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Unifor holds rally for CAMI workers

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Members of Uniform Local 88, other locals and labour supporters held a 'Solidarity Action' at Ingersoll's CAMI manufacturing plant on Wednesday. The rally is in response to General Motors' elimination of production of the BrightDrop EV delivery van.

Local union chair Mike Van Boekel said he was pleased with the turnout early in the day but hoped more supporters would attend as the day went on. He added the rally was strictly to raise awareness.

"We want to make sure GM knows we aren't going anywhere and also to send a message to the federal and provincial governments that they need to keep the pressure on."

He added the BrightDrop van may not have sold well, but the bigger problem with their employer is Trump's rhetoric south of the border.

"He doesn't want any (automotive) investment outside of the States and wants all the jobs to go back there. GM sells hundreds of thousands of vehicles in Canada, and they make billions here, so they can supply jobs to Canadians."

Van Boekel explained Unifor had a constructive conversation with the federal government last week, but he is concerned about the auto sector as a whole.

"It looks like they are paying attention now. Unfortunately, Chrysler took a plant down the week before ours. If they all keep doing this there will be nothing left in a month. The bleeding has to stop somewhere."

One of the potential uses for the facility, and something that came out of talks with the feds, is a military vehicle. Van Boekel said his members are willing to build anything to keep the plant going.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 4



(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

PUMPKIN FEST

Pumpkins spotted at Pumpkin Fest 2025 at Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum. Story on page 31.

Liberals unveil federal budget with a deficit of over \$70 billion

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The first budget handed down by the federal government in 18 months included a deficit of \$78.3 billion with no sign of a balanced budget.

As expected, the two local Members of Parliament are divided on the effectiveness of the more than 400-page document and its impact on Canadians. Oxford Conservative MP Arpan Khanna said he hoped to see some pocketbook issues to make life more affordable for Canadians.

"A lot of folks are struggling to get by. My office gets flooded with emails and phone calls from people trying to get help. People are working two jobs, doing everything

right, yet they are barely making ends meet. I don't see anything to help in the budget."

Khanna also expressed his frustration at the size of the deficit, which is expected to drop to \$56.6 billion by the 2029/30 fiscal year and laid the blame solely on Prime Minister Mark Carney.

"He promised to be that expert banker who would be fiscally responsible, but he's brought forward a budget worse than Trudeau's in terms of spending. When you run major deficits, it fuels inflation, leads to higher taxes and at the end of the day, it's Canadians who end up paying the price."

Kitchener-Conestoga Liberal MP Tim Louis said the budget presented is the right one for the times we find ourselves in.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 3



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Local MPs on opposite sides of the document

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"This response to the global economic shifts, like tariffs from the US, is something we have to fight. At the same time we have to protect our sovereignty, build infrastructure and housing and support Canadians through these challenges."

He added maintaining current social safety nets will play a role in the affordability of living in Canada today.

"The national school food program, dental care, affordable childcare, those things will be untouched. We made sure those supports are there and they put more money in the pockets of Canadians."

Louis also lauded the budget's business incentives to spur private sector growth in the country.

"Those things are going to grow the economy which means more jobs and greater affordability."

As for the deficit, Louis said the budget found a way to make the necessary investments in the economy and protect Canadians. He also spoke highly of the way the budget was split into operational and capital sides.

"We are going to reduce our operational spending in three years to be balanced. That means any borrowing we do after that will go towards investments in infrastructure, housing and defence. We did an expenditure review over the summer and identified \$60 billion in savings."

The federal government is projected to spend \$55.6 billion on interest payments in 2026 to service the national debt — an amount that surpasses the annual health-care transfer payments made to provinces and territories.

The government has pledged to greatly reduce the size of the federal public service by 40,000 jobs through job cuts, attrition, and early retirements from its peak of 367,772 employees in March 2024, to 330,000 by 2028-29. Louis said

"We have to do this responsibly and a big part of that is going to be through attrition

and efficiencies. It has been growing too fast, so we have to pull back on it. That's part of the \$60 billion in savings."

Khanna agreed that the public sector has grown significantly without delivering improved services for Canadians and expressed support for efforts to reduce its size — though he remains skeptical that meaningful action will follow.

"Any time we can have a smaller government that cuts out the fat, we have more efficiencies, so that's something I do agree with and it had to be done. But I don't think it will actually lead to anything and we will be watching very closely."

Nova Scotia MP Chris d'Entremont resigned from the Conservative caucus on budget day to join the Liberals, the first floor crossing since 2018 when Leona Alleslev left the Liberals to join the Conservatives. She was re-elected in 2019 under the new party but then lost her seat in the 2021 election.

Khanna said he saw d'Entremont regularly as their offices are side-by-side. He believes his former colleague's motivation is nothing more than sour grapes.

"This was a case of him not getting what he wanted. He wanted to be a deputy speaker as he was in the past, but he was not chosen by his colleagues. He blamed the Conservative team for that and this is him taking personal vengeance on the party."

Louis said he's been focused on the budget and didn't see the move coming but appreciates his new caucus partner.

"We welcome anybody who wants to be part of the conversation. It shows our government has moved towards the centre and is appealing to more people."

The House of Commons is off next week for Remembrance Day, but the work behind the scenes will involve opposition parties putting forward amendments. A vote on the budget is expected to occur the following week.

Weekend Quiz

by Jake Grant

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. What is a group of bears called? | Tragically Hip? |
| 2. What silent film star was "The Tramp"? | 7. What Toronto Blue Jay hit a 3-run, walk-off home run to win the world series in 1993? |
| 3. What is the name given to people who make arrows? | 8. What Star Wars show follows rebel Cassian from Rogue One? |
| 4. What is Canada's National bird? | 9. Who is the president of China? |
| 5. What are the birthstones for November? | 10. What is the tallest mountain in Canada? |
| 6. Who was the lead singer of the | |

This week's answers are found on pg. 37

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Large crowd turns out to support workers affected by GM's decision to cease Ingersoll production

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"We proved it with the battery. We took brand new technology that was state of the art, and we hit it out of the park within a year. We will build anything they want. We're just looking for jobs."

Laid-off CAMI employees are receiving 80 per cent of their normal wage and will for months to come, but his worry is what happens when people's income dries up.

"A year goes by fast, and if you have both parents in here and you are losing your pay, it hurts. I think our members could live through it if we had something signed within 18 months that would change everything over again, then there is light at the end of the tunnel."

He said employees can make some adjustments and survive, but if the plant were to close, it would fire a hole right through Oxford County and the surrounding areas.

One of the affected employees is Brantford resident Mike Horne, a 21-year CAMI veteran who has lived through the strike of 2017, COVID-19 and multiple lay-offs. He said news of the shutdown was devastating, particularly since he was one of the 300 workers scheduled to return to work.

"I was really happy about coming back and it literally broke my heart. It's been a downward spiral with a bit of depression. Thank God for good weather to get outside to keep my mind off things, but it's been tough."

Horne's two children are attending university, and he said while the 80 per cent pay is a blessing, it is still a stressful time. He added the rally

"I am thankful my wife is a vice-principal, where she helps out quite a bit, but we always feel the financial burden as a man. I have been actively looking (for work), updating my resume, and it's time to start thinking about something else."

The event included music and a pair of food trucks while transport truck drivers and others honked horns in support of the workers. Other union members also came out.

"This shows solidarity, not just from 88 but from the



(LEE GRIFFI PHOTO)

Hundreds of Unifor Local 88 supporters turned out Wednesday morning in Ingersoll at the CAMI plant to send a simple message to GM and the federal government – we want our jobs and want to get back to work.

other locals that took the time to come and support us."

Horne said that over the 40 years CAMI has operated in Ingersoll, the workforce has consistently answered the call to build a quality product, no matter what it was.

"We have been challenged on what we can build, and we've come through every time. We made it work, we put our heads down and helped the company because they are helping us. We need these jobs to survive."

He added Trump is at the top of the list of those to blame for the situation the auto sector is in but said our politicians could have been more proactive.

"I think our government could have gotten ahead of this. They knew it was coming and could have done things to get the ball rolling, but they waited and reacted to the situation."

Auto manufacturing creates thousands of spin-off jobs, mainly at parts plants located near facilities like CAMI. Van Boekel said those jobs are also worth fighting for.

Lana Payne is Unifor's National Chair, and she explained Canada's auto industry is under direct attack.

"President Trump has made it clear he wants our auto jobs on U.S. soil—and now automakers are caving to his pressure by shifting production south of the border."

She added it doesn't stop at the auto sector.

"Trump is taking aim at the foundation of Canada's industrial economy—forestry, steel, aluminum, heavy-duty truck and bus manufacturing, and other sectors that sustain good, unionized, middle-class jobs in communities across this country."

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Woodstock Police Service briefs

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Pedestrian seriously injured in collision with vehicle

Woodstock Police responded to a report of a collision where a pedestrian was struck in the area of Lakeview Drive and Crestwood Court on Oct. 22.

The driver of the vehicle remained on scene and was cooperative with police. The 43-year-old female who was struck was transported to London Health Science Centre Critical Care Trauma Centre with serious injuries. No word yet from police on any potential charges or the current condition of the pedestrian.

Police looking for robbery suspect

The Woodstock Police Service is asking for the public's help to identify a male in connection with a robbery.

Police say the unknown suspect was involved in a robbery at a business on Queenston Boulevard. The suspect was last seen walking southbound on the Huntingford Trail at approximately 9:40 p.m. on Oct. 24, wearing the clothing shown in the attached photo.

If you recognize this individual or have CCTV footage from the area around that time, contact the Woodstock Police Service at 519-537-2323 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).



(WPS PHOTO)

Woodstock Police are asking for the public's help to identify a suspect in connection with a recent robbery in the city.

Oxford OPP briefs

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

County woman faces charges

A Zorra Township woman is facing impaired driving and other charges after a single-vehicle collision on Road 88.

On Oct. 30 at approximately 4:30 p.m., members of the Oxford OPP were dispatched to a report of a single vehicle collision that had occurred in Zorra. Officers attended and spoke with the lone occupant of the vehicle. The driver suffered minor injuries.

A 43-year-old Zorra Township woman has been charged with impaired driving and failing to comply with a probation order. Her driver's license has been suspended for 90 days and her vehicle impounded for seven days.

The accused was released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock on Dec. 9.

Speeder busted on the 401

Police stopped a G2 driver from Toronto on the 401 near Woodstock on Oct. 26. The driver was clocked at 171 km/h in a posted 100 km/h zone and had to find their own way home after the vehi-

cle was impounded for 14 days.

Police asking for public input on action plan

Police are inviting input from the public and community stakeholders to help shape the 2026-2029 Oxford OPP Detachment Action Plan.

During the previous three years, Oxford OPP's Action Plan focused on crime, roadways, waterways and trails as well as community well-being.

"As we look ahead, we are seeking input from the community to help guide our priorities and improve outcomes for those that we serve. To do so, Oxford OPP's consultation process includes local businesses, school boards, community organizations, cultural associations, special interest groups, and members of the public - especially those from under-represented and diverse communities," said a police press release.

"We encourage everyone to take a few moments to complete the short survey linked below and share your thoughts on the focus areas for the 2026-2029 Action Plan."

The survey can be found at <https://forms.office.com/r/pnz6fN1smq> and closes on Nov. 30.

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Oxford MP sees shortfall in government bail bill

JEFF HELSDON AND LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporters

Oxford MP Arpan Khanna was glad to see the government introduce legislation to tackle shortfalls in the country's bail system but said it could do more.

Khanna has been working on his private member's bill, The Jail Not Bail Act, which would tackle the problem of repeat violent offenders being let out of jail and reoffending. His research found that 1,600 violent crimes are committed per day, and many of these are committed by repeat offenders. He also discovered one-third of murders in the country were committed by repeat offenders.

Khanna's bill hasn't been debated yet, and a motion to fast-track it was voted down, but last week the Liberal government tabled Bill C-14, The Bail and Sentencing Reform Act, which makes changes to Canada's bail and sentencing framework.

"It's good to see after years of advocating, not just from us but Canadians as well, they put something forward," he said.

Khanna sees some elements of his bill in the Liberal legislation, which he considers a win. Still, he said there are parts of his bill that aren't included and maintains it should have been accepted in its entirety.

For instance, he said the principle of restraint, introduced by the Liberal Bill C-75 in 2019, made it mandatory for judges to release the accused under the least restrictive conditions at the earliest opportunity during bail hearings. The new Liberal legislation doesn't go far enough on this issue, Khanna maintains.

"I called for getting rid of it altogether and instead have a principle of public safety as the primary consideration when considering bail," he said.

He also said Bill C-75 doesn't impose tougher bail compliance conditions or require judges to enforce them and doesn't mandate that judges consider a person's criminal history when deciding on bail.

Asked if he would support C-14, Khanna said he will examine the legislation in more

detail and then make a decision.

"There is no monopoly on good ideas," he said.

Kitchener-Conestoga MP Tim Louis said his government's legislation hits the mark and, if passed, will make improvements.

"We've talked about tougher bail conditions, longer sentences for repeat offenders and better protection for victims. The government has been working since late spring, and I am proud of it. It's focused and it is going to crack down on violent and repeat offenders without violating rights."

When asked if C-14 goes far enough to protect innocent victims, Louis said it was written after extensive consultation with experts in the field.

"There was consultation with the provinces, law enforcement and stakeholders to make sure we are strengthening the laws, specifically for repeat offenders and organized crime. It's those legal experts and police we have been working with that make me believe we are targeting the right people and not sweeping up people who don't pose a threat."

Louis explained the Liberals are always open to working with the opposition parties on any piece of legislation, but in the case of Khanna's bill, there was no opportunity to do so.

"The Conservatives took it and bundled it into a motion which rushed it through, skipping the proper consultation and bypassing the normal legislative process private member's bills take. We would have had more discussions and talked about amendments."

He said he voted against the bill, not because it came from the opposition, but because a yes vote would have fast-tracked it.

"That wasn't the proper way to do it. There are parts of the bill which are worth bringing and now that we have government legislation, we can look at his bill and see if we can take parts out of it because there are similarities. This is a non-partisan issue."

Louis said there are about 80 changes to the Criminal Code in C-14 and he is confident it will make Canadian communities safer.



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Flu season officially begins in the Southwestern Public Health region

STAFF

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

A newly confirmed case of influenza indicates the beginning of this year's flu season.

Southwestern Public Health has confirmed the first lab-verified case of Influenza A for the 2025 respiratory season, marking the official start of flu season in Oxford County, Elgin County, and the City of St. Thomas.

"Influenza can lead to serious health complications, especially for those at higher risk," says Dr. Ninh Tran, Medical Officer of Health. "We strongly encourage eligible individuals to get vaccinated as soon as possible. You can also help protect your loved ones by staying home when you're sick, washing your hands frequently, and covering your coughs and sneezes."

Since Oct. 6, COVID-19 and influenza vaccines have been available in Ontario for high-risk groups and priority populations. The general public became eligible for free, publicly funded

flu vaccines on Oct. 27. Vaccination is available through healthcare providers and participating pharmacies. The Southwestern Public Health also offers limited appointments for children aged five and under, which can be booked online.

Influenza and pneumonia remain among the top ten leading causes of death in Canada. Each year, influenza is responsible for approximately 12,200 hospitalizations and 3,500 deaths nationwide. Symptoms can include fever, chills, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, and fatigue—and for some, these can be severe or even life-threatening.

"Flu season is not just a seasonal inconvenience; it's a serious public health concern," added Tran.

"Getting the flu shot is the most effective way to protect yourself and those around you, especially individuals who are more vulnerable to complications. It's a simple step that can help protect the ones you love."

The health unit did not release where the confirmed case was discovered.

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Southwestern Public Health encourages vaccination to prevent respiratory illnesses

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Southwestern Public Health (SWPH) is encouraging residents to get vaccinated against COVID-19, Influenza, and, if eligible, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

"As respiratory viruses begin to circulate across Oxford, Elgin and the City of St. Thomas, it's important we take steps to protect ourselves and those around us," says Colleen Brett, Program Manager at Southwestern Public Health. "Vaccination, staying home when sick, and practicing good hand hygiene are simple but effective ways to reduce the spread of illness in our community."

Jaime Fletcher is the health unit's chief nursing officer, and she said the fall kicks off respiratory sickness season for public health and the community.

We are sharing that the COVID-19 and influenza vaccines are available through local pharmacy partners

and primary care providers to those at highest risk of severe complications from those illnesses."

The general public, as of Monday, was also eligible for the pair of shots. Fletcher added the RSV vaccination is also available at no cost to those over the age of 75.

"RSV is a serious respiratory virus that can affect infants and those in their senior years. It can cause significant illness."

She added the symptoms are similar to COVID-19 and influenza.

"High fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat and general malaise. While you might not know which respiratory illness you have, we are pleased to provide vaccinations against three of them, the ones we know can be prevented of have the impacts lessened with vaccination."

Fletcher explained the decision to vaccinate is rooted in science and research and the power of vaccinations has been proven. She added prevention is the key.

"It is always from a lens of pre-

vention. Our call to action is that individuals get vaccinated ahead of respiratory season when we know these viruses can have significant impacts on individual, family and community health, as well as impact our very busy health care system."

The SWPH has extensive information on its vaccination program on its website and local health care providers are also able to provide information.

"They are all well-informed about the power of vaccination and what is available in our community. We have recently launched a respiratory illness dashboard on our website where we are continuing to monitor and publicly post levels and risks associated with illnesses this season," she added.

Southwestern Public Health will not be hosting community clinics this fall, but will have limited appointments available for COVID-19 and Influenza immunization for children aged five and under only (and their guardians) and the RSV



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

monoclonal antibody for infants who do not have a healthcare provider and were born on or after April 1, 2025, or are less than eight months of age at the time of vaccination. RSV immunization for eligible older adults who do not have a healthcare provider and have not had a previous dose

Appointments are required and can be booked online at www.swpublichealth.ca/booking. For full RSV eligibility, visit www.swpublichealth.ca/RSV.

SWPH is also offering tips to prevent the spread of illness when you are ill, such as staying home, washing hands frequently, covering coughs and sneezes, improving indoor ventilation and wearing a mask in indoor public spaces when ill or recovering from illness.

"This respiratory season, we all have a role to play in reducing the spread of illness," adds Brett, "Being prepared by being protected is the first step to staying healthy this fall."



Remembrance Day is a time to Respect Reflect Remember

On November 11, at 11 a.m.
we observe two minutes of silence to show gratitude
for the courage and sacrifice of our veterans.

For more ways to remember or to learn more, visit
ontario.ca/remember



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Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET

Royal Canadian Legion encouraged by membership growth as Remembrance Day approaches

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The national office of the Royal Canadian Legion has introduced several changes to its operations, and so far, the new initiatives are showing positive results. “There are close to 20,000 traditional locations across the country where poppies are offered for donations. This year, we have also doubled the number of Pay Tribute Boxes—our tap-to-donate boxes,” explained Nujma Bond, the Legion’s manager of communications. “We now have about 2,300 of them across Canada, giving people the option to donate electronically. Even if they don’t have cash or change, they can still collect a poppy and support the Legion.” Bond noted there was strong interest in the new donation method during the 2024 campaign, when just over 1,000 of the new boxes brought in more than \$700,000 in contributions. “Canadians are always incredibly gen-

erous, and we’re very thankful for that support,” she said. “All funds collected during this period go directly to the Poppy Trust Fund, which assists veterans and their families.”

In addition to the tribute boxes, the Legion has modernized further by partnering with one of the world’s largest online retailers.

“Last year we launched an Amazon online storefront as a new way to reach Canadians who may live in rural areas or regions without a local Legion branch,” Bond explained. “They can now obtain a lapel poppy for a donation online.”

The storefront also offers other Remembrance Day items such as hats, scarves, and mittens — and so far, it’s been a success.

“Last year we reached over 7,000 different villages, towns, and communities across Canada, many of them in rural areas without a Legion branch,” said Bond. All poppy donations collected in a community stay local, ensuring direct sup-

port for nearby veterans. Nationally, the organization’s membership is healthy, though Bond acknowledged some branches occasionally struggle to find volunteers, as is the case in Woodstock.

“We’ve seen year-over-year growth and now have 170,000 members nationwide,” she said. “With 1,350 branches, local challenges can arise from time to time. Finding enough volunteers is something we hear about regularly.”

Bond added that new volunteers often bring fresh ideas, innovative programs, and new energy to local branches.

“We hope people will consider joining the Legion. Through their membership, they directly support our veterans and all the work we do. They can also help with the poppy campaign by being active in their communities.”

This year, Canada will mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the liberation of the Netherlands, a campaign in which Canadian forces played a crucial role. These anniversaries hold deep meaning for Canadians, especially veterans and their families, and the 2025 National Remembrance Day Ceremony in Ottawa will place special emphasis on these milestones.

“That will include re-enactments of the period with participants in authentic uniforms,” Bond said.

“We’ll also have a tribute flyover by CF-18 fighter jets and an appearance by an RCMP Black Hawk helicopter.”

This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Ottawa. The remains in the tomb are

those of an unidentified Canadian soldier who died in France during the First World War, near Vimy Ridge — one of Canada’s most significant battlefields. The tomb stands as a symbol of all Canadian service members who have no known grave.

“It has become a sacred and important site during the national service in Ottawa,” said Bond.

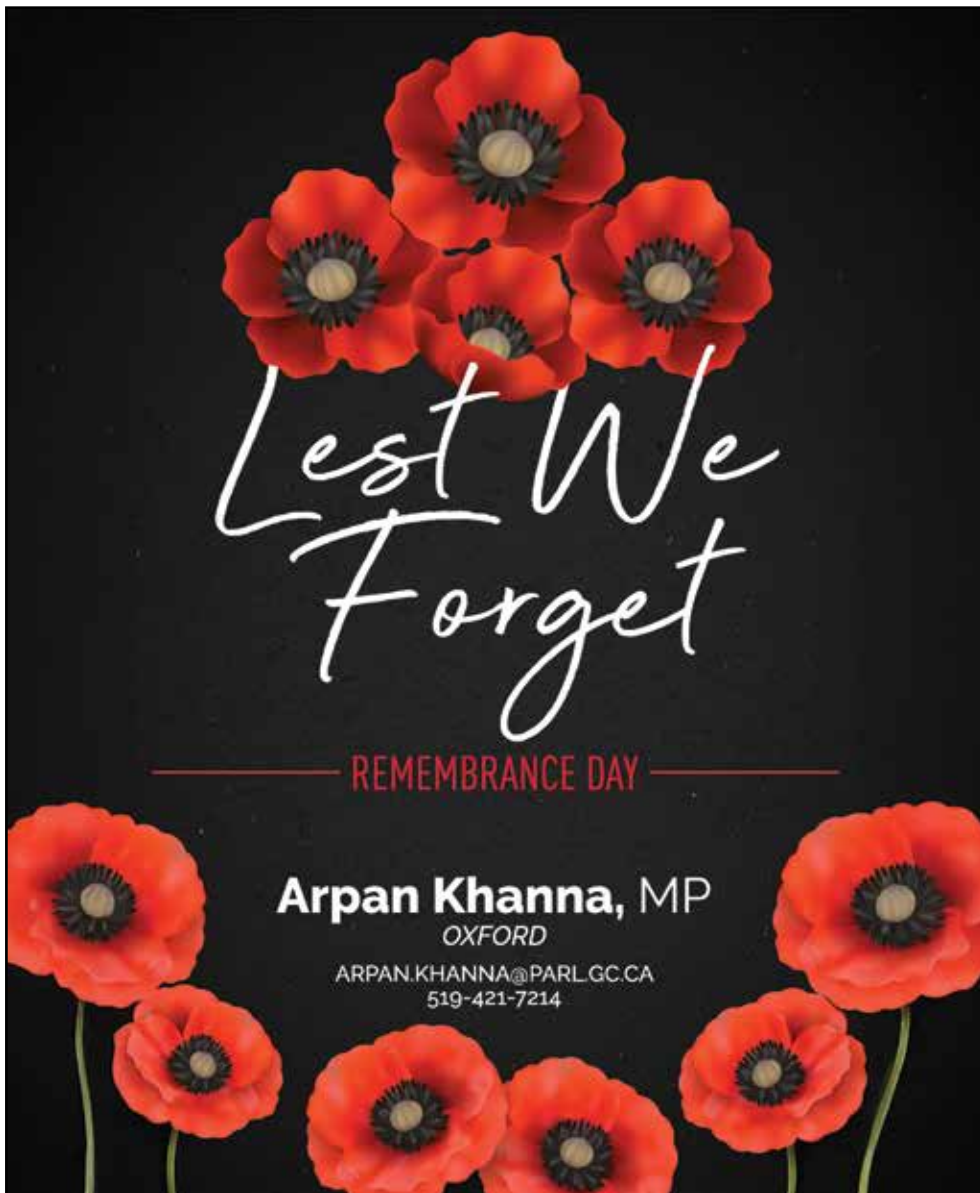
“When the ceremony concludes, thousands of people come forward to place their lapel poppies on the tomb.”

Across the country, many Legion branches have launched Remembrance banner programs, including those in New Hamburg and Beachville. Some communities, such as Woodstock, have also installed Remembrance-themed crosswalks.

“It’s another way to visually honour our veterans and thank them throughout the year,” Bond explained. “That’s been a goal of the Legion for several years — encouraging Canadians to reflect on the sacrifices that made our freedoms possible. Seeing that remembrance expressed year-round through crosswalks, banners, and local initiatives is very meaningful.” The Legion has also created a Remembrance Day ceremony resource for teachers, which can be adapted for schools or workplaces.

“If people can’t attend a ceremony at a cenotaph on November 11, they can hold one at another time — perhaps the following week,” said Bond. “That way, students and employees can still take part in honouring our veterans.”

More information is available at www.legion.ca.



Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET

Woodstock Legion calls for volunteers to keep doors open

ALEX HUNT

Echo Contributor

Woodstock's Royal Canadian Legion is calling on the community to step up as volunteers, saying just two dozen dedicated helpers keep the branch running. "In my generation, we were taught to get out and volunteer, to support the veterans," said Legion President Gary Moon. "That sense of duty has been lost over the generations."

He added, nowadays, things are just different.

"When I was growing up, I was very aware of Remembrance Day and the importance of veterans. It was still a significant part of my school experience, but today, it's not taught as much, and that awareness has really filtered out. It's sad to see."

Rob Gable, the Legion's second vice president, said younger veterans often bring different attitudes to the organization, with many wanting to join and immediately change how things are done. He added the approach can clash with long-standing traditions but efforts are being made to blend the experience of older members with new ideas. Some of the younger men and women who served in places like Africa and Afghanistan leave when their expectations aren't met. Along with these challenges, the Legion is also facing a decline in its volunteer base, as many longtime members are ag-

ing out and no longer able to contribute as they once did. Kelly-Ann VanMarrum, the Legion's office manager, said the remaining volunteers are feeling exhausted and are appealing for greater support from the community.

"I try to do my best to get people involved and out here. We show them what our programs are doing in the hope that someone who's never been in the Legion will step up and say, maybe I want to see what this is all about. Maybe I should join and start supporting these things."

Those interested do not need a service number to apply.

"Anyone can apply, we review it at the executive meeting, get approval from the membership, and you can become a member. Hopefully, once more people join, they will want to dig in and give us some help," she added.

Moon said that most Legions across Canada, including those in the Woodstock area, are struggling to stay open amid declining participation, reduced community support, and ongoing funding challenges. He explained that local branches continue to recruit new members and organize different activities to spark interest, but membership has steadily declined over the years. At one time, the Woodstock branch had about 800 members; today, that number has dropped significantly.

"We're just over the 300 mark right now. But also, our problem is getting those

members to come in and volunteer," said Moon. "Our volunteers that do help out, they're exhausted because it's the same volunteers over and over and over again."

The Woodstock Legion has repeatedly struggled to secure government grants and other funding. When the branch tried to receive support for an elevator connecting the ground floor to the upper banquet hall, they were not successful and were forced to use their own funds. Although classified as a non-profit, the organization faces strict eligibility requirements for grants, including a breakdown of costs, timelines, and the age of equipment. Applications are often denied despite extensive documentation, leaving the Legion to rely on internal resources and fundraising to cover expenses.

"It's very stressful, from late September through mid-May, we can generally hold our own on everything, but once summer hits and everyone starts taking holidays, the place feels empty and income drops drastically," said VanMarrum.

"That's when you really have to scratch

your head and figure out what gets paid first. There were times when the branch had a cushion of money, but that was long gone after we spent it on the elevator system and other projects. Even when I try to plan carefully, you never know if the money will be there, and it's a constant challenge," she added.

Volunteering at the Legion is about more than keeping the doors open. For VanMarrum, it's a way to give back and support others by helping with events and programs. It allows her to make a meaningful contribution through selfless acts that bring personal satisfaction. Gable said the Legion's activities rely on volunteers, many of whom are not even members.

"Some step forward because they remember a grandfather or father who served and want to donate a few hours of their time. Others help with tasks like delivering and refilling poppy boxes at local stores. These contributions are purely charitable, aimed at supporting the remembrance of veterans and ensuring the success of the annual Poppy Drive."



(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

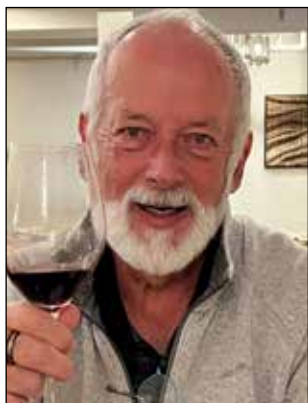
Rob Gable, second vice president, poses inside The Royal Canadian Legion in Woodstock. The organization is looking to attract more volunteers.



Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET

OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: History, horror and heroism on display



PAUL KNOWLES

Echo Contributor

History, horror and heroism: you will find all three on display at the exceptional Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. And if you manage to visit before January 6, 2026, you can also experience a very poignant and

powerful temporary exhibit called "Last Voices of the Second World War," which captures the memories and stories of the last living Canadian WW2 veterans.

In truth, there is no practical way to take in everything this National Museum has to offer, in just one visit. But a few hours' visit will give you a lot of insight into the reality of Canada's participation in national and international conflicts – and the impact of this history on our fellow Canadians.

We started by touring Last Voices galleries. Here, the focus is on individuals, and their stories.

And those stories vary wildly. There are some for whom their time in the Ca-

nadian Armed Forces is something they look back on with fondness. But for many who saw service in battle, it's a very different story. Veteran George Morasch is quoted: "I don't talk about it. They are secrets in my heart." And veteran George MacDonell, held as a prisoner of war in horrendous conditions in Hong Kong, admits, "I had heavy guilt because so many of my comrades had died and I had lived."

The story is told honestly, with no holds barred. You learn that while there were benefits for armed forces personnel when they returned home, those benefits were limited to white people – black vets could not access the same assistance.

And there is a lot of emphasis on the mental health and economic struggles faced by the vets. Veteran Alex Polowin is quoted: "The thought of 'Where now? What are you going to do for the rest of your life?' That's very, very frightening."

Not surprisingly, the exhibition underscores the significance of Remembrance Day. Veteran Arthur Dingle says, "I think Remembrance Day is very important and it's absolutely essential for people to understand the reason for it."

You cannot visit this "Last Voices" exhibition without being deeply touched. There were heroes, yes, caught in a global catastrophe, and yet, as veteran Frank Moritsugu is quoted in a caption, when he tells young people his story, "I tell them how old I was when this happened, so that they would understand that I was really an ordinary Canadian kid like they are."

That's a theme that recurs throughout your visit to the Canadian War Museum: the story of war is really the story of ordinary people who found themselves in extraordinary circumstances, and responded with a level of courage and resilience I cannot even imagine.

The Museum carries you chronologically through Canadian history, started with the First Peoples and their conflict with Vikings, and with each other, and continuing through the coming of the French, and then the British. There is plenty to think about as you continue through the War of 1812-14, Canada's involvement in the war in South Africa, and then the World Wars, and the cold war.

And these clashes and their consequences, continue to reverberate right into this present day.

To my surprise, one of the most effective displays at the Museum is an amusing video of three young Cana-



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Veteran Alex Polowin, quoted in 2022, said figuring out the future after returning home from World War Two was "very, very frightening".

dian men. The video starts with two of them in the frame, one wearing a Toronto Maple Leafs sweater, the other, a Montréal Canadiens jersey. We see the conflict between British and French, and the ongoing issues of French Canada and English Canada, through their eyes.

But eventually, the camera pans back and there is a third guy on the couch – a Native Canadian. The other two are surprised: "When did you get here?" they ask. The "new guy" frowns. "I've been here all the time." And therein lies a fundamental truth about Canada, one we mostly ignore.

There is more "big picture" in the permanent exhibits at the War Museum, but there are thought-provoking individual moments here, as well. I was intrigued by the reconstruction of World War One ace Billy Bishop's aircraft, accompanied by photos of and information panels about Canada's flying war hero.

Or by what happens when you walk into the World War Two gallery, and are confronted with Adolph Hitler's limousine, a mere-

ly mechanical artifact that nonetheless reeks of evil.

The designers at the Museum have done a very fine job of creating interactive scenes which place visitors in the very heart of war: you pause in a battlefield at Passchendaele, which includes discarded weapons and half-buried bodies. You edge your way through a trench, where a very realistic manikin of a frightened soldier is the only other "person" sharing your space. You stand in a landing vessel behind soldiers about to storm the beaches of Normandy.

And you leave the museum well informed, heavy-laden with thoughts about the horrible reality of war, but filled with admiration for the courage of those people who fought for our country – 66,000 of whom died in World War One, another 45,000 in World War Two. Lest we forget.

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.

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Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET

WWI records from our community

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parcel ..
Letter follows at first opportunity.
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(late)
(for a long time)

Signature only } *A. Robinson*
Date *Nov 13-18* 8pm

W.L.W.I. (6-B1019) 1539 800m. 6-17. C. & Co. Grange Mills. S.W.

Serial No. *23/27-2* Class *A* Badge *258815* Army Form B. 2067.

NOTE—The character given on this Certificate is based on holder's conduct throughout his military career.

Character Certificate of *Albert Robinson*
Name *ROBINSON*
Unit and Regiment or Corps *Royal Field Artillery*
from which discharged

This is to certify that the ex-soldier named above has served with the Colours for *10* years *200* DAYS months, and his character during this period *Very Good*

Including 6 years served prior to mobilization in 1914

Signature and Place *George R. I.*
3rd Office (Lt. Col.) *W. B. D. S. L.* Place *W. B. D. S. L.*

Date of discharge *31-3-20*

To safeguard the holder of this Certificate from impersonation it should be noted that, in the event of any doubt arising as to the bona fides of the bearer, reference should be made to the description, when he left the Colours, of the soldier to whom this Certificate was given, which is recorded on his Discharge Certificate (Army Form B. 2073, Serial No. *23/27-2*), and should be in his possession.

W.L.W.I. (6-B1019) 1539 800m. 6-17. C. & Co. Grange Mills. S.W.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

The Queen and I wish you God-speed, and a safe return to your homes and dear ones.

A grateful Mother Country is proud of your splendid services characterized by unsurpassed devotion and courage.

George R. I.

Army Form C. 310.

E. R.

THIRD CLASS
CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION.
AWARDED TO

No. *23/27-2* *Dr. A. Robinson*
17th May 1918 *Regiment,*

On the recommendation of *Inspector of Army Schools*

ATTAINMENTS.

Writing from Dictation—Requisite Proficiency in writing Regimental Orders.
Arithmetic—Requisite Proficiency in Notation and Numeration, in the Compound Rules and Reduction of Money, and in arranging and balancing Daily Messing Accounts.

Commanding *W. B. D. S. L.*

* Or other officer duly authorized.

H.W.V. 15,800 3-45. Form 50,000 7-05. C. 310. 6 1 20 11

A card that was sent home just 9 hours after the Armistice was agreed on. We assume that he sent the letter home to Woodstock to his wife, Ethel.

We assume that this Character Certificate came as part of his discharge papers. I was able to find a ship passenger registry that he came back to Canada in 1920. If I am correct, he went to England to be formally discharged from the army and the passenger registry is him coming back to Canada. He was born in England.

A letter from King George V that was sent to soldiers when they were sent to soldiers after the war.

They say that he was in military school however, he was 17 and 19 at this time.

(SUE PIETERS IMAGES)

SUE PIETERS

Echo Contributor

Albert Robinson was my great grandfather, my grandpa's dad. Recently, I have come across some old documents that belonged to my great grandfather. I don't know much about them or much about him. He died in 1940 when my grandpa was only 11. My grandpa has

since passed so I cannot ask any questions. I hope to find out more about him, like where he served and what a shoe smith did in the war. The documents show that he was in the Royal Artillery Service for 10 years. He was 27 when WWI started. I have been in contact with some folks in ancestry groups to help me uncover his path during the war.



Lest We Forget

On Remembrance Day,
honour the sacrifice of our
men and women in uniform.



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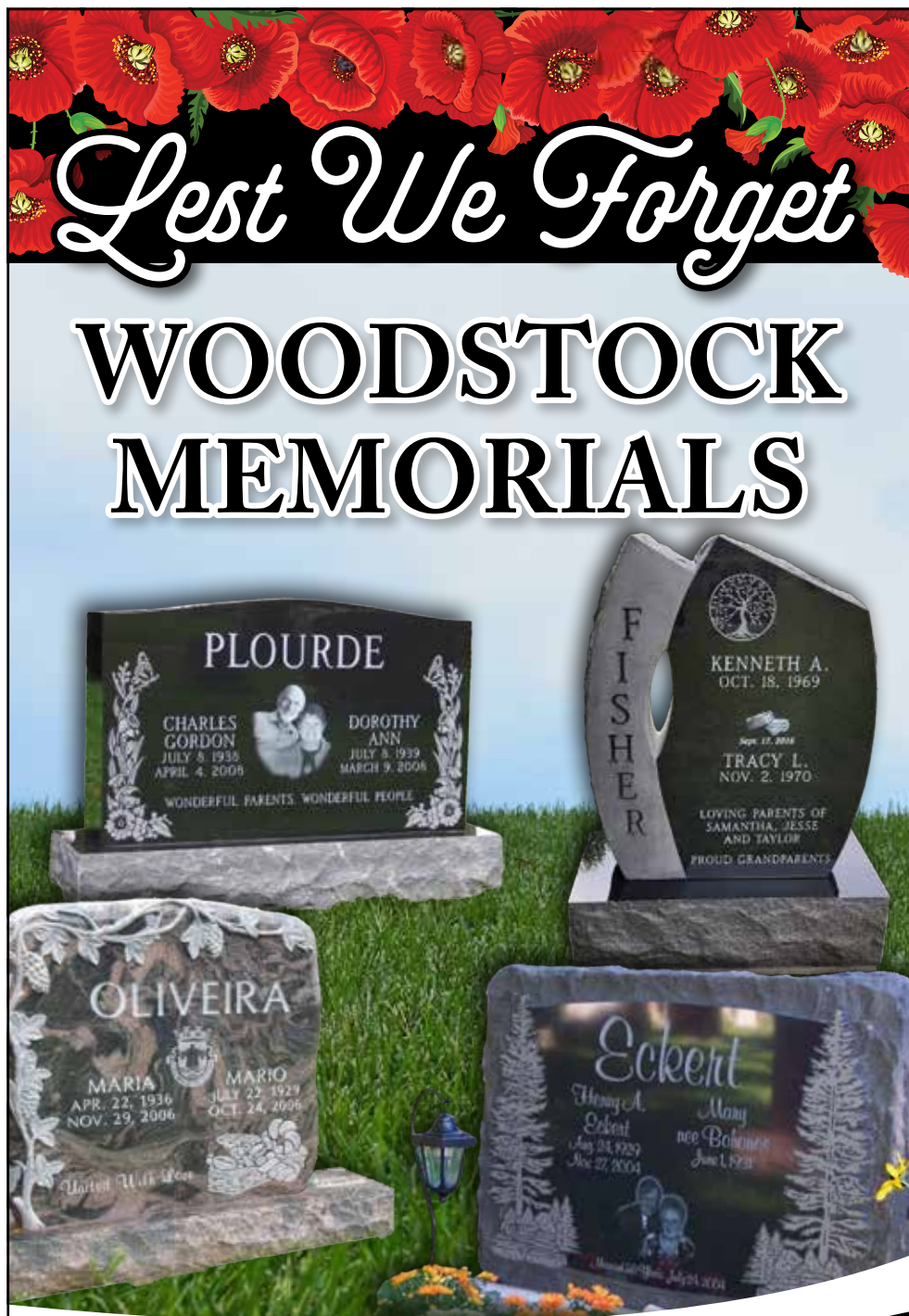
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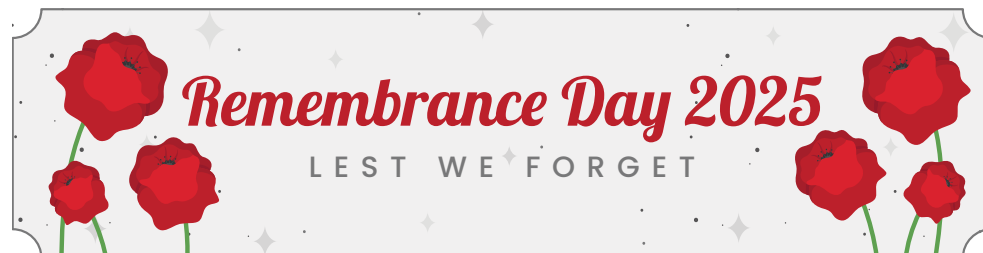
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Route to the Past – In memory of the fallen, and the living

SCOTT GILLIES

Contributor

The guns fell silent at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. The horrors of more than four years of war, the Great War, were at an end. So too was the camaraderie between the men at arms. So too was the age of innocence. Everything had changed.

In September of 1914 Britain had come to the aid of Belgium after the bellicose German Imperial Army had invaded their country in a seesaw series of political and militaristic advances and alliances all in a perceived response to the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand earlier that year. When Great Britain declared war on Germany, her colonies across the British Empire were automatically engaged. Canada, as a sovereign nation, made its own choice to follow suit and come to the aid of the Motherland.

As Canadian Prime Minister Robert Borden said, “the bugles of the Empire sounded the call to duty....The justice of the cause was recognized in every quarter of the King’s dominions, and nowhere more fully than in Canada”.

Within a week of declaring war, Canada sprung into action. Within three weeks 35,000 men had enlisted at the great military camp which seemed to magically spring up at Valcartier Quebec. Within six weeks a full Canadian Division, fully organized and equipped in every branch of the service, along with another 10,000 men preparing to be reinforcements, was ready to proceed overseas.

This army of volunteers came from every corner of the country. As described by Max Aitken at the time, Canadians came “from the workshops and offices of her cities, from the lumber camps of her forests, from the vast wheatfields of the West, from the farms and orchards of the East, from the slopes of the Rockies, from the shores of Hudson Bay, from the mining valleys of British Columbia, from the banks of the Yukon, from the reaches of the St. Lawrence”.

When the greatest body of men to ever set sail from our country left the shores of Canada in 1914, they were fully equipped. The Division was comprised of cavalry, artillery, infantry, engineers, signallers, supply and ammunition columns, field ambulances and hospital staff. It carried its own supply of weaponry of rifles, machine guns, field guns and heavy artillery and a store of ammunition.

Oxford County provided both men and materiel. Men like Edward Norsworthy and Archie Minler from Ingersoll, Tommy Williams from Sweaburg, Andrew Brookfield from Zorra, John and Jamie Ross from Embro were just a few of the local lads who enlisted at Valcartier. Ambulances were made by the Bain Wagon Works in Woodstock; ammunition was manufactured by the Ingersoll Machine & Tool Company; horses came from local farms, and yes, even Oxford County cheese was sent to feed the troops.

After more than four years of fighting, Canadian men, and women who had volunteered to serve as nurses, had suffered thousands of casualties and more than 66,000 had paid the ultimate price.

In the early hours of November 11th, Oxford County resident Tom Johnston, as Pipe Major of the Canadian Black Watch (the 42nd Battalion), led Canadian troops into the city of Mons Belgium. Four hours before the planned armistice would come into effect, there was still fighting taking place. Snipers were still active. Soldiers were still dying.

At 11:00 am on November 11, 1918, the guns fell silent. The larks could now be clearly heard in the sky and yet an eerie hush covered the devastated lands.

It took a few weeks and even months for Canadians to return from the war front. Those who returned were not always welcomed home as heroes. Their world view had changed. Life on the home front had changed forever. Women had become part of the work force; veterans could not always return to their former employment. No one understood them. The bitterness and resentment they felt could not be shared nor appreciated. The camaraderie they once shared with ‘those who were about to die’ was gone. Many a veteran suffered physical and mental pain for the rest of his or her existence.

And yet the lessons of the First World War were soon forgotten. In 1939, Canada went to war again, this time to stand up to Nazism and fight for freedom from tyranny and oppression. And once again Canadians in Oxford County and across our great nation rallied to the cause. Once again, our industries were retooled to support the war effort. Farm production increased but Canadian kitchens rationed their food in order to support our troops. Once again, the people of Oxford County rose to the occasion and supported fundraising Victory Loan campaigns -- year after year after year.



Remembrance Day 2025

LEST WE FORGET



Route to the Past – In memory of the fallen, and the living

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Our relative safety from invasion meant that Canada was the ideal location to train the air forces of the world through the implementation of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. Once again Canadian troops were considered some of the finest in the field of battle, and our rate of production meant that we had one of the largest navies in the world including such ships as HMCS WOODSTOCK and HMCS TILLSONBURG.

In what has been described as the Necessary War, Canada lost another 45,000 young souls.

One hundred thousand Canadian men and women had given their lives for freedom over the span of these

two world wars. They had volunteered to take up the quarrel with the foe. Granted, some were conscripted into the armed services as the years dragged on and casualty rates continued to climb but they too proved their mettle.

As a nation, Canada has stood strong. Our Canadian combatants rightly earned a reputation for being some of the finest in the fray. Those men and women of wars gone by, and those serving today, deserve our respect and our thanks.

Lest we forget.
Route2thepast@gmail.com



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Torch of Freedom ad by BOM, Tribune Feb 19, 1942



Remembrance Day

We will remember them

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OFA Viewpoint: Ontario's other economic engine: agriculture and food

DREW SPOELSTRA

President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

There's been a lot of attention lately on the challenges facing Ontario's auto industry. As trade tensions rise and ongoing tariffs threaten jobs and investment, the impacts on one of our province's largest manufacturing sectors are being closely watched by government, industry and the public alike.

That's understandable: the auto sector is a long-time symbol of Ontario's industrial strength and innovation. But while cars and trucks have long rolled off our assembly lines, another powerful economic engine has been steadily driving Ontario forward, too — our agriculture, agri-food and agri-business sectors.

As a farmer and president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, it's an industry I'm more than familiar with, but it's time more Ontarians — and Canadians — recognized the scale, sophistication and economic importance of this sector. Agriculture, agri-food and agri-business are every bit as vital to the province's prosperity as the automotive industry, and we can't afford to overlook it or take it for granted.

Ontario's agri-food system, from farms and greenhouses to processors, distributors, retailers and foodservice, contributed approximately \$51.4 billion to the provincial economy in 2024. That makes it one of Ontario's top economic drivers, powering both rural and urban communities.

At the heart of that system is food and beverage processing, the industrial engine that transforms

Ontario-grown crops, livestock and ingredients into finished food products.

In 2023, this subsector alone contributed \$14.8 billion to the provincial economy, accounting for more than 15% of Ontario's total manufacturing gross domestic product. That's just behind motor vehicles at 16.4%, and well ahead of other major manufacturing sectors like chemicals or fabricated metals.

In other words: food processing is Ontario's second-largest manufacturing industry — and one of its most stable and resilient.

From food plants in the Greater Toronto Area to bakeries, dairies and processors in small towns across the province, Ontario's food manufacturing sector employed 116,700 people in 2023 — about 14% of all manufacturing jobs in Ontario. And when you take in the entire agri-food system, from farming to retail to restaurants, more than

867,000 Ontarians or about 10 per cent of the labour force are connected to the food value chain.

Ontario also leads the country in agri-food exports, shipping \$28 billion worth of products to markets around the world in 2024. Our top customer is the United States, followed by the European Union and Asia, and major export categories range from primary agricultural commodities to processed products like baked goods and prepared foods.

This is a sector that thrives on innovation, entrepreneurship and global competitiveness — just like auto manufacturing. The difference is that its impact is felt in every region of Ontario, not just



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

a few industrial hubs.

As a sector, agriculture, agri-food and food processing offer economic balance and resilience. This is a sector grounded in local production but globally engaged; rooted in small businesses yet capable of scaling to export markets.

Research shows that every dollar of economic activity created in food processing supports an additional \$2.46 elsewhere in Ontario's economy, through farming, packaging, transportation, logistics and retail. That's a powerful multiplier effect — one that strengthens local economies and keeps rural Ontario vibrant.

The current trade and tariff challenges around the auto sector, as well as steel, aluminum and others, remind us that economies evolve, and that governments need to plan for stability and diversity. Ontario's agri-food and food processing sector offers exactly that: a homegrown, high-value

industry with global reach and long-term potential.

To fully unlock that potential, we need the same kind of attention and investment that the auto, energy, mining, steel and aluminum sectors receive. That means support for modern processing facilities, infrastructure that connects rural producers to markets, policies that encourage farm business growth and domestic value-added manufacturing, and a commitment to keeping farmland productive and protected.

Agriculture and food are not just part of Ontario's heritage — they're the foundation of our future prosperity. As we navigate global uncertainty, let's remember that Ontario's ability to feed itself and the world is one of its greatest strengths.

When we invest in farming and food, we're investing in jobs, innovation, and a more resilient Ontario economy.

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Town of Ingersoll announces launch of new @Ingersoll-Recreation social media

STAFF

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

The Town of Ingersoll has launched brand-new 'Ingersoll Recreation' social media pages dedicated entirely to the community's recreation programs and facilities.

Going forward, all updates related to the Victoria Park Community Centre (VPCC), Ingersoll Arena, classes, schedules, events, and camps will now be shared on the new Ingersoll Recreation accounts.

Follow @IngersollRecreation on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date on everything recreation: from drop-in programs to skating schedules and community rec events.

The Town pages will continue to share Town news, community updates, and municipal information, but for all recreational updates, make sure to follow the new page today!

"The new Ingersoll Recreation pages are the super-boost our programs need to get the word out and help us all connect. This is

the step we needed to really pump-up program participation and community spirit," explained Brooke Ventnor, Programs Supervisor with Ingersoll Community Services.

"People can stop scrolling through the Town's main pages because now we have dedicated accounts for the latest program details, pop-up classes, and skating schedules. Now, go follow Ingersoll Recreation!"

A press release from the town's marketing and communications team said the move is a new way to stay connected with the community.

"These channels will make it easier for residents to find up-to-date information about recreation programs, classes, schedules, and events happening at the Victoria Park Community Centre and the Ingersoll Arena. It's all about keeping communication clear, accessible, and focused on the activities that bring our community together, especially as we look toward the exciting opportunity of the new Multi-Use Recreation Centre (MURC) development."

Ingersoll Chamber honours business excellence



(CUSTOM CONCEPT PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

Jaylen Seif, a young business person, took home the Youth Entrepreneur/Youth Citizen of the Year honour. The award was presented by Allan Simm, General Manager of Oxford Community Futures.

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Ingersoll District Chamber of Commerce hosted the 33rd Annual Awards of Excellence on October 16th at The Elm Hurst Inn and Spa. Here are the winners and nominees:

Business/Industry of the Year - Backyard By Design

Nominees: The Evergreen Coffee Lounge, Rose and Daffodil Bakery
Sponsored and Presented by POW Engineering

Agricultural Award - Steve Veldman

Nominees: DOT Foods Canada, Huron Commodities
Sponsored and Presented By Community Employment Services

President's Award - Dale Flynn

Sponsored and Presented By Ingersoll District Chamber of Commerce

Youth Entrepreneur/Youth Citizen of the Year - Jaylen Seif

Sponsored and Presented by Community Futures Oxford

Seif, founder of Jay's Services, grew up in the Ajax, Pickering, and Whitby area before studying at Brock University and Niagara College. It was there that he met his wife, and in 2019, they moved to her hometown of Ingersoll to start their life together.

"When the pandemic hit and Jay was temporarily laid off from Marwood, he didn't sit still. Instead, he put his energy into building something new. What began in 2021 as a few small junk removal and pressure washing jobs for friends and family quickly grew into a thriving business," said a chamber news release.



(CUSTOM CONCEPT PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

Denise Keeley was recently awarded the Ingersoll Citizen of the Year award, presented by Jon Pettit from the Ingersoll Rotary Club.

Beyond business, Seif is deeply involved in the community.

"He donates his time to help residents who miss spring cleanup, assists local groups with park and trail maintenance, and offers free Christmas tree pickups. His newest initiative focuses on rehoming quality items from jobs that are too good to send to the landfill—helping others while keeping usable goods out of waste streams."

Mark Warnick Citizen of the Year - Denise Keeley

Sponsored and Presented by The Ingersoll Rotary Club

Keeley has been a pillar of care and kindness in the community for more than 35 years. As a personal support worker and activity planner, she has dedicated her life to helping others — first through her work at Oxford Manor

and Ingersoll Support Services, and now through her own business, Friends with 4 Wheels.

"Denise provides so much more than physical care — she offers friendship, dignity, and genuine connection to those she supports. Her compassion knows no bounds, and her work has brought joy, comfort, and independence to countless people in Ingersoll and the surrounding area," said the chamber.

She once said, "They say if you love your job, you'll never work a day in your life — I guess I haven't worked since I delivered newspapers back in 1989."

Her dedication, warmth, and selflessness truly embody the spirit of this award.

Ted Hunt - Large Industry of the Year - IMT Precision

Sponsored and Presented by The Town of Ingersoll

Ingersoll's new independent bookstore draws hundreds on opening day

KYRAH SMITH

Echo Correspondent

Ingersoll welcomed a new addition to its downtown on Oct. 25 with the opening of Commonplace Books, an independent bookstore that is already winning over local readers.

"It was nuts! We had roughly 400 to 500 people come through," said owner Shannon McKechnie, smiling from the whirlwind of opening day.

The shop's debut was a hit, with eager book lovers lining up down the street. Visitors were able to enjoy the opening with local author signings by Nathaniel Luscombe and Lauren O'Brien, plus on-the-spot typewriter poetry by Poetry by V.

Located at 105 Thames Street South, Commonplace Books is the realization of a long-held dream for McKechnie.

"The bookstore had always been a ten-year dream of mine," she shared. "Then, when the higher education sector imploded this year,

laying off about 10,000 people across the province, me included, it became a six-month dream. This space was available, and it all came together quite quickly. It really was a stars-aligned kind of thing."

McKechnie hopes to make the store a hub for readers and writers alike, with several new book clubs in the works, including romance, fantasy, young adult, and one devoted to local authors.

"Nathaniel is going to run that one," she said. "It'll feature local and Ontario indie-published authors."

Future collaborations with community spaces such as Fusion Youth Centre and the Ingersoll Public Library are also on the horizon.

"I'm very excited for everything to come!" McKechnie said.

Next up for Commonplace Books is a book signing on Nov. 12 for the upcoming release 'Not Today, Satan' by Samantha Joyce, beginning at 5 p.m.

For event details and updates, visit www.commonplaceingersoll.ca.



(SHANNON MCKECHNIE PHOTO)

Excited book lovers lining up downtown Ingersoll for Commonplace Books Opening day.

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo SPORTS

Blue Bombers seniors and juniors qualify for TVRA football championship games

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

Both the Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute junior and senior Blue Bomber football teams are down to their final kickoff of the 2025 season — one tough victory away from capturing the Thames Valley Regional Athletics Tier II championship.

Familiarity has built respect for both of their opponents.

The senior Bombers are scheduled for a rematch with the London Saunders Sabres Fri., Nov. 7, at 1Password Park in St. Thomas, beginning at 5:15 p.m. The two teams finished tied in the Williamson Division regular season standings at 4-0-1; the tie was a 7-7 draw on Thursday, Oct. 16 at IDCI.

“This is a classic matchup of an offence that runs the ball well versus a team that passes well,” said Blue Bombers head coach Nick DiCiocco. “Both defences are stout and I think this game will be extremely close again.

“They are well coached and very disciplined and we are excited for a rematch that can’t end in a tie this time around.”

The senior Bombers opened playoffs with a comfortable 26-1 win over the Aylmer East Elgin Eagles on Thursday, Oct. 23, at IDCI, punching their ticket to the final with a 33-7 semi-final victory over the London

Montcalm Cougars a week later at 1Password Park.

The Cougars opened scoring on a 60-yard quarterback scramble on their first offensive series.

“That was the wakeup call we needed to turn it on,” said DiCiocco.

IDCI reeled off three consecutive touchdowns in response, a 30-yard rushing major courtesy of Nate Burton, a 35-yard pass completion from Cam Delwo to Gavin Laidman, and a Laidman sweep that went for 65 yards, the Blue Bombers ball carrier weaving in and out between would-be tacklers.

Delwo linked up with Liam Thompson for a 20-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter, the balance of the Blue Bombers scoring coming on two safeties and three rouges.

The previous week, the ‘more and bigger’ Cougars scored on their opening and closing drives at Woodstock College Avenue, downing the homefield Knights 20-13. CASS battled back to tie the game at 13 late in the fourth quarter, but Montcalm responded with the game-winning TD with 1:07 left against a Knights’ lineup thinned by injuries.

Teshaine Peach scored the first CASS touchdown on a five-yard quarterback keeper. Kaleb Krupp added the second on a second-and-goal jet sweep from the Montcalm four, the PAT tying the game at 13 with roughly two minutes remaining, cue-



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Ingersoll junior Blue Bombers Jacob Gutierrez (left) and Logan Walters (right) put he pressure on Gemini quarterback Carver Schott.

ing a possible comeback.

“Thought we were back in the game, thought we had the momentum,” Krupp said. “But injuries got the best of us.”

The Cougars were big said CASS full-back/defensive end Kaiden Malott, but the Knights hadn’t played their best game either, particularly in the first half.

“Started to come back, just couldn’t finish it off.”

“I can’t say we played the greatest,” agreed Peach. “But we left it all on the field. We were fighting to the last minute.”

The College Avenue junior Knights finished their season on a winning note, defeating Montcalm 29-6 in a preliminary round consolation bowl final on Wednesday, Oct. 22, at CASS.

The junior Blue Bombers are set for a rematch with East Elgin in the TVRA Tier 2 title game, set to kick off at 1Password Park on Friday, Nov. 7, at 2:15 p.m.

“We expect the game to be a battle,” said IDCI coach Ben Griffiths. “East Elgin is a very good team and we know we’ll need to bring our best.

“Our team is full of passion and determination which we look forward to showcasing on the field Friday.”

The Eagles shut IDCI out in their regular season meeting in Aylmer. The junior Blue Bombers finished the regular season with a 4-1-1 record in the TVRA Walzak Division. East Elgin, which was 4-1-0, edged Strathroy DCI 8-7 in their semi-final. The Eagles opened the playoffs with a 34-7 quarter-final win over Woodstock St. Mary’s on Thursday, Oct. 23, at CASS.

The Blue Bombers qualified for the Tier II final with a ‘gritty, back and forth’ 15-

14 semi-final win over the junior Sabres Thursday, Oct. 30 at London’s City Wide Field #1. Griffiths was proud of the character displayed as Ingersoll did not give up despite trailing 14-9 with under two minutes remaining in the fourth quarter.

Offensively, Deacon Janess scored an early rouge, which would provide the key. IDCI added two points on a safety early in the second half, which coach Griffiths says helped turn the momentum in the Bombers’ favour. Grayson Burton and Hayden Edwards scored Ingersoll touchdowns.

The Blue Bombers scored three second-quarter majors en route to a 20-6 quarter-final win over the Tillsonburg Glendale Gemini on Thursday, Oct. 23, at IDCI. Jacob Gutierrez opened the scoring on a four-yard plunge, Aidan Thomson covered a Rhys Johnson fumble in the end zone, and Gutierrez ran an option pitch/pass to Edwards for the third.

“He was wide open,” said Gutierrez. “Everyone came to me.”

Although separated aesthetically, each accounted for the same six points.

“We always say a touchdown is a touchdown,” said Johnson. “Ugly, pretty, doesn’t matter.

“Just trying to put up points.”

Janess kicked two of three point after tries to give IDCI a 20-0 shutout lead that stood up to the game’s final minute. Defensively, the Blue Bombers keyed on Gemini quarterback Carver Schott, a dual threat they kept pressure on, Gutierrez recording a career high five sacks.

“He can really run and throw, throw really far. We just wanted to get to him as fast as we could.”



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Knights quarterback Teshaine Peach (left) shrugs off the defensive pursuit of Montcalm's Daniel Holland.

Senior volleyball Huskies take best quarter-final option, Warriors edge Red Devils in five sets

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

Woodstock Huron Park Huskies senior boys' volleyball setter Gavin Jansen is fortunate to have a variety of offensive options to contemplate.

"It's good we have depth on our whole line," he said Thursday, Oct. 30, following a 25-16, 25-17, 25-12 Thames Valley Regional Athletics Southeast homecourt quarter-final victory over the Aylmer East Elgin Eagles. "Everyone on our team can hit and cover tips.

"It's nice to rely on someone else if someone's having an off day."

"It's all of us," agreed teammate Trenton Thorndyke. "It's all of us, good vibes all around."

The one thing Jansen didn't consider an option on the day was an early post-season exit, particularly following an undefeated TVRA Southeast season and healthy play-off aspirations.

"Our goal is to go to OFSAA (provincials) this year," he said. "It's my Grade 12 year, hopefully we can do it."

"We definitely have the potential to do it if we work hard," Thorndyke added.

Playoffs are what the team has been working towards this season, agreed coach Eryn Orr.

"We would love to continue playing, that's for sure."

Orr is also mindful of the fact that other quality teams are in the playoff pool, each with its own set of goals and aspirations. Riding out volleyball's inevitable momentum swings is crucial as the postseason unfolds, along with emphasizing the importance of keeping one's focus on the task immediately at hand.

"We can't get too far ahead of ourselves,"

she cautioned. "To me, every point is a new game."

Orr's point was illustrated across town in a match taking considerably longer than the Huskies' sweep. The Woodstock St. Mary's Warriors took the first two sets of their quarterfinal against the Woodstock CI Red Devils and were at game point in the third, when a momentum reversal saw the match continue onward to a fifth and deciding set.

The Warriors' Kingston McPherson opened with a pair of huge hits, helping get the Warriors off toward a hard-fought 25-23, 25-20, 24-26, 20-25, 15-11 win.

Red Devils setter Zack Molinaro was aware of the inherent moral victory but not buying entirely into its validity.

"The fact we came back and battled back in the last set... I mean we worked hard but just couldn't close it out."

St. Mary's coach Valerie Popovich was also slightly skeptical of the suggestion their five-set match was better preparation than rolling over an opponent, carrying the knowledge the team could battle through adversity.

"Yeah, I guess...a little close for my appetite."

The Warriors defence continues to be its strength, said Coach Pop, citing Travis Martens' solid passing from the back line, Kiefer Hager's two-way strength at the net, and McPherson's emergence in two short years of volleyball.

"He's a story in development."

The Warriors are scheduled to open the TVRA Southeast semi-finals on Wednesday, Nov. 5, at Huron Park at high noon, taking on the host Huskies in what is anticipated to be a highly competitive match. Huron Park took a five-set victory during their regular-season meeting by scores of



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Huron Park Huskies middle hitter Parker McLeod (left), flanked by libero Ryder Kaufman, passes the ball up during a TVRA Southeast quarter-final sweep of the Aylmer East Elgin Eagles.

25-23, 18-25, 25-11, 17-25 and 15-8. St. Thomas Central Elgin faces St. Thomas St. Joe's in the other semi-final. The final is set for 4:30 p.m.

The St. Mary's junior Warriors, undefeated through the TVRA Southeast regular season, cruised through their quarterfinals with a 25-15, 25-9, 25-15 victory over the Lord Dorchester Beavers. They are scheduled for a Wednesday, Nov. 5, semi-final at Huron Park against the St. Thomas Central Elgin Titans beginning at 9 a.m. WCI is set to face St. Thomas Parkside in the other semi, after a 26-14, 23-25, 25-23, 25-20 win over the IDCI Blue Bombers Thursday, Oct. 30.

The Blue Bombers advanced to this game with a 20-25, 25-12, 25-18, 25-19 victory over Tillsonburg Glendale at IDCI Tuesday, Oct. 28.

At that time, Katie Galic, who co-coaches with Jeff Harmer, pronounced herself pleased with the Bombers progress across the campaign. The IDCI juniors do have one club player on the roster.

"But most of them are just athletes learning how to play volleyball."

That learning curve may present some annual concern, but typically, things do come into focus both season-to-season and throughout the Blue Bombers program.

"Every year they surprise us by mid-October," Galic smiled. And in a phrase popular among students at the moment, even if one were to start 6 - 7, there's hope for growth.

"Looking for a ten, not a 6 or 7."

TVRA Southeast Senior Boys Volleyball Playoffs

Thursday, Oct. 30 - Quarterfinals

St. Thomas St. Joe's 26, 14, 25, 25; Ingersoll DCI 24, 25, 21, 18
St. Mary's 25, 25, 24, 20, 15; WCI 23, 20, 26, 25, 11

Huron Park 25, 25, 25; East Elgin 16, 17, 12

Preliminary Round

Ingersoll DCI 25, 25, 25; Woodstock College Avenue 17, 21, 23

Regular Season

Tuesday, Oct. 28

IDCI 25, 25, 25; College Ave. 17, 21, 23

Tuesday, Oct. 21

Huron Park 25, 25, 25; St. Thomas Parkside 21, 15, 14
St. Joe's 25, 20, 24, 28, 15; St. Mary's 23, 25, 26, 11
IDCI 18, 25, 22, 25, 15; East Elgin 25, 16, 25, 16, 10
Lord Dorchester 25, 25, 25; CASS 12, 20, 9

TVRA Southeast Junior Boys Volleyball Playoffs

Thursday, Oct. 30 - Quarterfinals

St. Mary's 25, 25, 25 Lord Dorchester 15, 9, 15
Woodstock CI 25, 23, 25, 25; Ingersoll DCI 14, 25, 23, 20

Preliminary Round Tuesday, October 28

Ingersoll DCI 20, 25, 25, 25; Glendale 25, 12, 18, 19
St. Joe's 25, 25, 19, 25; Huron Park 12, 16, 25, 14
Lord Dorchester 25, 19, 25, 12, 15; Woodstock College Avenue 20, 25, 13, 25, 7

Tuesday, Oct. 21

St. Mary's 25, 22, 25, 25; St. Joe's 17, 25, 20, 20
College Avenue 3, Dorchester 0
East Elgin 25, 22, 25, 25; Ingersoll DCI 18, 25, 17, 15



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Ingersoll DCI junior Blue Bombers Eckjeet Singh (left) and Carson Darlington (centre) put up the block against Tillsonburg Gemini Logan de Leye (right).

Ava Bickell plays special assistant as WCI senior girls advance to TVRA semis

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

Ava Bickell 'assisted' the Woodstock CI Red Devils senior girls' basketball 'transition' from too-close-for-comfort to back in control with both a plan A and plan B approach.

Her first assist came with 5:42 remaining in the fourth quarter of a 49-26 Thames Valley Regional Athletics Southeast AA quarter-final playoff victory over the Woodstock St. Mary's Warriors.

Bickell's long, leading and planned pass found teammate Mikka Runstedler in full stride. Under serious defensive pressure, she had barely enough time to catch and immediately bank the ball off the backboard and through the hoop, momentum carrying her under the WCI Devildome's mezzanine.

"I kind of just forget about the wall and kind of just stare at the ball," said Runstedler of the bang-bang play. "It has to go."

Bickell's second assist came 23 seconds later with Runstedler following the former's missed high-speed fast-break layup attempt.

"It was a pass, a pass," smiled Run-

stedler, her putback extending the Red Devils lead back into double digits (37-26) to answer a determined Warriors' run.

"Yeah, a little stressful in the third," agreed WCI coach Jason Poole. The Warriors had their backs against the wall after an 18-5 Red Devils advantage through the second period, sparked said Poole by Eden Fraser. WCI broke open a tight 8-7 first-quarter lead, appearing to have the game in hand.

"They didn't give up," he added.

Aliyah Anthony led St. Mary's 12-7 third-quarter charge with five points, including one of two three-point field goals.

"Around like the second quarter, we picked up our defence," said Anthony. "We were getting some steals, our passes were better, and our shots were better too."

An early fourth-quarter basket lifted the Warriors back within striking distance at 33-26.

The Bickell-Runstedler four-point burst signalled the unofficial beginning of the end; however, the Red Devils locked up the win with transitional hoops off of predatory defensive pressure atop a two-three zone.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

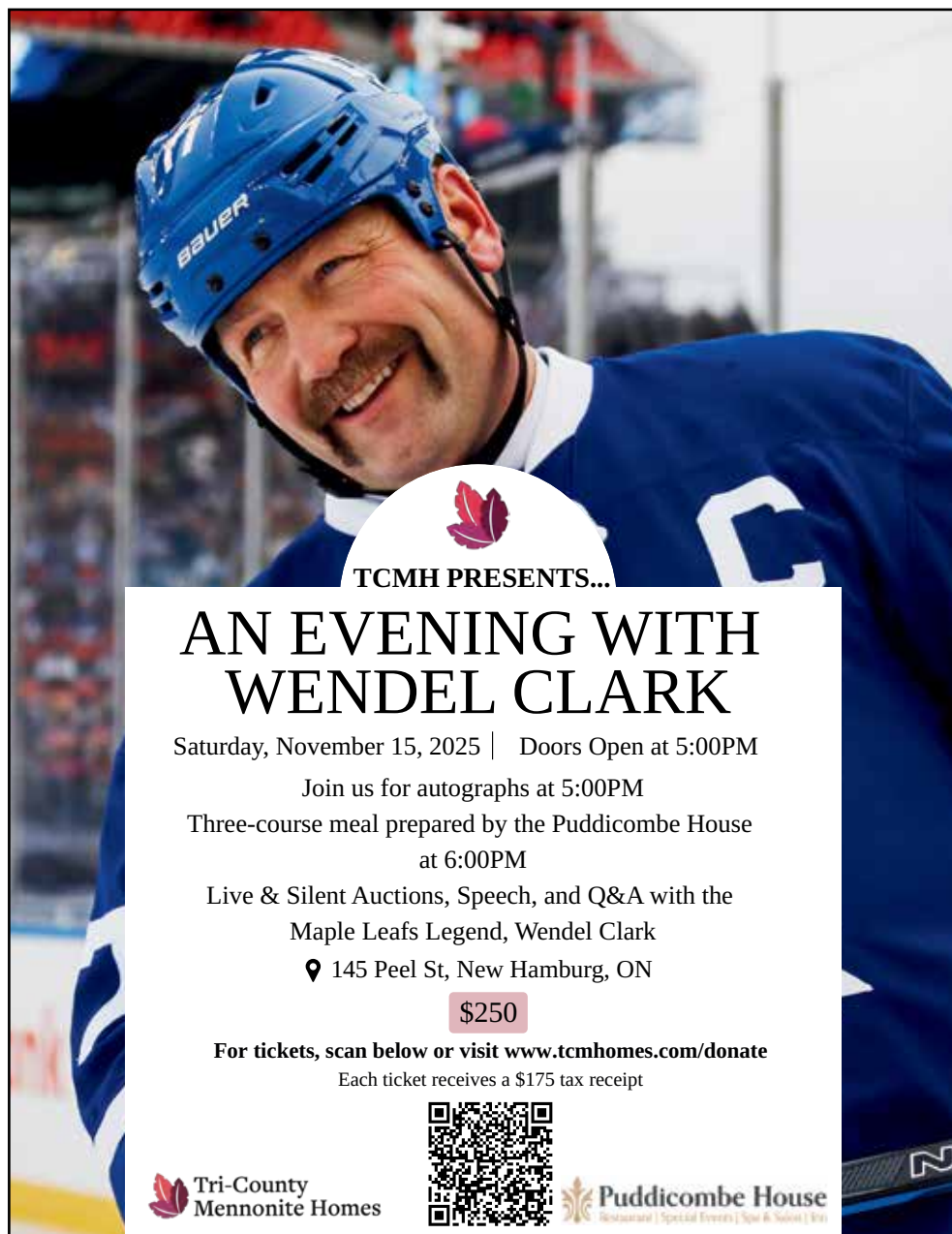
Woodstock CI Red Devil junior Jillian Trepanier looks to move the ball against Tillsonburg Glendale's Sophia Monsere during a 38-18 TVRA Southeast quarter-final victory on Thursday, Oct. 30.

"That's where our opportunities come," said Poole, pleased to see his girls overcome a challenge with the resiliency to get the job done. "We want to go into semis with that confidence and

Twelve unanswered points, including a carefully paced Bickell layup, rounded the final.

"It wasn't only one, I missed a bunch,"

CONTINUED TO PAGE 19



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Ava Bickell plays special assistant as WCI senior girls advance to TVRA semis

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

she confessed. "So, on the last one, I had to make it."

She netted five points, Lilli Taylor had four, Avril Craven and Kate Hooker six apiece, Runstedler eight and Dakota Thomson 10. Oriana Belmonte had a field goal for the Warriors, M. Blain five points, Leyah Anthony seven and her twin sister Aliyah 12.

"Just kind of sad to see the season is over," said the latter.

"They kind of ran away with it at the end there," said Warriors coach Shayne Simpson, noting fatigue had been a factor after depending on his starters through the comeback. "I think we just got tired."

Overall, he was pleased with a great season in which many girls new to basketball worked hard and showed significant improvement.

"We weren't expected to do as well as we did."

With the victory, the Red Devils earned a TVRA semi-final berth against the St. Thomas St. Joe's Warriors, a game scheduled to tip off Tuesday, Nov. 4, at 3 p.m. at St. Joe's. The Woodstock College Avenue Knights will be on the court of the other Southeast semi, at the same time in St. Thomas Parkside, against the undefeated 8-0 Stampede. The Knights downed Aylmer East Elgin 33-25 on the road in their quarter-final outing.

TVRA JUNIOR PLAYOFFS

The Woodstock CI junior Red Devils downed visiting Tillsonburg Glendale Gemini by a comfortable 38-18 margin Thur., Oct. 30. With the win, WCI was scheduled to host East Elgin for a semi-final on Tuesday, Nov. 4, beginning at 3 p.m. Parkside and St. Joe's will meet in the other semi-final.

TVRA JUNIOR GIRLS

Quarterfinals

Thursday, Oct. 30

Parkside 39, Ingersoll DCI 19
St. Joe's 43, St. Mary's 23
WCI 38, Glendale 18

Preliminary Round

Tuesday, Oct. 28

Ingersoll DCI 28, Woodstock Huron Park 10
St. Mary's 26, CASS 18
Glendale 41, St. Thomas Central Elgin 28

Tuesday, Oct. 21

Lord Dorchester 35, CASS 15
St. Joe's 39, St. Mary's 19
East Elgin 34, IDCI 23
Parkside 28, Huron Park 8

TVRA SENIOR GIRLS

Quarterfinals

Woodstock College Avenue 33, East Elgin 25
Parkside 38, Huron Park 18
WCI 49, St. Mary's 26



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Ingersoll DCI's Charlotte Docherty (centre) battles for possession of the ball with Woodstock Huron Park's Zeenat Busari (left) and Reagan White (right) with Huskie teammate Kathryn Baan looking on during a 28-10 TVRA Southeast preliminary playoff Ingersoll victory.

Preliminary Round

Huron Park 49, IDCI 29
St. Mary's 51, Central Elgin 32

Tuesday, Oct. 21

East Elgin 31, Ingersoll 11
College Ave. 37, Dorchester 17
Parkside 35, Huron Park 15
St. Joe's 33, St. Mary's 24

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Navy Vets replace coaching staff

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

In a surprising move, the Woodstock Navy Vets recently dismissed three of their four coaches and promptly replaced them. The decision is particularly striking given that the team was tied for first place in the Provincial Junior Hockey League's Doherty Division at the time. The club announced late last week it had fired head coach Justin Elms and assistants Chris Thompson, Chris Nauts and Chris Jensen. Elms, a Woodstock native, was in his first season at the helm after several years as an assistant and six years as a player. Thompson, Nauts and Jensen, also former players, were in their first season as assistants. Goalie coach Keaghan Brett was spared the chopping block and remains with the team.

The Echo reached out to team president Devon Young and general manager Darren Young for comment but did not hear back by press time on Wednesday. Rumours have been circulating in the junior hockey community that the team may be looking to make the jump to either the Greater Ontario Hockey League (GOHL) or the Ontario Junior Hockey League (OJHL). The team has not publicly provided any rationale for the coaching moves.

The team's new coaches bring a local flavour and a long record of experience and success. Head coach Adam Wallace is a two-time Memorial Cup winner as a player with the Windsor Spitfires with over 30 years of coaching experience. Most recently, he won the 2022 Cherry Cup while leading the Cambridge RedHawks. He was the Navy Vets head coach in the 2013-14 and 2016-17 seasons.

Brent Wallace follows his brother as an assistant. He was also behind the Cambridge bench and is a Woodstock graduate. Associate coach Jeff Reid rounds out the staff - he was also a member of the RedHawks staff. The first game behind the bench with the new coaching staff resulted in a 4-3 overtime loss in Wellesley on Sunday. Wellesley jumped out to a 2-0 lead just three minutes into the second period but Owen Ireton cut the lead to one with his ninth of the season. The Applejacks regained a two-goal lead but goals from Ireton and Cooper Vickerman, with his 12th, forced the extra period. Wellesley scored the game-winning goal just before the two-minute mark of overtime. Tyler Bouck stopped 35 of the 39 shots he faced in a losing effort.

The Navy Vets have two home games this weekend. Dorchester is in town on Friday, while Tavistock heads up Highway 59 on Saturday.

Junior Navy Vets claim two Silver Stick titles on its golden anniversary

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The U14 and U16 Woodstock Junior Navy Vets won gold and will move on to the International tournament in Newmarket.

The U14 team won twice in the round-robin portion, once in overtime, but did manage to earn first place, setting up a semi-final game against the Niagara Falls Canucks. The Vets earned a 3-2 victory and went on to defeat the Elgin Thames 73s 2-1 in the final.

The U16 team went undefeated in the round-robin and allowed just three goals against in three victories. Woodstock faced the Ausable Valley Coyotes in the semi-final and came up with a 4-3 win. They defeated the Pelham Panthers 5-3 in the gold medal game.

The tournament started in 1975 as a Pee wee competition supported by the Royal Canadian Legion and



(LEE GRIFFI PHOTO)

Several current and former Silver Stick board members were on hand to kick off the tournament at the Southwood Red ice pad.



UNIFOR LOCAL 636

RETIREE'S CHRISTMAS DINNER NOVEMBER 28, 2025 **\$20**/person

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eventually expanded to Novice teams. It was originally hosted at the Perry Street arena until its closure in 1999. In 2004, the tournament was accepted by the Silver Stick sanctioning committee. It started out with eight A teams throughout the Niagara region for the U10, U12, U14 and U16 age groups. The winner from each age bracket moves on to play for the International Silver Stick Championship hosted by Newmarket. Next year, the tournament is expected to expand to 12 teams per age group to accommodate the growth of minor hockey programs across the region.

The next Silver Stick qualifying tournament is scheduled for Nov. 14 to 16, featuring competition in the U10 and U12 age groups.



(LEE GRIFFI PHOTO)

Woodstock native and NHL linesman Brad Kovachik performed the ceremonial puck drop at the 50th Silver Stick minor hockey tournament on Friday, Oct. 31.

United Way Oxford launches 2025 Ultimate Burger Battle

STAFF

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

Oxford County restaurants compete for burger glory while raising funds for United Way Oxford.

United Way Oxford is turning up the heat this November with the 2025 Ultimate Burger Battle. Formerly Novemburger, this month-long culinary showdown will see local restaurants serving up unique Ultimate Burger creations, with \$2 from each burger sold donated to United Way Oxford. Kicking off on Saturday, November 1, the event combines the joy of great food with the power of giving back.

In November, restaurants compete with signature burgers for three titles: Ultimate Burger of the Year (chosen by a panel of community ambassadors), People's Choice (voted online), and Most Ultimate Burgers Sold.

This year's lineup features a mouthwatering mix of Platinum and Gold level participants, including:

Platinum: Boston Pizza Woodstock, Brickhouse Brewpub, Charles Dickens Pub, Chrissy's Catering, The Mill, Madmash Brewery and Restaurant, The

Copper Mug, The Village Catering and Deli and Tempo Restaurant.

Gold: Finkle Street Dining, The Pub at Norwich Ave, Boston Pizza Tillsonburg, Louie's Pizza and Pasta, Nectar Bistro and Bar, Brunny's Sports Bar and Grill and Indigo Lounge Eatery.

Expect bold flavours, creative toppings, and a few surprises as restaurants compete for burger supremacy.

The competition is presented by Sierra Construction, whose generous support helps make this community-driven event possible. United Way Oxford also thanks Oxford County's Cattlemen's Association for its sponsorship and commitment to supporting local impact.

"We are so excited to be hosting Ultimate Burger Battle for the second year, although some may recognize the event by its former name Novemburger. Last year's event was a huge success and was a great way to bring the community together with Burgers and Giving Back, all in support of United Way Oxford," said Resource Development Coordinator Megan Porter.

Burger lovers can vote for their favourite online at www.unitedwayoxford.ca/burgerbattle. The top burger will earn the coveted People's Choice title. Participants can also pick up the Ultimate Burger Battle Passport at restaurants to track their tastings. Those who try five or more burgers will have the chance to win a Burger Battle Ambassadorship for next year.

The Ultimate Burger Battle @ Work invites local businesses to order burgers for a team lunch as part of their workplace campaign. It's a great way to boost morale, build connections, and support a meaningful cause.

Funds raised through the Ultimate Burger Battle will support United Way Oxford and be invested directly back into the community. Last year's event raised over \$16,000. The Ultimate Burger Battle runs until Nov. 30, with winners announced in early December. Whether you're a foodie, a community champion, or just love a good burger, this is your chance to make a difference, one bite at a time.

To learn more, visit www.unitedwayoxford.ca/burgerbattle or follow @unitedwayoxford and @uwburbattleoxford on social media.

Christmas comes early to Woodstock

The Woodstock Fairgrounds transformed into a festive wonderland on Saturday, Nov. 1, as the Woodstock Christmas Market welcomed hundreds of cheerful guests for a day of holiday magic. The community gathered to kick off the season with twinkling lights, merry music, and a sleigh-full of shopping surprises. Visitors browsed through rows of unique vendors offering handcrafted gifts and one-of-a-kind treasures that couldn't

be found at the mall. The scent of fresh-baked holiday treats filled the air, while live festive tunes had guests humming along and tapping their toes. Even the most skeptical "bah humbug" types were spotted smiling beneath strings of garland and twinkle lights. Families, friends, and curious shoppers came armed with Christmas lists — or simply in search of good vibes — and left with full hearts and festive spirits.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Seasonal Deco Mesh Wreaths brought the sparkle — Debbie's festive creations gave shoppers like Joan, Trinity, and Ophelia endless options.



The Oxford Auditorium came alive with community spirit as locals gathered to shop, mingle, and celebrate.

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A celebration of Halloween at Woodstock business



Jordin and Rebecca lit up the night in perfect costume harmony.

Adams Building Supply hosted its much-anticipated Trunk or Treat event on Friday, Oct. 24, and the results were nothing short of magical. The parking lot came alive with costumed families, eerie decorations, and the sweet scent of Halloween treats. The haunted house delivered spine-tingling thrills, while dozens of festively adorned trunks handed out candy to delighted trick-or-treaters. Laughter echoed through the venue as families enjoyed games, music, and photo ops with ghoulish backdrops. “This event continues to be a highlight of our fall calendar,” said a spokesperson for Adams Building Supply. “We’re proud to offer a safe and joyful space for families to celebrate together.” With glowing jack-o’-lanterns and smiling faces, Trunk or Treat 2025 proved once again that Halloween magic is alive and well in Woodstock.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



They lined up, they picked, they munched—Trunk and Treat delivered.

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A woman in a hospital gown is operating a medical device, possibly an MRI machine. A patient is lying on a table inside the machine. The background is a dark, rocky landscape with a glowing ring of fire.

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Ontario

Woodstock Collegiate Institute Class of '70 drops the mic on Kininney reissue

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

Fifty-five years after graduation, Woodstock Collegiate Institute's Class of '70 brought the Kininney back to its alma mater.

"The cheer lives, so the spirit of WCI goes on - that's our hope, anyway," said 1970 grad Glen Yates following a successful re-release of not only the Kininney, but the Woodstock Collegiate School Song.

The live reissue took place on the school's front steps on Wednesday, Sept. 17, in conjunction with a reunion photo and encouragement from Lewis Tebbutt, a 90-year-old former math teacher and leader of the school choir. Thirty-nine attendees joined in, tentatively at first, said Nancy Yates.

"All of a sudden, I just felt like I was getting uplifted right in the air by all this energy around me.

"I think they heard us on Dundas Street."

The a cappella rendition was sung from memory and followed by the Kininney. The familiar cheer dates back at least to Nancy's mother, Marjorie Lock's time in the 1930s,

when it was performed regularly at pep rallies, sporting events, and school assemblies.

The performance drew the attention of senior WCI students on-site to assist with a Grade 9 information evening, quickly ascertaining a vocalizing assemblage of grads averaging 74 years of age meant no great mischief or harm.

"They moved inside and let us do our thing," Glen smiled.

There is potential one or the other or both may be featured at future WCI events says Glen, as a boost to institutional spirit.

"They thought it was something a little different, something to stimulate a little interest."

Today's students enjoyed hearing details of 'historical WCI,' most curious to learn a rifle range used to exist in the school's basement. WCI's senior administration also checked the reunion group out, equally comfortable with their presence.

"They were quite impressed with our song and they took copies as well."

The Yates describe the WCI of their era in idyllic terms. With less other options, school may have played a larger part in



(DUANE KUMALA-THOMAS/HIGHLANDER STUDIOS PHOTO)

The Woodstock CI Class of '70 2025 reunion crew photographed on the steps of its alma mater.

students' lives said Glen, a hub for social and athletic activity, with highly engaged teachers.

Glen still has his football jersey from Grade 13 when he played flanker (wide receiver) and defensive halfback (safety/rover) on a Tri-County championship Red Devils team.

"It still fits," said Glen, who wore the

jersey when presenting granddaughter Jacquelyn Yates the Class of 70 Spirit Award during 2024 commencement exercises at WCI, an honour founded and bestowed annually since 1985. The award is presented in recognition of the graduating student who has most contributed to the development of school spirit within WCI during their years attending the school.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 27

Check Ontario 511 and know before you go

Before getting behind the wheel, check Ontario 511 for real time local updates on snowplows, driving conditions and road closures.



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Ontario 

Live reissue took place on the school's front steps

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26



(DUANE KUMALA-THOMAS/HIGHLANDER STUDIOS PHOTO)

Former Woodstock Collegiate math teacher and choir leader Lewis Tebutt (centre), flanked by Nancy Yates and John Dean, led the Woodstock Collegiate Class of '70 reunion crew in reissues of the school song and its cheer, the Kininney.

The Class of 70's first reunion was in 1980, a second held in 85 with members joining in broader school events in 1996 and 2015. Their plan for a 50th was interrupted by COVID, with a trial run for the 55th celebrated in 2024. This year's event drew comparable numbers but a distinct group, 39 of the original 110 Grade 13 graduates including Tony

Winspear from the San Francisco area, Gloria Slater from B.C and Gay Hutchinson from Marathon. There are 15 grads on the reunion committee (Glen, Nancy and Gord Yates, Gord Marshall, Brian Markle, Andy McAskile, Bill Parkes, Judy Markle, Dave Wilton, Dave Hilderley, Dave Innes, Colleen McManus, Jim Elliott, Gaile Poppo and Karen Leslie).



(DUANE KUMALA-THOMAS/HIGHLANDER STUDIOS PHOTO)

Thirty-nine members of the original 110 in the Woodstock Collegiate Class of '70 celebrated a reunion Wed. Sep. 17, sharing memories and a barbecue.

The committee can't make contact with roughly 20 grads, another 20 are known to be deceased.

The format is low-key, casual chatter and WCI trivia around a barbecue, along with a group photo at WCI, and this year, an impactful impromptu production.

Nancy Yates was pleased to experience 'no awkwardness with fellow

grads, conversation flowing easily despite in some cases, a lengthy period between meetings.

"That connection is still there."

"We had a great time in high school, everyone who came said the same thing," Glen concluded. "High school was a lot of fun. There was a lot of camaraderie."

Kininney

*Kininney, Kininney, Kininney, Knigh
Hullaba, Hullaba, Hullaba, High
Rickety, Rackety, Rickety, Right
High up, Sky up, Red and White
Boomalacka, Boomalacka,
Bow, Wow, Wow
Chickalacka, Chickalacka,
Chow, Chow, Chow
Razzoo, Dazzoo,
Johnny get your Razzoo
I Skiddy I-I-I
Zigaboom, Zigaboom, Zigaboomba
Woodstock Collegiate, Rah, Rah, Rah!*

Woodstock Collegiate School Song

*To Woodstock Collegiate,
our loyalty we swear
In classroom, on playing field
The red and white, we'll proudly wear
And in the years to come,
Wherever we may be
The Woodstock Collegiate
Will be first in heart and memory.*

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Unifor Local 636
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Chairperson
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Susan Veenstra
Unifor Local 636
Retired Workers Chapter
Recording Secretary

WOODSTOCK WINTER EVENTS



Lighting of Museum Square

Friday, Nov. 14, 2025 | 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Museum Square, Downtown Woodstock

Enjoy activities including:

- Lighting of the lights + photos with Santa
- Live ice carving demonstration
- Hot chocolate and cookies
- Christmas Carols with Vocal Rhythm Oxford
- NorthFIRE Circus fire show
- Woodstock Art Gallery create your own keychain activity
- Woodstock Museum Activities



Santa Claus Parade

Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025 | 6 p.m.

Dundas Street from McKenzie Street to Light Street
Featuring holiday themed floats, bands, inflatables and Santa Claus!

Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item for donation.

Volunteer with us! Sign-up at www.cityofwoodstock.ca/santa



CPKC Holiday Train

Friday, Nov. 21, 2025

Train arrives at approximately 6:40 p.m.
 and departs at approximately 7:20 p.m.

CPKC Train Station, 199 Winniett Street

Smash Mouth & JJ Wilde

performing from the trains brightly decorated stage!
 Please consider bringing a monetary and/or food donation.



Decoration Exchange

Saturday, Nov. 22, 2025 | 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Reeve's Community Complex, Goff Hall, 381 Finkle St.

Shop for free from a selection of gently used Christmas decorations!
 Donations in good condition will be accepted at Reeve's Community Complex, Goff Hall
 on Thursday, Nov. 20 and Friday, Nov. 21 from 5 - 7 p.m.

Italian-themed restaurant coming to downtown Woodstock

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The former Ironworks site on Dundas Street in downtown Woodstock will soon be the site of a new eatery. It is inspired by and will be named after a well-known local restaurateur, Simon Amicucci.

Amicucci's Risto by Dolcetto will soon open at 529 Dundas Street and co-owner Matt Lee said coming up with the name was an easy choice. The Woodstock resident is the former owner of Kelsey's and Montana's.

"He was the gateway for us to the industry in the city in such a genuine way. He introduced us to the community, key clients and regular customers, and he was incredibly generous with his time."

Lee said that although Amicucci retired after selling the restaurants, his break didn't last long — within six months, he was back working a few shifts to stay involved.

"He has a lot of respect from the community, the staff, and there is a level he brings to hospitality that I think sometimes is forgotten at the fault of the industry. We didn't want to do a second Dolcetto, so it felt like a natural fit to celebrate him and his history."

Amicucci is expected to be a part of the new restaurant, at his leisure, of course.

"He'll hang out a couple of days a week, I'm sure, shake a few hands and eat some food. We are celebrating him the way he should be celebrated."

Amicucci translates loosely from Italian into English as dear friend. It's an affectionate variation of amico (friend), often used to convey warmth, closeness, and familiarity — a perfect choice for something meant to feel welcoming and personal, like an Italian restaurant or café.

Lee's business partner, Kevin McIntyre, purchased Kelsey's and Montana's in Woodstock from Amicucci, and the pair teamed up to purchase the popular Dolcetto in London.

McIntyre also has a stake in the Hyde Park Kelsey's in London and Legends Tavern in St. Thomas.

Lee said he saw several positives about the building itself, particularly on the inside.

"Just the atmosphere with the exposed brick and the opportunity to create an open storefront really fits the mould of what we're shooting for with the Italian concept. It's rustic but modern, and I think that's going to shine through in all of the renovations we're doing."

Despite some businesses leaving the Friendly City's downtown core, Lee is confident that once they build it, people will come.

"I know the city is committed to growing the downtown and we've seen that in the work that's been done, despite the hiccups, bumps and problems that (Streetscape construction) presented to businesses and the community as a whole."

He said if a restaurant has a good product and a great atmosphere, it is sure to be successful. Lee described the renovations to the property as a dramatic overhaul, which will include an additional garage door and brighter lighting.

"We are putting in a banquette where all the booths were, all the way down, and the bar gets washed away a little bit with the high-top tables, so we are removing that and creating a lower atmosphere. We want people to be able to walk in the front door, see the entirety of the kitchen and be able to see everything we are offering."

The kitchen will feature an open-concept design, a hallmark of many modern Italian restaurants today, including Dolcetto.

"We've got nothing to hide and we want people to see the professionalism. We are a chef-driven machine and I think it's a nice thing for people to see if they are waiting at the door to see what we're offering back there."

The menu will be more red meat-driven than the London operation and will include what Lee described as an incredible short rib dish.



(LEE GRIFFI PHOTO)

No official opening date has been announced, but the eatery is taking reservations for Christmas parties.

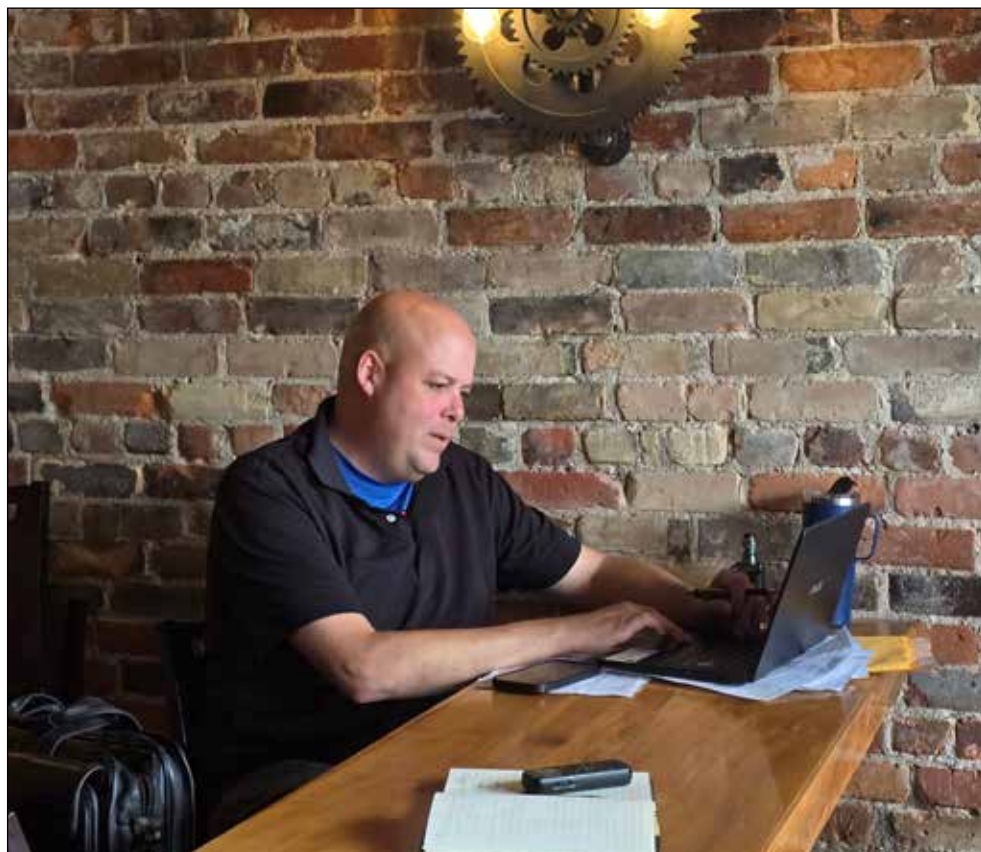
"We'll have more of a local twist," Lee said. "Our executive and head chefs plan to work with local businesses for cheeses, breads, and produce. For me, it's a heartier menu overall, but we'll still bring back some Dolcetto favourites — like our incredible roasted prosciutto appetizer and our biggest seller by far, the fettuccine."

He added many of the dishes are being made from scratch, crafted specifically for the new Woodstock restaurant. Lee said developing a new brand has been a lot of work — but also

a lot of fun.

"When Kevin and I saw this place was for sale, I think we both stayed up overnight and I sent my vision of what I thought the menu would be. He sent back at 6:30 in the morning some rough drawings of what he saw from the layout. We're both just incredibly passionate about what we're doing here."

Lee is also enthusiastic about the team leading the restaurant, noting that when he tallied their experience, it added up to nearly 200 years of combined expertise.



(LEE GRIFFI PHOTO)

Amicucci's co-owner Matt Lee said it was an easy decision to name his new restaurant after long-time Woodstock restaurateur Simon Amicucci.

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Ingersoll church blesses its new home



A spirit of celebration filled the room as the Consecration service began.

This past Sunday, November 2, St. James Anglican Church celebrated the consecration of its new home at 130 Thames Street South on Sunday, Nov. 2. The Bishop of the Diocese of Huron, The Right Reverend R. Todd Townshend, Th.D., led the service, blessing the building and officially opening the doors to a new chapter for the congregation. The church was filled with joyful faces—parishioners, longtime supporters, and curious neighbours—all gathered to witness the special moment.

After six years of transition since leaving their former gothic-style church, the congregation embraced this milestone with gratitude and excitement. The hour-long service was a beautiful blend of tradition, hope, and community spirit. Guests were invited to explore the new space, share memories, and look ahead to the future of worship and outreach at St. James. To learn more about the church's story and upcoming events, visit <http://www.st-jamesingersoll.com>. (RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



A milestone moment as Bishop Townshend consecrated the new St. James Anglican Church with heartfelt prayers and blessings.



Notice of Study Commencement Class Environmental Assessment Study for Clarke Road Improvements & Widening, Town of Ingersoll



The Town of Ingersoll is in the process of undergoing a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study that will evaluate a range of alternative roadway improvements to Clarke Road from Oxford Road 119 (Harris Street) in the west and extending approximately 730 m to the east. This will be the east limit of the future site of the Town's new Multi Use Recreation Centre (MURC)". This project is taking place in the Town of Ingersoll, Oxford County (refer to the included Study Area map).

The study is being completed in accordance with the planning and design process for Schedule 'B' projects under the *Municipal Class EA* (2000, as amended in 2007, 2011, 2015, and 2024).

Upon completion of the study, a Project File Report (PFR) documenting the process will be available for public comment for a period of at least 30 calendar days.

We are interested in hearing from you!

A key component of the study is consultation with interested stakeholders and members of the public. Your input during the planning process is encouraged.

A second Public Consultation Centre (PCC) will be held to present alternative design concepts, the evaluation of alternatives, impacts of alternatives on the environment, and next steps for the Class EA process. The PCC will be held at the following time and location:

Thursday, November 27, 2025
Drop in: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Ingersoll Town Hall – Council Chamber
130 Oxford Street, 2nd Floor

If you would like to be placed on the mailing list to receive notices and information, or if you wish to provide comments at any time during the Class EA Study process, you can do so through the project contacts. To view the information presented at the first PCC, please visit <https://www.ingersoll.ca/town-hall/murc-project/>.

Information collected will be used in accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

To provide comments, or for further information on this project, please contact one of the project team members listed below.

Jason Johnson, B.E.Sc., P.Eng.
Project Manager
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Email: JJohnson@dillon.ca

Matt Sweetland, P.Eng.
Director of Infrastructure and Development,
Town Engineer
Town of Ingersoll
130 Oxford Street, 2nd Floor
Ingersoll, Ontario N5C 2V5
Tel: (519) 485-0120 ext. 6236
Email: matt.sweetland@ingersoll.ca



Public meeting

Oxford Road 119 (Harris Street) and Clarke Road intersection improvements and Oxford Road 119 road widening in Ingersoll

Oxford County is in the process of completing a Harmonized Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study that will consider a range of alternative improvements to the Oxford Road 119 (Harris Street) and Clarke Road intersection, as well as the widening of Oxford Road 119 from Clarke Road to Highway 401 in the Town of Ingersoll.



Public meeting

Consultation with stakeholders is a key component of the Class EA study process and input will be sought throughout the project. The second Public Consultation Centre is being held to present the results of the design alternatives and the recommended design, as well as to provide an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed design.

Thursday, November 27, 2025
Drop in: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Ingersoll Town Hall, Council Chamber
130 Oxford Street, 2nd Floor

For more info, visit www.oxfordcounty.ca/speakup

Ingersoll’s annual Pumpkin Fest brings fall fun for all

KYRAH SMITH
Echo Correspondent

The town of Ingersoll was in full fall spirit on October 25 as the Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum once again hosted its much-loved annual Pumpkin Fest.

Running from noon to 4 p.m. with free admission, it drew a cheerful crowd eager to celebrate the season.

The family-friendly event featured local vendors, food trucks, face painting, a petting zoo, and, of course, plenty of pumpkins. From little ones in costumes to parents joining in the fun, festive energy filled the museum grounds.

Inside the barn, the always-popular costume and pumpkin carving contests took place, while outside, families lined up for face painting, one of the busiest spots of the day.

Complimentary pumpkins were handed out courtesy of the Ingersoll Kiwanis Club, with donations provided by the newly opened Food Basics.

Adding to the lively atmosphere, I Ukes, Ingersoll’s local ukulele group, performed upbeat covers that kept spirits high throughout the afternoon.

Food vendors such as Triplet Treats, Homemade Pierogi, P.B.’s Fries, and Beans and Brews, among others, kept visitors well-fed, while local artisans and small businesses, including Crybaby Tattoo, Midnight Etch, Olde Bakery Café, and N/NA by Nina Rachel, to name a few, offered a variety of handmade goods and treats.

Children delighted in meeting the friendly animals at Peaceful Place Petting Zoo, rounding out a day full of laughter, community, and classic autumn fun.



Goers of Ingersoll’s Pumpkin Fest 2025.

(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)



Entries 1-3 from the Pumpkin Carving contest at this years Pumpkin Fest.

(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

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Stratford, Ontario

NOVEMBER 21 4:00PM - 8:00PM
NOVEMBER 22 9:00AM - 4:00PM
NOVEMBER 23 9:00AM - 1:00PM

ENTRY BY CASH DONATION TO
SHELTERLINK YOUTH SERVICES

- Shop 120 Handmade Vendors
- Santa Photos Saturday by Donation
- Rapunzel, Spider-Man, Jasmine & Balloon Animals Sunday 9:00am - 12:00pm
- Little Kitchen on York will be serving food Saturday and Sunday

EVENT DETAILS ON FACEBOOK
Hosted By Stratford Makers Market

BELVEDERE
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Luxury
Lavendar for
Bath & Body.

Locally Grown
Organic
All Natural

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our products
online!

belvederelavender.ca

Christmas Bazaar

Holy Trinity Church, 1420 Devonshire Ave.
Saturday, November 15th
Doors Open 10:00 am • Draws at 2:00 pm

Penny Sale, Raffle, Baking, Crafts,
Gift Baskets, Silent Auction, Yesterday's
Treasures, Religious Goods and Tea Room.

Local Artist Linda Trowell Brings “Déjà Vu” to ICAC

KYRAH SMITH

Echo Correspondent

I had the pleasure of sitting down with Linda Trowell, a 2013 Newell Award-winning local artist from Oxford County recently.

Trained in Toronto at the Ontario College of Arts and under the guidance of accredited professional artists, Trowell brings a rich background in graphic design, painting, and art education.

“I’ve always drawn and painted, since I could sit at the table with my crayons,” Trowell reminisced.

An active member of the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre (ICAC) for over 20 years, she is hosting an upcoming exhibition and silent auction entitled *Déjà Vu*.

“I call it my home away from home,” she says fondly. “When I started going through some of my early works, I thought the art centre had played such an important part in my life that I’d like to give something back.”

Déjà Vu runs from Nov. 8 to Nov. 15, with free entry for all visitors. Fifty percent of the proceeds raised from the auction will support the ICAC.

When asked about the inspiration behind the exhibition’s title, Trowell said, “*Déjà vu* reminds you of a time and a place; the people you were with and/or what was going on in your life. It brings out an emotion and a feeling. It’s a very personal thing.”

Several pieces featured in the exhibition may spark memories for local residents, including paintings inspired by the Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum and the Thamesford Mill. *Déjà Vu* will showcase all-original, ready-to-hang paintings in both acrylic and watercolour. Guests are also invited to enter their names for a chance to win *Autumn Aspens*, a beautiful acrylic piece by Trowell.

“I hope people who attend this exhibition get that sentiment as well,” Trowell expressed, “and know they’re contributing to the arts centre, which is such an important part of this community.”

For more information about *Déjà Vu* or future exhibits, visit the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre website at www.creativeartscentre.com.

‘*Déjà Vu*’ opens November 8 at the Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre — a tribute to creativity, connection, and the memories that inspire them.



Artist Linda Trowell is seen standing with her acrylic painting entitled “Autumn Aspens”

(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

Thistle Theatre
Our 30th Anniversary

The Perils of Persephone
by DAN NEEDLES
(author of the “Wingfield plays”)

November 14-16 & 20-23, 2025
We’re bringing back our very first production from November 1995.

A truck with radioactive material crashes into a swamp near a family farm in rural Ontario. The farm community is pitted against government people from the city who want to downplay the situation, with hilarious results.

Directed by: Sue Garner
Co-Director: Lynda Pillon
Producer: John Turvey
Co-Producers: Paul Brekelmans

TICKETS: ON SALE NOW!
Box Office: 226-785-3353
www.thistle-theatre.com

Embro Town Hall
135 Huron Street, Embro ON

The Woodstock Choralaires
presents

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**A CONCERT OF CHORAL MUSIC
CELEBRATING THE SEASON**

Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 3 pm

Knox Presbyterian Church, Woodstock

Lorinda van Wyk, Director
Susan Barta, Accompanist

Mark Weatherley, Guest Artist

Tickets: \$30 (free admission to children 12 and under)

For Tickets:
Wilson and Markle Jewellers, Woodstock: ticketscene.ca
Chorale Members: 519-456-5270

**GRANT
HAVEN
MEDIA**

o o o o
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About Grant Haven Media: At Grant Haven Media, we are committed to delivering top-quality news and information to our readers. As a leading newspaper company, we take pride in our dedication to journalistic excellence and community engagement. As we continue to grow, we’re looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our dynamic sales team.

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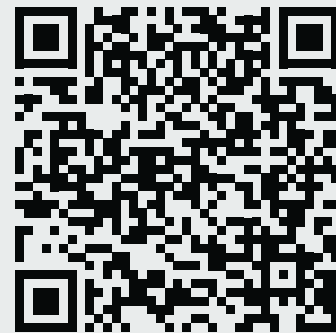
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511 Finkle Street Woodstock, ON
N4V 0C4 CA



CEDARVIEW

COMING EVENTS

EXPERIENCE FANSHAWE 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 on student life, admissions, financial aid, and more! Explore our campuses at London, Woodstock, Simcoe, St. Thomas, Clinton and Tiverton

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

Every other Friday: 1 to 4 p.m.

Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St., Ingersoll

Join us. Walk ins welcome. Qualifications, love 50-70's country music, perform, listen, dance, and enjoy. **November 14 & 28, and December 5.**

INNERKIP QUILTERS' ANNUAL SALE

Friday November 7: 5:30 pm – 8 pm

Saturday November 8: 9 am – 2 pm

Innerkip Masonic Centre - 70 Blandford St., Innerkip

Free admission. Penny Sale Table, Bake Sale Table, Christmas Cakes. **CHRISTMAS QUILT DRAW - December 11, 2025**

Draw for 31 Insulated Tote with Wheels - November 8, 2025
Proceeds Support Innerkip Masonic Programs & other needs in Our Local Community

TREATS 'N' TREASURES CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Old St Paul's Anglican Church

723 Dundas Woodstock, Ontario

November 8: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

We will feature a silent auction, baking, frozen meat pies and soups, candy, books and a Café. All are welcome. No entry charge.

KNOX YULETIDE BAZAAR & LUNCH

November 8: 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church, 59 Riddell St. Woodstock

Baking, Crafts, Quilts, Preserves, Frozen Food, and much more

16TH ANNUAL TREATS & TREASURES EVENT

November 8, 9am-3pm

Maranatha Christian Reformed Church

735 Frontenac Cres., Woodstock (Just off Juliana near the new hospital!)

Lots of variety! Returning vendors and "newbies"! You don't want to miss this event!! Free admission!! Free coffee! Vendors in front foyer, the east and west hallways, the youth room and the gym!! ?'s: contact church at 519-539-5301 or organizer 519-536-0493

The Plattsville & District Heritage Society invites you to join the Society for their

ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Sunday, November 09: 11:30 a.m.

Chesterfield Cenotaph,

816661 Oxford Road 22, Bright

The Museum/Archives at above address will be open for viewing of Remembrance Displays and Memorabilia on the following **Saturdays, November 1st, 8th, and 15th, 2025 from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.** All are welcome

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Tuesday Nov 11, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Innerkip Cemetery Cenotaph

Lawn chairs welcome. Refreshments to follow at Innerkip Lion's Centre

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday, November 15,

Doors Open 10:00 a.m., Draws at 2:00 p.m.

Holy Trinity Church, 1420 Devonshire Ave, Woodstock

Penny Sale, Raffle, Baking, Crafts, Gift Baskets, Silent Auction, Yesterday's Treasures, Religious Goods and our Tea Room.

DRUMBO AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday, November 15: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Agricultural Hall, 42 Centre Street, Drumbo

Local vendors offering a wide range of products plus a penny sale. Take a moment to relax and indulge in a sweet treat at our

mini café. Admission is complimentary, and we invite you to contribute to our local food bank by bringing a non-perishable item.

19TH ANNUAL OXFORD CREATES ARTISAN MARKET

South Gate Centre, 191 Old Wellington St. South, Woodstock

Saturday, November 15: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, November 16: Noon to 4 p.m.

Oxford County's creative spirit will be on full display this fall as the 19th annual Oxford Creates Artisan Market returns, bringing together more than 30 artists under one roof. Visitors can explore an impressive selection of paintings, pottery, fibre arts, jewellery, drawings, photography, collage, and much more. For nearly two decades, Oxford Creates has offered a stage for both emerging and established artists to connect with the community, while giving residents and visitors the chance to discover unique, one-of-a-kind pieces. Admission is free, and all are welcome to attend this much-anticipated cultural event.

GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER – A CELEBRATION OF OXFORD COUNTY'S PAST

Monday, November 17: 7:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Oxford Branch of Ontario Ancestors will host Liz Dommasch, Oxford County Archivist. Liz will share some of the stories from this new publication celebrating Oxford County's 175+ years. Hear from the team who created this poignant resource, finally giving a voice to the thousands who were sent to new worlds, with little or no say in their fate. Visit our website at www.oxford.ogs.on.ca to register for this free zoom meeting. Everyone is welcome.

FAMILY FUN DAY @ EMMANUEL REFORMED CHURCH

170 Clarke St. Woodstock, ON

November 22: 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Penny Sale - Silent Auction - Bake Sale

Games for all Ages

Delicious Soup - Chili - Hot Dogs - Buns

Yummy Desserts - Drinks

FREE ADMISSION - EVERYONE WELCOME

OXFORD GOES TO WAR

Wednesday, November 26: 6:30 p.m.

Chartwell Gardens, 423 Devonshire Ave. (Main Entrance)

Special Presentation by Scott Gillies, Chair OxHS.

Free event, Donations welcome!

ANNUAL COMMUNITY CAROL CONCERT

Sunday November 30: 7:00 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church Woodstock,

Corner of Riddell and Hunter

Free will offering supporting Operating Sharing - The Christmas Place

WOODSTOCK COIN CLUB PRESENTS A CONTEST OF MEDAL DESIGN

CELEBRATING OUR CITY'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

THEME: WHAT DOES WOODSTOCK MEAN TO ME?

WHO CAN ENTER? ANYONE! And as often as you like.

TWO CATEGORIES: ADULT (18+) AND YOUTH

One winner from each category will receive a set of medals with their design and initials on the medal itself, plus a numismatic prize.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING YOUR DESIGN:

DECEMBER 1, 2025

Designs to be submitted to: wcc2026contest@gmail.com

Woodstock Choralaires, with guest artist Mark Weatherly, presents

MERRY CHRISTMAS, MERRY CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 6: 3:00 p.m.

Knox Church in Woodstock

Tickets are \$30 (12 and under free), available at Wilson & Markle Jewelers or online at ticketscene.ca

ST. PAUL'S CHRISTMAS MARKET

December 6: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 56 Thames St. S., Ingersoll

Join us for a festive market to include a Penny Sale (Draw at

12:30 pm), Treasure Chest, Local Craft Vendors, Christmas candy, cookies, frozen fruit pies, turkey pies, frozen soups, casseroles & cabbage rolls. It will be a wonderful day to pick up your favourite treats and gifts and share the festive spirit. We hope you can join us!

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

December 6: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The Church of The Epiphany, Dundas St. Woodstock

There will be lots for everyone. Homemade Cookies, Candy, Preserves. Baking table with lots of homemade baking and our famous Christmas Pudding and shortbread. Our deli table will have, Shepherds Pie, Turkey Pies, etc. There will also be an Attic Treasures room full of gently used Christmas decorations. Check out the several vendors that will be here to help you with your Christmas Shopping.

MONTHLY VON BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

Last Tuesday of every Month:

10 a.m. to Noon

Ingersoll Pharmasave

19 King St. E., Ingersoll

TILLSONBURG DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

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.

THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF OXFORD COUNTY

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

REPAIR CAFÉ - TOSS IT? NO WAY!

1st Saturday of each month: 9 a.m. to Noon

St. John's Church 685860 Oxford Highway 2, Eastwood, ON N4S 7V9

St. John's, Eastwood, now affiliated with Repair Café International (look for us at repaircafe.org). Meets the first Saturday of every month 9am to noon at St. John's Church 685860 Oxford Highway 2, Eastwood, ON N4S 7V9. Repairs made to clothing, linens, household items, toys, musical instruments etc. Save money, learn how to make your own repairs. Volunteers welcome. Payment by donation.

CALLING ALL LOCAL VENDORS!

511 Finkle St., Woodstock, ON

Saturday, December 6: 1 - 4 p.m.

Cedarview's Annual Christmas Bazaar is back, and we're on the lookout for talented vendors to join us! We're seeking: Artisan goods, Crafts, Holiday décor, Homemade goodies, Unique gifts & all things Christmas! Apply by November 1st to secure your spot! To join, send your info + business details to: lisa.ecleston@bwliving.com, (226) 458-3294. Don't miss this chance to be part of a festive community event full of holiday cheer!

GRIEF SUPPORT FOR MAID RELATED LOSS

This monthly in-person grief support group for loss related to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) offers a compassionate, safe space to explore this unique loss. The group will meet the **4th Wednesday of the month from 1 – 2:30 p.m.** at the Thamesford Library, 165 Dundas St., Thamesford. The group is free of charge and pre-registration is requested. The next meeting is **Wednesday, November 26th**. To register or inquire about an evening group, contact 519-866-3016 or email faye@compassionategriefsupport.ca.

PEER SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

Third Wednesday of each month:

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

21 Wellington St., Woodstock

(Virtual options available)

PCMH is a peer support program providing support to parents and caregivers across Ontario with lived experience raising children and youth with mental health challenges. For more information, please visit family.cmho.org or oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca. We are also on Facebook: Parents for Children's Mental Health ~ Oxford County

COMING EVENTS

VON OXFORD 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: 6:30PM-8:00PM
INGERSOLL
WHEN: 4th Tuesday of every month
WHERE: Ingersoll Public Library 130 Oxford St., Ingersoll
TIME: 10:30AM –12:00Noon
WOODSTOCK
WHEN: 3rd Saturday of every month
WHERE: Sakura House Hospice 715180 Oxford Rd.4, Woodstock
TIME: 10:30AM-12:00 Noon

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

COLOURING THROUGH GRIEF
Caring Hearts Support Network:
St. David's United Church,
190 Springbank Ave., Woodstock ON
Third Wednesday monthly. One time fee of \$15. Registration is required.
Call 519-536-3370. Check out website
www.caringheartssupportnetwork.com

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

OXFORD COUNTY BRANCH OF ONTARIO ANCESTORS
Are you looking to start a summer pastime? Are you interested in your family history? Oxford Branch has an extensive collection of family history and genealogical resources that can help you. **Come visit our Resource Centre at 82 Light Street, Courthouse Square, Woodstock. We are open Tuesdays to Thursdays 10:00 am to 4:00 pm** where volunteers are ready to help you get started or help you research for missing information. You can also connect with us on the web at <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca>. We are dedicated to supporting and promoting genealogical research in Oxford County. Hope to see you through the summer!

BEACHVILLE LEGION EVENTS:
434852 ZorraLine, Beachville

EUCHRE
Thursday nights 7 p.m.

DARTS
Friday nights 8 p.m.

BLUEGRASS AND OLD TIME COUNTRY JAM
Saturdays 1-4 p.m.

GENTLE CHAIR YOGA
Wednesdays 7-8 pm

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY
November 11: 11 a.m.
Beachville Cenotaph

FISH AND CHIP DINNER
NOVEMBER 14: 5:30 PM

WOODSTOCK KITTEN NURSERY AND RESCUE BINGO
November 21: Doors open 6 p.m. Play begins 7 p.m.

\$30 to play for the night

KARAOKE WITH KEN PYLE
November 22: 7-11 p.m.

CEDARVIEW RETIREMENT HOME EVENTS:
511 Finkle St, Woodstock

SOCK HOP DANCE
Saturday November 15: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
DJ Frankie. Call to RSVP at 519-602-0282
Accepting non perishable food items for the food bank. FREE event

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
Saturday December 6: 1-4 p.m.
Accepting non perishable food items for the food bank. FREE event

DOWNTOWN WOODSTOCK BIA
IMPORTANT DATES:

DOWNTOWN WOODSTOCK SHOPPING NIGHTS
November 27, December 18: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Our monthly shopping event, Woodstock Shopping Night, typically occurs every 4th Thursday of the month. Participating stores stay open late until 8 pm to facilitate late-night shopping. Enjoy a great night out in downtown Woodstock with extended store hours & exciting specials.

CHRISTMAS IN THE SQUARE
December 12/13 & December 19/20
Get ready for a festive family adventure in Downtown Woodstock! Join us for free festive fun in Museum Square; expect smiles, laughter, and a jolly good time. Bring the kids and snap a free photo with Santa at his house. Take the opportunity to do some last minute shopping for your loved ones at the wonderful downtown businesses.

POPPY CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISER
RCL Tavistock Memorial Legion Branch #518
"We Will Remember" Lawn Signs \$30.00
Poppy Lawn Ornaments \$18.00
Pickup in Tavistock. Call Mary Boland 519-655-2992

REMEMBRANCE DAY, WREATH LAYING CEREMONY
November 9, 2025: 1:00 pm
RCL Tavistock Memorial Legion Branch #518
223 Hope Street West Tavistock

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

POPPY CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEERS WANTED
As it gets closer to our Annual Poppy Campaign once again we are looking for volunteers to help. We have a sign up sheet here in the Legion for anyone that can take some time and help out our Veterans. Thank you.

REMEMBRANCE DAY
November 11
Chili at the Branch after the service at the Cenotaph

EVENING ENTAINMENT
November 1 - Mike Thrope
November 8 - Steve Beach & James Anthony
November 15 - DJ Wolfman
November 22 - 2 For the Road
November 29 - Randy Thomas

AFTERNOON MATINEE
November 29 - Two of a Kind

SOUP N SANDWICH
November 6: 11:30 a.m. -12:45 p.m.
Hot Beef Speical

MEAT DRAW
November 15: 3 p.m.

FISH N CHIPS
November 23: 5-6 p.m.
Contact the Office or canteen for more info. 519-537-3112 or 519-539-3401

SANTA BREAKFAST
November 30: 9-11 a.m.

DART & EUCHRE TOURNAMENT
November 16: 9:30-5 p.m.
Contact Dave 226-888-7246

SILENT AUCTION
Starts November 27
Ends November 29

SHUFFLEBOARD
Every Thursday

CADETS
Every Monday

DARTS
Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday nights

EXECUTIVE MEETING
November 4: 7 p.m.

NO GENERAL MEETING THIS MONTH

INGERSOLL DOWNTOWN BIA EVENTS:

LIGHTING OF THE LIGHTS
“A CANADIANA CHRISTMAS”
Thursday, November 20,
Ingersoll Pipe Band 6:45 pm,
Tree Lighting at 7 pm
Heritage Park, Gazebo – Thames St., Ingersoll
Stores Open Late – offering special sales/promotions, Santa and Mrs. Claus photo ops, Poutine Mobile Truck, the Lion’s Club is offering free hot chocolate, apple cider, and s’mores. Donations Welcome. Join our local businesses as we kick off the holiday season in true Canadian style. Wear your Canadian colours, whether red and white or buffalo plaid, perhaps moose or beaver print is your style, toques, snowshoes, the choice is yours. Let’s show our Canadian pride! Stroll downtown and visit the local businesses that have their windows dressed in true Canadian splendor and vote on the best display on our new website <https://www.downtowningersoll.ca/>. Shop Canada, Shop Local, Shop Ingersoll!

CHRISTMAS MADNESS IN DOWNTOWN INGERSOLL
Thursday November 20 - November 22
Visit our amazing downtown businesses during these crazy days of Christmas promotions and deals. For individual business promotions and deals check our new website for the Downtown business directory. Enjoy a stroll downtown and view the local businesses with windows dressed in true Canadian splendour, then vote for your favourites on our new website <https://www.downtowningersoll.ca/>. Shop Canada, Shop Local, Shop Ingersoll!

CRISPY'S
FAMOUS FISH DEAL

EVERY
MONDAY-TUESDAY

Only \$11.99!

LIMITED TIME ONLY **

Enjoy our Signature 4oz Haddock Fillet, perfectly golden, flaky, and crispy – served hot and fresh



CRISPY'S
FISH & CHIPS

Crispy's fish and chips
194 Springbank Ave N, Woodstock
(519) 290-8800
Call to place your pick-up or delivery order today!

Riddles

What has to be broken before you can use it?
Egg

I'm not alive, but I grow; I don't have lungs, but I need air. What am I?
Fire

What has one eye but cannot see?
Needle

What gets wetter the more it dries?
Towel

I have keys but no locks; I have space but no room. What am I?
Keyboard

I'm taken before you see me, and kept to remember. What am I?
Photograph

I go all around a house but never move. What am I?
Fence

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

I'm full of holes but still hold water. What am I?
Sponge

I have branches but no fruit, trunk, or leaves. What am I?
Bank

Sudoku

by PeterS 2025

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

Solutions on page 37



ROMEIO & RICARDO

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

Word Search

REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

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QUIZ ANSWERS

1. A sleuth/sloth
2. Charlie Chaplin
3. Fletcher
4. Gray jay/whisky jack
5. Topaz & Citrine
6. Gord Downie
7. Joe Carter
8. Andor
9. Xi Jinping
10. Mount Logan

SUDOKU

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



PROJECT PJ'S

Pajama drive for Women & Children in Oxford County

Help support those in need- one pair of PJ's at a time!

We're Collecting:

Brand new pj's in all sizes- cozy, soft, and full of comfort!

Why It Matters

Many women & children in our community go without the basic comforts we often take for granted. A new pair of pj's can offer dignity, warmth and a sense of care.



Let's come together and wrap our community in care and comfort.

Who Benefits

ALL donations go to support local shelters including INGAMO Homes and DASO.

When

Collecting from September 1st until December 1st, 2025.

New PJ's = New Hope



Drop Off

Between 9 and 5
126 Beale St, Unifor Local 636
Woodstock, ON



Deck the Halls Artisan Market

Proudly Sponsored by



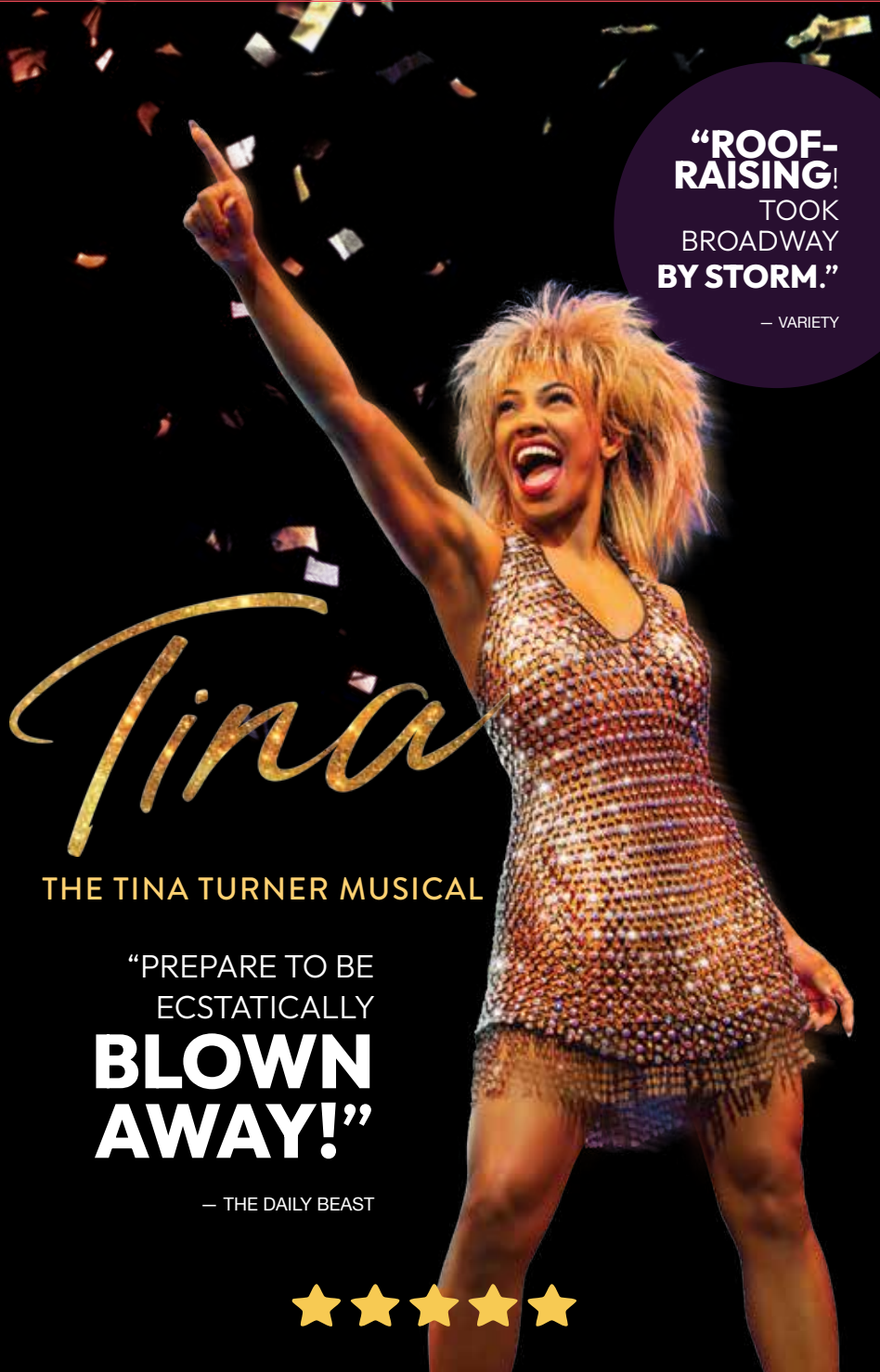
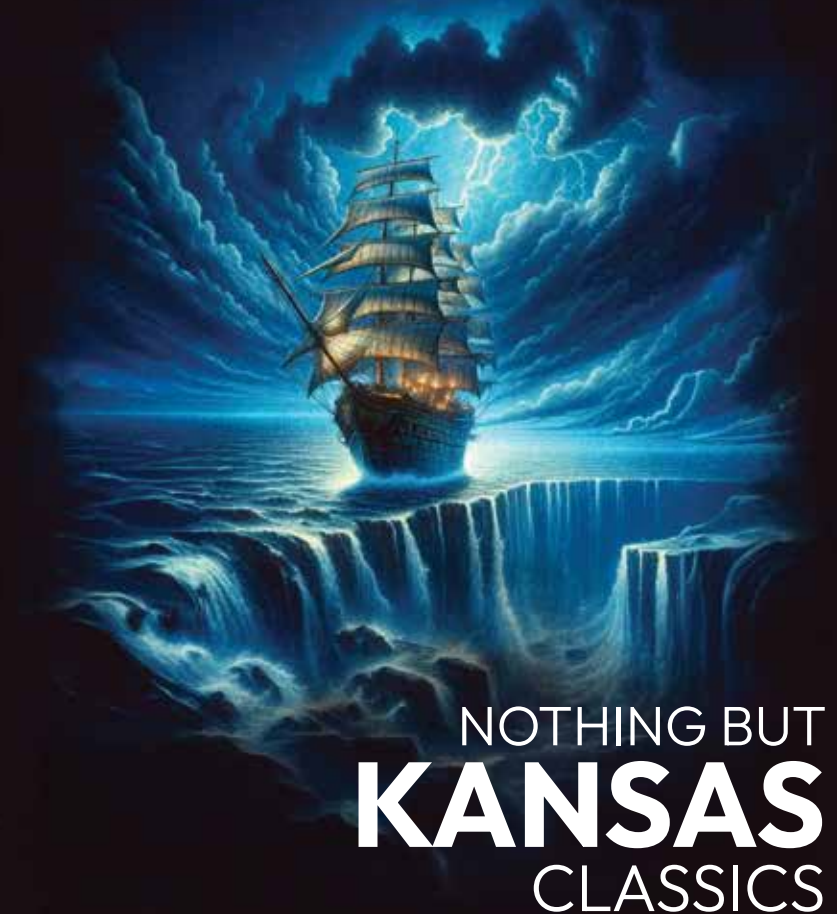
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**BLOWN
AWAY!**”
— THE DAILY BEAST



Sunday, November 16

Friday, November 28 | Saturday, November 29

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