

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 4

JULY 18, 2025

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Kennedy nominated for prestigious music award

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

About four months ago, the Echo ran a story on a Woodstock woman and musician dealing with the tragedy of her daughter's suicide in 2022.

Traci Kennedy wrote and recorded 'You Never Said Goodbye' and decided to release it. What happened next was nothing short of a country music explosion as the song climbed up the Canadian Indie Country Countdown. The song has also been nominated for the Social Impact Song of the Year at the upcoming Josie Music Awards in the fall.

"My jaw dropped. I was sitting on the couch when I saw the nomination come in, and I had to take a few minutes to absorb it before I could even speak and say anything to my husband. It was surreal to know this song made that much of an impact and was noticed," explained Kennedy.

The Josie Music Awards are one of the largest independent music award shows in the world. They recognize and honor the achievements of independent artists across a wide variety of genres and roles in the music industry. It was founded in 2015 to celebrate independent music artists, songwriters, producers, and industry professionals who are not signed to major labels. It covers not only country, but rock, pop, gospel and other genres.

Nominees are chosen based on musical talent, work ethic, promotion, engagement, and impact, not just popularity or sales. The awards ceremony has been held at prestigious venues, including the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Tennessee, where this year's event will be held on Sunday, November 2.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



(STACIE EDEN PHOTO)

STREETSCAPE PROGRESS

Phase 1 of Woodstock's Streetscape is expected to be completed just before this weekend's annual Streetfest event.

Woodstock Streetscape Phase 1

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

"I am super-excited."

Those were the first words out of the mouth of Mayor Jerry Acchione when asked how he felt about the progress on the first part of the city's downtown revitalization project.

"To see it come from talking about it 10 years ago to what we have today, I am pumped. I am excited to see how clean and accessible it is, and I can't wait to see the stamping and the sealing. It will make it all just pop and finish it off nicely," he added.

The Echo has talked to some business owners and residents alike to get their thoughts on how Phase 1 measures up in their minds. The answers range from underwhelming to not bad to amazing. Acchione said he has heard nothing but positives.

"Not a single person has come out and said I don't like it and I wish it was more. A couple of questions on did we chose the lighting, why did we choose the parking, but nobody saying they don't like it."

While the asphalt stamping will add a different look to Phase 1, it is also the main reason why the project will likely wind up about five weeks behind its original completion date. The city's Business Improvement Area (BIA) sent an email to affected businesses last Friday.

"As you may have heard, there was a delay in getting the stamp for the patterned asphalt from the US manufacturer. The stamp was ordered in March of 2025, however, due to layoffs at this supplier our stamp was not manufactured. Unfortunately, this only came to light when the contractor arrived in Woodstock to complete the work," said Kerry Baird, Downtown Development Officer with the organization.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 4



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Tribute song in memory of late daughter tops the charts

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Kennedy said she has no idea who nominated her, but she's looking forward to the red-carpet event.

"Country singer Lorrie Morgan, who I idolized when I was getting into country music, was big on the scene in the early 90s and she's receiving a lifetime achievement award that night. It's exciting to be able to see someone I idolized at the same event where I am up for an award."

The Canadian Indie Country Countdown is a fan-voted, weekly radio show featuring Canadian artists. An indie artist (short for independent) is a musician or band who creates, records, and releases music without the backing of a major record label.

Kennedy was ironically notified the song had reached number one on the chart on the third anniversary of K'Lee's passing, July 6.

"At a time when I needed somebody to lift me up, that came through and it felt like a warm hug from above. We had been out on the boat at Long Point for the day to get out and reflect on memories and find some peace and quiet."

She said when they arrived home there were a few messages from people who follow the chart.

"Check the chart, check the chart! It's recognition, it helps radio stations look at you a little more seriously as an independent artist to see how your song has resonated with people and has continued to rise. I was just happy to make the chart period in the beginning, but to see it go up each week has been amazing."

Just as important to Kennedy is the message of hope and comfort her song provides to people who have lost loved ones to suicide.

"It's reached people all over the world, as far away as Australia, Japan, Ireland and Mexico. It's mind-blowing to see how your song can just get out there and



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Woodstock country singer Traci Kennedy's song about her daughter K'Lee reached number one on the Canadian Indie Country Countdown and was nominated for a prestigious Josie award. K'Lee died by suicide three years ago.

find people who didn't know they needed to hear it."

The 58-year-old took nearly two decades off from making any music. She isn't ruling out the possibility of coming up with more original tracks.

"I was talking with my song tracker to let him know how everything is just going crazy and he said he thinks it's time I thought about putting out another song."

Kennedy explained she swore up and down she was likely done because she

hadn't done any new music since 2006.

"I put my whole heart and soul into 'You Never Said Goodbye', thinking that would be my last kick at the cat but at the same time my head had been filling up with lines."

Ontario Government supporting two recreation upgrades in Oxford County

STAFF

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

The province is providing a local non-profit organization and a municipality in Oxford with \$400,000 in funding this year through the Ontario Trillium Foundation's (OTF) Capital grant stream. This funding will help make it easier for residents to access the critical programming, activities and spaces that make Oxford a great place to live, work and

play.

"Our government believes organizations like the Ingersoll curling club and the park at Drumbo enrich the lives of people in the community. That's why I am proud they are receiving capital funding support," said Ernie Hardeman, Oxford MPP. "This support will enable them to better serve the people of Oxford and continue to make a positive difference."

OTF's Capital grant stream helps organizations improve their infrastructure

so they can continue delivering programs and services that Ontarians need to thrive. Whether it's purchasing equipment, building a new space or completing renovations, retrofits or repairs, these grants support projects that are making a difference.

In Oxford, organizations receiving funding include:

- The Township of Blandford-Blenheim, which will use a \$200,000 capital grant to create an accessible play-

ground at Drumbo Park.

- Ingersoll District Curling Club, which will use a \$200,000 capital grant to install a new chiller system to improve efficiency, reduce costs and create and maintain quality ice surfaces.

These capital grants are part of the more than \$28 million supporting 300 local programs and services that help deliver critical community programming across the province.

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Ingersoll's Second Annual Barn Dance a hit



(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

Outside view of the Ingersoll Cheese & Agricultural Museum.

KYRAH SMITH

Echo Contributor

Cowboy hats and boots were seen as far as the eye could see recently at the Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum.

Back by popular demand, the town of Ingersoll hosted its second annual 19-plus Barn Dance on July 5 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Admission was pay what you wish and all donations went to the mu-

seum.

"With the success of last year, we decided to actually host two Barn Dances this year," said Stephanie Conron, museum manager. The second dance this year will take place August 9.

Attendees were taught how to line dance courtesy of the museum's staff and encouraged to test out their new skills throughout the night. Though some were hesitant at first, people really started to get the into the spirit.



(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

Attendees learning to Line Dance.

"We had hoped for 200 people," Stephanie announced halfway through the event, "But we have surpassed that!"

The event featured live music by local musician Paul Van Straten (a.k.a. Floyd) and Alex Pellow-Manson from the neighbouring town of Woodstock. Their covers ranged from Brown Eyed Girl to Loosing my Religion and finishing the night off with Summer of '69.

Goers were also able to take a break,

sit outside and try their hand at axe throwing or bean bag toss.

Kicking Spirits Mobile Bar and P.B.'s French Fries were also in attendance, supplying dancers with a delicious little energy boost. Both vendors will be returning in August.

If you're interested in upcoming events or would like more information, you can visit the town's website at www.ingersoll.ca/live-and-play/ingersoll-cheese-agricultural-museum/.

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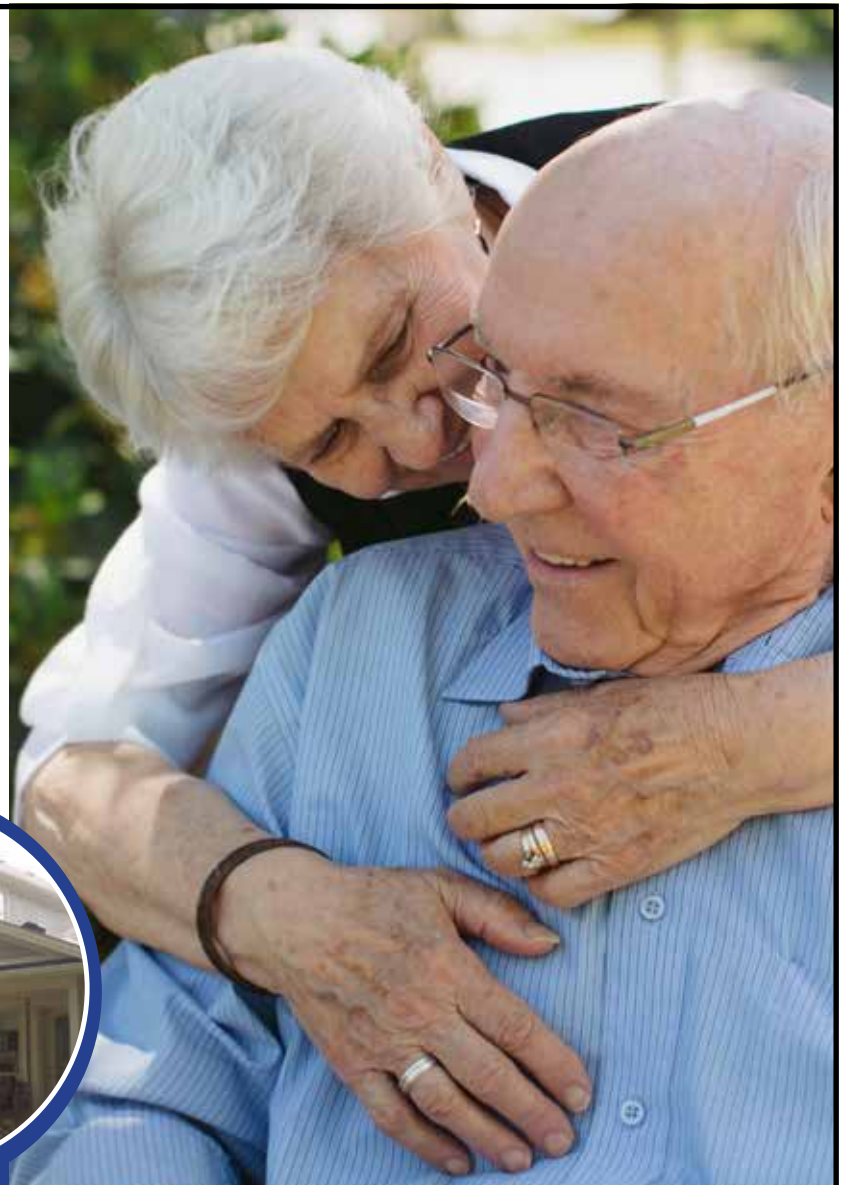
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

WHERE DO YOU CHOOSE TO LIVE IN CANADA OR THE USA?

Recently, a group of Canadian multi-billionaires offered to increase their amount of taxes that they pay to the government. They felt that they could make a difference in the quality of life for the rest of society.

The stats show us that the prosperity gap in the States is growing with Trump's friends benefitting from the recent tax reforms. In the US it is reverse economics from the tale of Robin Hood who stole from the rich to give to the poor.

Now, the US business reality is that billionaires steal -from- the poor and reward themselves with stock options.

"The Journal of the American Medical Association" recently reported that the nation wide medical debt owing was a disgusting \$140 billion dollars.

To-day July 3rd the \$1trillion in tax cuts by Trump and his Republican party will mean the loss of Medicaid Health Insurance/food assistance programs for 17 million mostly lower income families.

The most vulnerable Americans in society are going to be a whole lot sicker and then die because of the lack of help from their government.

I learned the hard way when I went to Fort Meyer's Florida a few years ago when I went to visit my friend Gerry. As fate would have it I ended up in the hospital E.R. After only four hours of minimum care the bill came to \$12,000 Canadian.

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Len Lesser,
Dorchester

City vows to improve communication during next phase

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The barricades west of Riddell and east of Wellington will be removed temporarily on July 18 for Streetfest. Dundas Street could best be described as a ghost town during construction, but Acchione said the event couldn't come at a better time and he's confident the community will be there in big numbers.

"The amount of interest, how many people are asking when downtown will be opened up. There is a lot of excitement from residents in Woodstock in general, just to get down and see it."

The mayor added now is the time for Woodstock and area residents who have never been downtown to make it a habit and get to know the businesses.

"Get down, take a look and check out all the businesses. The number of times I hear businesses comment that they get asked if they just opened, and they've been here for years, means people are not coming downtown as much as we'd like. It's going to be bright, safe and accessible and we have lots of parking."

Many businesses on Dundas have seen a drop in sales, be it minor or in some cases considerable, something Acchione is confident will turn around beginning this weekend, but the main complaint from several shop owners was the lack of communication regarding updates on construction. For example, stores were told the sidewalks in front of their businesses would be closed to foot traffic the same day they were shut down. Acchione said he too was concerned and changes will be made going forward.

"We've certainly learned from some of the lack of communication that was transmitted over the different

levels. We were going out a lot in social media and putting it on our website. Unfortunately, some businesses weren't connected with us through the website or our direct email campaign, only through the BIA."

Acchione said it has been a learning process but is confident businesses will be in a better spot for Phase 2. Colleen Collins is the city's manager of communications and said there was a plan that identified several tactics, all of which were completed.

"While we were pushing out the updates through the website to the people who subscribed to the page, we didn't realize that many of the businesses weren't subscribed to the page for updates and we have started sending them directly via email as of late June. We will continue to improve this for future phases."

The BIA sent out another update on Monday, saying Phase 1 is expected to be completed by July 17, just before the Echo's release date.

"The project was ahead of schedule until we had quite a few rainy days and a supplier issue, which came to light very late in the project. The current road closure for Phase 1 will be reopened after Streetfest, allowing for local traffic just like the rest of Dundas currently is."

Phase 2 will close to all vehicle traffic shortly after Streetfest until the fall and the start date for it could be between July 21 and August 6. The affected area is Dundas Street from west of Graham to west of Light.

"We have learned some lessons from Phase 1 with regards to marketing efforts to support the entire downtown which will be implemented for Phase 2," added the update.

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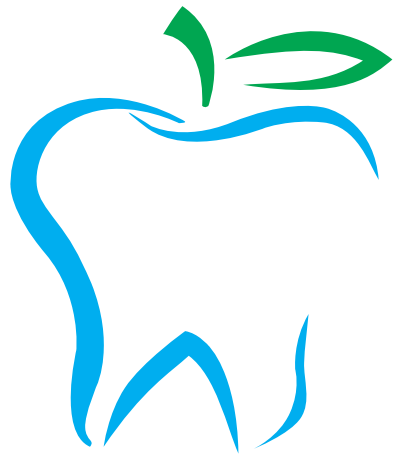


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Oxford County Administration Building reopened to the public

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Oxford County Administration Building (OCAB) reopened to the public on Monday after a major water leak over three weeks ago.

“The majority of staff, and certainly the essential staff, are back,” explained CAO Ben Addley. “We still have some construction going on as I’m sure you can imagine. They are taking drywall out and letting things dry before they can seal things back up. We prioritized the essential in-building staff and got them in as of (Monday).”

One floor in the building remains unoccupied and those staff have been relocated until their normal offices are reopened. Addley said county staff have been very flexible and patient over the past few weeks.

“With a lot of them not being their own office, their own space, isn’t the most convenient or efficient way to work, so they have

been real troopers that way in making sure they have been able to perform their duties and have been as flexible as possible.”

He added the county’s facilities team has been hit harder than most, working long hours to get the building to a functional standard, allowing people back inside.

“They’ve been exceptional. They’re working with the insurance company and contractors and are quickly moving things forward. It’s frustrating, I know, when you can’t provide the services you want for three weeks, but the fact we had such a major incident and were able to get the majority of staff back in three weeks is pretty impressive.”

Addley also commended the IT team who were able to get equipment up and running or have equipment available for staff to work at other locations or work from home.

While the precise cause has not been pinpointed, work continues to find out exactly what led to the flooding.

“We have of where the leak happened.

There was a water connection on the fifth-floor maintenance/service area. As you can imagine, water runs down and it did, right through the working floors and into the basement.”

Addley said OCAB opened in 2008, hinting age may have played a part in the incident. He added the public has been understanding throughout the crisis and the county has done its best to keep residents up to date.

“For the most part, the public has been really good. We’ve tried to communicate how people could get certain services, or if it was something like (garbage) bag tags that we couldn’t do online anymore, to make sure people knew where they could get them. Our customer service was triaging calls and getting people through to the proper department.”

The human services department, which oversees critical files such as housing and Ontario Works, has been relocated to other locations.

“We’ve been able to give them a secondary

site, and clients have been going to those other locations when needed to have those face-to-face meetings. The public has been really patient with us, which is appreciated.”

A detailed staff report will likely be completed and presented to members of county council later in the year once more information is known.

“A summary of what happened, cost and insurance impacts, as well as anything we want to put in place to mitigate something like this happening again in the future. It will be a long process to get there, but we will have some kind of follow-up.”

The customer service area and lobby are accessible, but the east side of the main floor remains closed while construction work continues. If you are visiting the administration building, please enter through the Reeve Street or Peel Street doors.

OCAB was closed on June 20 due to a failed waterline connection in the building’s mechanical area.

Oxford municipalities celebrate golden anniversary

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It has been 50 years since Oxford County restructured into the exact two-tier system we see today.

On January 1, 1975, the county underwent a significant municipal reorganization through amalgamation, which was part of a broader provincial initiative during the 1960s and 1970s to streamline local governance across Ontario.

The Ontario government was looking to improve efficiency in service delivery, reduce administrative costs, clarify responsibilities between local and county governments and encourage urban-rural integration. Before 1975, Oxford County consisted of numerous small towns, villages, and townships, many with overlapping or inefficient governance. Each had separate councils, services and tax structures.

Oxford County Warden and Zorra Township Mayor Marcus Ryan said any community should celebrate its anniversaries when they occur and he sees it as looking at the past while understanding the present.

“Everybody gets caught up in their day-to-day lives all the time and rightfully so. But it’s an opportunity to focus on, ok, who are we, how do we get these services, how do we all collectively decide how much tax we pay and what do we spend those taxes on?”

Ryan added he knows from experience that a lot of people don’t know the answers to those types of questions. He and other members of council along with Zorra staff, are holding a free barbeque with live music at the township’s administration building in Thamesford on Tuesday, August 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to mark the occasion.

“This is an opportunity to talk to people we don’t always get and I’m always a big fan of talking to constituents as much as possible about how things actually work.”

The number of local municipalities in Oxford County was significantly reduced in 1975 from over 20 to just eight. East Zorra and Tavistock were combined, North Norwich, South Norwich, and the Village of Norwich were merged into the Township of Norwich and Zorra was created by West Zorra, West Nissouri and North Oxford joining forces. Other municipalities are Woodstock, Ingersoll, Tillsonburg,



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

SWOX – South West Oxford held a Township Fare event on May 24 to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman presented mayor David Mayberry with an official proclamation.

Blanford-Blenheim and South-West Oxford.

The Township of Blandford-Blenheim and the Drumbo Heritage Society celebrated the 50th anniversary during this year’s Canada Day festivities at Drumbo Park.

“The displays you curated were a wonderful way to highlight the rich heritage of Blandford-Blenheim, and the cake was a sweet touch that added to the sense of unity. We were thrilled to see both former and current mayors, as well as members of council, and former and current township staff, come together to commemorate this significant milestone,” said a post on the township’s website.

Kenn R. Howling was the inaugural mayor in 1975.

South-West Oxford celebrated the milestone on May 24 with the “SWOX Township Fare – 50th Anniversary Celebration” at the Mount Elgin Community Centre. George Jakeman was the first mayor of the township in 1975.

Oxford County became a two-tier government system where the upper tier handles region-wide services such as waste management, long-term care and planning. Lower-tier municipalities are responsible for local roads,

parks, fire protection and more.

The 1975 amalgamation helped create more balanced municipal governments and better-aligned urban-rural service delivery. However, like many such reorganizations, it was not without controversy. Some residents felt and still feel a loss of local identity, and not all efficiencies were realized immediately.

East Zorra-Tavistock (Ezt), while not holding a specific event to mark the milestone, did acknowledge the anniversary at the grand opening of its new administration building in Hickson. Mayor Phil Schaefer shared a personal memory he has from half a century ago.

“I was 15 at the time and I remember when the restructuring happened. My father Walter was the clerk of the Village of Tavistock at the time, and he became the deputy clerk/tax collector for the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock,” he explained. “The initial council of the amalgamated municipality was quite large as it consisted of all members of the predecessor municipalities.”

The first mayor of Ezt was Harold Vogt while Robert C. Matheson, who had previously served as the last reeve of the former West Zorra Township, held the inaugural role in Zorra.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Blanford-Blenheim – The Township of Blanford-Blenheim celebrated the milestone with a Canada Day celebration and cake in Mount Elgin.

Hardeman celebrates 30 years in provincial politics

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The longest-serving current member of the Ontario Legislature recently reached three decades of public service.

“It’s been quite an experience,” said Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman. “Looking ahead, 30 years seems like a long time, but looking back, it seems like just the other day.”

Hardeman was first elected in June of 1995, defeating NDP incumbent Kimble Sutherland. He has since been re-elected nine more times, most recently earning 55 per cent of the vote in last year’s provincial election.

“It had its ups and downs. I spent the first eight years in government and the next 15 years in the opposition and now back in government. What’s most rewarding about it, it doesn’t really matter if you are on the government side or the opposition, it’s working with your local people that makes the job worthwhile.”

Hardeman’s longevity has earned him the official title of Dean of the Legislative Assembly and he explained being a sitting MPP has never felt like a job.

“It’s always been something that I just do. If you enjoy what you’re doing, it’s never work, and for me, that’s definitely true with politics. I guess that’s what keeps me going, even when people suggested maybe I shouldn’t do it anymore. I just can’t think of a better way to spend my time.”

Before the legislature shuttered for its summer break, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott delivered an address praising Hardeman to non-partisan applause.

“This Sunday, June 8, marks his 30th anniversary as MPP for Oxford. 90 seconds just isn’t enough time to list all his accomplishments, but I would like to highlight a few.”

Hardeman spearheaded a private members’ bill called the Hawkins-Gignac Act, which was passed in 2013. Officially called the Carbon Monoxide Safety Act, it is a groundbreaking Ontario law that mandates carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in all homes equipped with fuel-burning appliances, fireplaces, or attached garages. It amends the Fire Protection and Prevention Act to include carbon monoxide safety, enabling enforcement through Ontario’s Fire Code and proclaims the first week in No-



Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

member as Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week each year.

The bill, which was first tabled in 2008, was inspired by the tragic 2008 death of OPP Const. Laurie Hawkins, her husband Richard, and their children Cassandra (14) and Jordan (12). A blocked chimney vent caused deadly carbon monoxide to seep into their Woodstock home, which had no CO detectors

“He had to introduce it five times but he got it passed and it has been saving lives in Ontario ever since,” proclaimed Scott.

Hardeman said he is proud of passing the legislation and the fact it has made a difference.

“It is the one thing I can say, I did that at Queen’s Park, I did that when I was a member and it wasn’t just about supporting the government or the opposition. That was something we did that happened and we can actually measure when it saves lives.”

The 77-year-old former owner and operator of Hardeman Feed Limited from 1966 to 1995 and former South-West Oxford mu-

nicipal politician, pointed to several other improvements in the riding during his tenure.

“Almost all schools have been rebuilt or replaced, we have a new hospital in Woodstock and almost a new hospital in Tillsonburg with all the additions and repairs. Oxford has been good to me and I think the government has been good for Oxford.”

Hardeman also served as the associate Minister of Rural Municipal Affairs, where he launched the Rural Economic Development Program.

“It continues to this day and is responsible for thousands of jobs across rural Ontario. He served as Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs twice. He introduced protections for farmers and animals by preventing trespassing. He introduced legislation to support farmers through the mental health challenges that a career in agriculture can present,” added Scott.

Hardeman said the kind words from his fellow elected official were a pleasant surprise.

“I wasn’t expecting that. She’s been a great friend and if someone was going to do it, I wasn’t surprised she did. At the same time, I wasn’t expecting anybody to do it.”

Scott is the second-longest-serving provincial politician among current MPPs in the province.

Hardeman hosted a reception at Sally Creek on June 8 and invited his supporters, including those who were in his camp 30 long years ago.

“That was the best thing about having our little get-together, being able to thank all the people. Not the ones that helped the last time, but the people who were there the first time. I had the privilege of recognizing my first campaign manager from 1995.”

Dennis Vollmerhausen was the campaign manager who Hardeman said was instrumental in his first election victory.

As for whether Hardeman will participate in his tenth provincial election next time around, that remains to be seen.

“I always insisted that I didn’t want to decide on how I should be judged on my performance for this term until we get near the end of it. The next election is always a report card on your last one.”

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Two Arrested Following Break and Enter

STAFF

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

Two Local men have been arrested following a break and enter investigation at an industrial property in Woodstock.

On July 10 at approximately 7:45 p.m., police responded to a report of a break and enter at an industrial property on Main Street. The suspects fled on foot before police arrived.

With the assistance of Police Service Dog (PSD) Cruz, officers tracked the suspects to a nearby wooded area. Both were located and arrested without incident.

A 41-year-old male from Ingersoll and a 35-year-old female from Woodstock have been jointly charged with break and enter and possession of break-in instruments. The male has also been charged with possession of a schedule I substance and obstructing a peace officer.

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

PSD Cruz played a key role in the successful location and arrest of the suspects, highlighting the vital contributions of specialized police resources such as K9 officers and their canine partners.

Search warrant leads to drug and firearms seizure in Woodstock

STAFF

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

The Woodstock Police Service has laid multiple charges following the execution of a search warrant at a residence on Parkinson Road as part of Project Hoosiers, a Controlled Drugs and Substances Act investigation.

On July 3, members of the Woodstock Police Service Emergency Response Unit executed a search warrant and as a result, a 45-year-old male was arrested

and charged with three trafficking and three firearm offences.

Police say the search resulted in the seizure of quantities of fentanyl, cocaine, and methamphetamine with an estimated street value of approximately \$3,700. Police also seized four firearms, including a sawed-off shotgun and three rifles, ammunition and approximately \$1,900 in Canadian currency.

The accused was held in custody for a bail hearing.

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Ontario Provincial Police briefs

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Oxford resident loses thousands to scam

An individual is out \$5000 after falling victim to a romance scam.

On July 14, members of the Oxford OPP were notified of a fraud that occurred in the Town of Tillsonburg.

The suspect commenced an online relationship with the victim, then claimed they needed money for a flight home. The victim sent the money.

When the suspect started asking for more money, a relative of the victim encouraged them to call police.

"Be vigilant when meeting people online. There are legitimate people online who are sincere about creating friendships; however, if a person starts asking for money, that should be a red flag, and you should consider talking to a trusted friend or family member prior to continuing the relationship," explained media relations Constable Randi Crawford.

If you think you have become a victim of fraud, don't be embarrassed. Contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501.

Driver faces charges after losing a tire

Police are reminding every driver to check their vehicle for safety.

Three out of five wheel studs on a vehicle broke off recently on the 401 in Oxford County, causing the wheel to fall off, jump the median and hit a car traveling in the opposite direction. Fortunately, no injuries were reported. The driver was charged with improperly installed tires.

Dangerous dirt bike leads to charges in Ingersoll

An Ingersoll man faces a long list of charges after allegedly going on a dangerous dirt bike ride in the town.

Police arrested and charged an individual with ten charges on the evening of July 6. As a result of the investigation, a 29-year-old has been charged under the Criminal Code of Canada with operation while impaired, two counts of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, three counts of failing to comply with a release order, failing to comply with an Undertaking, two counts of possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000 and possession of a dangerous weapon.

The accused was remanded into custody awaiting a bail hearing.



(OPP PHOTO)

Fortunately no one was injured after a car lost a tire on the 401 in the county.

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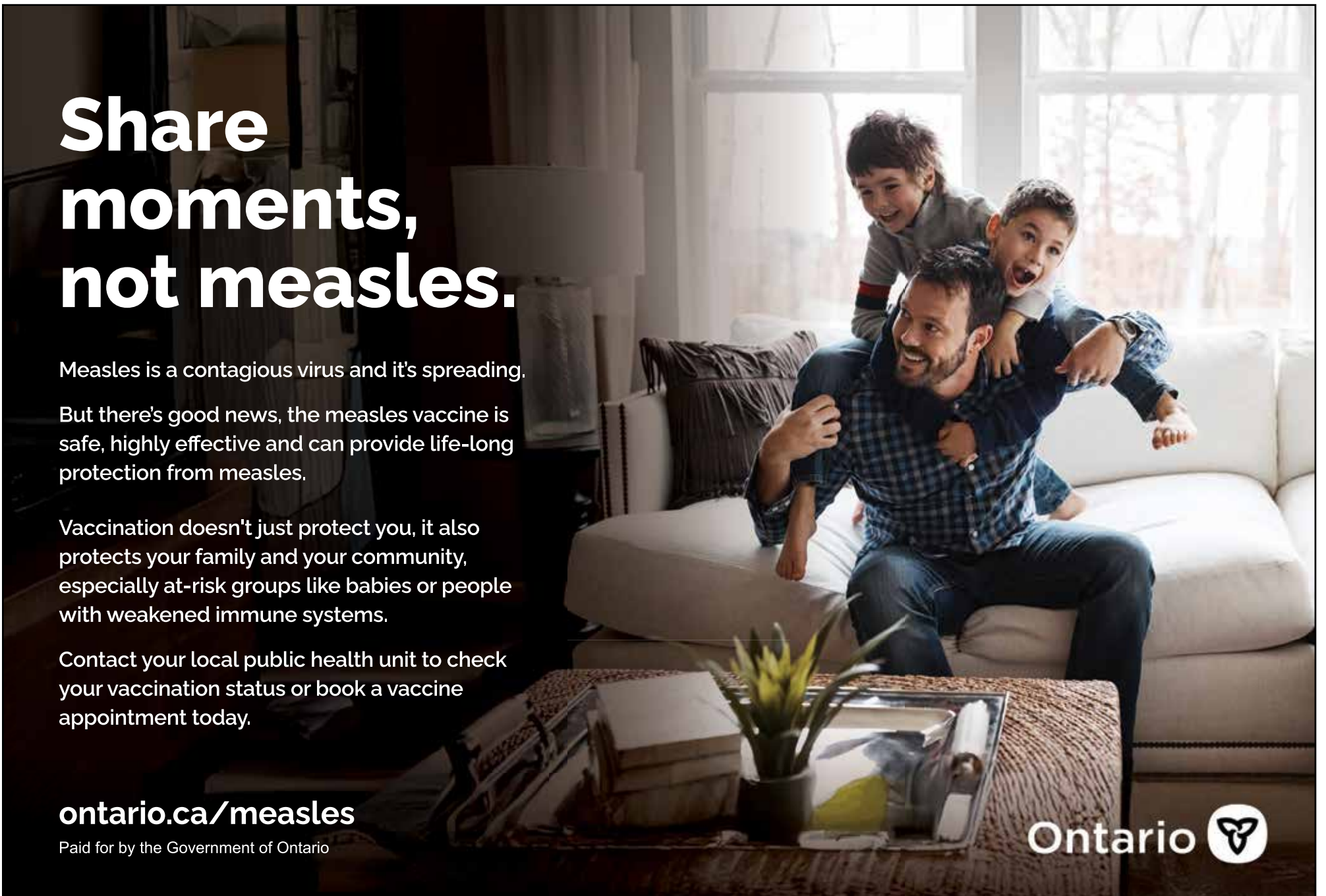
Vaccination doesn't just protect you, it also protects your family and your community, especially at-risk groups like babies or people with weakened immune systems.

Contact your local public health unit to check your vaccination status or book a vaccine appointment today.

ontario.ca/measles

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Motorcycles take to the street in the name of suicide prevention

On Saturday, July 5, motorcyclists from across the region gathered at the Woodstock Medical Centre for the fifth annual Ride 4 Suicide Awareness. The group motorcycle ride aimed to raise awareness around suicide prevention, promote mental health wellness, and generate funds to support local mental health initiatives. The Ride, held in memory of Jonathon Pozsgai, who was lost to suicide on February 4, 2020, continued his legacy and passion for motorcycles by uniting the community for a powerful cause. This year marked the first time the Ride was held in Ontario, with the torch passed from New Brunswick to continue expanding its impact. Following the ride, attendees were welcomed to a gathering that included a food vendor, a community information table, and a variety of door prizes. The event not only fostered a sense of solidarity and remembrance but also raised funds for mental health crisis and support programs at Woodstock Hospital. Organizers expressed their gratitude for the strong turnout and ongoing support, emphasizing the importance of continuing the conversation around mental health and suicide prevention.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Organizing this event were Diane Pozsgai, Caroline Lucas, (Chairperson) and Julius Pozsgai.

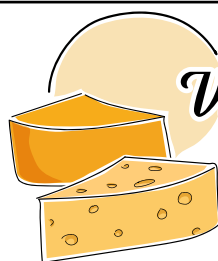


Riders took to the road to raise awareness around suicide prevention, promote mental health wellness, and generate funds to support local mental health initiatives.



Sarah organized the prize table for the event.

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Hundreds attend Ingersoll's 2nd annual Canada Day Celebration

KYRAH SMITH

Echo Contributor

The town of Ingersoll was in no short supply of Canadian pride on July 1 at its second annual Canada Day Celebration.

With hundreds of proud Canadians in attendance, the event was pulsing with energy and good vibes with most attendees sporting red and white attire.

The celebration took place in Victoria Park from 4 p.m. and ended later than expected at 10 p.m.

After the success of last year's smaller celebration, coordinators of this year's event decided to expand and were pleasantly surprised at the outcome. The park was packed with lineups at food trucks since opening and the buzz continued throughout the day.

There was a wide variety of local vendors (Such as P.B's French Fries, Dainty Ducky Creations, and Don't Be Knotty) to vendors from the city of London (Meat Kandy and Camp Coffee) and Tacos El Buen Chapin from Woodstock,

as well as a few travelling businesses (Beans and Brews, Mr. Cool Ice Cream, and Linda's Beaded Creations) among a few others.

Kids were able to enjoy a bouncy obstacle course and a few yard games, including a giant Jenga, Connect Four, and outdoor Tic-Tac-Toe.

Even the animals, courtesy of Little Hobby Farm, seemed to be getting into the spirit. I was able to befriend a quirky alpaca and my sister fed some goats.

Attendees were treated throughout the evening to live musical performances from local Canadian Artists.

The weather, though a little warm, was perfect for this summer event with clear skies. As dusk approached the community settled in, securing a good spot for the festivity's finale. Fireflies kept the guests company until the display began.

Ending the Canada Day Celebration with a bang, the fireworks show did not disappoint. It was beautifully organized and a wonderful way to end the night.



Feeding a goat from Little Hobbies Farm. (KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)



Alpaca from Little Hobbies Farm. (KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)



Grand Finale from the Firework Show. (KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

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Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

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Woodstock Truck Show presents cheque to WDDS following record-breaking event



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Woodstock Truck Show presented a \$35,000 donation to Woodstock and District Developmental Services following the event's most successful fundraising year.

credibly generous donation," said Kelly Christo, Chief Executive Officer at WDDS. "The support of the Woodstock Truck Show means more than words can express and will make a meaningful impact on the people we support, helping to turn our vision of creating a community where everybody belongs into a reality."

The 2025 Woodstock Truck Show drew trucks from across North America and featured a weekend full of excitement: truck pulls, a kids' zone, vendors, live entertainment, and a strong sense of community. It was the first time the event was hosted at the Burford Fairgrounds, a move that helped propel this year's success and created a new partnership with the Burford Agricultural Society. Each year, people supported by WDDS and support staff volunteer their time at the Truck Show, helping to run the gates and welcome guests- a meaningful way to give back and be part of the action.

The show's organizers shared their gratitude in a heartfelt message online.

"It's with tears in our eyes and passion in our hearts. We raised just over \$100,000 for our charities! We are in complete awe of the support we received from the trucking community, our sponsors, volunteers, vendors, and everyone who came out to the show."

Of the total raised, \$20,000 was donated to the Brantford Special Olympics Games, making the Truck Show a Diamond Partner, more to Special Olympics Ontario, and \$5,000 was gifted to the Burford Agricultural Society in appreciation of their support.

WDDS is proud to be a longtime partner of the Woodstock Truck Show and deeply values the care and commitment the team shows year after year. Their continued support directly strengthens community inclusion and meaningful opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

The 2026 show is already in the works and will be held on May 29 and 30, 2026.

STAFF

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

The team behind the Woodstock Truck Show visited Woodstock and District Developmental Services (WDDS) this week to present a generous \$35,000 donation- part of an incredible \$100,000 raised at their largest-ever event, held May 30 and 31 at the Burford Fairgrounds.

The cheque presentation brought together members of the Truck Show organizing committee, WDDS leadership, and people supported by the organization.

"We are deeply grateful for this in-

Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What animal is known to spend 90% of its day sleeping?
2. What is the capital of Iceland?
3. Which sport awards the Davis Cup?
4. What is the only continent with land in all four hemispheres?
5. Which fast food chain has the slogan "Have it your way"?
6. Who discovered penicillin?
7. What musical instrument has 47 strings and 7 pedals?
8. What city hosted the 1996 Summer Olympics?
9. An amethyst is usually what color?
10. What is the formal name for a human voice box?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27

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2024's Pizza Fest brought crowds, fun, and pizza to downtown Ingersoll. With attractions like live music, street performers, a car show, family-friendly activities, stores open late for shopping, and plenty of pizza, 2025's festival is shaping up to be even bigger and better. Don't miss it! See details below.

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo SPORTS

Woodstock Stallions battle WOSL Premier league-leading Jagiellonia tough

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

Alex May is anything but a fan of country music.

"Not at all," he said Friday evening at Woodstock's Cowan Park. "Country is zero in my car. Not gonna happen at all."

But following a 1-0 Western Ontario Soccer League (WOSL) Premier Division loss to London Jagiellonia, the Woodstock Stallions keeper did understand the reference between Kenny Rogers' The Gambler's assertion about every hand of cards - or arguably this game - being both a potential winner and loser.

Friday's game against the league leaders hung in the balance well into the second half, May doing his part to keep the contest goalless, including an initial point-blank save, cleared from danger by a defensive teammate in the second half's second

half. The Stallions' best chances to take the lead followed, a rush developing down the right wing concluded with a shot fired over the crossbar, and most notably, a cross off the same side through the 18-yard-box to the far post.

The visitors broke through shortly after, a free kick awarded almost directly in front of the Stallions' bench leading to a lengthy breakaway pass. May came out to challenge, but Jagiellonia's Erson Gashi had ample time to pick the bottom, left corner.

Although possibly disappointed with the outcome, the Stallions' keeper hadn't been with Woodstock's level of play. Defensively, Woodstock couldn't have done any better with the difference essentially being the one Jagiellonia chance.

"And they scored off it."

"They're a great team," May added. "You know going in,



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Woodstock Stallion Keaghan Brett (left) works against numbers Friday evening at Cowan Park.

they're quality."

Stallions midfielder Starling Sena said the game followed the pattern of a 2-1 cup loss to Jagiellonia earlier in the week.

"We create the opportunities,

create the space, but the finish. It's been hard for us to finish."

However, Sena, like May, believed Woodstock had again put in a solid effort against a strong opponent.

"We are all on the same side, working together, working hard because we all want the same thing."

The result upped Jagiellonia's WOSL premier division record to 8-2-0, with 17 goals for and three against. The Stallions now sit at 2-2-3 for seven points, six goals for as opposed to 10 against.

Woodstock's next game is on the road, Sunday, July 20th at London Croatia, before returning to Cowan Park for a Friday, July 25, 8 p.m. start against Taxandria Premier. The Stallions also play at home Friday, August 8, against London Serbs A and Friday, August 29, hosting the London Thunder.

May was not planning on playing victory music, Lincoln Park perhaps, on his way home, maybe a little introspectively mournful Coldplay instead. Not country for sure, although in a final reference to 'The Gambler', it was clear he was not about to 'fold 'em.'

"It's a fun time," said May of the high level of play offered through the WOSL's top division, much-appreciated fan support the Stallions have received, and the belief that with continued strong play, results will follow. "That just comes with time," he concluded. "Stay focused."



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Woodstock Stallion Starling Sena (left) looks to corral control of the ball.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Woodstock Stallion Shamar Santos challenges for the ball off a corner kick, against Jagiellonia keeper Zack McInnis.

Field of Dreams hosts baseball tournament



Teams from Burlington, LaSalle, Woodstock, and Hamilton took the field in an exciting day of baseball.

On Saturday, July 5, the Field of Dreams on the 16th Line in East Zorra-Tavistock came alive with the sound of bats cracking and cheers from the sidelines as four U9 teams from across the province gathered for a full day of baseball. Teams from Burlington, LaSalle, Woodstock, and Hamilton took to the field, playing throughout the day under blue skies as games ran from 10:00 a.m. until the early evening. The Field of Dreams, built in 2010 by Jen and Mike Van Boekel in their cornfield just north of Woodstock, continues to grow in both reputation and charm. Created as a backyard solution to their sons' powerful swings, the field has since become a cherished destination for players and fans alike. Over the years, the Van Boekel's have added numerous features, including a wooden scoreboard, home run fence, bullpen car, bleachers, and even underground

hydro. Although never intended as a public venue, the field has welcomed teams from as far as Sudbury, Kingston, Niagara Falls and beyond. From regular practices and games to birthday parties, anniversaries, and even a wedding, the field has become a community staple. The Van Boekel's also host summer baseball camps for kids aged 7 to 12, run by their son. In keeping with their spirit of generosity and community, the field remains free to use with donations welcome. A wooden box near the backstop filled with gloves, bats, helmets, and catcher's gear invites passersby to "Have a Catch," encouraging spontaneous fun for families and kids of all ages. The July 5 tournament was another successful chapter in the growing legacy of this grassroots baseball sanctuary, proving once again that if you build it, they will come.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



The Woodstock Wranglers and LaSalle Titans fulfilled a dream by stepping onto the Field of Dreams for an unforgettable day of baseball.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

The Sweaburg Storm U11 Girls' fastball team captured their second tournament championship of the season Sunday, July 13th in Stratford, running the table with a perfect 5-0 record. The win backs up an earlier title earned in Innerkip. In Stratford, the Storm took the final by a tight 7-3 margin over a tough and determined Wyoming Lady Wranglers squad at Stratford's Anne Hathaway Park #3. Sweaburg opened the weekend with an 11-0 win over the Wranglers that Friday evening, downing the Mount Forest Mavericks 12-3 and the Stratford Flames 10-0 Saturday to finish atop their pool. Sweaburg set up a rematch with Wyoming with a Sunday morning 20-2 semi-final victory over the Binbrook Bisons.

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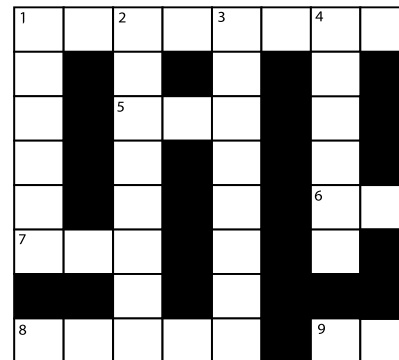


Animal FACT!

When enjoying parks, it is important to avoid close encounters with these.

Answer: Wild animals

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Figure out the route
5. Area of land
6. "City of Angels" (abbr.)
7. Breakfast food
8. Green areas used for recreation
9. Opposite of "yes"

DOWN

1. Plants, animals and the landscape
2. Person who lives in a village
3. Vacations, trips
4. Pathways to hike

Answers: Across: 1. Nature 2. Village 3. Getaways 4. Trails Down: 1. Navigate 2. Lot 3. LA 4. Egg 5. No 6. Parks 7. No 8. Parks 9. No

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Did You Know?

"Forest bathing" started in Japan and is the process of spending time in nature. There is growing research to show that it promotes overall health.



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Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: RV

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Route to the Past – Tip Top Tailor Threads Life in Town

SCOTT GILLIES

Contributor

William Melhuish Churchouse was born in Somerset England in 1873 but was working as a tailor in Ingersoll when he enlisted in September of 1915 with the local 71st Battalion under the command of Major Donald Sutherland, MD. He had had two years of previous military service as a volunteer with the Somerset Regiment before emigrating to Canada.

Before coming to Canada, William and his wife, the former Lily Mary James, had been living south of Bristol and Bath England, in the small Somerset town of Castle Cary. He came to Canada in 1914 to work in his chosen profession—one he had followed since the age of 14. The plan was for Lily and their children to follow once he got settled, however the outbreak of the Great War prevented that.

No doubt anxious to return to his homeland, wife and sons, William enlisted as a private in the infantry but because of his age and profession he was appointed Sergeant Tailor before leaving London Ontario. The accompanying photo shows Sergeant William Churchouse of the 71st Battalion in the back row, fourth from the left.

In early 1917, while stationed in England he was appointed a Master Tailor. In November of 1918 he was transferred to the Western Ontario Regiment before being demobilized and returning home with his family to live and work in Ingersoll.

He operated a small shop on King Street for a few years before moving to the main street. Issues of The Ingersoll Tribune in the 1930s show that William was active on the board of directors of the Ingersoll Lawn Bowling Club when it was located on Ann Street. The clubhouse was a short walk up the hill from their family home at 35 Canterbury Street.

As the local representative of a national retail firm, Churchouse sponsored the annual Tip Top Tailors



71st Battalion Sergeants, 1915.

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Trophy Challenge each year at the Ingersoll club. His clothing store was located in downtown Ingersoll at 127 Thames Street South --today, the site of Heavenly Sweets Ice Cream Parlour.

In 1946, the Tribune reported that William and Lilian had celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Over the course of those years, they had raised three sons. At the time of their golden anniversary, Alexander was living in Detroit while Joseph remained in Ingersoll. Their son Leslie had passed away from pneumonia in 1935.

A sales agent for Prudential Insurance, Joseph married Violet, the daughter of Herman and Ella Phillips Moulton at the family home "Ashwood

Farm" of Verschoyle in 1933. An active member of the Ingersoll Lions Club, Joe, and Violet, an equally active member of the St. Paul's Ladies Aid raised daughters Jane and Nancy.

Joe's mother Lilian passed away in 1949 and was interred near her son Leslie in the mausoleum of the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery. In the coming months Bill Churchouse decided it was time for a change. The Ingersoll Tribune reported in March of 1950 that he was selling the business to Gordon

Moggach, an employee who had been working with him since 1945. William Melhuish "Bill" Churchouse had been running a tailor shop in Ingersoll since 1919. For him, it was time to lay down his needle and thread. It was the end of an era.

Seven years later, in February of 1957, the thread of life for 83-year-old W.M. Churchouse finally unravelled, and he was laid to rest with his wife and son.

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OFA Viewpoint: Digging into carbon credits: how farms are part of the climate solution

SARA WOOD

Vice President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Agriculture is often mentioned as a source of greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, it is considered to be one of the only sectors with significant opportunities to remove carbon from the atmosphere and store it through a process called carbon sequestration – and sell what is known as carbon credits.

The Kyoto Protocol was signed in 1992, committing countries globally to emissions reductions targets. Knowing it would be hard for some countries and industries to meet their climate promises, the agreement included a system where those who can't reduce their emissions enough can buy credits from others who can. This is called "offsetting" and is the basic idea behind carbon credits.

So how does farming fit in here? Carbon sequestration by agriculture supports the carbon credit system by capturing and storing carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere.

Plants naturally absorb CO₂ as they grow. Farming practices like planting cover crops, reducing tillage, and using compost or manure instead of synthetic fertilizers to grow crops help keep more of that carbon in the soil instead of letting it go back into the air. This process is called carbon sequestration.

When farmers use these practices, they may be able to measure how much carbon they've stored and sell that as a carbon credit. In this way, agriculture becomes part of the solution to climate change while also benefiting from the carbon credit market.

Many farmers, including our family farm in southwestern Ontario near the town of Mitchell, are actively using best management practices like reducing or eliminating soil tillage and using cover crops to build healthier soils that support carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

Canada's dairy farming sector, for example, is working towards its goal of reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Healthier, more productive cows are producing more milk with a smaller environmental footprint than in the past, and farmers are adopting new ways of collecting and storing manure that emit less greenhouse gases than others.

Canada's beef industry has implemented the Certified Sustainable Beef Framework where farmers can demonstrate sustainable farming practices in five key areas, including environment and natural resources.

Through their Environmental Stewardship Award, Beef Farmers of Ontario annually recognize beef producers with exceptional dedication to environmentally sustainable farming practices.

This includes minimizing feed waste, planting trees, implementing buffers around wetlands, soil testing to help apply cattle manure where it's most beneficial, planting cover crops, reducing or eliminating soil tillage, improving cattle nutrition and more.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Sustainable Winegrowing Ontario Certified wineries and vineyards are recognized as environmental stewards, good community partners, climate action leaders, and invested in social equity and diversity. Those certified under the program are committed to land conservation, restoring natural habitats, water conservation, waste and wastewater reduction and more.

Although these practices are good for the environment and support both productivity and profitability on the farm, what isn't yet happening on a broad scale is turning them into a revenue stream for farm businesses through the carbon credit market. That's the case not just in Ontario, but across Canada and even globally.

That's because the carbon credit market for agriculture is still in its infancy and it's a complex subject. As well, it takes time to see the results of these types of practices. On our own farm, we've been growing cover crops and using minimum tillage for more than 10 years and we're

only now starting to see the positive benefits these practices are having on soil health, for example.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture, where I serve as a Vice President on the board, has just released a new resource designed to give farmers a carbon credit starting point, including how carbon credits work, options to start carbon trading, what to watch out for before signing onto a program, and where to go for more information. This resource is available at ofa.on.ca/resources/youve-got-carbon-credit-questions-weve-got-carbon-credit-answers.

As farmers, we depend on the land, air and water to grow the crops and livestock that are part of the food and farm products we all depend on.

That's why it's so important for farmers to have the tools, knowledge and support to not only continue being good stewards of the environment—but also to be recognized and rewarded for it.

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Echo

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



Cowapolooza

S U M M E R F E S T I V A L

August 8 - 9 | Southside Park | Woodstock, ON

Friday Aug. 8

COWAPOLOOZA COUNTRY

6 - 10 p.m.

Music from headliners Outlaw Sate of Mind - Chris Stapleton
Tribute with guests Ryan Langdon and Coty Robinson.



Saturday Aug. 9

COWAPOLOOZA KIDS

2 - 6 p.m.

FREE family activities

Saturday Aug. 9

COWAPOLOOZA ROCKS

6 - 10 p.m.

Big Wreck will rock the park with guests
Harm & Ease and Joel Dupuis. Fronted by
Ian Thornley, Big Wreck's hit singles
include "That Song," "Blown Wide Open,"
"The Oaf," and "Albatross."

BIG WRECK



Free shuttle

Friday | 5 - 11 p.m. &
Saturday | 2 - 11 p.m.



Food vendors, Marketplace
vendors & beverage garden with
main stage views.

Events and activities are free.

See the full schedule, event FAQs and shuttle details at cowapolooza.ca



Presents the Marketplace



Presents Cowapolooza Rocks



Presents Volunteer



OxfordCounty
Growing stronger together

OXFORD COUNTY
MUNICIPALITIES

2026 BUDGET SURVEY

**How would you like to see
your tax dollars spent?**

Which services are most important to you
and why? Oxford County's municipalities
are working together to learn more about the
priorities and preferences of residents.

Have your say by Friday, August 29, 2025.



oxfordcounty.ca/speakup

Infected mosquitos found in Woodstock



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

A trap like this one was recently discovered to have a mosquito infected with West Nile Virus. Southwestern Public Health said the trap was located in Woodstock.

STAFF

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

Southwestern Public Health has confirmed that a mosquito trap located in Woodstock has tested positive for West Nile Virus. This is the first mosquito trap to produce a positive test in the Southwestern Public Health region in 2025.

Mosquito traps are set up across Oxford County, Elgin County and the City of St. Thomas to monitor and test for the presence of West Nile Virus in the region. The virus was detected as part of routine testing.

"Public health recommends removing standing water around your property to reduce mosquito breeding environments," according to a news release.

"Additional ways to protect yourself and your family include using DEET-based repellents to prevent mosquito bites and following directions for use; wearing light-coloured clothing with long sleeves, pants, and socks in areas where mosquitos are present; changing water in bird baths every other day; keeping pool pumps circulating; and installing screens to cover the openings of rain barrels."

Most people who become infected with West Nile Virus do not get sick. Those who do usually experience mild flu-like symptoms. Fewer than one per cent of people infected with the virus get seriously ill. Contact your primary care provider if you exhibit flu-like symptoms after being bitten by a mosquito.



CHECK OUT OUR 2026 CANADIAN GROUP TRIPS

**ROCKY MOUNTAINEER
PASSAGE TO THE PEAKS**

JUNE 15 - 24, 2026

**MARITIMES AND
CAPE BRETON**

AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 6, 2026



HOSTED BY

**STONETOWN
TRAVEL**

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Zorra Township News

Harrington Homecoming Centennial *Be Part of the Big Picture*



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

This photo is a bit of the big picture from the first reunion, held in 1925, drawing people from far and wide who had some sort of connection to Harrington. The second reunion will be the Harrington Homecoming Centennial on Saturday, August 9

Harrington's big picture, a five-and-a-half-foot-long photo portraying almost 500 people, hangs on the wall of Harrington Hall. The panoramic photo was taken here in our village on Pitt's Hill on Labour Day, 1925, in celebration of the "Old Boys and Girls Reunion", an event that attracted over a thousand celebrants at a time when Harrington's population was around 400.

The Great War and the Spanish Flu had just ended. Great sacrifices had been made and hardships endured. Our ancestors were likely celebrating that they were still here, proud to be from here, and full of optimism for a better future.

We face different challenges today, including the removal of Pitt's Hill by a gravel company, but we remain proud of our history and will be celebrating the centennial of that exuberant weekend by welcoming all who hold some affection and/or attachment for this historic, picturesque village.

We're going to re-create that big picture with a 2025 version and we invite you to be part of it! Join us on Saturday, August 9, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Picture time will be 2:30 pm, but there will be a wealth of activities until then at various sites around the village from 11 am to 2 pm:

- Visit what is now the "historic" Harrington Grist Mill that was just a part of daily commerce back then
- Tour the Harrington Community Centre in what was then the school (S.S. #4, West Zorra) – the building still retains many of the original architectural features
- Examine a variety of displays in Harrington Hall, previously Broadview United Church, which in 1925 was

transitioning from Harrington Methodist Church (historical memorabilia will be for sale)

- Bring your heritage to Harrington Hall: Bring items and/or documents you have related to the history of Harrington & area. Professional staff from the Beachville District Museum will be available to provide practical tips on preserving family treasures at home. From photographs to textiles, learn simple, effective ways to care for your keepsakes and ensure they last for generations to come
- Study the school-related displays in the 1869 stone schoolhouse
- Participate in the Little Hobby Hill Farm petting zoo provided by Oxford County Library
- Check out the library itself (now a branch of Oxford County Library, but back then, the Harrington Library was in the librarian's home)
- Enjoy good food from The Sunset Shack, the yummy food truck from the Sunset Diner in St. Marys
- Catch "Ox on the Run", Oxford County Library's mobile library project:
- Accept the challenge of the scavenger hunt around the pond and conservation area, organized by the Coyote Nature School
- Walk around and explore the history of Harrington by reading the signs in front of selected properties explaining what activities used to occur therein.

Activities will end at 2:00 pm as a pair of pipers from the Ingersoll Pipe Band call everybody to assemble to be included in the big picture. Photographer Doris Weir, on behalf of the Zorra Her-

itage Committee, will take a panoramic photograph of all present. A copy of the photo will be emailed to everyone who provides an address.

2:30 pm – Everybody is welcome! Anybody who feels some connection to Harrington and area, whether from

being born here, having lived here, partied here, fished in the pond, or even just passed through and thought what a beautiful spot. This will be our challenge to the future, to protect and celebrate the heritage and the community values that make Harrington special.



Climate, community and you

Share your thoughts through the Oxford County Climate Survey

Oxford County is looking for your thoughts about climate change through the Oxford County Climate Survey.

Your feedback will help shape the Oxford County Climate Action Plan to help manage the current and future risks of climate change in Oxford's communities.



Take the survey by August 8, 2025, on Speak Up, Oxford! at:

www.speakup.oxfordcounty.ca/climate

Visit us online at theecho.ca

Oh, the places we'll go! Rwanda Now produces 'Big Three', myriad memories for Canadian traveller



JEFF TRIBE

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

The massive white rhino passed within 20 metres and continued southward, the makings of a credit card commercial in her wake.

Our rental vehicle cost a chunk, elevated suspension and four-wheel-drive invaluable on Akagera National Park's driving trails. A Kayonza Café breakfast of samosas, meatballs, beignet and excellent Rwandan coffee ran \$6 Canadian. And our paperless entrance fee came in at \$100 U.S a head.

But less than a half-hour into our African safari, the \$40-U.S.-per-day services of local guide Firmin Hirwa had already proven priceless.

"Rhino!" he exclaimed, pointing off in the distance.

In rapid Kinyarwanda, Hirwa passed directions to our Canadian host, Rwandan expatriate Jean-Claude Munyemamu. Pausing to let a young black mamba slither past, Munyemamu turned, heading back the way we had come. Hirwa expertly gauged the rhino's path and pace, ask-

ing Munyemamu to stop and then back up 20 metres, a cape buffalo hoof from the previous evening's lion kill banging off our left, rear wheel well.

Transfixed, we sat silently as the rhino covered the final 100 metres, angling directly in front of us and ambling onward, graceful for all her bulk.

"My name means lucky and today we are just that," Hirwa said as our collectively held breaths released in awe and admiration.

We were on safari not in a zoo – but he and Akagera had delivered.

My unlikely path from Beaconsfield, Ont. to Akagera National Park, Rwanda led through a feature story with Munyemamu. A survivor of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, he arrived in Canada as a refugee, settling in Calgary. Munyemamu started a soccer program to improve his public-housing neighbourhood, ultimately morphing into Umoja Community Mosaic (umojamosaic.org). The not-for-profit added a culturally sensitive food bank, after-school programs, leadership for young women and a popular community sewing circle.

Inspired during a 2022 visit to Munyemamu's former village Kabura, Umoja initiated diasporic outreach bringing school uniforms, sports equipment, fresh water and a basketball/volleyball court to the community's Umurava Primary School. A second fresh-water source for the village centre and improving a road rendered impassable during the rainy season are on-

going goals.

"Come to Rwanda," said Munyemamu, who makes it a practice to share annual visits.

Beginning with family members, 20 out of 20 (a random yet illustrative number) people expressed significant reservations about a destination primarily recognized by Canadians as the site of horrific genocide.

Deeply respectful and desiring to learn how Munyemamu chose reconciliation over revenge, reassured by his declaration of safety and with a side hustle figuring out how my wife could check 'African safari' affordably off her bucket list, I only somewhat nervously boarded Ethiopian Airlines.

Full disclosure: my newspaper career was spent covering sports, council, knocking together happy features and building an outdoors column, not international political commentary. I will not be starting now. Anyone seeking the 60,000-foot overview is encouraged to source alternatives.

My view of a very different Rwanda than I might have expected – 'Rwanda Now' if you will – is the ground-level account of a person sharing something of what he experienced.

It began with a tour of the Kigali Genocide Memorial, presenting an intense, no-holds-barred, matter-of-fact and more-balanced account than I might have anticipated. It encompassed Rwandan history, colonialism and other factors leading to genocide. That and the aftermath included victim exhibits, survivors' personal



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

The local milkman enjoys a quiet moment at Kabura village centre.

accounts and importantly, ongoing efforts to reconcile and rebuild following unspeakable horror.

The memorial's website (<https://kgm.rw>) includes an option to sign up for a virtual tour.

My day-one impression of Rwanda was that of a nation on the move with sidewalks full of bustling, uniformed students (school is free to Grade 9), mothers with babies, delivery people, joggers and well-dressed professionals headed to work. Personal, people-moving and transport vehicles own a share of the road based on size, but motorcycle taxis prized for their ability to skirt traffic dart everywhere as Munyemamu compares them to "a pack of wild dogs."

On rural highways, "Sophia" photo radar units (so named after a famous smart robot) text transgressors significant fines, thereby lowering previous levels of vehicular carnage. Bicycles remain key to the transportation system for everything from additional humans (the cheapest taxi) to cans of milk, furniture and produce like crates of chickens or up to a half-dozen bunches of bananas to market. Riders dismount to push huge loads up Rwanda's purported "thousand hills," the latter a serious underestimation.

Crossing Kigali streets re-

quires either "Rwandan instincts" or common sense. There is little doubt however, should the worst occur, the mess would be cleaned up quickly. Rather than providing social assistance, the country offers paid employment including street sanitation, Kigali's graffiti-free byways regularly swept clean as a result.

We stayed inside a classic two-bedroom apartment with ensuite bathrooms, kitchenette, WiFi and gated 24-hour security costing \$300 U.S a week. An omnipresent streetside ATM equivalent seen everywhere from downtown Rwanda to isolated mountain villages sat outside. In essence, independent contractors under brightly coloured umbrellas staff desks holding thousands of Rwandan francs. The most remote corner of the country is well-connected by cell service exceeding that at our rural Canadian countryside. Clients present a code on their phone to proprietors who hand over cash, receiving a transaction percentage for their efforts.

The ATMs and the fact one sees women walking alone on city streets late at night allayed pre-trip fears. Munyemamu recommended protecting one's cell phone from crimes of opportunity in busy markets for example, but overall, personal safety was not a concern.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

A farm labourer puts down a bundle of freshly-cut hay to check his phone in a hilly section of Rwanda.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

We breakfasted a short stroll away, past a medical centre typically filled with mothers and young children, part of universal health care our host says is provided via a variable geared-to-income contribution. A six-egg Spanish omelette at Emmanuel Ntuyenabo's Good Mood Coffee Shop cost the equivalent of a toonie, with a burger and fries costing \$5. Ntuyenabo's is partially farm-to-table, its rural base a progressive multi-hectare operation employing 11. In terms of agriculture, the lush nature of Rwanda's hilly landscape was a surprise, in effect much of the country is a multi-crop garden. There are ongoing efforts to modernize smaller subsistence operations of under an acre.

Food was very affordable, chicken curry, rice and salad at the Kayonza Cafe running \$14 Canadian, another \$10 on top at Hotel de Mille Collines – the Hotel Rwanda. As a general rule of thumb, the more white people you see, the more it will cost. There definitely is a tourist versus local price Munyemamu helped us avoid on most occasions.

We mzungu (white people) were a curiosity, mildly so in Kigali, more so in Kabura where students crowded around, curious to discover what mzungu skin or hair feels like.

Soccer was queen; incredibly talented kids in sandals playing on every bit of available space with homemade balls historically made from banana leaves tied up in twine, evolved into plastic cores. Presenting a factory-made ball to a kid in a Vancouver Canucks jersey drew a crowd approaching 100, seemingly from nowhere, within five minutes.

Travelling the countryside offered striking contrasts: farm labourers hand-milling rice backdropped by subdivisions, translatable to Canadian counterparts, speaking to a growing middle class; women carrying stacks of fruit or vegetables on their head, corralling a baby on one hip while chatting on a cell phone held in their other hand; Kigali mansions, the modern 10,000-seat BK Arena hosting Masai Ujuri's Giants of Africa basketball tournament in both 2023 and 2025; and construction cranes busy as the capital begins to grow up, compared to neat and tidy plaster-faced and painted, baked

mud-and-straw brick houses more prevalent in rural areas.

Progress includes rebuilding Akagera in conjunction with African Parks from devastation caused during the genocide and, subsequently, the 40,000 cattle accompanying returning refugees. Sharing profits and hiring locally encouraged regional support which, with regular patrols, has drastically reduced poaching. Animal populations have also been bolstered by a combination of transplantation and reintroduction. Lions came back in 2015, rising in number to an estimated 60 today, and rhino in 2017, re-qualifying Akagera as a "Big Five" (lion, leopard, elephant, rhino and cape buffalo) park.

We would finish with a "Big Three," the penultimately shy leopard and elephants – approached with caution at the best of time – remaining elusive. Beyond rhino, buffalo and lions, we saw multiple species including amphibious hippos, giraffe, herds of impala, topi, zebra, waterbuck and feisty warthogs among them, along with "life list" African birds.

It's beyond arrogance to feel one can figure out a country in a couple of weeks, particularly viewing through a North America bias rather than African lens, despite our privilege in accompanying Munyemamu to places foreigners don't go. But my consistent impression that, regardless where you are, whether you're mzungu or otherwise, "People are pretty much people," was only reinforced. In other words, the great majority of us are just trying to pay our bills, have a little fun, feel safe and secure, and believe in some form of a better future for our children. And that Rwanda seems to be striving to build opportunities that, through an accident of privileged geographical birth in Canada, we tend to take for granted.

Unquestionably, the nation faces ongoing challenges, but an initial sense of a narrative moving forward, a country and its people seeing the potential benefits and being willing to put in the work required, was not changed. Neither was the thought it's a pretty good place for a tourist to experience Africa.

And even if the elephants and leopards didn't cooperate, that only provided one more reason to return.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

A giraffe takes a quick drink at Akagera National Park as two compatriots scan for trouble.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Students from Umurava Primary School perform a traditional dance during a ceremony celebrating the school's new basketball/volleyball court, constructed in conjunction with Umoja Community Mosaic and Stampede Rotary Club, Calgary.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

A female white rhino passes close by our vehicle in Akagera National Park, Rwanda.



Jean-Claude Munyemamu sources money from a street-side 'ATM.'

(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

COMING EVENTS

CANADIAN HARVARD AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION OPEN HOUSE & FLY DAYS

August 16 (Rain Date: August 17)

Sept 13 – Wings & Wheels

**All event dates take place from 9am – 4pm
Tillsonburg Regional Airport**

Join us for our Open House & Fly Days during our special 40th anniversary season. These monthly family-friendly outdoor events are always FREE and offer the opportunity to see our collection of Harvard aircraft up close, tour our hangars, explore restoration projects, purchase souvenirs, and best of all, purchase a flight! Pre-booking your flight experience is recommended by contacting crewflights@harvards.com.

ANNUAL SOUTH GATE STREETFEST CAR CRUISE

Downtown Woodstock

Sunday, July 20, 9 am - 2 pm

Free Admission for Spectators

SACRED HEART PARISH EUCHRE

We invite everyone to join us for a Euchre afternoon.

It will be held in Henderson Hall 133 John Street Ingersoll.

Tuesday August 5 start at 1:00 pm.

Refreshments provided.

For more info call or text Martha 519-320-0785

SACRED HEART PARISH EUCHRE

We invite everyone to join us for a Euchre afternoon.

It will be held in Henderson Hall 133 John Street Ingersoll.

Tuesday August 19 start at 1:00 pm.

Refreshments provided.

For more info call or text Martha 519-320-0785

GARAGE SALE

**Church of the Epiphany Woodstock Ont
July 19 from 9 am-3 pm**

Homemade tarts, plus something for everyone please bring your own bag.

PIZZA FEST

Thursday July 24, 2025

4 pm - 8:30 pm

Downtown Ingersoll

Live Music - Rated Blue, Street Performers, Vendors, Car Show, Stores Open Late, Children's Activities, and of course Pizza! Seating available. Free Admission - Food Tickets: \$1 ea. Pizza Slice: 3 Tickets Pop/Drink: 1 Ticket. Proceeds to local charities. Visit us on FB: Ingersoll BIA

INGERSOLL PIPE BAND

115TH ANNIVERSARY TATTOO

Saturday August 16 2025 1 to 4 pm

Parade - Downtown Ingersoll 1 pm

Tattoo - Yvonne Holmes Mott Memorial Park Ingersoll - 2 to 4pm

Free Admission

The Ingersoll pipe Band will be hosting five additional area pipe bands that will converge

upon the Town of Ingersoll.

The IPB is delighted to offer you this afternoon of free entertainment to help us celebrate this anniversary milestone.

This is your opportunity to see and hear the traditional sounds of bagpipes and drums!

Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/IngersollPipeBand>

Website - ingersollpipeband.com

MONTHLY VON BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

10 AM To Noon

At the Ingersoll Pharmasave

19 King St. E., Ingersoll

Last Tuesday of every Month

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; 9:00 a.m. - 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.

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.** To register or inquire about an evening group, contact Faye Brekelmans at 519-866-3016 or email faye@compassionategriefsupport.ca.

PEER SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

Third Wednesday of each month; 6:30 p.m. - 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

LIVING WITH LOSS: A SIX-WEEK GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Caring Hearts Support Network: St. David's United Church, 190 Springbank Ave., Woodstock ON

A safe and supportive space to explore your grief, with the guidance of trained facilitators. Please contact for upcoming dates. No cost to attend. To register or for more information call or text 519-536-3370.

www.caringheartssupportnetwork.com.

One-on-one grief support is also available.

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.

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!

FOOD TRUCKS AT GRACE UNITED CHURCH, TAVISTOCK

July 21, 2025 from 4:30-7:30

S.W.A.T, El Milagro, Serial Grillers, Beavertails

Donations to Maples Retirement Home Family Council

July 28, 2025 from 4:30-7:30

Born2Eat, Wild Boar, Los Rolling Tacos

Donations to Grace United Church

August 4, 2025 from 4:30-7:30

Wing Monster, Wild Boar, Ish n Chips

Donations to Camp Bimini

August 11, 2025 from 4:30-7:30

Pablas Street of India, Serial Griller, S.W.A.T

Donations to Tavistock Medical Clinic

August 18, 2025 from 4:30-7:30

Crystal's Fries, Ish n Chips, Fo'Cheezy

Donations to Tavistock Agricultural Society

August 25, 2025 from 4:30-7:30

Berlin 95, Born2Eat, Los Rolling Tacos, Beavertails

Donations to Grace United Church

BEACHVILLE LEGION EVENTS: 434852 ZorraLine, Beachville

JULY 19: KARAOKE - 7-11 PM

EUCHRE: THURSDAYS - 7 PM

DARTS: FRIDAYS - 8 PM

FREE POOL

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

BRANCH 55 EVENTS:

642 Dundas St, Woodstock

NO GENERAL MEETING THIS MONTH.

CANTEEN CLOSED ON FRIDAYS

Unless we have a function.

Office we will be open in the mornings.

SHUFFLEBOARD

3pm every Thursday

SUMMER DART LEAGUES

Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the odd Wednesday.

EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

EVERY SATURDAY

July 19th - 2 For the Road 7-11pm

July 26th - Randy Thomas 7-11pm

COMING EVENTS

SUMMER DINNER

July 27th 5-6pm

Hamburger or Sausage on Bun with Potato Salad/Corn on Cob Including Dessert, per Person Pre-Order no later than July 22nd. Call the Legion for more details 519-537-3112 or 519-539-3401.

HURON PARK BAPTIST CHURCH EVENTS:

199 Berwick St, Woodstock

PANCAKES AT NIGHT

7 – 9 p.m., August 4, 11, 18

A youth Alpha program - discussions about faith, Jesus and Christianity. Please free to come to some or all of them.

COWAPALOOZA

August 9 – 2:00 p.m.

Come visit our tent at Cowapalooza in Southside Park.

BASKETBALL POWER CAMP

August 18-22 9 am-12:50 pm

Ages: 5-14

Call the church 519-421-4722 for Registration details.

DOWNTOWN WOODSTOCK BIA IMPORTANT DATES:

MUSIC IN THE SQUARE

Every Thursday Until August 28

Come to Museum Square for a little lunchtime concert. Music in the Square happens every Thursday from 12 pm to 2 pm during the Summer months.

Grab some lunch from one of the neighbouring businesses or bring your own and enjoy live bands and musicians.

DOWNTOWN WOODSTOCK SHOPPING NIGHT

August 28, September 25, October 23, November 27, December 18 - 5pm-8pm

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.

DOWNTOWN WOODSTOCK SUMMER STREETFEST

July 18/19

Summer Streetfest is a two-day celebration happening every July. Formerly known as Sidewalk Sales, Summer Streetfest invites you to discover Downtown Woodstock. With Dundas Street closed off for cars, stroll the street and discover our charming downtown businesses. Enjoy live music, kids' entertainment, exciting sales, yummy eats or take a seat on one of the many patios for a cold drink.

CHRISTMAS IN THE SQUARE

December 12/13 & December 19/20

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Friday, September 19: 9 am – 6 pm

South Gate Centre Bus Trip

Members pricing and non-members pricing.

DAY IN PORT DOVER

Wednesday, September 10: 10 am – 5:30 pm

South Gate Centre Bus Trip

Lunch at Erie Beach Hotel, Lighthouse Theatre's "Here on the Flight Path," travel by luxury motorcoach. Members pricing and non-members pricing.

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

CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARY

JOAN McHUGH

SEPTEMBER 11, 1937 — JULY 1, 2025



With heavy hearts, we regret to announce the passing of Joan Elizabeth McHugh (nee Hanna). Still, we can find solace and rejoice in the fact that she passed peacefully. She had a long and fruitful life and was loved and respected by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Survived by her husband of 68 years, Gerald; her brothers Peter (Judy) and John (Remy); children Peggy, Peter (Dani),

and Nancy (Pete) Foster; granddaughter Joscelyn (Steve) Houston; step-grandsons Jeff and Adam Foster, and many adoring great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Joan was predeceased by her parents, David and Ruth (nee Penson), and sister Cathy (Henry) Kaune.

Joan was a valued, long-time employee with TD Bank in Ingersoll, Ontario. For many years, Joan was a member on the Board of Directors at Ingersoll Support Services and for a time, held the position of President. She was our family historian and a published author.

Joan will be profoundly missed and may she find continued peace.

OBITUARY

DOLSON BRENDA LOUISE DARLENE (NEE COLPITTS)



Born on June 10, 1968, surrendered her fight with cancer in her 57th year on Saturday, July 12, 2025 in the loving presence of her family.

She will be missed by her husband Darcy of 36 years; son Christopher; granddaughter Kate; grandson Tyler; mom Carol; brothers Clifford (Juana), Alan (Peg); mother-in-law Opal; sisters-in-law Jude,

Nancy (Errol), along with her Aunt Lil, Aunt Linda her husband Rosaire, Uncle Ray his wife Janeen, as well as several cousins, along with her best friend Candy, Terri and many friends; you can't forget her favourite feline-friend Raven.

Brenda had been reunited in heaven with her dad Ross, Uncle Jim, Father-in-law Doug Dolson, and Niece Serenna.

Brenda's family would like to thank the doctors and nurses at Woodstock Hospital who provided compassionate care over the past few weeks and a Special thanks to her home care nurse.

Visitation will be held at Smith-LeRoy Funeral Home, 69 Wellington St. N, Woodstock on Friday, July 18th from 6 to 9 pm. Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, July 19, at Faith Community Church (Church of The Nazarene), 354 Mill St, Woodstock at 11:00 a.m. Reception to follow.

Any and all expressions of condolence in the form of a donation can be made to the Canadian Cancer Society and are appreciated by the family. Personal condolences may be shared at www.smithleroy.com.

TREES

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