white tuxedo and Donna in a shimmering golden gown. It's a treasured memory.

"The clubs are a family," McLarty said. The couple were deeply involved with the Lion's Camp Dorset, a retreat for dialysis patients and their families, fully equipped with 15 dialysis machines and team of nurses. After she passed, they unveiled a special sign, with Tom standing by; they had named a road at Camp Dorset after her.

"Dad was the inspiration," McLarty said, "we did a lot of talking while we were fly fishing, looking at options in life and what is important. Family is number one, but as a young kid he had me thinking about what I could do constructively and where I wanted to go in life."

The spark that was ignited long ago became a bright light.

Two local veterans recognized by Oxford MPP

FRANK MOORE
Post Contributor

On Friday, Sept. 5, Arpan Khanna, Member of Parliament for Oxford, was joined by members of Tillsonburg Legion Branch 153 as he presented specially designed Oxford County/House of Commons "Challenge Coins" and certificates of recognition to WW2 veterans Tom Boneham and Leighton Ronson.

At 102, Tom is an original member of the elite ultra-secret "30 Assault (Commando) Unit" established by Ian Fleming, who authored the James Bond books. Their task was to capture Hitler's enigma coding machine.

Leighton, who turns 100 this December, served with distinction as a signalman with the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals both in the UK and in Northwest Europe.

As their certificates say, they leave "an enduring legacy of honour and resilience that will inspire generations (and) for which the people of Oxford County are deeply grateful."

Tom's coin and certificate – along with a Canadian flag – were presented at the Tillsonburg Hospital where he is currently a patient. The presentation to Leighton was made at the Tillsonburg Retirement Centre where he and his wife, Zana, now live.

Tom and Leighton are both recognized on the Legion's Veteran Banner program for this coming year.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)
Surrounding Tom Boneham, centre, when he was presented with a challenge coin and certificate of recognition, are from left to right are MP Arpan Khanna, Frank Moore, Pastor Paul Robinson, Darrell Ball and Christine Grim.

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(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)
Tillsonburg resident and former Legion president Leighton Ronson was recognized by Oxford MP Arpan Khanna, recently. Left to right: Frank Moore, Darrell Ball, Khanna, Zana Ronson, Pastor Paul Robinson and Leighton Ronson

Tillsonburg POST

Guiding Principles

1. Everyone has a story

2. The news should be free for all to enjoy

3. Good news beats bad news

4. A Newspaper should be a community effort (contribute to your local paper!)

5. Newspapers document history

6. Newspapers strengthen communities

7. Advertisers, big or small, should profit from their ads (meaning sensible ad rates)

8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

BIA boundary expansion referred back to its board

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A proposal to expand the boundaries of the Tillsonburg BIA has been referred back to the BIA Board of Management and the town's Economic Development Committee for comment.

Council received a report from acting clerk Amelia Jaggard at its Sept. 8 meeting that answered questions raised after she presented her original report on Aug. 11. In this case, the 55 objections received by commercial and industrial property owners in both the present and proposed BIA district were below the threshold of 66 needed, meaning the one-third threshold wasn't reached and the expansion could proceed. It should be noted the threshold was crossed in the proposed expansion area.

The BIA boundaries are currently confined to the downtown core. The proposed expansion would stretch from the middle of Concession Street on the north, along the Stoney Creek gully on the west to Otter Creek, across to Young Street on the south, and then up Vienna Road, crossing the Otter and towards Maple Lane.

Commercial properties within the BIA area pay a BIA levy that funds the operation of the BIA and its business promotion activities. There is no impact on residential home owners.

The latest report addressed council concerns about future economic develop-

ment

Council also asked about the impact on core parking levies, which are applied if a property doesn't meet parking requirements. Jaggard clarified that this is separate from the BIA levy, and is a town levy not a BIA levy.

In the second report, Development Commissioner Cephas Panschow wrote, "An appropriately scoped BIA boundary expansion can lay the groundwork for the continued growth of retail, services and amenities in the downtown. The low vacancy rates are currently restricting opportunities for the downtown. The challenges associated with growth mean that a comprehensive plan for the downtown is required for the betterment of the community as a whole."

He also wrote that if the expansion took place, a new master plan for the downtown would be the next step.

However, Panschow did note that the included industrial land in the proposal should not be part of the expansion. More specifically, he wrote the area between John Pound Road east to Vienna Road does not make sense to include in the BIA district as this area is separate from the downtown but he believes the part in the Simcoe Street corridor east of Old Vienna Road should be a part of it.

Jaggard explained if council members agree with Panschow's viewpoint on the boundaries, the process would need to be restarted again with adjustments.

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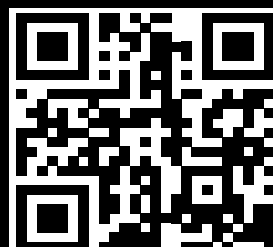
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Tillsonburg Council briefs

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Council reaffirms its support for BIA

Following a closed session discussion with the Downtown Tillsonburg Business Improvement Association board of management, town council reaffirmed its support for the organization.

The discussion took place in closed session under the section of the Ontario Municipal Act that allows this for “personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.”

The motion talks of the BIA board of management being a board of the municipality and that council appoints the board member members and will support the board with a letter of support and transparency to the public on communication platforms stating that:

- A. The DTBIA Board of Management is a board of council;
- B. That the mandate for the DTBIA Board of Management is promoting business and beautification;
- C. That Town of Tillsonburg Council supports and defends the DTBIA Board of Management.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy and Coun. Chris Rosehart declared a pecuniary interest and did not take part in the discussion as they have relatives with property in the BIA zone.

Tillsonburg applies for funding to attract doctors

Tillsonburg council approved an application for a provincial grant to attract more doctors to town.

At its Sept. 8 meeting, council was presented with a report from CAO Kyle Pratt, suggesting an application be made to the Rural Ontario Development Program to fund the Tillsonburg Health Care Recruitment Strategy. It would be a recruitment and marketing initiative to attract doctors to town. The goal is to increase awareness of healthcare opportunities amongst medical professionals, students and recent graduates.

The report stated: “Workforce shortages in Tillsonburg have resulted in longer wait times for appointments and emergency services, reduced availability of preventive care, and increased strain on hospital infrastructure. By attracting skilled professionals to underserved areas, this initiative directly supports Ontario’s rural health priorities, improves health outcomes for aging and vulnerable populations, and reinforces community stability.”

If it went ahead, the program would assist involve:

- Development of promotional materials tailored to healthcare professionals
- Attendance at targeted recruitment fairs across Ontario and beyond
- Launch of a strategic advertising campaign across relevant media channels
- Creation of a dedicated recruitment-focused website

showcasing job

opportunities, community resources, and integration supports

The estimated cost of the initiative if \$60,000, of which half was applied for in the grant.

Coun. Kelly Spencer said this is a smart strategy.

We’ve been attempting physician recruitment with some, or no response, and I think a new approach seems smart for more positive results,” she said.

The motion passed recommended the project be funded from the Physician Recruitment Reserve, that it wouldn’t impact the 2026 budget, and this be included in the budget. Mayor Deb Gilvesy said she has already indicated to the CAO to include whatever is required for this program in the budget.

Moose Street right of way sold

Council approved the sale of two surplus pieces of property held as a right-of-way for Moose Street. The blocks were sold to adjacent property owners for \$15,000 each, with the buyers paying all associated costs.

The real estate valuation for the properties was \$64,000 for both, but despite “extended negotiations” the best price offered was \$30,000. The proceeds from the sale were assigned to the town hall reserve.

Community improvement grant approved

Council gave the go-ahead to an improvement grant for a local business expanding into the VanNorman Innovation Park.

Wise Line Tools was approved for the Tax Increment Grant Back Program related to improvements to be completed on the property. The program provides a rebate of the town portion of property taxes resulting from improvements to lands and buildings that result in an increase in the assessed value of the property.

Paperless billing contest pays off

A contest to boost enrollment in paperless billing for the town’s utility bills is paying off.

The option of paperless billing became available in 2019, but only 230 residents have signed up. Trying to boost this to cut on mailing costs, a contest was held with those who made the switch eligible to win an iPad.

The contest resulted in 325 new paperless billing enrollments. That will save the town \$975 in 2026 alone.

Walter Kleer was the winner of the draw for the iPad, which took place during the council meeting.

New crosswalk crossing sign

A new crosswalk crossing sign will be installed at the intersection of the Trans-Canada Trail and Broadway.

The \$12,000 cost of the installation will be funded from the previously-approved public works traffic signals budget.

Coun. Pete Luciani credited resident Darwin Kent for his role in having the pedestrian crossing erected.

“He’s been focused and deliberate on getting this resolved,” he said.

Speed bumps a possibility for Wilson Ave

Speed bumps were mentioned as one possible outcome from a report looking at traffic speeds on Wilson Ave. at Jackson Street.

The report was initiated after residents of Hickory Hills complained about excessive speed on the road. While the report acknowledged the town was working on a traffic calming policy, the consultants found the Wilson/Jackson intersection doesn’t meet the thresholds for any traffic calming due to the area not meeting the minimum thresholds for calming, there have been no accidents at the intersection in the past five years and a number of traffic measures are already on the street.

The initial recommendation was to receive the report for information, but Coun. Kelly Spencer, whose turn it was to read the motion, presented an alternative motion calling for soft speed bumps on the road.

“The concern lies in those who don’t live in Hickory Hills who use Wilson as a pass to get from one side to the other,” she said.

Traffic reports show drivers sometimes reach speeds of 60 to 70 km/h, which she said were “frightening for the community.”

“I don’t want to wait until the senior citizens have a tragedy when there is a simple solution to slow things down,” she said, explaining soft speed bumps can be removed in the winter for snow plows.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy said speed bumps have been discussed in the past and the concern was speed bumps slowing emergency vehicles. She suggested another possibility to slow traffic is narrowing the road and asked Spencer if she was open to allowing other speed reduction measures. Spencer amended her motion to direct staff to amend her report to include soft speed bumps and other traffic calming measures.

The review also looked at the possibility of a three-way stop at the intersection of Allen Street and Windermere Avenue, and found it didn’t meet the volumes for a three-way stop.

Bylaw changed to stop parking on Quarter Town Line

A new bylaw is proposed to prohibit parking on the east side of Quarter Town Line between North Street and the town’s northern limits. In addition, there will be restrictions on parking on the west side of Quarter Town Line in the area of 361 Quarter Town Line if the bylaw is passed.

The report cited safety issues with children coming between cars and said there was overflow parking coming from 361 Quarter Town Line.

Coun. Kelly Spencer asked why there is such an overflow of parking from 361.

Coun. Bob Parsons, who is on the town’s traffic committee, said he looked at the development and there is parking for two vehicles at the residences. He agreed there was a safety issue.

Impaired driver detected on general patrol in SWOX

Members of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Oxford Detachment detected an impaired driver while on general patrol.

On Sept. 10, at approximately 9:30 p.m., members of Oxford OPP initiated a traffic stop while on general patrol on Pressey Road in the Township of South-West Oxford.

As a result of the investigation, Leighton Parker, a 36-year-old resident of London, has been charged with:

- Operation While Impaired
- Operation While Impaired - Blood Alcohol Concen-

tration (BAC) 80 plus

- Dangerous Operation
- Drive While Under Suspension
- Novice Driver BAC above 0

The accused has been released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on Oct. 21.

Police want to remind the public that no amount of alcohol or drugs is safe to consume prior to operating a vehicle.

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Play the focus of new Tillsonburg business



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

A variety of slides, zip lines and play equipment is located indoors at Rain or Shine Playtime on Broadway.

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Playing and having fun is the sole focus of a new Tillsonburg business located at 55 Broadway.

Rain or Shine Playtime opened on Aug. 23 and offers 3,000 square-feet of play area. This includes slides, zip lines, climbers, a soccer area, toddler area, and merry-go-round, all in bright colours.

The enthusiasm can be seen as soon as the clients, or children, walk in the door and owner Lori McDonell asks them, "Are you excited?"

"As soon as they get in the door, they're ready to run in the play centre," she added.

The business is fully accessible and has an accessible washroom. It also has two rooms for private parties and a sensory play quiet room.

"When it gets a little hectic out here, parents can go in there," McDonell said of the quiet space.

A psychotherapist by training, McDonell believes in the importance of play.

"Play is the most important thing a kid can do," she said. "It's how they communi-

cate, it's how they process, it's everything."

Although the concept of a business dedicated to play is new to Tillsonburg, both Woodstock and Brantford have had these businesses for several years.

"When my kids were little, I took them to a lot of these places and always wanted to own one," McDonell said.

Recently relocated to Tillsonburg, she saw the need for such a facility here.

"It got my brain fired up, especially having one in Woodstock, and I wanted to do this," McDonell said.

She has been attempting to get the business off the ground the last three years, but couldn't find the appropriate space. Finding the location next to Tillsonburg Tire, she worked with designers to come up with the right equipment for the space.

The initial response to the business has been positive.

"People are saying it's needed, and it's been a long time coming for Tillsonburg," she said. "They say it's well done, safe and very inviting."

Rain or Shine Playtime is designed for youth from babies to 10 years-old.

Down the road, McDonell is looking at



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Lori McDonell opened Rain or Shine Playtime at 55 Broadway, aiming to fill a gap of providing an indoor play environment for youth 10 and under.

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CAMI employees facing another extensive layoff

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It's another hit for the Oxford County labour force and employees at Ingersoll's CAMI manufacturing plant.

General Motors has informed the union at its CAMI Assembly Plant in Ingersoll that production will resume this fall — but at a much slower pace than originally planned.

Unifor Local 88 Chairperson Mike Van Boekel said the plant has been shut down since May, when the last round of

layoffs was announced, and workers have been waiting for clarity on when operations would restart.

"Staff are coming back around Nov. 17 with one shift but at a slower line speed. Out of roughly 1050 production people, we have 400 coming back."

Van Boekel added the hope was always to return to work with two full shifts or at least a single strong one, but the demand still isn't there for the product.

"Sales are getting better every month, but they just aren't there yet."

CAMI manufactures two versions of the BrightDrop Zevo electric delivery vehicle. Production started in 2022 following a \$1 billion retooling of the plant.

He explained there are several reasons for the product's slow sales, including a lack of charging stations.

"Infrastructure for one needs to be expanded significantly across North America. Compared to Europe, we have a much bigger country, and that would be the number one driving force, but it's got a long way to go."

He added the shenanigans going on south of the border have also played a role in the auto industry's slowdown in Canada.

"Trump is not helping the situation at all, especially with the tariffs. It's tough enough trying to sell the vehicles, and now he's slapping duty on them every time they cross the border, which is approximately 90 per cent of all vehicle sales. Taking away all the EV stuff and just the uncertainty is a killer."

A recent report by an American consultant stated the 25 per cent tariffs imposed on Canadian vehicles sold south of the border will add more than US\$15,000 to the price of a BrightDrop van. Currently, it sells for more than \$70,000 in the U.S.

Van Boekel noted that both Ontario's Premier and the Prime Minister have expressed full support for the CAMI plant and its BrightDrop electric vehicles.

"We met with Ford face-to-face and had a good talk with him. He's fully supportive and I know our president has been talking to Carney. He can help us because Canada Post is looking for thousands of these vehicles, but our first order went to the States, which is ridiculous."

The federal government provided some seed money to General Motors to get the plant up and running with the new delivery vehicles, something not lost on Van Boekel.

"That money came from taxpayers. I do believe the vehicles



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

are extremely good, and they only need to be charged once a day. They can do the deliveries, go back, charge it, and be ready the next morning. They are a very good fit in the market. We just need more of them out there."

Van Boekel explained there will be a negative effect on the local economy with 600 people remaining on the sidelines.

"It's terrible for them, for their families. Laid-off people don't spend money. There is a ripple effect everywhere, from Tim Hortons to gas stations to buying houses. Everything will slow right down. This is hundreds and hundreds of families, mostly from the Oxford and Middlesex areas."

He added some of his members are partners or married, meaning each breadwinner will not be returning to work.

"That makes it really tough and they are worried. There are jobs out there, but not a lot of good-paying ones. We do have an action centre at our local hall for retraining and resume writing, stuff like that."

Despite the bad news coming from the automaker, Van Boekel

"I can't really fault them too much. They put huge dollars into the main plant and the battery plant, and they thought it would take off a lot faster than it has. Every month is better but not to the point we had hoped or needed. We would like another investment to try to get another vehicle in here."

As of press time, GM Canada had not released a statement.

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FIREFIGHTER STEAK BBQ



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Tillsonburg volunteer firefighter Barry Lasook flips a steak at the annual Tillsonburg Firefighters Association Steak BBQ, Sept. 13 at the Tillsonburg Community Centre. A new grill was donated this year, expanding their grilling opportunities.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

On the grill at the annual Tillsonburg Firefighters Association Steak BBQ are (from left) Sonya Foreman, Dave Henry, Alexa Metselaar and Dave Metselaar.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

More than 400 people attended the annual Tillsonburg Firefighters Association Steak BBQ on Sept. 13, this year extended to 4-8 p.m.

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Bedtime stories support early literacy and making memories



**OCL
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TALK**

KATELYN BENNETT

*Literacy Program Specialist,
Oxford County Library, Tillsonburg branch.*

In the blink of an eye, summer has come to an end. Children and teens have gone back to school, with some embarking on a new adventure to kindergarten.

Settling into a new routine can be challenging, especially for little ones. For the young learners who are just starting school, learning to read is a big part of their school day. Yet at the end of a busy day, the quality time spent with family reading bedtime stories as part of an evening routine can often be the most memorable part. Reading aloud is proven to support early literacy skill development and most often (if not always) provides a needed giggle before bedtime.

If family reading time is already a part of your routine, you can often be left wondering "What should we read next?", Oxford County Library is here to help!

I personally admire picture books with detailed illustrations, quirky rhymes and a sprinkle of goofy comedy. Here are some of my favourite 2025 picture books, and one anticipated publication, that are sure to induce laughs and warm your heart.

Caboose written by Travis Jonker, illustrated by Ruth Chan

This hilarious read is a perfect choice for children who have just started kindergarten

ten! It follows a hippo named Cedric who knows all the tricks to make sure he's first in line at school. But what happens when he is assigned caboose?

Cats in Construction Hats written by Studipta-Bardhan Quallen, illustrated by Leeza Hernandez

This story is the purr-fect combination for kids who love construction machines and their furry companions! With simple rhyming text and a little teamwork, these cats build something special together.

Heartfelt written by Elaine Vickers, illustrated by Samantha Cotterill

With unique layered illustrations, this book is sure to catch your eye. Heartfelt highlights all the ways we can show kindness and love without having to say the words.

Hedgehogs Don't Wear Underpants written and illustrated by Marissa Valdez

This book will have you laughing uncontrollably! Featuring a French Hedgehog named Jacques, this picture book has adorable illustrations with a comedic undertone.

The Humble Pie by Jory John, illustrated by Pete Oswald – Coming November 2025!

From the writer and illustrator duo of the beloved Bad Seed series and other mischievous foods, comes a new picture book about a pie who prefers to give others their time to shine. This highly anticipated picture book will be published on Nov. 4, but is sure to be another classic in the food group series. While you are waiting for the release of this

Okay, be sure to check out the seven other books in the series, including The Big Cheese and The Good Egg – all available at Oxford County Library.

All these titles and more can be found in the Oxford County Library online catalogue. Visit ocl.net today to learn more and place a hold on your next family bedtime story!

Light The Spark, make a difference

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Contributor

September is Big Brothers Big Sisters month, and there's still time to support Oxford County's Spark Campaign.

In Tillsonburg, 114 youths are currently served in Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring programs, but 27 kids are waiting to be matched in a one-to-one relationship with someone willing to be the spark that helps them realize their potential.

Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oxford County, Kristen Ralph said that "the focus is on signing up or sharing the information with friends who you think might be a good mentor." If you'd like to be a mentor but don't have a lot of time, they also need volunteers for in-school, after school and evening programs. You can find out more online or by calling BBBS Tillsonburg at 519-842-9008, ext 229.

There are a variety of volunteer commitment levels, from 10 weeks to a year. BIGS 101, a one-hour information session, is offered monthly (in person and virtually) so that you can learn more about the organization, ask questions, and decide if it's something you want to do.

There are leadership opportunities for high school students in the Team Literacy mentoring program, but all other volunteers must be over the age of 18. There is no age limit, and grandparents are encouraged to volunteer.

"Some of the children in our programs don't have grandparents," Ralph said, "so they would be very welcome."

All volunteers are given extensive training and support in order to start off their mentoring match on a positive note. "You're never alone," Ralph said, explaining that a professional case worker with social work experience and credentials will provide constant support and guidance.

"We're all working toward the same goals," she said, "to make kids more resilient, to foster self-esteem, promote a love of learning, build relationships, support them in making responsible decisions, encourage constructive use of time, and help them with self-management and learning skills."

Ralph added that "sometimes people think too hard about it, wondering how they can change a child's life, but really it's just the little moments that make a big difference."



Was there someone in your life that made that difference? Ralph said that an important part of the campaign is encouraging people to "think about the person who was a mentor to you; where would your life be if you didn't have that person? It could be a coach, teacher, or parent, anyone who changed the trajectory of your life and helped you realize your potential."

If you're not able to volunteer, you can make a donation in honour of that person. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oxford County receives no ongoing government funding. Money raised from the community goes directly into supporting their programs. Every dollar donated in Tillsonburg stays in Tillsonburg. There's also an online 50/50 raffle, ending Sept. 30th, which will support programs throughout Oxford County.

Help spread the word! Business owners can download the "Paint the Town Teal" campaign kit from the BBBSOC website. Add a "spark wall" in your place of business and start conversations about who sparked your journey. Ralph pointed out the impact of quality time spent with a child or young person, and how it can change their trajectory.

"It's about thanking that person," she said, "not necessarily big brothers or big sisters, but just generally how important these people are."

Edward Jones

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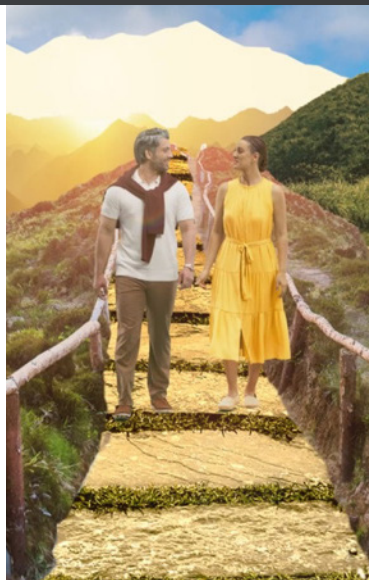


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SWOX NEWS



SWOX Council considers 2-story design for new municipal office, potential cost \$11 million

DEBBIE KASMAN

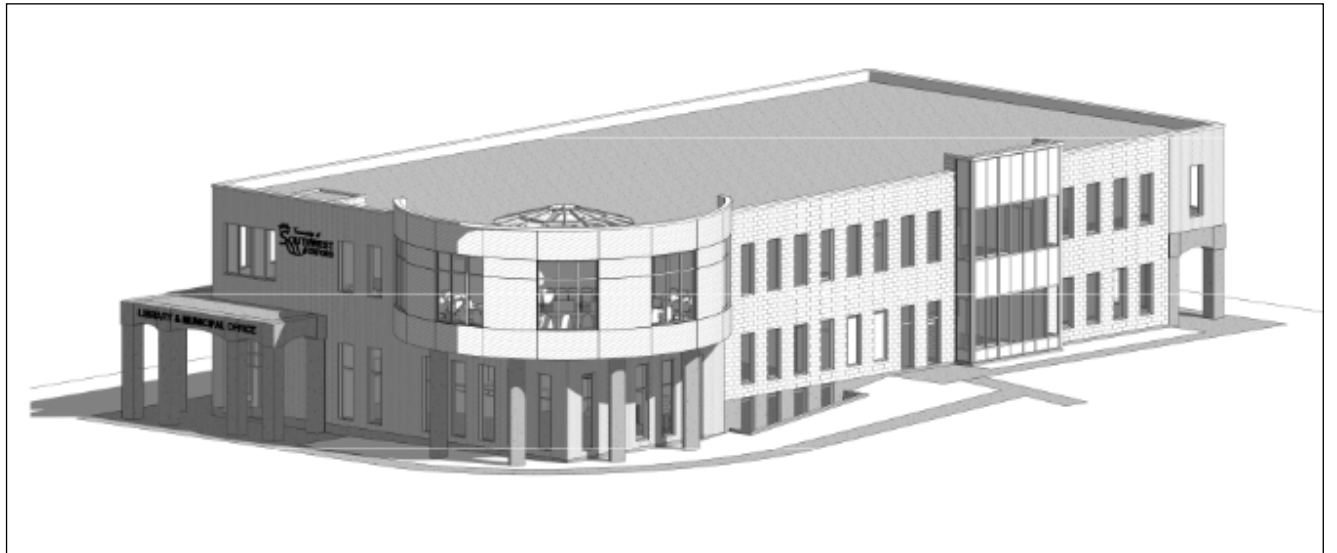
Post Contributor

At its regular council meeting on Sept. 2, South West Oxford Township (SWOX) council considered a revised concept design for its new municipal office, child care and library located west of Highway 19 on Mount Elgin Road and directed staff to refine the concept designs based on feedback from both council and staff.

The original concept design, considered by council in December, included a child-care facility on the first floor, a municipal office on the second floor, and allowed for other uses on a possible third floor, which included a potential new space for the public library and/or affordable housing and/or apartments for seniors.

The new concept design now reflects revisions for a two-story model with the library located on the north end of the lower level, a daycare on the south end of the lower level, and the municipal office on the second floor. The option for affordable housing and/or apartments for seniors has been removed. Consideration has been given for storage, utilities, and an emergency operations centre.

The library would be lower than the daycare to help with grade changes across the site and would have a higher ceiling so the second story municipal office would be on the same elevation. The council chamber would be located on the north end of the second story.



(CONTRIBUTED IMAGE)

The building has been shifted further north to create a presence on Mount Elgin.

Road and some parking spaces have been shuffled to the south end of the site to accommodate this.

The new proposed design is estimated to cost \$10.9 million. This does not include contingency, tariffs, information technology, security systems, furniture, appli-

ances or HST. The estimated cost is a conservative estimate. More accurate pricing will not be known until the project goes to tender because pricing is highly variable at this time.

Council has requested to review the updated concept designs again before proceeding with the preparation of tender documents.

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Local MP critical of federal Liberals' lack of bail reform

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Oxford MP Arpan Khanna's Private Member's Bill The Jail Not Bail Act is gaining national attention as he and Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre held a press conference about the legislation last week.

Information accompanying the press release claimed violent crime is up 55 per cent, firearms crime is up 130 per cent and extortion has skyrocketed by 330 per cent across Canada.

The bill will:

1. Repeal and replace the Liberal "Principle of Restraint" with a directive for the primary consideration to be the protection and safety of the public.

2. Introduce a new "Major Offences" category with reverse onus bail conditions for firearm, sexual, kidnapping, human trafficking, home invasion, robbery, extortion, arson and assault charges.

3. Strengthen bail laws by mandating judges consider an accused's full criminal history, prevent anyone convicted of a major offence in the last 10 years while also on bail and charged with a major offence from getting bail, and toughen the risk assessment standard from "substantial likelihood" to "reasonably foreseeable".

4. Prohibit anyone with an indictable conviction from acting as a guarantor (who ensures bail conditions are followed), require judges to enforce bail conditions on guarantors and require non-residents to surrender their passports upon request.

"Canadians deserve to be safe in all places and at all times in this country," said Poilievre at the press conference. "If Mark Carney is serious about restoring peace to our communities, he will back this bill and reverse his party's disastrous bail laws."

The proposed legislation was one of the main topics when hundreds of constituents showed up for a free breakfast at Oxford Member of Parliament Arpan Khanna's constituency office on Sept. 5.

Khanna accused the Liberals of running a "smoke-and-mirrors" campaign throughout the summer.

"We've been seeing a lot of photo ops, a lot of announcements and talking points over the last six months of this so-called new government, but we haven't seen a lot of action. We're not seeing any actual legislation released."



(LEE GRIFFI PHOTO)

Oxford MP Arpan Khanna hosted hundreds of constituents on Saturday for a free pancake breakfast. Khanna said the number one topic on people's minds was bail reform and crime.

He added if the Carney Liberals were serious about real changes to bail reform, they would have brought it forward during the first six weeks of Parliament following the election.

"After the pressure (the Conservative Party) put on and Canadians, to be honest, even today we had 400 people show up and everyone talked about crime here in Oxford County."

Khanna referred to recent crimes, including the tragic death of a young boy shot to death while in bed in North York.

"When I hear about an eight-year-old lying in his mom's arms, the safest place in the world is in bed with your mom, and he was shot and killed by a stray bullet, we have a problem. When a 71-year-old grandma is at the grocery store and stabbed to death, we have a problem. When we have broad daylight shootings, we have a problem."

He added he isn't buying the idea that the Liberals have the wherewithal to fix the problem they started.

"The people who started the fire, the arsonists themselves,

now say they are sorry and can fix the fire they created. They burnt the house down. In 2018, Bill C-75 was brought in by the Liberals, which caused this crisis."

Khanna explained judges are required by law to impose the least restrictive bail conditions and release those accused at the earliest opportunity, something his bill addresses.

"You're going to see some of those things reversed, give the police the tools they need and judges will have some clarity in the Criminal Code to actually lock up repeat violent offenders who are terrorizing communities across the country."

At a press conference in Mississauga, Prime Minister Mark Carney announced his government will be introducing legislation this fall to overhaul Canada's bail system. The proposed reforms aim to implement stricter rules to ensure violent and repeat offenders remain in custody, rather than being released shortly after arrest, allow for consecutive sentencing for the most serious crimes, address cases involving serious offences such as gun violence, break-ins, and car thefts and emphasize that "people accused of violent crimes should not be in and out of jail within days", ensuring they face appropriate consequences.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford, who met with Carney ahead of the announcement, is advocating for more mandatory minimum sentences and tighter measures under the Youth Criminal Justice Act. Ford said, "When someone is charged with a heinous crime, they must remain in custody. People have had enough."

Khanna says police across the country are fed up with a system that sees officers risk their lives to make arrests, only to watch offenders walk free and return to the streets within days, sometimes sooner.

"Very demoralizing. I have travelled now from coast to coast to coast and met with law enforcement, premiers, MLAs, victim advocacy groups, social workers, and crown attorneys, and it is demoralizing for everybody."

Khanna said police in Woodstock told him they are catching the same criminals over and over again. He added the same 15 people in Kelowna committed over 1,500 crimes in a single year.

"We have very efficient criminals who have chosen a lifestyle of crime. It's our job to keep Canadians safe. We need to implement minimum mandatory sentences for those trafficking in drugs and involved in organized crime are locked up. We need to end the violence."

He explained the number one job for a government is to keep its citizens safe, whether they are at a park or at home.

"It has to change, and we will make sure we put the government's feet to the fire when Parliament resumes next week."

Carney made a point last week to mention Canada needs more effective policing, although he didn't mention any specifics. Khanna suggested more effective bail laws are the key.

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HOSPITAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Jesse Goossens of Thompson Goossens Accountants LLP, playing on the Holmes, Kocheff & Good LLP team, chips to the green during the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation Golf Tournament at The Bridges at Tillsonburg.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Andrew Burns, McFarlan Rowlands Insurance, tries to out-putt the competition at the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation Golf Tournament, watched by teammates Dave Martin (Verne's Carpet One), Brian Velthove (B.R.'s Plumbing & Heating), and Brad Martin (Distinct Windows & Doors).



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Scott MacDonald from Zehrs Tillsonburg tries the putting contest at the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation Golf Tournament on Sept. 12 at The Bridges at Tillsonburg.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation volunteer Lori Van Opstal organized the putting contest at the Foundation's annual golf tournament on Sept. 12. Last year's tournament raised just over \$50,000.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Craig Verspeeten from Cruise Control Inc., drives from the tee during the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation Golf Tournament.

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Desplenter sets two new strongman records

CHRIS ABBOTT

Post Correspondent

Tillsonburg strongman Tyler Desplenter is officially a record-holder.

"Strongman is essentially a sport built around lifting heavy, odd objects," said Desplenter. "So we do things like pull transport trucks, or pressing logs over our head, lift big stones on the platform, or flip big tractor tires."

Competing in Elora on August 23 at the True North True Strength Open, contestants focused on 'old style strongman,' with dumbbell and barbell lift events, all for maximum weight.

"It was almost like a link to the past couple hundred of years, testing some of those oldtime lifts. Two events the contest promoter picked, and then up to three of these oldtime lifts. Three attempts to lift the maximum weight you

can."

Coming off an injury at provincials and just five weeks to prepare, Desplenter finished seventh overall in Elora, setting two international federation records. He also tied a record, but another strongman set it first and got credit for it.

"It was a pretty good day – and no injuries," Desplenter laughed. "It was just a relief to show that I could keep pushing through and still come out on top. It was almost like the 'cherry on top' of a great season."

His tied the record in the Hackenschmidt floor press, lying on the ground to press the weight up, and set new records in Cyr press, a one-handed dumbbell press (161 pounds), and Habecker lift – a barbell starts at one-third his height; contestants squat down to use elbows, standing up with it (430 pounds).

"Not so much pressure as normal in this contest because you get to pick the weight attempts. Getting those records was very satisfying. I've been competing now for 13 years straight and earlier this year I won my first strongman contest after all these years.

"I checked a lot of boxes this year," he said.

Desplenter does strength, education and coaching with his Tillsonburg business Strength Intelligence, which focuses on strength training, getting stronger for sports, and sports rehab.

He started his lifting career as a power-lifter, as many strongman competitors do.

"Power-lifting is basically a squat, a deadlift and a bench press. You're in one spot lifting weights. Basically, strongman is where we pick up the heavy objects and we run with them."

Desplenter said he transitioned



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Tyler Desplenter and his children at True North True Strength Open.



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Tyler Desplenter competes at True North True Strength Open in Elora, and 'oldtime' strongman competition.

into strongman with the idea that he would do it while he was younger.

"As I get older, I'll probably get back to power-lifting."

The fifth strongest man in his division, he qualified for strongman

nationals this year, but will not be competing in Calgary. The True North True Strength Open ended his season and he will get back to traditional strongman events next year.

chris@granthaven.com

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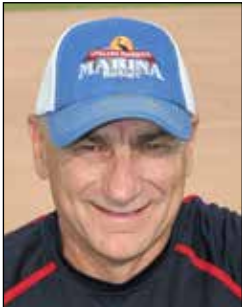
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Kyle Nesbitt Trucking captures ladies' B title



DAVE WEAVER

Post Columnist

Both leagues are into their final series as September winds down. As teams are eliminated, they already will be looking forward to the 2026 campaign.

Men's A Division

The Mill outlasted 1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks, winning the fifth and deciding game by four on Thursday night. The Hawks had won the previous game easily. It's another disappointment for Hawks as they entered playoffs as top seed. The experienced Mill squad will face Legend Rubber Cobra Chickens who are making their first appearance in the A Final after knocking off Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts last week.

1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks-36, The Mill-19

Hawks-Peter Epp 6-6; Johnny Epp 5-5, 2 HR; Martin Klassen GrSlam; Johnny Klassen 2HR; Jake Klassen HR.

The Mill-Steve Derks 4-4; Mike Supinski 4-4; Jeremy Roy HR; Bryan Deblaire HR; Ryan Black HR.

Game Synopsis-Peter Epp and Johnny Klassen each drove in six for the winners in game four of this semi series. Leadoff batter Johnny Epp reached and scored in six plate appearances.

The Mill 2,7 1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks-23

The Mill-Ryan Black 5-5, HR; Jeremy Roy 4-4; Josh Stubbs HR; Bryan Deblaire 2 HR; Billy Wilson HR; Darren Pace HR.

Hawks-Johnny Epp 5-5, HR; Ben Bueckert 4-4;

**EYE
ON
SLO-
PITCH**

Martin Klassen 2HR; Jake Klassen HR; Johnny Klassen 3HR.

Game Synopsis-The Mill plated eight over their final two at bats to clinch the series in five games. Bryan Deblaire homered in both innings.

Men's B Division

The Pelicans advanced to the B final after beating Underhill Farm Supply in four games. Underhill had collected their first series win with a a nine-run victory on the Tuesday night. They weren't able to stave off elimination for a second game however, and the Pelicans took the Thursday game easily.

My Playground/IQT Logistics, in their first season, eliminated first-place Bayham Construction Lumberjacks in game four on Thursday night to move to the final against the Pelicans. They squeaked out a one-run victory.

Underhill Farm Supply-21 Pelicans-12

Underhill-Curtis Chambers 5-5 HR Dave Peters 5-5 HR

Stephen Schafer HR Troy Sebok HR

Pelicans-Adam Jensen 4-4 HR Steve Leacock 3-3 HR T.J. Neville HR

Game Synopsis-Dave Peters hit for the cycle and scored four runs for Underhill in game three..

Pelicans-18, Underhill Farm Supply-5

Pelicans-Steve Leacock 3-3, HR; Adam Jensen 3-4; Jeff Cadotte HR.

Underhill-Chris Dyck 4-4; Curtis Chambers 2-3.

Game Synopsis-Everyone in the winner's order had at least one hit, and Steve Leacock continued to go for the long yards as he homered in every game of the series.

At My Playground/IQT Logistics-10 Bayham Construction Lumberjacks-9

A.M.P.-Logan Partlo 3-3; Travis Lamb 3-4; Trent Masschaele HR.

Bayham-Caleb Dyck 3-4; Jake Sawatsky 3-4, 2HR.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The Pelicans advanced to the B Division final with a win over Underhill Farm Supply last week. They will meet My Playground/IQT Logistics in the finals. Pitcher Chris Parker is shown here during the action last week.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Kyle Nesbitt Trucking team was the winner of the B Division in ladies' slo-pitch action. Left to right are: (back row) coach Nick Joosse, scorekeeper Sheila Morgan; Rebecca Caza, Gemma Ladosz, Chani Homewood, Missy Falkins, Nicole Morgan, Teri Joosse, Kim Hurd, Carrie MacDonald, and coach Doug Falkins, (front row) Claire Barker, Lacey Warren, Liz Yuile, Sabrina Sinden, and Tammy Griswold.

Game Synopsis-A two0run sixth-inning rally helped A.M.P. secure the victory. Logan Partlo scored the game's winning run. Solid defence and speed all over the defence won it for A.M.P. in the fourth game of this semi series.

Men's C Division

Townline Eqt Inc Smokin Aces advanced to the final after eliminating J/E Bearing in their fourth game on Tuesday, holding off a late surge by J/E.

Townline Eqt Inc Smokin Aces-13, J/E Bearing-11

Smokin Aces-Peter Klassen 3-4; Daniel Unger 4-4, HR; Jakob Froese HR.

J/E-Jeff McKay 4-4; Dillon Outerbridge 4-4, HR.

Game Synopsis-Smokin Aces scored two runs in their final at bat to take the win in this semi-final game four. Herman Froese singled in the winning run.

The opener of the final was no contest as the Sticky Bandits shocked the first place Townline Eqt Inc Smokin Aces, mercying them in five.

Sticky Bandits-19, Townline Eqt Inc Smokin Aces-4

Bandits-Andrew Knelsen 4-4; Tyson Krahn 4-4.

Smokin Aces-Corny Reimer 3-3; Johnny Janzen 2-2.

Game Synopsis-The Bandits dominated right from the start, scoring 12 over their first two at-bats, Nicky Knelsen reached and scored in all four plate appearances, and the Bandits defense made alot of fantastic plays.

Ladies' A Division

Foldens Machine Works are one win away from capturing their first A title. The Jays tied the series on Monday winning by four. Foldens took the series lead again after holding on for a two-run decision on Wednesday night.

Game#2-Final

Jays-12, Foldens Machine Works-8

Jays-Maddi Obar 4-4; Jess Dyck 3-4.

Foldens-Jenn Dahl 3-3; Mackenzie Brackenbury 3-3, HR.

Game Synopsis-Jays scored eight runs over their final two at-bats to get the win for game two. Maddi Obar, Melissa Hughes and Deanna De-watcher all scored in both innings.

Foldens Machine Works-8, Jays-6

Foldens-Kim Gillis 2-3; Mackenzie Brackenbury 3-3.

Jays-Maddi Obar 3-4; Mary Froese 4-4.

Game Synopsis-A three-run sixth was critical to the Foldens win in game four, to pull back in front. Mackenzie Brackenbury led off the rally, followed by singles from Lisa Howey, Andrea Deblaire and Jen Cadman. The game ended on a super pop up catch from first baseman Sandy Dekeyser and a relay home to record the final out on a corralled catch by catcher Jen Cadman when Jays were rallying.

Ladies' B Division

Kyle Nesbitt Trucking swept right through the playoffs in capturing the B Loop regular season and playoff titles. The game was close until Nesbitt plated eight over their final two at-bats. Wildcats had an impressive season but couldn't solve the Nesbitt powerhouse.

Kyle Nesbitt Trucking-22, Wildcats-10

Nesbitt-Missy Falkins 4-4; Kim Hurd 4-4, HR; Nicole Morgan HR.

Wildcats-Ling Wong 3-3; Tracey Coderre 2-3; Nikki Lama HR.

Game Synopsis-Missy Falkins had a big night, reaching base and scoring all four times. Kim Hurd and Nicole Morgan were each a triple shy of hitting for the cycle.

The start of curling is imminent with ice going in



**ON
THE
BROOM**

NORA PETERS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

As you read this column, the ice is going in at the Tillsonburg Curling Club and the new curling season will soon begin.

Henry Puhr, one of the two coordinators of the volunteer work which happened all summer, is happy to see work continuing towards opening on time. He mentioned the many dedicated people who helped all

summer, and especially noted Eric Wright who took care of the exterior areas of the club allowing Henry and Wade to concentrate on what was going on inside the club. Thanks go out to Shirley Becht and Tracy Beattie who organized a successful bottle drive. Thanks, also, to all the members and local restaurants who donated their empty cans and bottles.

Registration is the name of the game for the club right now – it's important to let league convenors know how many curlers to plan for when the ice is ready to go. Members can register online at tillsonburgcurlingclub.com.

The club will hold housewarming information nights on Wednesday, Sept. 24 and Thursday, Sept. 25 from 6:15 – 8:45 p.m. Adult Learn to Curl programs will be offered by the club Wednesday nights from 8-9 p.m., beginning Oct. 22, or Sundays from 1-2 p.m., beginning Oct. 26. The pro-

gram runs for six weeks and the fee will be applied to the membership fee if you decide to join the club.

The ladies' league is reaching out to new and former members with their Stones and Scones welcome on Thursday, Oct. 16th at 10 a.m. to noon. Come out and meet a great group of ladies and try curling, practice or just socialize. Newcomers are welcome to join us and throw a few stones. Also on the club calendar are three bonspiels happening in November, starting with the Broken Broom Cash Spiel Nov. 7-9, the Mixed Country Classic on Nov. 22, and the Community Service Bonspiel scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 26. All these bonspiels can be registered for with online entries.

The Grand Slam of Curling AMJ Masters will take place at the Western Fair Complex in London Sept. 23-28. Men's and women's teams from all over the world will compete in this first slam of the sea-

son. Jayden King's team has been invited to play in the Tier 2 event which will take place at the St. Thomas Curling Club. The young King team are guaranteed four games in pool play, anything more will be a bonus. Though this will be Tier 2, the competition will be tough – Olympic gold medalist John Shuster and Brier and world champion Kevin Koe find themselves in this draw, trying to get back to Tier 1 play.

Team King begins round robin play Sept. 25 at 11:15 a.m. The GSOC Tier 1 will be featured on Sportsnet beginning on Sept. 24 and Tier 2 will be streamed at grandslamofcurling.com. Team King travelled to Edmonton recently where they reached the semi-finals of the NextGen event. A successful beginning to the season. Jayden and his Mixed Doubles partner Grace made it to finals in their NextGen event (also in Edmonton) losing to his teammate Victor and his partner. Curling rocks!

Youth basketball registration is now open

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Registration for youth basketball is now open.

Basketball Tillsonburg runs programs for youth covering the ages from Grade 1 to Grade 8. The program is broken down into ages based on the school grade the participant is in. Grades 1 to 4 are held at Annandale School on Sunday afternoons, with Grade 1 and 2 taking to the court from 1 to 2:15 p.m., and Grade 3 and 4 from 2:30 to 3:45 p.m. Grades 5 to 8 will be at Glendale High School from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. for Grades 5 and 6, with the 7s and 8s to follow.

Basketball Tillsonburg president Jesse Goossens said basic skills are introduced for Grades 1 and 2, such as dribbling, passing and some shooting. Lower nets are used for the younger age groups to teach shooting. The drills are designed specifically for the age groups, with different skills emphasized at each and the complexity increasing with age.

"They're drills, but a lot of them are games to make it fun," said Basketball Tillsonburg secretary Victoria Sergeant.

"We've taken a lot of time to develop the program and make it interesting," Goossens said.

And with the cost for all participants at \$120, it costs less than many other winter sports. Included in the cost is a team T-shirt, a basketball and 12 weeks of playing.

"It's just an affordable sport when you compare it to alternative winter sports," Goossens said.

There are other advantages to playing basketball, with Goossens explaining participants learn self-confidence and how to be part of a team, skills that can be valuable throughout life.

"It's more than just basketball skills," he said, adding what is learned can assist in job interviews, for instance.

Goossens, Sergeant and league vice-president Lance MacKenzie have completed coaching training with the Ontario Basketball Association, which Basketball Tillsonburg is associated



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Registration for Tillsonburg Youth Basketball is now open online. The program lasts 12 weeks and costs \$120, which includes a T-shirt and basketball.

with.

"We're building a system here to build basketball here in town," Goossens said.

The organizers are hoping to find a parent interested in getting OBA teams going again in town. Basketball Tillsonburg had OBA teams, which play at tournaments at a higher level, in the past, but these faded away as the players aged out and there were no new coaches to sustain them.

"Ideally, it would be great to get some parents fired up and get an OBA program," Goossens said.

"Tillsonburg has such a rich history of basketball from the Livvies (which represented Canada at the Olympics twice) to teams that competed at OFSSA," Sergeant said.

The youth basketball program, both house league and at the OBA level, helps

prepare players for high school basketball.

The three principals behind Tillsonburg Basketball all are a part of that heritage. Both Sergeant and Goossens, who are husband and wife, have fathers who played for teams that made it to OFSAA. MacKenzie's father was a principal who coached high school teams. All three played in Tillsonburg youth basketball, which was started by Mike Bossy, Dan Rajnovich and others about 35 years ago.

Referring to basketball as a life-long sports, Goossens said many former OBA players participate in the adult men's and ladies' programs offered by Basketball Tillsonburg. Many of the coaches of the youth program are graduates of it as well.

Registration for youth basketball is open until Sept. 21 and can be done online at basketballtillsonburg.com.

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Weekend Quiz

by Jake Grant

1. What famous actress married baseball player Joe DiMaggio in 1954?
2. What is the name of Roger's dalmatian in the Disney movie '101 Dalmatians'?
3. Which country is Madrid the capital of?
4. What is the most expensive spice in the world?
5. Who directed the 2018 movie 'A Star is Born'?
6. What is Prince William the duke of?
7. Who wrote the dystopian novel '1984'?
8. Roughly how long does it take for the sun's light to reach Earth?
9. Animals that eat both vegetables and meats are called what?
10. What was the robot's name from Interstellar?

This week's answers are found on Page 26

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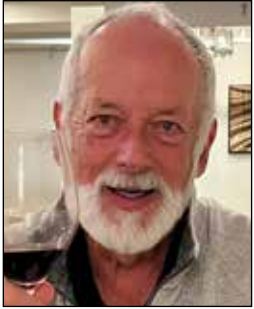
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**OH,
THE
PLACES
WE'LL
GO!**

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

The exact numbers are tough to authenticate, but the trend is very clear: a lot of Canadians are opting not to visit the United States, and are choosing, instead, to travel within Canada.

For example, some statistics suggest that up to 30 per cent fewer Canadians visited the U.S. in the first months of 2025, while at least 10 per cent more are vacationing here at home.

If you are among those planning in-Canada vacations in the next year, you will not be disappointed. I have had the opportunity to travel in eight provinces in the last year and a bit, and I enjoyed every visit. And I especially appreciated my time spent in three of Canada's less-visited provinces.

It's probably no surprise to know that

the most popular provinces for visitors are Ontario, Newfoundland, Québec, British Columbia, and Nova Scotia. But there are three provinces that are seen as “drive-through destinations” – places to pass through on your way to something more interesting. I am referring to New Brunswick, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Well, I have to say that if you are not stopping to explore these destinations, you're making a big mistake. Each of them hold amazing surprises for travellers, and each is worth a lengthy stay.

This week, I want to focus on something that was a complete revelation to me, during my visit to Saskatchewan, a couple of months ago. Because, as an avid if generally inconsistent golfer, taking a golf holiday in Saskatchewan would never have occurred to me.

Wrong.

I got the chance to play in three unique settings north of Saskatoon, and each offered a terrific golfing experience. With a small group of travel/golf writers, I played Dakota Dunes Golf Links on the Whitecap Unceded Dakota Territory; Cooke Municipal in Prince Albert; and the three nine-hole courses at Elk Ridge, described as “Saskatchewan's premier destination resort”. I also stayed at Dakota Dunes and Elk Ridge.

And I have to say that, for any golfer



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

A view from the Elk Ridge resort; a golf fairway is on the far side of the small lake.

planning a golfers' group getaway, an itinerary including these three courses would be a guaranteed hit with your golfing companions.

What makes this special is that the three golf courses are entirely different, one from the other.

We started at Dakota Dunes. Its full name is “Dakota Dunes Golf Links,” which may seem odd, since “links” courses are supposed to be beside the ocean, and Saskatchewan is a fair distance from any salt water! But I think the name is appropriate – this is a “prairie links” course, with lots of sand, high-grass rough, and plenty of challenges. It's also beautiful, presenting amazing scenes unlike anything you would find in Ontario, and I guarantee that golfers will be pleasantly distracted by the prairie dogs, striped squirrels and unique flowering plants that are some of the delights of the course.

And speaking of delights – our dinner at Dakota Dunes' Moose Woods Home Fire Grill was over-the-top amazing. The restaurant has a farm-to-table menu that features local ingredients; this being Saskatchewan, local ingredients include bison, elk, bannock and more amazing tastes. We were presented with planks of roasted meats and vegetables... and I thought I had died and been transported to foodie heaven.

Our next golfing stop was Cooke Municipal. It's a lovely course, but for an Ontario golfer looking for something different, it was the least interesting of our choices, simply because it is a beautifully care-for parkland style course that you might find at one of the finer courses in Ontario. That being said, it's in remarkable condition for a municipal

course, and I would recommend including it in your itinerary.

Last stop was Elk Ridge, where we had the chance to play all three nines – and repeat one, if we chose. The Elk Ridge courses are in the heart of Saskatchewan's northern boreal forest, and the course designers have taken full advantage of the breath-taking opportunities that landscape offered them. That landscape is home to lots of wildlife; we saw deer during our rounds, and it's not rare to spot the elk for which the course is named.

Personally, I loved it. So much so that on day two, when it started to rain as we finished the first nine of the day, I opted to replay nine I had already played the day before, while the others hustled off to have a beverage in a warm and dry restaurant. I got soaked, but then the sun came out, and by the end of the game, I was as warm and dry as my better-refreshed friends.

In addition to the golf, a highlight of our visit to Elk Ridge was a seminar on creating and preparing cocktails – an opportunity offered (for a fee) to visitors to Elk Ridge. By the time we finished mixing, sampling, and resampling our cocktails, it was probably a good thing I had skipped the earlier drinks.

So – if you love food, drink, scenery, wildlife, and even golf, don't just “drive through” Saskatchewan – stay and discover one of the best destinations our country has to offer.

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.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Elk Ridge's cocktail expert Sandeep Maurya with an eager student.

MUSIC CORNER

Drumroll please: The many percussive lives of Norwich drummer Jackson Cronmiller



BEN ADDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

If you have caught a live show anywhere in Southern Ontario in the past two decades there is a good chance you have seen Jackson Cronmiller behind the drum kit. From punk to folk-rock to experimental acoustic projects the Norwich-based musician has built a reputation as one of the region's

busiest drummers and he shows no signs of slowing down.

Fresh off a Quebec run with his long-time punk outfit The Filthy Radicals, Cronmiller admits balance is the secret weapon that keeps him going.

"Careful scheduling with a work life and family life balance" he says. "The band has been on the road for a while and booking travel plans and confirming show details are typically worked out well in advance. Booking time off our day jobs allows us to try to live out our dreams."

One of his other main projects, The Lexington Cure, is gearing up to release a new EP which is currently in the mixing stage with veteran Canadian producer Steve Rizun. For Cronmiller, working with Rizun has been a career highlight.

"We released an EP with Blacktop Records back in May while the Drive Studios session was still being worked on," Cronmiller explains. "It has been a long process that Justin and Alex started while the original lineup was on hiatus. It is currently in the mixing process. Rizun is a big name known for his work with The Flatliners and The Creepshow and he is a blast to work with. Steve is a very chill dude considering the resume."

Cronmiller's schedule does not stop there. He recently joined Ace of Swords which is an acoustic project with Jeremy Address, Tina Froese and his former high school teacher and mentor Al Lee. The group takes a laid-back approach offering a more mellow sound than Cronmiller's other bands.

"Ace of Swords is a recent project for me in which I do hand percussion instead of drumming," he says. "It is acoustic with an electric guitar played by one of my high school teachers and mentors Mr. Lee. We play classic rock covers in a mellow folk-rock style. It is new, fun and exciting for me. We are currently playing locally about once a month in various towns in the area."

Fans in Tillsonburg will get to see another side of Jackson this fall when Where's Shane plays a Halloween house show on October 25. For Cronmiller these intimate DIY events are just as rewarding as touring with larger acts.

"Where's Shane playing a house show for a Halloween party is sure to be a blast," Cronmiller

exclaims with a grin. "The smaller DIY gigs are always a treat and less of a workload than the roadwork and presentation of touring out of town with a punk band. DIY or die as it is lived by in the scene. Who doesn't like a good party with live music? Most professional bands still do the smaller stuff on the side for the mere fact that it is great fun and a good way to connect more intimately with fans."

With a resume that includes past projects like Elias The Band, The Kaiser Brothers, The Butterbox Babies, Crossley Hunter and The Smile Case, Cronmiller has been deeply embedded in the Ontario music scene for years. Today, with his current roster of bands including The Filthy Radicals, The Lexington Cure, Where's Shane and Ace

of Swords, he continues to stretch his creativity across genres.

Fans can look forward to The Filthy Radicals joining the STOMP 30th Anniversary Celebration in December while The Lexington Cure plans a Tillsonburg album release show for their new EP. For now, Cronmiller is staying true to the beat that has kept him moving all these years with the perfect recipe of hard work, versatility and the thrill of live music.

You can catch Where's Shane with Mars 51, The Kostyrias and The Wash-out on Saturday, Oct 25 at the Homebrews & House-shows concert series in Tillsonburg. Music starts at 7pm with a Pay What You Can Donation. Address and details can be found by asking Marcy or by following Where's Shane on Facebook.

UPCOMING SHOWS

SEPT. 17 - EUCHRE NIGHT
The Copper Mug – 6 p.m.

SEPT. 18 - FELICIA MCMINN
The Copper Mug
No Cover – 8 p.m.

SEPT. 18 - OPEN MIC NIGHT
W/ BILLY GIBBONS
Paddy's Underground
No Cover - 7:30 p.m. - All Ages/
Licensed

SEPT. 19 - BEATLES IN BLUE
St. John's Anglican Church
\$25 – 7 p.m.

SEPT. 19 - COTY ROBINSON
The Copper Mug
No Cover - 8:30 p.m.

SEPT. 20 - COMEDY NIGHT
W/ JIMMY ENGLAND,
DAN BRENNAN, KAITLIN
SHUVERA & KEVIN ELLIOT
Tillsonburg Legion #153
\$10 – 8 p.m.

SEPT. 20 - GHOST TOWN
CITIZEN W/ CHASE BERES
The Copper Mug
No Cover – 8 p.m.

OCT. 4 - ANDY COLONICO W/
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Warden talks takeaways from this year's AMO conference

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Marcus Ryan led the Oxford County contingent at this year's Association of Municipalities of Ontario's annual conference.

The event gives local politicians and senior staff from municipalities across the province an opportunity to rub elbows with their counterparts at the Ontario government to lobby predominantly, increased funding.

Ryan said the majority of his time at AMO in recent years has been spent delegating on behalf of the Township of Zorra, Oxford County, or the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus.

"Most of my time is spent in meetings with ministers trying to realize opportunities or address issues. I think the main issues we are trying to prioritize or get traction on with ministers are around the Community Paramedicine Program we deliver through funding from the Ministry of Long-Term Care."

The program is a proactive healthcare initiative developed by Oxford County Paramedic Services that extends care beyond 911 responses. Instead of focusing solely on emergencies, it emphasizes preventative care, chronic disease management, and in-home support for vulnerable populations.

"Our funding for it was always year by year; it was never stable. The province announced a couple of weeks ago it was going to be permanent, but there hasn't been an increase for inflation in a couple of years. We had a constructive conversation with the minister about that."

To no one's surprise, Ryan admitted the number one issue in his conversations was around funding for the county's homelessness prevention plan. Oxford has received just over \$2.9 million for several years.

"It's not indexed to inflation, so we've gotten the same amount for five years, and as everybody knows, the cost of everything has gone up over five years, so we are doing a little bit less every year. I struck up a conversation with the minister about what we would be doing with that money if we got more of it."

Ryan said several pieces, including the upcoming HART Hub, are coming together to improve the homelessness situation in the county, but stable funding with inflationary increases would make a big difference in the battle to get more people off the streets.

He explained it is difficult for him to explore parts of the conference where pioneering ideas are presented. As a mayor and warden, he has more opportunities to try and advance issues on behalf of residents. He admitted he isn't able to attend as many learning sessions where new ideas are floated.

"The parts of the conference where people go and hear from people present on new and innovative things they are doing, I just don't get to go to those anymore. I have to rely on other councillors or staff telling me about them. I literally go with a binder of delegation packages, and I literally go from room to room, sitting down with different ministers and parliamentary assistants, telling them about policy and funding we need



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Oxford County was well represented at the recent AMO Conference in Toronto. CAO Ben Addley and Warden Marcus Ryan (left) sit across the table from Ontario Education Minister Paul Calandra.

in Zorra and Oxford."

Ryan and the rest of the county's team had an opportunity to debrief on the drive home from Ottawa, and he has gone over notes from Oxford's Sarah Hamulecki, Oxford's Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Intergovernmental Relations.

"We will be having a sit-down meeting to discuss next steps, and we do have an advocacy strategy now. That's fine if the mayor or the warden wants to talk to a minister, that's great that I got some facetime and a photo, but all that matters to residents is did I get the policy change or the funding I wanted to get."

He explained an extensive

review is undertaken after conferences like AMO, done under the lens of what comes next to advance priorities important to residents.

The cost to attend AMO is approximately \$1,000 per delegate, plus hotel, travel, and other expenses. Ryan said taxpayers have every right to ask the total cost of the convention and other lobbying efforts, but he is confident the expenses are justified. He provided an example of just how important government relations is, saying it is an investment.

"Oxford County made a delegation to Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs in January and said we

need \$722,000 from a funding envelope from a funding envelope we've never gotten money from before. It would allow us to build more affordable housing, do more community outreach to the homeless population, and start a seasonal emergency shelter in Tillsonburg. In March, we received that money to do all those things."

Ryan said he is aware of other municipalities that didn't receive money from that particular funding stream.

"Three-quarters of a million dollars compared to the cost of a few of us going to the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) in January is money well spent. The cost

of a hotel and a few meals is a drop in the bucket if we can get funding and policy changes that structurally change the Oxford County budget."

The AMO conference is Ontario's largest annual gathering of municipal officials. It is a non-profit organization that represents Ontario's 444 cities, towns, townships and counties. It attempts to further municipal interests to the Ontario and federal governments, researches and develops positions on issues like housing, transit, climate change, policing, and municipal finance. It also provides training, workshops, and conferences for municipal staff and elected officials.



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WINGS AND WHEELS



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association volunteer Jeremy Williams provides pre-flight instructions to Amanda Fluhrer in a Yale on Sept. 13. CHAA's next open house and fly day at the Tillsonburg Regional Airport is Oct. 4.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

A Harvard pilot waves at the conclusion of Saturday's Wings & Wheels Family Fun Day. More than 4,000 people attended the Sept. 13 event. Three Harvard planes provided 38 flight experiences.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

A Harvard plane takes off Saturday at the Tillsonburg Regional Airport during the annual Wings & Wheels Family Fun Day.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Jody and Keith Farkas check out a 1970 Dodge Dart, owned by Ron and Irene Dalby of Tillsonburg, at the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association's annual Wings & Wheels Family Fun Day at the Tillsonburg Regional Airport on Sept. 13.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Members of the Tillsonburg Cruisers gathered at the Wings & Wheels Family Fun Day, Sept. 13 at the Tillsonburg Regional Airport. There were 543 officially registered 'wheels' at the event with an estimated 600-plus vintage, classic, and muscle vehicles in total.

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Photograph

I make two people out of one, but I'm not magic. What am I?
Mirror

I can follow you all day but vanish at night. What am I?
Shadow

I sit in a corner yet travel the world. What am I?
Stamp

I'm cold at first, then warm your hands; I disappear as I fulfill my plans. What am I?
Match

I'm a bow that can't be tied and colors the sky after storms. What am I?
Rainbow

I'm found in seconds, centuries, and minutes, but not in years, days, or weeks. What am I?
The letter "n"

SUDOKU

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Solutions on Page 26

Level: Beginner

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R	O	X	X	U	K	G	K	C	B	T	W	R	F	Q	Z	K	J	R	P
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TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH NEWS



Pilot program to start this fall: Norwich to serve up some pickleball

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

Norwich Township is jumping on the pickleball bandwagon.

Staff will be implementing a trial pickleball program this fall that will see the sport offered on a drop-in basis in the community centre auditorium. Councillors approved a staff recommendation to offer the program at the Sept. 9 meet-

ing.

"We think this is a pretty effective and pretty cheap way of giving it a try and see if the demand is what our community members feel it is likely to be. Then we may well be looking at offering more of this in the future," said CAO Matt Smith.

Earlier this year a delegation to council requested the township look at ways to offer pickleball, which has grown drastically in popularity in recent years, especially among

older adults.

The auditorium should be able to fit four courts, while the nets are expected to cost a total of \$1,000.

The plan is to offer two-hour time slots in the morning, afternoon and evening so staff can gauge what time is most popular. There will likely be straight drop-in sessions along with a season session.

Once the trial wraps up in December staff will review and consider a more permanent program beginning in 2026.

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QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Marilyn Monroe
2. Pongo
3. Spain
4. Saffron
5. Bradley Cooper
6. Cambridge
7. George Orwell
8. 8min, 20sec
9. Omnivores
10. TARS

SUDOKU

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

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COMING EVENTS

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TRIBUTE NIGHT AT ST. JOHN'S "BEATLES IN BLUE"

**Come Celebrate our 125th Anniversary
Friday, September 19: 7-9:00 p.m.**

Tickets are \$25.00 - Family and Friends Welcome. Spinning the Beatles songbook in a new way.

Complementary refreshments served during intermission.

LET'S FALL INTO COUNTRY MUSIC WITH THE INGERSOLL COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE

**at the Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St.,
Ingersoll, 1-4 p.m. every other Friday.
September 19, October 3, 17 & 31,
November 14 & 28, and December 5.**

Join us. Walk ins welcome. Qualifications, love 50-70's country music, perform, listen, dance, and enjoy.

MODERN SQUARE DANCING IS FOR YOU!

Looking for something to do in the evening or something new to try? Modern square dancing is a great way to learn something new, have fun, meet new friends, relieve stress, and get some exercise! **At Thames Valley Dance Club, we dance on Monday nights from 7 - 9 p.m.** All you need is comfortable shoes and casual clothing. No experience or partner is required and anyone over the age of 12 is welcome (children from 12-15 with an adult, please). **The 2025-2026 season has started at the Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall, 108 Wonham St. S. Ingersoll.** The first night is free, and after that the cost is \$7.50 per person each Monday, paid monthly at the start of the month. For more information, contact Julie at 519-535-3314. Hope to see you on Sept 8th at the Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall!

BURGESSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

**are hosting a
SMASH BURGER AND FRIES
LUNCH BY JTK MEATS FROM
VERSHOYLE**

Saturday, September 20: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

A opportunity for us at BBC to give back to the community.

Included in this fun afternoon is a family friendly scavenger hunt with prizes for the winners . Please feel free to tell a friend and or be a friend and bring them along . For more info - Text or call Tammy at 519-532-9046

TILLSONBURG LEGION COMEDY NIGHT

Saturday, September 20: 8 p.m.

Featuring Jimmy England. Advance Tickets \$20 or tillcomeventbrite.ca. All Welcome!

FREE SENIOR DIGITAL LITERACY CLASSES

Encompassing Facebook, Zoom, Google Maps, YouTube, and Microsoft Suite.

Classes are:

Wed, Sept. 24 @ Multi-Service Centre 10 a.m. – Noon.

Call 519-842-9000 x.266 to register.

HAM AND SCALLOPED POTATOES DINNER

**at the Tillsonburg Legion
Friday, September 26: 5-6 p.m.**

Includes dessert, tea, and coffee. Cash only \$18 per person. All Welcome. For more info call 519-842-5281.

**KEN LIGHTHEART AND THE
NORTHSHORE RAMBLERS
at the Tillsonburg Legion
Friday, September 26: 1-4 p.m.**

\$7 entry. All Welcome!

**The Ingersoll Rotary Club is proud to
host THE 2025 INTERNATIONAL
SOFTBALL CONGRESS (ISC) MEN'S
FASTBALL TOURNAMENT
in Ingersoll September 26-28 at Victoria
and Garnet Elliott Parks.**

Games begin 7 p.m. Friday. See some of the best league teams vying for a berth into next year's World's ISC Championship Tournament in Kitchener, Ontario in August 2026. At press time, registered teams are Georgian Bay, Sebringville, Saugeen, St. Thomas, Puslinch, Wiarton, Waterdown, Jarvis, Walton and Kitchener.

OTTERVILLE'S LIVING HISTORY RE-ENACTMENT

Sat. Sept. 27: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sun Sept. 28: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Candlelight Tour Sat. at 7 p.m.

Skirmish Sat. at 2 p.m. & Sun. at 1 p.m.

225422 Main St. W. Otterville

SNHS Food Booth

Admission by donation

OTTER VALLEY TAI CHI

**Free Class/Open House
Monday, September 29: 9-10 a.m.**

**St. John's Anglican Church,
46 Ridout St. W., Tillsonburg**

Enjoy gentle exercise with others as you work to improve flexibility, balance and stamina. Call 519-688-9779, email ottervalley@canadiantaichiacademy.org, visit canadiantaichiacademy.org (a registered non-profit Canadian charity)

MESSY CHURCH AND "AN APPLE A DAY" EVENT

October 4: 10 a.m.-12 noon.

**St. Paul's United church 88 Bidwell St.,
Tillsonburg.**

Crafts, music, games, story, snacks and lunch. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

LYME DISEASE: WHAT IS HAPPENING IN ONTARIO?

Saturday, October 4: 2 p.m.

The Edison, Vienna & Area Museum,

6209 Plank Rd, Vienna

Dr Andrew Peregrine from the University of Guelph will speak to the prevention of Lyme Disease, the ticks that cause it, how to prevent it. Further info if needed email bayhamhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com This is a free event and made possible by our members that volunteer at Jackpot Time, St Thomas Ontario!!

THE DO-OVERS BAND FROM LONDON IS AT THE TILLSONBURG LEGION

on Saturday October 4: 8 p.m. -12 a.m.

Come dance to all your favourite country and rock hits. Check them out at www.doovers.ca. Advance Tickets \$15. All Welcome!

ROTARY BOOK FAIR

The Tillsonburg Rotary Club is holding it's fall book fair **at the Tillsonburg Mall from Monday, October 6 to Saturday, October 11.** Give your used books, CD's and puzzles a new home! Help the environment by bringing your own bags to take home your purchases.

TILLSONBURG SNOOKER LEAGUES AND SHUFFLEBOARD START OCTOBER 7

If you are interested in playing please drop in to the **Tillsonburg Legion Canteen Tuesday thru Saturday between 1 and 5 pm** for more information! Must be 19 and over.

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY CIRCUIT BOOK FAIR

October 25: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas

Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7

Free Admission & Parking

Stop in and buy some stamps and meet fellow stamp collectors. About 8 participating stamp clubs.

Contact: Don Eaton dhfe@silomail.com

Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

CHRISTMAS WITH COMMUNITY LIVING

Friday, December 5 – Free will donation.

**St. John's Anglican Church,
46 Ridout Street West, Tillsonburg,
Ontario**

Join us, with our friends from Community Living, to start the Christmas season off with Christmas music and a good old Carol Sing. Christmas treats for all.

INTERESTED IN BRIDGE?

Join us every Friday at the Tillsonburg Duplicate Bridge Club at 1 p.m. at The Senior Centre. Don't have a partner? Come anyway and we will match you up with someone. For more information, visit their Facebook page: TburgBridge.

TILLSONBURG LIONS

The Tillsonburg Lions meet on the 1st

and 3rd Tuesdays. You are invited to their dinner meetings in the Lion's Den at the Community Centre. If you are interested in giving back to your Community contact Jim at 519 409 0876 for more information.....all are welcome.

OXFORD GRIEF CARE:

FREE Monthly Grief Support Group

Register at: oxford.griefsupport@von.ca or 519-539-1231 Ext 6299 or 6296

TILLSONBURG

WHEN: 2nd Tuesday of every month

WHERE: VON Oxford Office 24 Brock St. W., Tillsonburg

TIME: 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

INGERSOLL

WHEN: 4th Tuesday of every month

WHERE: Ingersoll Public Library 130 Oxford St., Ingersoll

TIME: 10:30 a.m. –12 Noon

WOODSTOCK

WHEN: 3rd Saturday of every month

WHERE: Sakura House Hospice 715180

Oxford Rd.4, Woodstock

TIME: 10:30 a.m. –12 Noon

MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING

1st Wednesday of every month

Starting at 7 pm

Not a member contact us to join The Wagner Memorial Teeterville Legion Branch 526. 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario. For More Information Call, the Legion 519-443-5588 <https://www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca>

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT ONE OF OUR EVENTS? WE WELCOME YOU!

The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526

3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario

You do not need to be a member to Volunteer, Just contact the legion and leave your name and number and purpose of your call. Someone will get back to you as to where you might be needed. Students and Adults welcome. Open hours. Wed.-Fri. 3 pm-10 pm, Sat. 1 pm-10 pm, Sun. 1 pm-6 pm. For More Information call, the Legion at 519-443-5588 or teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY Meetings: 2nd Tuesday (2-4 p.m.) and 4th Tuesday (7-9 p.m.)

September to May

**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>



FALL CLEARANCE DEALS

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 8AM-9PM, SATURDAY: 8AM-6PM, SUNDAY: 9AM-6PM

THE ROCK CERAMIC 10PC COOKSET

SALE
\$149.93



HALF PRICE

REG \$299.99
SKU 399-6755 (4 LEFT)

LAGOSTINA 12PC COPPER HAMMERED COOKSET

SALE
\$199.93



SAVE \$400

REG \$599.99
SKU 142-2641 (3 LEFT)

CANVAS DINING CHAIR 2 PACK

SALE
\$99.93



HALF PRICE

REG \$199.99
SKU 199-2228 (7 SETS LEFT)

X-ROCKER 4.1 GAMING CHAIR

SALE
\$199.93



SAVE \$180

REG \$379.99
SKU 168-0117 (4 LEFT)

DYSON ROBOTIC VACUUM

SALE
\$749.93



HALF PRICE

REG \$1499.99
SKU 43-7202 (ONE LEFT)

SEGWAY F2 ELECTRIC SCOOTER

SALE
\$729.93



SAVE \$350

REG \$1079.99
SKU 184-1595

WEBER TRAVELLER PORTABLE PROPANE BBQ

SALE
\$299.93



SAVE \$200

REG \$499.99
SKU 85-4263 (3 LEFT)

T-FAL EZ FRY, XL AIR FRYER

SALE
\$69.93



SAVE \$60

REG \$129.99
SKU 43-0944

EVOLUTION 10 INCH MITRE SAW

SALE
\$169.93



SAVE \$200

REG \$369.99
SKU 55-6779 (2 LEFT)

10LB WEIGHTED BLANKET

SALE
\$19.93



SAVE 75%

REG \$79.99
SKU 399-5801

PROFORM 550R EXERCISE ROWER

SALE
\$399.93



HALF PRICE

REG \$799.99
SKU 184-1274

DYSON AIR PURIFIER HOT & COLD

SALE
\$699.93



SAVE \$300

REG \$999.99
SKU 43-8626

IROBOT J7 PLUS, VAC & MOP 2-IN-1

SALE
\$399.93



SAVE \$900

REG \$1299.99
SKU 43-7119 (1 LEFT)

SARIS FLUID 2 SMART INDOOR BIKE TRAINER

SALE
\$139.93



SAVE \$400

REG \$539.99
SKU 73-0526 (1 LEFT)

LIFETIME INGROUND BASKETBALL SYSTEM, 54" BOARD

SALE
\$599.93



Save \$500

REG \$1099.99
SKU 184-0823 (LAST ONE)

DE'LONGHI DEDICA ARTE ESPRESSO MACHINE

SALE
\$199.93



HALF PRICE

REG \$399.99
SKU 43-0115 (3 LEFT)

CAMO SHED 10X10X8 FOOT

SALE
\$199.93



SAVE \$300

REG \$499.99
SKU 37-0020 (2 LEFT)

FAIRMONT FAUX CONCRETE FIRE TABLE, PROPANE

SALE
\$174.93



HALF PRICE

REG \$349.99
SKU 85-0101 (2 LEFT)

SIMCOE JUMBO OFFSET PATIO UMBRELLA

SALE
\$599.93



HALF PRICE

REG \$1199.99
SKU 188-0394 (ONE LEFT)

DYSON GEN5 DETECT CORDLESS VAC

SALE
\$949.93



SAVE \$250

REG \$1199.99
SKU 43-7145 (4 LEFT)

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