

# Tillsonburg POST

FREE

MARCH 12, 2026

VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 23

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## Tillsonburg rated one of best Canadian places to retire

JEFF HELSDON  
 Editor

Looking for a place to retire? Tillsonburg is one of the top places in the country to fit that bill.

Tillsonburg was rated sixth by Zolo in its ranking of top places to retire. St. John, Moncton, and Fredericton were the top three, respectively. Kingston was the first Ontario community to break in the list at fourth, while Simcoe was fifth before Tillsonburg.

Among the high points for Tillsonburg were the cost of living 10 per cent below the national average, the benchmark home

price at \$578,300, and 28.8 per cent of the population aged 65 or older, according to the 2021 census.

Besides mentioning 55-plus communities Hickory Hills and Baldwin Place, Tillsonburg's summary said, "Tillsonburg is an excellent option for retirees looking for a quiet, affordable spot just 45 minutes outside London, Ontario. With close to one-third of the population over the age of 65, you'll likely have plenty of opportunities to meet new people with similar interests. For instance, the Tillsonburg Senior Centre offers fitness classes, games, art and craft groups, bingo, and more for members aged 50 or older."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

### SLIDING INTO WARMER WEATHER

Warmer weather on the weekend brought people out in droves to enjoy the sunshine and warmer temperatures after a cold, snowy winter. Two-year-old Theodore was out with his mom in the park enjoying the sunshine on the slide.

## Experts agree winter was colder, snowier

JEFF HELSDON  
 Editor

Those who believe the weather this winter was more like winter used to be would be correct.

"It has been colder and snowier than normal, but many would say it's just a classic Canadian winter. It's the way winter used to be," said Doug Gillham, senior meteorologist at Weather Network.

He admitted winters like the present one

are less common, but pointed out 2022 was comparable, and last winter was cold, but not for as long. The winters of 2023 and 2024, however, were milder.

"Winters like this have become less common," Gilham agreed.

January thaws are common, but this year saw the thaw in the second week of January rather than in the middle of a cold spell, followed by consistent cold from Jan. 18 until mid-February, with the exception of temperatures crossing the freezing line on Feb. 10.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

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# Tillsonburg rated one of best Canadian places to retire

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The scoring for the top places was based on age characteristics, health care access, cost of living, home prices, crime rate, walkability, sunshine, and number of freezing days.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy was pleased with the ranking.

"Tillsonburg has a long history of being a senior-friendly community, and being listed alongside major cities is a true testament to our community 'punching above its weight.' As a small urban centre, we offer all the amenities of a larger city, yet maintain that close-knit, welcoming atmosphere," she said.

Interestingly, the data for Simcoe and Tillsonburg showed some questionable comparisons. While Tillsonburg had 152.45 days with temperatures below freezing, Simcoe had only 144, even though the two towns have the same weather. Simcoe also scored 90 for walkability while Tillsonburg came in at 30,

despite most of Tillsonburg's amenities being downtown and a trail connecting the downtown from both retirement subdivisions, while Simcoe has most of its large retail on the highway.

"For seniors, we have so much to offer, including being a safe and walkable community, the Senior Centre, as well as retirement communities like Baldwin Place and Hickory Hills, each with their own welcoming spaces," Gilvesy said.

She also mentioned the pending completion of PeopleCare's new long-term care facility, which will enhance care options, and the hospital's proximity.

"In addition, Tillsonburg is perfect for an active lifestyle, with a golf course, scenic trails, parks, a lake, and a bustling downtown," the mayor added. "This recognition reflects the strength and spirit of our community, and our ongoing commitment to creating a welcoming, supportive environment for all who call Tillsonburg home."



## TIM HORTONS REOPENING

(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)

The Tillsonburg Town Centre Tim Hortons Grand Reopening took place on March 6 at 10 a.m. Customers gathered to watch owners Christina and Mike Gazley cut the ribbon, surrounded by their dedicated staff. The significant renovation includes additional seating for guests, vivid artwork, a new espresso machine, fountain pop and self-order kiosks. Based on customer feedback, they coordinated with Tim Hortons in the design, which features a dedicated mobile pick up hub to enable customers to order from their phones and pick up easily without having to stand in line.

# Experts agree winter was colder, snowier

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Two cold winters after a couple of mild ones spark debate over whether climate change is occurring. Gilham explained warming goal temperatures have moved the "goal posts" where warm winters will be warmer and cold winters not as cold as it once might have been.

"It certainly doesn't mean you can't have a classic Canadian winter. It just means they won't happen as often and be as severe," he explained.

Environment Canada meteorologist Steven Flisfeder said December was two to three degrees below seasonal medians, as was January. February was colder than normal, but warmer weather at the end of the month pushed it closer to normal.

Saying he didn't have great data, Flisfeder said it did show more snow this winter, with areas closer to Lake Erie getting more snowfall.

Another way to look at the data is the number of Cold Weather Alerts issued by Southwestern Public Health. There were six issued from January to March 2025, but 10 were issued in January and February 2026. The threshold for cold weather alerts is -15°C without windchill, or -20°C with wind chill.

Examining this year's weather from a technical perspective, a weak La Nina current in the Pacific Ocean generated a wavier jet stream pattern over North America. Gilham explained this can make southern Ontario winters either warmer or

colder. This year, it disrupted the polar vortex, allowing the coldest air in the hemisphere to move over eastern Canada and farther south. Low temperature records were broken all the way down to Cuba.

The situation in western Canada was different. "At times, the prairies were severely cold, but also had record-breaking warmth," Gilham said. "They had a temperature roller coaster."

The south coast of British Columbia didn't get much of a winter at all.

After the two mild winters in 2023 and 2024, some Southwestern Ontario residents may have had a false complacency that winter isn't as bad as it used to be, believing they don't need snow tires anymore, and making other wrong assumptions. Or, likewise, with the last two winters being cold, they may assume cold winters are back to stay.

With two cold winters under our belts, Gilham said not to make assumptions about next year. He again emphasized not to make conclusions about climate change either.

"You can't take one season in your particular area and say it proves or disproves climate change," he explained. "Globally, it is warmer overall. You have to look at the big picture long term when you're talking about the state of the global climate."

## WEEKEND QUIZ

by Jake Grant

1. What is the blue birthstone for March?
2. What day is international Women's Day celebrated each year?
3. The month of March is named after Mars, the roman god of what?
4. In what year did the first official Paralympic Games take place?
5. How many degrees make up a triangle?
6. The "Ides of March" refers to what famous assassination?
7. What was the name of the first stealth bomber introduced for warfare?
8. Which film franchise features Marty McFly?
9. What is the birth flower for March?
10. What's the oldest pub in Ireland?

This week's answers are found on pg. 22

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# Time to end daylight savings time in Ontario

Ontario was a leader in the concept of ending daylight savings time, but has been somewhat of a laggard in putting it into play.

MPP Jeremy Roberts brought forward a Private Member's Bill, which was passed, to end Daylight Savings Time back in 2020. The bill was contingent on both New York State and Quebec also making the switch.

The connection with Quebec is due to a large percentage of the federal workforce being divided between Hull, PQ and Ottawa. Having the two groups on different times would result in confusion.

The situation with New York was a little different, but was mainly based on having the New York and Toronto stock exchanges operating at the same time. New York has also passed a

law to change, but it is contingent on its border states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Vermont also changing.

While the hands on the clock continue to go around, or at least ahead and back an hour, it seems the majority of residents anywhere a survey was done are in favour of ending the time switch and moving to permanent Daylight Savings Time. British Columbia residents just changed the clocks for the last time on the weekend as the time change ended.

While Ontario residents wait for the legislation passed six years ago to come into play, the time change serves as an important reminder to test and check the batteries on smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, as well as completing cleaning in accordance with the instruc-



Foggy morning.

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

tions.

Ensuring these crucial safety devices are functioning properly can make a difference be-

tween life and death. While we are waiting for politicians to get their ducks in a row, we need to take a moment for this crucial safety check.

# Laughter, storytelling, and service became a path to healing from the inside out for Tillsonburg woman



**EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL**

ROBIN KRAFFT

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Tillsonburg is now her home, but Lesley Anderson Blake grew up in Burlington, surrounded by nature, on six acres near Lake Ontario.

"It was all farmland then, and both of my parents worked full time, but we were self-sustaining," Blake said. "We had a huge garden and orchards. We would go smelt fishing, and we kept ducks and chickens. My father (a WWII veteran) said we were looking after ourselves because there could be another war or famine."

Lesley attended the University of Waterloo, and worked as a social worker, mall manager, and

marketing manager, but later in life she became the sole caregiver for her parents. Her father developed Alzheimer's, and her mother was ill, and after a decade of managing their care, the stress was overwhelming and she retired.

When her husband Kenny retired, and her parents had passed, they needed some peace, quiet and a chance to recover. They moved to remote Elliot Lake with the intention of spending half of the year there, and the other six months somewhere warm.

"We found a seniors community in Florida called Safety Harbour and the house we looked at was on Sugar Bear Drive; it sounded perfect," Blake said laughing. "But after we had been there for a week, my husband was concerned about our strange neighbours. They played drums and marched and waved flags and were dressed strangely, one like Charlie Chaplin, one looked like a bear, one was dressed as Big Bird and another was a purple person."

Lesley went to introduce herself and to find out what it was all about, and discovered that her new neighbours were therapy clowns. They explained that they visited hospice, Alzheimer's groups, hospitals, and retirement homes; all places Lesley

had spent time in with her parents. With great enthusiasm, they invited Lesley to take the last spot in the upcoming Clown College program.

"They were nurses, doctors, housewives, and social workers," Blake said. "They were lovely, deep, spiritual, kind and humorous people. It involved music, storytelling, writing, and humour. I had already been doing laughter yoga, and I loved everything that they were saying."

She accepted their invitation. After her training, however, Lesley was experiencing some trepidation, wondering why she was putting herself back into places that had been so stressful. She wrote jokes and stories and practiced and practiced before her first visit to an Alzheimer's group, not realizing that everyone there was in an advanced stage of illness, and it fell flat. She was deeply discouraged.

"I packed everything up and sat down on the bench where I used to sit with Dad," Blake said. "I sat there and I talked to him. Then a man sat next to me who looked just like my dad, and he told me his story. He said, 'Nobody here knows my story, thank you for listening.' I thanked him for bringing Dad back to life and showing me I could be a clown! Being a listening ear was enough."

At every turn, Lesley had similar experiences: questioning herself and facing her fears followed by wonderful moments of true connection with other human beings.


"I kept wondering why I would ever want to go back to this pain, but it was transformed into joy," Blake said.

At hospice, Lesley met a beautiful young woman who had only one week to live. She wanted to sing and dance, but couldn't, so she did the singing while Lesley did the dancing.

"She was so resilient, humorous and happy," Blake said. "It taught me so much about the human spirit. I fell in love with this person who taught me how to live."

Lesley and Kenny moved to Tillsonburg during the pandemic, and she left her newfound friends and therapeutic clowning behind. Finally, there was time for retreat and reflection. Lesley made a deliberate decision to slow down, but she treasures that special time in her life.

"It turned out beautifully," Blake said. "I miss my clowning friends. It was remarkable to be surrounded by them, the most wonderful women I know, living lives of service. It's a life of presence, bringing happiness wherever you go."
















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# Meeting a Canadian astronaut on his way to the moon



**THE  
STAGE  
IS THE  
WORLD**

LAUREL A. BEECHEY

*Tillsonburg Post Columnist*

Do you remember back in 1961 when President J.F. Kennedy, declared that he wanted to land on the moon before the end of the decade?

On July 21, 1969, my family was at the cottage up north gathered around someone's small black and white television. It was an electrifying moment at 4:17 p.m. EDT, the Apollo 11 mission, lunar module, Eagle, touched down on the surface of the moon. At 10:56 p.m. EDT, Neil Armstrong. Neil left his footprints on the lunar surface and declared, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

When the broadcast finished virtually everyone on Bear Lake was outside, either in boats or laying on docks or rocks staring at full moon, imaging that maybe one day they too could go to the moon. We stayed for hours amazed and wishing we could go to the moon! I was 17years old.

Fifty-seven years ago, I had been a member of the Planetary Society for a few years. But, on Sept 29th, 2014, they held their largest space conference in Toronto and I was there. The fact the Bill Nye 'The Science Guy' was there the opening day drew many people, but I didn't know who he was!

Over 3,000 members of the space exploration and technology sectors, and as far as I know, one housewife attended – me. I sat a large round table with mostly men, probably a couple of women as well. Of course, they

went around the table introducing themselves, I didn't understand what most of them did, but it sounded important. Then it was my turn. I was too excited to be embarrassed. I just blurted out that I was a housewife and volunteer and love space, and since I could never go into space, I came to their conference.

I had great time, learned a lot, met the Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen, a handsome man in his uniform, who had formerly been a RCAF captain of CF-18 fighter pilot jets, physicist and former aquanaut. Jeremy was born in London, raised in Ailsa Craig; went to high school in Ingersoll, military college in Quebec; and to Royal Military College in Kingston. In Ontario, Jeremy graduated with bachelor's degree honours in space science in 1999. Ten years later, found him selected in the Canadian Space agency. [CSA]

The USA race against Russia to get to the moon first, ended with Apollo 17's mission in December 1972 with the last landing on the moon. Unfortunately, deep space flights cost too much, so NASA worked on projects like the space shuttle and the International Space Station, satellites, telescopes and new technologies. Now 53 years later, it seems to be time to get back in the space race.

You might be surprised how many countries have launched a spacecraft. Twenty-six countries in 2026 are capable to launch. Nine nations have been to the moon; it's orbits or its vicinity to be a successful mission, but only three have landed. Only the US have put a human on the moon.

There are four Artemis Missions, which are the future of the space program. Artemis 1, an uncrewed test flight of the Orion spacecraft, was launched Nov. 16, 2022, on the Space Launch System [SLS] rocket. The next up, Artemis II will be the first crewed test flight of the Orion spacecraft. Due to a delay in March, it hasn't flown yet, but hopefully this April! This trip has crew of four, including Canada's own Jeremy Hansen. They will launch from Florida on the Orion spacecraft, to test life-support, navigation and other system in deep space, for future crewed missions. This 10-days, two-million-kilometer mission is a test flight around the moon. The Artemis III mission, in 2027, is to test systems and capabilities in a low-earth orbit. Artemis IV in 2028 is

the big one with the first human landing the ship on the moon in decades.

The crew, including Hansen, continues training and preparations, with the mission aiming to demonstrate key technologies and pave the way for future lunar surface exploration. Canada will make history when Hansen becomes the first Canadian – and first non-American – to ever participate in a lunar mission as part of Artemis II, the first crewed mission to the moon since the Apollo missions over 50 years ago.



(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)

## WEARING PYJAMAS FOR A CAUSE

Staff and residents at Maple Manor Nursing Home wore pajamas on Feb. 13 as a fundraiser for ChildCan's Rock Your PJs to raise money for children with cancer. Staff donated \$550 to the cause, which was matched by management for a total donation of \$1,100. Program assistant Crystal Vandebroek, left, is pictured with resident Cathy Trimble.

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# Looking forward to a fun-filled March Break

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Contributor

There will be plenty of opportunities for kids to be active, get creative, and be amazed and entertained over the March Break here in Tillsonburg.

Spaces have been filling up fast at the popular March Break camps in town: Indigo Lounge March Break Camp, Alexander's Hockey Academy, Brooks Academy of Dance, and Craft/Art Camps.

At the Station Arts Centre, kids registered for Craft Camp and Art Camp are excited to get creative and stretch their imaginations. Executive Director and Curator Tabitha Verbuyst said that an interactive drumming experience and a new storytime session are notable highlights.

"Our camp is more than just childcare," Verbuyst said. "It's about giving children an opportunity to explore creativity through various artistic experiences, making social connections through group art projects and games, and building confidence through self-expression."

For children who aren't attending a five-day camp, there are numerous drop-in programs throughout the week at various venues.

"Dig into" some fun at the Tillsonburg Library from Monday through Saturday. Age ranges for each event vary, and while some activities require registration, others are on a drop-in basis, while supplies last. Each day features programming based on the theme, such as dinosaurs, fossils, construction, burrowing animals, seeds and plants.

OCL Literacy Program Specialist Katelyn Bennett explained that each OCL branch has interpreted the theme in their own way.

"We're really excited about the Dino Show with Eric. It will be very educational and hands-on," Bennett said. "Slider the skunk will be here, and kids are always excited to pet Slider and they'll learn how wildlife typically burrows. We're also having our first partnership for a children's program with the Tillsonburg Horticultural Society."

On Saturday, kids will have the opportunity to read to a canine companion in partnership with St John's Ambulance Therapy Dogs (registration required).

"I try to build relationship with families and the community," Bennett said. "One of the biggest things I get feedback on is for more drop-in programs, so that's what we've tried to do. I also encourage people to check out what's happening at all of the libraries. We have 14 different branches; we're a county as a whole."

At Annandale NHS, children are invited to drop in for a variety of creative "Wool Wonder" activities to explore how wool has influenced textile traditions in Canada.



(FILE PHOTO)

Free skates and swims continue at the Tillsonburg Community Centre through March Break. Last year in March Break, Barret Barclay was learning to skate Friday at the Kinsmen Memorial Arena, assisted by his dad Aaron Barclay.

Morning sessions are for ages three to seven, with children accompanied by an adult. Afternoon activities are for eight to twelve-year-olds. Demonstrations for beginners in fibre arts such as weaving, felting, macrame, and sewing will foster creativity as kids discover texture, pattern and design.

At the Tillsonburg Community Centre, the March Break Camp is full, but children can enjoy free public skating at 9 a.m. on March 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and at 1:15 p.m. on March 15 and 22. Families are required to bring their own skates, and helmets are recommended, but skate aids are available. Free two-hour swims take place at 2 p.m. on March 16 and 20 and at 1 p.m. on March 21. Additional community swims are also available but will require admission fees.

Mark your calendar for March 18 for March Break Bouncy Castle Fun Day. It promises to be a day of high energy fun including giant bouncy castles, face painting, petting zoo and carnival fun foods. Tickets are required for children over the age of two.

"March Break wouldn't be what it is without the incredible support of our local sponsors and partners," said Julie Dawley, Recreation Programs & Services Manager. "Their generosity allows us to offer free opportunities that bring families together and help make the community centre a hub of fun, connection, and community spirit throughout the break."

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# Fundraiser to assist Station Arts Centre, food bank

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The Stationhouse Quilters and Fibre Artists latest venture is designed to give something back to the community.

Based at the Station Arts Centre, the group is creating designer tote bags for what it calls its Wall of Warmth initiative. The bags will be for sale on March 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Station Arts Centre for \$15 each.

The proceeds will be divided, with \$10 going to the Station Arts Centre and \$5 to the Helping Hand Food Bank.

Gale Connor, the quilters' convenor, said she had the idea, and the group was on board.

"It's really quick and easy to make bags," she said. "I took it to the group, and we ran with it from there."

The Stationhouse Quilters like to help the community, and will be donating the material for the bags. This wasn't the first time they were involved in a charitable effort for the community, as they previously made bags and pillow cases for the shelter at Avondale United Church.

Tabitha Verbuyst, executive director and curator of the Station Arts Centre, likes the

collaborative nature of this fundraiser. She said it promotes sustainability, local shopping, community support, functional art and local food security.

"We love the community events because we are part of a community giving back to the community," said Samantha Hamilton, coordinator of the Tillsonburg Helping Hand Food Bank, explaining face-to-face contact is good, which doesn't always occur with quick food drop-offs at the back door of the food bank, and this opportunity allows talking about volunteer opportunities with the food bank.

Verbuyst pointed out those who may purchase a bag may be different from those who typically donate to the food bank.

"It brings out a different group of people," she said. "They're coming out and giving back."

"People are afraid to volunteer unless they know what they're getting into," Connor said, adding this makes it easier for people to ask questions.

Visitors to the station Arts Centre on the 14th will also be able to go in and talk to the quilters as they will have a work session creating more bags. Hamilton will also be on hand that day to accept food donations and talk to people.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The Stationhouse Quilters and Fibre Artists latest fundraiser is to sell tote bags for \$15, of which \$10 goes to the Tillsonburg and District Craft Guild and \$5 to the Helping Hand Food Bank. Left to right are: Tabitha Verbuyst, Station Arts Centre executive director and curator; Gale Connor, Stationhouse Quilters convenor; and Samantha Hamilton, coordinator Helping Hand Food Bank.

## Spring water main flushing to start next week

The Town of Tillsonburg is scheduled to perform annual spring water system maintenance in the following areas.

The schedule for flushing is:

**March 16 – 23** - All areas west of Broadway, between North St. West and Concession St. West

**March 23 – 27** - All areas west of Participipark and south of Concession St. West

**March 30 - April 2** - All areas north of North St.

**April 7 – 10** - All areas east of Broadway, between North St. East and Concession St. East

**April 13 – 17** - All areas east of Participi-

park, between John Pound Rd. and Simcoe St.

**April 20 – 24** - All areas east of John Pound Rd., between Rokeby St. and Harvest Ave.

Flushing will take place between 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily. Residents in the maintenance area may experience low pressure and discoloured water while flushing is in progress. Residents should avoid doing laundry while flushing is happening as discoloured water may transfer to clothes and bedding.

In the event your water is discoloured, open a cold water tap in your home for five to 10 minutes until the line is clear. If discolouring persists after 24 hours, contact Customer Service at 519-688-3009.

Water main flushing is an annual maintenance requirement.

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# Tattoo artists displays his work at Station Arts Centre

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tattoo artist by day, artist by night, Londoner Dave Schultz is displaying his work as the Station Arts Centre's latest exhibit.

Working in liquid acrylic and India ink, Schultz termed his work as fantasy art.

"I would put it into pop culture based," he said. "I take from comic books, movies, and my own ideas.

Pointing to a work with a predator's mouth, he said the inspiration was from the movie Predator.

Schultz recalled in school, he didn't like many subjects, but loved art.

"I was always told you have to do this work or you won't have a job or career," he related of his school experiences in the mainstream subjects. "It turns out all my doodling turned into something. My art teacher was my biggest supporter when I was young."

In fact, his art teacher helped Schultz get a part-time job at a tattoo parlour when he was 16. He worked for three years as an apprentice tattoo artist and has been a professional for the past 21 years. Schultz is now co-owner of Hangar 18 studio in London.

He finds his art is a creative outlet.

"As a tattoo artist, I do a lot of commission work and people dictate what they want," he said. "This is where I get creative freedom."

In a way, Schultz's art is similar to tattoos.

"A lot of what I do artistically is very transferable to tattoos," he said. "That's why I work with bold outlines and poppy colours."

This isn't Schultz's first exhibit – actually, he's a veteran, and it's his seventh show. The Station Arts exhibit has 10 pieces that have not been shown before. He was unwavering that his painting is a hobby, though, and tattoos are his living.

"I don't paint with the goal of selling," he said. "The reality is it's piling up, and I have to put prices on it sooner or later."



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

**Artist Dave Schultz kneels next to part of his paintings that will be on display at the Station Arts Centre until April 6. The artist hosted an official opening for the exhibit on Saturday.**

Schultz did admit people have seen his paintings, though, and requested a tattoo of one.

Station Arts Centre executive director and curator Tabitha Verbuyst commented on the change from a display last month by the Stationhouse Quilters and Fibre

Artists to Schultz's bold, colourful work.

"It's a great way to show the diversity of art," she said. "It's interesting to see the difference between how people express themselves."

The show runs from March 6 to April 6.

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## David Simmonds, CPA

# WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE

We have hired Shelley Klassen as Senior Accountant at David Simmonds CPA Professional Corporation in Tillsonburg. Shelley has over 20 years of experience in the accounting industry. Her areas of focus include agriculture, businesses, corporations, income tax, estates, bookkeeping and payroll.

Shelley comes to us after 8 years with Larry Hemeryck CPA of Simcoe and later Dely & Associates also of Simcoe. Our practice is welcoming new clients this tax season. Please reach out to Shelley for all your income tax and accounting needs.

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## POLICE BRIEFS

## Impaired driver charged on Simcoe Street

On March 5, at approximately 1 a.m., while on proactive patrol, Oxford OPP observed a vehicle being driven dangerously, on Simcoe Street in the Town of Tillsonburg.

As a result of the investigation, Kristy-Lee Gilbert, a 27-year-old resident of Sim-

coe, was charged with Dangerous Operation of a Motor Vehicle and Operation While Impaired

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

## R.I.D.E. check results in charges for SWOX man

A Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (R.I.D.E.) check point in the Town of Tillsonburg resulted in charges.

On March 6, at approximately 1:30 a.m., members of the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were conducting a R.I.D.E. check point on Broadway in Tillsonburg when a driver, who entered the check point, displayed signs of impairment.

As a result of the investigation, Adam

Austin a 59-year-old resident of South-West Oxford, was charged with:

- Dangerous Operation of a Motor Vehicle
- Operation While Impaired
- Operation While Impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) 80 plus

The accused has been released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice, in Woodstock, on May 5.

## Dangerous driver charged with impaired

A dangerous driver was stopped and charged with several offences in the Town of Tillsonburg.

On March 6, at approximately 9:30 p.m., members of the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were on patrol, on Vienna Road, when they observed a vehicle being driven dangerously.

As a result of the investigation, Robert Karanja a 59-year-old resident of Tillson-

burg, was charged with:

- Dangerous Operation of a Motor Vehicle
- Operation While Impaired
- Operation While Impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) 80 plus

The accused has been released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice, in Woodstock, on April 28.

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## Rain or Shine Play Centre is the place to be

March Break is fast approaching and Rain or Shine Play Centre in Tillsonburg is the place to be for young families.

Tillsonburg's first indoor play centre, located at 55 Broadway Unit B, offers a modern 2,500 square-foot indoor play area, which includes two party rooms.

"I think it's going to be a busy March Break with drop-ins," smiled Rain or Shine Play Centre owner Lori McDonell, looking forward to the week of March 16-20th when young children are looking to try something fun.

"We have grown so much since August (2025). It took a while, but now, I would say we have a pretty good base most of the time," said McDonell. "You can never tell, because usually it's a group of mothers that come in."

The children enjoy the slides, zip lines, climbing and crawling areas, cubby-holes, soccer area, toddler area, toy cars, and merry-go round. There's room to explore in bright, fun colours, and a lot of spinning toys.

"Parents have a relaxing spot to sit while they watch. It's very open, bright and inviting so parents can see their kids at all times," said McDonell.

The Play Centre is now known for its drop-in play times and birthday parties.

"I would say the birthday parties are the No. 1 thing here," said McDonell, noting there are birthday packages available. "It's true – we get people from one party going to the next party, going to the next party... The kids love it."

It is open seven days a week, year-round, from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Saturday, and 10-6 on Sunday. That makes even more appealing in the colder winter and early spring months.

"I think it's perfect for the size of the town," said McDonell, who had visited many play centres over the years with her family.

"There are so many things I didn't like about other play centres, so I really tried to keep what I wanted here. I guess I'm not the only one with that mindset because parents seem to love it."

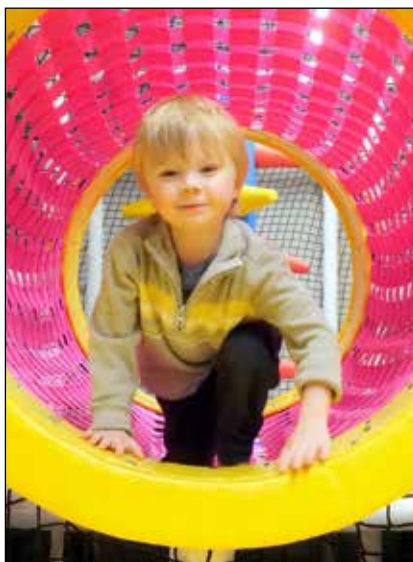
Some kids play for an hour or two, some up to four or five hours. The fee is structured as a one-day pass – 'play all day' – and you can come and go all day if you want. A one-day pass for 4-12 year olds is \$13.99 and \$9.99 for ages 0-3. Monthly and yearly passes are also available as well as 10-card passes. Gift certificates can also be purchased – great for the holiday season.

"Some days are busier than others, but I would say daytime is the busiest. The weekends get pretty full, and we do know PD Days are going to be busy. Family Day, it was packed."

Rain or Shine Play Centre can be rented for private events.

Each party room can host up to 20 people, but the biggest birthday party, so far, had 34 children.

"That was just to eat (in a party room), then they came out to play. We found a way to make it work."



Jacob Michalowsky, having fun at Rain or Shine Play Centre in Tillsonburg.

They also have a gentle, quiet room, created for children who need a quieter space, or moms to be with their little ones, although sometimes the room is not that quiet.

"It's more for sensory, imaginary play." Play ages are listed at 0-12 years. Parents are responsible for their own kids.

"I would say that most kids up to 10 are really the ones who most enjoy it. And I would say 'bring a friend.' Most kids find it more exciting when they have people to play with. Except for the little ones, they don't seem to mind. But for the older ones, six, seven, eight... they need a partner."

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## SPORTS

# Gemini boys hockey team playing with 'house money' at WOSSAA A/AA

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

A 'shortie', two-on-zero break and an empty-net goal added up to a 3-0 Thames Valley Regional Athletics Southeast boys' hockey championship victory for the St. Thomas Parkside Stampede.

But the equation also left room for hope for the visiting Tillsonburg Gemini Thursday, March 5 at the Joe Thornton Arena.

"We can compete with these guys," said Gemini forward Keegan Diering, conceding Tillsonburg had been out-worked early, and had to battle its way back into the game. "And they scored when they had the chance."

"We had plenty of chances," added teammate David Lamers. "A couple of back doors we didn't bear down on."

Parkside's Nash Adams capitalized on a Gemini turnover, turning a power-play inside out at the 6:30 mark of the second (15-minute) period, on an assist to Tyce Willis. Tillsonburg goalie Will Court had no chance on the play, less on a subsequent two-on-zero with 3:56 remaining in the frame. It was set up by Stampede's goalkeeper Andrew Men-

lore firing the puck high off the glass for what became a stretch pass to Ronen Davidson behind a changing Gemini defence. Davidson fed the puck cross-crease to Cole Dailey who was able to finish despite Court's desperation attempt.

"Got a piece of that one," said the Gemini keeper, who was also exonerated of blame on the third Parkside goal, given he was sitting on the Gemini bench in favour of an extra attacker. Dailey notched his second of the contest into the vacated net, assisted by Dezy Fulton to round the 3-0 final.

"They carried most of the play," credited Tillsonburg coach Derek Partlo. "Our goalie kept us in it and their goalie was outstanding."

"We should have had two or three."

Tillsonburg did have its chances on the power play, including a pair of double minors, the second providing a four-minute stretch of man advantage during the third period, beginning with 9:30 left in regulation. The Gemini had set up well and executed with a man advantage said Partlo, but ultimately, were unable to get the puck past Menlore.

"We got chances but no goals. And not



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

**Gemini Keegan Diering (left) managed to centre the puck despite being taken out of the play by either Parkside's Dezy Fulton or RJ MacPherson.**

only did we not get one, we gave one up. "That changes the game."

The Stampede's are coming off a trip to provincial finals last year said Partlo, and viewed from the stands, appear to be a larger, older unit than a comparatively young Gemini squad.

"That's not to say we can't beat them in a one-game situation," said Partlo.

Tillsonburg was looking forward to that opportunity at the Western Ontario Secondary School Athletics Association (WOSSAA) A/AA tournament scheduled for Tuesday, March 10 at Strathroy's Gemini Arena. Tillsonburg was to take the ice against Stratford St. Mike's at 9:30 a.m., 15 minutes after the event's opening faceoff between Parkside and Holy Cross. The bronze medal game was set for 2:30 p.m. on the facility's Green Pad, the gold a half-hour later in the Blue arena.

"We're pretty young, we're not going in there with delusions of grandeur," said Partlo. "But it's hockey, anything can happen in two games."

"I think we're ready for WOSSAA," added Lamers. "I think it's going to be a good test for the team and get us ready for next year."

In a sense, Tillsonburg is playing with house money said Diering, given the

Gemini were not expected to make it this far, this season.

"Just do the little things right and play as simple and hard as we can."

"Take on St. Mike's, beat them and play Parkside in the final," Court added in conclusion. "Hopefully get some revenge."



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

**Gemini Hunter Wittington (centre) creates traffic in front of Parkside goalie Andrew Menlore under attention from the Stampede's Owen Ayres.**



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

**Gemini Viktor Hendrik (right) collides with Parkside's Creed Green (left).**

**Edward Jones**

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# Homick wins it at buzzer for Carquest in B playoff thriller

JEFF GWYN

Post Contributor

There was no shortage of excitement in Club Oxford playoff action last week with an overtime game and another that was won at the final buzzer.

## March 1

### A Division

#### ReMax 6, Health Hut 1

ReMax was not waiting to play in this one as they came out strong and dominated the first period with rushes and passing plays deep in the zone. A big performance by their top line. Health Hut just couldn't get things going. They had a better second period and broke the shutout, but it was a game they'd rather forget.

Brendan Soares had a hat trick for ReMax. Benson Howey had a goal for Health Hut.

#### Fody's 4, Apple Shack 2

Fody's had to buckle down defensively to keep a speedy Apple Shack from sustaining pressure. They took advantage of their chances to take a 2-0 lead in the series. Apple Shack played a very good game and had chances until late in the second. A couple bounces their way could change the momentum in this series.

Marc Poirier had three points for Fody's. Kelsey VanYmeren had a goal for Apple Shack.

### B Division

#### B-Line 4, RND 1

B-Line found their legs in the second and were making solid passes and had great rushes to control most of the action

in the second. RND played a decent game but got frustrated as the game went on. If they can find some scoring, they can stay in the series.

Kevin Thrower had two points for B-Line. Matt Snow had a goal for RND.

#### Prouse Mortgages 3, Royal LePage 1

Prouse Mortgages is able to use all their lines to create chances, which helps when the big guns are covered. A very solid game at both ends. Royal LePage needs to find the scoring they had at the end of the season. Scoring will be key to prolonging this series.

Jason Beard had two points for Prouse Mortgages. Dylan Thompson had a goal for Royal LePage.

#### Source 2, Glass 1 OT

A solid game on both sides. Source is in tough against Glass, but they found a way to get the win. Some great chances and solid defence set them up for the win. Glass played a great game. They don't score a lot, but they defend very well. If they can get a couple bounces, this series could go long.

Brandan Sullivan had two points for Source. Devon McDonald had the goal for Glass.

#### Carquest 4, Airmount 3

Carquest found a way to win in regulation, playing right to the buzzer. They aren't taking Airmount lightly and that's good as Airmount can be pesky. Airmount found some chances and capitalized down low. They have pressured in the first two games and can put a scare on Carquest.

## A DIVISION PLAYOFFS

FODY'S AUTOMOTIVE (1) VS APPLE SHACK (4)  
**FODY'S LEADS SERIES 2-1**

REMAX REALTY (2) VS THE HEALTH HUT (3)  
**REMAX LEADS SERIES 2-1**

## B DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP

SOURCE FOR SPORTS (1) VS TILLSONBURG GLASS (4)  
**SOURCE LEADS SERIES 1-0**

JEFF PROUSE MORTGAGES (2) VS ROYAL LEPAGE REALTY (3)  
**PROUSE LEADS SERIES 2-0**

## B DIVISION CONSOLATION

CARQUEST AUTO PARTD(5) VS AIRMOUNT FARMS (8)  
**CARQUEST LEADS SERIES 2-0**

B-LINE TRUCKING (6) VS RND CONSTRUCTION (7)  
**B-LINE LEADS SERIES 2-0**

Chad Homick had the game winning goal for Carquest. JJ Harden had three points for Airmount.

Brandon Velda had two goals for Apple Shack. Christian Clifford had two points for Fody's.

## March 4

### A Division

#### Apple Shack 3, Fody's 2 OT

Apple Shack played a solid game for both periods. They kept Fody's from getting a lot of pressure down low. They had some great shots and good chances all game. Fody's couldn't get the rebounds in close in this one but played a solid game. A tough OT loss, but a fun watch. Both goalies made some great saves to keep this one close.

### Health Hut 3, ReMax 1

Health Hut turned it around after game 2. They forced a lot of plays down low and buzzed around the net all night. A focused effort to keep ReMax to the outside all night. ReMax had some rushes and breaks, but couldn't get anything going. A bit frustrated, but they played to the end on a tough offensive night.

Marty Friedrich had three points for Health Hut. Rob Smith had the goal for ReMax.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Joe Webb's team from Ingersoll that emerged as overall winners of the East Elgin Concrete Bonspiel that was held Saturday, Feb. 28 at the Tillsonburg Curling Club. Team Webb went undefeated coming out on top of the 16-team field with a 3-0 record and a total of 46.50 points. Holding the championship East Elgin Concrete Forming trophy are from left to right: Grant Webb-second; Joe Webb-skip; Randy Declercq-vice and Gary Penny-lead. The bonspiel, which was held at the Tillsonburg Curling Club, saw 64 curlers vying for the East Elgin Concrete Forming trophy descending on Tillsonburg from all over the province, including a team from Detroit, Michigan.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The top point-getter of the East Elgin Concrete Forming bonspiel from the early draw was the team Janssens from Norwich. They too went undefeated but were out counted in total points by the overall winner, who played in the late draw. From left to right are Dave Janssens-vice; Jon Halbert-skip; Mitch Greenwood-second and Craig Kitchen-lead. The bonspiel which was held at the Tillsonburg Curling Club on February 28th had 16 teams and 64 curlers vying for the East Elgin Concrete Forming trophy.

# Thunder lose nailbiters to fall behind 3-1 in playoffs

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The puck wouldn't bounce the Thunder's way as the team lost two games that came down to the wire to trail Erin 3-1 in the best-of-seven playoffs.

The Thunder went into last weekend with the series against the Erin Outlaws tied at one game each.

Hosting Erin on Friday night, the visitors drew first blood with a goal early in the first period. The Thunder rallied and took a commanding 3-1 lead by period's end.

Danny Attridge netted the first, from Nicolas D'Agostino, on a five-on-three power play with 6:15 left. On the same power play, Kane Johnson pulled the Thunder ahead with the feed from Tye Johnson. Andrew Oosterveld provided insurance with just over three minutes left on the clock. Robert MacLean and Justin Abraham assisted.

The Outlaws owned the second period, scoring three goals to pull in front.

The law breakers added another in the third before Oosterveld hit the mesh, converting passes from MacLean and D'Agostino. Erin added another before MacLean

brought the Thunder within one (Kurtis Heggie assist) to fall 6-5

On the road on Saturday, Attridge put the Thunder on the scoreboard unassisted less than three minutes into the period to put Tillsonburg in front. However, Erin netted two before period's end to take the advantage.

Attridge again came through for the Thunder in the second to tie the game, with assistance from Luke Sinclair and Jaden VanSevenant. In a repeat performance, the Outlaws scored the go-ahead late in the second.

Matthew Oosterveld, from MacLean, tied the game early in a third period that saw three goals in the first six minutes. Sinclair and Monkhouse fed Attridge for the hat trick and go-ahead goal at 16:40 of the third. The advantage was to be short-lived as Erin evened the score less than two minutes later. Visions of an overtime win were crushed for the Thunder when Erin scored on a power play with 1:36 left in the game.

The Thunder are on the road on Saturday for a game in Erin, and then hopefully play game six Sunday in Tillsonburg.

## Attending the Brier as a Team King fan



ON  
THE  
BROOM

NORA PETER

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

As someone who has curled for more than 50 years and attended at least five Briers – all in Ontario – I know that the Men's Canadian Curling Championship known as the Brier (now sponsored by Montana's) is the biggest event in curling.

Okay, maybe not as big as the Olympic Curling has become but certainly historically one of the iconic events in curling in

the world. So this year when the kid we introduced to curling here in Tillsonburg won the Ontario Tankard and the right to represent the province of Ontario at the Brier we immediately starting booking hotels and flights and tickets to St. John's to watch him and his team in person and share his first time entry up close.

Les and I know the work, dedication and time Team King have put in to get to this level, especially at their young age and their limited experience at a national level. The team has a wonderful supportive fan base of family, friends and curling members – many who travelled to St. John's as we did to cheer them on. I am amazed however when I see on social media the non-curling fans who are sending their support to the team. It's absolutely wonderful!

The team started the round robin with two good wins, but then dropped games to team NFLD Gushue (who is the icon

of Canadian curling and retiring this season), Team Canada, and then a close one to NFLD Young. With a 3-3 record, they had to win their next two games to qualify for playoffs. And they did! Absolutely amazing! To put things into perspective – Gushue has been in 23 Briers – Jayden is 23 year-old, Owen is about to turn 22. This team is doing very well and however they do in playoffs it is just a bonus experience and something to be so proud of.

As fans in the stands for the round robin games which featured two NFLD teams and Team Canada gold medal Olympians, we were surprised to see how much attention the "boys" received, and many people approached us when wearing our Team Ontario shirts to talk about the team. They have become media favorites, and everyone was talking about them.

In the Brier Patch after the game, the

bartender even commented "bys no one's talkin' about your boy". Jayden had a fan ask him to sit on her lap to get a picture, autograph seekers were common, and when people heard that our claim to fame was being "the neighbours" that introduced Jayden to curling we were congratulated and often found a drink sent our way. Team King was very busy-you think they just have to play and then get ready for the next game – but there's practice, charting of rocks, physio, game review, media interviews which can't be turned down, drug testing, and maybe time to catch up with family and friends.

Both Jayden, a McMaster student in physiotherapy and Owen, a Brock University student, were doing schoolwork while they were there as well. Through all this, they have been very successful and made the top six teams, and we are very proud of Team King and look forward to future Brier championships.

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(STUART BLOWER PHOTOS)



Tillsonburg Twister U12A players, from the left, Morgan Swanton, Claire Hodges, and Sophia Armstrong were in the thick of it with a Chatham Thunder player during a recent game.



Tillsonburg Tornados U8 goaltender smotheres the puck in a game against the Delhi-Norwich 59ers.



Tillsonburg's U9 LL1 Optometrists on Broadway forwards keep control of the puck in a game against Waterford Wildcats.



A classic struggle for control of the puck along the boards ensued in a game between Tillsonburg U9 Coward's Pharmacy and Delhi-Norwich 59ers.



Emmy Meron of the Tillsonburg Lightning U11 girls' Shaw Ice Cream team makes a shot with several Bluewater Hawks players in hot pursuit.



Tillsonburg Twisters U12B player Brooklyn Weigel attempts to control the ring in a game against the Elora-Fergus Edge while Kaeli Holden readies to assist.

# TOWNSHIP OF NORWICH NEWS



## Norwich approves 2026 budget

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

The average home in Norwich will pay around \$13 more per month in property taxes in 2026.

Local councillors approved the Norwich budget at a Feb. 26 budget meeting. Property taxes in Norwich are split between Oxford County and Norwich Township, as well as an education portion. In Norwich, a 3.73 per cent levy increase translates to a 2.96 net impact to taxpayers after accounting for 0.77 assessment growth.

When combined with the 7.77 per cent

levy increase at the county level and no expected increase for the education portion, the median assessed home of just under \$280,000 will pay \$12.86 more a month, or \$154.33 more a year in property taxes.

The local increase accounts for \$4.46 a month, or \$53.56 a year.

"I think we've done a good job of being fiscally responsible," said Coun. Karl Toews.

Norwich did approve six budget enhancements, though only three impact the levy. Those include improvements to employee benefits that come partially as a result of a new program that reduced

premiums, a new public works summer student, and changes to the employee status of staff at the medical centre "to better reflect their working hours, and to improve internal pay equity," a staff report said.

Other enhancements include hiring consultants for a job evaluation project, a study looking at Norwich's building permit fee structure, and funding for traffic calming measures. Staff proposed the first two to be funded through reserves, and council directed staff to fund the traffic calming measures through reserves as well.

Staff identified several areas driv-

ing increases, including: an increase to winter control following a tough winter, increases to the OPP contract, and the township's efforts to increase reserves to address shortfalls found through asset management planning.

Some major reductions come thanks to increased Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund dollars, savings related to salaries and wages, decreases to the planning department and medical centre thanks to increased revenues, a decrease to the building department thanks to increased fees, and a decrease to asphalt patching as a result of fewer materials being required.

## Norwich to request language change for Safe and Well Oxford plan

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

When it comes to health and safety in Oxford, are Indigenous or racialized people, newcomers, 2SLGBTIA+ individuals, people with disabilities, older adults, and youth "priority groups" or "groups of particular concern"?

That's been a question Norwich councillors have asked recently, but ultimately a majority of them believe it should be the latter. As a result, the township will be requesting a change to the county's proposed Safe and Well plan.

"My position is that using the term priority groups is discriminatory language and I oppose discrimination in all its forms," said Coun. Karl Toews.

Municipalities that direct police ser-

vices in Ontario must have a health and safety plan, which must be updated every four years. For regions like Oxford County, it's a unique challenge because the lower tier municipalities direct police services, but places like Norwich Township don't have the social service infrastructure to implement such plans.

As a result, Oxford County developed a plan, seeking support from the lower tier municipalities. Norwich is the only lower tier municipality that hasn't yet approved the plan.

It outlines priority risks - including mental health and well-being, housing for all, people and belonging, substance use and addiction, gender based violence, and affordability and economic stability - along with an implementation strategy to attempt to address those risks. The strategy includes an advisory

committee. Municipalities that agree to the plan would have a seat on that committee.

"Priority groups face added barriers from stigma, discrimination, and a lack of culturally safe care. Service providers highlighted challenges with early identification, mental health literacy, and navigating a fragmented system, especially for children, caregivers, and older adults," the plan reads, including a footnote referencing the seven groups.

Coun. Lynne DePlancke tried to defend the plan including priority groups in the plan, comparing it to triage at a hospital: everyone should have access to care, but a person with chest pains should be prioritized over someone with a sprained wrist. She wanted a reconsideration and for council to ultimately approve the plan as it was origi-

nally presented.

That didn't happen. Instead, Toews, Adrian Couwenberg and Shawn Gear voted to request the change of the terminology, which will require support from all other Oxford municipalities.

Gear used the discussion to rail against what he perceived as a never-ending expansion of so-called priority groups. He seemed to reference the furry community, a subculture of people who anthropomorphising animal characters.

DePlancke asked Gear if she agreed the seven groups the plan identified as priority groups should be given some consideration.

"I support the majority of them. I do not support all," he replied.

Next steps for the Safe and Well plan will depend on how the other municipalities respond to Norwich's request.

## Norwich to launch building services customer survey

LUKE EDWARDS

Post Contributor

Survey says? Norwich will soon find out.

Councillors have agreed to launch a

building services customer survey, after a motion from Coun. Karl Toews at an earlier meeting requested staff look at the feasibility of customer satisfaction surveys for people who have completed an application process with the town-

ship.

"Our suggestion is that we start this off with people who've done building permits applications and do that survey at the time the permit's awarded," said CAO Matt Smith. "We thought about waiting until the construction was done but that can be quite a lengthy period from permit award to occupancy."

Staff will reach out to anyone who was issued a building permit as far back as last July, and continue doing so on an

ongoing basis. There will be online and paper options. The survey includes eight questions and Smith said it was designed to be quick.

Coun. Lynne DePlancke appreciated that approach.

"I do like the fact that it's short and sweet," she said.

If the survey yields productive results, the township could consider similar surveys for other application-based services.

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# Behind the kit with local drummer Matthew Bray



**MUSIC  
CORNER**

**BEN ADDRESS**

*Tillsonburg Post Columnist*

When Matthew Bray sits behind a drum kit, he brings with him over 23 years of experience, a passion for teaching and connection to the local music community that started over two decades ago.

The Tillsonburg-based drummer will be performing with his band The Deeper Cuts this Saturday, March 14 at Paddy's Underground, giving local music fans, as

well as his friends, family and students, a chance to see one of Oxford County's most dedicated musicians doing what he loves most.

Bray is originally from a small Norfolk County town nestled on Lake Erie where kids didn't have much to do except play sports, or start a band. Growing up in St. Williams, Bray attended Valley Heights Secondary School before eventually settling in Tillsonburg where he continues to stay active in the region's music scene. Over the years, he has played with a variety of bands that helped shape his approach to drumming and performing.

"Various bands have helped shape me into what I've become," Bray says.

Those bands include local projects such as Blacktop Recess and The Elmos, and now with a blues band made up of Bray and his coworkers from Long & McQuade Musical Instruments. That store location is also where he now shares his knowledge

with the next generation of musicians.

Since 2024, Bray has been working as a freelance drum instructor at Long & McQuade helping students develop their skills behind the kit. While teaching can often deepen a musician's own understanding of their craft, he admits it has not dramatically changed the way he approaches playing.

"Being a teacher doesn't really impact my playing," Bray explains.

His journey through different bands and musical experiences has given him a well-rounded perspective on the industry. Matthew credits those experiences with helping him learn everything from the technical side of music production to the realities of life on the road.

"I have been learning how to record, mix and master," Bray boasts. "I have also been learning the ins and outs out of touring and the business side of the music industry." Bray seems to always be reflecting on the knowledge gained along the

way.

Bray has an impress outlook on life and how music has always been about growth, exploration and community. It is a mindset he also encourages in his students and anyone thinking about picking up an instrument.

"Start if you can, or just free jam and never stop practising," Bray says.

You can catch Matthew Bray in action with The Deeper Cuts when they take the stage in Tillsonburg on Saturday, March 14. Doors open at 6 p.m. for an all-you-can-eat chicken and ribs buffet before everyone hits the stage for only \$38.25 after tax. If you're not feeling hungry, you can show up at 8 p.m. just for the music with tickets at \$10 advanced or \$15 night of at the door. The concert is an all ages/licensed event taking place at Paddy's Underground. For more information and tickets, you can visit [www.eventbrite.ca](http://www.eventbrite.ca) or search up The Deeper Cuts on [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**MARCH 14 - THE DEEPER CUTS AND ACE OF SWORDS**  
Paddy's Underground  
\$10 - 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

**MARCH 14 - DOWN 'N' DIRTY**  
The Copper Mug  
No Cover - 9pm

**MARCH 15 - MCINTYRE'S WISH**  
The Copper Mug  
No Cover - 5 p.m.

**MARCH 20 - DANIEL ROMANO'S OUTFIT AND CARSON MCHONE**  
Paddy's Underground  
\$25 - 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

**MARCH 21 - TEXAS KING W/ TEAN DREAM**  
Paddy's Underground  
\$50 - 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

**MARCH 22 - NANCY PUHR-SLINGERLAND**  
Copper Mug  
No Cover - 5 p.m.

**MARCH 27 - BATES AND STUDDY'S SYSTEM OF A DOWN TRIBUTE**  
The Copper Mug  
8 p.m.

**APRIL 17 - MUDMEN**  
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# KNIGHTLY NEWS

## A busy month of activities at Monsignor O'Neil

Welcome to *The Knightly News*, the only newspaper column brave enough to report on the mysteries of the lost homework, the legends of the Lost and Found and the heroic quests of middle-school life. Our team of student writers are armed with pencils, curiosity, and maybe too many snacks as we uncover everything happening from Grades 5 to 8. Prepare your armor—the month of December-January was packed with bold stories, Knightly discoveries, and just the right amount of chaos.

From pajama pants in the hallways to neon colours lighting up the classrooms, Spirit Days have once again taken over our school - bringing laughter, creativity, and school pride with them, and of course Christmas holds the best Spirit Days of all at our school.

Why was the math book sad at Christmas? *It had too many problems and no Christmas Break.* The December Student Parliament Challenge showed great competition here at O'Neil for Christmas. It is known as the Candy Cane Challenge. Throughout the week there were multiple Spirit Days such as... Christmas Socks, Red and White Candy Cane Day, Christmas Sweater Day, Grinch Green Day, Everything Christmas, and finally Christmas PJ Day. Classes earned points for every student in the class that dressed in festive gear. The points were tracked and displayed in the hall on a big candy charts for all to see. At the end of the week classes participated in decorating classroom doors with Christmas spirit. Every door looked so magical and festive.

Our one and only student parliament members were in charge of judging the beautiful doors. First place in the intermediate door decorating with a beautiful nativity scene was Mr. Chorpitta's class. The class that took first place in the junior division with a Home Alone scene was Ms. Legacy's class. The overall winners of the Student Parliament Candy Cane challenge were Mr. Chorpitta's for the intermediates and Ms. Catry for the juniors. Both classes won a pizza party. We all loved Christmas Spirit Week and can't wait for it next year.

On Jan. 23, we had a mismatched day. Some students took that lightly and wore mismatched socks while others went all out with mismatched socks, shoes, gloves, earrings, makeup on one eye but not the other, one side of their hair up and the other down, some with flowers on one side of their head and the other side with bows. There was even a student that had one side of their face covered in stickers. and other students that had dyed one side of their head in different colours

Sneakers squeaked on the gym floor while skates cut sharply across the ice as basketball and hockey tryouts officially began. Students showed up ready to give their best effort, all hoping to earn a spot on this year's teams.

How is a volleyball coach the same as a dentist? *They both like drills.* Speaking of drills, Both the junior, girls and boys volleyball teams were doing lots of drills while they got ready to participate in a one-day volleyball tournament at Carling Heights Optimist Community Centre in London. Both teams displayed great sportsmanship and represented our school very well. All the students that participated had lots of fun! Thanks to Ms. Catunto and Ms. Legacy for coaching these stu-

dents.

The Intermediate Mixed Hockey Tournament was held at the Carling Arena in London in December. Our team won the championship with three wins and a tie. Thanks to Mr. Chorpitta and Mrs. Cattle for coaching and organizing this year's team. Also, thanks to Mr. Schuster and Mr. Seguin for helping run the drills during tryouts.

Twinkling lights, festive music, and a packed audience set the stage for this year's Christmas Talent Show, where students brought holiday cheer to life through song, dance, and performance. The students of O'Neil worked very hard perfecting their talents for our Christmas Talent show. It was held on Dec. 17 at 12:40 p.m. From dances to comedy skits the parents and students were amazed. It was a great way to show some Christmas spirit. Even Santa and our O'Neil staff took the stage and performed an amazing and very hilarious dance. It was so much fun. Thanks to Mrs. Kamenar, Ms. Gerrie, and Ms. Legacy for making our Christmas Talent Show possible.

How do basketball players stay cool during a game . . . *They stand next to the fans.* Tryouts for junior basketball teams took place in January. The junior boys' and girls' basketball teams had fun playing against schools in Woodstock.

Speaking of basketball...the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship took place Jan. 20. Every student that participated in it had an amazing time and received a certificate for participating. The overall winners also won a basketball and will move onto the district championship being held at Holy Trinity in Simcoe on Sunday, March 1 starting at 12 p.m. with registration followed by the competition at 1 p.m. Thanks to our amazing Knights of Columbus for organizing this free throw event for the students.

Good luck to MJ Cadotte, Ethan Rocco, Carter Allard, Brynn Wilson, Mason Wilson, Estelle McSpadden, Evelyn Jaffray and Mason Melo.

The Grade eights are in their last year of middle school and as they get ready for their big new school year ahead, they had the opportunity to participate in the Grade 8 Feeder School Orientation Presentation at St. Mary's High School in Woodstock. They toured the school and experienced a day in the life of a grade nine student. They were treated to lunch before leaving. They all had an amazing time learning what St. Mary's has to offer.

The January Student Parliament Challenge was...well let's just say it was LOUD! *"Today we learned that leadership requires brains, bravery... and bendy shoulders."* Each division gathered in the gym holding hands as they had to pass hula hoops through the students without breaking arm grip. If they broke the grip they had to restart. Some classes had to restart multiple times while others did it in record time. In the end, Ms. Catunto's junior class and Mr. Chorpitta's intermediate class came out with the win. These classes chose a Volleyball for students to play with outside. Our Student Parliament is doing a great job getting students in the school Spirit!

Stay tuned...another fun edition of the "Knightly News" will be coming soon!

*Aaliyah, Ellia, Lizzie and Sarah  
Student Parliament Ministers of Communication*

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**MARCH 28 | 5 - 6:30 PM**  
**SPAGHETTI SUPPER**  
St Paul's United Church, 88 Bidwell St. Tillsonburg  
St Paul's United Church AOTS FELLOWHIP Club, Tillsonburg invite you to a Spaghetti Supper. Tickets \$15 for adults, children under 10 \$8 available from members, at the Church Office or at the Door. Takeout Available. All Welcome.

## MARCH

**WEDNESDAYS | NOON - 12:30 PM**  
**TILLSONBURG CHRISTIAN MINISTERIAL INVITES YOU TO OUR WEEKLY LENTEN SERVICES**

- MARCH 18 - St. Mary's Catholic Church - Speaker - Tom Stradwick
- MARCH 25 - St. Paul's United Church - Speaker - Ryan Hutchins

**MARCH 13 | 1 PM - 4 PM**  
**KEN LIGHTHEART AND THE NORTHSORE RAMBLERS DANCE**  
16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON  
\$7 admission at door. Cash only. Bar open. All Welcome!

**MARCH 18 | 10 AM - 1 PM, 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM & 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM**  
**MARCH BREAK BOUNCY CASTLE FUN DAY**  
Tillsonburg Community Centre, Lions Auditorium  
Bouncy Castles, Inflatable Games, Petting Zoo, Carnival Fun Foods. Tickets (Ages 2+) \$16 in advance or \$26 at the door.  
[https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/march-break-bouncy-castle-fun-day-tillsonburg-tickets-1981459662189?aff=ebdsshcopyurl&ke\\_ep\\_tld=1&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/march-break-bouncy-castle-fun-day-tillsonburg-tickets-1981459662189?aff=ebdsshcopyurl&ke_ep_tld=1&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp)

**MARCH 21 | 9:30 AM - 4 PM**  
**OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY OXPEX & OTEX 2026 STAMP SHOW**  
St. Mary's Catholic High School, 431 Juliana Drive, Woodstock, ON  
Free admission and parking. Framed and Judged exhibits, Stamp dealers, youth gift bags, Sales Circuit, draw prizes. Contact: [dhfe@silomail.com](mailto:dhfe@silomail.com). Web: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

**MARCH 22 | NOON**  
**KIDS EASTER BINGO**  
16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON  
Free event sponsored by the Tillsonburg Legion. Doors open at noon and games start at 1:00 pm. Bingo prizes and door prizes. Ages

5-14 and must be accompanied by an adult. For more information call 519-842-5281.

**MARCH 24 | 7 PM**  
**LIFE WORTH LIVING**  
Woodstock Polish Hall, 878 Dufferin Street, Woodstock

The one-hour film was produced by Woodstock native, Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition and will be followed by a Q & A session with Alex. Admission is free. For more information, please email [info@oxfordcountyrighthto.life](mailto:info@oxfordcountyrighthto.life)

**MARCH 28 | 2 PM**  
**THE EDISON, VIENNA & AREA MUSEUM IS PROUD TO INTRODUCE JENNIFER GRAINGER**  
6209 Plank Rd., Vienna ON  
Join us as Jennifer shares the enchanting tale of Elgin's crossroad hamlets, lakeports, and rail depots. Jennifer is a passionate heritage activist and book cataloguer, with a keen interest in archives, ghost towns, vintage books, poodles, vegetarian cooking, and nurturing trailing houseplants. [bayhamhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:bayhamhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com)

## APRIL

**APRIL 11 | 6:30 PM - MIDNIGHT**  
**IN THE MOOD WITH BIG BANDEMIC**  
South Gate Centre, 191 Old Wellington St S, Woodstock, ON  
Big Bandemic will have you toe-tapping and dancing, maybe evening singing along at South Gate Centre's In the Mood concert. Come see this 17 piece big band, with a an additional 10 piece strings section and 2 terrific crooners! BUY TICKETS at the Front Desk in advance or online at [www.southgatectr.com/events](http://www.southgatectr.com/events)

**APRIL 17 | 8 PM**  
**MUDMEN AT THE TILLSONBURG LEGION**  
16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON  
Advance tickets \$30 at the Legion or <http://www.ticketscene.ca>. This is and 19 plus event. For more information call 519-842-5281.

**APRIL 25 | 9 AM - 1 PM**  
**TILLSONBURG CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE SPRING RUMMAGE SALE**  
St. Mary's Church, Tillsonburg, ON  
Please come join us at our spring rummage sale.  
Clothing and footwear for the family. Housewares, glassware, bedding, home decor, toys and trinkets, jewelry, books and much more. Everyone is welcome. Fully Accessible. Admission is free.  
Please bring a bag (or two) to carry home your

treasures.

## JULY

**JULY 17 & 18**  
**BRANTFORD UKULELE FESTIVAL**  
Tickets for the 2026 Brantford Ukulele Festival, set for July 17th and 18th are going fast! Register before April 17th to get in on the Early Bird special. Get details on performers, workshops and more at [brantfordukulelesociety.org](http://brantfordukulelesociety.org).

## ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

**OXFORD COUNTY DIABETES EDUCATION PROGRAM**  
Appointments are available at Alexandra Hospital Ingersoll and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital and by phone  
**Are you looking for support with your Diabetes?** Our Team of Registered Nurses, Registered Dietitians and a Social Worker is here to support YOUR goals. We can help with medication adjustments, lifestyle and diet changes, stress management, weight reduction strategies and more. **SELF REFERRALS ARE WELCOME.** Please call 519-485-9611 to book an appointment. Let's work together!

**MONDAYS | 9 - 11:30 AM**  
**OTTER VALLEY TAI CHI**  
St. John's Anglican Church, 46 Ridout St. W., Tillsonburg  
New Monday morning classes have begun. Spots still available: 9:00 – 10:30 am Introduction, 10:30 – 11:30 am Foundations. Enjoy gentle exercise with others as you work to improve flexibility, balance and stamina. Call 519-688-9779, email [ottervalley@canadiantaichiacademy.org](mailto:ottervalley@canadiantaichiacademy.org), visit [canadiantaichiacademy.org](http://canadiantaichiacademy.org).

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

**2<sup>ND</sup> TUES. OF MONTH (SEPT. TO MAY) |**

**2 - 4 PM**  
**4<sup>TH</sup> TUES. OF MONTH (SEPT. TO MAY) |**  
**7 - 9 PM**  
**OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY**  
Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7  
If you have never belonged to a stamp club, now's the time. Meet new friends, grow your knowledge and collection. Contact: Don Eaton [dhfe@silomail.com](mailto:dhfe@silomail.com). Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

**3<sup>RD</sup> WED. OF MONTH | 10 AM - NOON**  
**LYNN RIVER PROBUS CLUB**  
Army, Navy & Air Force Club, Simcoe, ON. Corner of Water St. and Culver St. Simcoe. Enter via Culver St.  
Our retired and semi-retired members enjoy diverse interest groups, friendship and fellowship. We have interesting speakers at our monthly meetings as well as time to socialise. Current and prospective members are welcome to join us at the Army, Navy & Air Force Club, Simcoe, which is on the corner of Water St. and Culver St. Simcoe. Enter via Culver St. For more information, please visit our website at: [lynnriverprobus239.com](http://lynnriverprobus239.com) or email [lynnriverprobus239@gmail.com](mailto:lynnriverprobus239@gmail.com)

**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS | 7 - 9 PM**  
**SATURDAYS | 10 AM - 12 PM**  
**LEARN BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU (BJJ)**  
North Broadway Baptist Church  
Thanks to donor support, we've been able to purchase mats and uniforms, and our instructors generously volunteer their time. This isn't a business—any donations go straight back into the program to help buy more uniforms, mats, and equipment. If it's within your means, a \$20 monthly donation helps support the program, but if not, classes are completely free. **Classes are open to anyone 14 and older.** If you'd like to try a class, please arrive about 15 minutes early to sign waivers and get fitted for a uniform. Information can be found at: <https://www.northbroadwaychurch.ca/nbmfa>, <https://www.facebook.com/northbroadwaymfa>, <https://www.instagram.com/northbroadwaymfa/>  
Inquires can be made at: [nbmfa@northbroadwaychurch.ca](mailto:nbmfa@northbroadwaychurch.ca)

**EVERY OTHER FRIDAY | 1 - 4 PM**  
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**FRIDAYS | 1 PM**

# COMING EVENTS

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DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB**

Tillsonburg Senior Centre - 45 Hardy Ave,  
Tillsonburg

Don't have a partner? Come anyway and we will match you up with someone. For more information, visit their Facebook page: TburgBridge.

**1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> TUES. OF MONTH  
TILLSONBURG LIONS**

The Tillsonburg Lions meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. You are invited to their dinner meetings in the Lion's Den at the Community Centre. If you are interested in giving back to your Community contact Jim at 519 409 0876 for more information.....all are welcome.

**1<sup>ST</sup> WED. OF MONTH | 7 PM  
WAGNER MEMORIAL TEETERVILLE  
LEGION BRANCH 526 - MEMBERS  
GENERAL MEETING**

The Wagner Memorial Teeterville Legion Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, ON

Not a member? Contact us to join. For More Information Call, the Legion 519-443-5588. www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

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

The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, ON

You do not need to be a member to Volunteer, Just contact the legion and leave your name and number

and purpose of your call. Someone will get back to you as to where you might be needed. Students and Adults welcome. Open hours. Wed.-Fri. 3 pm-10 pm, Sat.1 pm-10 pm, Sun.1 pm-6 pm. For More Information call, the Legion at 519-443-5588 or teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

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**TILLSONBURG**

WHEN: 2nd Tuesday of every month  
WHERE: VON Oxford Office 24 Brock St. W., Tillsonburg  
TIME: 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

**INGERSOLL**

WHEN: 4th Tuesday of every month  
WHERE: Ingersoll Public Library 130 Oxford St., Ingersoll  
TIME: 10:30 a.m. -12 Noon

**WOODSTOCK**

WHEN: 3rd Saturday of every month  
WHERE: Sakura House Hospice 715180 Oxford Rd.4, Woodstock  
TIME: 10:30 a.m. -12 Noon

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**Accessibility  
Advisory  
Committee  
Opening**



Oxford County seeks an engaged citizen to join the Accessibility Advisory Committee for the remainder of the 2023-2026 council term.

This committee of council provides input on the Oxford County Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and advocates for people living with disabilities in Oxford County.

Please apply in writing with a resume and cover letter outlining lived experience and desire to improve accessibility in Oxford County by **Thursday, April 2, 2026**, to Lindsey Mansbridge, Clerk, Oxford County. Email: clerksoffice@oxfordcounty.ca, Phone: 519-539-9800 ext. 3001

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# Ottawa offers superb options for food-lovers



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

**PAUL KNOWLES**

*Tillsonburg Post Columnist*

Let's be honest: Ottawa is to the rest of Canada the way a very spoiled child is to the rest of the family. Ottawa gets way more than its share of good stuff, from museums to art galleries to arts venues and more. It's the nation's capital, centre of the country, and it shows.

Now, while that may irk taxpayers looking for cross-country fairness, it's really good news for tourists visiting Ottawa. In truth, this is one of my favourite cities.

I love the art galleries and museums, the intriguing architecture in the federal government district, the walking areas along the river, the history... and most definitely, the food. Ottawa is without question a destination for "foodies", with a plethora of restaurants offering unique and delicious cuisine.

On our last visit to Ottawa, we were able to sample two of the best eateries in the city: Gitanes, at 361 Elgin Street, and Arlo Wine & Restaurant, 340 Somerset Street West. Both have been named among Canada's top ten restaurants. Since we were staying at the downtown Alt Hotel, both were within easy walking distance.

The Gitanes experience is defined as "Fine French dining in Ottawa's Golden

Triangle". There are two themes here: a superb wine cellar, and French cuisine that features Canadian ingredients – a marriage made in foodie heaven.

The two restaurants have one thing in common: absolutely superb service. The staff are welcoming, friendly, and have somehow combined being attentive and unobtrusive at the same time – no mean feat. Our waiter started to present the wine list, and then said, "Maybe you'd like to meet the sommelier." So we did. Sommelier Bernard Joseph was a gold mine of information and advice and eventually delivered to our table a bottle of Chateau Haut-Segottes Saint-Emilion Grand Cru 2018. I could pretend to know how special that is, but all I really know is that it was delicious.

And it paired beautifully with our meals. Between us, we enjoyed Steak Frites (a specialty of the house), a moules and sausage appetizer, a lamb saddle and focaccia bread. Dessert was a Basque cheesecake and (unlikely though this sounds), an absolutely delicious foie gras sundae. Every bite demanded that we savour. It was, in short, a beautiful meal, unique and well presented. The starters were mainly priced at \$23 to \$28; the mains ranged from \$40 to \$50. There is a \$105 tasting menu.

The next evening, after we had spent much of the day strolling the inviting streets of Ottawa, we dined at Arlo. Co-owner and Chef is Jamie Stunt; our host, restaurant manager Simon Hodgson, told us that Chef Stunt has "deep roots" in the Ottawa region; his seasonal menu has been described as "playful and refined."

That also describes the restaurant, itself. One description of the place says, "Arlo feels like a dinner party at a stylish friend's home." That's pretty accu-

rate – when we visited, the place was full, and yet – wonder of wonders – not one person was on a cell phone. People were enjoying food, drink and conversation, not necessarily in that order.

Arlo is known for a wine list that features rare and unique natural wines, so I was looking forward to a glass of something special. But to my surprise, Simon told me that they also feature some special beers from time to time; he had checked my bio, and discovered that I occasionally write about breweries, and so had brought in a bottle of a "Cantillon Drogon Lambic", a rare Belgian sour beer. I decided to be polite and sample it – and then continued to sample until the 750-mm bottle was empty. Now, that is exceptional service!

For dinner, our starters were a cucumber and melon salad (which was a work of visual art!), and Scallop Tartare, perfect with the beer. Our mains were Schnitzel and Caesar, and Duck Frites. I had finished off the Cantillon Drogon Lambic, and found that a Cotes du Rhone wine went well with duck. Or, with just about anything, for that matter. The starters at Arlo range in price from \$24 to \$27; the mains, from \$40 to \$48.

I love the motto on the bottom of the Arlo menu: "be excellent to each other." Good advice.

Does Ottawa deserve to be listed among the top "foodie" destinations in the country? Without question. And frankly, if you compare prices with some more "run of the mill" restaurants, you'll find the quality and superb service at eateries like Gitanes and Arlo make for very good value. Our thanks to Sarah and Vlad of Ottawa Tourism who arranged our very tasty visit.

One quick recommendation: after dinner in Ottawa, make your way to a



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

**Gitanes sommelier Bernard Joseph.**

restaurant called the Rabbit Hole (and yes, you should eat there on another evening). But tonight, your destination is the "secret" speakeasy called the Jackalope, hidden below the main restaurant. There, the bartender will craft a unique drink matched to your tastes. You have to ask at the door of the Rabbit Hole, and you will be escorted to the speakeasy, if there is room. Tell 'em Paul sent you.

*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](mailto:pknowles@golden.net).*



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

**At Arlo, it's all about food and conversation – no one was on their phone!**



**Gitanes features French cuisine using local ingredients.**

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

# RIDDLES

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*One. After that, it's no longer empty.*

**What kind of spells do leprechauns use?**

*Lucky Charms!*

**What do you call a fake Irish stone?**

*A Shamrock!*

**What is at the end of a rainbow?**

*The letter W.*

**Why should you never iron a 4-leaf clover?**

*You don't want to press your luck!*

**Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun?**

*Because they're always a little short.*

**What type of music do leprechauns love?**

*Sham-rock.*

**Why do leprechauns recycle?**

*They like to go green.*

# SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Solutions on Page 22

# PET OF THE WEEK



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Nominate your pet to be Pet of the Week by emailing [info@tillsonburgpost.com](mailto:info@tillsonburgpost.com)

# WORD SEARCH

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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

- IRELAND
- SHAMROCK
- LEPRECHAUN
- RAINBOW
- POTOFGOLD
- PARADE
- GREEN
- CLOVER
- LUCK
- CELTIC
- DUBLIN
- FESTIVAL
- TRADITION
- MARCH
- IRISH

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2. March 8th
3. War
4. 1960
5. 180 degrees
6. Assassination of Julius Caesar
7. F-117 Nighthawk
8. Back to the Future
9. Daffodil and jonquil
10. Sean's Bar in Westmeath

## SUDOKU

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



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