

# Tillsonburg POST

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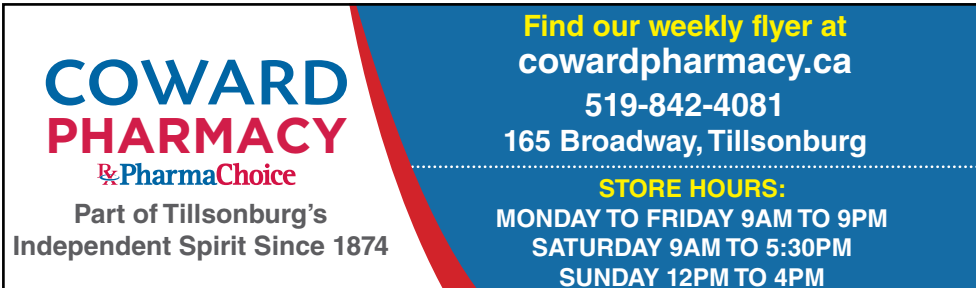
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## Tillsonburg council looks at physician recruitment options

JEFF HELSDON  
*Editor*

Tillsonburg council voted for some changes to how it attracts physicians, but will not move to a municipally-employed physicians' model, such as the one in Colwood, B.C.

Colwood, which made national news last year with its physician model, directly employs physicians. After the model garnered attention, Tillsonburg council passed a motion last fall to examine the possibility of such a model operating in town with the current shortage and looming retirement of a number of physicians.

Peter Raji, the town's Manager of Innovation and Strategic Initiatives, presented council with a comprehensive report looking at the Colwood model and other possibilities in Tillsonburg at the March 23 meeting. Raji said replication of what is done in British Columbia isn't possible in Ontario due to differing regulations. He also noted even if it was possible, the strategy would not be cost-neutral.

"Physician recruitment advantages of municipal employment remain unproven," he wrote. "While physicians value reduced administrative burden and predictable income, there is no evidence that municipal employment is attractive enough to physicians as a trade-off to independence and autonomy of business ownership.

Instead, Raji recommended the town form a regional recruitment alliance with Oxford County and other neighbouring municipalities to pool incentives, coordinate marketing, and reduce competition between local municipalities. He also recommended building on the partnerships with the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital and the Oxford Ontario Health Team.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



### THE BIG CRUNCH

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Tillsonburg students joined thousands of their counterparts across the nation as part of the annual Big Crunch to raise awareness about healthy eating. Students through each of the schools simultaneously bit into an apple, and then ate it. South Ridge students Sydney and Jack Cadman are seen here biting into their apples. See more coverage on Page 17 of this week's paper.

## New initiative to clean up town

JEFF HELSDON  
*Editor*

Tillsonburg is upping the ante on its clean-up efforts in conjunction with Earth Week.

Called Clean and Green Tillsonburg Earth Week, the town is inviting residents, families, schools, businesses, and community groups to help clean up the town's green spaces.

The new event builds on the success of the trail clean-up last year. Staff worked with the Parks, Beautification and

Cemeteries Committee to expand the initiative town-wide for Earth Week. This is the first coordinated town-wide garbage pick-up in recent memory.

"We saw real momentum last year," said Adam Kannawin, Manager of Parks and Facilities. "It made sense to grow the event and involve even more of the community."

Then, when there was a noticeable increase in litter after the winter thaw, it reinforced the need for an event such as Clean and Green. If the event goes well, town staff may consider making it an annual tradition.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



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# Clean and Green Tillsonburg Earth Week aims for a cleaner town

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

“Our community takes pride in its appearance,” Kannawin said. “This is a chance to really reflect that.”

Groups of five to 30 people are invited to choose a location and complete the clean-up at any time during the week of April 19 to 25. Groups can be families, friends, classrooms, sports teams, clubs, workplaces or neighbourhood groups. The town is encouraging the teams to choose a fun name for the event. Free gloves and garbage bags will be available for the event at the customer service centre, Tillsonburg Community Centre, and Annandale National Historic Site during each entity's business hours.

Teams are asked to register on the website at [www.tillsonburg.ca/clean-green](http://www.tillsonburg.ca/clean-green) and claim a site as their own during registration. A full list of locations is on the website. Locations with a stroke through them have already been claimed. It's hoped all 36 sites will be claimed.

“Our goal is for this to grow each year,” Kannawin said. “We want people to feel ownership over the spaces they use

every day.”

All teams that register and submit their cleanup results will have their team's name entered in a prize draw. The grand prize is a private skate or swim with a pizza party for the entire team. Several additional prizes will also be awarded to participating teams through the draw.

As a part of the event, the town is adding the Great Gnome Hunt as an added feature. Six garden gnomes will be hidden on the town's public land. Anyone who finds one can bring it to the customer service centre and exchange it for a garden starter kit. A gnome counter on the town's Facebook page will track how many gnomes have been found.

The gnome hunt was added to encourage young families to take part in the event.

Asked if there is a story about the origin of the gnomes, Andrea Greenway, Director of Recreation, Culture and Parks, said, “Not officially—but I do have a soft spot for gnomes, so it was an easy idea to get behind.”



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Staff with the town's Department of Recreation, Culture and Parks were giving the Clean and Green concept a trial run recently, tackling some of the garbage around one of the town's playgrounds. A town-wide event is being held April 19 to 25 to clean up parks and trails.

Promoting the concept during the March 23 council meeting, Mayor Deb Gilvesy said, “I hope our town can come together to help clean our town. It is really disheartening to see the garbage in the

ravines and along the roadsides. A lot of the items we see are coffee cups, drink cups, food containers - those are recyclable items. It doesn't cost anything to get rid of them, they can go in your blue box.”

# Report recommends against municipally-employed physicians

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

## The report in detail

Raji's report looked at other models used in Ontario, noting that Norwich's municipally-operated, physician-owned clinic historically operates at a deficit, and the County of Brant has a municipally-owned corporation that acts as a landlord for physicians.

Raji presented several options in his report, which included a clinic such as the one in Colwood. His examination estimated a Tillsonburg clinic using this model would need at least eight physicians and would cost between \$4.2 and \$8.1 million, in addition to operating costs in the \$1-million range and a likely operating deficit the

first five years. (Option A) Noting the regulatory challenge and cost, he didn't recommend this model.

“If we went that route, we would end up with a massive expense. At the end of the day, costs don't deliver on the value we would receive,” he said during the meeting.

Responding to a point raised by Mayor Deb Gilvesy, Raji also agreed that the clinic would end up serving patients from outside Tillsonburg, although the town's ratepayers would bear all the costs.

“If you are opening a medical clinic in Tillsonburg, the doors are open to anyone from anywhere. You can't restrict it,” he said.

A municipally-owned facility would require the same capital outlay for the build-

ing as Option A.

The Tillsonburg Community Health Care Advisory Committee viewed the report at its March meeting and advised going with Options C and D. Option C, which is moving to the regional recruitment alliance, and Option D, which is continuing with the present initiatives. These still come with costs, though. Option C includes already-budgeted staff time and to-be-determined costs for a future dedicated physician recruiter. Option D's costs are also already budgeted and include staff time, \$70,000 of available physician incentives and \$30,000 for marketing.

“There is a little more we can do to support residents,” Raji said. “We can pool our resources together to be able to make a lit-

tle more of a significant change, rather than just us leading this.”

Coun. Kelly Spencer said the report helped people on the health care committee see the options.

“It's important to look outside the box, and I'm really grateful for the suggestions brought forward,” she said. “It's a great point that medical clinics can receive patients from all over. We know a lot of people in our communities are heading to cities, St. Thomas etc. to get their doctor. When it comes to working collaboratively in Oxford County, we need to keep that in mind. We should support each other, not just Tillsonburg.”

Council's passed resolution was to support Options C and D.



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## EDITORIAL

# Attracting doctors remains a challenge

Universal free health care is one of the cornerstones of Canadian society.

It started in 1947 when Saskatchewan Premier Tommy Douglas implemented a provincial universal, public hospital plan. Over the ensuing 20 years, the program gradually expanded to become national.

Today, health care is a shared responsibility between national and provincial governments. Although it is not a municipal responsibility, local government sometimes steps in, as was seen at the most recent Tillsonburg council meeting.

The latest discussion followed a motion to investigate the possibility of the municipality employing doctors, after that model made national news last fall when Colwood, B.C., was featured for using it to attract physicians. The resulting report, the story of which is in this issue of the Post, highlights why what works in British Columbia won't necessarily work in Ontario.

Beyond what the report found, the one thing to keep in mind is the cost of any municipal support to attract doctors will be borne by taxpayers. Simply put, that means higher taxes.

Ontario municipalities have tried various systems to attract taxpayers, with varying degrees of success, but almost all cost the taxpayer in one way or another. Remember, the Ministry of Health already has the largest budget of any ministry, accounting for roughly 40 per cent of total spending. Municipalities supporting health care is a slippery slope.

So, what is the solution for small municipalities to attract doctors?

To start, replacing the word doctors with

primary care providers, which is the latest terminology, is a positive first step. This change in language recognizes nurse practitioners can also fill this role. Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital's Rapid Assessment Fast Track program, led by a nurse practitioner, has been a success and is a local example of nurse practitioners' effectiveness.

Still, thousands of Tillsonburg residents lack a doctor, and many doctors are on the cusp of retirement, which will only worsen the situation.

The provincial government has worked on solutions, such as expediting the process for foreign-trained doctors to be certified in Canada – although some would argue there has been tinkering with this, but it still hasn't been fixed – and increasing the role of nurse practitioners. But, more needs to be done.

In Tillsonburg, the percentage of senior citizens is higher than in some communities. This is to be expected with two retirement subdivisions in town that attract people from across the province, and the country. To expect these new residents to retain their primary care provider in the GTA, for example, is ridiculous, but that is often what occurs.

There needs to be provincial recognition that some communities – including Tillsonburg – are retirement communities and need more assistance in finding primary care providers. As people age, their health deteriorates, and the need to see a primary care provider more often increases.

There are provincial incentive programs to attract primary care providers to rural areas, but Tillsonburg doesn't qualify. These programs need to be revamped to place



Lake Lisgar.

(SUE DEARING PHOTO)

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Images should be high resolution jpegs. Please send only one image per e-mail, and send no more than three images. Images should be sent to [jeff@granthaven.com](mailto:jeff@granthaven.com)

greater weight on the percentage of seniors, or a new program launched for retirement communities.

Tillsonburg council's solution to continue its existing programs and work regionally on

attracting primary care health care providers was the best that could be expected in the circumstances. More innovation is needed provincially, and more funding nationally to solve the problem before it gets worse.

# How to almost become a news headline



**WRITER'S  
CORNER**

**NORMA COLLIS**

*Tillsonburg Post Columnist*

Before moving back to my hometown of Tillsonburg, we lived in a city close to Toronto's Pearson international airport.

My husband's place of business was located close to the airport, and he was used to the roar of huge jets coming in for a landing. He was also well acquainted with the streets and roads in that area.

At that time, we were a one-vehicle household, so when I had to attend a conference in the city, I was tasked with the assignment of picking him up after the

work day, on my way home.

A good friend, who I taught with, accompanied me to the conference. As we made our way home along a major expressway (the 401), we were engaged in lively conversation that also involved a great deal of laughter.

Somehow, I missed the exit that I had to take to get to my husband's place of work. "No worries" I told my friend. "We'll just take the next exit and go back to get him."

We merrily made our way along a road called Britannia Road. We were still talking and laughing and, I might have been exceeding the speed limit a little as we were now well past the agreed upon time when I was supposed to be at my husband's work.

We drove up and over a hill, and suddenly came upon a sort of guard shack and a wooden barrier arm that stretched across the road. We were just questioning this strange phenomenon when a police officer stepped out of the small building located beside the barrier.

"Where do you think you're going?" he asked me.

"Um...to pick up my husband?" I replied.

"You are about to drive onto the end of a runway," he told me sternly.

My friend in the passenger seat, told me afterwards that she was tempted to say "Yah...we know. We are stewardesses with Lufthansa and we're late for our flight."

She said that she thought better of such a remark, when she noticed that he was heavily armed and didn't appear like the type of person who would possess a good sense of humour.

The officer directed me as I turned the car in a U turn and headed away from him as quickly as possible.

I was very late picking up my husband, and, as this was before the days of cell phones, I had no way of alerting him to the fact that his "Uber" was running very late.

When we finally got to him, we were eager to tell him about our "airport" adventure. He gasped when we told him our

story.

"You were at the end of runways, 06L and 06R," he exclaimed. "Those are the two busiest runways at the airport. That's the road the air traffic controllers use to get to the control tower that sits between the two runways. I can't believe that you did that."

About a year later, there was an article in our local paper. The report was about a woman who was given a very stiff fine because...she drove out onto the end of a runway at Pearson International Airport.

My husband showed me the article. "You know" I said. "People are going to read this article, and they are going to say. How is this even possible? How could that woman be so dumb? Well, I'm here to say...it is entirely possible! Why would anyone build a major road that ends on a runway?"

My husband just smiled and wisely said nothing.

*Norma Collis is a Tillsonburg author of several books, including "Tales from Holy Cottage".*

# What does Easter week mean to you?



## THE STAGE IS THE WORLD

LAUREL A. BEECHEY

*Tillsonburg Post Columnist*

The same story has been told for 2,026 years, but along the way, the story somehow changed from a betrayal, a crucifixion, a burial, and a miracle, to a bunny rabbit and chocolate.

As a child I loved Easter. I got a new Sunday dress, my brother received pants and a new shirt. We decorated hard-boiled eggs, before the weekend we rolled them across the floor smashing them together on Easter Sunday for egg salad sandwiches. Some memories stay forever.

Good Friday was set apart by Christian governments, including Canada, as time off work, allowing the public time to reflect on the reasons that Jesus was allowed to be humiliated, beaten, tried, and killed. Good Friday was always difficult for me when I was about 15, as the choir had to kneel for three hours. I could only do it about an

hour before I passed out. But the wonderful thing was, because I kept passing out, I was taken to a specialist, who fixed my knees the first time.

One of the most amazing Good Friday services I attended was here in Tillsonburg, when Olwyn Coughlin was the minister at St. Andrews. There was no sermonizing or bible reading, instead a short play which showed what it was like to have been there. The production was not of Jesus's journey, the Passion, but the journey of the two disciples who betrayed Him.

The night before Jesus was crucified, He and his twelve friends met for what became known as the 'Last Supper', in the 'Upper Room' After the crucifixion, two of His friends fleeing authorities, returned to the Upper Room to hide. The betrayers: Judas for 30 pieces of silver and Peter by denying he even knew Jesus. Imagine the guilt; anger; the sorrow? The confusion? The horror of their friend being crucified, by what they had done. "Two Faces in the Shadows", was performed live and with compelling dramatic dialogue, which caused the viewers to think, long and hard after the play. Even years after seeing it, and writing about it now, it still affects me.

Dad and I always had questions in our faith journeys, wondering what it was like for the other people in the biblical stories. Dad would write poems to see the situation from a different perspective, such as the Roman soldier who cast the dice and won Jesus' robe:

*The Gambler: You ask me why I dice no more, I who always made the score, A man who'd bet his purse or ring, To wager on most anything. Come closer then, I'll speak the word, A story that you've never heard, that may perplex you, may confuse, But, hopefully, could yet*

*amuse. Those days - how I detested them-, Whilst posted to Jerusalem I drew a task I could not refuse, to crucify three foolish Jews. And one of those poor wretched three, condemned to die by Rome's decree, was an upstart from the rural sod, who claimed to be the Son of God! Holy priests had laid him low, contrived this death; so hard, so slow, had swayed the Roman judge to reason, that he preached heresy and treason. And Pilate, he who had him flayed, Had caused a sign to be displayed, to mock him and proclaim the news, that this man was: "King of the Jews". Now a multitude came out to see us hang him on that dreaded tree, and many scoffed and many stared, but precious few there were who cared. For some came there to mock and mime, what better way to pass the time? How oft the chance to watch as three, are crucified on wall or tree? So we nailed him down - then raised him high, to hang there outlined 'gainst the sky, and then to pass the hours we tried, (They die so slow when crucified).*

*The clod had naught of any worth, being one of humble birth, But I for a whim, I dare not probe, cried: "Toss the dice for his royal robe." Well, I won that toss, but ne'er was glad, I wish to Zeus I never had, Fore'er I'm haunted by those eyes, The moans of pain, the anguished sighs. The prize I won? I gave away, to some poor soul who came to pray. A fisherman - or so they said, who plodded on with lowered head. But since then, do not ask me why, I have this tendency to cry. Yes, I who answered each request, For ribald song or earthy jest. What'er befell me on that day, I fear will never pass away. Oh, Gods above, how I have striven, that someday I may be forgiven. - Ronald F. Turner*

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# Dallas Smith playing in Tillsonburg May 28

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Canadian country singer Dallas Smith will be making a stop in Tillsonburg as part of his current tour.

He will be playing in the Tillsonburg Community Centre arena on May 28.

The three-time Canadian Country Music Association Entertainer of the Year winner has 21 gold-certified singles, nine platinum singles and four albums that have reached the gold level in sales. His global streaming count is more than 640 million, and he played at the Grand Ole Opry last summer.

The May 28 concert will be the first concert by a major artist in the Tillsonburg Community Centre in two decades. In all likelihood, the last concert in the facility was in 2006 when Stompin' Tom Connors belted out the lyrics to the town's song, amongst other hits.

New County 107.3 and Jones Entertainment Group will be jointly presenting the show. Tickets went on sale to the general public last Friday.

"We have a partnership with the Jones Entertainment Group on this," said Alan Duthie, New County 107.3 general manager. "They are leading the way and we are working aside them."

The arena will hold 1,700 people.

Duthie was excited with the announcement of the show, and said more music announcements will be coming. Across My Broadcasting Corporation – the station's parent company – they have presented Glass Tiger, the Northern Pikes and clas-



(DALLASSMITHMUSIC.COM PHOTO)

sic rock tribute bands in the past.

"We like to have interactions in the community that are different, but connect the band to the community," Duthie said. "If we can find an artist to bring to town and it makes sense for the brand, let's do it."

# Free transit to be provided for job fair attendees

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg council gave a green light to a request to provide free transit to job fair attendees.

Randi-Lee Durham, Director of Employment and Literacy Programs with the Multi-Service Centre, appeared before council on March 23 asking for a fee exemption for those attending the upcoming job fair on April 22, and a similar event in the fall.

"Our job fairs connect residents directly with employers, programs and job supports, however for many individuals, especially those who are unemployed and underemployed, even a small transportation cost can present them from attending," she explained.

She said ridership data for T:Go on the days of previous job fairs shows increased ridership on those days.

"This is a simple effective way to increase accessibility and strengthen our local workforce," she said.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy clarified that free

ridership would only be between 1 and 5 p.m. – the hours of the job fair – and Coun. Pete Luciani asked if this ask would only be for rides beginning or ending at the job fair site. Durham confirmed the hours and the intention was just for those going to, or coming from, the job fair.

Responding to Coun. Chris Rosehart's question if the Multi-Service Centre or the town would cover the cost, Durham said her hope was the town would.

Rosehart asked Manager of Operations Carlos Reyes how this could be tracked. He responded that the driver could ask people if their ride was in association with the job fair.

"It's basically not a cost but a loss of revenue," said Coun. Kelly Spencer.

"A loss of revenue is a cost because we have to make it up in the budget," Gilvesy said.

The final resolution passed by council was to provide free transit on April 22 between 1 and 5 p.m. for rides starting and ending at Stop 14 for those attending the job fair.

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## TILLSONBURG COUNCIL BRIEFS

### Variance approved for Queen Street buildings

Council approved a minor variance for four adjacent addresses on Queen Street to make way for three four-unit dwellings.

The application was to reduce the minimum side yard width and back yard depth at 25, 29-31 and 35 Queen Street. The application was before council in February, was denied, and was brought back with more detailed information at the March 23 meeting.

"The request is minor in nature and satisfies the criteria for a minor variance," Oxford County planner Amy Hartley told council at the March 23 meeting.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy said one of the concerns raised was drainage and how the water from the property will be handled. Hartley explained a grading plan for the property, which has to be approved by the town, will cover that issue.

Coun. Chris Parker questioned Zelinka Priamo, the agent for the applicant, about the amount of parking -which meets requirements - and a remark she made that seniors' housing typically requires less parking.

"I sit on the Tillsonburg Non-profit Housing board, we have three or four seniors' units, and parking is at a premium," he said.

Priamo said there aren't typically allowances for two vehicles per unit in any development. Through further questioning

from Parker, she admitted there is not data to back the assertion that seniors use less parking.

The development, which is at ground level, will target people with accessibility challenges.

The application was approved, although Parker said he would like to re-examine town bylaws that lay out only 1.25 parking spaces per unit.

### Memorial plaque program approved

Local residents who want a permanent tribute, but are not buried in Tillsonburg Cemetery, could have a new option through a memorial wall approved by council.

The intent of the wall would be to allow a plaque to be installed for those whose ashes are spread in another location. Council directed staff to look at options for such a wall and to report back to council.

### Cemetery arbour to be removed

A wooden arbour in the Tillsonburg Cemetery will be removed.

In a report to council, Adam Kannawin, Manager of Parks and Facilities, said there have been complaints about its location since it was installed and that it violates the cemetery bylaw.

When asked why it was being removed by Coun. Kelly Spencer, Kannawin, explained, "The location of it is an arbour to nowhere, and it's located across from Mc-

Donalds."

Council approved removing the arbour.

### Better in the shade?

Tillsonburg council directed staff to look at options to provide shade in the area of the bandshell, but to consult with the fair board during the process.

The discussion took place following direction from the Parks, Beautification and Cemeteries Committee requesting council direct staff to look at options. This could include planting trees, with the location to be discussed with the fair board so it won't interfere with its annual activities.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy said this should be done without spending money outside the already-approved 2026 budget.

"This is a compromise, I trust staff can figure it out," she said.

Coun. Kelly Spencer questioned if trees are the best option. Gilvesy said other options may be possible when staff report back, but it's vital it doesn't interfere with the fair.

Through further discussion, a commitment was also made to check with other users of the space before making any final decisions.

### Council pay report

Tillsonburg's remuneration report for 2025 contained no surprises.

The report, which is required by provin-

cial legislation, outlines the remuneration and expenses paid to council and town committee members.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy was on the top of the list, with remuneration of \$47,978, meeting per diems of \$370, \$4,795 from the police services board, \$7,773 from the hydro board, \$6,174 in benefits, and \$3,160 in expenses, for a total of \$70,252.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres was next with total income of \$42,249, which included remuneration of \$24,074, meeting per diems of \$1,295, \$7,773 from the hydro board, \$6,354 in benefits and \$2,752 in expenses. Beres was also paid \$6,803 for his role as a director with the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, of which \$5,057 was expenses.

Councillor remuneration, including expenses, health benefits, and boards, was: Chris Rosehart, \$33,825 (including police services board); Kelly Spencer, \$31,545; Bob Parsons, \$30,818; Pete Luciani, \$28,972; and \$28,604.

OPP detachment board appointees' remuneration was: Larry Scanlon, \$6,617; Art Baumonk, \$4,795; and Rebecca Turill, \$3,729.

Tillsonburg Hydro Board appointees' remuneration was: Dan Rasokas, \$12,362, including expenses; Ken Edwards, \$9,157; Cedric Tomico, \$8,746; Ernie Vidovic, \$8,746; Robert Kent, \$8,256; Laura Pickersgill, \$7,773; and Kyle Pratt, \$7,773.

Council accept the report as information.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 7

# THE SPRING LEATHER EVENT

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## TILLSONBURG COUNCIL BRIEFS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

### Council pauses on airport management contract

Council referred a report on airport management services for the next five years back to staff for review after discussing the item in closed session and debating it further in open session.

The renewal of the five-year contract received three bids, including one from the present operator Northland Property Services of Ingersoll. The report on the contract renewal recommended renewing the contract with Northland Property Services, which was the lowest bid. Other bids came from Winnipeg Airport Services and the Loomex Group.

Northland's bid was for \$164,000 for the first year, with Consumer Price Index increases in subsequent year.

Council discussed the matter in closed session due to discussions about an identifiable individual.

Coun. Kelly Spencer questioned the reason the contract was for five years, not a shorter term.

Carlos Reyes, Director of Operations and Development, said the five-year term allows the best costing as the contract requires equipment purchases and in the end, it is better value for the town.

Answering questions about the costing from Mayor Deb Gilvesy, Reyes said the second lowest bid is more than double at \$370,000 annually. He also said the other alternative is the model the town used in the past with an airport manager as a town employee.

Coun. Chris Parker said he has had a lot of communication from the public on this matter, and suggested referring the report back to staff for review and to negotiate a short-term extension in the meantime. Council endorsed that motion.

"There are alternatives out there that may be more beneficial, and/or we need to make sure the proper checks and balances are in place in regards to management out there," Parker said.

### Culture master plan

Town council endorsed the lowest bid in a

tender process for a cultural master plan.

The low bid of \$48,120 was a joint submission from TCI Management Consultants and Canadian Museum Services. The purpose of the master plan is to "establish Annandale National Historic Site's (ANHS) long-term strategic direction, goals, and priorities, and will serve as the primary policy-level document guiding governance, decision-making, and operational planning.

### Pickle ball court update

A row of spruce trees between the baseball diamonds and pickle ball/tennis courts will need to be removed to make way for an expansion of the pickleball courts.

The trees will be replanted in to-be-determined spots by year-s end.

Coun. Kelly Spencer asked about the possibility of lights for the courts, saying she had been asked of the possibility. Adam Kannawin, Manager Parks and Facilities, answered that the lights have been decommissioned for many years and there is nothing in the 10-year budget to replace them.

### Special events policy updates

Tillsonburg's guiding document on special events on municipal property received an update.

The update contains application and approval time standards, insurance requirements and fees, amongst other minor tweaks.

The only question from council on the policy was from Mayor Deb Gilvesy, who asked if the policy will contain language about provincial changes in alcohol consumption in public places. Director of Recreation, Culture and Parks Andrea Greenway explained that update would be through the municipality's alcohol policy.

### New clerk

Trisha McKibbin was introduced as the new clerk and manager of legislative services for Tillsonburg at the March 23 meeting.

She succeeds Amelia Jaggard, who was the acting clerk for the town. McKibbin was raised in Tillsonburg and had her first municipal job at Annandale National Historic Site.

## "Tillson Centre" 121 E. Concession Street, Tillsonburg



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# Local MPP said budget may be expensive

LEE GRIFFI

Post Contributor

Ontario's finance minister tabled the 2026 provincial budget last week, and the reaction from Oxford County's Conservative MPP is positive.

The 231-page document lays out plans for a record \$226 billion in program spending while projecting a deficit that is expected to reach \$13.8 billion this year, up from the \$7.8 billion projected last year.

Ernie Hardeman said he doesn't always like spending so much money, but at this point, the government needs to help build a strong economy.

"It doesn't just happen. We are going to build a lot of new infrastructure and that means there will be a lot of people earning a good paycheque. Building at a time when we need to increase employment is a great way of dealing with it."

Hardeman said the government is investing in transportation, education, and healthcare infrastructure and added the budget is about protecting the people of Ontario.

"We have to find a way to make life more affordable, and there are two ways we can do that. One is to make sure people have jobs to go to and also to make sure we don't have products being more expensive than they need to be."

The government said it is protecting communities through a multi-year Tax Action Plan and the removal of the full 13 per cent Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) for all eligible buyers of new homes, providing a maximum rebate of \$130,000.

"Reducing the administration costs of building a new home is so important. Not only is the tax reduction going to help, but we are going to make sure municipalities look at reducing the cost of development charges to reduce the cost of homes," said Hardeman.

He added the budget will build Ontario's economy while, at the same time, reducing the tax burden.

"This is a great way to present a budget. I think this is number 31 for me as an MPP, and I think it's one of the best."

The small business corporate income tax (CIT) rate is

being cut by more than 30 per cent to 2.2 per cent, from 3.2 per cent, effective July 1. The government claims that over 375,000 Ontario small businesses would benefit from an additional \$1.1 billion in CIT relief over the next three years.

"Ontario is navigating economic challenges with a pragmatic and prudent fiscal plan," said Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy. "To help the province navigate these times and come out stronger, we are investing in strategic priorities such as energy, critical minerals, key infrastructure and critical technologies that will make our economy stronger, while cutting red tape and creating the conditions for businesses to grow, supporting workers and strengthening Ontario's economy."

Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy said the budget sends an important signal about the need to support jobs, attract industry and keep the economy strong.

"Measures like lowering the small business tax rate from 3.2 per cent to 2.2 per cent will make a real difference for local entrepreneurs, helping them grow, hire, and reinvest in our community," she said. "The additional investment in the Invest Ontario Fund is also a positive step. By supporting key sectors like advanced manufacturing, AI, and defense, the province is positioning Ontario to compete for the kinds of jobs and industries that drive long-term economic growth."

With the recent completion of the second phase of the VanNorman Innovation Park being online, the mayor believes Tillsonburg is well positioned.

"Tillsonburg is ready to be part of that growth," Gilvesy said. "Tillsonburg has available industrial land and a strong track record of supporting business expansion. These provincial supports are welcomed and will help communities like ours attract new employers and create good local jobs."

She does realize competition for industrial business is fierce, though.

"Jurisdictions like Michigan are putting forward aggressive incentive packages to attract investment. It's critical that Ontario continues to stay competitive so we don't lose opportunities to other regions."

The government is expanding investment in the Primary Care Action Plan to \$3.4 billion from 2025 to 2029.

The plan's goal is to connect everyone in Ontario to a family doctor or primary care provider.

An additional \$300 million over six years will be available through the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund to help meet the needs of growing communities as they foster healthier and more active lifestyles for families.

\$9.4 million is also being invested over three years to renew grants for the Summer Company and Starter Company Plus programs delivered through the Small Business Enterprise Centres network.

For the first time in Ontario history, the province's net debt is forecast to cross the half-trillion-dollar mark, with the government forecasting a \$514 billion debt.

- With files from Jeff Helsdon

## WEEKEND QUIZ

by Jake Grant

1. What is the birthstone for April?
2. Who is the newly elected leader of the NDP?
3. The Cooper's Hill Cheese-Rolling and Wake takes place annually in which country?
4. Children born from 2025 to 2039 will belong to which generation?
5. What are the three main macronutrients?
6. Who stars as the lead role in *Shutter Island* (2010)?
7. Canada's federal minimum wage grew April 1st, 2026. What is minimum wage?
8. Angkor Wat is the largest religious monument in the world found in what country?
9. How far is 1-light year in kilometers?
10. How many sides does a heptagon have?

This week's answers are found on pg. 23

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# Oxford MP's Jail Not Bail Act voted down in second reading

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Oxford MP Arpan Khanna's Jail Not Bail Act was amongst four justice-related Private Member's Bills voted down last week.

The bill, which was co-sponsored by Brant MP and Shadow Minister for Justice and the Attorney General Larry Brock, aimed to put an end to repeat offenders who are released on bail and commit another crime. Khanna garnered victims' testimony from across the country to back his position.

"That would have been a full crack down, full stop," he said. "It would have taken those repeat offenders off the street."

The bill was defeated 193-136, with the Liberals, NDP, and Green voting against it.

"Law enforcement came out and said it was a sad day," Khanna said, adding victim advocacy groups were also disappointed.

He has had widespread nationwide support for the legislation.

"The calls and emails I have been getting are insane, saying we need some rule of law back in our country," he said.

With the Jail Not Bail Act, three other Conservative bills intended to help victims and justice, were also defeated. These bills would have ended discount sentencing for sexual predators, ended lighter sentences for rapists and child predators who were non-residents, and ended the practice of parole board hearings making victims relive the horror of their traumatic ordeals.

"They didn't want to work with us on these and collaborate on these," Khanna said with disappointment, explaining all four were defeated in 40 minutes.

While the Liberals brought some changes through Bill C-14, which the Conservatives supported, Khanna doesn't believe it went far enough.

"C-14 a step in the right direction, but won't get us to the end destination," he said. "If Liberals bring good policy forward that will protect Canadians, we will support it. We did that with C-14. We expect the same and them not to vote down a bill."

Khanna said the Conservatives will keep on fighting and will continue to be a voice for victims and law-abiding gun owners. He hinted that other caucus members have more justice bills in the works.



## CHOCOLATE FOR A CAUSE

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Member of the Tillsonburg Lions Club were at Sobeys and the Tillsonburg Town Centre recently selling chocolate Easter bunnies as a fundraiser for their community efforts. Club first vice-president David Pipher was one of the volunteers taking part in the effort.

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# Joint event outlines local business supports



(STAFF PHOTO)

Tillsonburg District Chamber of Commerce President Lindsay Tribble addressed those in attendance during a joint event with the Tillsonburg and District Multi-Service Centre designed to highlight what is available from both agencies for employers.

**JEFF HELSDON**

*Editor*

A joint event by the Tillsonburg District Chamber of Commerce and the Tillsonburg and District Multi-Service Centre highlighted some of the supports available for local businesses.

Held March 25, the breakfast meeting is the first of three such events planned to highlight the advantages of being a chamber member, and the services available through the Multi-Service Centre.

Randi-Lee Durham, Director of Employment and Literary Programs with the Multi-Service Centre, came up with the concept when she talked to the director of employment services in Elgin County, looking for ways to promote what is available to employers.

Job developer Ed Klassen told those in attendance that the Multi-Service Centre's services are a provincially-funded program for job seekers. It is not a temporary staffing agency, but a non-profit or-

ganization to connect people looking for work with employers.

The Multi-Service Centre can also guide employers to programs that support new hires. Klassen described the program as one where the company makes a hiring decision, the new hire works for the company, and then government funding is provided to reimburse the wages during the training period.

The chamber works to reduce red tape and advocate for business.

"If you have any situations or problems, or have ideas on how to do something better, just tell us," said chamber CEO Rocio Salinas.

She also outlined some of the chamber benefits, such as group employee benefits, discounts on shipping, gasoline, stationery and networking opportunities.

"To me, the chamber is the heart and pulse of our community, whether advocating with the government or working for businesses of all sizes," said chamber president Lindsay Tribble.



(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)

## LEGION'S BINGO FOR KIDS

Six year old Lyla Verheghe was feeling the excitement at the Kids' Easter Bingo, sponsored by the Tillsonburg Legion on March 22. Seven bingo winners took home large chocolate bunnies, but there were goodie bags for every child as well as a table of door prizes donated by the Legion, Sobey's, Metro and Super Air Bounce Rentals.



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Attention: Board Chair, Rural Roads Health Services  
c/o Lisa Dahm, Executive Assistant [lisa.dahm@rrhs.ca](mailto:lisa.dahm@rrhs.ca)

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## Tillsonburg trio headed to Eastern Canadian Ringette U19 Championships

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

A trip to Eastern Canadian Ringette Championships with the U19 Dorchester Dragons has been a long time coming for three Tillsonburg skaters.

But it's a great way to celebrate going onward in their ringette careers.

"Something we've been looking forward to since we started provincials," said Madi Rapai, who has suited up with the Dorchester Dragons since her U12 season.

"I'm so excited," added Hailey Lindie, who went to Dorchester from Tillsonburg along with her U19 teammate.

Rapai, Lindie and fellow 17-year-old Megan Mullen - who moved from Tillsonburg to Dorchester in her U14 season - earned their finals appearance by qualifying for the Tier I U19 championship game Sunday, March 15 at the RIM Manulife Financial Sportsplex in Kitchener-Waterloo.

The Dragons qualified for the Tier A playoff bracket by gaining points through three ranking tournaments, placed within their Great Lakes Ringette regular season. Dorchester, Gloucester/Cumberland, Forest, West Ottawa, Sudbury and Paris met in Tier A round-robin play, with the top four teams advancing to semi-finals.

Dorchester opened with a 4-4 draw against Forest, a bit of a nemesis which finished first in Great Lakes standings, before edging Gloucester/Cumberland 4-3. The Dragons then faced West Ottawa, 'falling

apart' a bit through a rougher game they dropped 4-1. Taking to the ice against Sudbury in a must-win situation, Dorchester responded with a solid 8-2 win.

"Our game was able to come back together and have one of our better games of the season," said Rapai.

The Dragons were able to ride that momentum to a 6-3 victory over Paris, locking up a semi-final berth against Gloucester/Cumberland. The game's importance was magnified, given as Ontario is hosting Easterns this year, the province gets two berths in the draw, both finalists qualifying.

The Dragons punched their ticket with a 4-2 win, emotional both on and off the ice.

"Took a lot of stress off our shoulders," said Rapai.

"My mom told me all the parents were bawling their eyes out," Lindie added.

Dorchester faced West Ottawa in the final, dropping a 2-0 decision.

"But we did have two goals that didn't count," said Lindie, players ruled to be 'in the crease' on both occasions.

The first situation was clear-cut, admitted Mullen, the second not so much.

"It's just so frustrating."

A 'great defender' in the words of Lindie, Mullen converted to forward following a concussion.

"She only started two weeks ago in our tournament and I think she outscored most of our forwards, including me," added Rapai.

Rapai is a 'very reliable' forward says Lindie with great



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

From left, Madi Rapai, Megan Mullen and Hailey Lindie are headed to Eastern Canadian Ringette Championships with the Dorchester Dragons Thursday, April 16 to Sunday, April 19 in Mississauga's Iceland Arena.

game sense.

"You don't have to have a play, they figure it out on Madi's line," said Mullen.

Finally, Lindie has an 'insane' wrist shot credits Rapai, and an ability to bury big-time goals.

"She finds a pocket and it finds the back of the net."

"And she loves cheese strings," Mullen added with a laugh. "It pumps her up."

Eastern Canadians will be contested Thursday, April 16 to Sunday, April 19 in Mississauga's Iceland Arena. Coached by

Laura Dayman of the National Ringette League's Cambridge Turbos, Dorchester heads into Easterns with high hopes.

They do believe they can play with Ottawa West and are looking forward to a potential rematch following their finals loss.

"It was definitely motivational," said Mullen, adding the Dragons will just be trying their hardest.

Ringette has been a big part of all of their lives, beginning at the ages of four or five.

"I've made a lot of close

friends I'll have for the rest of my life," said Rapai.

It's a game one can be extremely competitive in, and yet bond with opponents says Lindie, embracing the opportunity for 'somewhere big' in her final year of ringette.

"To end up with a big bang at Easterns is the way I want to go out," she concluded.

Those wishing to support their efforts financially are invited to reach out to Dragons team treasurer April Mullen via email at [aprilmullen@roggers.com](mailto:aprilmullen@roggers.com).

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(STUART BLOWER PHOTOS)



Tillsonburg Tornados Coward's Pharmacy players, from left, Ethan Lockey, Jonathon Prichard, and Zach Barton pursue Six Nations players during a recent match-up.



Liam Dykxhoorn, left, and Leo Adams of the U10 Gordon Ruth and Company South Oxford Storm are in close, digging for control of the puck during a game against the Norfolk Knights.



Harper Handsaeme, left, of the Shaw's Ice Cream U11 Tillsonburg Lightning scrambles along the boards to keep control of the puck during a game against North Middlesex.



It was hands on deck when U12 South Oxford Storm players Clark Whatley (#10), Max Prouse (#44), Brayden Bartram (#17), and Carter Smith (#18) work in front of the net to assist goaltender Ryan Peters in a game against Norfolk Knights.



South Oxford Storm's U13 Innovate Foods players Colton Fallowfield (#58), Easton Dunn (#22), Carter Ponting (#18) and Blake Lauwerier (#9) attempt to clear the puck for goalie Blake Wojtkowiak in a game against the Norfolk Knights.



A Twin Centre Stars player looks to be going down as a U13B Funnell Insurance Group South Oxford Storm player maneuvers past him in a recent game.

# Prouse Mortgages on verge of B Club Oxford Division title

JEFF GWYN

Post Contributor

Prouse Mortgages is on the cusp of capturing the B Division title while ReMax and the Apple Shack are fighting for the A trophy in a closely-contested series.

**March 22**  
**B Division**

**Prouse Mortgages 2, Source 0**

Prouse Mortgages didn't show any rust after a couple weeks off. They came out strong and pressured down low all night. Source couldn't ride their momentum in this one. They had some good chances and nice shots, but couldn't find a hole. I'm sure their hard work will payoff in the next games.

Stephan Coulombe and Dan King had two points each for Prouse Mortgages. Tom Huberty had the shutout.

**March 25**  
**A Division**

**ReMax 3, Apple Shack 2**

ReMax bounced back after a Game 1 OT loss. They had pressure for most of

the first period and managed to hold the lead into the second. They had both lines rolling and kept getting odd man rushes in deep to keep control of this one. Apple Shack did well to stay in this one. They were able to tie it up in the second and get a bunch of chances with their goalie pulled late. A very close series.

Cory Campbell-Smith had two goals for ReMax. Evan DeRouck had two points for Apple Shack.

**B Division**

**Prouse Mortgages 4, Source 2**

After a slow start, Prouse Mortgages rebounded late in the first and kept the pressure going in the second. They clogged the neutral zone in the second and kept Source to the outside for much of the night. Source came out strong and got on the board early. They looked to have found some momentum but slowly ran out of gas. A short bench and some penalties made them a tired bunch in the second.

Kris Sebok had a goal for Prouse Mortgages. Jason VanThuyne had a goal for Source.

**A DIVISION PLAYOFFS**

FODY'S AUTOMOTIVE (1) VS APPLE SHACK (4)  
**APPLE SHACK WINS 3-2**

REMAX REALTY (2) VS THE HEALTH HUT (3)  
**REMAX WINS 7PTS TO 3PTS**

**A CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL**

REMAX REALTY (2) VS APPLE SHACK (4)  
**SERIES TIED 1-1**

**B DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP**

SOURCE FOR SPORTS (1) VS TILLSONBURG GLASS (4)  
**SOURCE WINS SERIES 23-2**

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

**B CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL**

SOURCE FOR SPORTS (1) VS JEFF PROUSE MORTGAGES (2)  
**JP MORTGAGES LEADS 2-0**

**B DIVISION CONSOLATION**

CARQUEST AUTO PARTS (5) VS AIRMOUNT FARMS (8)  
**CARQUEST WINS SERIES 3-0**

B-LINE TRUCKING (6) VS RND CONSTRUCTION (7)  
**B-LINE WINS SERIES 3-0**

**B CONSOLATION FINAL**

CARQUEST AUTO PARTS(5) VS B-LINE TRUCKING (6)  
**B-LINE WINS SERIES 3-0**



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Source for Sports forwards move the puck down the ice in a last-minute offensive of a B Division game against Prouse Mortgages. Despite pulling the goalie, Source for Sports couldn't get the last-minute goals needed to tie the game.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

With the puck in front of the ReMax net, the defenders are standing by as their goaltender attempts to smother the puck in a game against The Apple Shack. ReMax won this game 3-2 to tie the series.

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# Tillsonburg Curling Club winds down for the season



## ON THE BROOM

**NORA PETER**

*Tillsonburg Post Columnist*

The last trophies have been awarded, the rocks have been removed from the ice, the summer volunteer list has been posted and the ice is melting. The TCC has completed a very successful '25-26 season. Each league wrapped up their season in their own special way

The ladies' final draw was sponsored by Garden Gate and owner Linda Fenn was on hand to award the trophy and prizes to first place curlers Jen Cadman, Patti Tutt, Brenda Jones and Judy Blodgett. She also had flowers for second place finishers Gail Harris, Susan Howe, Cathy Kovacs and Yonna Dilella. Congratulations to Garden Gate on their 15th anniversary which they will celebrate April 15th.

The ladies' season finished with a fun game designed to frustrate skips as the roll of the dice would change how to score an end from normal to all the rocks out of play, or only yellow rocks in play- can you tell I was throwing red, had shot rock in four of the six ends but lost the game 15-

5! Rolling the dice to see instructions on how to score the end led to a few discussions and some lop-sided scores but it was fun and kept curlers interested. The ladies followed up with a potluck lunch with the usual variety of good food available. A good way to finish the season. Thank you to league convenor Linda Durston and her games committee of Karen Robinson, Dale Wright and Diana Blake.

On March 26, the men's league concluded their season with all teams playing the final game of their championship round and capping it off with their steak dinner. This year the men made the decision to have Chuck's Roadhouse do their steaks instead of setting up the barbeque outside to cook their own steak. It proved to be a good decision as Mother Nature provided some heavy downpours about supertime. Paul Belcher added his specialty baked beans to the menu years ago and didn't disappoint with his 'pot' this year. Thank you to Dave Sandor and Al Robinson for their continued convenorship of the league. You're doing a great job.

The senior men capped their season of play with the awarding of the Lang Memorial Cup trophy to Jerry Hetherington, Kari Silvertainen, Ches Sulkowski, Stephen Pelland and Doug Moulton. Thanks to Wade Jones and Ches Sulkowski for keeping this league working well for the men.

The TCC Special Olympic Team Tillsonburg Thunder Rock competed at the Provincial Qualifier in Ilderton on March 21. The team composed of Jaime VanPa-

rys, AnnMarie D'Hondt, William Ypma, Corey Mulholland and Kara Jones played in the A division against teams from LaSalle-Windsor (2) and London (1). They played well, winning two of their three games and losing a close game to London. The team is awaiting the results from six other provincial qualifiers. If they qualify, they will advance to the provincial games in North Bay in 2027. Congrats to the team and coach Diane Kleer on another successful year.

Just in case you wanted to know what's been happening with Team King – the two front end members, Victor and Owen, qualified for Mixed Doubles Championships.

Victor has been playing in the Canadian National Mixed Doubles Championship in Surrey, B.C. with his partner Serena Gray-Withers, finishing second in their pool. They played a team from Saskatchewan in qualifiers and defeated them to move on to semi-finals where they played Homan / Bottcher. This was a very close game tied 4-4 in the eighth with Homan/ Bottcher holding the hammer. In a surprising finish, Rachel needed to bite the four-foot and was heavy leaving Victor and Serena counting two to score the upset win and move on to the finals. They met team Cinnamon/Tao in finals giving up a huge six-ender in the first end. They played from behind the whole game slowly whittling away the Alberta team's lead. Down two in the eighth end but with hammer they scored three to win the Canadian Championship and become the new Team

Canada! Congratulations, what a wonderful year of curling for Victor.

Owen and his partner Brooklyn Ideson finished first after round robin play in the U21 Mixed Doubles Qualifier held in Sudbury and earned a berth in the finals with their 5-2 record. They met Evans/ Dalrymple from Alberta in finals. Owen and Brooklyn got off to a great start taking three in the first end and stealing four in the second. They never gave up the lead and won in six ends. They will represent Canada in the World U21 Championships to be held in Edmonton in May.

In other news about elite curlers of our country, Team Canada Einarson won the silver medal at the Worlds and then announced that vice Val Sweeting, alternate Karwacki and coach Reid Carruthers were all leaving the team. Also stepping away from the game are Kaitlyn Lawes, Krista Scharf and Kayla Skrilk. The end of an Olympic quadrennial often sees teams splitting up and new ones forming. Some of the names already announcing new teams are John Epping, Kevin Koe, Mike McEwen, Scott Howard, Sam Mooibroek, Brendan Bottcher. On the website I used for my info there were 15 new teams announced (notable new team for Ontario Ladies Sherry Middaugh curling with her daughters with Wayne as coach), 28 splitting up or making changes and 10 staying together (including Team Jacobs). The fall line-ups will have many new looks.

That's a wrap for me, thanks for letting me share my thoughts on curling – local, national and international. Curling Rocks!

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# Tillsonburg Thunder down 3-0 in A championships

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The Tillsonburg Thunder are down 3-0 in the Ontario Elite Hockey League's A Championship series.

The series opened last weekend with home-and-home games that saw Tillsonburg down 2-0 to the Saugeen Shores Winterhawks, despite leading much of the second game, and falling in overtime.

Game three, played Saturday night on the road, saw the Thunder fall behind early, trailing 3-0 at the end of the first period. The Tillsonburg crew fell further behind in the second period, trailing by eight before Luke Sinclair, from Danny Attridge and Hunter

Monkhouse, put the Thunder on the board.

It was then Attridge's turn to score in the third, bulging the net early in the third off a feed from Monkhouse and Tye Johnson. The Thunder couldn't overcome the deficit, falling 11-2, to put the team behind by three games in the series.

The Thunder are hoping some hometown lightning from the crowd will help them storm the Winterhawks. The next game in the series is Saturday, April 4, with a 7:30 p.m. faceoff, when the Thunder hosts. The best-of-seven series will be followed by a road game Sunday in Port Elgin, if necessary, with Tillsonburg hosting the final game on April 11 if the series goes to seven games.

# Tillsonburg team wins silver in Special Olympics basketball

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The hometown team in the D Division took the silver medals when Special Olympics Tillsonburg hosted its annual tournament on the weekend.

The D Division were first on the scoreboard in the opening game against Woodstock, scoring the first basket and never looking back. Tillsonburg ended with a 28-8 win. The home team then won tighter games against Windsor-LaSalle 22-17, and Kitchener 20-18. Tillsonburg faced Windsor-LaSalle again in the gold medal game and lost a close 23-18 game.

"Their hard work and dedication in the practice gym showed itself as they both competed till the last buzzer," said head coach Matt Bowers. "Our D-rec team lost the bronze medal game in overtime, and



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

**Tillsonburg's Special Olympics D team defeated Woodstock to open the Tillsonburg tournament, and kept winning until the team lost a close game in the final.**

our D team fell short, but just a few points in the gold medal game to secure the silver medal. I am so proud of every one of my players and all the hard work they put in to the game of basketball. I am truly blessed to say I am their coach."

The D-Rec team opened with 1 16-12 loss to Woodstock, despite several chances in the last two minutes that the team just couldn't connect on. The team fell 18-12 to Windsor-LaSalle, and 30-8 to Kitchener. Meeting LaSalle in the bronze medal playoff, the game went to overtime, where Tillsonburg fell 18-14.

Bowers had praise for the many volunteers that brought the tournament together.

"The event was amazing due to our great volunteers and generous sponsors who truly make this event what it is," he said. "I had numerous other coaches tell me how much they enjoyed it as well."



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

**The Tillsonburg Special Olympics D Rec team won a close game to Woodstock in their opener.**

# Tillsonburg skaters excel at provincials



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

**Four Tillsonburg Skating Club competitors took to the ice at the provincials. From left are: Claire McCutchen, Morgan Condie, Elizabeth Heleniak and Scott Boyd.**

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Four Tillsonburg Skating Club competitors took to the ice at the recent provincials held in Hamilton March 20-21.

Scott Boyd competed in gold men and Star 9 men, finishing second in both competitions. He was judged on how well his jumps and spins were executed as well as his foot work and presentation.

"I had a clean program, and landed all my jumps," he said. "My spins were good, my footwork was good, and it was an amazing skate."

For Boyd, who is 17, this will be his last competition as he is off to post-secondary school next year.

"It was a good skate to end off with," he reflected.

Intending to study robotics or mechanical engineering, he still intends on skating, and hopes to coach one day.

"I don't want to give up skating quite yet," he said. "I want to find some time once or twice a week to keep skating."

Claire McCutchen, 17, has one more year for the provincials. She finished second in Star 10 women, and was judged on her skate, and how she executed three spins and 10 jumps.

"I skated clean, all my jumps went well," she said.

McCutchen skated first of the 18 in the group, which she said can be a challenge, but her score held up.

Next year, McCutchen, who has been skating since she was four, will try skating at the gold level. She may try out for the varsity team at university, but hasn't decided yet.

It was the third year at the provincials for Morgan Condie, also 17. She skated in Star 8 women and Star 7 women over 12, finishing 10th and 17th respectively.

"I skated fairly well," she said. "I made a couple of mistakes, which cost me or I could have placed higher."

Last year, she finished 18th in Star 8. The road to the competition was smoother, with five golds and one silver in four different competitions.

Next year, Condie is headed to Trent University to study accounting and plans on continuing skating at the recreational level.

Elizabeth Heleniak was the youngest of the Tillsonburg skaters at the provincials, being 12. She finished ninth in pre-juvenile under 13 and 18th in Star 7 under 12.

She said her pre-juvenile skate went well, but she fell in the Star 7 skate.

"On the first day, I didn't do good, but on the second day, I did well but everyone else was also really good," she said.

Heleniak had two seconds and two thirds in other competitions to qualify for the provincials.

These skaters will be part of the annual carnival on April 17 and 18. See next week's more Post for more information.

[tillsonburgpost.com](http://tillsonburgpost.com)



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTOS)



### THE GREAT BIG CRUNCH

Several loud crunching sounds could be heard across Tillsonburg on March 26 as students took a bite out of an apple, and then consumed it, to promote healthy eating. The program started in 2008 and now runs nationwide. It is run by the Coalition for Healthy School Food nationally, and the Ontario Student Nutrition Program locally. (Top left photo) Students in Mr. Halpenny's Grade 6 class at South Ridge crunched at 1:20 p.m., along with the rest of the school. (Top right photo) Mr. Chorpitta's Grade 7/8 class at Monsignor O'Neil were crunching at 1 p.m. (Bottom photo) Students who assisted with the snack program gathered to crunch their apples Thursday morning. Left to right are: (front row) Sydney Cadman, Kayden Majeed, Jack Cadman, Audrey Farkas, Lily Taplin, Aliyana Howell, (back row) snack program coordinator Kerry Cadman, Logan Chilcott, Noah Herreman, Khloe Watson and Hazel Klassen.

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# Tillsonburg's Joe McGuire finds his groove



## MUSIC CORNER

**BEN ADDRESS**

*Tillsonburg Post Columnist*

In a local music scene built on friendships, persistence and late-night jam sessions, there are only a few players that strive to rock as much as Tillsonburg bassist Joe McGuire. Whether he is locking into a gritty punk groove, pounding with a hardcore rhythm section or stepping outside his comfort zone with new genres, he has quietly become one of the area's most versatile and dedicated musicians.

Joe's return to music did not happen overnight but started, like it does for many, on a small stage with a familiar format.

"Open Mic nights got me back into playing and I joined The Kaiser Bros band shortly after. They are a classic rock cover band, and I learned a lot of structure from them," McGuire explained. "John Kanold was a big part of me rejoining music as well. However, I had the urge to create original music and I met Brett and Neil from The Half Smokes. From there The Half Smokes has been my main project."

That drive to create something original helped shape Joe's musical identity. He anchors multiple projects across a wide spectrum of styles. With The Half Smokes, he handles bass and backing vocals, helping deliver a punchy, melodic foundation. In the band Pot of Greed, he dives headfirst into heavier territory, while Pocket Groove offers a creative outlet that pushes him beyond the bass altogether. Joe is also part of Jury Duty, alongside father-and-son duo John and Ross Kanold, and Yair Herrera. Each project taps into a different side of his musical personality.

"The Half Smokes has allowed me a lot of room to explore and grow both with a non-conventional tone and bringing some 'Duff' influence into the mix," McGuire says. "They are a great mix of Canadian rock and some punk leanings."

That 'Duff' influence is drawn from Guns N' Roses bassist Duff McKagan, who is one of several touchstones Joe credits in shaping his sound.

"I do not have many influences, but Duff McKagan is definitely the biggest one," McGuire lists. "Matt Freeman, Melissa Auf der Maur and April Kae as well are fabulous, and I look to them for inspiration."

The Half Smokes offers space to experiment, however, his other band Pot of Greed satisfies a completely different musical craving.

"Sometime later Josh Billard approached me about joining a hardcore band, which I jumped at. I'm a metal guy and I needed that ferocity that Pot Of Greed brings so well," McGuire explains with a smile. "Pot of Greed lets me scratch that hard fast

rhythm and a drop A tuning. They are fast, heavy and make me want to join the crowd in the pit. Obviously, a much different genre and it requires a totally different skill set."

Then there is Pocket Groove, which is a project McGuire describes with a bit of humour and a lot of honesty.

"Pocket Groove is a side quest to force me to learn new genres and new instruments that I am not comfortable with," McGuire grins. "I have accomplished my biggest goal so far with The Half Smokes, and that is to be published. We released our first demo track last year with the help of Adam and Terry at the Phat Otter. We are putting the finishing touches on our first album currently. I would love to tour a bit."

That willingness to step outside his lane speaks to a musician more interested in growth than comfort, which has already led to some meaningful milestones for Joe.

"I also do a bit of work for myself writing music for streamers to use for intros and outros as well," McGuire says. "That has been a fun experience. Opening for classic bands like Rusty with The Half Smokes has been amazing as I listened to them growing up. I got to open for Jupiter Hollow with Pot Of Greed which was incredible as they are one of my current favourites."

For Joe, it often comes back to tone and the elusive, ever-evolving pursuit that bass players know all too well.

"Tone. Oh tone," McGuire chuckles. "For The Half Smokes, it is a tone I have been chasing forev-

er and finally started finding with the help of Steve Long. It is a bit of a warm fuzzy jazz bass honk with a bit of extra bottom end. I'm playing my G&L SB-2 while my Fender Meteora is getting serviced. I have a Fender Dimension bass as well for backup. Those go into a Traynor Bass Master 15 combo. I have added some pedals into the mix."

The topic of tone and gear is something Joe can converse about for a while. It is a gear list that reflects his musical range while celebrating vintage tones, modern vibes and a willingness to experiment.

"For Pot Of Greed, I need something dirty, aggressive and low. I'm using a 1993 Ibanez SR886 six-string. I play through a Green Russian Big Muff pedal most of the time for that band for that thickness," McGuire explains. "For Pocket Groove, I use an old 1971 Aria SG clone and a Korg Minilogue XD."

As Tillsonburg's live music scene continues to grow, players like Joe McGuire are helping shape the town's future one low note at a time. Whether it is in a packed bar, a respected music venue or a recording session, he is not just keeping time, he is building something lasting.

You can catch Joe keeping rhythm Wednesday, April 15th when The Half Smokes share the stage with 90's CanCon legend Spookey Ruben at Paddy's Underground. Tickets are \$15, with doors open at 8 p.m. for this all ages/licensed concert. You can follow The Half Smokes' social media page at [www.facebook.com/TheHalfSmokes](http://www.facebook.com/TheHalfSmokes) and Pot Of Greed [www.facebook.com/PotOfGreedBand](http://www.facebook.com/PotOfGreedBand)

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**APRIL 2 - SUGAR KINGS**  
The Copper Mug: 8 p.m.

**APRIL 4 - KICKN KOUNTRY**  
Tillsonburg Legion Branch #153: \$8 - 1 p.m. - 19+

**APRIL 4 - DJ KENNY COUNTRY NIGHT**  
Birds Golf Sports Lounge: Free Entry - 9 p.m. - 19+

**APRIL 7 - ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS (THE CLASH TRIBUTE) W/ WHERE'S SHANE**  
Paddy's Underground: \$15 - 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

**APRIL 8 - EUCHRE NIGHT**  
The Copper Mug: 6:30 p.m.

**APRIL 15 - SPOOKEY RUBEN W/ THE HALF SMOKES AND TREVOR KOSTYRIA**  
Paddy's Underground: \$15 - 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

**APRIL 16 - FELICIA MCMINN**  
The Copper Mug: Free Entry - 8 p.m.

**APRIL 17 - MUSIC TRIVIA**  
The Copper Mug: Free Entry - 8 p.m.

**APRIL 17 - MUDMEN**  
Tillsonburg Legion Branch #153: \$30 - 8 p.m. - 19+

**APRIL 18 - TILLSONBURG'S ONLY REGGAE DANCE PARTY W/ THE HUMAN RIGHTS**  
Paddy's Underground: \$25 - 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

**APRIL 19 - FRED HODGSON**  
The Copper Mug: Free Entry - 5 p.m.



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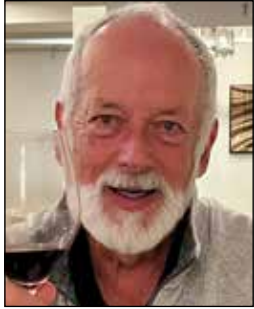
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# A tasty Perth County craft brewery day trip



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

**PAUL KNOWLES**

*Tillsonburg Post Columnist*

The beer was very good – but what I was really interested in was the story behind the brand.

Let's face it – the life of a travel writer is hard, slogging work. Take this day for example: I had decided to write a feature about a day trip to two Perth County craft breweries. I asked three buddies if they would like to come along as I visited Black Donnellys Brewing Company in Russeldale, and Black Swan Brewing in Stratford. They were understandably reluctant – it took up to 15 seconds for them to agree – and off we went. As I said, I have a very demanding job.

I've been interested in the Black Donnellys brand for quite a while. Having grown up on Southern Ontario, I knew the story. Early in my life, I read the harrowing accounts (some more or less true) about this family, their reportedly nefarious deeds, and the massacre that occurred when their neighbours attacked them in their Lucan area home. There are now books, plays, songs, a TV program, and a museum about the Donnellys.

I'm not going to go into all the controversy about the Donnellys, their alleged crimes, the conspiracy against them, and the February 3, 1880, night when their Biddulph township neighbours slaughtered five Donnelly family members. What interested me is how craft brewer Neil Douglas was able to use the brand "Black Donnellys" and various terms associat-

ed with the story when he opened his brewery on Highway 23, ten minutes south of Mitchell.

Turns out, he simply did it! Nobody owned rights to the names. He told me, "I wondered if there would be push-back" because of the gruesome nature of the story, but that didn't happen – people were more intrigued than concerned.

So after naming the brewery, he followed up by naming the various beers after details of the story: Roman Line Lager (from the road where the Donnellys lived); Dark Horse Ale; 1880 Mile Stout; Biddulph Township Haze IPA; Shillelagh Law Belgian Quad; Seven Sons Amber Lager; and Vigilante IPA, to name a few.

Some of those names – like "Seven Sons" – actually arose from contests that Neil has conducted with his customers.

My friends and I sampled flights of Neil's beer, and the consensus was, this is good stuff. Personally, I tried the Seven Sons, Roman Line, Dark Horse and Shillelagh Law, and would be hard pressed to choose one over the other – although the 8% Shillelagh was really tasty. The four of us chose four different beers as our favourites, but agreed they were all excellent brews.

Neil buys hops and grain from western Canada, England, Germany, Austria, and some hops from the Tavistock area. But he says the real key to the taste of his beers is the pure, well water from his property. "That makes the beer," he told us.

In total, Neil and brewmaster Scott Jacobs produce 10 beers; they are served at the brewery (with a comfortable interior, a patio in the warm months, live music every couple of weeks, and pizza and snacks available), and at ten pubs across an area stretching from the Scran and Dram pub in New Hamburg to the shores of Lake Huron.

Our flights consumed, and information gathered, we headed east to Stratford, to visit Black Swan Brewing on Downie Street. It was



**The Black Donnellys' Neil Douglas, preparing a flight of beer.**

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

mid-afternoon on a Wednesday in March, so there were few customers, but within an hour or two, the place was full.

The Black Swan is owned by Ryan Stokes, a teacher by day. We were enthusiastically greeted by one of his former students, Sierra Sauvé, who provided us with lots of information, and some really fine flights of beer.

The Black Swan opened almost 12 years ago, and in an era where some craft breweries are struggling, both it and the Donnellys seem to be thriving, building on excellent products, friendly service and a loyal customer base.

Sierra told us that while the warmer months bring lots of Stratford visitors to the brewery, the key to year-round success lies with their regular, local clients.

And here's a tasting tip from those regulars: it's common for those in the know to order a blended beer, combining a couple of the brews on tap to make their own special beer.

It's an interesting idea, but after tasting the

beers in our flights, we all agreed it would not be difficult to choose a favourite straight from the taps. But as usual, we couldn't agree as to what that favourite would be; votes were cast for Road Trip Golden Ale; English Pale Ale, and New Vienna Lager. And our cast of enthusiastic amateurs also liked the Wild Child Sour (the sour beers are changed seasonally). The list of beers not enjoyed was blank.

The seating area in the brewery is not enormous, but the Black Swan has a patio out front (in typical Stratford style) in the warm months. But if you opt to sit outdoors, be sure to pop in and see the large Black Swan painting by Drew Simpson, an impressive adaptation of the 17th century work by Jan Asselijn, called "The Threatened Swan". Cheers!

*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).*



**Black Donnellys' brewmaster, Scott Jacobs.**

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)



**Sierra Sauvé, at the Black Swan Brewery in Stratford.**

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

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# RIDDLES

**What's an Easter Bunny's favorite vegetable to grow?**

*Eggplant*

**How does the Easter Bunny stay cool during summer?**

*With hare conditioning.*

**Where does the Easter Bunny get a hair cut?**

*At the hare salon.*

**What is the Easter Bunny's favorite dance move?**

*The bunny hop.*

**Why is the Easter Bunny such a good listener?**

*He's all ears.*

**What is the Easter Bunny's favorite kind of music?**

*Hip-hop!*

**How does the Easter Bunny stay in shape?**

*He eggs-ercises!*

**What did the Easter Bunny say to cheer its friend up?**

*Don't worry. Be hoppy.*

**What do you call a rabbit who tells good jokes?**

*A funny bunny.*

**Why did the Easter Bunny cross the road?**

*Because the chicken had his eggs.*

**What's the Easter Bunny's favorite sport?**

*Basket-ball.*

**Where did the Easter Bunny learn to ski?**

*On the bunny hill.*

# SUDOKU

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Solutions on Page 23

Level: Advanced

# PET OF THE WEEK



**TINKERBELL**

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**Family  
Pet Centre**

**107 E Concession St. E.,  
Tillsonburg, ON  
N4G 4W4**

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**HOURS:**

**Sun: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Mon - Fri: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Sat: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

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

# WORD SEARCH

## MARCH NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

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

- WAR IN IRAN
- DRONE ATTACKS
- PARALYMPIC GAMES
- MOJTABA KHAMENEI
- STRAIT OF HORMUZ
- KHARG ISLAND
- VENEZUELA WINS
- WBC
- ENERGY PRICES UP
- STOCK PRICES DOWN
- AIR CANADA TRAGEDY
- TIGER WOODS DUI
- BLUE JAYS RETURN
- NDP AVI LEWIS

# COMING EVENTS

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## FOREVER SUMMER TANNING

Your place in the sun

63 KING STREET, DELHI, ON | (519) 582-1100

### APRIL

#### EASTER SERVICES

St. John's Anglican Church 46 Ridout St. (519) 842-5573

All are welcome to join us in a spiritual journey from the dark towards light this Easter at these services: **MAUNDY THURSDAY - Supper 5 p.m. and Service 7 p.m.;** **GOOD FRIDAY - 10:30 AM** followed by time for vigil up to 3:00 PM; **Holy Saturday - 7:30 PM;** **EASTER SUNDAY - 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM.**

APRIL 4 | 1 - 4:30 PM

#### TILLSONBURG LEGION DANCE FEATURING KICKN KOUNTRY BAND

16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON

\$8 cash at the door. Food available from 12-2pm. Cash bar available. All Welcome! Doors open at noon!

APRIL 4 | 10 AM - NOON

#### IT'S RAINING CATS AND DOGS @ MESSY CHURCH

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

Fun crafts, music, stories, games and a hot lunch. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

APRIL 11 | DOORS OPEN 6:30 PM, SHOW AT 7:30 PM

#### IN THE MOOD WITH BIG BANDEMIC

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

An unforgettable night of toe-tapping, dancing, and singing along! This 17-piece big band PLUS a fabulous 10-piece strings section and two amazing crooners! Dress to impress in formal or semi-formal attire—1940s styles encouraged! Dance floor awaits! 19+ only. \$50. Book online at [www.southgatectr.com/events](http://www.southgatectr.com/events) or call 519-539-9817.

APRIL 11 | WORKSHOP 1 - 4:30 PM, PERFORMANCE 7 PM

#### CELEBRATE 65 YEARS WITH THE BRANT MEN OF SONG: A DAY OF CHORAL SINGING

Hope Christian Reformed Church, 64 Buchanan Crescent, Brantford

The Brant Men of Song are inviting all individuals and groups interested in singing to an afternoon workshop. There is no charge for this workshop. Participants may also sing with the Brant Men of Song in an evening performance starting at 7 pm. Financial contributions will be collected for the Brantford Food Bank. Come sing with us and enjoy the sound of many voices.

APRIL 13 | 7:30 PM

#### DELHI & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING

Delhi Senior Centre, 418 Queen St., Delhi, ON

Guest Speaker - Alissa Firth-Eagland. Her specialty - Yoga for Gardening. Will be very interesting & wear loose fitting clothes to do special moves. All welcome. (Enter at rear parking lot off William Street.)

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.

### MAY

MAY 3 | 2 - 4 PM

#### KC AND THE SUNSHINE GIRLS

Mt Elgin Community Centre, 333204 Plank Line, Mount Elgin, ON

Put on your Boogie Shoes for an afternoon of dance hits of the 70's & 80's. This Tribute Show is being hosted by Mt Elgin United Church. Tickets are available by calling Joanne 519-485-1988 or Dawne 519-421-6836.

MAY 21

#### PENTECOST SUNDAY SERVICE

St. John's Anglican Church 46 Ridout St. (519) 842-5573

Join us on this day which commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit onto the Apostles. It could be called the 'birthday' of the church. We wear red, enjoy fellowship and cake after the service. Come and see! We are a place where people gather.

### JULY

JULY 10, 11, & 12

#### TILLSONBURG BOUNCY CASTLES AT RIBFEST

16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON

Super Air Bounce Rentals would like you to come out and test out our NEW Mechanical BULL. Bouncy Castles will be available July 10, 11 & 12. Tickets (Ages 2+) \$16 in advance or \$26 at the event. [www.save.event](http://www.save.event) for ticket info and purchase.

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

3<sup>RD</sup> TUE. OF MONTH | 6:30 - 8:30 PM

#### CAREGIVER CONNECTION

Revel Realty Woodstock, 111 Huron Street (Virtual/hybrid options available)

Are you worried about your child or youth? Parents and Caregivers for Mental Health (PCMH) is here to listen, support, and walk alongside you on this journey. Our free Caregiver Connection peer support groups offer parents and caregivers a community of support. Can't make it in person? Join one of our virtual or hybrid groups! Visit [family.cmho.org](http://family.cmho.org) or email [oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca](mailto:oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca) for more information.

#### 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/> Inquiries can be made at: [nbmfa@northbroadwaychurch.ca](mailto:nbmfa@northbroadwaychurch.ca)

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY | 1 - 4 PM

#### SPRING INTO THE INGERSOLL COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE

Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S., Ingersoll

Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications - love 50-70's country music. Perform, listen, dance & enjoy! April 10 & 17, May 1, 15 & 29, June 5 & 19.

FRIDAYS | 1 PM

#### INTERESTED IN BRIDGE? JOIN US AT THE TILLSONBURG 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](http://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](http://teetervillelegionbranch526.ca)

VON OXFORD GRIEF CARE:

#### FREE MONTHLY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Register at: [oxford.griefsupport@von.ca](mailto:oxford.griefsupport@von.ca) or 519-539-1231 Ext 6299 or 6296

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## AUTO REPAIR

**GEORGE'S AUTO REPAIR INC.**  
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## TREES

Hundreds of shade trees, fruit trees, apples, pears, peaches, plums, sweet and sour cherries, apricots, nectarines, blueberries, haskapp grapes, raspberries, elderberries etc. Lots of spruce, pine, cedars for windbreak and privacy hedges. Sizes 1-8 ft. in containers ready to go. Flowering shrubs and much more. Mon-Sat 7:00am to 6:00pm. Martin's Nursery, 42661 Orangehill Rd Wroxeter, ON N0G 2X0 (1 Conc. North of Wroxeter on Belmore Line)

## OBITUARY

### CHARLES MARCEL HENDRICKS "CHUCK" 1957 - 2026



The family wishes to announce the passing of their beloved husband, father and grandfather, Charles Marcel Hendricks "Chuck" on Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at the age of 68 years.

Loving husband and best friend of 48 years to Pat (nee Volkaert). Devoted father to Melissa Dewachter and her husband Chris, Nadine Hendricks-Sena and her husband Kristian.

Proud "PC" (Papa Charlie) to Allison, William and Leo. Loving son-in-law to Elda Volkaert. Wonderful brother to Judy Calvert and her husband Jim. Brother-in-law to Deb Pittock and her husband Dave, Joe Volkaert and his wife Sherry, and Joyce Hendricks-Haddock. Chuck was a cherished uncle to many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents Raymond and Kathaleen (nee Burger), brother Don Hendricks, and father-in-law Joe Volkaert.

Chuck was a natural born leader, with a great sense of humour and a larger-than-life personality. He touched the lives of many people with his kindness as well as his gift for animated storytelling. In 1983 he helped start J/E Bearing and Machine Limited alongside his family. His dedication to the business and its employees, made it a meaningful part of his legacy. Outside of his work, his passion for Softball allowed him to enjoy a highly decorated career spanning over 50 years not only as a catcher, but also as a coach and mentor.

Cremation has taken place and a private memorial service will be held. A Celebration of Life will be held for Chuck at the Tillsonburg Soccer Club, 275 Quarter Town Line, Tillsonburg, ON N4G 4G8 on Saturday, April 25th, 2026 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations (payable by cheque) may be made to the Tillsonburg Salvation Army and can be done directly with the charity or by contacting Ostrander's Funeral Home, 43 Bidwell St., Tillsonburg, ON, 519-842-5221.

Condolences and special memories may be made at [www.ostrandersonline.com](http://www.ostrandersonline.com)

## HEATING & COOLING

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## LAWN CARE

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 Professional Air Duct Cleaning  
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## CUSTOM WINDOW COVERINGS

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 royalglasstillsonburg@gmail.com

## PLAY CENTRE

**rain or shine playtime**  
 55 Broadway St. Unit B  
 rainorshineplaycentre@gmail.com

*Tillsonburg POST*

## PAINTING

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6. Leonardo DiCaprio
7. \$18.15
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9. 9.46 trillion km
10. Seven

## SUDOKU

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

## THANK YOU



*I would like to thank my family and all my friends that came to celebrate my 90th birthday. Thank you for all the lovely cards and gifts I received. You all made my day very special!*

*Monica D'Hondt*



***Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes - Burial and Cremation Services Inc.***  
*262 Broadway, Tillsonburg & 40 Queen Street, Langton*



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verhoevefuneral@kwic.com  
 www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com



Maurice Verhoeve  
Owner/Funeral Director



Robert Verhoeve  
Funeral Director



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(1938 - 2015)



Margaret Verhoeve  
Office Administrator



Krystyna Verhoeve  
Funeral Director