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Theatre Tillsonburg wins three awards from WODL

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Theatre Tillsonburg came home from the Western Ontario Drama League with three awards from 11 nominations for its production of Ken Ludwig's 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.

Directed by the husband-and-wife team of Mike Jull and Jennifer Anger-Jull, the show was presented last fall at Theatre Tillsonburg. The production told the story of why Santa missed a house on Christmas Eve from the perspective of a mouse, an elf and a young girl. It was produced by Jennifer Arthur-Lackenbauer.

The Western Ontario Drama League (WODL) encompasses all of Southwestern Ontario and supports community theatre through the area. As part of its mandate, an adjudicator can attend shows, selecting productions for awards as part of its annual festival. In the awards, Tillsonburg was up against productions from larger cities, such as Burlington, London and Windsor.

The Tillsonburg winners were:

- Tori Bremner as Emily received the Theatre Kent Award for Most Promising Newcomer.
- Angela Carvalho as Calliope & Britannia Sneed received the London Community Players Award for Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role
- Joe Sheik received the Special Adjudicator's Award for Pre-Show and Intermission Musical Selections.

"It was a thrill to be part of such a high quality team of artists that worked together to create such a fantastic show for our community that was recognized with 11 nominations at every level of performance," Sheik said. "I was honoured to be one of the three nominees to bring an award back to Tillsonburg, and to our theatre."

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(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

WALK FOR ALZHEIMER'S A SUCCESS

About 70 people participated in Saturday's IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's in Tillsonburg, raising \$15,000. The annual event was held in Memorial Park. For story, see page 26.

Report raises flags about town's future water capacity

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

To put it simply, Tillsonburg's future water capacity after the next 15 years is all allocated. But it's not that simple.

Oxford County's Director of Public Works, Melissa Abercrombie, and Don Ford, Senior Manager of Water and Wastewater Services, presented council with a review of the town's water capacity at the May 25 meeting.

To start, Abercrombie explained the five-year building

permit average is trending higher than what was accounted for in the 2024 Water and Wastewater Master Plan. Another part of the equation is that the county updated its growth forecasts and land needs analysis in March 2026. As part of that review, Tillsonburg council requested that more land be set aside for industrial and commercial use, which could increase demand if an industry with high water use opened.

Ford explained the technical background, noting that the town's dynamic water supply capacity accounts for wells that are offline and planned to be brought back into service.

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Future water capacity available until past 2040

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

The current water supply is 10,066 cubic meters per day. The current average measured flows are 8,587 cubic meters per day, for a utilization rate of 85 per cent.

“Supply must be able to meet peak demand while maintaining reservoir levels required for fire protection,” he said.

The estimated future water system capacity is 13,262 cubic meters per day – this includes work on Well 4, the rehabilitation of Well 6A in 2027, bringing Well 3 into service in 2027, redrilling Well 11, and the rehabilitation of Well 2A. Taking the planned work into consideration, this brings the current utilization down to 74 per cent. However, when all current committed capacity, and conditionally committed capacity including draft approved plan of subdivisions, draft approved plan of condominiums, draft approved plan of industrial, commercial and institutional subdivisions, and any submitted or circulated site plans are added, utilization is 100 per cent.

“Based on the five-year average of building permits issued for new dwelling units as an indicator of the current residential growth levels, the 13,262 cubic meters per day of future water dynamic supply would be adequate out to 2045,” he explained.

However, if allocation is based on current growth analysis studies, the water supply would only be adequate to 2041.

“These estimates only use residential units for the future allocation, there is no separate industrial estimate,” Ford said, adding that more capacity would be needed to allocate for a future large industrial user.

But the hitch is that that much of the allocated water usage for development isn't being utilized because some of the subdivisions aren't moving forward at this time, and the allocation is for the entire development.

“County staff estimate as much as one-third of allocation could potentially be recovered to allocate to other developments,” Ford said. “Comments on new development files will begin to reflect 100 per cent of

water capacity is currently considered allocated.”

Manager of Development Planning Eric Gilbert told council that county council adopted a Water and Wastewater Allocation Policy, a “use it or lose it” strategy last October. What this means is if developers don't use their water allocation within three years, the county can reallocate the approved water usage to another development.

He explained that in Tillsonburg, there are two larger draft subdivision plans totaling 1,600 units that haven't been built and are up for the three-year review. He said that, as per the allocation policy, only a first phase of 150 units may be approved through the review of these plans, and the remaining capacity allocation would lapse and be available for reallocation.

Gilbert said, for example, that that if an application for 500 units were proposed, only 150 might be approved in the first phase. Then the developer could apply to proceed to a second phase once the first phase is largely complete.

“Essentially that lets us manage the capacity, we manage the finite capacity we have,” he said.

Ford said a long-term water strategy for Tillsonburg and South Oxford systems will be completed in the second quarter of 2027. Some of the possibilities that may be examined are connecting water systems in the south part of the county, well development, or a connection to Lake Erie.

County staff reiterated that there is sufficient water capacity for what's approved and that there is no need to spend money on development yet, as there is enough water to go beyond 2040.

Coun. Kelly Spencer asked how industrial development is taken into consideration.

Ford explained that large industrial-commercial-institutional (ICI) users are considered separately. Depending on the use, ICI applications are converted into residential units, he explained.

“If we have another large water user come

forward, they submit a functional servicing report with water capacity requested as cubic meters per day that can then be used to determine the number of residential units to be reallocated, however, there is no way to know what type of ICI users there will be in future” he said.

Coun. Chris Parker asked if there is a risk to the municipality if pre-approved subdivisions have their water capacity taken back.

Ford said only those with conditional capacity could lose it. He emphasized that those with developed lots won't lose their approved water capacity.

Answering another question from Parker about how water supply could be increased, Ford said both the long- and short-term water strategy will be examined in the water study.

Coun. Chris Rosehart questioned why there isn't greater emphasis on cisterns to reduce the need for water.

Abercrombie explained that homeowners have to be careful about having multiple water sources in a residential unit (a cistern with eavestrough water and municipal water, for example), and that the province doesn't have many policies on this.

“We wouldn't want anyone to misunderstand what is drinking water in their homes,” she said.

Rosehart said cisterns would only be hooked up to waterlines for outside the home.

Abercrombie explained that once a second water system is connected, how would a future homeowner know which water is from the cistern? She said the province is looking into this, and that different-colored pipes may be a solution.

“I'm really struggling with that because when you go to Europe all the homes have cisterns,” Rosehart said.

Ford explained that there have been some issues with sand points and that backflow protection to prevent them from contaminating the municipal water system is required for them. He added that there is new

technology that will involve reusing grey water that is also being explored.

Coun. Pete Luciani asked if water storage and a water tower will be in the future. Ford answered that this will be looked at in the long-term strategy, including whether lake water is brought to Tillsonburg, how it will be treated, and how it will be stored.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy questioned how development applications will be accepted in the interim, and if the town should be accepting more.

Gilbert said that in the immediate future, any applications coming to council will be those that were previously submitted and already accounted for in terms of water allocation. Developers will be made aware of the time limitations associated with the water application, and reallocation will take place if development doesn't proceed. On the industrial side, he said industries that are lower water users may be looked at more favourably.

“There may be other applications that could proceed because they don't have a significant water draw, or they can implement water recycling to reduce their water demand,” he said.

With the Fairview Water Treatment Facility Well 7A under construction, Gilvesy asked if there would be an impact this summer.

Ford said with 85 per cent utilization, and the conservation bylaw, where watering takes place on odd and even days, it shouldn't be an issue.

“I've talked to operations and they're confident there's not a capacity issue at this time,” he said.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres wanted to know in the long term, if water was brought in from Lake Erie if it would be treated closer to the lake or when it's brought to town. Ford answered that was a technical question that would be addressed down the road.

Council accepted the report for information.

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EDITORIAL

Letter to the Editor

I am researching a British Home Child William Powell. William was born Feb., 3rd 1891 West Derby, Lancaster, England. came to Canada with a party of Church of England Waifs and Strays on SS Tunisian arrived Sherbrooke Quebec June 12 1909., stayed at Gibbs Boys Home Sherbrooke, Quebec. I do not know for sure where he went after leaving, possibly Saskatchewan.

From his obituary dated Sept. 14, 1958, he died in his 68th year at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital. He was a family friend who boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Russel Jackson of Tillsonburg and continued to be part of the family until he died. He is buried in the Jackson family plot at Tillsonburg Cemetery.

Anyone who has pictures or stories about William especially how he came to be living in Tillsonburg I would like to hear from you. You may contact me at lillianm_1@hotmail.com

Thank you in advance.

Lillian McCrimmon



Crab apple blossoms.

(ANDREW STANCEK PHOTO)

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The post office was the heart of the town



ROBIN KRAFFT

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

**EVERYONE
HAS A
STORY
TO TELL**

Long-time Tillsonburg residents often recognize Hanna Hopper, as she worked at the Tillsonburg Post Office for 37 years, greeting people at the counter.

"The post office was located at 164 Broadway where the Bulk Barn is, and Customs and Manpower (Service Canada today) were upstairs," Hopper said. "I also worked out back sorting mail for the carriers, and separating US parcels for Customs. The biggest day was when the Eaton's catalogues came. Christmas was the most wonderful time; mail would come in from all over. Everybody sent a Christmas card to everyone."

There were some other interesting items that came through the mail, from baby chicks to a stinky shipment of cheese, spoiled when the bag broke open. Most memorable was the arrival of a queen bee for honey production. Hanna could hear it buzzing in its special container as she checked the paperwork, and called the recipient to pick it up.

"I didn't mind starting at 5:30 in the morning," Hopper said. "That's when the mail came in from London. Sometimes there was so much snow downtown that I had to park at the police station and walk over."

The town changed over the years, and when the mall was being built, Hanna saw on the final blueprint that there would be no post office at all. As head of the union, she was deeply concerned and went to the London offices for advice, where she was redirected to the Tillsonburg Town Council.

"A representative from London spoke for us," Hopper said. "The tobacco board and other town business owners were there, and a teacher came who spoke about the post office being the heart of the town. Council was in favour and the post office moved to 54 Brock Street. I remember moving the big safe and the Queen's picture."

Hanna retired 16 years ago, but she keeps herself active at the pool, gardening with the Horticultural Society and traveling. She has taken several Chamber of Commerce trips, ziplining in Costa Rica, listening to the lions roaring in the night in Africa and marvelling over the churches and the food in Spain.

Hannah has also remained connected to childhood friends that she made 70 years ago when she arrived in Canada. Unable to return to their home in Romania, her family emigrated to Canada from Germany when she was five years old. After discovering that there wasn't much work available in Kitchener, the Tillsonburg area with its numerous tobacco farms was recommended. They knew nothing about tobacco, but they were willing to learn.

They settled in Vienna. Hanna remembers swimming

in Otter Creek and the one room schoolhouse where she learned to speak, read and write in English. Her grandfather would arrive with his horse and sleigh to pick her up from school if the weather was really bad. With the turmoil of war and relocation, her parents didn't have much education, but they were intelligent and industrious.

"My mom worked so hard," Hopper said. "My father never went to school but was such a talented carpenter. He worked in the lumberyard in Vienna and got his carpentry license. He became a councilman. He built us a house, where my mom still lives. My mom worked in tobacco and had us practice with rhubarb leaves. That's just what you did. School started two weeks late, when the tobacco harvest was finished. Nobody got married until October because your hands were disgusting."

She remembers the Teen Town dances held every other Friday night at the town hall, and the captain of the football team walking the halls of her high school. He had swagger, he was popular, and he worked at The Strand theater. Hanna didn't think he noticed her.

"I was living in an apartment with some girlfriends, and they wanted to go to the Belgium Hall in Delhi. I looked around and said 'Oh, there he is, that football guy' and the rest is history."

Hanna married Mel (that football guy) and they'll celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary this year. "In October," she emphasized, looking at her manicured hands and smiling. Their son became a local teacher, now retired, and their daughter is a nurse.

"We have six grandchildren and a great granddaughter," Hopper said, smiling, "We're so lucky."

Horsing around on North Street East in the 1970s



**PAST
IMPERFECT**

WAYNE HUTCHINSON

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

I mentioned in my last column that we had an old horse barn on our property at 49 North Street East. I am not sure how old it was, but it was clearly much older construction than the house. The wood was rougher cut, and the roof shingles were old and cracked even when we moved there in 1972. It was configured specifically for horses, with several stalls, a hayloft with feeding holes in each stall, and a wooden ramp for the horses to enter/exit easily. There was a crawl space less than two feet high underneath, which is where way too many hockey balls wound up each winter...

Our first horse was a painted mare named Penny. I am not sure how we got her, or where she came from – she just appeared one day shortly after we moved in. We also rented out stalls to several people who kept their horses at our place. I think we had as many as six horses at any one time. Pat Mooney, who handled my parents' insurance for

decades, kept a horse there. That horse's name was Bell. She was a bit older, dark brown, and very calm. She also liked to pick up open beer bottles with her teeth and tip them up to get a drink.

A year or so after we got Penny, she had a filly of her own – named Sunrise, yes because she was born at sunrise. Sunrise became my mother's horse, and my parents would go riding around our fields, around Randy Keba's fields, and even around the fields that were slowly becoming Rolling Meadows.

At one point we acquired a small pony for my brother and I to ride. We did not have a saddle and just rode bareback. That pony had an attitude sometimes, and I know I fell off more than once.

Some other people that I remember either having horses in our barn, or at least hanging around the barn regularly were Mert McClintock and Doug "Newf" Taylor. Mert had a Tack Shop on Broadway where Backyard Pools is today. He was a bit older than my parents and knew a lot about horses and riding. Doug was a friend of my parents who competed in rodeo events in the early '70s and sometimes helped at the Texaco station when dad needed a day off.

While horses can be a lot of fun, there is also a lot of work involved, as my brother and I found out. We were responsible for climbing up into the hayloft, cutting open bales of hay, and dropping the feed down into each stall. And we were also involved in cleaning out the stalls and putting in new straw on a regular basis. We learned early on how to use a pitchfork properly.

One time my dad got a "deal" on a lot of straw bales from some farmer. So, one Saturday the straw started to

show up, one truck load after another. We laid it out on the concrete pad between the house and barn, and just kept piling it up until no more showed up. We wound up with a mountain of straw bales as wide as the barn, reaching halfway to the house, and stacked up as high as the barn roof. There was a lot of climbing and tossing bales around that day, but we did not run out of straw for a long while.

We also had an old chest freezer in the barn. It did not work any longer, but it was perfect for storing oats for the horses. But even a freezer is not perfectly sealed - I still remember opening the lid one day to find several well-fed mice just hanging out on top of the oats. They were so full they did not even run away when I picked them up and put them on the ground outside the barn.

There was also maintenance to do, checking the fences and gates to ensure they were in good condition – the horses would find the weak spots and get out – which they did on more than one occasion. Imagine being less than 10 years old and helping your parents chase horses down in an open field and try to get them heading back to where they were supposed to be.

I really loved the horses and riding around inside the corral. And I learned a lot early in life that the things you love can also be a lot of work.

I'm not sure what exactly brought about the end of our horse ownership – maybe it was all the hours and work, maybe the cost – but they were all gone by early 1975. Penny and Sunrise were sold to a local farmer. The other horses found other homes. And we tore down the small corral fencing and shortened the barn by removing the three stalls that had been on the northern end of the building. Then, we moved on to other adventures...

MP Khanna encourages Canadians to visit Oxford County

In the House of Commons on May 26, Arpan Khanna, Member of Parliament for Oxford, rose to encourage Canadians from across the country to choose Oxford as their summer destination and support local businesses during these challenging times. As more Canadians choose to

travel within the country rather than heading south, this moment presents a valuable opportunity to strengthen the local economy and highlight to the rest of Canada what makes Oxford truly exceptional.

During his statement, Khanna highlighted Oxford's proud agricultural and dairy heritage, summer festivals and vibrant small towns.

Khanna's full statement was:

"Mr. Speaker, as Canadians plan their summer getaways, I invite them to beautiful Oxford County. Known as the dairy capital of Canada, Oxford is where beautiful farmland, small vibrant towns and unforgettable experiences come together.

"From the famous cheese trails to our farmers' markets, every road leads to something worth discovering. Visitors can stroll historic downtown streets, enjoy incredible restaurants, relax at the local spa and camp under the stars.

"Summers in Oxford come alive with Cowapolooza, the Highland Games, Pizza Fest, TurtleFest, classic car cruises, tractor pulls, fairs and community celebrations. Families can visit farms, pick delicious berries and even watch the vintage Harvard planes take off into the summer skies. Oxford is a place filled with character, community and memories made to happen.

"This summer, come visit Oxford."

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Town fees waived for Turtlefest weekend

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg council was behind a request to waive town fees for Turtlefest, but initially struggled over the best process to make it happen.

Saying it's the largest festival in town, attracting thousands of people, Terry Fraser of the Turtlefest Planning Committee said the event includes the whole community.

"It attracts attendees not only from Tillsonburg, but across Southwestern Ontario, and beyond," he said.

The no-charge event is possible because sponsors pay for many activities during the day, but Fraser said there are still fixed costs such as electricity, advertising, security, staging, and signage. While the town has provided financial and logistical support over the past 12 years, this year the financial support was halved, and there are additional costs.

"I understand there is a requirement for activities to pay for logistical support like closing of the streets, etc. This adds a second financial difficulty this year," Fraser said, asking council members to waive these fees for this year.

Director of Finance/Treasurer Reno Pullia said a new town bylaw intended to help expedite event applications doesn't allow staff to waive fees. Regarding Turtlefest, there is an estimated \$3,124 in fees for encroachment permits, barricades, signs, equipment use, and other items.

"It was not a matter of us not using the money wisely, but a matter of they only had so many dollars, and we were welcome to request a grant in the future," he added.

Development Commissioner Cephas Panschow agreed that historically Turtlefest organizers didn't have to pay fees.

Coun. Chris Rosehart asked and was told that council put \$4,500 towards the event. Pullia said the money came from the council's \$7,500 budget to support local events and groups.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy asked how much was left in that budget, and was told it was \$1,333.

Pullia said the fee bylaw is coming to council at the next meeting for a mid-year update, and suggested an addition could be made to exempt Turtlefest.

Gilvesy suggested waiving the fee in the meantime.

The initial motion coming forward out of the discussion, moved by Coun. Kelly Spencer and seconded by Coun. Chris Rosehart, was to waive the fees for Turtlefest this year and going forward.

With the next council meeting three days after Turtlefest and the bylaw not coming forward until then, the discussion was that this route wouldn't work, as changes can't be made to a bylaw and it apply retroactively.

Pullia said the resolution does not amend the bylaw, and exempting the entire amount would result in an overage in council expenses.

Clerk Trish McKibbin said it's a "slippery slope" to start not following the town's bylaws.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres asked if it would work to waive the fees and change the bylaw after, and was told that was a possible solution.

In the end, the resolution that passed called for paying \$1,333 from the council budget account and funding the remainder from the tax rate stabilization reserve.

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WEEKEND QUIZ

by Jake Grant

1. What animal is on the Canadian quarter? Gardens?
2. What is Lady Gaga's first name? 7. Which rapper set the Guinness World Record for the most words in a single hit?
3. Which is the only piece of artwork that Michelangelo signed? 8. How many continents are there?
4. What type of nut is commonly used to make pesto sauce? 9. The festival of lights is called what?
5. How many noses does a slug have? 10. How many bones does a shark have?
6. What city would you find the Boboli

This week's answers are found on pg. 35

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Town council to increase budget for low-income recreation program

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg council voted to increase the amount recipients of its low-income recreation program receive and to fund the increases through the taxpayer levy.

The town's Recreation and Sports Advisory Committee members recommended the changes to the Fee Assisted Recreational Experience (FARE) program for Oxford County residents in financial need. The program is now open to county residents who can prove their total household income is below the Statistics Canada low-income cut-offs.

Successful applicants to the program currently receive a \$100 credit towards town recreation programs, plus an indoor skate and pool membership, health club membership and waterpark pass. In the past, the program was paid through fund-raising initiatives.

Recommendations from the committee were to allocate \$20,000 in funding in the 2027 budget for the program, restrict it to Tillsonburg residents only and increase the allowance per person to \$200 annually.

"Basically, the idea is for individuals with low income to take part in our recreation communities," said Andrea Greenway, Director of Culture, Recreation and Parks.

Coun. Chris Rosehart asked how FARE differed from other community programs with similar purposes. Greenway said those programs don't apply to town programs.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy asked if staff had reached out to community partners to assist with funding.

Greenway said funding started through the United Way Oxford, explaining, "What we're finding is it costs so much money to raise the money, other communities have just included it in their budgets."

Gilvesy furthered her concept, explaining if the town can give tax receipts, people may donate if they were aware of the program.

"It's a great program," the mayor added. "I'm just for finding other ways to fund it other than putting everything on the taxpayer."

Coun. Chris Parker said it was a great program and research done at the committee level showed other municipalities are funding similar initiatives through their budgets.

"The funds that are in here go a long ways to help individuals," he said.

Council passed a motion to adopt changes to the program, to fund it with remaining funds in 2026 and suggested a minimum of \$20,000 be included in the budget for 2027.

Theatre Tillsonburg wins three awards from 11 nominations

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Carvalho was surprised and honoured to win.

"I was privileged to work with such a dedicated and talented group of people, both on stage and backstage, who made me look so deserving," she said. "Great direction, and a fantastic cast and crew made the experience a lot of fun and one that I will never forget."

Bremner was also thrilled with the support she received for her growing career.

"I feel so happy to have received the Theatre Kent award and would like to thank all of those at Theatre Tillsonburg," she said.

Anger-Jull said the victories are important, but seeing the audience laugh, and the higher-than-normal number of young theatre goers enchanted by the play was just

as important.

"From the very beginning, this show felt magical," she said modestly. "From receiving a personal letter from Ken Ludwig before opening night, to hearing roaring laughter fill the theatre night after night, to now standing among Ontario's best community theatre productions with 11 nominations and three wins, what an unbelievable journey this has been."

With its next production opening last weekend, and continuing this weekend, Sheik encouraged local residents to support local theatre.

"I hope people take away from these awards the fact that quality performances are put on at Theatre Tillsonburg, and that they are on level with other community theatres in larger centers," he said.



(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Theatre Tillsonburg received three awards from its 11 nominations in the recent Western Ontario Drama League competition. The winners were, left to right: Joe Sheik, Tori Bremner and Angela Carvalho.

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Tourism is growing in importance in Oxford

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tourism is growing in importance in Oxford County and supports a large number of small and medium-sized enterprises.

"It helps us diversify our economy, particularly when other areas are facing challenges," said Meredith Maywood, Oxford County's tourism manager, during an update to Tillsonburg council.

In addition, she said tourism puts a value on a municipality's cultural assets and instills pride in the community.

Tourism grew in the county last year by 15 per cent, with 1.3 million visitors to Oxford County. The majority of the growth was from Canadian residents.

"Canadians love novel, unique activities; they love to spend time with family," Maywood said.

To that end, the county is promoting Tour Oxford, Oxford Fresh, and the Oxford County Cheese Trail. The county tourism department's 2025 marketing focused on ensuring local residents were

aware of the tourism experiences available in their backyards.

The tourism department's plans for 2026 are to capitalize on genealogy tourism by highlighting opportunities to discover roots and handcrafted routes that showcase the county's many artists and crafters. In Tillsonburg, both the Station Arts Centre and Annandale House are part of this.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres, a board member of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), complimented Maywood, saying she is being modest and did a wonderful job of arranging a ROMA tour of Oxford.

"They're being hosted in Oxford County, they're going to eat in Oxford County, they're going to see innovative things in Oxford County, such as things they don't have in their home area," he said, citing some of the dairy attractions and a walking tour of downtown Tillsonburg as examples. "It's something that has to be shown off, and it's going to be shown off."

Council accepted the report for information.

Planning review gives insight into growth

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

An annual review of planning services in Tillsonburg provided insight into both current and future growth in the town at the May 25 meeting.

Eric Gilbert, Manager of Development Planning, Community Planning for Oxford County, made a presentation on planning-related matters in the last year for Tillsonburg. Through an agreement, the county provides planning services to Tillsonburg. Outside of Amy Hartley, who is assigned to provide planning for the town, she is backed by a department of 20 people.

"We provide service similar to what you would find in a large urban centre," Gilbert said.

Last year, there were 57 development applications for Tillsonburg. These ranged from planning and zoning amendments to site plan applications, draft plan of subdivision approvals, and condominium approvals.

"This workload has increased over the years as the conservation authority can no longer comment on applications with refer-

ence to natural heritage," Gilbert said, and later explained that a consultant is used for this.

He also said many of the Tillsonburg applications are in-fill lots, which are more complex.

In 2025, development interest was more robust in the second half of the year than in the first six months. There were 252 residential lots and units approved last year, of which 163 were in Rolling Meadows. Gilbert also noted the proportion of townhouses to single-family residences has changed, and there are now more townhouse applications.

In Tillsonburg, the number of unbuilt residential units ranges from 2,100 to 2,650, depending on the type of residential when construction takes place.

"With the town's water allocation becoming a topic of discussion, Gilbert said, "If you use the 3-year building permit average, this represents 15 to 19 years of building supply. If you use the 5-year residential average, this represents 10 to 12 years of supply," he said.

Council accepted the report as information.

Town looking at feasibility of emergency warning siren

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg is considering bringing back emergency warning sirens.

The town had an emergency siren, which many believed was an air-raid siren, but it was removed in the early 1990s.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy left the chair at the May 25 meeting to put forward a motion for town staff to look into the feasibility of establishing an emergency warning siren in town. The report would examine the cost, potential locations, available technology, and potential funding for such a siren.

Speaking to the motion, Gilvesy said this could be a future budget item to consider in the wake of a couple of recent weather events.

"A lot of communities are grappling with that there are no warning sirens anymore, and not everyone has a cell phone," she said, adding cell phone warning technology isn't 100 per cent. "My cell phone may have went off six times (with the recent tornado warning), but many people are also saying their cell phones weren't going off - some weren't going off at all."

Coun. Kelly Spencer said she cares about safety, but most communities rely on digital alert systems.

"Sirens are mostly for people outside,

and people weren't outside," she said of the storm.

Researching emergency sirens on AI, she said the cost was hundreds of thousands of dollars, and up to a million. In addition, she said no one had heard of a tornado hitting Tillsonburg. Her research only found a Woodstock tornado in 1893, one in London in the 1930s, and the 1970s Woodstock tornado.

Spencer asked more than 185 constituents, of whom 155 said no to a siren, with many saying it's a "waste of money".

"Many said this wasn't a good way to spend money," she said. "A report like this is a huge workload for staff for something many deem unnecessary."

Coun. Bob Parsons, a former fire chief, recalled the federal government disbanding the emergency air raid sirens. He was also the community emergency management coordinator and recalled receiving funding through the Joint Emergency Preparedness Fund for an emergency generator. He suggested that maybe there was money available to fund a siren and that the fire chief could easily prepare a report with little work.

Before council voted on the motion, which passed, Gilvesy emphasized there was no funding attached to her motion, and it was a request for a report.

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SWOX NEWS



SWOX opts for appointment to fill vacant seat

DEBBIE KASMAN

Post Correspondent

With the passing of Councillor Valerie Durston, South-West Oxford (SWOX) council declared the Ward 3 seat vacant at its May 5, 2026 meeting and is now calling for applications to fill the seat.

Durston was chair of the township's Engage and Inform Committee and served on the Salford Community Hall Board, Hilltop Park Mount Elgin, the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee, and the Tillsonburg Regional Airport Advisory Committee. She served two terms in office, but announced she would not be seeking re-election in February.

With her recent passing, a by-election is not possible because the deadline for by-elections in an election year

has passed and appointing a next-place finisher from the last municipal election is not an option as Durston was acclaimed. Appointing an eligible individual without an application process is not a supportable option in terms of transparency and democracy. Therefore, council is calling for applications for appointment to council to fill the vacant seat.

In order to be considered for appointment, individuals must reside in or be an owner/tenant of land within the township, or the spouse of an owner, be a Canadian citizen and at least 18 years of age, and cannot be someone who is disqualified from holding office by any act.

Interested, eligible candidates are invited to submit an application for appointment to council, must declare their qualifications, and participate in an interview/presentation during a public meeting on June 16, 2026. The

appointed candidate will hold the seat until the upcoming municipal election.

The nomination period to run for mayor or councillor in the upcoming municipal election opened on May 1 and closes on Aug. 21. Mayor David Mayberry and Councillor Jim Pickard have announced they will not be seeking re-election.

So far, three candidates have declared their intention to run for Councillor in SWOX: Pete Ypma for Ward 2, William Van Lagen for Ward 3, and David (Dave) Mitchell for Ward 6. No one has declared an intention to run in SWOX for school board trustee.

The township approved new ward boundaries last July, but these boundary changes will not take effect until the new council is organized after voting day on Oct. 26.

Pending approval, new larger library coming to Mt. Elgin

DEBBIE KASMAN

Post Correspondent

At its meeting on March 25, the Oxford County Library Board strongly endorsed a new larger library for Mount Elgin to be located in the proposed new municipal office.

The proposal would more than double the size of the current branch located in the Mount Elgin Community Centre, and would provide a modern, integrated community space, improve programming, collections, and accessibility for residents in Mount Elgin and surrounding areas.

Mount Elgin is experiencing population growth with projections increasing to over 2,100 residents by 2036. The existing library branch is significantly undersized (approximately 676–800 square-feet), and does not meet

current service level guidelines. The concept plans for the new location identify over 2,000 square-feet of space for library use and storage.

Estimated future lease costs of the new facility would be approximately \$26,000,

indexed annually, compared to the current lease of \$4,685. Additional one-time capital costs are also anticipated for furniture and shelving (\$115,000), collection expansion (\$25,000), and IT infrastructure (\$5,000–\$10,000). These costs would be the responsibility of Oxford County.

Occupancy is estimated for 2028, and will be subject to Oxford County budget processes and final approvals.

South-West Oxford (SWOX) township staff have prepared a draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) to establish a framework for ongoing collaboration between the township, Oxford County and the library board.

SWOX council endorsed the draft MOU at its May 19 meeting and authorized the mayor and the chief administrative officer (CAO) to execute the agreement, subject to any minor administrative or legal revisions satisfactory to the CAO and Chief Librarian of the Oxford County Library.

A formal lease agreement will be negotiated and brought forward for future approval by all parties.

The new library is projected to be located on the north end of the lower level of the new municipal building with the daycare on the south end. The municipal office will be located on the second floor. The library would be lower than the daycare to help with grade changes across the site and would have a higher ceiling so the second story municipal office could be on the same elevation. Council chamber would be located on the north end of the second story.



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TILLSONBURG COUNCIL BRIEFS

Volleyball opportunities

Town of Tillsonburg staff will be looking at opportunities to expand recreational volleyball.

Current volleyball programs have filled up as quick as three minutes after opening. The initial request to the town's Recreation and Parks Committee was to look into building new outdoor volleyball courts. After discussion, the committee opted to ask council to have staff investigate possibilities to expand volleyball programming in town.

Coun. Kelly Spencer asked if this was something that could be utilized under Project Big Swing, the town's future sports facility, but was told while that was possible, the drive was to do something this year.

Coun. Chris Parker, who is on the Recreation and Parks Committee, said the discussion was to look for opportunities, such as playing in the empty arena during the summer.

Council directed staff to look at options and report back.

A big splash

Tillsonburg councillors liked the concept of Crosspoint Church establishing an independent splashpad, but didn't want to go as far as endorsing it.

Members of the church originally presented the concept of building a splashpad in a park behind the church on Concession Street West at the April 27 meeting. At that time, council recommended a presentation be made to the town's Recreation and Sports Advisory Committee.

After hearing the concept, the committee recommended that council be supportive of "endorsing development of the proposed park by the Crosspoint Church, in reference to Recreation Master Plan Section 6 - Park expansion and partnership opportunities."

While council was supportive of the concept, Coun. Bob Parsons raised a concern that the word endorsing could be misinterpreted into the municipality providing financial support.

Instead, council passed a motion stating that council "defer any further consideration of the proposal, and direct that no additional staff analysis or reporting be undertaken

unless and until Crosspoint Church submits a detailed project proposal outlining scope, timing, and confirmed or viable funding sources for council's review."

Digital corporate seal

After council approved the use of digital signatures in April 2025, town staff have found the tool to be effective, but find there are also times when an electronic seal would be helpful to further the process to quicken turnaround times on documents. Council approved a policy that would allow the creation of a digital seal, which will be brought back to council for approval.

A review of committee structure

Town staff will be reviewing the structure and roles of Tillsonburg's advisory committees.

The town currently has 10 advisory committees, covering everything from accessibility advisory and affordable housing to the airport, traffic and museum, culture and special awards.

Trisha McKibbin, Manager of Legislative Affairs/Clerk, told council she surveyed committee members and is now looking for their feedback prior to the next term of council.

"I'm looking for feedback from council how this term's advisory councils went, and if you would like any changes," she said.

Accessible parking added

Tillsonburg will have more accessible parking in the future after recommendations from the town's Recreation, Culture and Parks Department were endorsed by council.

The additional spots will be: four new accessible spaces at the Dave Johnson Memorial Dog Park, two new accessible spaces north of the Lake Lisgar Waterpark, and two new accessible spaces south of the town's soccer park clubhouse.

Transit pilot approved

Town council approved a pilot program to increase transit usage in conjunction with The Hub.

The Hub provides support services to individuals who may face financial and mobility barriers and has identified transportation as a key challenge impacting access to programming and essential services. With town staff looking for ideas to increase ridership of the T-Go transit system, the concept of a \$25 three-month pass for Hub clients was endorsed when staff were approached with the idea.

Council approved the pilot for up to 50 passes.

Town staff to look at options for Glendale and Broadway

A motion brought forward by Coun. Chris Parker was endorsed by council and will direct staff to investigate possible solutions to improve pedestrian safety at the intersection of Glendale Drive and Broadway, including traffic measures.

After introducing the motion, Parker said the last couple of weeks there have been incidents involving student safety in the area. He has also had complaints about the pedestrian crossing at the intersection.

"This is an opportunity to get ahead of it instead of waiting for the transportation master plan to come back to council," he said.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres noted that Broadway is a provincial highway, and the Ministry of Transportation would have to be consulted.

Coun. Kelly Spencer said she had also heard complaints about the intersection.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy agreed with the suggestion, adding this wasn't addressed in the in-progress town traffic study.

Council approves airport revenue sharing model

Tillsonburg council is hoping to receive a portion of the taxes for the airport, which is located in South-West Oxford, to help offset some of the costs of the facility.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy, who left the chair of the May 25 meeting to put forward the concept, presented a detailed motion explaining the concept. It identified that Tillsonburg is responsible for all operational and capital costs associated with the airport, but the additional tax revenue from any improvements or increases in assessment go to the Township of South-West Oxford and the County of Oxford. Her motion suggested a revenue-sharing model where Tillsonburg would receive 75 per cent of the taxes from the airport, which would be directed to airport capital projects, infrastructure renewal, operational sustainability and other airport expenses.

Gilvesy identified that although Tillsonburg is a regional airport, the town pays all the expenses.

Coun. Chris Parker, who seconded the motion, added, "This is an opportunity to reach out to local partners and fund some of the projects needed at the airport rather than relying on the tax base or land sales."

The motion suggested a starting date of Jan. 1, 2027 for the new model.

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Harvard association launches monthly open houses and fly days

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association's monthly open house and fly days attract some individuals with interesting stories among the patrons. Saturday's inaugural open house and fly day of the year started with one of those.

When he climbed into the aircraft that were used as trainers by the Royal Canadian Air Force on Saturday afternoon, Mark Colman of Brantford was wearing his father Ken's Korean War U.S. Navy aviator uniform. The leather jacket, now more than 60 years old, showed wear, but was still sold.

"He wore the jacket during the Korean War," he proudly said. "He was a U.S. Navy operator and flew the navy's first operational jet."

Colman explained that the aircraft known to Canadians as Harvards were called AT-6 Texans by the U.S. Air Force and SNJs by the U.S. Navy. Ken Colman trained in an SNJ before being assigned to Task Force 77, a group of four aircraft carriers stationed off the northeast coast of Korea. Pointing to the Gladiator patch on

the arm of the jacket, Mark said he met some current members of the Gladiators last summer, who are now stationed in Norfolk, Virginia.

The uniform worn on Saturday also included the shirt and pants, complete with the ribbon rack. Colman explained that the ribbons included the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal and Navy Commendation Medal. Mark explained his father earned the medals when he was taking part in a raid on trucks in a valley and spotted some trees that looked out of place. He fired at the trees, which turned out to be ammunition storage, and blew up with flames spewing in the air.

"He flew right through it," Mark said. "It was like a Hollywood movie."

Moving to Brantford to marry a Canadian girl, he heard about the Harvards. On the ground after the flight, Mark was raving about it.

"It was really a wonderful experience," he said. "I got some stick time today and was able to fly the aircraft. It's something that will stay with me always."

The next Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association open house and fly day is June 27. These continue through the summer.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Mark Colman stands next to one of the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association's Harvards after taking a flight in it on Saturday. His father, a U.S. Navy aviator whose uniform he wore during the flight, trained in the American version of the Harvard.

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Museum and Station Arts Centre offering evening hours

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The options for local residents looking for cultural opportunities in the evening have increased.

The Station Arts Centre and Annandale National Historic Site have teamed up to offer Culture After Hours. The pilot program will see both facilities open until 7 p.m. on the first and last Thursday of each month.

Station Arts Centre Executive Director Tabitha Verbuyst explained the concept is the extended hours will give those who work 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. an opportunity to visit these local attractions.

"It allows people to be able to explore arts, culture and history beyond regular

hours," she said.

For example, Verbuyst said she has no opportunity to go to check out Annandale House exhibits after work because it closes at 4 p.m., and she is done work later than that. She approached Kate Bakos, Culture Heritage Manager/Curator at Annandale House, with the concept.

"We had both talked about wanting to extend hours," Verbuyst said. "I approached her about doing it together and partnering."

The new pilot program is also an opportunity for the two cultural entities in town to work together and showcase what is available.

Dependent on the reception of the change, it may be expanded beyond the current summer-only hours.

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New digs for wood ducks, screech owls on Lisgar



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Lake Lisgar Revitalization Committee members Frank Kempf and Joan Weston give the wood duck and screech owl boxes a final inspection. These boxes will be erected in the north end of Lake Lisgar, near where the creek enters the lake.

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

It could be said the latest effort of the Lake Lisgar Revitalization Committee is for the birds.

Always looking for ways to improve the lake's ecosystem, the committee will be erecting four wood duck boxes and two screech owl boxes at the north end of the lake.

A brightly-coloured, medium-sized duck, wood ducks are cavity nesters, which means they like to find hollow spots in trees to set up their nests. Wood duck boxes are meant to replicate the holes in a hollow tree.

Made of rough-cut lumber, wood duck boxes have a hole sized to allow a wood duck to access it.

"There was initially some nesting boxes at the north end, and they deteriorated, so I wanted to replace them," said committee

member Frank Kempf.

The boxes are used by more than just wood ducks, though. Mergansers will also nest in the boxes, as well as many other species of waterfowls.

The concept for screech owl boxes is a new one. These small owls are cavity nesters. The boxes are similar except the hole size is different and there are small notches cut into the surface of the screech owl boxes.

Wood for the project was donated by Townsend Lumber, and the boxes were built by the Glendale High School wood-working and construction class.

The Lake Lisgar committee is also working on its annual trout stocking of the lake. Kempf hinted there will be a good number of trout put in sometime in late May. He was also excited the water quality is good enough some trout are surviving from one year to the next.

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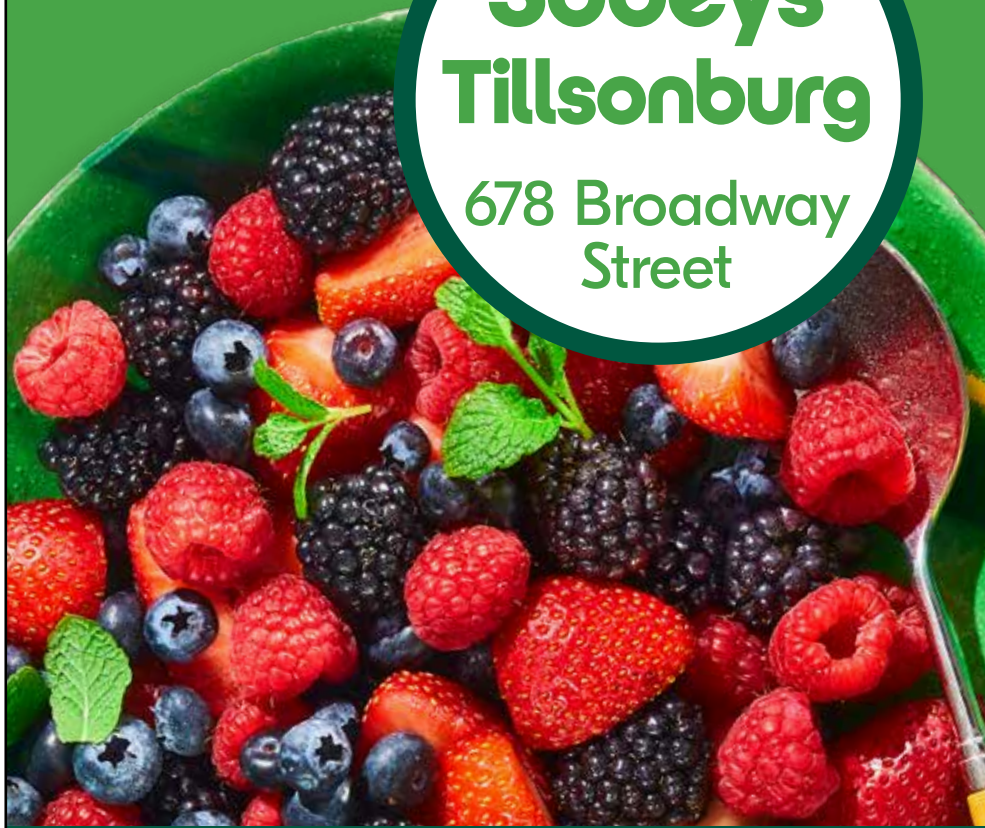
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TILLSONBURG TOWN WIDE YARD SALE



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Nikki Finck and Jenn David organized one of the busiest yard sales in town Saturday, joining the Tillsonburg Town Wide Yard Sale on Glendale Drive.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

It was a family affair Saturday for Jeff Sousa, on the left, and Melissa Dos Santos, on the right, joined by children Brielle and Mateo Sousa, during the Tillsonburg Town Wide Yard Sale at their home on Sanders Street.

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Community Calendar

JUNE

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Pickleball Courts & Tennis Court #1 CLOSED						
Community Swim 7 1:00 - 3:00 pm	Parent & Tot Skate 8 4:00 - 5:00 pm	Public Skate 9 10:00 - 11:20 am Roller Skating 6:30 - 8:00 pm			Public Skate 11 10:00 - 11:20 am	Public Skate 12 3:30 - 4:50 pm
Pickleball Courts & Tennis Court #1 CLOSED						Community Swim 13 1:00 - 3:00 pm Pottery Painting 2:30 pm
Community Swim 14 1:00 - 3:00 pm	Parent & Tot Skate 15 4:00 - 5:00 pm	Public Skate 16 10:00 - 11:20 am Roller Skating 6:30 - 8:00 pm	Kidproof Babysitting Course 17 5:00 - 8:30 pm	Public Skate 18 10:00 - 11:20 am	Public Skate 19 3:30 - 4:50 pm Tillson Family Parkette Ribbon Cutting 4:00 pm TurtleFest: Friday Night Movie on the Lawn 6:00 pm	TurtleFest 20 10:00 am Lake Lisgar Water Park Free Swim 1:00 - 3:00 pm
						13th Annual Turtlefest
Lake Lisgar Water Park 21 11:00 am - 6:00 pm	Parent & Tot Skate 22 4:00 - 5:00 pm Council Meeting 5:00 pm	Public Skate 23 10:00 - 11:20 am Roller Skating 6:30 - 8:00 pm			Public Skate 25 10:00 - 11:20 am Culture After Hours 4:00 - 7:00 pm	Lake Lisgar Water Park 26 11:00 am - 6:00 pm Public Skate 3:30 - 4:50 pm
Lake Lisgar Water Park 28 11:00 am - 6:00 pm	Lake Lisgar Water Park 29 11:00 am - 6:00 pm Parent & Tot Skate 4:00 - 5:00 pm	Public Skate 30 10:00 - 11:20 am Lake Lisgar Water Park 11:00 am - 6:00 pm Roller Skating 6:30 - 8:00 pm				

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2026

SPORTS

Gemini girls' rugby squad closes out strong 2026 season



The Tillsonburg Gemini girls rugby team closed out a successful 3-1 TVRA campaign with playoff appearances against Parkside and Arva Medway.

(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

The 2026 Tillsonburg Gemini Thames Valley Regional Athletics (TVRA) girls rugby season is gone, but will not be forgotten by coach Shelby Colldock.

Her to date, four-year teaching career at Glendale began with graduating members of the team she has coached for the duration. Colldock is excited to see them head onward to begin their lives beyond high school, all while missing their presence.

“For me, it’s a very sensitive moment to be able to get to say good-bye and good luck, to them.”

The Gemini campaign officially came to a close Monday, May 25 in Arva with a 36-15 TVRA Cup 4 quarter-final loss to the Medway Cowboys. Keona

Cornish, Asha David and Faith Meyer scored tries for the Gemini while A. Crozier (2), A. Franklin (2), D. Martens and L. Vanderheydt found the scoring zone for Medway, with R. Bosley adding three conversions.

The week previous, Tillsonburg opened its first TVRA playoff stream with a 34-14 loss to St. Thomas Parkside Stampeders in the Western Ontario Secondary Schools Athletic Association (WOSSAA) A/AA final. The Stampeders had finished the regular TVRA season with a 4-0 record, handing the Gemini their lone blemish on a 3-1 Veronica Harrigan Division performance including wins over Woodstock CI, Woodstock Huron Park and London Clarke Road.

“We got all our girls in and played well,” said Colldock, crediting the Stampeders for having one dominant star

who carried their attack. “She is just a phenomenal player.”

Cornish scored one try for Tillsonburg which was awarded a second via penalty.

Colldock was happy with the Gemini performance in both outings, playing well individually and collectively as a team.

“They played together and brought each other up.”

Colldock also credited this season’s opposition for displaying good sportsmanship throughout, competing hard, but fairly on the field.

“I hope we carried that into our games as well so the other teams felt the same way about us.”

Across her four years of coaching, the Gemini program has gone from struggling to field a team to this year’s

strength in numbers, particularly among the junior grades which bodes well for its future.

“It’s always a positive to see a sport grow in general, particularly one that can provide girls that physical outlet they don’t always get in other sports.”

Most teams benefit from club membership and Glendale is no exception says Colldock, if challenged by the fact the closest options are in London, Waterford and Brantford. However, Cornish, Meyer, Allie Deroo, Sienna Waterhouse, Emmy Gray and Jordyn Androusick brought out-of-school experience to the squad and along with other veteran players provided leadership throughout the regular season and playoffs.

“Everything is trending the way it should be trending for a team which is growing and being more successful.”

Red Sox drop extra-inning game to Seniors

GRAHAM NICKERSON

Post Contributor

The Tillsonburg Red Sox found themselves locked in a pitcher’s duel on May 29 when they hosted the Simcoe Seniors at Sam Lamb Field.

Simcoe’s strong pitching fanned 18 fledgling batters while Tillsonburg managed to hold their own until everything unravelled in extra innings.

Young right-hander Paxton Bale started on the bump for the Red Sox. The first Simcoe batter of the game reached base on a miscommunication in the outfield, followed by a base hit that scored a run.

A walk followed, then an easy fly to left was dropped to allow two Simcoe runs to come across before an out was recorded. Undeterred, Bale made quick work of the next three batters, sitting them down in order.

Tillsonburg responded with two runs of their own in the bottom of the first. Iron Ring Rachar was plunked in the back to lead off the inning, then Oden Oatway poked an opposite field home run, his first in a Red Sox uniform.

For the next five innings, the two teams notched zeros on the board. Tillsonburg managed just one hit after their home run off Simcoe starter Smith, who fanned a

total of 11 over five innings.

Simcoe threatened in the fifth after a one-out walk to Knelsen. Johnson flared a ball to left, which dropped in for a hit. Knelsen aggressively tried for home, but short stop Rachar made a perfect throw to the plate to make the out.

After an impressive outing of four hit balls over four-and-two-thirds innings of work, Bale turned the ball over to Jesse Froese, who closed the fifth with a strike-out. Froese pitched the sixth, and struck out the side before his night was through.

Owen West took the hill for Tillsonburg in the seventh and struggled with his command from the outset walking three

straight batters. With one out and the bases loaded, West induced a comebacker which was turned for a 1-2-3 double play to end the Simcoe threat.

Jordan Vitias led off the seventh with a clean single and advanced to third on a stolen base and wild pitch. Another wild pitch sent Vitias sliding into home to notch the score at 3-3.

In extra innings, West was again in a high-pressure situation with the frame starting with a runner on second. Instead of pitching, West found himself playing a game of fetch with backstop Vitias, as wild pitch after wild pitch brought in four runs before an out could be recorded.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 15

Red Sox drop extra-inning game to Seniors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

With West unable to hit the broadside of a barn, the Red Sox brought in Parker Morris to finish off the inning.

Tillsonburg managed to push across one run in the bottom of the eighth, but it was too little too late, dropping the game 8-4.

The Red Sox look ahead to their tournament which begins Friday, June 5 at the local diamonds. Eight teams are competing for the trophy which was first awarded in 1977.

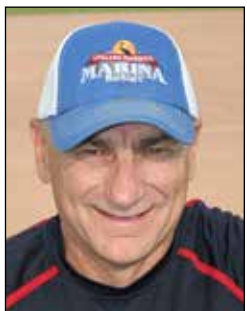
Simcoe.....300 000 04 - 8 6 0
Tillsonburg.....200 000 11 - 2 5 4

Summary: ER, Simcoe 4, Tillsonburg 3; **LOB**, Simcoe 9, Tillsonburg 5; **HR**, Oatway; **RBI**, Johnson, Lawrence, Oatway (2); **W**, Lawrence; **L**, West; **BB**, Smith (2), Bale (4), West (4); **K**, Smith (11), Lawrence (7), Bale (3), Froese (4), West (1); **Time**, 2:37

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TILLSONBURG	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
RACHAR, SS	3	1	1	1	5	0
OATWAY, 3B	3	1	1	1	2	0
MORRIS, 1B, P	3	0	0	8	0	1
VITIAS, 2B, C	2	1	1	8	1	0
PROUSE, CF	2	0	0	1	0	0
*FROESE, CF, P	1	0	0	0	0	0
MCPHERSON, EH	2	0	0	0	0	0
*WEST, P	1	0	1	0	0	1
SEITZ, C, 2B	3	0	0	4	1	1
THIESSEN, LF	3	1	0	0	0	1
APPLEFORD, RF	2	0	1	0	0	0
BALE, P	2	0	0	0	1	0
*NICKERSON, 1B	1	0	0	1	0	0
TOTALS	28	4	5	24	10	4
*Pinch Hitters						

Weather finally takes positive turn for slo-pitch



EYE ON SLO-PITCH

DAVE WEAVER

Post Columnist

We can officially say it's baseball season as no blankets or parkas had to be donned last week. Competition is heating up as well as there were a lot of close games including some of the walk off win variety. It will start to become busy now as tournaments are in full swing, with Super Series and Senior Circuit heading into their second events.

Ladies' Division

Cooks Concrete Jays are the only unbeaten team left in Ladies Slo-pitch. They broke out late to easily defeat previously-undefeated Simmonds Mortgages. The Jays had mercied Queen Bees on the Monday night. Simmonds split their doubleheader, holding on to defeat unbeaten Foldens Machine Works, who rallied late to make the game close. Foldens had mercied the Wildcats in their previous game. SunSpace/Bill Klyn Carpentry recorded their first two wins, winning easily over Resting Pitch Face and Queen Bees. Wildcats collected their first win in a low-scoring affair, shutting out Queen Bees 4-0.

SunSpace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-12, Queen Bees-2

SunSpace-Tammy Griswold 4-4; Amanda Stubbs 4-4; Gemma Ladosz HR.

Queen-Diana Byers 3-3; Tristyn Dahl 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Top of the order led the winners, with lead-off batter Tammy Griswold having four hits and three runs scored, and second in the order, Amanda Stubbs, did the same.

Cooks Concrete Jays-24, Resting Pitch

Face-0

Cooks-Maddi Obar 5-5, HR, Gr. Slam; Heidi Hopper 4-4.

Resting-Michelle Socholotiuk 2-2; Katie Depew 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Maddi Obar drove in eight for the winners, Brandi Cook scored four runs.

Wildcats-4, Queen Bees-0

Wildcats-Bridgette Homenuik 2-2; Christine Phillips 2-2.

Queen Bees-Diana Byers 2-2; Alyssa Berkeley 2-2.

Game Synopsis-The key in this one was Wildcats pitcher striking out 10 batters. Krystal Sivyer and Ling Wong each scored two runs accounting for all of Wildcats runs.

SunSpace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-20, Resting Pitch Face-4

SunSpace-Nicole Morgan 3-3; Sabrina Sinden 3-3.

Resting-Carmen Hancock 2-2; Katie Pitcock 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Amanda Stubbs led the winners with a pair of doubles and a triple, Kim Hurd had a pair of doubles and three runs scored.

Foldens Machine Works-16, Wildcats-4

Foldens-Mandi Vickers 3-3; Ashley Aker 3-3.

Wildcats-Ashley Anderson 3-3; Tracey Coderre 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Ten of 12 batters in Foldens order scored at least one run, Mandi Vickers and Teresa Snedden each crossed three times.

Simmonds Mortgages-18, Foldens Machine Works-15

Simmonds -Kyla Long 4-4; Brooklyn Carroll 4-4.

Foldens-Danielle Swart 4-4; Monica Barnes 3-4.

Game Synopsis-Rachel Boyd, Kelly Verscheuren and Katie Hahn each drove in three runs for the winners.

Cooks Concrete Jays-16, Simmonds

Mortgages-7

Jays-Maddi Obar 5-5; Brandi Cook 5-5.

Simmonds-Tena Bueckert 3-3; Tracey Caruthers 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Maddi Obar led the winners with a five-hit, five-run performance. She hit a triple off the base of the right center field fence on Annandale 3, as well she threw out two runners on the bases.

Men's A Division

Three teams are still unbeaten in the A Loop. 1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks handed the Cubs their first defeat in a high scoring affair. They capped off their week with a victory over winless Hit N Run. Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts won a close one over Hit N Run. The Mill won in come-from-behind fashion over SunSpace/Bill Klyn Carpentry to remain as the third unbeaten team.

The Mill-18, SunSpace/Bill Klyn Carpentry-15

The Mill-Mike Supinski 5-5; Tim Morgan 5-5, 2 HR; Matt Evans HR; Bryan Deblaie 2 HR; Steve Derks HR.

SunSpace-Kyle McDougall 4-4; Jake Millar 4-5; Dallas Dalby 2 HR.

Game Synopsis-A six-run seventh won it for The Mill; Tim Morgan, Steve Derks and Bryan Deblaie homered in the rally.

Leeswood Construction Dirty Mitts-12, Hit N Run-9

Hawks-Martin Klassen 5-5; Cam Bueckert 5-5; Ben Bueckert HR; Robert Verhoeve HR; Peter Epp HR; Johnny Epp HR; Daniel Enns HR; Jake Klassen HR.

Cubs-Jamie Teichroeb 4-4; Chris Dyck 4-4; Ivan Dyck HR; Joel Dyck 2 HR; Marcus Enns HR.

Game Synopsis-The Hawks walked this one off with Ben Bueckert plating the tying and winning run.

1,2 Seal Insulation Hawks-25, Hit N Run-21

Hawks-Ben Bueckert 6-6, 2 HR; Jake Klas-

sen 5-5, HR; Jesse Hiebert HR; John Klassen HR; Johnny Klassen 2 HR.

Hit N Run-Peter Klassen 5-5, 2 HR; Daniel Unger 5-5, 2 HR; Franky Klassen HR.

Game Synopsis-Johnny Klassen homered twice and scored six runs for the winners.

Men's Division 2

Pelicans, Sticky Bandits and All Seasons Estate Care Bandits are battling out at the top of the division with unbeaten records. Pelicans won a close one over Strike Force before easily beating At My Playground/IQT Logistics. All Seasons had a come from behind win over Quackheads. Sticky Bandits had a mercy win over Mavericks. Strike Force rebounded with two straight wins over Papa's Auto Spa and At My Playground.

Pelicans-12, Strike Force-8

Pelicans-Matt Summers 3-3; Adam Jensen 3-3, HR; Steve Leacock HR; T.J. Neville HR.

Strike-Henry Teichroeb 4-5; Jake Friesen 2-3.

Game Synopsis-The nine-man Strike Force hung in until the fifth, then Pelicans put a stamp on the victory with a five-run rally, Steve Leacock and Adam Jensen each hit two run homers in the inning.

Strike Force-17, Papa's Auto Spa-11

Strike Force-Peter Klassen 4-4, HR; Jake Enns 3-4; Abe Klassen HR.

Papa's-Dylan Denomy 5-5; Peyton Harris 3-4; Jesse Legg HR.

Game Synopsis-Strike Force scored seven runs late to take the win, Peter Klassen had a five-RBI night, and was a triple shy of hitting for the cycle for the winners.

Strike Force-14, At My Playground/IQT Logistics-10

Strike Force-Johnny Klassen 3-3; Jake Enns 3-3.

A.M.P.-Trent Lamb 4-4; Brandon Balazs 3-4, HR.

Game Synopsis-A four-run sixth keyed Strike Force's win, and Peter Klassen drove in two in the rally.

Weather finally takes positive turn for slo-pitch

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Pelicans-14, At My Playground/IQT Logistics-5

Pelicans-Steve Leacock 4-4, HR; Ryan Marques 4-4.

A.M.P.-Duncan McLean 3-3; Connor Smith 2-3; Trent Lamb HR.

Game Synopsis-Pelicans scored multiple runs in five of their seven at-bats. Lead-off batter Ryan Marques had a night, doubling twice while scoring four runs.

All Seasons Estate Care Bandits-14, Quackheads-13

All Seasons-William Loewen 3-4; Martin Hildebrandt 3-4; Jake Sawatsky HR.

Quackheads-Phil Beauvais 3-3; Cody Long 3-3; Dawson McMillen HR.

Game Synopsis-An eight-run seventh won it for the Bandits. Ben Neufeld and Jake Sawatsky each drove in two in the rally.

Underhill Farm Supply-12, Designated Drinkers-9

Underhill-Cole Williamson 4-5; Dave Phipps 4-5; Curtis Chambers HR.

Drinkers-Michael White 3-3; Kyle Postma 3-4, HR; Matt Barker HR.

Game Synopsis-The nine-man Underhill squad had runs scored from eight of their nine, Curtis Chambers hit a two-run homer and a run-scoring double.

Sticky Bandits-17, Mavericks-2

Bandits-Conner Friesen 3-3; Toby Rempel 3-3.

Mavericks-Ryan Landry 2-2; Matthew Poirier 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Austin Redekopp reached and scored three times for the winners.

Men's Division 3

Sandy Shore Brew Jays were the only unbeaten team, after winning their game by one on Friday night. Brew Jays walked off NAPA/Coward's Pharmacy Maulers. John Beere did the same in the sixth in a shortened game win over Wolfpack.

John Beere-15, NAPA/Coward's Pharmacy Maulers-11

John Beere-Mike Evanitski 3-3; Mark Carrel 4-4.

NAPA-Reece Dally 3-4; Darren Swick 2-4.

Game Synopsis-Shaun Elliott had a two-run double and scored three runs for John Beere.

Sandy Shore Brew Jays-13, NAPA/Coward's Pharmacy Maulers-12

Brew Jays-Denver Barr 3-3; Brian Reddecopp 3-3; J.D. Collier 2 HR.

NAPA-Matt Bowers 3-3; Craig Boucher 3-4; Dylan Outerbridge HR.

Game Synopsis-Duane Nutt had the walk-off base hit for Sandy Shore.

John Beere-14, Wolfpack-13

John Beere-Lucas Lebel 3-3; Nathan Sullivan 3-3.

Wolfpack-Jarryd Roest 3-3; Dustin Smith 3-3.

Game Synopsis-Brandon Reaney scored the winning run for John Beere.

Men's Division 4

N.I.M. had another big week, sweeping a doubleheader over R.L.P. and a mercy over Smokin Bases. Tornadoes won their first ever game, beating Smokin Bases by two. They however lost their second half of their doubleheader, getting edged out by one by Diamond Kings. Brickhouse Boys won a pair, mercying Tornadoes and a four-run victory over Diamond Kings. R.L.P. picked up the only other division win, a 12-run victory over Tornadoes.

R.L.P. Melanie Luksys-19, Tornadoes-7

R.L.P.-Blake Ash 4-4; Caden Craggs 4-4.

Tornadoes-Hayden Lounsbury 3-3; Ben Serrador 3-3.

Game Synopsis-R.L.P. scored runs in five of their six at-bats, Blake Ash scored four runs.

Brickhouse Boys-30, Diamond Kings-26

Brickhouse-Parker Morris 6-6; Court Cronheimer 4-5, HR.

Diamond-Dave Wall 5-5; Pete Goertzen 5-5.

Game Synopsis-Everyone on both team orders scored at least one run, a rare occurrence. Parker Morris hit a pair of doubles and a triple for the winners.

N.I.M.-16, R.L.P. Melanie Luksys-1

N.I.M.-Cory Chambers 4-4; Jeff Wheeler 4-4.

R.L.P.-Jeremy Tannahill 2-2; Ethan Luksys 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Jeff Wheeler, Jake Denobriga and Justin Dygos all scored three runs for the winners.

N.I.M.-18, Smokin Bases-3

N.I.M.-Brodie Earls 4-4; Logan Bottenfield 3-4.

Smokin-Jeff Sousa 3-3; Wade Kirby 2-3.

Game Synopsis-N.I.M. took advantage of a short-handed Smokin Bases squad, Brodie Earls led the way with four runs scored.

Brickhouse Boys-13, Tornadoes-2

Brickhouse-Nathan Bridges 4-4; Cooper Desroches 4-4.

Tornadoes-Jaxon Toth 2-3; Marshal Delaire 2-2.

Game Synopsis-Leadoff batter Tanner Lammens had a single, double and triple and scored three runs for the winners.

N.I.M.-29, R.L.P. Melanie Luksys-21

N.I.M.-Jeff Wheeler 6-6; Logan Bottenfield 5-5.

R.L.P.-Ethan Luksys 4-4; Cole Toth 4-5.

Game Synopsis-Logan Bottenfield scored five runs for the winners.

Tornadoes-19, Smokin Bases-17

Tornadoes-Ben Serrador 4-4; Jack Soares 4-4.

Smokin-Ian Barrett 5-5; Joe Miller 4-4.

Game Synopsis-A seven-run sixth gave Tornadoes their first win, Hayden Lounsbury scored four runs on the night.

Diamond Kings-20, Tornadoes-19

Diamond-George Klassen 4-4; Jake Peters 3-3.

Game Synopsis-George Hiebert and George Klassen each hit a pair of doubles and scored three runs for Diamond Kings.

MEN'S DIVISION 1	W	L	T	PTS
1,2 SEAL INSULATION HAWKS	3	0	0	6
LEESWOOD CONSTRUCTION DIRTY MITTS	3	0	0	6
THE MILL	3	0	0	6
CUBS	2	1	0	4
COBRA CHICKENS	1	3	0	2
SUNSPACE/BILL KLYN CARPENTRY	1	4	0	2
HIT N RUN	0	5	0	0

MEN'S DIVISION 3	W	L	T	PTS
SANDY SHORE BREW JAYS	3	0	0	6
SLUGGERS	3	1	0	6
JOHN BEERE	2	1	0	4
BEER BOMBERS	2	2	0	4
WOLFPACK	1	4	0	2
BIRD'S GOLF	0	0	0	0
NAPA/COWARD'S PHARMACY MAULERS	0	3	0	0

LADIES	W	L	T	PTS
COOKS CONCRETE JAYS	5	0	0	10
FOLDENS MACHINE WORKS	4	1	0	8
SIMMONDS MORTGAGES	4	1	0	8
SUNSPACE/BILL KLYN CARPENTRY	2	3	0	4
RESTING PITCH FACE	2	4	0	4
WILDCATS	1	4	0	2
QUEEN BEES	0	5	0	0

MEN'S DIVISION 2	W	L	T	PTS
PELICANS	4	0	0	8
ALL SEASONS ESTATE CARE BANDITS	3	0	0	6
STRIKE FORCE	3	2	0	6
STICKY BANDITS	2	0	0	4
PAPA'S AUTO SPA	2	2	0	4
UNDERHILL FARM SUPPLY	1	2	0	2
QUACKHEADS	1	2	0	2
AT MY PLAYGROUND/IQT LOGISTICS	1	3	0	2
MAVERICKS	0	2	0	0
DESIGNATED DRINKERS	0	4	0	0

MEN'S DIVISION 4	W	L	T	PTS
N.I.M.	6	0	0	12
BRICKHOUSE BOYS	4	2	0	8
DIAMOND KINGS	3	2	0	6
R.L.P. MELANIE LUKSYS	3	4	0	6
TORNADOES	1	4	0	2
SMOKIN BASES	0	5	0	0

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(STUART BLOWER PHOTOS)



Max Prouse of Allard Chiropractic's U12 boys team kicks the ball to keep it away from a Shaw's Ice Cream player.



Tilly Trailer player Noah Gawne dribbles the ball to keep it away from a Baldwin Street Chiropractic player in a U8 boys' game last week.



Emily McCormick of the Cadman Irrigation U13 girls Tillsonburg Football Club team vies for control of the ball against a Chatham player in EMDSL action.



East Elgin Concrete Forming players, from left in grey Elijay Teixeira, Malcolm Schneider and Ajay Nevins, work to stop a Petro Canada forward during recent U-12 boys action.



Although soccer is a game where players can't touch the ball with their hands, it seemed all hands were up in this shot in a U8 boys game between Attain Health and Otter Creek Designs.



Cohen Bruckler, left, of the Optimist International U-8 boys team, fights for control of the ball with Ashton Prouse of the Optometrists on Broadway team in a game last Wednesday.

June is Seniors Month Ontario Seniors — Let's Get Moving

ontario.ca/SeniorsMonth

Ontario 

A life of service: volunteering for 21 years after a 40-year career

DEBBIE KASMAN

Post Correspondent

John Haldane hadn't planned to volunteer for 21 years after retiring from his 40-year career at Canada Life Head Office in Toronto, but that's what ended up happening. Life has a funny way of taking you places you didn't see coming.

Born in 1943 at Mrs. Stanford's Nursing Home, a private maternity home (not a modern long-term care facility) located at 10039 Yonge Street in Richmond Hill, Haldane was the oldest of three children. His parents were John and Thelma Haldane.

In the era before Richmond Hill had its own hospital, Mrs. Stanford's

Nursing Home functioned primarily as a maternity facility. Expectant mothers stayed there for childbirth, with deliveries handled upstairs in the bedrooms. Harry, sometimes called "Uncle Harry," and Elizabeth Ann, "Mrs." Stanford, owned and lived in the house from around 1928 until 1976. Harry served as a long-time custodian at Richmond Hill High School and was active in the community. Ann worked in practical nursing for many years and helped delivered babies at the house, Haldane included.

After graduating from the local high school, Haldane went off to Ryerson University in pursuit of a business degree. After

graduating with that degree, he worked at Canada Life for 40 years, then retired to Tillsonburg in 2005 with his wife Kathy.

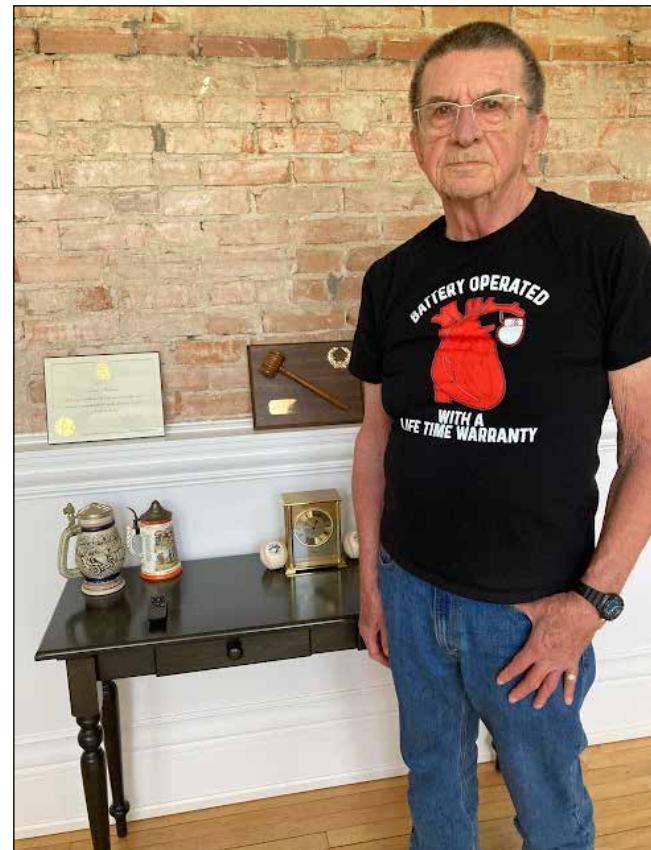
Not one to sit still very long, Haldane launched himself on a second volunteer career post retirement that lasted for 21 years. He first volunteered at the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital, where he stayed for 20 years, but he also acted as a volunteer companion for the Alzheimer's Association of Oxford County for two years, served on the board of Community Living Tillsonburg for four years (as director and treasurer), and served on the board of the Tillsonburg Senior Centre as director for 2 years.

Haldane's main role at

the Tillsonburg hospital was to provide admin/computer support for the volunteer coordinator. He also served two terms as president of the volunteer association board, one term on the TDMH Hospital Board, and another term on the TDMH Foundation Board. Haldane completed other volunteer jobs at the hospital as well: helping at the information desk, treasurer of the coffee shop, summarizer of patient surveys, and director and past-president of the volunteer association board.

At the age of 83, John is now fully retired and living a life of leisure. He spends his time listening to music, reading, journaling, and streaming movies and television shows. Haldane lost his wife in 2018, and has been a resident at Rolph Street School for the past five years.

Haldane is a proud father and grandfather with two daughters, Corrie and Tanya, and two grandchildren, Samantha and Tyler. Corrie has published numerous stories in short story anthologies and Tanya is an administrator at a product testing facility. Granddaughter Samantha is 18 and currently living and



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

working in Japan. Grandson Tyler is 25 and about to be married.

Haldane told me he almost went to the infamous Woodstock in 1969 on Max Yasgur's dairy farm in Bethel, New York, where Jimi Hendrix, The Who, Jefferson Airplane, and Sly and the Family Stone closed the show over three days amidst a lot of chaos—but his buddy backed out at the last minute, and had the car.

Haldane likes to joke that

he is "battery-operated with a lifetime warranty."

Haldane's advice for enjoying retirement? I was expecting something noble about service and giving back. Instead, the man who ran on volunteer hours for 21 years grinned, and said, "Live for today. You never know when your batteries might give out."

He should know — he has a pacemaker. Technically, he's been battery-operated with a lifetime warranty for years.

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Community centre offers variety of seniors' programs

JULIE DAWLEY

Post Contributor

At the Tillsonburg Community Centre, we believe staying active is one of the keys to healthy aging. Our water fitness classes, land fitness programs, personal training opportunities and health club experiences are designed to help older adults improve strength, balance, flexibility and cardiovascular health while also supporting mental wellness and social connection.

Whether participating in Aqua Fit, yoga, low-impact group fitness, working one-on-one with a personal trainer to achieve specific wellness goals, or enjoying an independent workout in the health

club, seniors can stay active at a pace that works for them in a welcoming and supportive environment. Recreation is more than exercise - it helps build confidence, independence, friendships and an overall better quality of life.

It's never too late to begin your wellness journey. No matter your age, experience or fitness level, taking that first step toward a more active lifestyle can make a meaningful difference in your health, energy and overall happiness. We encourage seniors to come out, meet new people, try something new and discover how enjoyable staying active can be.

Julie Dawley is Recreation Programs and Services Manager for the Tillsonburg Community Centre.






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Ontario 

Tillsonburg Senior Centre gearing up for Seniors' Month

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The Tillsonburg Senior Centre is preparing for Seniors' Month and is doing it in a big way.

The annual barbecue in conjunction with Seniors' Month is planned for Friday, June 26, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"You don't have to be a senior. We're just trying to raise awareness of the centre, and the month," said administrator Nancy Puh-Slingerland. "It is nice because it is all seniors serving the food, cutting the lettuce, etc. It's all senior-driven."

The cost for the event is \$5 for a burger, chips and a drink. The only catch is that organizers ask people to pre-register at 519-688-2520 so they know how much food to have on hand.

Last year, close to 100 people came

through for the event, and it's expected that number will be topped this year.

A Smile Cookie and RBC supported change

The other big news is that money donated from last fall's Tim Hortons Smile Cookie campaign is close to being used, so members will benefit. The funding is being used to renovate the former wood shop into an art room. This means removing all the woodworking equipment, including exhaust equipment, and installing new flooring and painting. A sink will be added for cleaning brushes, and lighting will be improved. In addition, chairs and tables will be purchased.

A grant received through the RBC Fund in January is also helping to offset the costs.

Once renovations are complete, pro-

gramming for seniors will be put in place. Some examples will be mosaic programs, stained glass workshops, and making air dry clay and sun catchers.

"Things right now we don't have the luxury of offering," Puh-Slingerland said.

Although this might seem to overlap with what the Station Arts Centre does, such is not the case. Puh-Slingerland said she talked to staff at Station Arts, and the organization provided a letter of support for what the Tillsonburg Senior Centre is going.

"We're certainly not looking to reinvent the wheel, or infringe on what they are doing," she said.

Even for those who don't participate in a formal program, the new room will provide a quiet space for members to paint or draw.

Used jewelry wanted

Donations of used jewelry and fashion accessories are being sought for the annual jewelry sale on the Saturday of the fair in August. All items will be \$2 each. It will be open to the public on Saturday, Aug. 15, from 1-4 p.m., and to members the day before.

The sale also includes accessories like purses and belts.

A pelvic floor and core fitness class, offered for the first time by Stonebridge, is proving popular. It runs Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. The non-member fee is \$48.

Those looking to lower the cost of the centre programs can become members, and the \$55 annual membership fee will drop to \$35 after July 1, and be prorated even lower through the fall. The 2027 fee can be brought even lower by paying before the end of the year.

Read the paper online anytime: tillsonburgpost.com

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IN APPRECIATION

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Local entertainer Mike Martin performed at the Tillsonburg Senior Centre as part of an annual volunteer appreciation event. Volunteers are a crucial part of the operation of the centre, and contribute more than 1,500 volunteer hours annually.



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June is Seniors Month Ontario Seniors — Let's Get Moving

ontario.ca/SeniorsMonth

Ontario 

Tillsonburg man publishes his first novel

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

David Brandon has been working on the concept for his book for more than a decade, but it took retirement for him to finish it.

Brandon's book, *Rings of Saturn: Enemy Within* was released on March 27, but will be officially launched on June 8 to coincide with the premier of Stephen Spielberg's new movie *Disclosure Day*.

The science fiction novel follows U.S. Air Force F-16 pilot Dan Russell, who enters a classified space program, and eventually fights a battle in the rings of Saturn. A combination science fiction and military story, with a love story thrown in the mix, the novel has not only aliens in an interstellar

war, but also inner struggles and a good-versus-evil conflict.

"Ever since I was 13 years old, I was following the UFO situation," Brandon said. "I woke up one morning and said, 'I have to write this book'. I wrote the first chapter, and the rest took 10 years."

Although he didn't join the military, Brandon did become a pilot and was a flight instructor. He is the former owner of Tillsonburg Flying School.

Following the 10-year writing and research process for the book, it took Brandon another three years to edit the book. He also borrowed an advice from an editor on how to write his book.

Brandon has been a big science fiction lover, both in print and on television and the big screen.

"Science fiction has been my love since I watched the first Star Trek series when it came on TV," he said.

Brandon said he prefers Star Trek, which was his favourite, to Star Wars. "The whole idea of Star Trek and how humans evolved over 300 years is what I really liked about it," he said.

Timing of the book's release is critical. Spielberg's movie is being released as the United States government starts to disclose more information from classified UFO, or Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP), files. Last month, the American government tens of millions records, spanning several decades, related to UAPs were released.

"The secret space pro-

gram does exist," Brandon teased of one of the elements of his book. "There is a lot more in space than we know about."

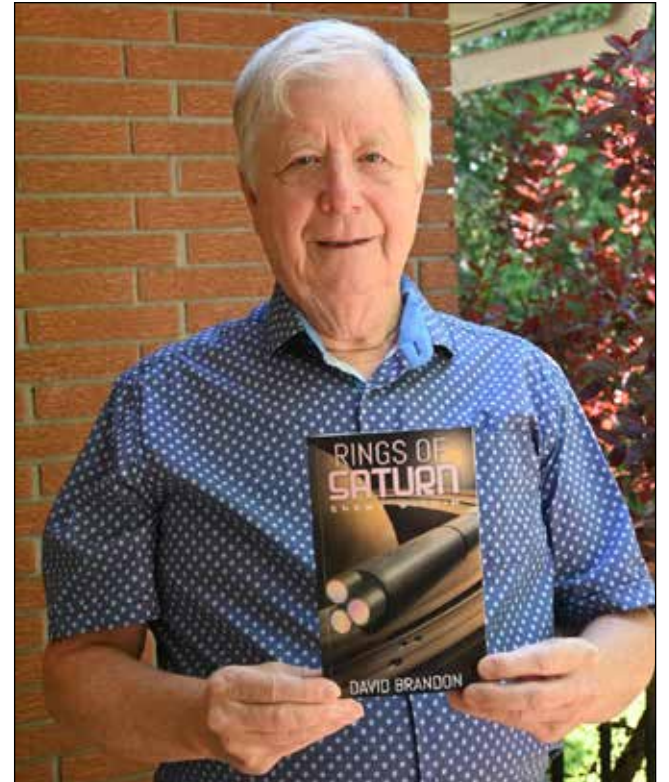
Writing the book involved years of research for Brandon. It incorporates the latest technology, such as anti-gravity drive, which Brandon says also does exist.

It also talks about medical technology, which Brandon found is on the point of huge breakthroughs.

"If you live another 10 years, you'll probably live to be 200," he predicted.

Enough material was compiled through the research that Brandon believes he has enough to write two more books.

The 280-page *Rings of Saturn: Enemy Within* is available for \$23 on Amazon.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

David Brandon displays his novel, *Rings of Saturn: Enemy Within*, which was published in March and will be going through an official release within the next week.

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Pickleball comes to the Tillsonburg Senior Centre

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The latest craze sweeping the nation, pickleball now has a new home in the Tillsonburg Senior Centre.

The indoor court has been attracting about a dozen people per session, both outdoor players getting some practice time in as well as attracting new players. In the senior centre, pickleball is offered Mondays and Thursdays. The cost is \$4.50 for non-members and \$2.50 for members.

Michelle Webb, senior centre program coordinator, explained Thursdays are usually for intermediate players and Mondays for beginners.

"Many of the advanced players come in Monday to play, but if the beginning players are here, they bring it down to teach them how to play," she said.

This is the initial season for the program in the senior centre, and it seems

to be popular.

For new player Walter Slingerland, pickleball seems fun.

"There's a lot more laughter than actual play," he said.

Indoor pickleball differs slightly in the ball has fewer, and larger, holes

than the ball for outdoor.

"We have ceilings to deal with indoors, and sometimes serious wind outside," said experienced player Paul Van Herten.

Deb Hodgkinson joined the senior centre because of pickleball. She wasn't aware of any other indoor

courts, and plans on playing outdoors as well.

Meghan Fardella is also a new player, and liked that the senior centre supplied the equipment, that the first time is free and there is instruction.

"It seemed like an easy way to try it," she said.

With only four people able to play at once, players rotate during the session.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Fred Dupon, right, bends down to receive a serve, with his partner for the match Paul Van Herten, ready to lend assistance during a recent game at the Tillsonburg Senior Centre. Pickleball is offered at the senior centre Mondays and Thursdays.



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Gasparetto to run for councillor seat

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Ron Gasparetto filed his papers to run for Tillsonburg council last week, becoming the third person to run for one of six councillor positions.

A long-time resident of Tillsonburg, Gasparetto has been actively involved in giving back to the community for 23 years. He has served on the Tillsonburg Non-Profit Housing Corporation for more than 17 years. He is also a past chair of Habitat for Humanity and has spent time coaching local ringette.

Gasparetto recently retired from a 35-year career in municipal government, primarily in real estate, urban planning, facilities management, and municipal operations.

He follows council meetings to stay up to date on local issues affecting the town.

Asked why he decided to put his name forward to run for council, Gasparetto answered, "I decided to run for council because I believe strongly in public service and giving back to the community that has given so much

to my family. Through my career, I have gained extensive experience in municipal governance, budgeting, planning, and asset management. I believe those skills can help council make informed decisions that balance growth, financial responsibility, and quality of life for residents."

He believes the knowledge he has gained on municipal government and a collaborative approach to problem-solving will be a positive addition to council.

"I believe in listening to residents, making decisions based on facts and sound analysis, and working respectfully with fellow council members to achieve positive outcomes for the community," he said. "My goal is to help ensure Tillsonburg remains a great place to live, work, raise a family, and retire."

He sees the big issues facing Tillsonburg over the next four years as managing growth while maintaining the small-town character, ensuring housing affordability, advancing economic development, and attracting new business investment. He also sees continued investment in municipal infrastructure as key, while ensuring taxpayers receive good value for their dollar.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Oxford County releases more information about plan for YMCA building following purchase

LEE GRIFFI

Post Contributor

The county said its goal of "Housing for all" is taking a major step forward with a new Homelessness Support Centre in Woodstock that will offer emergency shelter alongside other services that help transition people out of homelessness and into stable housing.

In a press release, Oxford County said the purchase of the property at 808 Dundas Street in Woodstock is now approaching the community input phase.

"The county now begins the process of consulting with residents and businesses in the area; working with the City of Woodstock and other community partners to plan how the new facility will operate; and tendering for renovations and building system upgrades at the site."

The release added the support centre, expected to open in spring 2028, will work in partnership with Woodstock's new Homelessness and Addictions Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub/Wellness Centre to serve residents from across Oxford County who are unhoused or at the risk of becoming homeless. It will offer a single-location 24/7 emergency shelter model offering 55 beds, meal areas, safe storage for personal belongings, on-site laundry, day programs, and on-site security.

"It will also offer on-site professional staff to help unhoused people find employment, mental health and addictions support, permanent housing, and other types of support. Office space will also be made available to other community agencies."

Costs for both the building purchase and renovations are being funded through the county's two housing reserve funds (up to \$5.55 million), a Building Faster Fund contribution from the City of Woodstock (\$2.05 million), and the Federal Safe Restart fund (\$200,000).

"The annual costs of operating the centre, estimated at \$2.4 million per year, will be funded in part through Ontario's Homelessness Prevention Program. Right now, the County allocates approximately \$1.9 million in provincial funding each year for shelter services and homelessness support," added the release.

In June, Oxford County staff will bring forward an ex-

planation of how the community, particularly residents and businesses in the area, will be updated throughout the project from now until its opening and initial stages of operation.

"The public will also have an opportunity to give input on operational plans for the support centre, safety and security, and other considerations. Public consultation will include an in-person public information meeting along with other ways to ask questions and provide feedback. Ongoing updates, and an opportunity to submit feedback at any time, can be found on Speak Up, Oxford! at www.oxfordcounty.ca/speakup."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 31

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- Creative Imagination Station
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Community comes together for Alzheimer Walk

CHRIS ABBOTT

Grant Haven Media

Christine Poier, Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners, Director of Operations, could hardly contain her excitement when she learned how much money was raised at Saturday's Walk for Alzheimer's in Tillsonburg.

"\$15,000," said Poier. "That's amazing!"

The IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's in Tillsonburg, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in January 2020 at the Tillsonburg Community Centre, is now held in May at Memorial Park, after a brief run at the Annanadale Public School track.

"We've been doing this annually for many, many years," Poier nodded, pleased with Saturday's turnout.

"We have about 70 people here today, which is very exciting," said Maggie Scanlon, Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners, Director of Programs and Services.

"The thing that I love about this event is that... we have the moments where we are all gathered together to remember our loved one, or the person living with dementia... but it's a community event. It's the community coming together," said Scanlon, who was a care partner for her grandmother who was living with dementia. "You are then surrounded by all the people who are in the same situation, or someone who is living with dementia, and



Tillsonburg Kinettes had a large team in the Tillsonburg Walk for Alzheimer's Saturday at Memorial Park.

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

you can feel that community support, to know that you are not alone. This is really

about a community coming together and I think that is so beautiful."

How much you raise for the Walk for Alzheimer's does not matter, said Scanlon. There is not minimum fundraising amount. People joined as individuals, partners, teams, including service clubs like the Tillsonburg Lions and Tillsonburg Kinettes. VON did the walk warmup for participants.

"Again, it's the community partnership," said Scanlon. "It's the community coming together, which is amazing."

The annual walk is important to foster community and raise funds for programs within the community, said Alzheimer

Society volunteer Theresa MacDougall, also a member of the Tillsonburg Kinettes.

"I started doing this walk with my daughter when it was at the community centre, to support my mom," said MacDougall. "When the kids got older, I wanted to give back to that, that's why I do this, in support."

"The Kinettes are great supporters of the walk... we've got a big team. The Kinettes are big in the community."

Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners organized four walks on the weekend – Tillsonburg, Woodstock, and London on Saturday, and St. Thomas on Sunday.



The Corporation of the Township of Norwich

Media Release – Township of Norwich Traffic Calming Open Houses

The Township of Norwich would like to invite members of the community to attend one of three Traffic Calming Open Houses being held on June 10 & June 11, 2026. Council has identified traffic calming as a strategic priority and has set aside funding for pilot projects in 2026. These sessions are your opportunity to review the Township's speed data, learn about traffic calming options, and share your feedback before any decisions are made.

Session 1: Norwich – Wednesday, June 10, 2026 | 6:00–8:00 PM

Township of Norwich Council Chambers
285767 Airport Road, Norwich, ON

Session 2: Springford – Thursday, June 11, 2026 | 1:30–3:30 PM

Springford Community Hall
429 Main St W, Springford ON

Session 3: Oxford Centre – Thursday, June 11, 2026 | 6:00–8:00 PM

Oxford Centre Hall
505386 Old Stage Road, Woodstock ON

Each session will include a brief presentation followed by an opportunity to speak with Township staff and members of Council, review display materials, and complete a comment card. Responses will then be collated and presented at a future Council meeting, along with recommendations about the pilot projects that should be implemented in 2026. No registration is required for these sessions. Please note that all three sessions will be sharing the same information.

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cao@norwich.ca, 519-667-2000 ext. 7615

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DALLAS SMITH PLAYS IN TILLSONBURG

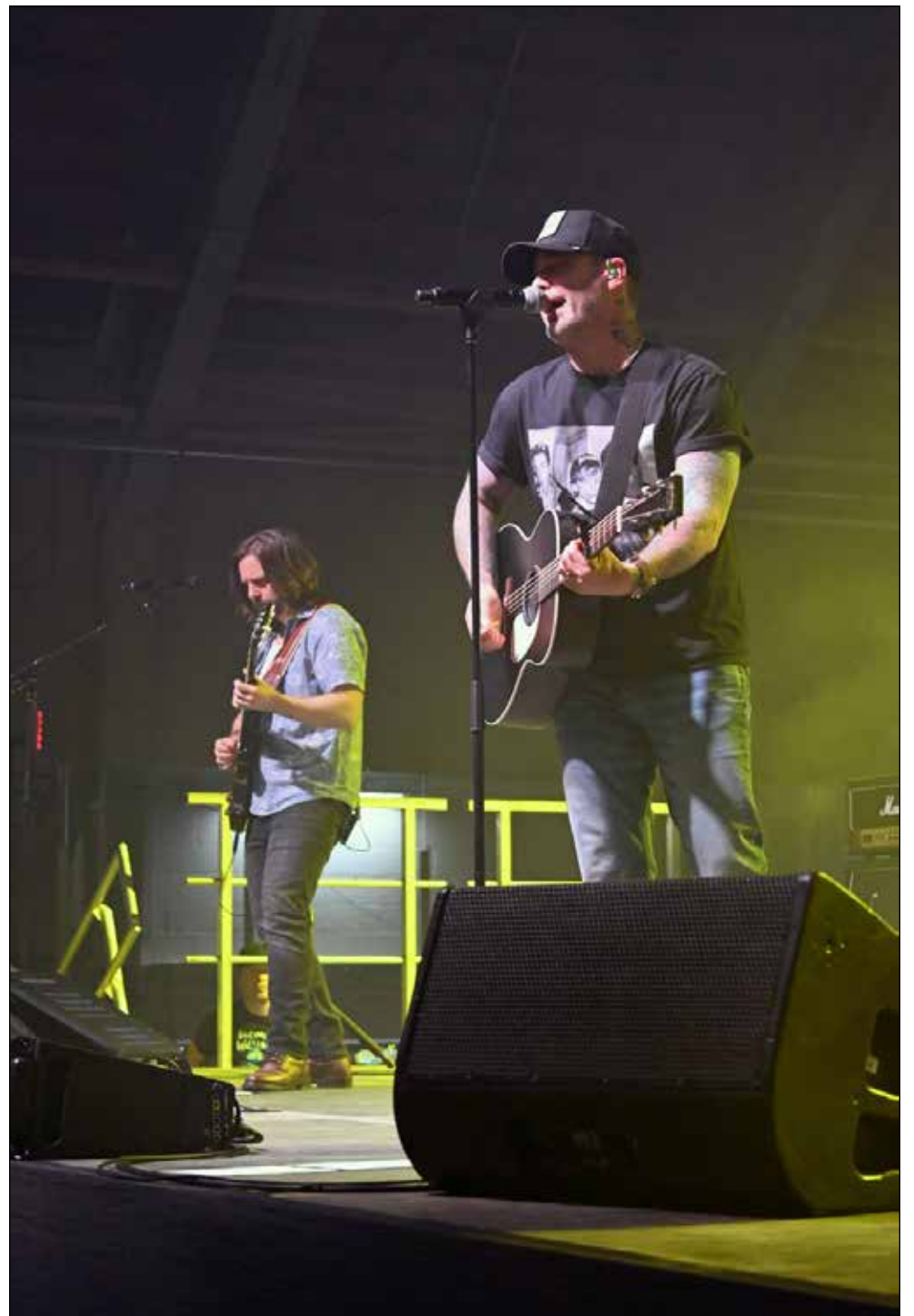
Canadian country star Dallas Smith drew a packed house for his show on May 28 in the Tillsonburg Memorial Arena. A three-time Canadian Country Music Association Entertainer of the Year winner and Grand 'Ole Opry performer, Smith thrilled the crowds performing his multiple hits from over the last decade. Presented by New Country 107.3 and Jones Entertainment Group, the concert was the first in more than two decades in Memorial Arena.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

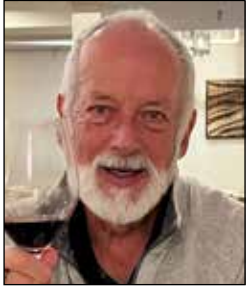


(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Tournon steam train takes travellers back in time



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

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

When the Viking company invited us on a Rhône River Cruise, we knew we'd be travelling via airplane and, of course, boat – more specifically, a Viking Longship christened Viking Heimdal.

We hadn't realized that the old cliché, "planes, trains and automobiles," would be true to the max. We flew into Paris, returning post-cruise by air from Marseille to Munich to Toronto.

In Paris, where we stayed for three days, we used automobiles for tours, and added boats to the list, as we took a Seine River cruise. We travelled from Paris to Lyon by high-speed train, and there boarded the longship for our weeklong cruise.

So, we thought we'd pretty much covered the transportation device gamut, but then came the fifth day of the trip, when we found ourselves boarding a much older railway train, a sharp contrast to the rapid ride from Paris. We were spending the morning on a leisurely trip aboard the Tournon Steam Train, riding in heritage carriages, with plenty of steam blowing past as we travelled through a beautiful and unspoiled French river valley.

The official name of the train is the Chemin de fer du Vivarais. It's in the Ardèche region in the south of France. The full line is 33 kilometres long, running from Tournon in the Rhône Valley to Lamastre in the Doux valley. However, there are also shorter, half-day trips – includ-

ing the one we took.

It's quaint, authentic and quite wonderful. Riding in these heritage carriages, pulled by a genuine steam locomotive, is a great experience in its own right, but the scenery through the valleys is also spectacular.

There is an intriguing history to the Tournon Steam Train, both as a tourist attraction and prior to that incarnation.

The line was originally built between 1886 and 1890, and it carried freight and passengers until 1968.

Some local enthusiasts believed it was too special to abandon, and so a surprisingly brief, two-year project resulted in the 33-kilometre line being re-opened as a special attraction in 1970. It stayed in service until 2008, when a growing operating deficit and increasing disrepair of the rolling stock forced another closure. But the fans of steam trains are not easily deterred. Although

that hiatus lasted five years, this time, they brought the train back once again. In 2013, they again fired up the steam locomotive, and with that, the current railway service began. All of the rolling stock is authentic, with the locomotives dating back to the beginning of the 20th century.

That's the history of the train as tourism attraction. But the previous life of this railway is much more poignant. During World War II, the Rhône region was a key centre for the French Resistance, as French patriots fought against the Nazis – and against the Nazi-friendly Vichy government. I have written previously about the city of Lyon as an important base for the Resistance. As the war unfolded, the Resistance fighters moved more and more to the forests and mountains of southern France, from where they waged what might be called guerilla warfare against their occupiers.

And we learned that the Tournon Railway, running through the district that was home to plenty of Resistance fighters, was



The steam engine was built in the early 20th century.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

frequently employed to smuggle guns and ammunition for these resistance fighters, with boxes of arms and ammo buried beneath the piles of coal used to fire the engine.

The railway was also used when Jewish children were brought from Paris, where their lives were in immediate danger. They then taken via this local railway to isolated farms where they could hide in relative safety. Thus, these cute little carriages we were riding in were actually important tools in combatting the horrors of the Holocaust. Many lives were saved from death in the concentration camps because of the Tournon railway. A sobering reality check.

Back to today. The carriages have windows that can be opened, and passengers can also stand on the car's entrance platforms to take in the stunning views of the Doux river gorge, as well as to breathe in the scent of coal fires and to experience the clouds of steam. Your every sense carries you back in time.

And there is an unexpected twist at the farthest point of the excursion we took, from Tournon to the Colombier-le-Vieux-Saint Barthélémy-le-Plain trip. And no, I am not making up the name of the latter station. The sign fills an entire wall of the old station building.

Because the passengers quite rightly expect to be returned to Tournon, the steam engine has to be disconnected from the carriages, and turned 180 degrees to head back the way it came.

This is accomplished by something that looks a little like magic, but is really just good old engineering know-how. The 44-ton locomotive is turned around manually – by one man, who does not even work up

a sweat – on a cleverly designed turntable. Back at the Tournon station, passengers can visit a museum, which includes heritage train cars, plenty of railroading artifacts and – of course – a gift shop.

All in all, a wonderful experience of stepping – actually, riding – back in time.

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and Past-President of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

The Tournon Railway has a dedicated team of workers, including the engineer.



An aqueduct in the Doux Gorge.

(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)



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From Wales to Ontario: keram's Ratking tour comes to Tillsonburg



**MUSIC
CORNER**

BEN ANDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

A year ago, Welsh musician Marek Ball packed up his life and moved to Canada. He was not just changing countries but more so he was starting over.

Known for previous music projects Dirty Neon and Make-Out in the United Kingdom, Ball arrived in Toronto knowing virtually nobody. Since then, he has built a new life with a new circle of friends. He has also built a new musical identity through his solo project named keram. It is a clever name. It is his first name spelled backwards, and with a lower case 'k'.

The music of keram blends elements of alternative rock, emo, folk punk and indie influences while creating songs that are both personal and constantly evolving. For Ball, the move across the Atlantic has had a profound impact on both his life and his song writing.

"Having never been to Canada before, knowing nobody and nothing, falling out of a plane and just trying to make it work.

Everything about my experiences in Canada has been defined by strangers that became friends," Ball explains. "My Welsh work with Dirty Neon and Make-Out was very much so The Marek Show. What I wanted to write, how I wanted them to sound, very insular and specific, but the music I write now is significantly more collaborative."

Marek has enlisted his new friends in Canada to be part of the keram project, and so far, it has been working out.

"My two best Canadian friends, Joseph Conrad and Steven Santello, are as much a part of the keram process these days and I cannot imagine it without them," Ball said. "These two strangers, now best friends, have changed my life in ways I cannot begin to describe."

That collaborative spirit has helped shape a project that refuses to be boxed into a single genre. The keram song writing process often starts with a specific vision for a song where they let the creative process take unexpected turns.

"There is something I'm chasing, often a key inspiration at any given moment, trying to capture one specific vibe or feeling but at the risk of sounding incredibly pretentious, I find the song will run away with itself, and find itself and tell you what it wants to be," Ball explained. "I could start with an emo chorus and end with a folk punk song. If you start writing and get stuck, you readjust until the ideas start flowing again, the song writes itself. Not every idea needs to be hammered into a

mold."

Several well-known bands from the UK alternative scene including Fightstar, Blitz Kids, Deaf Havana and The Blackout, have shaped Ball's musical approach. While he has embraced life in Canada the transition has come with a few culture shocks.

"The tax being added at the end of the purchase, tipping culture, the constant apologizing for things that need no apology. It is a totally different culture than what I'm used to," Ball laughs. "One of the hardest aspects I found was how Canadians are so fiercely protective of their social circles. It is so hard to get in with a group of friends here, but if you managed to get in, you have made friends for life. It is beautiful, if not a little daunting. I would love to add that I want people to tell their friends that they love them. I do not think people say it often enough."

While Ball appreciates the friendships he has found in Canada, he still misses some things from back home in Cardiff.

"But what I miss the most, except the obvious answer of friends and family, is the food. I know British food gets a bad reputation but my goodness. I want a proper curry, a proper full English breakfast, I want a Greggs, I want the flavours of Monster and Rockstar that the Canadians do not even know about," Ball lists. "Also, our music streaming services are different. I cannot listen to some of my favourite songs because they are not on Canadian streaming. That was a weird adjustment."

Currently touring Ontario on the Rat-

king Tour with fellow Toronto artist Kicksie, Ball sees the experience as a celebration of the connections that music can create.

"I'm out on the Ratking tour right now with my bestie Kicksie, and playing a handful of venues around Ontario with a solid lineup of support acts. All venues, bands, audiences and staff that I may have never met, we talk about strangers, and their influences on our lives," Ball said. "This whole run is the most beautiful example of that. As far as the keram show goes, I try to fill the set with as much energy and sweat and fun as I can. I want to jump, I want to run, I want to hurt and ache the next day. I want people to get involved and feel the same way and share in that connection if they are into it."

For Ball that sense of connection remains at the heart of everything he does. What began as a leap into the unknown, has become a story about community, friendship and finding inspiration in unexpected places. This Friday Tillsonburg will have the opportunity to experience that story first hand when keram comes to town.

Local band Ian BW opens for keram June 5th at Paddy's Underground. Advanced tickets are \$10 and available online at www.eventbrite.ca. You can also purchase them at the door the night of the show for \$15. This concert is an all-ages event with a licensed area. You can follow keram on their official social media account at www.instagram.com/keramcore

UPCOMING SHOWS

JUNE 4 – JJ STALEY
The Copper Mug
Free Entry – 8 p.m.

JUNE 5 - KERAM & IAN BW
Paddy's Underground
\$10 – 8 p.m.
All Ages/Licensed

JUNE 10 - EUCHRE NIGHT
The Copper Mug
5:30 p.m.

JUNE 12 - MUSIC TRIVIA NIGHT
The Copper Mug
8 p.m.

JUNE 13 - KARAOKE NIGHT
The Copper Mug
Free Entry - 8:30 p.m.

JUNE 14 - KICKIN KOUNTRY
The Copper Mug
Free Entry – 5 p.m.

**JUNE 19 - DOWNCHILD BLUES BAND FT. CHUCK
Jackson & Tyler Yarema**
The Copper Mug
Free Entry – 8 p.m.

JUNE 20 - RIGHT TURN CLYDE
The Copper Mug

Free Entry – 10 p.m.

JULY 10 - DUMB CRUSH & THE ICK
Paddy's Underground
\$10 – 8 p.m. - All Ages/Licensed

AUGUST 7-9 - BUDDIES FEST
The Mill, Paddy's Underground & The Copper Mug
3pm - All Ages/Licensed - www.buddiesfest.com



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- Fundraisers • Birthdays • Anniversaries
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Tillsonburg POST

Oxford County releases more information about plan for YMCA building following purchase

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

“The goal of the new centre is to reduce the demand for a shelter, to transition people out of homelessness: anything less than housing for all is just not enough,” explained outgoing Warden and Zorra Township Mayor Marcus Ryan. “The centre will make a world of difference to anyone sleeping under a tarp or a bridge and to us all—the entire community will benefit. Thanks to the support and commitment of the City of Woodstock, and partners like Woodstock Hospital and Oxford OHT in getting the HART Hub up and running, we are putting into place a key piece of our response to our housing and homelessness strategy,” he added.

The release stated more than 10 locations were considered for the site beginning in March of 2025 after council approved the Homelessness Response Strategy. In De-

ember of this year, council authorizes staff to proceed with an offer to purchase the property at 808 Dundas Street in Woodstock, the site of the former YMCA, pending funding.

From August to October, JPM Architecture Inc. will prepare architectural designs for renovation work to be used for the construction/renovation tender. The company was the recipient of an, up to, \$250,000 single source contract for the work. A tendering contract award for building renovations will be completed in the fall of this year with work beginning during the winter months. A Request for Proposals (RFP) and selection of an agency to operate the Homelessness Support Centre is expected to occur in the winter of 2027 with an opening expected in April of 2028.

tillsonburgpost.com

What's your vision?

Oxford County is growing: be a part of the plan.

Over the next 20–30 years, Oxford County will grow to a population of more than 200,000 residents. What do thriving communities look like to you? How do we protect nature, farmland and heritage?

Your voice matters. Visit one of the in-person visioning workshops to have your say, or take the online survey at www.oxfordcounty.ca/official-plan-engage. Your feedback will help develop the community vision that guides Oxford's new Official Plan.

<p>JUNE 16</p> <p>Innerkip Community Centre 1:00-3:00 pm</p>	<p>JUNE 17</p> <p>Mount Elgin Community Centre 6:30-8:30 pm</p>
<p>JUNE 23</p> <p>Southgate Centre Altadore Hall 1:30-3:30 pm</p>	<p>JUNE 25</p> <p>Embros Community Centre 6:30-8:30 pm</p>



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COMING EVENTS

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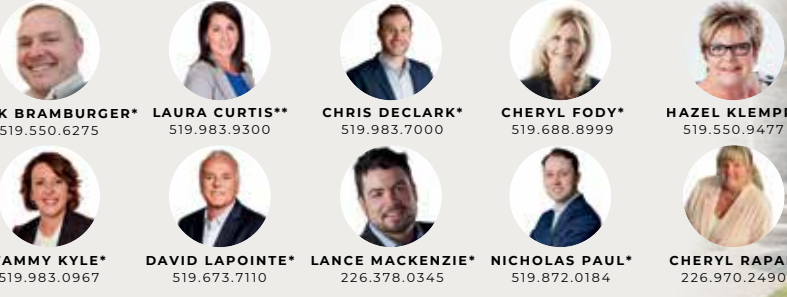


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EXPECT MORE.

24 HARVEY STREET, TILLSONBURG, ON N4G 3J8 | 519.688.0021 | HERITAGEHOUSE.C21.CA

JUNE 6 | 11 AM - 3 PM
MULTICULTURAL FOOD FESTIVAL
Delhi Tobacco Museum, 200 Talbot Rd., Delhi
Greek, Korean, Mexican, African, Filipino, Hungarian, Polish, German, Ukrainian, Indian. Adults 5\$ children 10 and under free. Debit and Cash, purchase tickets, redeem for food. ALL DAY MUSIC Delhi Legion, Multicultural 50/50 draw, cash sales only. 2,500 top prize.

JUNE

JUNE 6 | 10 AM - NOON
MESSY CHURCH: EASY PEASEY
St. Paul's United Church 88 Bidwell St. Tillsonburg
Crafts, games, snacks, music a story and lunch Children should be accompanied by an adult

JUNE 6 | 9 AM - 5 PM
CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AT EDISONFEST
Vienna Memorial Park, 6226 Plank Rd., Vienna
Local Vendors, Bouncy Castles, Food Trucks, Blacksmith demonstrations, and featuring World Champion Arm Wrestler Mike Gould! Registration begins at 10 am for the arm wrestling competition! Email: bayhamhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com for further information!

JUNE 6 | 11 AM - 2 PM
BBQ FOR DASO (WOMAN'S SHELTER)
Home Hardware parking lot
Towards, Home Hardware, and the Tillsonburg Lions Club are hosting a fund-raising BBQ for DASO. Cheeseburgs(\$6), Hamburgs(\$5), Hot Dogs(\$4) and Cold Drinks(\$1) will be offer with all proceeds going to the shelter. Come join us, bring friends and support this worthy cause.

JUNE 6 | 9 AM - 1 PM
TASTE OF SUMMER
Memorial Park, 46 Sanders St, Tillsonburg, ON
Presented by: 3E. Food trucks, vendor village, children's shows & activities! Entrance by donation to the TDMH Foundation.

JUNE 6 | 1 - 3 PM
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION 100TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE
Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham Street, Tillsonburg
Come on down to the Legion from 1pm-3pm to browse our memorabilia, artifacts, sports areas, and so much more we offer. Celebrate our 100th with cake and coffee! All Welcome!

JUNE 6 | 1 - 3 PM
DISCO DANCE
Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham Street, Tillsonburg
Featuring live band The Groove from London Ontario on Saturday June 6 at 8 pm. Tickets \$15 or \$20 at the door available at the Legion. This is a 19+ event. For more info call 519-842-5281.

JUNE 10 | 10 AM - 3 PM
THE BROWNSVILLE ANNUAL SCHOOL REUNION
Brownsville Community Centre
There will be a Potluck lunch, so please bring your

favourite dish. All former students and spouses are welcome to attend. If you have any Historical information or pictures please bring them with you. If you have any questions please contact Patty Meertens at rpmeertens@gmail.com.

JUNE 13 | 8 AM - 1 PM
GIANT YARD SALE, BAKE SALE AND BBQ TENT
Springford Baptist Church, 422 Main St West, Springford Ont
Featuring Sausage on a Bun, Hot Dogs, Potato chips, Pop. Also on site will be Girl Guide Cookies for sale and free popcorn. **Fill a Bag for \$5** (we supply the bags) and stuff it full with items from the Yard Sale. Larger items will be priced singly. There will be no clothes or furniture at this event. Lots of parking on the street. Lots of homemade baking at the Bake Table. Stop by for all the deals and join us for a midmorning snack or lunch at the BBQ tent.

JUNE 20 | 10 AM - 10 PM
PLATTSVILLE'S 175 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Plattsville Park and Arena
10 am Firefighter Breakfast, Heritage Displays 10-4, Portraits of Honour, 12 noon Parade, 1pm Opening Ceremony, 1-4 Car & Tractor Show, 2 thru 10 pm Live Music & Entertainment, Kids Activities, Vendor Market, Lions BBQ and the grand finale, an 18 minute Drone Show at 9:45 pm. Free admission. Fun for all ages. Thanks to our Platinum Sponsors - Canadian Heritage and North Blenheim Mutual Insurance celebrating 165 years. www.plattsvilledistrictheritagesociety.com

JUNE 21 | OPENS 12:30, ENTERTAINMENT STARTS AT 2 PM
NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY CELEBRATION
Memorial Park adjacent to the Kinsmen Band Stand, 49 Hardy Avenue in Tillsonburg, ON
The Tillsonburg and District Historical Society will be holding a National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration. June is National Indigenous History Month in Canada, a time to recognize the rich history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis. The Indigenous Eagle Flight Singers and Dancers led by Gordon Nicotine-Sands will be featured. There will be Indigenous Food and Craft Vendors in attendance. Bring your lawn chairs as seating will be limited. Opening Ceremonies and Entertainment will start at 2 pm with site open at 12:30 pm. Admission is free. Please spread the word. Invite your friends and family. All are invited!

JUNE 27 (RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 28) | 9 AM - 4 PM
FLY DAY & OPEN HOUSE
Tillsonburg Regional Airport, 24441 Airport Road, Tillsonburg
FREE Admission. Come fly with us! Join us for our June Open House and Fly Day. We welcome everyone to this FREE-admission, family-friendly outdoor event that offers aviation enthusiasts the opportunity to see our collection of vintage Harvard aircraft up close, tour our hangars, explore our restoration projects, purchase souvenirs, and best of all, go for a flight! (additional cost for flights). Come explore North America's largest fleet of Harvard aircraft and what the volunteers are doing to keep the history and legacy of these Second World War warbirds alive. While pre-booking flight experiences is not necessary, it is recommended. Contact

crewflights@harvards.com to ensure your seat! In case of inclement weather, check our Facebook page for RAIN DATE updates.

JULY

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

JULY 19 | 2 PM
DECORATION DAY FOR FORESTVILLE CEMETERIES
Hillcrest Cemetery, 638 Charlotteville Road 1, Forestville
Rain or shine. Bring your lawn chair, a friend, and umbrella. Music will be provided by "Blue Chicory". Everyone welcome!

ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

3RD 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 or email 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 | 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.

2ND TUES. OF MONTH (SEPT. TO MAY) | 2 - 4 PM
4TH 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. Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

3RD 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 or email lynnriverprobus239@gmail.com

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

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! 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](https://www.facebook.com/TburgBridge).

SATURDAYS, JUNE 6 - SEPT. 19 | 10 AM - 4 PM
PLATTSVILLE & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY
2026 EXHIBIT - HOLIDAYS & CELEBRATIONS THAT BRING US TOGETHER
Archive & Museum at Chesterfield, 816661 Oxford Rd 22, Bright (June 20 - visit us at Plattsville 175)
Donations accepted. Refreshments. For private viewing email plattsvilledistrictheritage@gmail.com or call 519.535.1417.

COMING EVENTS

1ST AND 3RD 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.

1ST WED. OF MONTH | 7 PM

WAGNER MEMORIAL TEETERVILLE LEGION BRANCH 526 - MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING The Wagner Memorial Teeterville Legion Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, ON

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

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

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

You do not need to be a member to Volunteer, Just contact the legion and leave your name and number and purpose of your call. Someone will get back to you as to where you might be needed. Students and Adults welcome. **Open hours. Wed.-Fri. 3 pm-10 pm, Sat.1 pm-10 pm, Sun.1 pm-6 pm.** For More Information call, the Legion at 519-443-5588 or teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

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Navigating any form of grief can feel overwhelming; however, with the right support, guidance, and education, individuals can discover a pathway to help in the healing of grief.

VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs offer assistance for grief stemming from various circumstances, such as the death of someone, caregiving, serious illness diagnoses, and life transitions. Through education, connection, and compassion, our programs create a safe space for individuals to explore their emotions and learn effective coping mechanisms during the grieving process.

Contact us today to learn more about VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs:

Email: oxford.griefsupport@von.ca

Phone: 1-888-866-7518

All Programs are Free-of-charge.

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Reg Hours 7am- 6pm Mon-Sat at Martins Nursery c/o Emanuel Martin. 42661 Orangehill Rd., Wroxeter, ON

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ADRIAN JOHANNES VAN LEEUWEN

(APR. 19, 1940 – MAY 31, 2026)



It is with heavy hearts, that we the family of Adrian Johannes Van Leeuwen, wish to announce his peaceful passing after a brief struggle with illness, at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital, on Sunday, May 31st, 2026, at the age of 86. Adrian, also known as "Aad" to his family and friends, will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. Aad was

born in Nootdorp, the Netherlands, son of the late Aad Van Leeuwen and the late former Annie Van Santen. Lovingly remembered by his much-loved wife of 62 years Elisabeth Johanna Maria (Kester) Van Leeuwen, of Tillsonburg. Always a caring father and father-in-law to: Annette Murray (John), of Tillsonburg and Annette's children Vincent, Rochelle Paton (Kyle) (their kids Lee and Elizabeth), Brigitte Burnell-Higgs (Russell) (their kids Adelaide and Leon), John's children: Chad Murray (Brittany) (their kids Gage, Kash, Jax, Kaia and Grady), Nick Murray (Jessica) (their kids Roque and Natalie); David Murray (Helen) (their son Andrew), Dylan Murray; Aad Van Leeuwen (Amanda), of Tillsonburg and his children Brittany Dewaele (Heath), Claudia Van Leeuwen (Ryan), and Aad and Amanda's daughter Maya; Patricia Van Leeuwen (Paul Winter), of Tillsonburg and her son Kristian Walker, Paul's daughter: Haillee Winter. Adrian is also survived/predeceased by 11 siblings: Agnes, Cor, Jopic, Ton, Jan, Kees, Wil, Annie, Ineke, Ria and Toos as well as many nieces, nephews and extended family in Holland.

He will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by longtime friends Paul and Marlene VanWynsberghe.

Aad will be remembered as the original proprietor of Poultry Specialties, Tillsonburg; a business that Aad and Elisabeth formed in 1964 (under a different name) in Holland. After emigrating to Canada in 1983, they established Poultry Specialties Tillsonburg in 1984. Aad was a dedicated member and usher of St. Mary's R.C. Church, Tillsonburg. Aad was also a member of the Knights of Columbus, Council 3212.

Aad was an avid reader and lifelong history buff. He and his beloved wife shared a love of travel and explored many new places together. Above all, he cherished time with his family, especially his grand and great grandchildren, who brought him immense pride and joy.

A passionate supporter of soccer, Aad made a lasting impact in Tillsonburg by sponsoring women's, men's, youth and indoor soccer programs. We will miss you during FIFA 2026, dad!

He will be remembered for his sense of humor, generosity, optimism, and the kindness and encouragement that touched many lives.

Friends, neighbours, and relatives are invited to attend public visitations on Thursday, June 4th, 2026, between 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes Chapel, 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg. A Funeral Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, June 5th, at 11:00 a.m., by Rev. Fr. Seejo John. Interment will take place at a later date. All funeral attendees are invited to attend a CWL-prepared luncheon, immediately following the Funeral Mass, in the St. Mary's Church Basement Hall. Everyone who knew Aad is invited to share favourite memories and photos, to express personal condolences, or in lieu of flowers, contribute memorial donations to "St. Mary's R.C. Church - Building Fund" or to the "Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation" via Adrian's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes, Tillsonburg (519)842-4238, which has been entrusted with all funeral arrangements, with confidence.

"Our family would like to express our sincere thanks to the wonderful Doctors, Nurses, PSW's and Staff at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital, for the care and compassion shown to Aad and to our family."

Don't Miss Out!!!

Taste of Summer 2026

Fundraiser in the park for TDMH Foundation



Presented by 3E Power Corporation Ltd.

Saturday, June 6, 2026 - 12pm to 8pm

Memorial Park - Tillsonburg

Event Admission by donation at entrance gates

Please bring your lawn chairs to enjoy the all day music!

Food trucks • Vendor Village (Craft Sale)

Children's Shows and Activities

Local Musicians • Beer Tent

50/50 draw managed by TDMH Volunteer Association

RIDDLES

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I hold things together without any glue or string. I can stretch, and I'm often found in offices. What am I?

A rubber band.

I start as a tree but end as something you write on. What am I?

Paper.

I show you yourself but never remember what you look like. What am I?

A mirror.

I'm black when you buy me, red when you use me, and grey when you throw me away. What am I?

Charcoal.

I have four legs, but I never walk anywhere. What am I?

A table.

The more you have of it, the less you see. What is it?

Darkness.

I know a word of letters three. Add two, and fewer there will be!

Few.

I'm all about, but cannot be seen, I have no throat but can be heard.

Wind.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Solutions on Page 35

PET OF THE WEEK



BUSTER

SPONSORED BY:

Your
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Pet Centre**

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

519-688-2672

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

WORD SEARCH

MAY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

M P K M K V R G D C J X Q L N D M W V T
 C O Z Q H O N C X E B L D B Y N B R E O
 A T N J M K X T U S D Q D M E C Q N G R
 R E H T E T E G F P O B E V J L I X A O
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 R E X K A L B A M I C S O C E E G B N W
 I C J U S P U B V N K H R I A U T R I N
 C E H G K D S H H E V D E M R X Q E G B
 A S X I Q K C D C S S O R N B E F A H A
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8	1	6	5	3	7	2	4	9
9	2	5	8	1	4	3	7	6
3	7	4	9	6	2	8	1	5
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