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Tillsonburg POST

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NOVEMBER 26, 2026 VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 11

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Salvation Army launches its kettle campaign

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Continuing a tradition decades old, the Salvation Army launched its Christmas kettle campaign last week.

As part of the larger Christmas Appeal that includes mail-in donations, the group has set a goal of $180,000 locally. This amount is the same as last year, according to Major Denise Walker, and the goal was met last year.

Funds collected during the campaign help cover the costs of the Salvation Army throughout the year.

"Most of the stuff we get at Christmas time is given to us," Walker said of the Christmas hampers. "This funds programs through the year such as the Hub, drop-in center and the emergency food program."

She said the Salvation Army is launching a new program after Christmas, a conversational English café for new Canadians where they can come and learn English.

To run the kettle program at seven locations in Tillsonburg – Tillsonburg Town Centre in front of Wal-Mart and the LCBO, Canadian Tire, Metro, Sobeys, Zehrs and the Salvation Army store – plus Port Rowan on weekends, about 100 volunteers are needed to fill 800 shifts. Anyone wishing to assist can contact volunteer coordinator Joe Acre at 226-231-1715.

The kettle stations are also set up with debit pads to make donations through cards.

One constant of the Christmas season in Tillsonburg has been Bill Oliver, 86, working the kettle in a Salvation Army uniform. He started working the kettle at 12 with his mother. Oliver talks about working eight-hour shifts in a small building outside Woolco, in the Norfolk Mall, years ago.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



SANTA CLAUS PARADE DRAWS HUNDREDS

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The streets were lined with hundreds of people for the annual Santa Claus parade on Saturday, with the nice weather likely adding to the turnout. The number of floats reportedly increased to more than 100 in a parade that lasted over an hour. See more photos on Page 8.

Gilvesy speaks of council's fiscal responsibility in inaugural address

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy's inaugural address spoke of fiscal responsibility and the need for council to work together for the community, while also warning of the tough budget ahead.

The meeting began with each councillor taking the oath of office, followed by council jointly placing the mayor's chain of office on Gilvesy. The only other thing on the agenda for the evening was the mayor's address.

Speaking to the challenges and opportunities before council, Gilvesy said the budget is the first one.

She said inflation is putting pressure on municipal operations, and the cost of diesel fuel, among other things, impacts town operations.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

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Mayor urges council to work together for the community

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"While we may see general inflation figures around three per cent, the reality is that municipalities are experiencing considerably higher increases in areas such as construction, paving, materials and infrastructure projects," Gilvesy said.

She has already met with the town's finance team and CAO about the budget.

"We need to approach this process collaboratively, finding a path forward that is manageable for our taxpayers while still meeting the needs of our community," she said. "These are challenging times, and we need to be prepared to look at how we operate."

Gilvesy supports a comprehensive service delivery review. This would include reviewing each department for duplication, ways to deliver services more efficiently, and opportunities to reduce costs without compromising services.

"This isn't about cutting for the sake of cutting; it's about operating as efficiently and effectively as possible and getting the best value for every tax dollar," she said.

Gilvesy reiterated her belief that the town must grow its industrial sector, and hopes the new industrial park will come online by the end of next year.

"Over the long term, this growth can help ease the pressure on residential taxpayers by diversifying the sources of municipal revenue," she said.

Two of the larger municipal projects on the horizon are the customer service centre renovations and upgrades or the expansion of the fire hall. Gilvesy said it's necessary to stick to the town's plan, understand the priorities, mitigate costs wherever possible, and remain fiscally responsible while recognizing that the community's infrastructure needs can't be put off.

"We need to run a lean, efficient, and well-oiled machine," she said. "I have confidence that our CAO and management team can help lead us in that direction, and I look forward to working together to achieve that goal."

Gilvesy said one topic that came up through the election campaign was property taxes, and people are feeling financial pressure.

"Our responsibility is to listen, make thoughtful decisions and establish priorities with an understanding of the financial impact on the people we represent," she said.

Gilvesy also spoke of relationships and the importance of the people who sit on the town's committees as well as council members.

Saying she is excited to be working with the new council, Gilvesy added, "We each bring different experiences, backgrounds, perspectives and strengths to the table. That is exactly what a council should look like. We don't need to think alike on every issue, and we won't. What we do need is mutual respect, open communication and a willingness to work together."

She committed that her door is always open to talk to any councilor about an issue.

"I want us to build on our individual strengths, challenge one another when necessary and never lose sight of why we are here," Gilvesy said. "It is never about one individual, one councillor or one mayor – it is about what we can accomplish together."

Gilvesy's address began by thanking her family for their support. Then she provided the audience with an overview of each councillor and what they are bringing to the table.

Coun. Dave Beres, the longest-serving member of council, was lauded for bringing continuity and experience.

"There have been many occasions when I have drawn on Dave's recollection of past discussions and decisions to broaden my own understanding of an issue," she said.

Coun. Chrissy Rosehart, first elected to council in 1998, was described as someone who "lives and breathes Tillsonburg every single day."

"She has very little tolerance for wasting taxpayers' dollars, and this bodes well, as one of our most important duties is to be responsible stewards of the tax dollars entrusted to us and make decisions that are both necessary and financially sound," Gilvesy said.

Coun. Chris Parker, whom Gilvesy relies on for his expertise and connections on recreation-related issues, was mentioned as someone who has been through some challenging times with the mayor.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Mayor Deb Gilvesy reads her oath of office as part of the swearing-in ceremony for council. Councilors read a similar statement at a special meeting on Nov. 16. Council held its first regular meeting on Monday.

"Chris always has the best interests of this community at heart," Gilvesy said. "He has been a sounding board for ideas, someone I can bounce things off of, and my alternate at county council. He has been able to step in on my behalf at county with very little explanation required. He understands what needs to be done and carries the torch for Tillsonburg without missing a beat."

Coun. Lindsey Mejaski, who led the polls, was highlighted by the mayor for her hard work.

"Through your volunteer work and involvement in the community, it is very evident how much you care about creating a safe, welcoming, and caring place for people to live," Gilvesy said. "You want the kind of community where your beautiful children can grow up, thrive, and enjoy all that Tillsonburg has to offer."

It was also mentioned that Mejaski brings a younger perspective to the council table.

Coun. John Gilvesy, a cousin of the mayor's husband, Scott, was highlighted for the wealth of business and construction experience he brings to the council table.

"I believe that background will be particularly valuable when it comes to our budgetary discussions, capital projects and the many construction-related decisions that municipalities face," she said, adding that having someone who understands the construction industry will help council.

Mayor Gilvesy also noted municipal projects don't move at the same speed as private-sector projects, and hopes that Coun. Gilvesy can help ask the right questions to move projects forward.

Coun. Ron Gasparetto brings a background in municipal government to the council table.

"I am confident that Ron's experience and perspective will be valuable additions to our council, and I look forward to working with him as we represent the interests of Tillsonburg," she said.

In closing, the mayor said, "Here is to the next four years – there will be challenges; there will be opportunities, and there will undoubtedly be some interesting discussions along the way. But if we stay focused, work together, and remember that our responsibility is to the people of Tillsonburg, I know we can accomplish great things."

Volunteers needed to work at kettles

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Asked if he was the longest-tenured volunteer, Walker answered, "Definitely in Tillsonburg, he's got to be one of the longest volunteers we have nationally."

Bob Clifford has another interesting volunteer story. His maternal grandfather arrived in Canada when he was 18, landing in Montreal by ship, and destined for a job on a farm in Ontario.

"He had $5 in his pocket; that was all he had," said Bob's wife Janet Booker.

The Salvation Army was there to greet all those who were disembarking. When they heard Clifford's grandfather's story, he was offered help.

"They fed him, put him on a train to Woodstock where the farm was he was working," she recounted.

Years later, after the new immigrant was married, they had hard times after a bad crop year and had no money at Christmas. Again, the Salvation Army helped the family.

Now Bob and Janet ensure they volunteer.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The Tillsonburg Salvation Army's kettle campaign started last Wednesday. Mayor Deb Gilvesy, centre, was one of the first donors, with Janet Booker and Denise Walker volunteering at the kettle outside of Wal-Mart.

EDITORIAL

Hats off to Tillsonburg Curling Club

Beyond curling fans, many residents may not realize the Tillsonburg Curling Club hosted a bonspiel over the weekend that drew top national and international competitors.

On the men's side, teams played from Germany, Switzerland and Korea. On the ladies' side, Sherry Middaugh, the skip of the winning team, is the current Senior Women's Canadian Champion and won a silver for Canada at the World Championships.

Of course, Team King, skipped by local curler Jayden King, also played in the event, but unfortunately didn't make the finals. He was last year's Ontario champion and represented the province at the Brier. King was also one of the tournament organizers.

A lot of credit goes to the organizers for putting on an event of this caliber in Tillsonburg.

When was the last time top current athletes played in a legitimate competition in Tillsonburg? Answering that question spans many different sports. Still, based on the criteria of an event with international competitors and national-caliber athletes who play in Canadian championships, the answer is likely never. Some historians will mention when the Canadian national men's basketball championship was played in the Tillsonburg arena as a contender. This was definitely noteworthy, as the Tillsonburg Livvies won the nationals and represented Canada at the Olympics, but there were no international competitors in the match.

Yet, little fanfare greeted the competition, which is an annual event. Admittedly, there isn't room in the Tillsonburg Curling Club for hundreds of fans, but it's still a huge deal.

Events of this caliber don't come together easily – they take months of planning and hard work by organizers. King was the convenor of the event, but there were others involved as well. Kudos for a well-run event.

tillsonburgpost.com



Blue Jay. (STACIE EDEN PHOTO)

Letter to the Editor

On behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion Varnavair Branch 153, we would like to thank the local businesses who responded to our mail appeal, the many establishments that allowed us to put poppy boxes in their premises, and of course to the citizens of Tillsonburg and area that generously donated to our 2026 Poppy Campaign.

We would also like to acknowledge the local businesses that included a Remembrance Day message on their electronic signs, message boards and those that did window displays.

The response this year was still generous as our donations topped $23,000.00. This will allow the Legion to assist local veterans, their families, as well as veterans at Parkwood Institute. These funds also support bursaries to Glendale students and the Varnavair 153 Cadet Squadron.

Thank you to the many people that attended the cenotaph services and those that participated in the service as they were greatly appreciated by the veterans.

Once again, on behalf of the Tillsonburg Legion, our heartfelt thank you to our great community of Tillsonburg for their response.

Yours in Remembrance,
Don Burton, Poppy Chairman

Featuring Dave Collis, a sub-title that wasn't to be



WRITER'S CORNER

NORMA COLLIS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Being the spouse of a writer is not an easy gig. I never know when inspiration is going to hit. I'm one of those people who must sit down and write down my thoughts, right then and there as they suddenly pop into my head.

My husband David has gotten used to this eccentricity and wisely goes into another room when the urge to write hits me.

I do a lot of my writing early in the morning, which works out perfectly as my husband is not an early riser. Instead, he is a night owl.

This partnership worked well when we were running our bed and breakfast. He would often stay up well beyond my bedtime to meet late-arriving guests.

I, on the other hand, was often up at the crack of dawn to do the breakfast prep and to assemble packed lunches for our many Bruce Trail hikers.

David would appear later, to help with the cooking of the breakfast and to provide a shuttle service to various trail heads for our early rising, intrepid hikers.

He would often stumble, bleary eyed, into the kitchen and quietly ask, "Could you just tell me again why we thought this would be a good segue into retirement?"

When I wrote my first book during those long weeks of lock down, I would announce that I was going to be in our study working for the morning and would be down around lunch time. The one tolerable thing about the Covid isolation period was the absence of ringing phones and knocks on the front door. It was a very good time to begin a 'career' in writing.

I edited that first manuscript at least five times before it went into the hands of a professional editor.

I had read somewhere that a writer will get a better idea of the flow of their writing if it is read out loud. Poor David was my captive audience. He patiently sat there and listened as I read edit after edit. By version number four, he sighed and said, "Norma, I know how this ends. I was there. Remember?"

One of my earliest readers of the finished book, lives in the Meaford

area, close to our former bed and breakfast.

She sent me an email that began with, "Norma. My mother and I are both mad at you."

"Uh oh," I thought.

She continued, "We have figured out who some of the locals are that you write about in your book, but there are a lot of others that have us completely stumped. Please send a list of characters ASAP"

I had to send a gentle reply telling her that I try to never name names. To do so would be unkind and perhaps even a little dangerous for the author and for her spouse.

Much writing and many edits later, book three has just been published. A review of my efforts popped up online. The review began with the title of the book followed by the statement, "Featuring Dave Collis."

David was delighted.

Then someone else told him that they liked the books that he co-authored. He quickly straightened out that misunderstanding, but he is hanging on to the "featuring Dave Collis" line.

"Well," he told me. "I'm just waiting for the movie version to come out. I want to see who gets to play me".

"Are you hoping for anyone in particular," I laughingly asked him.

"Well," he replied, "I sure hope it's Johnny Depp."

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

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tillsonburgpost.com

Historic Annandale tamarack lives on

MUSEUM MUSINGS

KATE BAKOS

Cultural Heritage Manager / Curator, Annandale National Historic Site

When a towering tamarack tree on the front lawn of Annandale National Historic Site was removed in 2025, it marked the end of an extraordinary chapter in Tillsonburg's history. But rather than ending with a chainsaw, the tree's legacy has found new life through craftsmanship and a renewed connection to the town's roots.

For 125 years, the English tamarack stood watch over Annandale, making it one of the oldest trees in Tillsonburg's urban forest. The tree was planted on July 4, 1900, in honour of E.D. and Mary Ann Tillson's 50th wedding anniversary. Family stories state that it was one of several saplings gifted to the couple and brought from Kew Gardens in London, England.

Over the decades, the tamarack witnessed generations of Tillsonburg residents pass under its branches. It stood through two world wars, the arrival of automobiles, the tobacco boom, countless community gatherings, and the everyday moments that unfolded on the grounds of the Tillson family home. Like all living things, however, age eventually took its toll. By 2025, the tree had become diseased and needed to be cut down. While its loss was deeply felt, efforts were made to ensure its history would not be forgotten.

As part of Tillsonburg's bicentennial year, the historic tree was replaced with a new native tamarack sapling. The planting commemorates the 200th anniversary of the community's founding, dating back to 1825 when George Tillson settled the land that would become modern-day Tillsonburg. The new tree bridges two important milestones: the town's bicentennial and the legacy of the Tillson family.

Rather than discarding the wood from the original tree, Annandale National Historic Site partnered with local artisan David Schonberger of Ottercreek Woodworks Inc. to salvage what remained of the tree and transform it into a limited collection of handcrafted charcuterie boards known as the Tillson Tamarack Collection.

Born and raised in Tillsonburg, Schonberger is an award-winning Canadian artist and woodworker whose work is recognized for his artful interpretation of serving boards and his deep reverence for trees. For more than 15 years, he has built a reputation for creating meaningful pieces that honour the life of the trees from which they came.

Each board in the Tillson Tamarack Collection is truly one of a kind. Every piece preserves the historic tree's distinctive character through its grain patterns, natural colouring, and organic shape.

Tamarack is a remarkable wood with its own personality. Defined bands of earlywood and dense latewood create striking striped or wavy patterns depending on how the lumber is sawn. Rich shades of red, orange, and gold bring warmth and individuality to every board. Although classified as a softwood, tamarack is durable and naturally resistant to moisture and decay.

These boards are more than serving pieces. They are tangible pieces of local heritage. Each one carries within it 125 years of Tillsonburg's history, preserving a living connection to Annandale and the Tillson family.

In many ways, the transformation resembles the tree's own journey. A living commemorative marker planted to celebrate a golden wedding anniversary in 1900 has been transformed to mark another milestone: the 200th anniversary of Tillsonburg's founding. While the original tamarack no longer stands, its roots remain part of Annandale's story.

Its successor now stands on the museum grounds, beginning its own journey as a symbol of Tillsonburg's past, present, and future. Meanwhile, pieces of its predecessor will find homes around dining tables throughout the community, where stories, food, and fellowship will continue to be shared.

The Tillson Tamarack Collection is available exclusively at Annandale National Historic Site. Crafted from the salvaged wood of a single historic tree, the collection is limited in quantity. Each board is one of a kind, and once they are sold, no more will be made. These handcrafted boards make a special gift for the history lover in your life or anyone who appreciates high-quality craftsmanship and locally made art.

For a tree planted to honour E.D. and Mary Ann Tillson's 50th wedding anniversary in 1900, few legacies could be more fitting. Though it no longer stands on Annandale's lawn, its legacy carries on , not only through a new tamarack planted in its place, but through the hands, homes, and gatherings of those who keep a piece of Tillsonburg's history alive.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

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6. Newspapers strengthen communities
7. Advertisers, big or small, should profit from their ads (meaning sensible ad rates)
8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

Fire department recruiting for volunteer firefighters

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

The Tillsonburg Fire Department is looking to bolster its ranks.

To that end, the department will be hosting a recruitment event on Dec. 1 at the fire hall from 6 to 8 p.m.

Acting chief Fred Ten Eyck said the department needs to fill one volunteer firefighter vacancy, but wants a stand-by list of six to 10 people.

"Especially in the volunteer setting, I could have people move on or retire next week, with no notice," he said, adding that some members of the department are aging.

The department is also looking at establishing a cadet program that will let people who aren't full-fledged firefighters complete limited training until vacancies open. Ten Eyck emphasized this concept is still in the preliminary stages and hasn't yet been approved by council.

The recruitment night will open with an introductory talk, then attendees can walk around the hall, see the equipment and talk to existing firefighters.

While details are not yet finalized, those considered for the position will have a physical testing component. Ten Eyck said it won't include running a certain distance within a pre-set time, but will include an evaluation of whether an applicant can handle wearing the equipment, breathing through a mask, and being in a blacked-out environment. It will also include a height test.



A SCARY DONATION (JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The 1,915 people who went through The Haunt in the Tillsonburg Town Centre raised $2,748 for the Salvation Army, and collected nearly 630 pounds of food for the Salvation Army's Hub. From left to right are members of The Haunt construction team and BIA staff who helped organize the event: Scott Foster, Bruce Bennett, Mike Bolt, BIA Digital Marketing Coordinator Tamara Cooper, Major Denise Walker of the Salvation Army, and BIA Executive Director Mark Renaud. Haunt team member Chip Barkhouse was absent from the photo.

WEEKEND QUIZ

by Jake Grant

1. What is a female turkey called?
2. What was Tom Clancy's first novel?
3. In musical notation, there are five lines in a what?
4. Lockjaw is another name for which disease?
5. What color is the Statue of Liberty?
6. Who played the first ever James Bond in Dr. No (1962)?
7. What color of flame is the hottest?
8. In what year was Trivial Pursuit released?
9. Who is the Egyptian Sun God?
10. Who is considered "the Father of Genetics"?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

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Trillium grant supports Theatre Tillsonburg lighting

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

Crews at Theatre Tillsonburg quickly learned how valuable the new lighting purchased with support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation is.

The new, high-tech LED lighting allows the theatre's lighting crews and director to incorporate effects with different colors of light, highlights on actors on stage, and many other effects that will be seen in future shows. The new effects were already seen in the recent production of The Numbers Game.

Before the Nov. 15 presentation of the latest show, representatives of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, local dignitaries, and theatre executive members attended a ceremony to recognize the $125,100 grant.

Theatre Tillsonburg President Dianne Clarke called it a great addition to the theatre during its 45th season.

Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman acknowledged the hard work of the theatre volunteers and credited them with completing the application process.

John Lohuis, part of the Ontario Trillium Foundation's grant review team, talked about not only the higher-quality lighting but also the increased safety. As a former employee of the Niagara Parks Commission, he oversaw the upgrading of the lights on Niagara Falls and emphasized the importance of lighting.

Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy called Theatre Tillsonburg an important part of Tillsonburg's cultural theme. She also said theatre is more than the final production on the stage, acknowledging the role it plays in enriching the community.

Theatre Vice-President Kelly Verhoeve pointed to the energy efficiency of the LED lights.

"These lights help the mood of a scene and tell the story in a meaningful way, and create a meaningful experience for the audience," she said, adding that theatre patrons are enjoying the results.

"The tech we now have is amazing," said lighting committee member Jeff Tripp. "It can do one scene and then change the light for the next scene."

He also mentioned the new light that will follow an actor on the stage.

The public's next opportunity to see the lights in action is the presentation of Hot Flashes, which runs Feb. 14-21 and 18-21.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

An Ontario Trillium Foundation grant that helped Theatre Tillsonburg purchase a new LED lighting system was recognized before the start of the most recent production. Left to right are: Ron Lohuis, Ontario Trillium Foundation; Jeff Tripp, Theatre Tillsonburg lighting committee; Theatre Tillsonburg President Dianne Clark; Kelly Verhoeve, Theatre Tillsonburg Vice-President; Ernie Hardeman, Oxford MPP; and Deb Gilvesy, Tillsonburg Mayor.

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Notices

Have Your Say on Proposed Lot Maintenance By-Law Changes

The Town of Tillsonburg is seeking public feedback on proposed amendments to the Lot Maintenance By-Law. The proposed changes are available for review, and residents are encouraged to share their comments as part of the public engagement process. The consultation period runs from November 17 to December 1, 2026.

Learn more about the proposed amendments and share your feedback at **www.tillsonburg.ca/news**.

Free Smoke Alarm Exchange Program

Do you have an expired, damaged, or non-functioning smoke alarm at home? The Tillsonburg Fire Department's Smoke Alarm Exchange Program can help. Residents can receive a free replacement smoke alarm by exchanging an old unit.

Eligible alarms include:

- Smoke alarms more than 10 years old
- Damaged or broken units (non-functioning alarms
- Recalled models
- Ionization alarms being replaced with photoelectric alarms

Residents must provide photo ID and proof of municipal residency. A maximum of two smoke alarms per household per year may be exchanged.

Help keep your household safe by checking the age and condition of your smoke alarms today.

Show Your Community Spirit: Sponsor Family Day 2027



Help make Family Day 2027 a memorable event for local families while showcasing your business in the community. Sponsorship opportunities are now available for one of Tillsonburg's most anticipated annual celebrations.

For more information, contact sponsorships@tillsonburg.ca.

Sponsorship applications close December 31, 2026. Don't miss your chance to get involved!

A Community Christmas Wish



Thursday, December 10, at 6:00 P.M.
Mark your calendars for a FREE evening of holiday cheer and community spirit at J.L. Scott McLean Recreation Pad. Write your Community Christmas Wish on a special ornament and hang it on the community tree before gathering for the Christmas tree lighting.

Enjoy:

- Community Tree Lighting
- Seasonal Music
- Hot chocolate and Timbits supplied by Oxford St. Tim Hortons
- Free Public Skate (weather dependent)
- Fireworks at approximately 7:30 P.M.

No ice? No problem! Festive Christmas games and activities will be available.

Culture Corner

Christmas Open House & A Kitschy Christmas



Don't miss the Annandale NHS annual Christmas Open House, November 27-29. Enjoy the beautifully decorated historic home, open by donation, and explore this year's Christmas exhibition, A Kitschy Christmas, celebrating nostalgic, over-the-top holiday décor. Open

House Hours:
Friday: 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. (Tree Lighting at 7:00 p.m.)
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

One-of-a-Kind Tamarack Charcuterie Boards Available at Annandale





Looking for a unique holiday gift or a beautiful addition to your kitchen? Annandale NHS is now offering handcrafted charcuterieboards made from a locally sourced tamarack tree. Each board showcases the natural character and grain of the wood, making every piece completely unique and one of a kind. Available exclusively at Annandale National Historic Site, these custom boards are offered in a variety of sizes:

Small - $40 | Medium - $65
Large - $95 | Extra Large - $150
Prices do not include tax.

Supplies are limited, so stop by Annandale to browse the collection and find the perfect charcuterie board for your home or holiday gift giving.

Active Living & Learning Opportunities

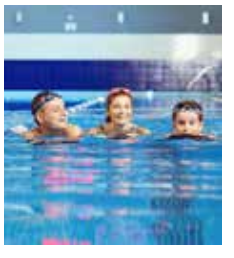
Share the Warmth This Holiday Season



Help make the holidays a little brighter for those in need by supporting the Warm Hug Tree on the pool deck at the Tillsonburg Community Centre.

Residents are invited to donate new or gently used warm clothing items, such as hats, mittens, scarves, coats, and sweaters. All donations collected from the Warm Hug Tree will be provided to the Salvation Army on December 18 to help support individuals and families in our community during the winter season. Help us share the warmth this holiday season!

Family Fitness Swim Sundays



Make a splash with the whole family at the Family Fitness Swim, held every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. at the Tillsonburg Community Centre. It's a great way to stay active, spend quality time together, and enjoy the pool in a fun, family-friendly environment. Whether you're swimming laps or just playing in the water, everyone is welcome!

Winter Recreation Guide Coming Soon!



The Winter Recreation Guide will be available December 7, 2026!

Aquatic registration opens on December 9. All other program registration begins December 10.

www.tillsonburg.ca/guide

SANTA CLAUS PARADE

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTOS)



Greenline Earthworks successfully used the combination of an old truck, people and the Grinch to pull off a successful float.



The parade brought plenty of lights, snowmen, elves and the regular cast of Christmas and winter characters to life in awe-inspiring displays.



Tillsonburg Fire Department displayed a variety of equipment from a classic fire truck to the latest equipment while firefighters walked the streets collecting food donations for the Helping Hand Food Bank.



This couple were nestled in a display of real trees organized by one of the local tree services.



Tillsonburg's streets were transformed into a wonderland of lights, Christmas trees and festive splendour when the night time parade took to the streets. The warm weather may have been a factor in one the largest, if not the largest, crowds lining the streets from one end of the route to the other.



From heavy metal to traditional Christmas music from brass bands, the parade presented a wide variety of music for all tastes.



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SWOX NEWS

Craig Gillis sworn in as South-West Oxford mayor, new council takes office

DEBBIE KASMAN

Post Contributor

South-West Oxford (SWOX) Township held its inaugural meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 17 and the councillors for the new term were sworn in.

Voters elected three new councillors in the 2026 municipal election, producing an all-male council.

Prior to the election, Craig Gillis was acclaimed as mayor and Paul Buchner was acclaimed as Ward 1 councillor. In the contested races:

- Incumbent Peter Ypma retained Ward 2, defeating Jennifer Young by 219 votes;
- Incumbent George Klosler held Ward 3, defeating Mike West by 130 votes; Klosler had been appointed to the seat in June to replace Councillor Valerie Durston, who died in April;
- John de Bruyn won Ward 4, his first term, defeating Isaiah Friend by 253 votes;
- Aaron Lonsberry won Ward 5, his first term, defeating Perry Wall by 171 votes;
- David Mitchell won Ward 6, his first term, defeating Tanya Gillis by 208 votes.

Overall voter turnout in SWOX was 27.3 per cent. That figure includes Ward 1, where no election took place. Voter turnout for Wards 2 through 6 was 31.8 per cent.

Former mayor David Mayberry did not seek re-election. Mayberry first served as a SWOX councillor in 1994, was elected mayor in 2006, and served as Oxford County Warden from 2015 to 2018.

Ward 5 Councillor Jim Pickard also chose not to run again. First elected in 2010 and acclaimed in 2014, 2018 and 2022, Pickard has concluded 16 years on council.

In his inaugural address, Gillis remarked that "the best thing we have is the staff here at South-West Oxford." He also said, "As we look forward, there are a lot of things that are positive in our area and we need to focus on the positivity in a world that's ever changing with events that are contrary to that at times."

He also noted how important collaboration is amongst councillors. But, "in saying that, there are a lot of opportunities for improvement and projects that are moving along forward."

When asked why he ran for mayor, Gillis said, "Why not?" He added that two terms on council had given him a solid understanding of municipal processes and that he was ready for a larger role.

"I've always enjoyed working with others as a team and hearing about their perspective on things."

Gillis identified finishing the township's broadband-Internet project as a priority so service reaches every premise in SWOX.

"Not just business needs quality Internet service anymore," he said. "People working from home, school and education programs, agriculture, and many more need steady Internet connection in today's world."

He cited his work on the Beachville Museum Board as a point of pride, noting that efforts to raise the museum's profile and increase its use for community events have paid off. "A small museum doing big things is a great mantra they have."

Looking ahead, Gillis said the main challenges will be managing rising costs for infrastructure, equipment and projects so funds are used efficiently, and navigating shifting provincial policies on development and conservation authorities.

When asked how he felt about the election results, outgoing mayor David Mayberry said, "I'm very pleased to see a significant increase in interest in running for council this fall. Last term we had six acclamations and this time only two…I sincerely wish the new council well as they take over…"

Regarding his final council meeting, Mayberry said, "While I know I will miss the work and collaboration of working with council and staff, I also strongly believe in moving on to allow the next person an opportunity to contribute to the future health and well being of the community. Any change in council membership provides a new mix of ideas and experiences in solving the challenges we face. I believe the next four years will be both challenging and exciting given the shifting and somewhat unstable political climate. I sincerely wish the new council best wishes and every success."

The township approved new ward boundaries last July that have now taken effect. The changes were to give each ward a more equal population so residents' votes carry comparable weight and each councillor represents a similar number of constituents.



Oxford OPP officer wins prestigious award

LEE GRIFFI

Post Contributor

Oxford provincial police Const. Randi Crawford is this year's recipient of OPP West Region's Laurie Hawkins Community Services Memorial Award.

The award is given to community engagement or media relations officers for exemplary service.

"From school and community presentations to high-pressure media demands, Const. Crawford does it all and does it well."

That was a comment from the OPP on its West Region social media channels recently as the announcement was made. Const. Laurie Hawkins was an OPP officer who died in 2008, along with her husband, Richard Gignac, and their two children, Cassandra and Jordan, from carbon monoxide poisoning in their home in Woodstock.

"I am so honoured to receive such a meaningful award. The fact that Laurie Hawkins was a community officer in Oxford makes this award even more special to me," said Crawford, who added while she did not have the privilege of meeting Hawkins, she feels like she knows her and has been inspired by her through the stories that have been shared by her peers and community members.

"This award comes at a time where the world feels very challenging. For those who don't know, this past year, I have been faced with numerous health challenges that resulted in surgeries and impaired mobility. Although I am heartbroken to not currently be able to physically be in the community, I am doing everything else I can to spread positivity and safety messaging throughout Oxford County," Crawford said.

"My desire to try to do at least something to help, along with the wonderful support from the Ontario Provincial Police, enabled me to come back in some capacity. To have my good intentions, hopes, wishes and efforts for this community recognized feels incredible."

Crawford added she is fortunate to have the opportunity to represent her peers and superiors from OPP and work with so many community partners such as other first responders, schools, media partners, social services and other organizations.

"Those are relationships I don't take for granted and am grateful for every day. I sincerely care about the safety and wellness of everyone in and around Oxford County and I will continue to work hard to help keep everyone safe and secure."

The tragedy that killed Hawkins and her family led to the introduction of the Hawkins-Gignac Act in Ontario in 2013 by Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman. The legislation requires carbon monoxide alarms in homes with fuel-burning appliances or attached garages.

The award honours her memory and commitment to community service and recognizes OPP officers whose work goes beyond traditional policing, particularly building relationships with schools and community organizations, delivering public education and crime-prevention presentations, and promoting public safety.

It also takes into consideration maintaining positive relationships with local media and communicating effectively with the public during emergencies and major investigations.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The West Region OPP's Laurie Hawkins Community Services Memorial Award has been awarded to Oxford provincial police Const. Randi Crawford. Crawford was given the award by Oxford OPP detachment commander Insp. Tony Hymers.



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Breakfast with Santa next Saturday

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

One of the season's most joyful events is slated for next Saturday.

The annual Kinettes Breakfast with Santa will be Dec. 5, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., in the Lion's Auditorium at the Tillsonburg Community Centre. The $5 ticket covers two pancakes, two sausages, an orange wedge, coffee, and juice.

Participants will have a chance to visit with Santa Claus and discuss their wish list when he makes an appearance at the event.

"It's festive, it's fun, the kids like seeing Santa, it's a cheerful event," said event co-chair Carrie Smith.

Committee member Lindsey Mejaski said this event is why she joined the Kinettes.

"It's a really fun, wholesome family event that most people in Tillsonburg can afford," she said, citing the cheerful atmosphere in the room and the fact that people are giving back to the community at the same time.

This is the 18th year the Kinettes hosted the event, and there has been no price increase over that time. All money raised goes back to the community for a variety of causes through the year. Breakfast with Santa won the club a service award from Kinettes last year.

Smith and Mejaski explained that sponsors enable the club to keep the price constant. Together with event co-chair Jenny Danbrook and 15 other committee members, they are always adding to the sponsor list.

"Our club has grown so those new members know different people in the community," Smith said.

Special mention was made of Wellmaster where former member Nancy McDonald, who passed away several years ago, worked. The company continues to sponsor in her memory.

"Our previous sponsors come back year after year," Mejaski added.

In addition to breakfast with Santa Claus, the event includes a coloring contest. It will be posted on the club's Facebook page if ambitious young artists want to start before that morning, or will be available at the event.

A collection will also take place for new, unused toys to be donated to the Salvation Army. Each donor receives a ballot for a draw held that morning.

Archie and Sean Wright will provide live music.

Mejaski and Smith emphasized that the event is not only for youth; adults are welcome as well.



Members of the Kinettes at Breakfast with Santa (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Kinette members will start their day early on the 5th, being on site to start preparations at 6 a.m.

"It's a lot of work, but a lot of fun," Smith said.

McDonald's opens second location in town

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

Tillsonburg is now a two-McDonald's town.

The second location of the iconic food franchise opened on north Broadway on Thursday. It will be a 24-hour location.

Gord MacLeod, who owns the Simcoe Street McDonald's, is the owner/operator of the new restaurant. Seeing 20 per cent growth in Tillsonburg over the last 10 years, he saw an opportunity for a second location, and construction began in July.

"You look at some of the growth in that area, not only Tillsonburg, but some of the outlying rural communities," he said. "As we've grown the business, we recognized there is an opportunity to support the community."

MacLeod also sees more employment opportunities with the new location opening. Between the new store and the original one on Simcoe Street, he will employ between 150 and 200 people. About 30 to 40 per cent are youth employment opportunities, and 20 per cent are full-time.

"Hopefully this is an opportunity for the youth of Tillsonburg to work as well," he said.

The new location will be open 24 hours, and the Simcoe Street location will close at 11 p.m. or midnight, and will reopen at 5 a.m. MacLeod said traffic counts drive the decision, and the current plan is to keep both dine-in and drive-through open 24 hours.

"That may change down the road depending on demand," he said.

MacLeod is looking to increase McDonald's community involvement.

Born and raised in St. Thomas, MacLeod now lives in the Dorchester area. He explained there are two ways to become an owner/operator with McDonald's – either working as a staff member and moving up, or as a registered applicant who has previous business experience. MacLeod fits in the latter group, completing the registered applicant program in 2008.

"I got accepted into that program, and trained as owner/operator for two years," he recounted.

The first store he owned was in Windsor, and then when four restaurants became available closer to home, he sold the initial location and purchased the others. From the original restaurants in Woodstock, Ingersoll and St. Thomas, he purchased Tillsonburg in 2017. MacLeod now owns 12 McDonald's locations, including Aylmer and Dorchester.

With the opening of the new store, several special offers are available until Dec. 8, including $4 Big Macs and McChickens, $3 Egg McMuffins, $2 sundaes and $1 cones.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Management of the new McDonald's location cut a ribbon the night before the opening last Thursday during a friends and family night for employees and their families. Left to right are: Trevor Calhoun, director of operations; Patti Sullivan, location general manager; Gord MacLeod, owner/operator; and Janna Purdy, supervisor.

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Tillsonburg connection remains core element for PJHL Norwich Merchants

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

A 'seasonal' hat-trick perhaps.

But an extended hat-trick's worth of goals, nonetheless.

"Arvai beat a guy wide," said PJHL Norwich Merchant forward Liam Nunn, for whom, as the old adage proved, good things happened when he went to the net. "I just had to put it home - full credit to Arvai there."

Nunn's third goal of his rookie campaign kicked off what could safely be described as a see-saw battle Friday, Nov. 20 at the Nor-Del Community Centre. The Merchants built a 4-0 lead through 30 minutes, seeing it erode and ultimately evaporate at the 7:26 mark of the third frame. Norwich's Seth Coomer buried the game-winner exactly two minutes later, on an assist to Ethan Osborne. Empty netters courtesy of Tyler McDole and Logan Van Den Akker rounded an exciting 7-4 final over the visiting Paris Mounties, that gives the Merchants an 11-10-0-0 record and fourth place in the PJHL's Doherty Division.

"Not happy we gave up a lead," said coach Derek Partlo. "But that's junior hockey - it's a real competitive league this year, so it's never done until it's done."

The latter statement could be applied to progression through the Tillsonburg native's third season of a return behind the Merchants bench, in which just five returning skaters and one goalie were on the roster. The gameplan was to start young and build, adding pieces across the season, with Norwich still retaining three of its 'drop down' (from Junior A or B rosters) and one overage player cards at this point.

"A lot of teaching has gone on and some growing pains," said Partlo of a team which sits a game above .500 at the season's midpoint. "But we've turned the corner."

With a laugh, Partlo noted that watching a Toronto Maple Leafs game will prove even professional hockey players experience challenges.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Norwich's Cale Arvai, right, comes off the boards inside his own zone against Paris Mountie Cole Kersey, left.



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

Norwich Merchants forward Liam Nunn, centre, and defenceman Caden Craggs, right, works in their own zone against Paris Mountie Emerson Monk, left.

"Our young junior guys are going to make mistakes as well. But if we do things right and progress through it, the results will come at the end of the year."

Beyond the coach, the Merchants have a strong connection to both Tillsonburg and surrounding area. As well as Norwich native Gavin Bremner, a 6'1" left-shooting defenceman, the roster includes Tillsonburg products Caden Craggs, a 6'0" left shooting defenceman with two assists and 31 penalty minutes through 22 games, 6'3" goalie Jack Bruder, currently recovering from a high-ankle sprain, returnees Cale Arvai, a 6'0" left-shooting forward, Gavin Balazs, a 6'1" 'hard-nosed two-way returning centre' who is still the youngest player on the team, and Nunn, at 6'2", a 'big kid who can skate' in the words of his coach.

"Love it!" responded Nunn of his transition from minor and high school hockey to the PJHL. "Enjoy it so much, great group of guys, great management."

Players are bigger, stronger and more mature at the junior level says Nunn, who has enjoyed the challenge of stepping up to meet the competition.

"Just pushing me to be better."

Arvai is working both on an impressive hockey hair 'flow' and his game through his second season.

"Exactly," he smiled.

Arvai notched his fourth assist in the win over Paris to go along with one goal in 20 games.

"The chemistry is going well," Arvai said of the team's overall performance. "Just starting to gel better - it's starting to connect."

Balazs' progression through his second season translates into knowing the junior game and opponents better, along with a taste of elevated playoff competition.

"Just more comfortable," assessed Balazs, whose stat line of three goals, three assists and 45 penalty minutes through 20 games attests to his individual goals. "Make an impact in every game, points, physicality - whatever it takes."

Collectively, he believes the Merchants have a 'better chance to make a run' this season, looking forward to his second post-season campaign.

"Make it out of our league, start with that and go from there."

Tillsonburg Glass is on a three-game streak in Club Oxford's B

JEFF GWYN

Post Contributor

TillsonburgGlass is on a -three game win streak in B and there were close battles in A Division this week.

Sunday, Nov. 15
A Division
Source 7, Royal LePage 4

Source pressured all night and found scoring from seven different players. They played well defensively, breaking up a few Royal LePage passes. Royal LePage had some solid chances but couldn't get those rebounds to cash in. A late push made it a closer game.

Nate Bisschop had three points for Source. Evan DeRouck had two points for Royal LePage.

Birds 5, ReMax 3

Birds kept even with ReMax through the first part of the game and then broke through in the second. They relied on fast rushes and quick outlet passes to get the chances. ReMax had their chances in this one but couldn't handle the Birds pressure midway through the second. Some more shots on net may have given them some more chances.

John Rachar had two assists for Birds. Dylan Ralf had a goal for ReMax.

Health Hut 3, Fody's 2

Health Hut changed up their lines in this one and it gave them a bit of a boost. It was a very tight checking game as both teams had a chip on their shoulder. Fody's had some good chances, but got off their game a little. A strong effort until the buzzer for both teams.

Brendan Sullivan had two goals for Health Hut. Brett Ferguson had a goal for Fody's.

B Division
B-Line 4, RND 2

B-Line showed a lot of speed tonight as they forced a lot of rushes. They kept RND from getting too many rebounds which helped spring their offence. RND did manage some chances and had a decent stretch of pressure in the second, which made for a closer game.

Nino Notarandrea had two goals for B-Line. Aiden Hopper had a goal for RND.

Glass 5, JP Mortgages 1

Glass had the right spares tonight as they found the back of the net four times. Glass also played strong defensively, helping keep the net front clear. JP Mortgages ran into penalty trouble in this one, which made it hard to get the offence going most of the game.

David Phipps had three points for Glass. Dawson Behrens had a goal for JP Mortgages.

Airmount 2, Carquest 2

Airmount were able to generate some rushes in this one but for their goals off chances created in the zone. A good effort to keep the neutral zone clogged. Carquest were using their quick passes to get chances tonight. Some good turnarounds in their zone gave them some rush chances as well.

Zach Alton had a goal for Airmount. Chad Homick had a goal for Carquest.

Wednesday, Nov. 18
B Division
B-Line 3, Airmount 2

CLUB OXFORD A DIVISION	GP	W	L	T	PTS
BIRDS GOLF	9	7	2	0	14
REMAX REALTY	9	5	4	0	10
SOURCE FOR SPORTS	9	5	4	0	10
HEALTH HUT	9	3	5	1	7
ROYAL LEPAGE REALTY	9	3	5	1	7
FODY'S AUTOMOTIVE	9	3	6	0	6

CLUB OXFORD B DIVISION	GP	W	L	T	PTS
B-LINE TRUCKING	10	8	0	2	18
TILLSONBURG GLASS	10	6	2	2	14
AIRMOUNT FARMS	10	3	3	4	10
CARQUEST AUTO PARTS	10	2	4	4	8
JEFF PROUSE MORTGAGES	10	1	5	4	6
RND CONSTRUCTION	10	2	8	0	4

B-Line had a good challenge tonight and were able to bounce back in the second. They played more defensively and then got their offence going in the second. Airmount had a very strong game against the top team. They controlled a lot of the game and made a push at the end.

Adam Gignac had a goal for B-Line. Colby Jansen had two assists for Airmount.

Glass 7, RND 3

Glass has found their scoring touch and were dangerous every shift. They tilted the ice in the second and built on their lead. RND had a great first period. They looked in good position but couldn't keep up with the Glass speed in the second period.

Brad Schopp had three assists for Glass. Dimitri Carvalho had two points for RND.

Carquest 2, JP Mortgages 2

Carquest will play to the end of every game and that's getting them some needed points. They had trouble getting good chances in the middle of the game but kept digging to earn the tie. JP Mortgages played a well-rounded game and controlled much of the game. They couldn't hold on for the win but definitely earned that point in this one.

Jason Koteles had a goal for Carquest. Jake Steenson had two goals for JP Mortgages.

Thunder battle a pair of top teams

MICHAEL HOLLY

Post Contributor

The weekend saw the Tillsonburg Thunder battle a couple of top teams. As it always seems to happen, there is a part of every season that the sickness and injury bug hits every team. Unfortunately, it was last weekend for the Thunder.

Saturday night the Thunder visited last year's champs, the Seaforth Centenaires with only 11 skaters. This is never a good start. Seaforth jumped out to a quick 2-0 start but the Thunder were determined not to make this game a rout and answered quickly. First Jordan Medeiros, from Liam Kidder and Dylan Watson, and then Kane Johnson unassisted to tie the game. Seaforth made it 3-2 mid-first, and added another in the second to make it 4-2. Robert MacLean from Tyler Alexander and Dylan Watson made it 4-3 but alas, another from Seaforth ended the second at 5-3.

Another Seaforth goal in the third put the home team in front 6-3. Dylan Watson unassisted made the final 6-4 Seaforth. Tyler Bouck was exceptional in net stopping 49 of 55 shots. All players, including the writer, were exhausted after the game as there was no giving up by the Thunder.

Sunday afternoon saw the Thunder host the annual student night. All schools in Tillsonburg were provided free student tickets and the kids did not disappoint. The barn was packed and very loud. This is always a fun game, unless the Thunder are playing the long-time rivals, the Petrolia Squires. The Thunder jumped out to a 4-0 start with goals by Andrew Oosterveld from Sebastian Guastadigsegni, Sebastian Guastadigsegni from Robert MacLean, Robert MacLean from Liam Kidder, and Dylan Watson from Symon Reddin. Petrolia snuck one in with 25 seconds left in the second to result in a 4-1 Thunder lead.

It seems that with a short bench, the third period is not going to be the Thunder's period. Petrolia scored three unanswered goals in the third to lead to the first overtime this year. Both teams played exceptionally well with fast three-on-three end-to-end action with both tenders standing on their heads, but Petrolia prevailed.

Next weekend does not get any easier as the Thunder go to Tavistock on Saturday, Nov. 28 at 7:30 p.m. and are on the road again to Petrolia on Sunday, Nov. 29 for a 3:30 puck drop.

Both games are critical as the Thunder start their playoff push.

The next Thunder home game in Saturday, Dec. 12, 2026 for a 7:30 p.m. faceoff versus the Milverton 4 Wheel Drives. This is the annual Teddy Bear Toss night, and one of the writer's favorite nights. Bring a new or slightly used teddy bear to the game. On the Thunder's first goal, throw the bears on the ice. All bears collected will go to the Salvation Army Christmas Hamper Program where they will be distributed through Tillsonburg and area at Christmas time.



(STUART BLOWER PHOTO)

Tillsonburg Thunder's Sebastian Guastadigsegni tangoes with Petrolia's Evan Wammes during a home game Sunday afternoon. After Tillsonburg came out hot in the first with a 4-0 lead, Petrolia came back to tie the game and won in overtime.

Run Back Brewery Tobacco Belt Cash Spiel draws top competitors



ON THE BROOM

NORA PETER

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Curling fans witnessed great curling last weekend as the Tillsonburg Curling Club hosted the Broken Broom Tobacco Belt Cash Spiel sponsored by Run Back Brewing. The spiel featured 18 Men's and 16 Women's world ranked teams.

The focus for the men's side was our local Team King, German Team Kapp, Swiss team Schwaller, Korean team Jeong along with several ranked Ontario teams like Young, Mooibroek, Hocevar and Howard. On the women's side, teams Middaugh (Niagara Falls), Brunton (Sudbury), Duncan (Toronto), Birt (PEI), and new team Cave (Winchester, ON) were some of the key teams.

The triple knockout format had the men playing for a cash payout of almost $15,000 with the first-place team receiving $4,500, and the women with fewer teams, looking for some of the $12,300 payout and first prize of $3,800. Games started Thursday, and culminated Sunday with quarterfinals, semi-finals and finals for the qualifying eight teams.

Team King started their spiel with a six-end win over Team Oryniak (Toronto). In game two, they met Team Schnider, one of the Swiss teams, and were tied 3-3 after three ends. Jayden King made a great soft raise double scoring four. King took another four in the sixth and shook hands for the win. In game three, playing Schwaller, King got off to a good start but Schwaller made a tough, angled raise double to score two and it seemed to be the turning point of the game as misses by King put them down three. A good draw by vice Dylan in the sixth got them within one, but Schwaller blanked seven and ran them out of rocks to win the A qualifier and drop team King to the B event. They met Team Mulima (Waterloo) in the B qualifier. The teams were tied 5-5 after six ends and King's team took 4 in the 7th on misses by Mulima for the win and qualify for playoffs.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Team King skip Jayden King, throwing the rock, was not only a competitor in this weekend's Broken Broom Tobacco Belt Cash Spiel, but also the organizer. Unfortunately, his team, which represented Ontario last year at the Brier, didn't make it to the finals.

Sunday morning, the eight qualifying teams faced off in quarter-final play. Three of the four international teams qualified for quarter-final play. "A" qualifier, Team Young, and "C" qualifier, Team Hocevar, had a tight game. Hocevar played well and finished strong to take the win and move to semi-finals. Team Schwaller met Mulima, who qualified out of C. Schwaller took the win in six ends with a 7-2 win. Team Kapp faced Team King and took four in the third end. Team King was unable to recover, and Kapp took the win. Howard played Jeong, teams were tied after three ends, but Jeong would score and steal the next three ends and Howard conceded the game in six ends.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Broken Broom Tobacco Belt Cash Spiel held at the Tillsonburg and Ingersoll curling clubs on the weekend drew some of the top teams from across Canada, and the world. In the end, the top women's team was, left to right: (front row) Skip Sherry Middaugh, Kelly Middaugh, Emily Middaugh, and Megan Smith. In the back row, was the winning men's team, from Switzerland, Skip Kim Schwaller, Max Winz, Andreas Gerlach, and Jan Iseli.

Semi-finals saw Hocevar get off to a good start over Kapp. Teams were tied after four ends, but Hocevar would steal the final end to head to the finals. In the other game, Team Jeong was up 6-4 after six ends; Schwaller took two in seven, and stole the win with a point in the eighth.

The final match-up between Hocevar and Team Schwaller A event qualifiers was a very tight game with teams exchanging ones, Schwaller blanking two ends, and took two in the sixth to go up by one point. Hocevar missed his shot in the seventh end, giving up one. Schwaller was up by two, but Hocevar had hammer coming home. Teams were matching shots until the final rock where the Swiss were sitting at two. Hocevar had one rock biting the 12-foot ring, so needed a double takeout and keep his shooter to tie the game. The skip came through with an awesome double to force the extra end. The extra end was almost anti-climactic as Schwaller with the last rock advantage, scored his point for the win and first-place finish.

The women's games early draws were in Ingersoll. There were no international teams but Team Brunton and Team Burns came in from Sudbury and Team Birt from Charlottetown, PEI and Team St James from Montreal, QC to join 12 Ontario teams. One of the Ontario teams, Team Cave (Winchester) has a Tillsonburg connection as the skip, Grace Cave, is the mixed doubles partner of Jayden King, and they represent our club in competition. Team Cave lost their first game to Vivier (Navan, ON), won their second against Burns (Sudbury), lost to Birt (PEI) in the B qualifier, and then lost in C against Principi (Niagara Falls). Three of the teams she played against went through to quarter-finals on Sunday. Look for Team Cave to earn points for the women's tankard play in January.

The eight women's teams to reach the quarter-finals were a mix of the top seeded teams – Middaugh and Principi, Brunton, and Duncan - to lower seeds, Ideson, Rozon, Birt, and Gebhardt. Hollie Duncan and Suzanne Birt would come out as winners to meet each other in the semi-finals. Teams were tied after four ends, but Duncan would steal two more ends to take the win and move on to the finals. Kira Brunton would defeat Team Ideson and team Middaugh would post the win over Chelsea Principi. In semi-final play, Middaugh took an early lead over Brunton and finished with four in the seventh end to take the win and head to finals. Middaugh and Duncan took to the ice in the finals, and like the men's game this was a back-and-forth game with teams tied at three points each after four ends of play. Middaugh had hammer in the seventh and was able to score two after some interesting discussion about rock placement. In the eighth, Hollie Duncan was unable to find a way to score two and Middaugh stole the win.

Congratulations to the winners and runners-up on well played games. Thank you to our sponsor Run Back Brewery, convenor Jayden King, drawmaster Jennifer Cuddie, and all the volunteers, participants and fans who made the spiel a wonderful success.

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MINOR SPORTS SCRAPBOOK

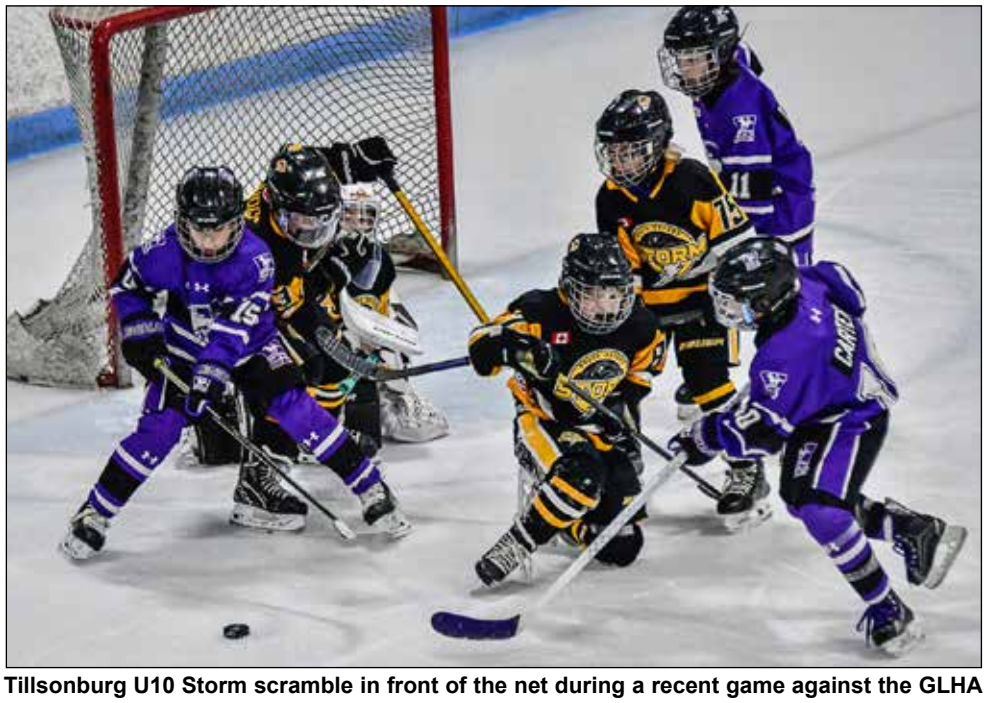
(STUART BLOWER PHOTOS)



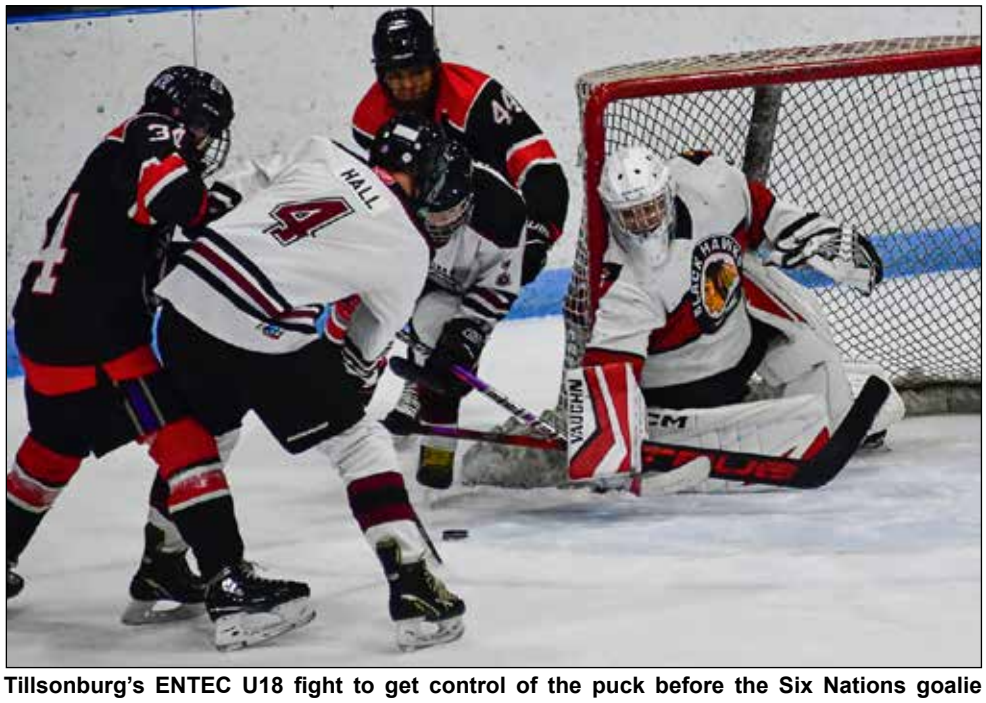
Tillsonburg Lightning U9 girls'defence, from left to right, Olivia Markowski, Emily Goossens, Shayla Oliveira, assisted goaltender Eleanor Armstrong post a shutout in a game against Central Point.



Tillsonburg Tornadoes defender works to clear the puck away from the Port Dover offence during a recent U8 game.



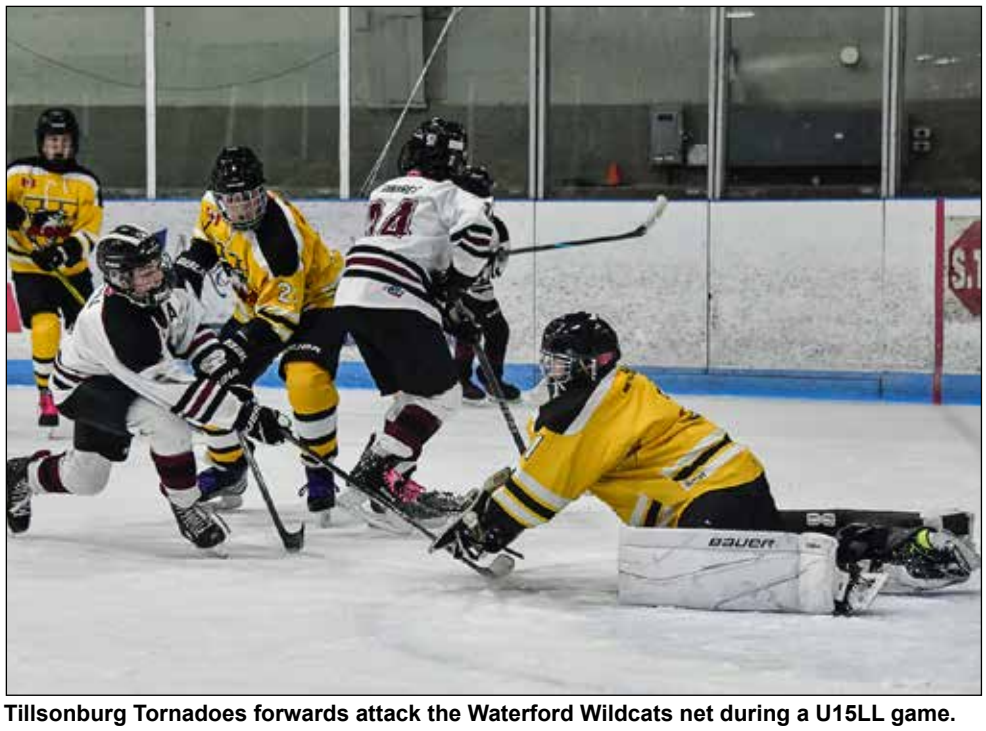
Tillsonburg U10 Storm scramble in front of the net during a recent game against the GLHA Jr. Mustangs.



Tillsonburg's ENTEC U18 fight to get control of the puck before the Six Nations goalie smothers it.



A Ward's Custom Towing forward has control of the puck, but a Waterford player is trying to take it during a recent U9LL game.



Tillsonburg Tornadoes forwards attack the Waterford Wildcats net during a U15LL game.

Olivia Mae Graham brings Christmas tradition home for fourth annual holiday concert



MUSIC CORNER

BEN ANDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

What began as a small Christmas performance in a Tillsonburg café has grown into an annual holiday tradition bringing together music lovers and the community in the spirit of Christmas and giving back.

Local country artist Olivia Mae Graham is preparing to celebrate the fourth annual edition of her Christmas concert on Sunday Dec. 6 at the Delhi District Hungarian Hall. The afternoon will feature live country music, holiday favourites, new original songs and opportunities for attendees to support local families through charitable fundraising.

"Christmas has always been my favourite time of year. A few years ago, I released a Christmas song, Alone Tonight, and was honestly overwhelmed by the support and the number of fans who shared how much they loved it," Graham explained. "I wanted an opportunity to perform that song live and celebrate the season with the people who had supported it so I booked a little café in Tillsonburg and hosted our very first Christmas show."

Olivia had no idea that one little event would turn into one of her favourite Christmas traditions. Over the past three years the annual concert has raised thousands of dollars for local charities in addition to collecting food donations for the Helping Hand Food Bank. The event this year will continue that tradition with cash raffles supporting the Norfolk Food Bank and helping families in need throughout the holiday season.

"Being able to give back to the community that has supported me so much is a small way of saying thank you," Graham said. "I genuinely would not have the career I have today without the people, businesses and families in this community who have believed in me and supported my music along the way. I'm so proud to be a Tillsonburg girl and it means a lot to be able to bring people together."

Long & McQuade Tillsonburg is a sponsor for the event this year with raffle prizes donated by local businesses including Rebel Records, Legacy by Alison and Spa Marche.

Beyond the fundraising, Olivia is promising an afternoon filled with surprises and plenty of Christmas music. While keeping some of the details under wraps, she said audiences can expect brand-new holiday songs, new originals and a few unexpected moments throughout the performance.

"I cannot give too much away just yet, but we do have a few surprises up our sleeves," Graham says with a smile. "One of my favourite parts of putting this show together is getting to surprise the audience with songs and moments."

The concert also gives Graham an opportunity to step outside the usual repertoire she performs throughout the year and explore some of her favourite seasonal music.

"This is one of the most special shows we get to put on all year," Graham said. "I'm challenging myself to learn new Christmas songs and bring something fresh to the show every time. For anyone who has not attended before, come out and spend an afternoon with us. I want everyone to feel welcome, have fun and leave feeling like they have been part of something special."

The holiday concert arrives following a busy year for Olivia Mae Graham, who continues to build her career as an independent country artist. Among the highlights of 2026 were receiving four nominations at the CMAOntario Awards and performing across Ontario.

With more music and special projects already in the works for 2027, Graham said she is excited about what lies ahead. However, returning home for the holidays remains an important part of her year.

"We are already looking ahead to 2027 with new music. Some special projects in the works and exciting opportunities on the horizon. I'm incredibly proud of the team of people around me and the ideas we are bringing to life," Graham says. "But before all of that, it is always wonderful to come home for Christmas. This show is a chance to celebrate with the people who have been part of my journey from the beginning."

With live music, Christmas favourites, raffle prizes and fundraising in support of local families, Graham hopes the afternoon will once again demonstrate what can happen when a community comes together.

Olivia Mae Graham's fourth annual Christmas concert takes place Sunday, Dec. 6 at the Delhi District Hungarian Hall. Doors open at 1 p.m. with the show beginning at 2 p.m. Tickets are available online at oliviamaegraham.com

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Tillsonburg recognized as one of Canada's Best Places to Live

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg just added a big feather to its figurative cap, ranking eighth in a top 10 nationwide list of the best places to live in the country.

Zolo Canada, an online real estate firm that rates the country's towns in various categories, put Tillsonburg at number eight in its latest rating of Canada's Best Places to Live. Tillsonburg is also the only town in the top 10; the rest are cities.

"This recognition reflects what our residents already know: Tillsonburg is a great place to call home," said Mayor Deb Gilvesy. "From our strong sense of community and growing economy to our parks, recreation opportunities, and vibrant cultural scene, Tillsonburg continues to offer an outstanding quality of life for people of all ages."

The annual ranking evaluates communities across the country based on factors including affordability, household income, employment, safety, and accessibility, highlighting communities that offer an exceptional quality of life for residents. Tillsonburg's strong performance in areas such as employment and public safety, including a low unemployment rate of 5.4 per cent and a crime severity index of 44.9, were factors in the rating.

Some of the highlights in the rating were:

- Cost of living: nine per cent higher than the national average
- Average household income: $87,600 per year
- Biggest industries: Manufacturing, food processing and health care
- Benchmark average home price: $566,700

The summary noted the significant growth in the town and the lower benchmark home price.

"We were pleasantly surprised to be one of the top eight communities to live in, particularly since there were no towns," said Tillsonburg Development Commissioner Cephas Panschow. "We believe in it, but it's unusual to get that type of recognition."

The town's media release, which Panschow said has garnered several responses, talks of Tillsonburg's "small-town charm and modern amenities". It also notes continued residential, industrial, and commercial growth, including major retailers that recently opened in the Norfolk Mall, as well as cultural attractions and recreational facilities.

"Whether you're looking to raise a family, grow a business, advance your career or enjoy retirement, Tillsonburg is a great place to call home," said Gilvesy. "We're honoured to be recognized among Canada's best places to live."

This isn't Tillsonburg's first top 10 from Zolo. Earlier this year, Tillsonburg was rated sixth on the top list of best places to retire. That ranking included cost of living and average home price, as well as age characteristics of the population, health care access, crime rate, walkability, sunshine, and the number of freezing days.

"That's a little bit less surprising considering Tillsonburg's long history as a retirement community," Panschow said.

The rating was not based on purchasing advertising or any other external factors.

"This is entirely what we call an organic rating," Panschow said.



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HOSPITAL HAPPENINGS

LISA DAHM

Executive Assistant, Rural Roads Health Services

In October 2026, Rural Roads Health Services, at both Alexandra Hospital Ingersoll and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital, formally celebrated the launch of our journey as a Best Practice Spotlight Organization (BPSO) with the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO).

The goal of the BPSO program is to foster a culture of evidence-based practice within organizations and across health systems through the systematic implementation and evaluation of multiple RNAO Best Practice Guidelines (BPGs). This partnership represents a three-year commitment to collaborate with RNAO in implementing, evaluating, and sustaining multiple BPGs, as well as disseminating the knowledge gained.

This internationally-renowned program's strategic approach has been proven to trigger evidence-based cultures, improve patient experience and health outcomes, lower cost of care by preventing complications, and enrich team member satisfaction. Organizations participating in the BPSO program partner with RNAO or an approved host organization to achieve BPSO designation.

Although the RNAO serves as a professional body advocating for nurses, its mandate supports all health professionals. Implementing best practice guidelines requires inclusion of interprofessional teams in order to be successful. The RRHS BPSO theme, launched at the events in October, is Paving the Way to Best Practice - Together, reflecting that this is a team effort across all roles in the organization. Our shared commitments within the program are: continuous improvement, learning through evidence and turning best practice into daily practice.

RRHS becoming a BPSO means we're joining a global network focused on implementing evidence-based best practice guidelines, improving patient care and outcomes, and building a culture of continuous learning and improvement.

The BPSO program provides structured support, including training Best Practice Champions, tools for guideline implementation, and evaluation strategies to ensure sustainable improvements in patient care.

Best Practice Champions raise awareness about RNAO best practice guidelines (BPG), mobilize their peers, and use change management processes and social movement approaches to influence uptake and sustainability of BPGs in their practice setting.

In 2024, our hospitals implemented the RNAO BPG Pressure Injury Management: Risk Assessment, Prevention and Treatment following a review of related incidents. In summer 2026, our hospitals launched a second BPG Preventing Falls and Reducing Injury from Falls.

Over the next three years, RRHS will be working to implement BPG for People-Centred Care in year one, Transitions in Care in year two and Delirium, Dementia and Depression in Older Adults in year three. At the October launch events, team members were given the opportunity to share their feedback on what aspects of People-Centered Care we should be prioritizing as an organization.

For the RRHS team, being part of the BPSO is about making sure the care we provide is guided by best practice evidence, and is an important milestone in RRHS's commitment to advancing evidence-informed practice and fostering a culture of continuous quality improvement across our organization.

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Giving Tuesday campaign helps meet growing community needs

Looking for a local cause to support for Giving Tuesday?

The United Way Oxford is asking local residents to think of them when in the philanthropic mindset.

Giving Tuesday follows the traditional retail hype of Black Friday and Cyber Monday. This year it falls on Dec. 1. GivingTuesday was created in 2012 at New York's 92nd Street Y and incubated in its Belfer Center for Innovation & Social Impact. What started as a simple idea of a day that encourages people to do good has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity year-round.

Locally, the impact of United Way Oxford can be doubled, and the need is greater than ever. United Way Oxford funds 18 local partners and 52 programs this year. However, demand for support continues to grow, with requests for funding for next year exceeding available resources by $300,000. With Adams Building Supply's generosity, every donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to $2,500, doubling the impact of every gift.

"The need in Oxford County continues to grow, and there is still more work to do. Giving Tuesday is an opportunity for everyone to be part of the solution. Every gift, no matter the size, brings us one step closer to closing the $300,000 funding gap and ensuring people can access the support they need, when they need it most," said Jen Olcsvary, Resource Development Manager at United Way Oxford.

United Way Oxford invests donations through a community-led process that helps fund a range of local services addressing some of Oxford County's most pressing challenges. Rather than supporting a single program, United Way Oxford directs donations where they can have the greatest impact, helping funded partners respond to changing needs and strengthen support systems for people and families across the community.

Community members can make their Giving Tuesday gift at unitedwayoxford.ca/donate/. Donations made on Dec. 1 will be matched by Adams Building Supply up to $2,500, allowing supporters to double their impact while helping build a stronger Oxford County.





GLENDALE ACADEMIC AWARD WINNERS

Glendale High School academic achievements were recognized during the recent academic awards ceremony. (Left photo) Proficiency Awards were presented to students in each grade for their overall academic marks. Left to right are: (front row) Eunso Fehr, second place Grade 11; Kate Bruder, third place Grade 9; Nicholas Whelan, second place Grade 9; Veena Prajapati, first place Grade 9; (back row) Naomi Neufeld, third place Grade 11; Alex Jones, second place Grade 11(tie); Theodore McCarter, first place Grade 11; Tatum Redling, third place Grade 10; Layla Desmond, second place Grade 10; and Maylina Wall, first place, Grade 10. (Right photo) Students who excelled in provincial math and writing competitions were recognized at the ceremony. Left to right are: (front row) Rylor Morley, third place Halloween Short Story Contest; Veena Prajapati, CIMC math school champion; (back row) Merryn Howe, OSSTF Student Achievement Award Winner Poetry and Prose, Senior; Macklin Piette, Pascal math school champion, CIMC school champion and Fryer school champion; Theodore McCarter, Fermat math school champion and first Annual Halloween Short Story Contest; and Josh Vermeeren, OSSTF Student Achievement Award Winner Media, French or English Grade 9-12. Absent from the photo were: Aurianna Narcissian, OSSTF Student Achievement Award Winner Poetry and Prose, Intermediate; and Katie VanHaverbeke, second Halloween Short Story Contest.







RIDDLES

How do you spell "cow" in 13 letters?

See O Double You.

What is so fragile that saying its name breaks it?

Silence.

What four-letter word can be written forward, backward, or upside down and can still be read from left to right?

Noon.

It is the beginning of eternity, the end of time and space. It is the start of every end, the end of every place.

The letter E.

What has 13 hearts but no other organs?

A deck of cards.

Where do you take a sick boat?

To the dock-tor.

What five-letter English word can be pronounced the same even with four of its letters removed?

Queue.

What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?

Short

What begins with an "e" and only contains one letter?

An envelope.

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Solutions on Page 31

PET OF THE WEEK



MISTY

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Located just minutes east of Tillsonburg in a peaceful rural setting where your pets will experience the comforts of home with the freedom of the great outdoors.



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165295 Neidert Line RR #2, Otterville, ON
abbysplace.ca

Nominate your pet to be Pet of the Week by emailing info@tillsonburgpost.com

WORD SEARCH

LOTS OF LAUGHS

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

AMUSING, BANTER, CHUCKLE, COMEDY, FACETIOUS, FUNNY, GUFFAW, HILARITY, IRONY, JESTING, JOCULAR, LEVITY, MERRIMENT, PARODY, PUNCHLINE, QUIP, SATIRE, SLAPSTICK, SNICKER, TEDIUM, TICKLE, UPROARIOUS, WITTICISM, ZANY

COMING EVENTS

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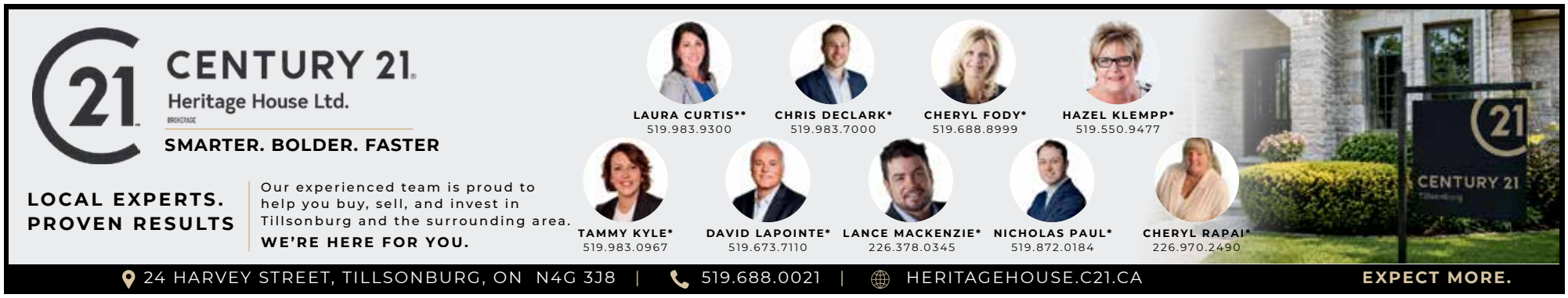

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 28 | 10 AM - 1 PM
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
Delhi United Church - 105 Church Street, Delhi Ontario

Featuring backing, attic treasures, gift table, frozen apple and elderberry fruit pies, frozen beef and chicken meat pies and a penny table, vendors and a luncheon**.**

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 5 | 2 - 4 PM
TILLSONBURG RETIREMENT'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR!
Tillsonburg Retirement Residence, 183 Rolph Street

This event is a wonderful opportunity to drop by, enjoy some festive treats, browse local crafts and gifts, and see our vibrant community in action. Admission: Free — Open to the public!

DECEMBER 20 | 7 PM
A CHRISTMAS CAROL & THE CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS
St. John's Anglican Church, 46 Ridout St. W, Tillsonburg

The spirit of Dickens returns to Tillsonburg with a special performance of ***A Christmas Carol***. Seasoned Dickens' interpreter, Stephen Bourne, joins a lively ensemble of musicians for a narration of the famous tale accompanied by traditional Christmas music of the day. Tickets available at the Church office, Tues – Fri, 9-2, or at the door. Adults - $15; Children - $10; Under 4-year-olds - free. Tel: 519 842-5573

ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW & CLOSES 9 PM JANUARY 22, 2027
NORFOLK MUSICAL ARTS FESTIVAL REGISTRATION
Visit the website for the syllabus and information www.nmaf.ca
Questions: contact festival administrator at 519-429-9216. The festival offers competitive and non-competitive classes in community and school bands, church, community, youth and school choirs, English and French speech arts, guitar, instruments, percussion, piano, strings, ukulele and vocal - classical and musical theatre. Follow the festival on Facebook and Instagram.

MONDAYS & THURSDAYS
OTTER VALLEY TAI CHI
St. John's Anglican Church, 46 Ridout St. W., Tillsonburg

Mondays 9:00 – 10:30 am Introduction, 10:30 – 11:30 am Foundations.
Thursdays 2:00 – 3:30 pm Introduction, 3:30 – 4:30 pm Foundations. Enjoy gentle exercise with others as you work to improve flexibility, balance and stamina. Call 519-688-9779, email ottervalley@canadiantaichiacademy.org, visit canadiantaichiacademy.org

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WEDNESDAYS | 6 - 7:30 PM
CANADIAN TAI CHI ACADEMY TILLSONBURG
Classes take place at St Paul's United Church, Fox Alley South entrance off Ridout Street

Continuing sessions and Lok Hup occur from 7:30 – 8:30 PM. Additional practice sessions are available Fridays from 10:00 – 11:00AM. For more information: Email: tillsonburg@canadiantaichiacademy.org, Website: canadiantaichiacademy.org. Everyone welcome. Improve your health.

3RD TUE. OF MONTH | 6:30 - 8:30 PM
CAREGIVER CONNECTION
Revel Realty Woodstock, 111 Huron Street (Virutal/hyrbid 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 dheaton3e3@gmail.com. Website: http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford

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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

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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

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EVERY OTHER FRIDAY | 1 - 4 PM
BE FALL-ISH AND COME TO 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! November 20, and December 4.

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS
TILLSONBURG BRIDGE CLUB
Two games weekly at the Tillsonburg Senior Centre - 45 Hardy Ave.

SOCIAL BRIDGE - Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. A relaxed, friendly game for learners, returners and everyone else.
DUPLICATE BRIDGE - Fridays, 1:00 p.m. Still friendly, but a bit more structured and competitive.
Please arrive 10 minutes early.
Questions? tburgbridge@gmail.com or FB: 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.

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.

COMING EVENTS

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

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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**

VON OXFORD SUPPORTIVE CARE PROGRAMS

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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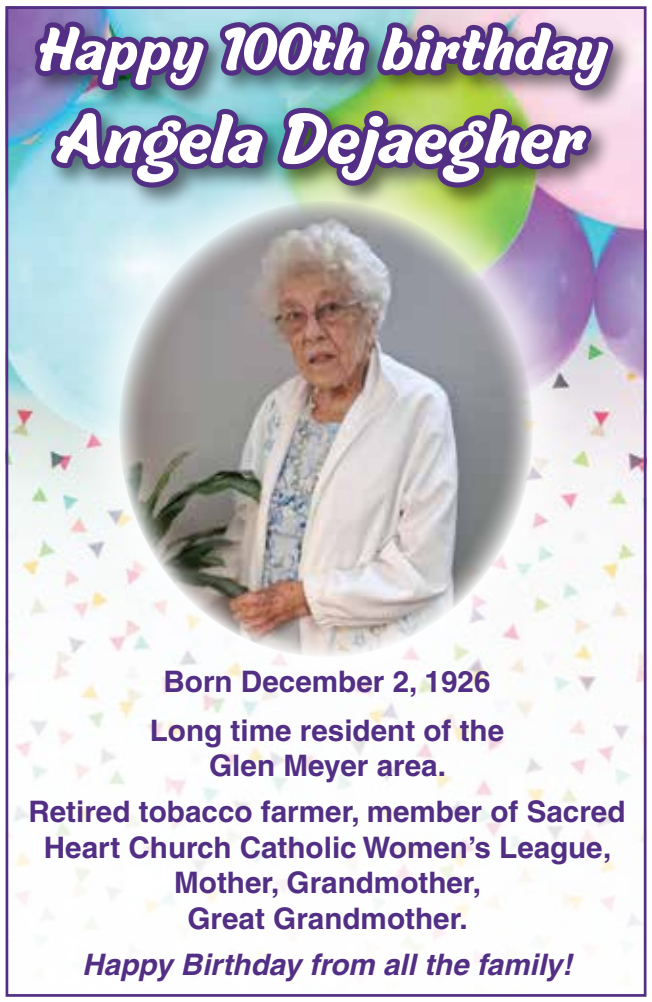
BIRTHDAY



Born December 2, 1926

Long time resident of the Glen Meyer area.

Retired tobacco farmer, member of Sacred Heart Church Catholic Women's League, Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother.

Happy Birthday from all the family!

THANK YOU

Thank You to the Following Businesses and the Parishioners of St. Mary's Catholic Church Tillsonburg for Donations to our Annual "Mistletoe Magic" Bazaar Penny Table on November 14, 2026:

Bere's Butchery & Catering – Bird's Golf Sports Lounge – Boston Pizza – Catherine's Unisex Delhi – Chrissy's Catering – Compton Home Hardware – Courtland Bakery – Coward's Pharmacy – Coyle's Country Store – C.W.L. Members – Daksh Restaurant – Domino's Pizza – Escapes Salon & Spa – Forever Nails – Garden Gate – Hungarian Hall Delhi – Indigo Lounge Wellness & Eatery – Korner Perk – Makkink's Flower Farm – Margaret's Flowers – Metro – Olive Eatery – Queen's Café – Rain or Shine Playtime – Ruffin's Pet Centre – Sobey's – Stacked Pancake & Breakfast House – TD Bank Delhi – The Mill Restaurant & Inn – Tillson Pizza – Tillsonburg Thunder – Tim Hortons – Verhoeve Funeral Home – Zehrs

Your support was greatly appreciated!



OBITUARY

JOHN MARK ALLEN



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Johnny Allen on November 14th, 2026, at the age of 56 in Acton Ontario.

Johnny leaves behind the Love of his Life of 24 years Teresa Jancsurak along with their children Darian (Stephen) and Carter (Tyra).

Loved by his parents Bill and Betty Allen of Fergus, Son in Law of Louis and the Late Pearl Jancsurak of Tillsonburg. Loving Brother to Janice (Ken). Brother-in-Law to Joanne (Steve), Nancy (the late Lenny). Beloved Uncle to Allison (Malachi), Scott, Sara (Joel) Shelby (Blake).

Johnny will be deeply missed by all his friends and extended family.

Johnny spent most of his time outdoors, working in construction and participating in all kinds of sports. To name but a few: hockey, baseball, squash, golf, fishing, washer toss and cornhole. He extended his love of baseball to include being a Coach to a remarkable group of players.

Johnny spent countless hours watching Darian and Carter participate in their various activities, adding "fun" family "noncompetitive" tournaments of Cornhole with Stephen and Tyra. He was a devoted fan of the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Toronto Blue Jays.

Johnny and Teresa built a backyard oasis where they loved hosting friends and family, pool parties and BBQ's serving great food and creating many fun memorable times.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Johnny's memory to Cancer Assisted Services of Halton Hills (CAHH) would be greatly appreciated. Donations and condolences can be made online at:

www.mackinnonfamilyfuneralhome.com

https://cancerassistance.org/donate/

A Celebration of Life will be held at The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 197, 15 Wright Avenue, Acton, ON L7J 2T7, on December 12, 2026, from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Tillsonburg Post is available for free in print and online:
tillsonburgpost.com

LOCAL MATTERS.



Remember that time when **Amazon** sponsored your church fundraiser?



Remember when **Facebook** bought a case of Girl Guide cookies to support your daughter?



Remember when **Google** provided free pizza to your child's soccer team when they won the championship?

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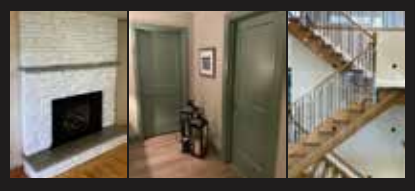
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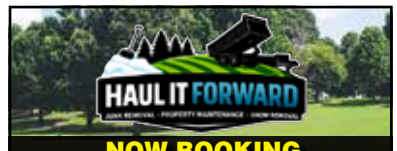
LAWN CARE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9	4	5	3	7	6	1	8	2
1	8	3	4	2	5	9	6	7
6	2	7	9	8	1	5	4	3
5	9	2	1	3	8	6	7	4
4	3	1	2	6	7	8	5	9
7	6	8	5	4	9	2	3	1
2	7	9	6	5	3	4	1	8
3	1	6	8	9	4	7	2	5
8	5	4	7	1	2	3	9	6

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. A hen
2. The Hunt for Red October
3. Staff (stave)
4. Tetanus
5. Green
6. Sean Connery
7. Blue
8. 1981
9. Ra
10. Gregor Mendel

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Médias d'Info Canada

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NOVEMBER CLEARANCE DEALS

LIMITED QUANTITIES - WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

MON-FRI: 8 AM - 9 PM, SAT: 8 AM - 8 PM, SUN: 9 AM - 6 PM

STIGA TABLE TENNIS TABLE
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SALE $139.93

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