

Tillsonburg POST

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Earle Street development approved by council

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A controversial development on Earle Street was given the go-ahead by town council at the Nov. 10 meeting.

For the 47-unit, four-story development to proceed, it needs a zone change to Medium Density Special Residential and an official plan amendment. The development would be affordable and attainable housing.

Resident Lori Van Opstal, speaking on behalf of several of her neighbours, addressed the council as a delegation, with several people standing silently behind her.

"As a former chair of the Fleet Safety Council Conference, I'm alarmed by the traffic study," she said. "It underestimated traffic volume, ignored cumulative development in the area and even admitted the Cedar and Simcoe intersection operated at an F."

Van Opstal said those who live in the area must edge their way out into the intersection to overcome the blind corner. She personally watched countless collision near-misses. She also noted the traffic study didn't address pedestrian or school safety, and there were no sidewalks in the area.

Van Opstal had several requests, including to retain and expand the play area with a 25 to 30-meter-wide walkway as open space, to zone the existing woodlot as passive open space, and to have a recorded vote on all future decisions related to the property so the public will know how council voted on the disposition of the green space.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



NIGHTTIME SANTA CLAUS LIGHTS UP TOWN

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Tillsonburg's Santa Claus parade was another success with people lining the streets along the entire route. More than 100 floats, walkers and vehicles took part in the parade, with the last float carrying the one everyone was waiting for – Santa and Mrs. Claus. See more photos on Page 20.

Local hospital launches new Hospital to Home program

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital and Alexandra Hospital Ingersoll are two of five health care facilities in the province being added to an innovative program to assist patients to transition from hospital to home.

Called the Hospital to Home (H2H) Program, it is designed to promote safe and timely transitions from hospital to home for eligible patients, providing up to 16 weeks of wrap-around services to be delivered in their home or community setting following discharge. The care may in-

clude a combination of nursing, personal support workers, and rehabilitation therapy, dependent on the needs of each patient.

The new program has already been implemented in eight hospitals across the province. The announcement of the addition of Tillsonburg and Ingersoll hospitals, now jointly called Rural Roads Health Services (RRHS), will bring the total to 13.

Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman was in Tillsonburg on Friday for an announcement of the program, which is now up and running.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



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Traffic concerns, cost of lights and sidewalks remain a concern for development

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

After questions from Mayor Deb Gilvesy and Coun. Kelly Spencer which resulted in assurances the existing park would remain, council voted to accept Van Opstal's presentation as information. It was also noted that the woodlot is already protected.

The issue resurfaced later in the meeting when county development planner Amy Hartley presented a report that addressed several points council had requested further information on at the Oct. 14 meeting. In the report, she noted, "Town of Tillsonburg Manager of Engineering clarified that the Traffic Impact Study (TIS) does not indicate a failure at the intersection of Simcoe Street and Cedar Street, but that the intersection is operating at a Level of Service (LOS) F (which is based on a scale of A to F). The LOS F at the northbound left-turn occurs at peak PM hours, however, it is noted by

the TIS author that 'the movement is well within the lane capacity, and the delay is typical' and 'the proposed development can be accommodated by the existing study area road system, and no off-site road improvements will be required'."

Furthermore, the consultant conducting the town's Transportation Master Plan also commented on the intersection after the council made a request that the intersection be referred to the study. The consultant's input also agreed that there were no issues with the intersection, stating that the current 69-second delay in making a left turn would increase to 110 seconds by 2032. Looking at it another way, the 18 vehicles turning left during peak times are forecast to increase to 24 in 2032.

Coun. Chris Parker, who expressed concern about the intersection of Cedar and Simcoe Streets at the October meet-

ing, still stated that he would like to see something done at the intersection.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy also wanted to see something done at the intersection, saying a traffic light would present challenges, backing traffic up to the existing lights. She wanted to see staff "think outside the box" looking for solutions.

Coun. Kelly Spencer asked if there was funding for sidewalks, curbs and lighting included in the proposal.

Hartley answered that there was no funding included, and this would eventually be a capital project. Parker also backed this point, and Hartley clarified that it could be directed during the site plan approval process.

When Gilvesy pushed the concept of determining who would pay for the infrastructure prior to a tender on the development, Development Commissioner Cephas Panschow explained it could be

done through negotiations.

"I understand the neighbourhood's concerns, I really do," Parker said. "This is something the affordable and attainable housing committee has looked at for a number of years. We looked at a number of different locations and a number of different areas for this development."

He maintained he still wants to see a plan for the intersection from the traffic committee or traffic master plan.

Gilvesy said one of the goals is to provide housing for PSWs who would work at the new long-term care home on Maple Lane.

Hartley committed to advising county staff of council's desire to have sidewalks and lighting paid for by the developer.

The final motion was to inform county council that Tillsonburg council supports the official plan amendment and approves the zone change application.

TDMH one of five hospitals added to innovative program

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"Our government is committed to ensuring that Ontarians receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time," he said. "This initiative will not only improve patient outcomes but also strengthen the health care system here in Oxford County by reducing pressures on our hospitals and supporting families close to home."

Hardeman appreciates that many people don't want stay for a long time at the hospital, saying he saw it with his own mother.

"For a long time, we've known and appreciate people want to age in their own home," he said.

The local MPP was also pleased to see two hospitals participating in the program in the riding.

"The number of hospitals getting this opportunity is a lot smaller than the number not," Hardeman said.

By enabling hospitals to become approved Home Care Providers, H2H allows them to deliver essential home care ser-

vices in partnership with service provider organizations. This approach has program standards that prioritize high-quality, patient-centered care. In the case of AHI and TDMH, the services will be delivered by Bayshore Health Care.

"Together, we are committed to providing seamless, compassionate care to support patients every step of the way—from hospital to home," said Nadia Facca, president of AHI/TDMH.

She gave credit to Donald Williams, local H2H navigator, and Heather Dubeck, director of clinical services, for bringing the program to fruition so quickly.

There is specific medical criteria that must be met for a patient to be part of the program. If approved, Bayshore can respond and provide services in the home within 24 hours.

The goal is to enroll 80 patients in the program by the end of this fiscal year on March 31, 2026.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The launch of the new Hospital to Home Program at AHI and TDMH was announced by Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman last week at the Tillsonburg hospital. Taking part in the announcement were, left to right: Donald Williams, H2H navigator; Jennifer Row, vice-president; Susan Goble Hall, board member; Nadia Facca, president; Ernie Hardeman, Oxford MPP; Dr. Clay Inculet, chief of staff; April Mullen, vice-president RRHS; and Heather Dubeck, director of clinical services. All hospital leaders in the photo are from AHI/TDMH.



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EDITORIAL

Is council to blame for the town's growth

Judging by the latest presentation by residents in the area of a proposed development in the area of 31 Earle Street, they will be looking for blood come the next election.

Speaking on behalf of neighbours, resident Lori VanOpstal made several requests of council regarding a zoning and official plan amendment application for a development with affordable/attainable housing as its anchor. One of the requests was for a recorded vote to allow residents to track how each councillor voted. Such a request suggests that residents will looking for retribution come next year's election.

Chief among the points made during presentations at the last two council meetings is the issue of traffic, and in particular, the intersection of Cedar and Simcoe Street. This is a valid concern, as turning left into this intersection can be a challenge. It should be noted, though, that turning left anywhere in Tillsonburg on Broadway or Simcoe Street is becoming increasingly challenging as traffic volumes increase. Council members listened to this request,

and this is likely not the last we'll hear of it.

Residents raised other concerns, some of which were valid, while others were not. This development is more complicated as the town and Oxford County are the applicants for the changes as they use an innovative approach to add to the affordable and attainable housing inventory. However, this development isn't the first time there has been grumbling about growth in Tillsonburg.

In an effort to create more housing, the provincial government has changed the application process, taking away the power councillors once had to approve or reject and manage developments. In general, even though a council may stall a development, the developer can appeal and usually wins, costing taxpayers thousands for legal fees along the way. There are, of course, exceptions if there isn't sewer or water capacity.

As residents in general see the town grow in the last few years, there is a lot of finger-pointing at this council and the past

one.

But with each municipality having

growth targets set provincially, it is a matter out of council's hands.



Lest We Forget.

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Let's hear it for show tunes from Broadway



WRITER'S CORNER

NORMA COLLIS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Every November, my parents planned a day in the big city of Toronto for the entire family to enjoy. As a child, this day became a yearly highlight. We would first spend time at the Royal Winter Fair. I always looked forward to viewing that year's giant butter sculpture.

My mother was a very frugal shopper, so butter only ever graced our dining table if we had company for dinner. Instead, our family ate an orange-colored product which was the forerunner of today's margarine. I remember the product well. It arrived from the grocery store, in a plastic pouch with a smaller pouch of coloring included in the packaging. My sister and I loved to take turns punching and kneading the product as we attempted to distribute the coloring evenly through the pseudo-dairy product. We usually ended up with a spreadable substance that displayed unevenly spaced orange streaks and looked thoroughly unappetizing.

That huge butter sculpture at the fair was a wonder to behold. Aside from the intricacies of the sculpture itself, I was in awe of the amount of butter used in the creation. I wondered what happened to this huge yellow edifice once the fair ended. Most of all, I wondered if they needed a volunteer family to take the sculpture home once it was no longer needed.

After a morning spent at the fair, we were taken to view the animated windows at the big downtown

department stores and then to line up to visit Santa at the huge Eaton's store. Eaton's had a teddy bear named Punkinhead as their mascot. I was over the moon the year that Santa's elves presented each small visitor with their very own Punkinhead story book.

In the evening, we were always taken to see some sort of live production. One year it was the annual Ice Capades at Maple Leaf Gardens. I loved that experience but it could not begin to compete with the splendor of viewing the Broadway musical "Oklahoma" at the Royal Alex Theatre. The stage settings, the dancing, but most of all the music introduced me to a world I had never seen before.

For some strange reason, one of the show tunes stuck in my head and I began to sing that song around the house every chance I got. I would stand at the top of the stairs in our home, which was the church manse, and belt out my favorite show tune at the top of my lungs. I had no idea that it was totally inappropriate for the ministers' daughter to lustily sing the song "I'm Just a Girl who Can't Say No."

When I asked if I could sing that song at the annual family Christmas variety show put on for my grandmother, it was gently suggested that grandma was more partial to hymns. I was encouraged to select one of the songs I had learned at Sunday School, so I sang "God Sees the Little Sparrow Fall." It has a lovely melody but I don't think it will ever make it to the Broadway stage.

That Christmas my older sister was gifted with the long-playing record album of the soundtrack from "Oklahoma". She played that thing incessantly.

I'm sure my parents were fervently hoping that I might pick a new favorite song from the show, but my preferred solo piece remained the same.

A few years later, our family travelled to a nearby city, and we saw the movie version of "South Pacific" on a big screen with surround sound. I loved it!

The settings on an island in the Pacific Ocean were gorgeous. The dancing was amazing, but once

again my favorite part of the show was the music. My long-suffering parents were probably hoping I would pick a new song from this show as my favorite melody to sing around the house.

I tried my hand at the song "Bali Hai" but had

difficulty remembering all the lyrics. Instead, I selected a catchier tune as my number one top hit.

From then on, I made my way around our home, singing at the top of my lungs....."I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Out of My Hair."

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Part 2: Ernie Simmons collection protected by guns



LAUREL A. BEECHEY
Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Ernie and his parents got through the Second World War, still collecting and selling parts.

“The Ernie Simmons Story” from the Simmons Collection noted that in 1946 Ernie purchased the warplanes and parts for his collection/business. The Yale Trainers, Swordfish, and Anson fuselages evidently made great chicken coops. He also had 30 Cheetah IX used in Avro Ansons. Unlike others, Ernie did not cut up his planes, he was saving them for WW3, which he thought would happen soon after the Second World War ended.

When not busy buying or selling or patrolling and defending his treasures, on his property, he was writing to local newspapers about conspiracies by the government, veterinarians and big business, who were pushing cattle TB vaccine testing that he believed would end in the demise of the family farm in Canada.

As time went on, Ernie became more of a recluse. Other adjectives I found while researching him were eccentric hermit, and fearlessly possessive.

The late Wayne Coyle reminisced about Ernie on Facebook: “The farmhouse was isolated. surrounded by

old trees, with an extremely long lane in. Want to make a deal? Enter the treed property slowly, blowing the car horn to announce their presence. When ready Ernie approached the car, with his ever-present shotgun. Then, you the buyer could inquire as to one's business. or, if you were at least, polite and respectful, all was good, and he'd do business. In a good mood, he would give you a tour of the place, giving a knowledgeable commentary about each vehicle. Lookers, however, were not allowed to stray from the paths he had made in the grass and were never allowed to climb on the aircraft. He'd usually tell would-be buyers, if they asked about a particular machine, "Sorry, you can't have that one! I'm gonna fix it up one of these days." “Sometimes, he'd charge 50 cents or a dollar for his tours. He was even willing to pose for pictures with his machines. Many pictures survive. He was obviously proud of his collection.”

My personal opinion garnered from the research was that Ernie and his father rarely got around to fixing anything up. Simmon’s Collection also noted: “The house was also seriously neglected. It hadn't seen a coat of paint in decades. Hydro had long since been discontinued over some dispute. Apparently, there was a furnace in the basement, but it wasn't used. The only heat was from the kitchen stove.”

Ernie collected and must have sold enough of his treasures and parts to keep the family of three with the bare necessities of life. Ernie was aggressively possessive of his collection, which grew over a larger area. Over the years much was stolen.

Wendy Layman, wrote on Facebook: “My dad and mom's farm backed onto Ernie’s farm, as well my dad would plant and harvest his fields as well, I remember all those planes, motorcycles very well. as well he had some old cars. Very nice man when u got to know him.”

By 1961, John Edward, Ernie's father was no longer

capable of getting to the barn to milk their last cow. Ernest sold the cow, and everyone was happy to not go to the cold barn to milk. Unfortunately, John died that year at the age of 86, in the dead of winter. His mother Grace, was still alive, but with dementia. Ernie had to tour the property on his own now. Signs told trespassers that they were likely to be shot. Ernie and his father would tour the property with loaded guns to protect it. There were loaded shotguns and pistols in the trees around the bigger items that were booby trapped with trip wires.

On Aug. 24, 1968, Ernie surprised five intruders loading old motorcycles onto a panel truck on his property, at about 6:45a.m. He fired two shots from a 12-gauge shotgun, wounding three of the thieves, one seriously.

People thought they must have a lot of money, although one look at their house should have negated that thought. Did they hoard it?

Part three of a look into Ernie Simmons legacy will continue next week.

Weekend Quiz

by Jake Grant

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Bermuda is located in which Ocean? | 6. Who hit No.1 in 2008 with the song 'Touch My Body'? |
| 2. What is the highest female voice in a choir? | 7. What is the talking dog's name in "Family Guy"? |
| 3. What university is home to the Fighting Irish? | 8. What's the fancy name for a squirrel's cozy little home? |
| 4. What is also known as Japanese horseradish? | 9. What country will host the 2026 Winter Olympics? |
| 5. The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald occurred on what day? | 10. Who played Tony Soprano in The Sopranos? |

This week’s answers are found on pg. 26

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Editor’s Note: Talented writers wanted

Writer’s Corner is a new feature in the Tillsonburg Post, featuring the talent of our local writers.

Author Norma Collis has graciously provided material to launch this new column, but features are welcome from other local writers.

Submissions should be 600 to 800 words in length.

Submitted material doesn’t need to be about Tillsonburg, but a connection to the town is a bonus. Topics are diverse, but should not be business promotion or political opinion pieces.

E-mail editor Jeff Helsdon at jeff@granthaven.com with any questions.

Tillsonburg POST

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No decision on Rotary clock tower's future



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The Rotary Clock Tower is in need of repairs with the brickwork on the exterior of the building decaying. Although town council set aside money for repairs in the budget, contractors suggested the building may need more serious repairs than just exterior masonry touch-ups.

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Town council approved a \$7,000 engineering report on the integrity of the Rotary Clock Tower's brickwork, putting off repairs as the possibility of an entire rebuild was raised.

Adam Kannawin, manager of parks and facilities, presented council with a report recommending spending \$7,000 of \$45,000 budgeted for repairing the clock tower in the 2025 budget to complete a study of "the compromised exterior masonry of the clock tower." He also suggested putting the remaining funds of the \$45,000 in a reserve.

Coun. Chris Rosehart asked if there wasn't in-house expertise to complete it, instead of paying a consultant.

Kannawin explained the project had been reviewed with the town's engineering team, and it was felt someone with expertise in building science should complete the study. He added three quotes were received for the repairs, and "Two of the three warned us there was something catastrophic going on behind the scenes." He referred to a 2019 report that found the exterior brick was integral to the structure.

Coun. Chris Parker asked if the replacement of the structure was needed and if that would be part of the report, Coun. Kelly Spencer wanted to see the report would have options.

Kannawin said a future report could look at the future of the clock tower.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy believes there are three to four layers of brick, and asked if anyone has looked at the original drawings, which hasn't happened yet she learned. Kannawin committed to checking these, explaining the 2019 report stated the brick exterior is part of the tower's structure.

The mayor also agreed a report should have options for the future of the structure.

"At the end of the day, I don't think we could do this without additional study," Kannawin said. "If it is part of the structure, we need to confirm the façade is good before we can proceed."

Gilvesy also questioned the suggestion to move the remaining funds allocated for the repair into a reserve, rather than keeping them available, as the council was dedicated to fixing the tower.

"\$38,000 won't be enough if we are looking at a full replacement, which I think will be the outcome of the report," Kannawin said.

Coun. Chris Rosehart still questioned spending money on a report.

"I'm struggling spending the \$7,000. These masonries know what they are doing," she said.

In the end, council approved the study and moving \$38,000 to the facilities capital reserve.



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Council asks for more information on proposed Skyline Energy battery storage facility

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Town council is asking for more information before throwing its support behind a battery energy storage system proposed by Skyline Energy.

Matt Kennedy of Skyline Energy spoke at the Oct. 14 meeting, outlining the company's intention to apply to the province's energy regulator for a battery storage facility

as part of an effort to better utilize the grid. At the time, there was no motion of support coming from Tillsonburg council. Kennedy was back before council on Nov. 10, seeking a municipal support resolution as part of the application for the 30-megawatt battery storage system.

"Essentially what this means is we'll use the excess power at night and charge the batteries at night time, and put it back in the grid at times of high demand and high consumption to help with things like rolling brownouts, grid stability," he explained.

The proposal is to build the facility at the back of 500 Highway 3.

Since the last meeting, Kennedy stated that more work has been done on the site layout, an acoustic study has been commissioned, and he has spoken to the fire prevention officer. Discussions with Six Nations of the Grand River, a partner on the project, have also continued. He described the development as 40-foot shipping containers situated on concrete pads. As part of the agreement, the town will receive \$30,000 per year for the endurance of the 20-year term.

With similar battery storage facilities previously located on farm land, Coun. Bob Parsons asked where installations have been built in urban settings. Noting he was told Fergus when he asked the same question at the Oct. 14 meeting, Parsons said he investigated further and found that development was two kilometers south of the town. He also inquired about noise, whether the system would power the town, and about decommissioning.

Kennedy answered that if the grid were down, the battery system would not power the town. He explained the noise would be from the HVAC system, the financing includes decommissioning funds, and the company is working with the fire department.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres asked why there was a shift to building in urban centres. Kennedy said there was a

directive from the province not to build on prime agricultural land, and the power is needed more in urban areas.

Coun. Chris Rosehart wanted clarification on whether there would be a benefit for Tillsonburg residents in the event of a power outage.

"Correct, it's not back-up power," Kennedy said. "The purpose of this procurement from the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), and the need for more power, is because they're predicting a 75 per cent increase in power consumption over the next 25 years. The two options they're looking at now is to build more generation, or find ways to store that power when it's not being used and put back it in play when it's needed."

A question from Coun. Kelly Spencer ruled out the risk of cyberattacks on the installation.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy asked if the town has the capacity, and if this development would restrict future industrial growth, which could use night shifts. Kennedy assured that the capacity was available at night and that the IESO has regulations in place to ensure no negative impact on the grid.

Coun Chris Parker wanted assurances in advance that there would be no negative grid impact.

"I do apologize the i's weren't dotted and the t's crossed," Kennedy said. "This is the first procurement where municipalities can comment."

Graig Pettit, general manager of Tillsonburg Hydro, said the Skyline proposal won't solve the prediction the town will exceed its current 100-megawatt capacity in 2028 or 2029.

"It takes some of the urgency off, but it certainly doesn't mitigate the situation we are facing," he said, adding that the town has the capacity.

Council passed a motion requesting additional information from Tillsonburg Hydro, the fire chief, and further IESO data on existing battery storage systems.



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Ken Ludwig's 'Twas the Night Before Christmas brings holiday magic to Theatre Tillsonburg

JENNIFER ANGER-JULL

Post Contributor

Looking for the perfect way to kick off your holiday season? Theatre Tillsonburg's first production of the season, Ken Ludwig's 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, promises laughter, heart, and a whole lot of holiday magic for the entire family!

This heartwarming, fast-paced comedy follows a determined young girl, a mischievous mouse, and a spunky elf as they race through Santa's workshop to save Christmas. Filled with sword fights, chase scenes, a plane flight, and plenty of festive fun, it's an adventure that will delight audiences from kids to grandparents.

"This show is a family-friendly experience that will be enjoyed by all ages," says cast member Pete Matthews, who takes on the roles of Uncle Brierly and the villainous Sir Guy of Gisbourne. "If our audience has as much fun watching the show as we've had performing it, they'll want to see it more than once."

For co-directors Jennifer Anger-Jull and Mike Jull, this production is especially meaningful.

"When we began planning this show, we knew we wanted to bring something truly special to the stage," says Mike. "A family show that everyone could enjoy, whether it's their first theatre experience or their hundredth, Ken Ludwig's 'Twas the Night Before Christmas felt like the perfect choice. Our connection to Theatre Tillsonburg runs deep. It's where we met and where our children grew up surrounded by the magic of live performance. Now, as a family, we get to create that magic together and share it with the community."

With producer Jennifer Arthur-Lackenbauer's dedication and creativity helping bring this dream to life, the production has truly been a labour of love for the entire Theatre Tillsonburg family. From original music and creative choreography to imaginative lighting, immersive sound design, and a set that pushes our technical limits, every element reflects the heart and teamwork behind this holiday story.

Angela Carvalho, a seasoned performer



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Theatre Tillsonburg's presentation of Ken Ludwig's 'Twas the Night Before Christmas brings some holiday cheer to the stage. The show starts this weekend, and continues next weekend.

who plays Britannia Sneed and Calliope the Elf, calls this show one of her most enjoyable experiences:

"I wasn't sure how I'd feel thinking about Christmas when we started rehearsals in July," she laughs, "but that's when the fun began. Everyone has worked so hard and really grown as a theatre family. I hope audiences enjoy it as much as we've loved creating it."

Braeden Fitzpatrick, who plays the spirited mouse Amos (and his twin brother from Kansas), adds, "I'm so grateful to be part of this amazing show with such a fantastic cast and crew."

Tori Bremner, in her Theatre Tillsonburg debut as Emily, a spirited young girl at the heart of this festive adventure, says, "I've really enjoyed participating and hope to be part of more shows in the future."

Even Santa himself, Brent Vanhooren, who also plays Mulch the henchman and Wendall

Sneed, sums it up best: "It's been a blast!"

This show also shines a spotlight on Theatre Tillsonburg's talented youth. Rendall Lackenbauer brings original music along with choreography for the show's lively dances and sword fights, while young performers Rory Curtis, Anneliese McCarter, Logan Smith, Camden Jull, Harmony Jull, and Sawyer Jull add extra sparkle as elves, both on-stage and behind the scenes.

Holiday extras you won't want to miss

Throughout the show's run, audience members can enter a special raffle for a once-in-a-

lifetime flight experience with the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association. Tickets are just \$10 each or 3 for \$20.

And after every performance, stay for "Cocoa and Cookies with Claus", a free post-show event that's the perfect way to wrap up a magical evening.

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(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

FRIGHTFUL FOOD DONATION

An increase of 50 per cent more people going through the Tillsonburg haunted house over last year, for a total of 1,669 people, benefitted the food bank with admission being either a food donation or cash donation. Total donations were 531 pounds of food and \$2,397 in cash. The haunted house was part of the BIA's Halloween promotion and was completed by crews from Barkhouse Productions and Coffin Man Inc. Left to right are: Naomi Dube, BIA; Vanessa Fortner, BIA; Chip Barkhouse, Barkhouse Productions; Samantha Hamilton, Helping Hand Food Bank coordinator; Scott Foster, Coffin Man Inc.; and Mark Renaud, BIA. Absent from the photo were Bruce Bennett, Mike Bolt and Lillian Bolt of Coffin Man Inc.

Posting to First Baptist Church is returning home for minister

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

Starting at the First Baptist Church in Tillsonburg was like returning home for Pastor Dave Heinrichs. Growing up in Port Rowan and attending Valley Heights Secondary School, he

went to bible college at the University of Winnipeg, and then completed his Masters of Divinity at the Canadian Baptist Seminary in Langley, British Columbia. He then worked in western Canada for his entire career. “When I came back to visit friends and family, I felt I wanted to come back and

work in the area,” he said. Heinrichs has two daughters, one of whom lives in Toronto. This move will bring him closer to her. “I’ve always loved this area – the fall colours, the forests, the lake,” he said. “Wherever you grow up with, it’s in your heart. I loved the mountains of BC and the prairies, but it was never home. This is still home.” Growing up, Heinrichs attended Port Rowan Mennonite Brethren Church, which is similar to a Baptist church. At first after graduating high school, he looked at being a pilot as a career and worked at TDS while figuring out his calling. Then, in 1990, after his first year of university, he worked in Port Rowan as a youth minister. “I felt it was the direction I should go was to be a pastor,” he said. There is also a personal connection for Heinrichs with Tillsonburg as he grew up playing hockey against Tillsonburg, saw his first movie in the Strand Theatre and his first summer job was at TRW. He is coming to a congregation of 130 to 150 people. There is a part-time ministry

assistant at the church to work with youth, as well as administrative personnel. Heinrichs has a theme to his return: the church of second chances. “I wanted to give people a second chance and wanted people to be able to come back to the church wherever they’ve been and have a place with God,” he said. Heinrichs has also experienced second chances, being divorced in 2009. “People feel life has gone south for them,” he said. “If people want to come here, you don’t need a perfect life because I don’t have one. That’s part of the second chance with God.” Worship service is Sunday at 10 a.m. and there is a Bible study on Tuesday afternoons. The music at the church is traditional mixed with contemporary. “The attempt is to try to relate with the younger people as well,” Heinrichs said. Outside of worship hours, Heinrichs is in the office Monday to Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. “My door is always open for anyone who wants to come by and say ‘Hi,’” he said.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)
Pastor Dave Heinrichs started at First Baptist Church in September. The Port Rowan-area native wanted to return to the area after working in British Columbia and the Prairie Provinces during his career.

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Place of Birth _____

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Single vehicle collision leads to impaired charge

An individual from Norfolk County is facing impaired driving related charges after a single-vehicle collision on Broadway.

On Nov. 8, at approximately 11 p.m., members of the Oxford Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Detachment were dispatched to a report of a single-vehicle collision that had occurred on Broadway in the Town of Tillsonburg. It was reported that a vehicle had come to a rest

on a front lawn of a business, after colliding with property. Officers attended and spoke with the driver of the vehicle. There were no reported injuries because of the collision.

Kyle Dedecker, 30-years-old, of Norfolk County was charged with:

- Operation while Impaired - Alcohol
- Operation while Impaired - Blood alcohol concentration (80 plus)

• Dangerous Operation

A 90-day Administrative Driver's License Suspension (ADLS) was initiated as per statute.

The accused was released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on Dec. 16, 2025.

The OPP is committed to safety for all who utilize Ontario's roadways. Members of the

public are urged to report Impaired Driving by calling 911 in emergency situations. Complaints of impaired, aggressive, or careless driving can also be made by calling 1-888-310-1122.

For more information on the consequences of drinking and driving, check out:

<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/impaired-driving.shtml>

tillsonburgpost.com

OPP seek input into detachment action plan

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Oxford County residents have a chance to provide input into the Oxford County OPP detachment's action plan.

Set out in three-year periods, the last action plan focused on violent crime, property crime, illegal drugs, traffic safety and co-response solutions for non-police related demands for service. The detachment is now receiving input for the 2026-2029 action plan.

Community service officer Matt Foster explained the detachment always had an action plan, but it was completed with the police services board input in the past.

"They've changed the community safety and policing act and how they are developed is different," he said, adding the survey is the new tool to garner input.

Foster explained the police want to know what

community members concerns are, and how they perceive what police do.

"That's why the feedback is important, we're hearing it straight from the source," he said. "We're hearing the concerns straight from members of the public."

The survey results will be folded into how the detachment members complete their work over the ensuing years.

"It is a guiding philosophy on we approach investigations, enforcement, and community engagement, not a specific operational plan," Foster explained.

The survey asks citizens to rate various crime types in the order of which they should receive police attention, the best way to promote community safety, to rate community safety and traffic concerns and how police should be more involved in the community.

The survey is available online until Nov. 30 at <https://forms.office.com/r/pnz6fN1smq>. It takes about five minutes to complete.

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Local drag racer at the top of her game

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Area drag racer Emma Pinylo just returned from the world championships in Alabama after a season of wins in Ontario.

Emma, 17, has been driving alcohol-fueled dragsters since she was four years old. She takes after her father, Lee, who is a mechanic at My Motors in Tillsonburg and built the motor in her car.

The races put two cars side by side on a one-eighth-mile straight track.

"You're dialing in and guessing what you're going to run," Emma said. "The person who is closest to their dial wins."

For instance, Emma may dial in 7.50 seconds for the time it will take her to run the course. Typically, she hits 86 miles per hour in that distance.

The races are in St. Thomas, Grand Bend, Toronto, and in the United States. Winning the track championship in the junior division in Grand Bend and St. Thomas this season, Emma qualified to compete in the World Drag Racing Alliance championship in Montgomery, Alabama.

Although she has been racing for 13 years, everything started to come together this year, and she began to win. Asked about the secret to her success, Emma said it was practice and a good teacher, which she credited to her father. Lee raced since he was 16 and also qualified for the worlds, although Emma said classification was different then.

Lee recounted how his daughter started racing, saying, "I would take her with me to entertain her, to give her something to do while I was racing. It didn't turn out that way, it turned out the opposite."

At the world's, Emma raced three races, winning the first race, but not the following two.

"It was a tough, tough race for sure," Lee said. "It was a great experience."



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Emma Pinylo recently competed in the World Drag Racing Alliance championship in Montgomery, Alabama in October. Although she didn't win there, the Elgin County resident did win two events in Ontario. Her father Lee is a mechanic at My Motors in Tillsonburg.

This will be Emma's last year racing in the junior category. Turning 18 next year, she will race in full-size cars. This will mean she will be driving the Camaro her father turned into a drag car, and the same one he drives.



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Fody’s moves into first place in Club Oxford’s A Division

JEFF GWYN

Post Contributor

There was movement in the standing in Club Oxford hockey over the last week, with Fody’s moving into first place in A Division and Royal LePage getting its first win in B Division.

Nov. 8

A Division

Apple Shack 7, Health Hut 4

Apple Shack did great to bounce back in this one. They had all their lines going and had shots on net in a solid second period. Health Hut had a great first, and had their scoring going but they couldn't keep up with the Apple Shack speed in the second.

Matt Wight had a hat trick for Apple Shack. Lance Haines had three points for Health Hut.

Fody's 3, ReMax 0

Fody's broke through in the second with three goals in 90 seconds. They faced a tough opponent, but definitely pounced on their limited chances. ReMax was stymied by a solid defensive effort by Fody's. They couldn't get rebounds and had a tough couple shifts in the second.

Brandon Sawatzky has three goals for Fody's. Tommy Lee had the shutout.

B Division

Carquest 5, Airmount 1

Carquest had a lot of rush chances but cashed in on rebounds. They kept the action out of their zone with a quick turnaround all night. Airmount had a good first period, keeping even with Carquest. They had trouble getting into the offensive zone, but did create some chances in the second.

Evan Prouse had five points for Carquest. Justin French had the goal for Airmount.

Royal LePage 5, B-Line 3

Royal LePage broke through in the win column, played a hard game and found some offence. Maybe this was the spark they need. B-Line played a solid game, had some penalty trouble which forced some line juggling. They had pressure in the second, but couldn't get one to go in.

Brett Vandenbrink had three points for Royal LePage. Hunter Luscombe had a goal for B-Line.

Jeff Prouse Mortgages 3, Glass 1

Prouse Mortgages was able to tough this one and hold onto the lead. They were able to keep Glass from the front of the net which helped the scoreboard. Glass had trouble breaking out of the zone, but when they did get chances, their pressure wasn't sustained. A tough battle by both teams.

John Rachar had a goal for Prouse Mortgages. Jason Koteles had a goal for Glass.

Source 4, RND 2

A fairly even game. Source is very good on their outlet passes and are dangerous every shift. They were able to get some quick shots off tonight to help them with the win. RND was in this one until the end. A bit more focus on things they can control will help in the late stages.

Nate Bisschop had two goals for Source. Justin Rowles had a goal for RND.

Nov. 12

A Division

Health Hut 3, ReMax 3

ReMax bounced back in the second period. They found their speed and had some great opportunities to earn the tie in this one. Health Hut looked to be in control for the first half, but had to hold on against a ReMax surge. A hard fight to earn their point tonight.

Andrew VanWyk had two goals for Health Hut. Brendan Soares had two goals for ReMax.

VanYmeren had the goal for Apple Shack.

B Division

Airmount 3, B-Line 2

Airmount found some scoring in this game. They played well and forced some chances down low. They buckled down defensively to keep B-Line at bay. B-Line played well, but couldn't get the bounces to go their way with some solid chances but they couldn't cash in late.

Dustin McElhinney had two points for Airmount. Wade Kirby had two goals for B-Line.

CLUB OXFORD A DIVISION	GP	W	L	T	PTS
FODY’S AUTOMOTIVE	8	6	2	0	12
REMAX REALTY	8	5	2	1	11
THE HEALTH HUT	8	2	5	1	5
THE APPLE SHACK	8	2	6	0	4

CLUB OXFORD B DIVISION	GP	W	L	T	PTS
SOURCE FOR SPORTS	8	8	0	0	16
CARQUEST AUTO PARTS	8	4	2	2	10
JEFF PROUSE MORTGAGES	8	4	2	2	10
TILLSONBURG GLASS	8	3	2	3	9
B-LINE TRUCKING	8	3	3	2	8
RND CONSTRUCTION	8	1	5	2	4
AIRMOUNT FARMS	8	2	6	0	4
ROYAL LEPAGE	8	1	6	1	3



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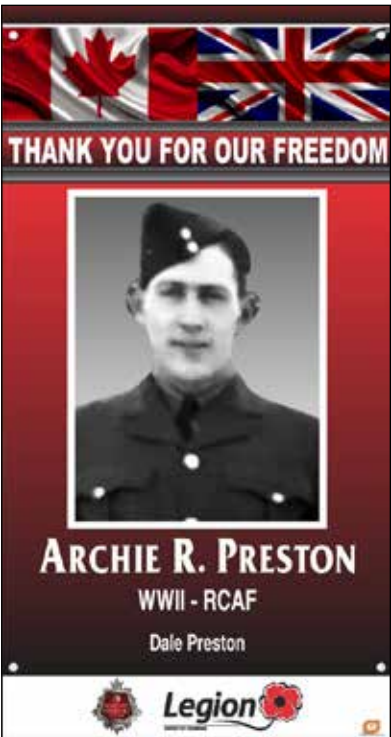
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Legion

Archibald (Archie) Robert Preston was born at Oxbow, Saskatchewan on August 26, 1920. His grandfather and extended family raised Percheron horses that were shipped overseas during both wars. Archie joined the Airforce March 14, 1941 as a mechanic # 32 S. F. T. S. working on Harvards in Moose Jaw, the home base of today's Snowbirds. He transferred to St Hubert, Quebec in 1942. One St Hubert work order dated August 2, 1942 mentioned work he performed on Harvard #2941 with serious damage. Later he was stationed in England where he worked on twin and four-engine bombers. He was shot down while doing a service flight on a twin-engine bomber, but they were able to land back on the runway with no loss of life. However, the plane was seriously damaged. Archie built a 10-speed bicycle from scraps and bicycle parts and rode it into London.

After the war, he bought his grandfather's farm on which horses were no longer raised due to the introduction of tractors. He was the town constable during the 196's, and later he owned the school buses in Manor, SK. Archie passed away 2005 at 84. His grandmother was born in Simcoe and has relatives buried in the Tillsonburg Cemetery.

Erin Outlaws rustle Thunder in 6-2 game

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The Erin Outlaws rode out of Tillsonburg Saturday night with a win in a game closer than the final 6-2 score indicated.

After the first period, the score was even at one each. The Outlaws struck first, scoring at 15:24 of the first. The Thunder stalemated the score, with Braden Roberts feeding Andrew Oosterveld with 5:24 left in the period.

The score was unchanged for over half of the second period until Jacob Coulson scored the go-ahead with 7:40 left in the period. The Outlaws added another before 40 minutes were off the clock.

Danny Attridge brought the Thunder within one at 16:40 in a fast-paced third period. Sebastian Guastadigsegni provided the assist. Although the Thunder were still in the game for more than half the third, three late-period goals sealed the Thunders fate.

Both Erin and Tillsonburg are tied for fifth in the South Conference with six points.

The game was student night for the Thunder, with players and team members handing out coupons to students in the Santa Claus parade the night before.

The Thunder play Seaforth on Saturday night with a 7:30 pm. Saturday night in the last of a series of home games. The team has two back-to-back road games the following weekend.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Tillsonburg Thunder forwards battle with Erin Outlaws defenders for control of the puck during Sunday's game. The Outlaws won the game 6-2.

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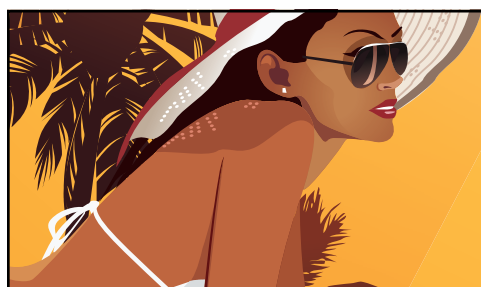


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(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Erin Outlaws goaltender hits the ice in a save during the third period of a game in Tillsonburg on Sunday afternoon. The game was the annual student game.



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Don't miss the choral performance by the Senior Centre Singers

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Contributor

You can still get your tickets for the Tillsonburg Senior Centre Singer's concert. Their performance of beautiful Christmas music, with refreshments to follow, takes place on Tuesday, Nov. 25 at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the Senior Centre, by cash or cheque (\$12). Friday is the final day for tickets. The 35 member choir has been practicing diligently, under the guidance of director Janice Edmund.

"She does a wonderful job, she's so patient," said choir member Carole Stephenson. "Practice is going really well and I think we'll be good and ready - we want to put on the best show. It's a tremendous feeling when you're part of it, it's a very powerful feeling,"

"Christmas is my favorite time of year, so I love being in a Christmas choir," said member Pearl

Solga, who has been singing in Christmas and church choirs for over 20 years. "It's so beautiful when the men do their part, and then the ladies sing their part," she said.

Member Millie Corman has a musical background and plays piano. She led a children's choir and belonged to a choir in Oakville before relocating to Tillsonburg.

"I did my research before moving. I wanted a choir. Singing is good for anxiety, it's calming and there is a wonderful community spirit," she said. "Maybe you're not a soloist, but all of our voices blend together."

The choir has been performing for over 30 years, currently producing two concerts each year. They're always open to new members, and the only requirement is enjoying singing. This year's ambitious program will include traditional Christmas carols as well as unique arrangements in four parts. It promises to be a moving and inspiring event.



CHRISTMAS THE PIONEER WAY (ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)
Participants gathered at Annandale House on Nov. 12 for a Pioneer Christmas Ornament workshop with Program Coordinator Kathleen Watkin. Tia Tennent, pictured here, used wooden beads and twine to create a colourful tree ornament.



ST. PAUL'S BAZAAR (JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)
St. Paul's United Church UCW Friendship Circle continued the tradition of its Christmas Bazaar, with the annual event on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the church basement. Besides the baking, crafts and gifts, the \$2 admission also included tea/coffee and cookies.

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Edward Jones

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MUSIC CORNER

Autopilot landing in Tillsonburg tonight



BEN ADDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Saskatoon rock band Autopilot are rolling into Tillsonburg on Thursday, Nov. 20 bringing their impressive songs to town during their fall southern Ontario tour. The Saskatchewan trio, consisting of vocalist and guitarist Marlon Harder, drummer Cale Hretstina and bassist Myk Ulan-Hohol have built a reputation across Canada and the United States as road warriors

with a knack for powerful hooks and a live show that brings music that it meant to be heard loud.

Between full-length albums, EPs, singles and a touring schedule that has seen them criss-cross the continent, Autopilot have become a fixture on the independent rock circuit. They have appeared at festivals including Departure, Canadian Music Week, Indie Week, Mesa Music Festival and more, and were recently nominated for Rock Artist of the Year at the 2025 Saskatchewan Music Awards.

For frontman Harder that reputation starts with how the band builds songs from the ground up. Talking about their album “Here Comes the Pressure”, he explained the band’s sound was perfected both in isolation and in the studio.

“For our album “Here Comes the Pressure”, we demoed a bunch of songs

playing live in a cabin in northern Saskatchewan for a few weeks. After bringing the songs to producer SJ Kardash, we worked on the production side and ended up writing more while in the studio with SJ, ending up with a lot of high energy songs,” Harder explained. “In the studio we work on getting the emotion across in the songs. Live it is a mix of our energy on stage and bringing across what we recorded in the studio. We love to play these songs live.”

The members have taken Autopilot a long way from home since the band’s first 2005 CD release ‘The All Divided’. Years of touring Canada and the United States, while playing everything from club gigs to festival slots, have helped shape who they are as a band.

“We are a touring rock band. It has helped us grow a following. You

meet a lot of people, you make a lot of friends and then you get fans,” Harder reflects.

Hretstina details how festival lineups keep the band inspired and hungry.

“It is inspiring to see and be surrounded by bands on so many different levels. A typical tour date will usually have a couple local bands on the bill but with festivals you get many unique acts from all over playing in the same night,” Hretstina says. “Whether they are the up-and-coming acts still cutting their teeth or the seasoned professional road dogs, it is an energizing atmosphere to experience that sticks with you and pushes the creative juices.”

Back home in Saskatchewan, Autopilot’s work has not gone unnoticed. Their nomination for Rock Artist of the Year at the 2025 Saskatchewan Music Awards was a nod

from their local scene but the band is careful not to let awards define their path.

“It is really nice to be acknowledged at home because there is a lot of great bands coming out of Saskatchewan but we do not really put too much thought into it past that,” Harder says.

Ulan-Hohol agreed that while recognition is nice, it is not the engine that drives Autopilot forward.

“Autopilot has been nominated for awards before and so have many acts. If you do not win it is not going to change anything for you if you are already on your path, you know?” Ulan-Hohol explains. “It is your art. If you care you are not going to give up.”

For local music fans, Autopilot promises that this current tour is going to be an experience.

“We always aim to put on a high energy show.

We just love to play live, especially when the other bands are unreal too,” Harder exclaims. “When we get home, we are excited to start working on new music.”

For Tillsonburg, that means a chance to catch new music from a hard-working Western Canadian rock band in an intimate basement venue where the volume and energy is dialled in.

Autopilot plays Paddy’s on Nov. 20 with local opening act The Half Smokes. Doors open at 8 p.m. with \$10 advanced tickets available at www.eventbrite.ca or at The Mill. Tickets will also be available at the door night of for \$16 limited to availability. The concert is an all-ages licensed event with wheelchair accessibility. For music, tour dates and online store you can visit the band on their official website at www.autopilottheband.com

UPCOMING SHOWS

NOV. 20 - AUTOPILOT W/ THE HALF SMOKES
Paddy’s Underground: \$10 – 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

NOV. 21 - MUSIC TRIVIA
The Copper Mug: No Cover - 8:30 p.m.

NOV. 22 - COTY ROBINSON
The Copper Mug: No Cover - 8:30 p.m.

NOV. 23 - ROB CROMWELL
The Copper Mug: No Cover - 5pm

NOV. 26 - U16 TWISTERS FUNDRAISER
The Copper Mug: 4:30 p.m.

NOV. 27 - DAN HAMM
The Copper Mug: No Cover – 8 p.m.

NOV. 28 - ATTIC APOSTLES
The Copper Mug: No Cover – 9 p.m.

NOV. 29 - KARAOKE
The Copper Mug: No Cover – 3 p.m.

DEC. 5 - STUNT
The Copper Mug: No Cover - 8:30 p.m.

DEC. 12 - BOBNOXIOUS
Paddy’s Underground: \$20 – 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed



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Salvation Army seeks Kettle Campaign volunteers

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Contributor

The Salvation Army is seeking kettle volunteers for their major fundraiser from Nov. 15 to Dec. 24. The Kettle Campaign has been supported in Tillsonburg for over 100 years.

"The campaign funds our programming throughout the year," said Major Denise Walker. "Our major focus this year is The Hub, a drop-in for unhoused people. We are currently looking for a downtown location, but in the meantime we're exploring how to offer those services. We're looking at a mobile centre; we have to be creative."

The goal is to offer a warming center, hot meals, and distribute items like coats and prepared backpacks with personal hygiene and other essentials at an accessible

location where the need is greatest. The Hub is currently located at the Salvation Army Church at 110 Concession Street W.

The campaign goal for this year is \$180 000. There will be no mail out campaign this year, but you can make a donation at the kettles, online, at the downtown store or the Salvation Army Church.

There are six kettles throughout town, located at Canadian Tire, Walmart, the Liquor Store, and grocery stores. With 816 shifts to fill, it requires a lot of organization. While service clubs have selected particular days to fill, with their members rotating through shifts, Walker said that the early days of the campaign present the greatest challenge.

The two-hour shifts involve greeting people, engaging with the pub-

lic, and wishing people a Merry Christmas. Chairs are provided for volunteers who find it difficult to stand for long periods of time. While some people commit to a regular day, there is no minimum requirement. Volunteering for one shift is perfectly acceptable. Kettle Coordinator Joe Acre can be reached at 226-231-1715.

Salvation Army member Bill Oliver started volunteering on the kettles when he was eight years old, standing beside his mother. He has volunteered every year since for the past 77 years.

"Many people volunteer in memory of a family member who did it, and we have students who are earning their volunteer hours," Walker said. "It's a practical, straightforward way to help and it really makes a difference in the community."



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The Salvation Army is looking for volunteers to assist with manning its annual kettle campaign amidst a declining number of volunteers. The goal for this year's campaign is 180,000. Volunteer Diane Dietrich took her shift in the Tillsonburg Town Centre earlier this week.

*We want to hear from
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REMEMBRANCE DAY



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTOS)



Dignitaries saluted as members of the choir from the Oxford Christian Reformed School choir performed O Canada.



The Silent Walk prior to the start of ceremonies was open to members of the public. It went from Veteran's Memorial Walkway, down Bridge Street, and Broadway to the cenotaph.



Oxford MP Arpan Khanna laid the wreath on behalf of Canada to start the wreath laying.



Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy was accompanied by Sergeant-at-Arms Matt Brinn to lay a wreath for the town.



The Tillsonburg Fire Department provided an addition to this year's ceremony, hanging a Canadian flag from its ladder truck as the colour party went down Broadway.



Branch 153 Legion Ladies' Auxiliary President Betty Davis and Branch President Tom Brown laid the wreaths on behalf of the organizations.



Sergeant-at-Arms Matt Brinn salutes during the ceremony.

Veterans impressed by Remembrance Day turnout

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Cold weather didn't keep people away from Tillsonburg's Remembrance Day ceremonies.

"It was just unbelievable, it was fantastic," said Legion President Tom Brown.

He did note the cold did limit residents from the re-

tirement homes, who often attend.

Brown was also impressed with the reaction from the crowd.

"When I took the salute after the parade, the applause was amazing," he said. "This town is so supportive of its veterans."

It was also noted the Legion supper on Remembrance

Day was sold out.

Veteran Don Mulholland, who has been to every Tillsonburg ceremony since 1956, was also impressed with the turnout.

"I was surprised the turnout was so good," he said, mentioning the cold. "That snow this morning, I thought it would hurt everything."



Legion members Don Showers, foreground, and Jason Pankratz placed the wreaths in front of the cenotaph after dignitaries brought them forward.



A cold breeze had the flags of the Legion colour party flying during the Remembrance Day ceremony. A good crowd turned out for the ceremony despite the cold.



Legion Padre Paul Robinson, left, salutes during the ceremony. He was assisted this year by assistant padre Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer.



Bugler Nathan Pol masterfully played The Last Post and The Rouse on his trumpet during the proceedings.



SANTA CLAUS PARADE



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTOS)



Members of Thriver Co. danced their way through the parade route, following the Thriver float carrying younger dancers.



Tim Hortons' employee Tristan Queensborough was enjoying his role handing out treats in the parade. There was a good turnout, even with the rain at the beginning of the event.



New Hope Baptist Church members were enjoying themselves while riding on the church's float.



East Elgin Concrete Forming was one of many businesses with floats in the parade. Organizers topped last year's entries with 102 floats, walkers and vehicles in the parade.



The Happy Together Band was one of three bands in the parade. There were many new floats in the parade, including Theatre Tillsonburg, which was promoting its new Christmas play, and the Happy Together Band.



The Tillsonburg Shrine Club's fire truck has been a regular in the Santa Claus parade for a few decades. It was accompanied by club members on mini bikes showing their riding prowess on the street.

Muskies Canada, Hamilton Chapter supports eastern basin research/study



**THE
LOST
TRIBE**

JEFF TRIBE

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Greg McAlpine's 'Muskie Uber' was on the move.

"'Muber'" he smiled in an aside, the boat's speedometer touching 33.5 miles per hour as he pushed the throttle forward, with the proximity to the coastline shielding our high-speed passage from a blustery northwest wind.

McAlpine, a Muskies Canada, Hamilton Chapter member (<https://muskiescanada.ca>) had three passengers aboard, first and long-time fishing mate Bruce Brooker, the guy with the camera and most importantly his 'fare' a hefty, female muskellunge subsequent measurements would reveal to be 48 inches in length, 23 1/4 in girth and weighing in at 31.8 pounds.

Caught minutes earlier, she had been carefully transferred into McAlpine's care for a nautical Uber toward a land-based Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) research/study team. Ensnared in a recovery tank with constantly-refreshed highly-oxygenated water flowing, a quick stop en route revealed her to be in good health. Getting back on 'plane' and arriving at the dock, the fish of a lifetime for many anglers was greeted as a prime candidate for research/looking at movement in Lake Erie's Eastern Basin. Sedated and implanted with an acoustic transmitter, she was monitored in an oxygenated recovery tank before return to McAlpine's upgraded live well. Rapid transit back to the area she had been caught in followed, capped by her successful release.

"Straight down," he remarked as he and

Booker eased the muskie out of a transfer cradle, her powerful tail signalling a final farewell.

McAlpine's obvious satisfaction with a successfully-completed exercise was cut short by the chirping of his phone.

"Got another one," he announced, returning to the captain's seat, firing up the engine and shifting into gear. "Ready?" he inquired, as much statement as question.

The muskellunge - muskie for short - is a unique breed of fish attracting a unique breed of anglers. Known alternatively as the fish of a thousand - or ten thousand - casts, muskies are an apex predator sought for their size, power and the challenge catching one presents.

Drawn into fishing by his son in 2005, McAlpine got hooked on muskies six years ago. He went out for a couple of paid charters, using that experience to begin figuring it out on his own. Muskie season opens the first Saturday in June says McAlpine, but he doesn't get going until October and into November, he and Brooker adding layers of clothing, a canopy and heater as temperatures drop.

"We're not battling icebergs today, so that's a good thing," he laughed on this sunny if chilly late-October morning.

Brooker considers muskies Canada's premier freshwater game fish, the closest equivalent to a blue-water species. He targets wall-eye for food.

"Muskies you come out for the sport of it."

Elevated challenge is certainly part of it says McAlpine, a muskie's distinctive strike making up for long hours they put in without raising so much as a bite.

"That reel will be ripping and bouncing. You'll hear the clicker on the drag going - there is no question about it when you have a muskie on."

Like many sportsperson's organizations, a strong sense of conservation runs deeply through Muskies Canada's catch-and-release approach. Broader goals include enhancing the fishery through public awareness and participation in related scientific research



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Bruce Brooker (pictured) and Greg McAlpine release a muskie back into her home habitat.

and study along with habitat protection and improvement.

Initially, contact with the Belle River chapter of Muskies Canada offered a combination of education, social activity and the potential to participate in conservation efforts and projects. McAlpine ultimately joined the Hamilton chapter, geographically much closer to home. Muskies Canada fundraising efforts have contributed to reintroducing the species to Lake Simcoe and the Spanish River, as well as a study on the viability of doing so in The Grand. McAlpine also participated in joint Muskie Canada initiatives, club members volunteering to source fish for an OMNR project in Lake St. Clair and one associated with Trent University based out of Stoney Lake.

The idea of a similar study in Erie's eastern basin was floated during a chance encounter during walleye season, the Hamilton chapter stepping up to support the effort. The process began in 2024, continuing this fall.

Coordination can be stressful around the unpredictability of October and November weather says McAlpine. Scheduled fishing will be 'called' if deemed unsafe, and even on days within the club's comfort zone, discretion on participation is left up to individual anglers. We had headed out with the sun cresting the eastern horizon, finishing up

around 4:30 p.m. McAlpine and Brooker did put out a couple of massive - and to the uninitiated, expensive - baits during a lull, but their main focus was coordination and shuttling fish in McAlpine's large and well-appointed recovery tank.

In practice, anglers worked the water of their choice with techniques of their choice, contacting McAlpine when a fish was caught. Handled 'as gently as possible' throughout the process, they were transferred to the OMNR station for tagging and back again, as quickly as possible.

In total, anglers in 18 different boats - in the main staffed by Muskies Canada members - volunteered to participate during four days of fishing this fall, representing approximately 630 angler hours. The difficulty of catching muskies was illustrated by the fact slightly over 24 experienced angler hours were required per fish. Twenty-six were caught, 15 male and 11 female. Twenty-five were tagged (one already had a tag), bringing the two-year total to 34, a valuable extension of data base.

"It just makes fishing a little more fun," said McAlpine of what he considers enhanced purpose. He finds the associated scientific education and application 'fascinating,' the opportunity to support ongoing conservation efforts well worth the time and expense. "It's been a good partnership," he concluded.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

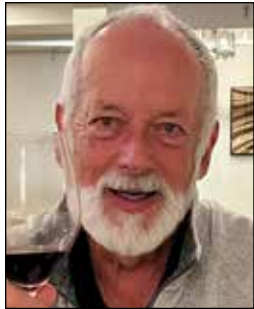
Greg McAlpine displays an original Bluewater Bait muskie lure, the company a significant supporter of Muskies Canada initiatives.



A 48-inch (23 1/4 inch girth) muskie weighing in at 31.8 pounds.

(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

The shared vision of two couples creates a dining dream



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

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

"I love it when a plan comes together."

I'm guessing that none of the four young partners in the astonishing new Niagara-on-the-lake restaurant, Revé, is old enough to remember that quote. But it applies.

Because Revé is indeed the result of a plan that has come together, beautifully. Or, to quote from their website, "Four individuals with one collective dream: to curate a journey like no other."

That "journey" involves unique and amazing food, and all of the stories behind the culinary creations. And the four individuals are two young couples: Anna Katherine and Kevin Gillingham, and Nicole Pisarenko and Adriano Cappuzzello.

In many ways, this is a love story. Love for food. Love for the land. Love for culture. And love for each other.

Adriano is Chef. He's a native of Sicily, where his culinary story began. That's also where Adriano and Nicole's story began – she was on a study trip from George Brown College when she met Adriano.

Anna and Kevin come to the restaurant business as event planners. But they shared the vision of running a superb restaurant with their friends.

And so, less than three months ago, Revé opened.

The moment you walk in the door, you

begin to experience the story. Suspended from the ceiling is a unique bit of living décor – a large, moss-covered panel. Anna explains that their goal was to create an atmosphere to reflect the philosophy of the restaurant – food that is "farm to table," locally sourced from the Niagara Peninsula and southwestern Ontario.

And, oh, what food! Guests can order from a menu, but the hosts rather prefer that they don't. Because the true experience at Revé is to dine at the Chef's Counter, seated near the open fire, anticipating the next astonishing taste to come your way, each a step in a 10-course "blind journey".

So, we did. A visit and a story from Chef Adriano accompany each course. He explains the dish, and tells the story behind it. Many of the "tastes" involve a wonderful combination of Sicilian and Canadian cuisines. Like our third course, an exquisite beef tartare, prepared by Chef Adriano as a memory of Sicilian tuna tartare. But the grass-fed beef comes from Heatherbrae Farms in Wellesley!

Chef Adriano, who has worked in Michelin Star kitchens throughout Europe and Canada, consistently finds a way to combine the magic of uber-high-end recipes with food prepared by his Sicilian mother and grandmother. Such as delicious venison, dubbed "Mama's Pizzaiola", made with cherry tomato, oregano, black garlic zabalone, and undoubtedly several more secret ingredients.

The menu celebrates international flavours, from Sable Fish that reflects Korean barbecue, to Beef Bavette, a taste of France. Adapted and improved, of course, by Chef Adriano and his talented team.

I won't elaborate on all ten courses – because they will undoubtedly be changed by the time you dine at Revé. That's part of the charm – you don't

know what you will be eating, but you know it will be amazing, an experience that stretches for hours.

Each course – a small serving, beautifully presented – is served on dinnerware hand-made specifically for Revé by a glass artist in Sicily. And by the way, you can have a flight of wines paired with your food – in our case, several superb wines from Ontario or Sicily.

I mentioned that each course includes a story. In truth, Chef Adriano's personal story is captivating. Because his father knew the owner, Adriano was able to get a summer job in a Michelin-star restaurant in Sicily when he was only 14 years old. He immediately announced to his family that this was to be his calling, and that he didn't want to go to school any more. His parents overruled that idea, but Adriano continued to spend all of his out-of-school hours in high-end restaurants, learning the culinary arts.

At age 17, he moved to Madrid, working in a small restaurant where he was the chef. He told me that he spent his off-hours visiting other restaurants, for the first time encountering cuisines like Vietnamese and Mexican.

Adriano then moved to Malta, "where I got to work with Chef Andrew Pace. He's a visionary. He opened my eyes."

Eventually, after working in top-of-the-line restaurants in Italy and Berlin, he came home to Sicily. Where he met Nicole, who in turn brought him home to Canada. He continued to work as a chef, including at Langdon Hall, but now, his personal vision – shared by Nicole, Anna and Kevin – has become a reality in Niagara-on-the-lake.

The 10-course Chef's Counter tasting menu costs \$225; wine, either individual or a matching flight, is extra. If you normally eat at a fast-food joint, that will seem like a lot. But if you are a foodie, or more simply a lover of good food, you'll be hitting the website to make a



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

The simple exterior of the restaurant, in a Mary Street strip mall, belies the culinary masterpiece inside.

reservation.

We sat next to a couple who were making their third trip to Revé in only a couple of months. They praised "the hospitality, the food, everything!"

They were right: Revé is just that good.

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)

The fire of the candles and the moss on the ceiling feature invoke Revé's connection to the land and nature.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

The visionary owners of the new restaurant; from left, Chef Adriano Cappuzzello, Nicole Pisarenko, Anna Katherine and Kevin Gillingham.

RIDDLES

What has a head and a tail but no body?
Coin

What can you catch but not throw?
Cold

What goes around the world but always stays in one place?
Stamp

What has an eye but cannot see?
Needle

What has many teeth but cannot bite?
Comb

What comes down but never goes up?
Rain

What can travel faster than anything else, but is never seen moving?
Thought

What has a bed but never sleeps and a mouth but never eats?
River

What has keys that can't open locks and pedals that don't brake or accelerate?
Piano

What has a thumb and four fingers but is not your hand?
Glove

What belongs to you, but other people use it more than you do?
Your name

SUDOKU

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		9		1		4	7	
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9				6			3	1
		7		3	5			

Level: Beginner

Solutions on Page 26

PET OF THE WEEK



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WORD SEARCH
HOLIDAY GIVING

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T	T	T	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	P	H	X	M	H	A	G	G	G
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- GENEROSITY
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- SURPRISE
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- WRAPPING
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ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday, November 22: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

St. John's Anglican Church

46 Ridout Street West, Tillsonburg

Vendors Market with a variety of Christmas Creations, Greenery, Woodworking, Clothing, Skincare and more! Bake table, Famous Mincemeat, Nativity scene displays, "Candy Guess" and lunch is available. Admission \$2.00.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND TEA ROOM

Saturday, November 22: 9a.m.-2 p.m.

Hickory Hills Recreation Centre, 48 Wilson Ave, Tillsonburg.

Handcrafted Items, Raffles, Baked Goods, Books, Puzzles, Games and Silent Auction. Find a gift for that special someone. Enjoy lunch in our Tea Room. Hope to see you there!

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. November 28 and December 5.

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

LADIES AUXILIARY TILLSONBURG LEGION TURKEY SUPPER

November 28: 5 p.m.-6 p.m.

All the fixings, tea and coffee included for \$18 per person. Cash at the door. Everyone welcome!

COMMUNITY PRAYER SERVICE

St. Andrew's prayer group invites you to join us on **Saturday, November 29 from 10-11 am** for this special service at **Tillsonburg St. Andrew's, 46 Brock St. W.** All welcome.

WE ARE KICKING OFF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH AN EVENING OF BEAUTIFUL MUSIC

Please join us for an evening of Christmas Carols on Thursday December 4 at 6:30 at Burgessville Baptist Church in Burgessville

Featuring locale soloist, T.J Veld who has blessed us in the past with her amazing voice. Our pianist Carey-Sue Pilkey will accompany the audience with your favourite Christmas Carols. Feel free to bring a friend! All are welcome. Snacks to follow.

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.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

December 6: 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Delhi United Church,

105 Church St W, Delhi, ON N4B 1V9

Featuring baking, attic treasures, gift table, frozen apple and elderberry fruit pies, frozen beef and chicken meat pies, a penny table, vendors and a luncheon. For more information, please contact Dorothy Stedman: 519-717-6109

stedmanles@gmail.com

The Bayham Beachfest Committee invites you to the PORT BURWELL CHRISTMAS PARADE

December 6: 6 p.m.

Meet Santa after the parade at the Marine Museum. Grab a candy bag from the Vienna Swans and enjoy a hot chocolate or cider courtesy of the Port Burwell Historical Society. **Floats are to arrive at the Legion at 5:30 p.m.**

AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT

December 6: 10 a.m. - noon

St.Paul's United Church, 88 Bidwell St.Tillsonburg

It's a pajama party as Messy Church celebrates "And to all a good Night." Christmas crafts and lots of fun plus a hot lunch.

We ask that children be accompanied by an adult.

TILLSONBURG ANNUAL SCARF BOMB

December 6

Drop off at Tillsonburg Sobeys or Tillsonburg Zehrs

We are looking for donations of gently used or new, hats, mittens, scarfs, snow pants, boots, and coats. We accept socks in sandwich bags.

MUSIC JAM AT THE TILLSONBURG LEGION

Friday, December 12: 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Featuring Ken Lighheart and the Northshore Ramblers. Only \$7 admission. Cash only. All welcome.

TILLSONBURG LEGION LUNCH

Wednesday, December 10: Noon-1 p.m.

Homemade turkey pot pie, stuffing, cranberries, coleslaw, coffee and tea for \$15 per person (hst included). Cash only at the door. Everyone Welcome!

MUSIC JAM AT THE TILLSONBURG LEGION

Saturday, December 27: 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

featuring Ken Lighheart and the Northshore Ramblers. Only \$7 admission. Cash bar available. All Welcome.

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!

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](https://www.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>

COMING EVENTS

**TILLSONBURG SENIOR CENTRE
WEEKLY PROGRAMS FOR 50+**
Scrabble Tues mornings, Drum Fit Wed
afternoons, BINGO Fri afternoons, Karaoke
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**UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE WAGNER
MEMORIAL,
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3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario
For More Information call the Legion at
519-443-5588 or check out our website at
teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

PROGRESSIVE EUCHRE
Friday, December 12
Registration at 6:30 p.m., Starting at 7:00 pm
Everyone is Welcome.

**LEGION CHRISTMAS CRAFT &
VENDOR SHOW**
Sunday, November 23, 11:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
Free Admission. Space still available! Want to

book a space?
To book contact the legion and leave your name
and phone number, or pop in during business
hours. Cash only, we do not have debit, or
ATM.
Wed.-Fri. 3 pm-10 pm, Sat.1 pm-10 pm, Sun.1
pm-6 pm.

WINGS & THINGS PUB NIGHT
Friday, November 28, Starting at 5:00 p.m.
(Until Sold Out)
Cash only, we do not have debit, or ATM.

**EXPERIENCE FANSHAW AT OPEN
HOUSE**
All locations are open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
on Saturday, November 29
Meet faculty and current students from all
areas of Fanshawe. Drop-in and ask about your
program interests, career options and becoming
a Fanshawe student. Hear from college experts
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Tiverton

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Herd Dispersal Live Auction Sale

for **118 Bred Cows/Heifers**
Saturday November 22, 11:00am to be held at
554447 Mono-Amaranth TLine, Mono, ON

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

Cattle:

(40)Heifers: (10)Char, (20)Black, (10)Simm & Blk - 1st time calvers, bred Angus, vaccinated, double moved

(26) Heifers: (7) CharX, (8) Black, (11) Red - bred Simm/Red Angus X, vaccinated, all double moved

(15) Heifers - Black, bred to Black Angus bull, vaccinated

(10) Charolais cows - all bred Charolais - vaccinated

(11) Cows: (4) Black cows & calves, (4) bred cows, (3)black heifers - bred Angus/Simm X, vaccinated

(10) Charolais Cows & Calves - (4)first calf heifers with calf at side, vaccinated

(2) Charolais Cows

All Cows will be preg checked prior to sale.



Lunch Booth Washroom Available

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

Auctioneers: Kevin McArthur (519) 942-0264 / Scott Bessey (519) 843-5083
www.theauctionadvertiser.com/KMcArthur - Email: mcarthurbessey@gmail.com

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QUIZ ANSWERS

1. North Atlantic Ocean
2. The soprano
3. Notre Dame
4. Wasabi
5. Nov 10th, 1975
6. Mariah Carey
7. Brian Griffin
8. A drey
9. Italy
10. James Gandolfini

SUDOKU

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

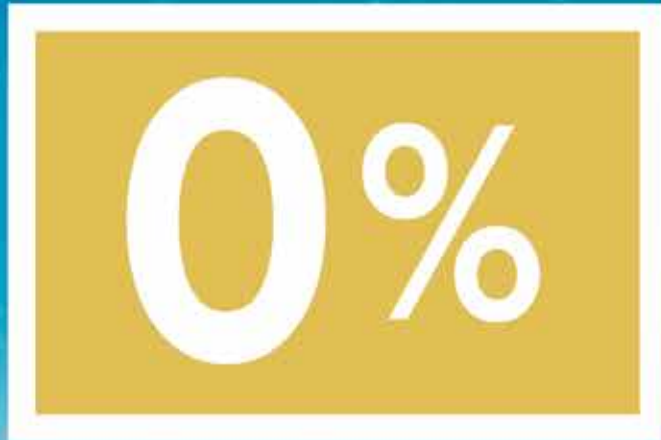
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F25-074, 15,358 kms

\$34,499 +HST
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\$110

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Aaron's Deal of the Week



2024 CHEVROLET TRAX 2RS

F25-070, 51,677 kms

\$26,750 +HST
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\$86

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Andrew's Deal of the Week



2023 CHEVROLET COLORADO LT 4WD

F25-071, 32,163kms

\$45,999 +HST
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Regan's Deal of the Week



FORMER DAILY RENTAL

2023 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LT AWD

F25-067, 56,540 kms

\$25,899 +HST
& LIC.

\$83

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Ann's Deal of the Week



EXTENDED WARRANTY

2023 DODGE HORNET GT PLUS AWD

23-034A, 21,316 kms

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