TOUR OF HOMES PAGE 20

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Tillsonburg POST

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Khanna continues fight against home invasions

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Oxford MP Arpan Khanna, the Official Opposition Shadow Minister for Justice and the Attorney General, raised concerns about home invasions during a meeting with Justice Minister Sean Fraser last week.

In the wake of a 50 percent increase in home invasions, Khanna's caucus colleague Vaughan-Woodbridge MP Michael Guglielmen introduced his Private Member's Bill, the Safe at Home Act, two weeks ago. If passed, the legislation would make home invasions a standalone offense with a five-year minimum sentence, which is not currently the case. Typically, a home invader is charged with multiple offenses, but often pleads down to one charge. In addition, six months ago, Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre and his team announced the Stand on Guard Act. This legislation would give home occupants more rights when it comes to self-defense.

"As expected, I didn't get a confirmation or acceptance; they will try to move our bills along," Khanna said. "He (Fraser) understood this is a concern for Canadians, but we were also talking about other bills coming before Parliament."

Bills dealing with Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) and protecting children during a divorce were a larger part of the conversation.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



HARVEST TIME

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Corn is being taken off this field in the Township of Norwich recently. Good harvest conditions have allowed harvest to progress well across the area, with almost all the soybeans off and about a third of the corn.

Corn harvest underway across the countryside

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

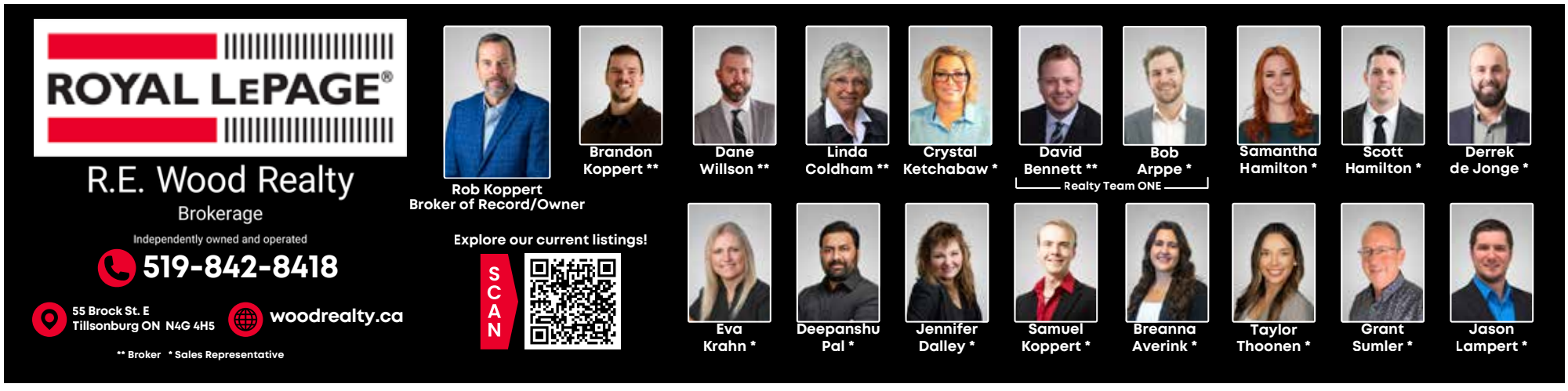
With combines making back-and-forth passes across fields and taking off the corn crop, it signals the beginning of the end of the 2026 growing season.

"We've had a fantastic fall so far," said Ann Vermeersch, Ontario Grain Producers Director for District 5 (Elgin/Norfolk), about the harvest conditions.

She estimated that 99 per cent of soybeans are off, with any remaining from situations where the field were double-cropped with grain planted earlier. On the topic of grain, she said the winter wheat coming up looks to be in fantastic shape.

North of Tillsonburg, more of the corn is for silage for livestock feed, while south of town in Norfolk more is grain corn, for which harvest started about 10 days before this interview on Monday.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



Oxford MP meets with justice minister on home invasions, and other issues

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

"There were other bills he talked more about, and less about the priorities the Conservatives wanted, but I remain optimistic we can get to an actual agreement that will work for Canadians," Khanna said.

Asked what's next, the Oxford MP said he will continue to ask tough questions in Parliament on home invasions and plans to launch a cross-country tour to seek input.

Calling it the Victims First Tour, Khanna explained, "I will be meeting with victims from across Canada, hearing their stories, hearing their experiences trying to find ways to improve the justice system so we have a victims-first justice system instead of a criminals-first justice system, which is the way it currently exists with the Liberals."

He also plans on bringing witnesses before the Justice Committee to speak about their experiences.

"I'm not one of those guys who takes no for an answer when it comes to fighting for Canadians," Khanna said. "If the government wants to work with us, we'll be there to work with them, but if the government wants to put up roadblocks for public safety, they'll get a fight from the Conservatives, and we're not going to back down from them in restoring safe streets. We'll do whatever we can, we'll use every single tool in our toolbox to fight for Canadians' safety."

Previously, Khanna introduced the Jail Not Bail Act, which championed tougher measures to keep repeat violent offenders behind bars and restore accountability to Canada's justice system. It was voted down on second reading, with the government saying its Bail and Sentencing Reform Act enacted tougher sentencing. Conservatives argued the government bill didn't go as far as Khanna's proposal.

"I think it's important the government keeps Canadians safe; that's their number one job," Khanna said. "If they're going to fail, I'll do whatever I can to highlight their failures and at the same time propose solutions."

Have your say

How safe do you feel in your community?

The Tillsonburg Post and its sister papers are surveying residents to assess their feelings on community safety. This survey lets you speak out on community safety, homelessness, home invasions, self-defense, and more. The survey is short, and will only take less than five minutes.

Results will be published in a future paper. Be sure to have your say before the survey closes.

The survey can be accessed at https://www.surveyhero.com/c/rwqakgmp or by scanning the attached QR code.

tillsonburgpost.com

Local MPs raise concerns about deficit spending in budget

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Local MPs noted the recent federal budget lacked cost-of-living relief while pushing debt to record levels.

Announced on Nov. 5, the budget titled "Masters of Our Destiny" brought a variety of changes through $542 billion in total spending (an 8.9 per cent increase), and a deficit of $62.3 billion. The deficit increased from $39.3 billion in 2025-26. All deficits are added to the long-term debt, on which interest is paid.

Other budget highlights were:

• A change in the tax filing date to May 15. This is an extension for individuals, but a shorter deadline for the self-employed.

• Proposing to eliminate the need to transfer RRSPs into RRIFs at the age of 71.

• A 50 per cent top-up to the Canada Groceries and Essentials Benefit

• Spending $29 billion over 10 years to eliminate homelessness.

• Increasing defence spending.

Oxford MP Arpan Khanna said Canadians were hoping for some relief when it comes to the cost of living, including the price at the pumps, and the cost of housing and food, something he said didn't happen, despite an increase in deficit spending.

"That means more taxes and debt interest payments in the future. Carney talks about being a great fiscal manager but he's blown by his own fiscal anchors," he said.

He added the increased deficit will add $6,000 in debt for the average family of four, and the biggest line in the budget is debt interest payments.

"We're paying more on that than we are for health care payments to the provinces. When people ask me why it's important to have balanced budgets and strong fiscal management, I tell them it's because then we can invest in things that really matter to Canadians."

Norfolk MP Leslyn Lewis was concerned about the cost of the debt for future generations, and pointed out by 2031, the government will spend $17 billion more servicing its debt than it provides in health care transfers to provinces and territories.

"I'm concerned that no matter how the prime minister divides the numbers and changes the accounting framework, Canadians will ultimately pay the bill through higher costs, inflation and taxes," she said.

Lewis also hoped for relief at the gas pumps, saying, "In a rural region where people depend on their vehicles to get to work, take their children to appointments and access basic services, fuel costs have a particularly significant impact."

Elgin-St. Thomas-London South MP Andrew Lawton agreed increased debt is impacting affordability.

"This growing debt burden has serious consequences for the number one issue affecting our local communities: affordability," he said. "While Canadians continue to struggle with the rising cost of groceries, housing, and transportation, the government's reckless borrowing today means even higher costs tomorrow."

Khanna explained that when the country spends $80 billion to pay interest to foreign bondholders every year, that money would be better spent in local communities on new hospitals, doctors, and rec centers, but we aren't seeing that. He added that other Conservative asks were ignored.

"We asked the government to take taxes off fuel. They didn't do that. We talked about cutting waste. There is $150 billion worth of waste they could have cut from the number of consultants, foreign aid, and other problematic spending the Liberals have had, yet they kept all of that in place."

Khanna said recent figures show 2.5 million Canadians are being forced to visit food banks monthly, while many parents are reducing portion sizes or skipping meals so their kids can eat. He said that tells people everything they need to know about Canada's economy.

"The other thing the budget released was immigration numbers. Carney promised he would get the file under control, but he's going to add record numbers going forward. Canadians were looking for this budget to be a strong plan to return some prosperity to our country, but unfortunately, they missed the mark."

Lawton said new immigrants could reach 654,000 in one year, "despite ongoing housing shortages, rising unemployment, and increasing pressure on healthcare and public services."

Lewis was disappointed there was nothing in the federal budget for the agriculture community.

"Farmers and small businesses need policies that encourage investment, succession planning and growth, not additional costs and barriers," she said.

- With notes from Lee Griffi

High energy costs having an impact on farmers

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

She estimated harvest to be about a third done in Oxford County and a little less in Norfolk.

"The quality of the crop looks okay," she said. "There are some pockets of vomitoxin, which is a concern for the feed corn."

Vomitoxin develops when the crop stays too wet in the field during flowering. Vermeersch noted weather was variable across the area earlier in the summer, with thunderstorms varying from road to road.

"Every farm got a different amount of rain," she said.

Susan Blundell, director of communications for the grain producers, said corn prices on Nov. 6 were down about three per cent from a year earlier at $5.62 per bushel. Soybeans averaged $15.37 per bushel, up about 2.5 percent from a year earlier. All prices were Ontario elevator bids.

"This year, good yields are being offset by relatively flat prices and higher input costs," Blundell said, adding it's early to get a total picture of yields.

Vermeersch also raised concerns about input costs, particularly energy costs. Diesel fuel was at an all-time high this summer, and lubricants, oil and propane were also up in price.

GFO completed a three-year study on the end use of the province's corn and soybeans. It found that Ontario corn was used for animal feed (39 per cent), ethanol and industrial uses (33 per cent), food (15 per cent), and exports (13 per cent). If distillers' grains from ethanol production are included, feed use rises to 53 per cent. For soybeans, the breakdown was exports (54 per cent), domestic crushing into meal and oil (37 per cent), and seed and on-farm use (9 per cent).

EDITORIAL

Remembrance Day is about loss

Yesterday, many Tillsonburg residents braved the weather to line Broadway in front of the cenotaph for the annual Remembrance Day ceremony. Today, they move on, focused on Black Friday deals and Christmas shopping.

Yet, some do not move on so easily, and historically many struggled to move on after serving their country.

Remembrance Day pays tribute to those who fought, and the thousands who died, for Canada in the First World War, Second World War, Korea, and Afghanistan. In the First World War, 66,000 Canadians lost their lives. Not 20 years later, global conflict arose again, and another 45,000 Canadians made the ultimate sacrifice.

The numbers are even more staggering, though, as many who returned home did so with injuries and memories forever scarred by what they saw in these conflicts. What we now call PTSD was common for decades among those who served, those who woke with nightmares of their time serving the country.

One of the worst examples of war's impact was seen in the First World War, when 801 soldiers of the Newfoundland Regiment went into battle at Beaumont-Hamel. By day's end, only 68 weren't dead or wounded. Every community on the island was impacted.

Numbers in the Second World War are even more colossal. Estimates are that worldwide 60 to 75 million people died, including military personnel, civilians, and deaths from disease and famine. That was three per cent of the global population at the time.

Today, thankfully, the majority of us don't know the tremendous sense of loss associated with the death of a young child, or sibling, at the hands of a foreign foe in battles across the globe. We also don't understand what it is to live with someone who suffers from PTSD.

Yet, halfway around the world, the war in Ukraine continues as casualties mount. Estimates are more than 500,000 deaths, and another million casualties on the Russian side, and about 560,000 total Ukrainian casualties and losses.

There are growing concerns in NATO governments that the war will spread. While that conflict, like others of the past, is driven by foreign leaders' expansionist agendas, it raises the question: have they forgotten the sacrifices of the past, or don't they care?

To ordinary citizens who ultimately pay the price of war, we continue to pay tribute to losses of the past, and hope global conflict won't return.



Chipmunk. (CHES SULKOWSKI PHOTO)

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Untold stories ...a heavy burden to bear



WRITER'S CORNER

NORMA COLLIS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

I'm sure that most of us have memories of older adults who were a part of our childhood. I mean, adults who were not relatives, but individuals who lived in our neighbourhood. These people may not have even realized that they were having an impact on our little part of the world and that they were giving us a lifetime of memories.

My early childhood was spent in a neighbourhood that was inhabited by older, retired people. There were no children living in the area, except when grandchildren came to visit. All our backyards were connected. There was not a fence to be seen. I was three years old and we had just moved into our house, when I wandered across two other back yards, fascinated by the laundry that a lady was hanging out. Her border collie dog was supervising this domestic task when he spotted me toddling into his yard. He gently took hold of the hem of my dress and proceeded to "herd" me back to my own yard.

My mother, who had been concentrating on hanging out our own family laundry, looked up to see her youngest child in what appeared to be the jaws of an enormous dog. The magnificent "beast" calmly returned me to my mother's side and then went back to his job of supervising his owner.

The house immediately beside ours was the family home of three spinster sisters. The oldest sister had stayed at home and had cared for their elderly parents until they both passed away. The middle sister was a registered nurse and had served in a large hospital in London, England, during the war. The youngest sister graduated from university with a degree in languages. She worked from home as an interpreter for several large companies who did business around the world. She seemed to always be working in her room on her various translation assignments, but the other two sisters were welcoming and found time to read to me whenever I turned up at their door.

One time, I was quite sick with tonsilitis. The sister who was the nurse turned up at our front door, dressed in her pristine and very impressive nursing outfit. I remember looking up through my feverish eyes, to see a tall person hovering over me. Her high starched cap added to her height. Her crowning glory though was the long navy wool cape, complete with polished brass buttons that she wore over her heavily starched white dress and apron. She was very impressive, and a little bit scary.

Reflecting on her visit after my health returned, I decided that it was worth all the pain and suffering of infected tonsils, just to get a personalized visit from such a personage.

Nowadays, I would have been whisked off to the doctor or the hospital emergency ward. Back then, there was no OHIP, and each visit to a doctor meant an unexpected expense for a family. Her visit and diagnosis was most welcome.

A few years later, I tried to ask the good sister about her time nursing during the blitz in London during the Second World War. She did not want to talk about it and quickly changed the subject.

When I expressed my puzzlement about this to my father, he gently explained that she had told him that she was at work one evening when a wing of the hospital was bombed. Fortunately, it was not the area where she was working. However, it was the section where her fiancé, who was a doctor, was working. He was killed, as were many other patients and staff.

That story was the beginning of my realization that most people who were involved in the war effort, never ever talked about their experiences.

My father-in-law, who served overseas in the 48th Highlanders, would tell us funny stories about some of the antics that he and his buddies got up to, but the stories stopped there.

One time, my husband asked him if he ever kept in touch with all his war time friends. There was a long pause and then in a very quiet voice, my father-in-law said, "I was the only one who made it home."

Each Remembrance Day, during the moment of silence, I tearfully remember him and all those high-spirited young men, who never ever returned to their life in Canada.

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

Veteran's diary retells the horrors of the First World War

MUSEUM MUSINGS

KATHLEEN WATKIN

Culture and Heritage Program Coordinator, Annandale National Historic Site

With Remembrance Day approaching, we take time to remember the brave men and women who served our country and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. In this sombre time, we continue to remember the consequences of war, wear poppies, gather at the cenotaph, and observe the moment of silence.

This is a task that Canadians bear with the utmost dignity and respect, but sometimes it can be difficult to fully comprehend the realities of war, especially if we look back to World War One, which was more than a century ago.

Jerred (Jerry) Mansfield's (1893-1985) wartime journals offer a glimpse into the experiences of Canadian soldiers during the "War to End All Wars." Born in Norfolk County, Mansfield enlisted at age 23 in 1916. He served overseas in France and Belgium. Throughout his service, he recorded his experiences, creating a remarkable account of the conflict. When the war ended, Mansfield settled in Tillsonburg with his wife, Cenoe, and together they transcribed and edited his trench journals into a full diary.

Mansfield's diary is frank, descriptive, and does not spare the reader the graphic conditions he experienced firsthand. While on an ammunition restock run near Ypres, Belgium, Mansfield's group came under bombardment. He wrote:

The "Brush Road" had been once a good stone road but it had been blown off the face of the map by every kind of shell that would do the job. Nothing remained to show that there had ever been a good road there. It was bottomless, and for a mile and a half up to Gravenstafel Ridge thousands of bundles of brush had been laid down to form a bottom and this in turn had been systematically blown to bits. It was a narrow road at the best and there was not less than three lines of traffic trying to pass up and down. To get off the road meant disaster, a loaded horse would simply sink into the mud and the chances of getting it out were about one in 10. The mud cannot be described; it was awful. It was a gigantic, quaking, seething slimy "Hell" and yet it was our salvation. It was being heavily shelled up ahead and it was working down our way. We could only go a few yards and stop until the line moved on ahead again as the gap closed up caused by the shells.

Then it struck us, great howling screeching shells that tore gaps in that line of men and animals. Gaping holes suddenly appeared in the road and fields; geysers of smoke and earth shot high into the air and the roadsides were strewn with the remains of what had once been men. Bodies without heads and legs were mingled with crippled and dying horses screaming in agony and shattered equipment was dumped in heaps everywhere. The noise was beyond description, almost beyond conception. It was like a close clap of thunder which seemed to split your brain pan and your head throbbed from the sound. The ground heaved and shuddered beneath our feet and the very atmosphere palpitated to the great detonations. The howl of shells passing over head gave us the feeling that the sky was falling. Compared it the roar of cannon at Waterloo must have sounded like the popping of fire crackers.

Drivers cursed and tugging on their lead reins hurried the faster, while some silently took their turns knowing there was no use in hurrying. I felt white and very sick but was not exactly afraid of getting killed. I would have welcomed that to being mangled or badly wounded. It seemed that hell could hold no horrors to what I had seen in that cyclone of shot and shell.

This passage is difficult to read, but that is precisely why it remains important. It reminds us that the freedoms and security we enjoy today were not won without cost.

Mansfield's diary also reveals the humanity that endured amid the chaos. In one memorable entry, while fleeing incoming shells, he sought refuge inside an open crypt, later remarking that the company he found there "did not bother me in the least."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Jerred Mansfield on leave in Scotland in 1918.

Remembrance Day asks us to remember not only victories and military accomplishments, but also the people who served and the blessing of peace for which they fought. It reminds us to be grateful for the freedom we often take for granted. Mansfield survived the war and returned home, but many of those who stood with him did not. More than a century later, his words still speak to us, reminding us why we must never forget.

Lest we forget.

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Tillsonburg POST

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6. Newspapers strengthen communities
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8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

Project Safe Haul concludes with strong focus on commercial vehicle safety

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), working alongside transportation and enforcement partners, has concluded Project Safe Haul, a focused commercial motor vehicle safety initiative conducted across West Region between Oct.13, and Nov. 1.

During the campaign, officers and inspectors participated in 22 enforcement blitzes throughout the region, completing 325 commercial vehicle inspections. As a result of these inspections, 119 vehicles were placed out of service for safety-related defects and 266 charges were laid.

Project Safe Haul is designed to improve road safety by identifying unsafe commercial vehicles, addressing regulatory non-compliance, and ensuring that drivers, carriers, and equipment operating on Ontario roadways meet established safety standards.

The OPP would like to thank the many professional commercial vehicle drivers and carriers who continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to road safety every day. The overwhelming majority of drivers recognize the importance of proper vehicle maintenance, pre-trip inspections, hours of service compliance, and safe operating practices. Their dedication helps keep Ontario's highways safe for all road users.

Road safety remains a shared responsibility. The OPP encourages all commercial vehicle operators and carriers to continue prioritizing safety, ensuring vehicles are properly maintained, and addressing mechanical concerns before they become a risk to the travelling public.

"Project Safe Haul reinforces the importance of compliance and proactive vehicle maintenance. While enforcement remains an important tool, we also recognize and appreciate the many drivers and carriers who consistently operate safely and professionally. Their commitment contributes significantly to safer roads across Ontario," said Staff Sergeant Tara Bolstad, West Region OPP Traffic Safety and Marine.

The OPP remains committed to reducing collisions, preventing injuries, and promoting commercial vehicle safety through ongoing education, enforcement, and partnership initiatives.

Driver charged with operation while impaired by drugs

Police charge a driver with impaired driving after locating a vehicle stuck on a curb.

On Wednesday, Nov. 4, at approximately 9:30 p.m., members of the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) observed a vehicle stuck on a curb on Lisgar Avenue, in the Town of Tillsonburg.

As a result of the investigation, Francis Rourke, a 70-year-old resident of Woodstock, was charged with Operation While Impaired by Drug and Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking

The accused has been released from custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice, in Woodstock, on Dec. 15.

Police investigate threats incident at Tillsonburg high school

Members of the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have concluded an investigation at a school in the Town of Tillsonburg.

On Wednesday, Nov. 4, at approximately 1:30 p.m., officers responded to a school on Glendale Drive, located in Tillsonburg, following a report of a threats-related incident.

As a result of the investigation, a 14-year-old youth from Tillsonburg, was charged with Uttering Threats.

The accused, whose identity is protected under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Woodstock, at a later date.



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Ontario investing in life-saving surgeries

The Ontario government is investing $500,600 in Oxford to improve access to life-saving surgical procedures at Woodstock Hospital and Rural Roads Health Services hospitals in Tillsonburg and Ingersoll. This is part of a provincewide investment of $381 million annually, as part of a four-per-cent increase in hospital funding.

"This funding will help Woodstock Hospital and Rural Roads Health Services provide more life-saving surgeries and reduce wait times for patients," said Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford. "People need to know they can get the care they need, when they need it, close to home. This investment will help our local hospitals continue to provide that care."

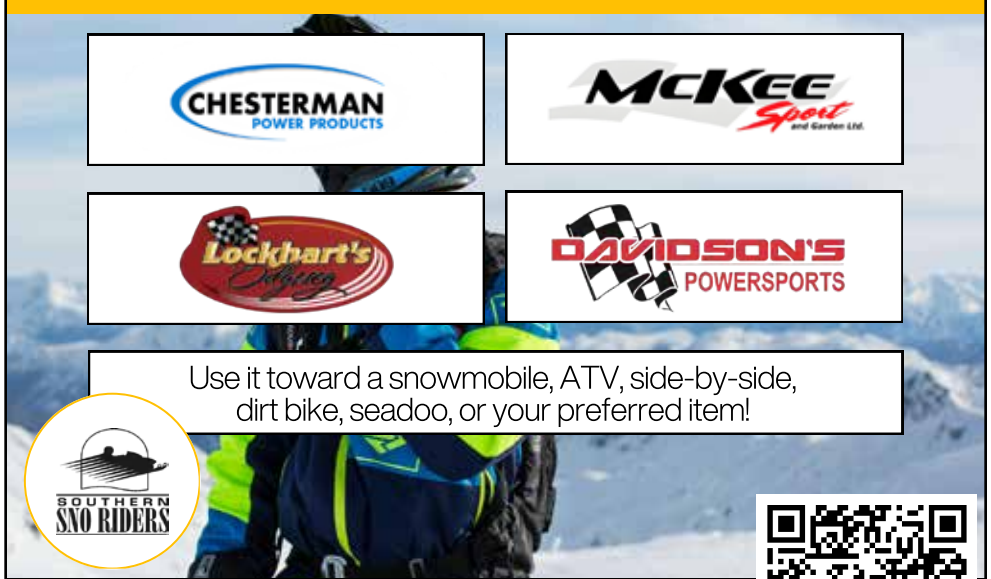
This investment is part of the more than $1.1 billion in additional hospital funding for 2026-27, continuing Ontario's historic investment in hospitals for a fourth consecutive year. It includes $331 million in base funding to update funding rates for select volume-funded programs and up to $50 million in one-time funding to reduce wait times for select globally-funded programs in the hospital sector.

Rural Roads Health Services will receive $24,100 for volume-funded programs and $91,500 for globally-funded programs. Woodstock Hospital will receive $249,000 for volume-funded programs and $135,800 for globally-funded programs.

"Rural Roads Health Services is grateful to have received $24,100 for volume-funded programs and $91,500 for globally-funded programs as an investment in provision of care close to home," said Nadia Facca, CEO/President of Rural Roads Health Services.

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Notices

Overnight Parking Restrictions Begin November 15



Residents are reminded that overnight parking restrictions will be in effect across Tillsonburg from **November 15 through March 31**. During this period, on-street parking is not permitted overnight to allow snowplows and winter maintenance vehicles to safely and efficiently clear roads. Help keep streets safe and accessible this winter by ensuring vehicles are parked off the road overnight.

Don't Forget About Fall Leaf Collection!



The Town's annual Loose Leaf Collection Program is underway. Place leaves at the curb and leave them out until collected, ensuring piles contain leaves only and are kept clear of signs, hydrants, mailboxes, and other roadside infrastructure.

To help keep everyone safe and collections running smoothly, please do not stop or approach collection crews while they are working.

Leaves, brush, and other yard waste can also be dropped off at the Transfer Station (50 Newell Rd.). For collection-related inquiries, contact the Customer Service Centre.

Public Notice: Proposed Surplus Lands on Lincoln Street



The Town of Tillsonburg is providing notice of its intent to declare a portion of the Lincoln Street Right-of-Way surplus to municipal needs at the November 23, 2026 Council meeting. The lands consist of an approximately 8-metre (28-foot) wide strip along the south side of Lincoln Street and, if approved, may be sold to the adjacent property owner subject to final Council approval. Members of the public with questions or concerns are encouraged to bring them forward before or at the Council meeting. For more information, visit **tillsonburg.ca/news.**

Gibson House Dock Construction



The Gibson House dock will be closed beginning November 9 for replacement work. Visitors should be aware that parking restrictions will also be in place in the adjacent lot during construction. The project is expected to be completed within approximately two weeks, weather permitting.

Hardy Avenue Asphalt Improvements



As part of the Town's 2026 Asphalt Maintenance Program, Hardy Avenue will undergo asphalt milling and resurfacing from the Community Centre access road to Sanders Street. Construction is scheduled to begin the week of November 9 and is expected to be completed by November 27, weather permitting.

During construction, portions of Hardy Avenue will be closed to public traffic and signed detours will be in place. The Community Centre access intersection and public parking areas will remain open; however, access to the Lions Den and South Pool entrances will be temporarily unavailable during road closures.

For more information, visit **tillsonburg.ca/news.**

Culture Corner

"Oh Kitschy Tree!"- Ornament Contest



The search is on for the kitschiest Christmas ornament!

From **November 2-25**, unleash your creativity and craft the most over-the-top holiday decoration you can imagine. Glitter, tinsel, pom-poms, and googly eyes are highly encouraged. The winning creation will earn a Golden Glue Gun Trophy and ultimate bragging rights!

Kitschy Christmas Ornament Workshop



Add a little extra sparkle to your holiday season at the Kitschy Christmas Ornament Workshop on **November 18**. Create your own fun and festive ornament inspired by the bold, bright, and nostalgic spirit of a kitschy Christmas. Whether you're a seasoned crafter or just looking for a creative night out, this workshop is sure to be filled with holiday cheer.

Times: 1:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.
Cost: $30 (taxes included)
Who: All ages welcome!

Christmas Open House & A Kitschy Christmas



Kick off the holiday season at 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.

Active Living & Learning Opportunities

Community Swim | November 27



Looking for a fun way to spend your Friday evening? Join us for a Community Swim on Friday, November 27, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Enjoy a relaxing swim, spend time with friends and family, and make the most of the pool during this special evening swim session. All ages are welcome!

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!

No Drop-In Swimming November 22



Please note that drop-in aquatic programs will be cancelled on Saturday, November 22 to accommodate National Lifeguard training and recertification courses. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to welcoming swimmers back during regular program hours.

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Building community and connection at the Aging Well Road Show

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Correspondent

If you're looking for a destination to enhance your country drive, searching for a unique gift or a new creative adventure, you'll want to embrace the Oxford Handcrafted Trail as your essential guide.

Funded in part by the Ontario Ministry of Rural Affairs, this new tourism trail offers an opportunity to discover local artisans, handmade products and creative experiences. The goal is to celebrate the region's diverse maker community. It's an opportunity to meet artisans, explore studios and shops, and gain firsthand experience in the handmade arts. (tourismoxford.ca)

The trail features trip itineraries with designated stops, connecting handcrafted experiences in close proximity to one another that can be accomplished in a single day. Tillsonburg residents who want to explore closer to home can explore the trail by neighbourhood.

"In Tillsonburg this would include architecture, pottery, the visual arts, culinary, fibre arts and quilting," Oxford County Tourism Manager Meredith Maywood said. "All of these mediums are represented on the trail in Tillsonburg. Visitors can also look for events and classes in town and plan a trip around it."

You can explore many other destinations throughout Oxford County by neighborhood, create your own adventure, or delve into a particular medium.

Curated itineraries by medium include: kiln; canvas and the creative arts; arts cooperatives and galleries; sculpt; shop local art; meals and murals; savour and settle in; stories in every stitch; botanicals and bites; brick, beam and beauty; paper and prose.

"We're getting ready to load maps for the 'Explore by Medium' experiences," Maywood said. "We want it to be easy for people to get out and explore the region."

The response so far has been fantastic, with 40 package requests on the first day, and high engagement on social media and the website. The Oxford Handcrafted Trail opened in September, but will be an ongoing, year-round endeavor.

"There are over 300 events every year in handcrafted venues and they're primarily indoors," Maywood said. "It tends to pick up after the summer season. Some people like to give the gift of a creative experience. A group of friends with similar interests can spend a day together learning something new."

Tillsonburg's Cherished Pieces, for example, offers regular upscale quilting retreats at Elmhurst Inn and Spa, and a variety of workshops and classes here in town.



(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)

OCL Programming and Outreach Librarian Meagan Brennan was at the Aging Well Road Show to share the wide range of items available to borrow with your library card, including sports equipment, kitchen gadgets and musical instruments.

Maywood has worked in tourism since 2014 and has explored many handcrafted arts herself. After meeting so many local creatives, she was inspired to share the wealth. Originally, the idea came from celebrating the story of woodworking in Oxford County.

"Through that process, a lightbulb went off realizing all handcrafted artists and their stories could be celebrated through a diverse trail celebrating the Handcrafted Arts. It's my dream to see people have a thriving career in the creative economy, allowing more artists to make a living sharing what they love, and cultural organizations to have increased attendance and support," Maywood said. "There is an amazing maker culture here, now and historically. We have so many stories in all mediums. There's a lot for the generally curious to explore."

CONTINUED TO PAGE 11

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Building community and connection at the Aging Well Road Show

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

The tourism trail will benefit more than just the makers in their individual communities.

"People come to the area and are learning about a new destination," Maywood said. "They develop an affection for it; they build a relationship with a town. We hope it's a lifelong friendship. Visitors and residents having a stronger appreciation of the handcrafted arts and the attention to detail and care that go into making them can lead to more people signing up for artisan classes, people purchasing local handcrafted items that speak to them, and more visitation to Oxford County."

In Tillsonburg, people may be introduced to destinations like the Station Arts Centre. Executive Director and Curator Tabitha Verbuyst expressed her enthusiasm about the Oxford Handcrafted Trail and its potential impact.

"Being a part of this trail also brings in new ways to explore Oxford County as a whole; visitors and locals are provided with the tools and resources to explore places in their backyard they may not have known about before, which is another valuable component and really broadens the tourism experience," Verbuyst said. "I really look forward to seeing the trail continue to grow, continue to connect people with our creative hands and experiences, and continue to strengthen the cultural core of Oxford County."

You can plan your trip at TourismOxford.ca/handcrafted, but Tourism Oxford has also produced a series of zines for the Handcrafted Trail. The first zine (a self-published, niche booklet) is available at each designated destination.

Some locations also offer limited-edition covers to collect, protect and store your Oxford County travel zines. The covers feature artwork by local artists. New zine editions will be released throughout the year, including themed trip itineraries organized by medium.

Betty's Marketplace, located at 87 Broadway Street, is currently carrying both the zine and the covers. Owner and Operator Lindsay Rennie is thrilled to be included in anything that shines a light on local, handcrafted arts.

"Being in the small business scene for almost a decade now, we understand the importance and fundamental need for buying and supporting local businesses and artists," Rennie said. "Oxford County and Tillsonburg have so much to offer, and with Tourism Oxford's curated zines, they make it fun and informative to tour our beautiful county so you can find these hidden gems. With over 80 vendors just in our store, we get to showcase local talent every day, and it makes our hearts happy to know that we are keeping people's dreams alive, one sale at a time. If you haven't been in to pick up a zine yet, or don't know about the Handcrafted Trail, stop in and chat with us!"



(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)

Karin Frohmann (left) in conversation with Volunteer Firefighter Jennifer Reid at the Tillsonburg Emergency Services booth. Frohmann, who has experience serving on a Suicide Prevention Committee, was pleased to see the designated 988 number for confidential mental health support and suicide prevention.

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SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Rob Koppert, Broker of Record at Royal LePage R.E. Wood Realty, is pleased to welcome Jason Lampert as the newest member of our sales team! Having grown up in the small community of Springford, Jason has a strong appreciation for the area and the people who call it home. With seven years of experience as a self-employed professional, Jason understands the value of clear communication, reliability, and taking the time to understand each client's unique needs. Known for his strong work ethic and genuine desire to help others, Jason looks forward to building lasting relationships and guiding clients toward their real estate goals. Please join us in welcoming Jason to the team!

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Searching for Tillsonburg's lost "First Film"



OCL BOOK TALK

MATTHEW GRIFFIS
Oxford County Library

It's a good news, bad news thing. The library's been searching for a "lost" film for several months, and it seems that a copy may still exist. The bad news is that, if one does, it's in Maryland, in a building 40 times larger than an aircraft hangar. Naturally, I'd rather find a copy a little closer to home than that. The good news is, you can help us find it.

What's the film?

In June I was reading John Cooper's "Tillsonburg: A History" for an overview of Tillsonburg's early cinemas, and the book mentioned a film that Ford Motors made here in the 1920s. The film was an "educational short" about a type of motorized fire truck that the Lorne Tractor Co. of Tillsonburg manufactured from 1922 to 1927.

Ford shot the film here, casting locals and using downtown locations. Apparently, this was the first motion picture footage of Tillsonburg ever captured. But Cooper's note was brief; it offered no major details about the film, not even a title. In fact, Cooper mentions the film only because one of our downtown cinemas screened it in 1924. No other books in our collection mention it.

So, to the library's microfilm collection I went, where I found original news articles about the film's screening at the old White Star Theatre. Eventually, I found earlier articles about the film's production, and soon it became clear why Ford had wanted to make a film about another company's trucks. Lorne built the fire trucks under its own brand, but Ford supplied their chassis. So, these trucks were a kind of collaboration between the companies, and demand for them had been booming in Ontario and parts of the US.

Before long, I'd uncovered the film's full backstory. Titled "The Lorne Fire Truck In Action", the film was shot by Edward Flickinger, then the head of Ford's motion picture division, which made hundreds of silent shorts to screen at theatres, schools, and civic halls.

Flickinger completed "The Lorne Fire Truck In Action" in one afternoon, on Jan. 21, 1924. According to contemporary reports, the film depicts three Boy Scouts who spot a fire in a Broadway garage and report it to the local fire chief. The chief sounds an alarm before a Lorne-Ford fire truck comes to the rescue.

We see the old town hall, which in the 1920s housed our fire department; we also see the market square and Pettman's Garage at 201 Broadway, now Margarets Fernlea Flowers & Gifts. Other parts of the film show fire trucks being assembled at the Lorne plant at the northeast corner of Broadway, and what is now Bridge Street. But more exciting, perhaps, are the film's "stars". The scouts were real members of the First Presbyterian Church troop: Bob Rogers, Bob Christie, and future police chief Roy Corbett. The fire chief was played by Theodore Young, who was the town's fire chief in the early 1920s.

I've no doubt that other locals appear, but for now their faces have been lost to time. I also suspect that the film shows more locations than those I've mentioned. If Flickinger shot primarily around the market square, how could he have not also captured the shoe factory, the Arlington Hotel, or even the old Carnegie library? If we can find a copy of this film, we'll know. We'll also have recovered an important piece of Tillsonburg's visual heritage.

And even if the film doesn't show quite that much, a copy for Tillsonburg is worth having. The Tillsonburg Museum hasn't a copy, nor does the Oxford County Archives, nor does any online archive or video database. For now, our only hope is that big building in Maryland: the US National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), where in 1969 Ford discharged what was left of its film library. But NARA's catalogues have been of little help to us, and NARA staff won't physically check each box of a collection that large. I must do it, they've told me, or the library can hire someone near NARA to do it. But for now, neither option is feasible.

Which brings me to why I'm sharing this unfinished story with you. Has anyone out there ever seen a copy of this film? Or can anyone suggest where a copy might exist? I'm eager to know. We've reached out to other libraries and archives across Ontario, but still no extant copy has materialized. Lorne-Ford fire trucks enjoy a small but dedicated following among Ontario's local history enthusiasts; so, I remain optimistic that a copy survives somewhere closer than Maryland. If you have any tips that could help us, please send them to localhistory@ocl.net and we thank you in advance.

Matthew Griffis is the Digital Literacy and Local History Technician at Oxford County Library's Tillsonburg Branch.

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Junior boys volleyball 'Battle of 19' features unwelcome detour

JEFF TRIBE
Post Correspondent

The Tillsonburg Gemini junior boys' volleyball 'Battle of '19' included an unwelcome detour from an intended Thames Valley Regional Athletics (TVRA) Southeast semi-final berth.

"We had such a phenomenal season," said coach Melissa Jacko of a 3-2 setback to the visiting Ingersoll DCI Blue Bombers Thursday, Nov. 5 inside Glendale's community gym. "We just couldn't clinch the win."

The teams entered the TVRA quarter-final matchup with identical 5-3 won-lost records. The Gemini earned the right to host based on a five-set come-from-behind 25-19, 24-26, 19-25, 25-20, 15-9 victory in their regular season encounter Thursday, Oct. 1 in Tillsonburg.

The Blue Bombers turned the tables in their post-season matchup. A Tillsonburg squad missing several players and therefore battling a short bench lost the first set but then won the next two. IDCI responded by taking the fourth to set up a deciding sprint to 15. In that fifth and final set, the Bombers got off to a quick six-point lead which the Gemini ultimately proved unable to recover from.

"They had a good server in and we just couldn't get on attack," said coach Jacko.

Disappointment at not advancing to semis was tempered by memories of a strong season featuring significant growth both individually and as a team, resulting in five match victories.

The graduating core will be young seniors next season said Jacko, anticipating their ongoing development back to contending when they reach Grade 12.

"I hope they all stay together," she concluded. "Still, lots of learning ahead of them, but they've got a lot of potential."

The senior Gemini volleyball boys exited TVRA playoffs two days earlier via a 24-26, 25-23, 16-20, 20-25 preliminary round loss to the Woodstock CI Red Devils, in Woodstock.

"We did give them a good match," said coach Krista Ferguson. "It really could have gone either way."

Hunter Whittington in particular had a great outing in his high school volleyball finale, credited the coach.

"It was kind of a win for me to see him play as well as he can."

A limited roster complicating full practices combined with a lack of OVA (Ontario Volleyball Association) experience meant a squad of good athletes was in general, in tough against TVRA competition.

"It really impressed me how they played up to the level of other teams," said Ferguson, citing a set victory over the 7-1 Woodstock St. Mary's Warriors. "It just proved we could play with those kids."

More victories would have been welcome. However, Ferguson looked back on a competitive season working with quality, respectful athletes as a positive.

"It was always fun because they're great kids."

The Gemini girls' basketball teams' seasons also came to an end during the week. The seniors opened with a Monday, Nov. 2 regular season loss to the 8-0 St. Thomas St. Joe's Rams at home, dropping a 49-29 TVRA preliminary round playoff decision to the Lord Dorchester Beavers on the road the following day.

The Gemini juniors also fell victim to Dorchester, falling by a narrow three-point margin (42-39) in their home playoff preliminary Tuesday, Nov. 3.

"It was a tough loss," said coach Kait Buchner. "A couple of missed opportunities at the basket."

Admittedly, it wasn't the way the Gemini wanted a 2026 TVRA Southeast campaign featuring three regular season victories to end.

"But I am proud of the team's development," Buchner concluded. "And I am excited for what's to come next year."



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)
Tillsonburg Gemini players guard against the St. Thomas St. Joe's Rams offence during a game in Tillsonburg on Nov. 2. Tillsonburg lost the game 49-29.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)
The senior Gemini's Sophia Monsere drives past a St. Joe's defender en route to the basket in a game between the two teams on Monday at Glendale.

Deadlock continues at the top of Club Oxford's A Division

JEFF GWYN

Post Contributor

The stalemate at the top of Club Oxford's A Division continues with both of the leaders taking their second loss of the season. B-Line Trucking remains at the top of B Division.

November 1

A Division

Fody's 3, ReMax 0

Fody's found their game tonight. They were able to take advantage of their own chances and kept a strong ReMax off the board. ReMax had some good rush chances but couldn't find the back of the net in this one.

Christian Clifford had three points for Fody's. Lawson Cumming had the shutout.

Source 5, Health Hut 3

Source had both lines going tonight and were able to make some great breakout passes. Health Hut played a solid game but couldn't get a goal as they pushed hard late in the game.

Justin Rowles had two points for Source. Gus Ford had two points for Health Hut.

Royal LePage 5, Birds 3

Royal LePage jumped out to a strong lead early and kept Birds from getting their usual chances. A strong effort against the top team. Birds was a step behind to start but did make a comeback to make it interesting late.

Gus Ford had five points for Royal LePage. Stephan Coulombe had two goals for Birds.

B Division

Airmount 4, JP Mortgages 0

Airmount found their game in this one. They were dangerous every shift and kept pressuring all game. JP Mortgages couldn't get much going tonight. An off game for their team chemistry.

Kyle Bizier had two points for Airmount. Dawson Bizier had the shutout.

Carquest 3, RND 1

Carquest had a very balanced game where they focused on the basics. A clean game defensively. RND had some chances but couldn't cash in tonight. A late push broke the shutout bid by Carquest.

Dana Kobayashi had a goal for Carquest. Nick Brotz had a goal for RND.

B-Line 6, Glass 1

B-Line keeps their offence pushing in this one. They are dangerous on every line and created a lot of chances tonight. Glass jumped out early but couldn't stop B-Line. While they did have a few times they pressured, not much ended with quality chances.

Nino Notarandrea had three points for B-Line. Craig Robb had a goal for Glass.

November 4

B Division

JP Mortgages 3, RND 0

JP Mortgages played a tough game all night. They took advantage of their chances and clogged the middle of the ice defensively. RND did get some chances in close but couldn't get the bounces. They lost some focus in the second period but still pushed until the end.

Heinrich Klassen had a goal for JP Mortgages. Tom Huberty had the shutout.

Carquest 2, B-Line 2

Carquest looked very good until late in the second. They were able to force B-Line in their own zone and that led to some great chances. B-Line didn't give up even though they were in unfamiliar scoreboard territory. A strong push late in the game helped them earn a point.

Devon McDonald had two points for Carquest. Colton Bratty had two assists for B-Line.

Glass 3, Airmount 3

Glass had a good night at both ends of the ice. Some solid defence late gave them the chance to tie it up, which they did. Airmount had some good chances in close and were able to get chances by working hard. A tough late push by Glass forced the tie, but a good game all around.

Duane Nutt had a goal for Glass. Dylan Thompson had two points for Airmount.

Thunder win over Ridgetown Rebels on weekend

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Coming out fast and furious in a road game against the Ridgetown Rebels, the Thunder notched a 3-2 win

The Thunder's Liam Kidder put the first goal on the board with 8:03 left in the first, converting passes from Dylan Watson and Justin Abraham.

The Thunder earned the win in the second, scoring twice early in the period. Aiden Cloet scored single-handedly with only a minute and a half off the clock. Andrew Oosterveld took advantage of a power-play situation less than a minute later, with help from Braden Roberts and Luke Sinclair. Ridgeway finally got on the scoreboard late in the second, and added another late in the third.

This game was a penalty-filled affair, with 32 penalties issued to both teams. The Thunder had three players given major penalties and a game misconduct, compared to the Rebels four

The win gives the Thunder a 3-3 record, putting them in fourth place in the OEHL's Southern Division.

The Thunder host the Milverton Four Wheel Drives Saturday night for the annual Remembrance Day tribute game, where members of Legion Branch 153 provide a colour guard prior to the game. Game time is 8 p.m.

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ON THE BROOM

NORA PETER

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

As I write this week's column, I have been watching and enjoying the GSOC Masters from Medicine Hat Alberta.

I realize that I have renewed interest in watching and following these events mainly because my new favorite team, our own local Team King, has been playing against some of the teams involved - both Canadian and international. They have had success against them as well.

Following Team King on the Tour events, whether in person or on YouTube has introduced me to many of the new, young teams who are working on becoming the new top teams in the world. As of Nov. 2, Team King is ranked 23rd on the WTRS, the eighth Canadian on the list. They are the highest-ranked Ontario team with Mooibroek 30th and Nathan Young 34th. These rankings are based on the four best tour finishes of the season, plus 50 per cent of last season's total.

All tour events are rated according to the rankings of the participating teams, including the event which will happen in our club Nov. 19-22. The Broken Broom Tobacco Belt Cash Spiel with 18 men's and 18 women's teams from Ontario, other provinces, Europe and Asia is a very exciting event to be hosting in our little club. The public are welcome to view the games, and the club is adding some extra spectator seating for the duration of the spiel.

Put this spiel on your must-see curling calendar and come to cheer on Team King. Team King hopes that home ice and local support will give them an advantage and help them to the playoff round, and even the championship.

The Grand Slam of Curling has introduced some new rules this season which does two things- make the game more interesting and competitive, and for TV viewership, speeds up the game. The World Curling Federation has renewed its push to shorten games from 10 to 8 ends. The federation includes 78 different countries, the newest member being the United Arab Republic.

Over the last 20 years there have been repeated discussions about making all world events eight ends, but many of the longtime original members of the federation have been against this move and have been successful in keeping this change off the table. This year, however, the World Junior Men's and Women's events will be only eight ends. The European Championships chose to play eight end games as well, so this will probably keep this change open for more discussion.

Swedish curler, Nikolas Edin had a solution that might answer both sides of the discussion – play eight end games in the round robin portion of the event and play 10 ends in the playoff portion of the event. Some of the pros of the eight-end game are that the ice holds up better, you can fit in more draws, and the players will find it easier physically. It will be interesting to see if there will be changes coming before the next Olympics.

In the club there are two more bonspiels coming up. The first one, the Mixed Fall Classic, takes place on Saturday, Nov. 28. Convenors are looking forward to a full 16-team spiel with two draws of eight teams - both local and out-of-town. Check out the club website for more information. Wednesday, Dec. 2nd is the annual Community Service Bonspiel which is filling up gradually. Convenor Les Peter has sent out invites to last year's participants and has already received two brand new entries. Don't miss out on the chance to win a cash prize for your community charity or project.

Curling rocks! See you at the club!

WEEKEND QUIZ

by Jake Grant

1. How many times has Donald Trump been impeached?
2. What sport's lingo uses the term "Bonspiel"?
3. In the game of Battleship, how many hits does it take to sink the submarine?
4. Which actor bought the first Hummer made for civilian use?
5. What is the Minion's primary language called?
6. Lego originated from what country?
7. What is the tallest type of horse?
8. Which ocean does Bangladesh have direct access to?
9. In the beer world, what does the abbreviation IBU stand for?
10. Who is the "Father of Country Music"?

This week's answers are found on pg. 31

Congrats!

Congratulations to the winners of our October contest, and thanks to all our customers that participated!

WINNERS:

1st place: Ashley Boutin
2nd place: Connor McDowell
3rd place: Tina Propper



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Oxford municipalities unite to defend their right to reject new landfill proposals

LEE GRIFFI

Post Contributor

As the Ontario Government considers changes to provincial legislation for new landfills, Oxford's municipalities are asking for a commitment to maintain existing the "right to approve" for all municipalities.

Oxford County, with its local municipalities, has been working to fulfill Strategic Plan commitments to reducing waste, maximizing resource recovery, and promoting a circular economy.

"We are in agreement. Ontario should continue to explore waste management alternatives and revisit the strategy for a waste-free Ontario," said the statement, signed by all current mayors and mayors-elect.

It added that when it comes to Ontario's Proposed Actions to Address Landfill Capacity, now undergoing public consultation through the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO), all mayors and mayors-elect share a conviction that municipalities must maintain their right to approve future landfills in their communities.

The statement went on to say the message was unequivocally delivered by 150 municipalities in 2018, led by the Town of Ingersoll in Oxford County as part of the We Demand the Right campaign. Bill 197 in 2020 subsequently provided municipalities with the right to approve or deny new landfills within their own communities and if the landfill is sited within 3.5 kilometres of an adjacent municipality.

"We commend Minister Todd McCarthy for his public statement that municipalities will retain the ability to decide whether to accept a landfill in their communities. Maintaining this in legislation will continue to give Ontario's municipal governments and citizens the ability to engage with landfill proponents, and to ensure their needs are respected and addressed," the statement said.

The mayors added this right does nothing to diminish a proponent's ability to develop a fair proposal that fully considers the social, economic and environmental impacts of its operations. Amending section 17.5 of the Environmental Assessment Act, would leave municipalities without leverage or meaningful voice at the table, with little to no opportunity to negotiate the necessary terms to safeguard their communities.

"We are committed to protecting the same rights for municipalities for landfill development as those afforded to other projects that have high local impact, such as nuclear waste storage and renewable energy. This is the only way to achieve the best possible outcome for all involved."

Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy said the town supports the statement.

"Waste is at the county level, and I supported this as not having a local voice in this matter is very concerning. Anything that affects Oxford County affects Tillsonburg as well," she said. "It is important for local government to continue to have a say in landfill matters. This affects everyone in the county."

The statement added the issue is too important to Oxford County and all of Ontario for ambiguity: the right to approve must be protected.

"Oxford County municipalities will continue to collaborate with the province on this important issue. We will be working to raise awareness of the impacts of this potential legislative change and encourage the residents of Oxford and beyond to share their thoughts through the ERO process at https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/026-1056."

The provincial government is proposing to amend the Environmental Assessment Act to remove the requirement for municipal support before a proponent can submit a comprehensive environmental assessment for a new large landfill.

Under the existing rules, established through Bill 197 in 2020, a new landfill proponent must obtain support from the municipality in which the landfill would be located and an adjacent municipality if the proposed site is within 3.5 kilometres of lands with authorized residential uses in that municipality.

The province wants to remove that requirement as it is running out of landfill capacity. Only one large new landfill has been approved in the last 20 years and approximately 25 per cent of Ontario's waste is shipped to the United States.

McCarthy has suggested Ontario's landfill capacity could be exhausted within 10 years. He has also warned that U.S. tariffs on Canadian waste could accelerate the problem.

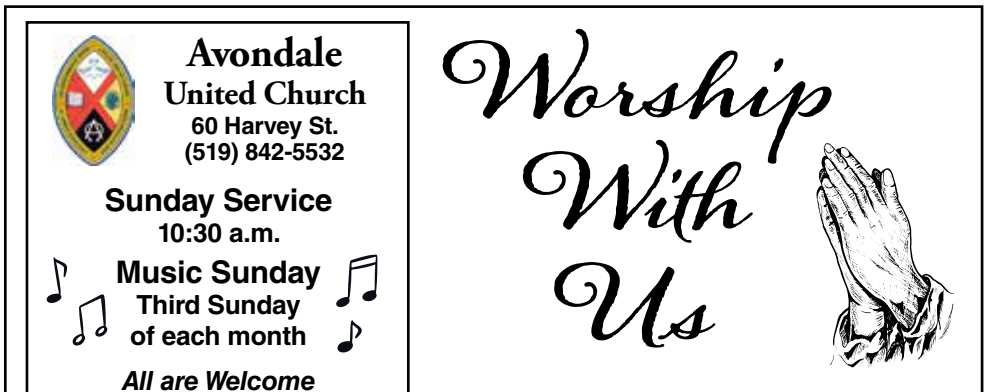


(ROBIN KRAFFT PHOTO)

The Tillsonburg Senior Centre Singers have been practicing diligently for their annual winter choir performance. The concert will be held at 45 Hardy Ave in the Senior Centre Auditorium on Nov. 24 at 1:30 pm. Tickets are $12 by advanced sale only, and are available now.







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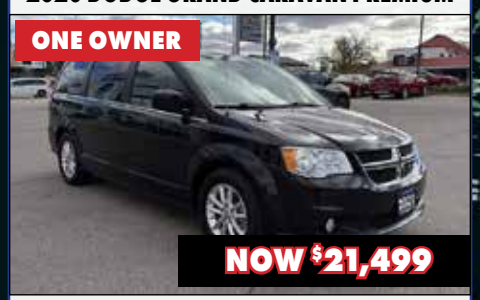
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Tour of Homes adds new twist this year

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

This year's edition of the Tour of Homes follows the pattern of past events, plus adds some new surprises.

Taking place on Nov. 21 from 4 to 8 p.m., the tour will take participants to four local homes, plus Annandale House and Garden Gate. The exact locations of the homes are a closely guarded secret until people buy their tickets, which include addresses.

"There are a couple of added stops. There will be antique cars out on display and a newly-built horse stable that will be decorated as well," said Tabitha Verbuyst, Station Arts Centre curator/executive director.

The hope is that the antique cars and stables, which are two different stops, will add to the event's draw.

Each year, the homes on the tour are different, except Annandale House and Garden Gate. Verbuyst said the volunteers who decorate rooms at Annandale House use different themes each year, and Garden Gate is always decorated on a grand scale.

She looks at the extent of the decorating as another form of creativity.

"Essentially, it's inspiring because no homes are ever the same," she said.

Speaking further about the homeowners, Verbuyst said the event couldn't happen without their contributions.

"It's a lot of work for them and they're being generous helping to put on this event," she said.

She also credited the sponsors for the event and the prize donations for participants.

"We're really hoping to push this and make it an even more memorable event," she said.

Participants will also receive 10 per cent off any purchases at Garden Gate over the weekend.

Verbuyst is aware the Santa Claus parade is the same day and pointed out that the homes on the tour are not on the parade route.

Tour of Homes tickets are $15 and must be purchased before tour day. Participants can stop in the station or order online through the station's website by paying with e-transfer. Tickets must still be picked up, though.

"The tour of homes is always exciting," Verbuyst concluded. "It brings the community together; it's festive, but it's something different."



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Although the locations in the annual Tour of Homes are kept secret, Annandale House has been a regular participant in the event. Preparing two rooms for the tour, and Christmas, are left to right: Dana Grenier, Cierrah Grenier and Laura Scott.

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Jonathan Hilliker brings a songwriter's showcase to town



MUSIC CORNER

BEN ANDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Tillsonburg musician Jonathan Hilliker is set to share the stage with J.J. Staley this Thursday, Nov. 12 for an intimate evening that will celebrate songwriting and the stories behind the songs performed.

Hilliker was born in St. Thomas, and raised in Sparta, however, he now calls Tillsonburg home. His relationship with music goes back decades beginning with an early interest in guitar that eventually grew into a passion for performing and writing his own songs. Music has always been an important outlet providing an opportunity to express himself and connect with others.

"Over the years, music has been a point in my life to express myself and share stories I have lived," Hilliker reminisces. "I first tried learning guitar around the age of eight, but I did not really start learning and getting into it until I got to high school. A friend showed me how to play Come As You Are by Nirvana, and then I could not put it down. I am mostly self-taught."

In the past, Jonathan performed a little over seven years as the lead guitarist for Long Story Straight. The band was a four-piece rock band that played shows throughout London and St. Thomas.

"I loved the time playing in the band. Playing in a band with three good friends has been one of my favourite times in life. Having the experience of recording at Fanshawe College was my favourite experience," Hilliker explained. "We recorded two different times. The first time was done the old school way reel to reel, and the second time was using ProTools. The two songs can still be found online today."

While his time with Long Story Straight eventually came to an end, he never lost his connection to music.

"Well over the last 15 years I have mostly focused on being a parent. I did start an acoustic band with a buddy in 2019 but then Covid came, and that project came to a stand-still," Hilliker said. "Nowadays I'm working on writing my own music mostly. I get more joy from writing then playing other people's music. There are a few covers I do enjoy playing though."

His upcoming Nov. 12 performance at The Copper Mug will offer something a little different from a traditional night of live music. Rather than performing separate sets, Jonathan and J.J. will share the stage for a songwriter's showcase taking turns performing original songs and giving the audience a chance to experience two different approaches to songwriting.

"J.J. and I are playing this show a little differently than most shows I have done in the past. We will share the stage together and share songs with the audience that each of us have written," Hilliker explains. "He will play one of his songs then I will play one of mine. It should be a laid-back acoustic performance with two different styles of songwriting. We are both looking forward to this show.

The two artists met this past summer after playing the Tri-County Talent Show at the Tillsonburg Fair.

Jonathan Hilliker and J.J. Staley perform at The Copper Mug in Tillsonburg on Thursday Nov. 12. The event starts at 8 p.m. with no cover charge. To find Jonathan's music online you can follow him at his official social media page at www.soundcloud.com/hilliker-647368509

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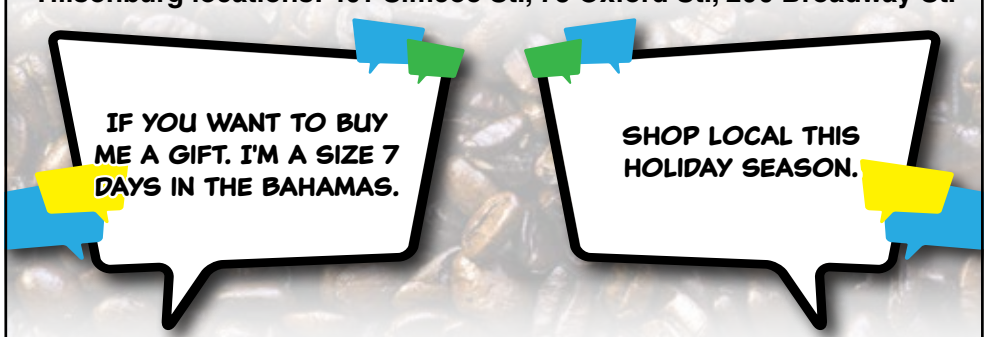


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Stationhouse Quilters display their crafts at exhibit

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

Visitors to the latest exhibit at the Station Arts Center will be met with a barrage of color and design as they enter the gallery.

The Stationhouse Quilters and Fibre Artists exhibit 'The Challenge of Colour and Design' showcases quilts the group's members have created. The exhibit is floor to ceiling and wall to wall of quilted and fibre creations.

The exhibit took members eight hours to put together, which is longer than most exhibits take to hang. The pieces in it took much, much longer to create.

The quilts range from a Christmas design with reindeer and trees, and pieces put together to form the image of a cat, to children's quilts, bags and jackets. They also make knitted and sewn items, such as pin cushions, hair scrunchies, glasses cases, and more.

"There are a lot of items that could be Christmas gifts," said Gale Connor, convenor of the quilters' group, adding that some of the quilts are for sale and some aren't.

The exhibit also contains quilted products made through its Fat Eighth Challenge. A Fat Eighth is a piece of fabric measuring 9 by 21 inches. Participants were given 10 fat eighths and had to use fabric from every piece to design a quilt, quilted bag, or other products.

Some of the quilts are made to be functional, while others are designed as wall hangings.

We like to use colour, and like to play with different fabrics," Connor said.

She pointed to a Winnie the Pooh-themed quilt, saying it would more likely be a wall hanging and that it took an entire year to finish.

"There are hundreds of pieces to put together," she added.

Stationhouse Quilters meet twice a month, once socially and once as a working meeting. Work meetings are the third Thursday of the month at the Station Arts Centre from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. The group also makes quilts for cancer patients through the Victoria's Quilts program.

The exhibit runs until Dec. 1.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Gale Connor stands in the centre of the Stationhouse Quilters' new exhibit, which is now open at the Station Arts Centre and runs until Dec. 1. Besides quilts, the exhibit includes other knit and sewn items that would make good Christmas gifts.



POPPIES ABOUND

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Volunteers hang Legion Branch 153's poppy drape at the back of the stage in the branch. The 16 by 20-foot poppy drape contains 5,153 poppies knitted and crocheted by numerous people throughout the community. In addition, many more residents donated wool or money to purchase wool for the project. Left to right are: Paul Robinson, Legion President Tom Brown, Claude Archambeault, Chris Boldy and Claude Bolduc. Prior to being hung in the Legion, the drape was on the anti-aircraft gun in front of the Legion and in St. Andrew's Church for the Remembrance Day service.

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Tillsonburg Kinsmen's Christmas gift basket fundraiser returns

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

The Tillsonburg Kinsmen's Christmas gift basket fundraiser is back and looks bigger and better.

The event launched last year to give residents a chance to purchase a Christmas gift that supports local businesses while helping the Kinsmen's community initiatives.

"We were looking for new ones to raise funds no one else was doing," said John Danbrook, one of the Kinsmen committee members working on the project. "It's the ultimate Christmas gift idea, to give corporately, or to give to friends, or the guy who blows out your driveway. It's all locally made or purchased, meaning the money stays in town."

The fundraiser went over well last year and has already doubled this year due to some corporate purchases, Danbrook reported. He noted there are many repeat customers, indicating satisfaction with the baskets.

"One of the nice things about this fundraiser is that everybody benefits," Danbrook added. "Local businesses get support, people receive a great Christmas gift, and the proceeds go right back into helping our community."

There is a larger emphasis on approaching local corporations this year, but Danbrook said the baskets have universal appeal.

"The baskets make ideal gifts for family members, friends, employees, customers, or anyone who might appreciate a selection of quality local products during the holiday season," he said.

The baskets are made exclusively of locally produced or locally sourced items. For instance, B's Honey Products, Hayes Haven Farms maple syrup, Picard's Peanuts, Schep's Bakery and Rambling Road Brewery's products are all locally produced. Some other items are purchased from local retailers, including Country Road Coffee, Coyle's Country Store, and Roulston's Pharmacy.

Committee members source the products, negotiate bulk purchases, and then involve the entire club in assembling the baskets. Three basket options are available, ranging from $55 to $100.

Beyond supporting area businesses, the fundraiser also supports the Tillsonburg Kinsmen's ongoing commitment to community service. For decades, the club has contributed countless volunteer hours and substantial financial support to projects and organizations throughout Tillsonburg and the surrounding area. Many local landmarks, including the Kinsmen Pool and Kinsmen Participark, bear the club's name for financial and labour contributions.

Along with the spring meat purchases, the club's golf tournament, and members bartending at events, the Christmas basket fundraiser is a new fundraiser.

The Kinsmen encourage residents and local businesses to consider purchasing gift baskets this Christmas season.

Additional information about basket selections, pricing, ordering, and delivery is available on the Tillsonburg Kinsmen website at https://www.tillsonburgkinsmen.com or through the accompanying QR code.

Orders must be placed by Nov. 30.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Members of the Kinsmen committee working on the Christmas basket fundraiser met recently to preview how the baskets will look. Left to right are: John Danbrook, Geoff Cork, David Lopes, Bill Irwin and Mathew Thompson.

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Kick off the holiday season at Tillsonburg's numerous markets and bazaars

ROBIN KRAFFT

Post Correspondent

If you have fond memories of visiting Christmas bazaars, you'll have plenty of opportunities to rekindle those nostalgic experiences in Tillsonburg this holiday season.

Nov. 14, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Mistletoe Magic Christmas Bazaar, organized by the Catholic Women's League of St. Mary's, will take place at St. Mary's Church and the Father Langan Parish Centre (51 Venison Street West). This is the 40th year for the event.

"Homemade baked goods always sell out as we have so many great bakers," said CWL member Anita McKay. "The penny table is 25 tickets for $5 and all prizes are generously donated by local people and local businesses. Handmade For You crafts used to be primarily knitted items, but it's expanded the last few years to homemade potpourri, handmade Christmas decor and quilts."

The Greenery Room is always a major attraction, with handmade wreaths and urns as well as unique bundled branches to take home and create on your own.

"The silent auction always has top quality items to bid on and there's a delicious lunch of homemade soup and sandwiches to enjoy, and it includes scrumptious apple squares for dessert," McKay said. "Timeless Treasures is previously-loved items that thrifters especially enjoy. All proceeds go back to the community and parish. The league supports so many local projects!"

Nov. 14, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Peace Lutheran (60 Young Street) invites you to their Christmas Bazaar where you will find home baking, cabbage rolls, crafts, a soup luncheon, canning, and gently-used Christmas décor.

"The highlight is the homemade cabbage rolls and our soup lunch," said member Corinna Sandham. "Church members have made 300 dozen cabbage rolls. It's one of the best deals around; we haven't put the price up for a few years. Our soup lunch is famous, it's what most people come for. People often comment about how beautifully decorated it is, as well."

The $8 lunch includes a homemade soup (10 – 12 crock pots with different soups to choose from) a roll, coffee or tea and homemade goodies.

Nov. 14, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Harvest Crossing (15 Harvest Avenue) has rolled out the welcome mat for their annual Aspira Holiday Market, bringing the community together to start the holiday season.

"We'll have a variety of vendors joining us, along with a special booth run by our very own residents," said Sales Advisor Alvira Khan. "It's more than just a shopping event. It's a chance for people to come in, meet our residents, experience the atmosphere of our community, and see what life at Harvest Crossing is all about. For anyone interested, we'd also be happy to offer a tour of the residence while they're here. We'd love to see members of the Tillsonburg community come out, support local vendors, and enjoy a little holiday cheer with us!"

Nov. 21, 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

At St. Paul's United Church, (88 Bidwell Street) the Frosty Fair Christmas Market has been an annual event for over 60 years. This year the market will feature handmade crafts, knitting, and baking.

"We also have greenery for making your own planter at home, as well as pre-made table arrangements and planters," said Julia Mahoney-Avery, Convenor of the Christmas Market. "Volunteers work throughout the year to make everything. The Sunday School has a table with fresh fall vegetables. We have a $2 admission. Included is coffee, tea and baked treats. We are having a Christmas Raffle of various items such as Royal Doulton figurines, gift items and crafts. The women who prepare and run this event are incredible."

Proceeds support the Sunday school, outreach programs, kids camp sponsorships, the Community Kitchen that serves food and provides clothing every Saturday, DASO, and Messy Church (a monthly family program).

Nov. 21, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

St. John's Anglican Church (46 Ridout Street West) welcomes the public to browse and savour at their Christmas Market. New and returning vendors offer jams, handmade jewellery, quilted and crocheted items, greenery, resin art, stuffed toys, scarves and more.

"A popular and crowd favourite is our famous mincemeat, homemade for over 50 years, with some of our mothers involved in this special tradition," member Tena Tobias said. "Despite its name, there's no meat in this festive blend of apples, raisins and spices! New this year is our Christmas at Granny's Attic and a books and puzzle table, offering gently used items of the like. Our popular creche displays return to the church, inviting visitors to walk through and enjoy the many different styles of creches, including new displays this year."

From delicious treats at the popular bake table to their 'Caring Hands' knitting and sewing table, there is something special for everyone. A beautiful handmade blanket made by one of the parishioners will be the prize for the lucky winner of the blanket draw.

"Lunch will be available for $12, and includes your choice of turkey salad, egg salad or ham on a croissant, along with pickles, chips, dessert and a beverage," Tobias said. "This event is made possible by our entire church congregation, who generously help with setup and the day's activities. We look forward to welcoming everyone for a day of Christmas shopping, fellowship and festive cheer."

Nov. 21, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Hickory Hills welcomes the public to their Christmas Bazaar for raffles, handcrafted items, baked goods, books, puzzles, games and a silent auction. Visitors always enjoy the unique cookie walk. Guests are invited to have lunch in the Tea Room ($10).

Nov. 21, from 6 – 8 p.m.

The annual Santa Claus Parade, organized by the Tillsonburg and Area Optimist Club, is a popular event for families and residents of all ages (downtown Tillsonburg).

Nov. 21, from 4 – 9 p.m.

The Station Arts Centre's annual Holiday Tour of Homes includes an inspirational opportunity to explore beautifully decorated homes, antique cars and thoughtfully decorated horse stables. Tickets are $15.

Dec. 5 -23, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily, Monday to Saturday

The Holiday Arts Market at the Station Arts Centre (41 Bridge Street West) is a showcase of unique items made by local artisans, including gifts, crafts and holiday décor. Choosing handmade gifts for your friends and loved ones is a great way to support local makers!

Dec. 5, from 2 – 9 p.m.

Forkin' Around's First Annual Christmas Market will take place at the Tillsonburg Senior Centre, highlighting local businesses and vendors, food and drinks, and special appearances by Santa and the Grinch.

The minds behind Forkin' Around, Chris Agro and Daniel Reintjes, have been shining a light on small businesses throughout Southwestern Ontario and they're excited to bring vendors together in one place.

"We have so many local small businesses and over the past year of doing this we have been able to connect with a lot of them and develop friendships with them," Agro said. "Our vision for the future is to make this an annual event; each year making it bigger. But our real passion and driving force for this event is the toy and food drive that we will be doing to coincide with the Christmas market. Our hopes are that people will bring a food or toy donation that day with them. We will have prizes that we are giving out. Anyone that drops off a donation will be entered into the draws, so we hope people will come out and support our community, make a donation, and then stay to check out some amazing local vendors."



United Way Oxford launches 2026 Ultimate Burger Battle

LEE GRIFFI

Post Contributor

Oxford County restaurants are heating up their grills this fall to compete for Ultimate Burger glory while raising funds for United Way Oxford.

For the third year in a row, the month-long culinary showdown will see local restaurants serving unique Ultimate Burger creations, donating $2 from each burger sold to United Way Oxford. The event kicked off on Nov. 1 and it combines great food with the power of giving back.

In November, restaurants will compete for three titles: Ultimate Burger of the Year (chosen by a panel of community Ambassadors), People's Choice (voted online), and Most Ultimate Burgers Sold.

This year's lineup features a mouth-watering mix of Platinum and Gold-level participants, including four in Tillsonburg. At the platinum level are: The Mill, Charles Dickens Pub, Brickhouse Brewpub, The Cabin at UTBC, Madmash Brewery & Restaurant, Churchy's Pub, The Copper Mug Pub, Chrissy's Catering, P.B's Fries, Boston Pizza Woodstock. Gold participants are: Boston Pizza Tillsonburg, Brunny's Sports Bar & Grill, The Pub at Norwich Ave, Louie's Pizza & Pasta

Sierra Construction is this year's signature sponsor, made possible by their generous support of this community-driven event. United Way Oxford also thanks Oxford County Cattlemen's Association for supporting local impact.

"We are so excited to be hosting Ultimate Burger Battle for its third year. We know it has been a challenging year for many local businesses, and we're incredibly grateful to have so many restaurants participating. Last year's event raised more than $20,000, and those funds made an incredible impact right here in Oxford County," said Resource Development Coordinator Megan Porter.

Tavistock's Madmash won last year's People's Choice Award with its Ultimate Jammin Burger.

Boston Pizza Tillsonburg will be serving up the The Regal Burger, which is a play on its Royal Hawaiian Pizza. It features fried prosciutto, bacon slices, an Italian cheese blend, pineapple habanero sauce, and lettuce, tomato and onion.

"It would be sweet with a little heat," was how Carl Heutinck, general manager, described the burger.

Down the street at the Copper Mug, The Smokehouse Beast will be the entry. This burger has double patties topped with smoked cheddar, crispy in-house smoked bacon, bacon jam, crispy onions, smoky BBQ and garlic mayo, all on a toasted bun.

"Daryl makes the bacon here in house, plus he made the bacon jam and the smoky BBQ and garlic mayo," said co-owner Kim Sage, continuing that cheese was cold smoked and the crispy onions were made in house. "It's made with a large imagination and a great amount of love. "

Chrissy's Catering rounds out the downtown participants, and is cooking up its Ultimate Sweety burger. This massive burger has a 10-ounce patty, with fried sweet onions, cheddar cheese, lettuce and tomato on a toasted bun.

"This classic burger will fill you up and have you come back and try for a second one," said owner Marcel Rosehart.

Down the hill from the downtown, The Mill has a local focus on its entry - the Oxford County Barnyard Burger. The recipe for this burger is Wagyu beef, Norpac peameal bacon, Noble bacon, cheddar cheese, Geerlinks Egg, Howard's maple mustard, lettuce, tomato, brioche bun.

Burger lovers can vote for their favourite burger online at www.unitedwayoxford.ca/burgerbattle. The top burger will earn the coveted People's Choice title.

Participants can also pick up the Ultimate Burger Battle Passport at participating restaurants to track their tastings. Those who try five or more burgers and return their passport to United Way Oxford will be entered for a chance to win a Burger Battle Ambassadorship for next year.

To learn more, visit www.unitedwayoxford.ca/burgerbattle or follow @unitedwayoxford and @uwburgerbattleoxford on social media.

- With files from Jeff Helsdon



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Faith Hogarth prepares to consume the Ultimate Sweetie Burger at Chrissy's Catering, which is one of the entries in the United Way Ultimate Burger Battle. This massive burger has a 10-ounce patty, with fried sweet onions, cheddar cheese, lettuce and tomato on a toasted bun, and is just one of the special burgers being served in town as part of the competition. Other participating locations are The Mill, The Copper Mug and Boston Pizza.

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RIDDLES

What has a bottom at the top?

Your legs.

What can fill a room but takes up no space?

Light.

What asks no questions but must be answered?

A phone.

What has one head, one foot, and four legs?

A bed.

What gets smaller every time it takes a bath?

Soap.

When is a door no longer a door?

When it's ajar.

I have one eye but am unable to see. What am I?

A needle.

What two keys can't unlock any door?

A monkey and a donkey.

A man and his boss have the same parents but are not siblings. How is this possible?

He's self-employed.

SUDOKU

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Level: Beginner

Solutions on Page 31

PET OF THE WEEK

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

WORD SEARCH

DEEP BLUE SEA

W	W	H	A	C	T	B	E	N	T	H	I	C	S	L	C	Y	E	E	E
R	M	M	M	P	B	O	C	U	R	R	E	N	T	I	E	Y	I	W	U
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NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 9 - 14
THE TILLSONBURG MILITARY CLUB'S ANNUAL WEEK OF REMEMBRANCE
Station Arts Centre, 41 Bridge St W, Tillsonburg
Display featuring artifacts and other items dedicated to the memory of those who served and sacrificed for our freedom.

NOVEMBER 13 | 1 - 4 PM
KEN LIGHTHEART AND THE NORTHSHORE RAMBLERS
Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON
$7 cash at the door. All Welcome!

NOVEMBER 14 | 1 - 4 PM
GOOD OLD BOYS LIVE BAND
Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON
Only $8 cash at the door. Cash bar open. All Welcome!

NOVEMBER 14 | 1 - 4 PM
AUTHENTIC VICTORIAN TEA & MUSICALE
184 Oxford St., Ingersoll
Early Bird tickets: $50 https://sycamore-centre.raiselysite.com/ OR at ThriftCo, 50 Thames St.S. Gents & Ladies come assist Sycamore Centre drop-in space & the new transitional house Sycamore Home. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=sycamore%20centre. Tasty edibles; refined entertainment; borrow costumes; photo-booth; prizes; purchases; Fun! Ph519 990 1240 Emailpeacetpau@gmail.com

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NOVEMBER 14 | 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM
'MISTLETOE MAGIC' CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
St. Mary's Church, TILLSONBURG
St. Mary's CWL would like to invite you to their annual Christmas bazaar. With two locations you are sure to find something special. **In the Parish centre** you will find the Penny Table, handcrafted items made especially for you, greenery for all your outdoor Christmas decorating needs, homemade baked goods, fresh produce and preserves. **In the church hall** we offer indoor and outdoor Christmas decorations, tables laden with quality jewelry, fine clothing, as well as kitchen and miscellaneous items and the Silent Auction. A delicious lunch will be also be available. Join us for soup, sandwich, dessert and coffee or tea in the Bistro. We are fully accessible, with free admission. Please bring a bag or two to carry home your purchases. Located on Rolph St. in Tillsonburg. We thank you for your continued support.

NOVEMBER 14 | 10 AM - 2 PM
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
60 Young St., Tillsonburg
Baking, Cabbage rolls, Canning, Crafts, Gently used Christmas decor. Luncheon available, Soup, Roll & Dessert, Tea & Coffee.

NOVEMBER 21 | 9 AM - 2 PM
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND TEAROOM
Hickory Hills Recreation Centre, 48 Wilson Avenue, Tillsonburg
Handcrafted Items, Raffles, Baked Goods, Cookie Walk, Books, Puzzles, Games and Silent Auction. Find a gift for that special someone. Enjoy lunch in our very popular Tea Room. Hope to see you there!

NOVEMBER 21 | 9 AM - 1 PM
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 155 Colborne St. N., Simcoe (corner of Union and Colborne)
Featuring a bake sale, Christmas cookie platters, "nearly new" table, crafts, toys, a coffee corner and...our delicious cabbage rolls! Admission is free!

NOVEMBER 21 | 9 AM - 1 PM
ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS MARKET
St. John's Anglican Church, 46 Ridout Street West, Tillsonburg
Vendor's Market, Christmas at Granny's Attic, Books, Puzzles, Bake Table, Famous Mincemeat, Blanket Draw and Nativity Scene displays. Join us for lunch! Admission is $2.00.

NOVEMBER 21 | 6 PM
SANTA CLAUS PARADE
Downtown Tillsonburg (See Tillsonburg and Area Optimist Club Facebook for parade route map)
Canada Post will be collecting letters to Santa. Donations to the Food Bank are welcomed.

NOVEMBER 21 | 7 - 10 PM, DOORS OPEN 5:30 PM
BRITISH BEAT 66 LIVE BAND
Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON
Check out the band at http://www.britishbeat66.com. Tickets $30 available at the Tillsonburg Legion 16 Durham Street. For more information call 519-842-5281.

NOVEMBER 22 | 2 PM
TIA MCGRAFF IN CONCERT
Delhi United Church - 105 Church Street, Delhi Ontario
Free Will Offering. Come and enjoy Tia and Tommy as they kick off the Christmas Season.

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.

ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

MONDAYS & THURSDAYS
OTTER VALLEY TAI CHI
St. John's Anglican Church, 46 Ridout St. W., Tillsonburg
Spots still available in new Monday morning and Thursday afternoon classes. 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

COMING EVENTS

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.

1ST WED. OF MONTH | 7 PM
WAGNER MEMORIAL TEETERVILLE LEGION BRANCH 526 - MEMBERS GENERAL MEETING
The Wagner Memorial Teeterville Legion Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, ON
Not a member? Contact us to join. For More Information Call, the Legion 519-443-5588. www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT ONE OF OUR EVENTS? WE WELCOME YOU!
The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, ON
You do not need to be a member to Volunteer, Just contact the legion and leave your name and number and purpose of your call. Someone will get back to you as to where you might be needed. Students and Adults welcome. **Open hours. Wed.-Fri. 3 pm-10 pm, Sat.1 pm-10 pm, Sun.1 pm-6 pm. For More Information call, the Legion at 519-443-5588 or teetervillelegionbranch526.ca**

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.

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OBITUARY

ANTHONY "TONY" JOHN DESMOND
(JULY 16, 1937 – NOVEMBER 8, 2026)



It is with deep sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of our much-loved father, grandfather, brother and friend, Anthony "Tony" John Desmond, at Hospice Wellington in Guelph on Sunday, November 8th, 2026, in his 90th year. Tony was born in Croydon, England, son of the late Michael and Winifred (Jeffries) Desmond. Tony married the love of his life Valerie (Hunt) Desmond and together they shared a love story that lasted for 63 wonderful years. Throughout his technical career in the radar industry, Tony was able to see the world. Tony was tasked with a multitude of radar modernization projects worldwide including in Canada, which led Tony and his family to relocate from the UK to Waterloo Ontario in 1985. After retirement in 2001, Tony and Valerie settled in Baldwin Place, Tillsonburg, where they gained many new friendships and became involved in their community. Tony was a very involved and appreciated member of St. Mary's Tillsonburg Knights of Columbus #3212. Tony was also an enthusiastic member of the Kitchener-Waterloo Dixieland Jazz Club. In his spare time, Tony enjoyed gardening, fishing, golfing, curling and a lifelong interest in birdwatching. Always an English gentleman, Tony was never one to turn down a pint of English ale. Those who knew Tony will certainly miss him.

Tony is survived by his much-loved wife Valerie, of Tillsonburg. Always a proud and loving father and father-in-law of Lorraine (Brian Forsberg) and their children Helena, Alexander, Thomas; Matthew Desmond (Jennifer Seymour); Philip Desmond (Shannon Hutton) and their children Maxwell, Owen and their late son Oliver. Always a caring brother to Maureen, Mick, Anne and their families. Predeceased by his siblings Pat, George and Grant.

In keeping with Tony's expressed wishes, cremation has taken place. Friends, neighbours and relatives are invited to attend public visitation on Wednesday, November 18th, 2026, between 5pm and 8pm in the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes- Burial and Cremation Services Inc. Chapel, 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg. Knights of Columbus Prayers will be held on Wednesday at 7pm. A Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday, November 19th, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in St. Mary's R.C. Church, Tillsonburg, by Rev. Fr. Seejo John. Everyone who knew Tony is invited to share special memories and photos, express personal condolences or contribute memorial donations to "Hospice Wellington" or to the "Children's Hospital at London Health Sciences Centre" or via Tony's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting Verhoeve Funeral Homes (519) 842-4238, which has been entrusted with all funeral arrangements, with confidence.

"The family would like to express their sincere appreciation to the Doctors, Nurses and Staff at Hospice Wellington for their compassionate care provided to Tony and our family over the past days. The comfort you provided to us during this difficult time will always be remembered."

CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARY

REBECCA "HARRIET" BLYTH

(NOVEMBER 3, 1961 – NOVEMBER 4, 2026)



It is with heavy hearts that we, the family of Rebecca "Harriet" Blyth, announce her peaceful passing at VON Sakura House Hospice, Woodstock, on Wednesday, November 4th, 2026, one day after her 65th birthday. Harriet was born in Tillsonburg, daughter of the late Arthur Blyth (1988) and Irene (Newton) Blyth (2001). Harriet is predeceased by her brother Derek Blyth (1974) and is survived by her brother Terrance Blyth. Also survived by her cousins John (Pauline) Newton, Barb Ross, Aunt Bonnie Mauthe, all from Tillsonburg and Uncle Robert (Peggy) Clark, from Woodstock. Harriet will be lovingly remembered by her best friend Deb Newton and several cousins.

Harriet will be remembered for her love of music, dancing, meeting new people and socializing with her many friends. Harriet was a member of Alliance Church, Tillsonburg. Harriet's faith was strong and she enjoyed attending church, which led to many lifelong friendships. Harriet and her family are thankful for the supportive care provided by the staff at Community Living Tillsonburg over many years. This care allowed Harriet to live her life to the fullest. Special thanks to Dawn, Amy, Renee, Melissa, Chantel, Hannah and Kirsten at CLT for the wonderful care they provided to Harriet over the years.

Cremation has taken place. A Graveside Service to honour Harriet's Life and Faith will be held on Saturday, November 14th, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in the Blyth Family Plot of Tillsonburg Cemetery, by Pastor Paul Schallhorn, of Peace Lutheran Church. Everyone who knew Harriet is invited to share favourite memories and photos, express personal condolences or contribute memorial donations to Community Living Tillsonburg or to VON Oxford (for Sakura House) or to any charity of your choice via Harriet's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes, 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg (519) 842-4238, which has been entrusted with all funeral arrangements, with confidence.

OBITUARY

JOHN ZIRKEL

(JULY 20, 1946 – NOV. 8, 2026)



Peacefully, after a courageous struggle with illness, our much loved husband, father, grandfather, uncle and brother-in-law, John Zirkel, a resident of Tillsonburg and formerly of Langton, passed away at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital, on Sunday, November 8th, 2026, at the age of 80. John was born in Simcoe, son of the late John Henry Zirkel and Theresa (Petkoff) Zirkel. John was a dedicated tobacco farmer for many years, alongside his loving and much loved wife of 59 years, Pauline Margaret Mary (Casier) Zirkel, of Tillsonburg. John was a member of St. Paul's United Church, Tillsonburg. Always a caring father to his children and their families: John 'Butch' Zirkel (Susan), of Woodstock; Sandra (Richard Armstrong), of Brantford; Sandy (Duane Casler), of Langton. Always a caring grandfather to Amanda Potter (Michael Parker) and Ashley Zirkel. Special great-grandfather to Lylah and Khylee. Also survived by his in-laws Leona Robinson, Yvonne Varga as well as by nieces, nephews and cousins. Predeceased by his sisters Theresa Stier (late Louis), Barbara Fakelman, brother-in-law Maurice Casier (late Doreen) and brother-in-law Eugene Varga.

"Special thanks to the caring staff at Woodingford Lodge, Tillsonburg and the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital for their care and compassion. Special thanks to Nurse Corrie at TDMH for your kind assistance."

In keeping with John's expressed wishes, cremation has taken place. Everyone who knew John is invited to share special memories and photos or to express personal condolences via John's online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com. Memorial donations to the "Woodingford Lodge Residents Association" can be made online: oxfordcounty.ca/services-for-you/long-term-care/woodingford-lodge-donations/(or by cheque) by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes, 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg (519) 842-4238, which has been entrusted with final arrangements.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

MICHAEL JOHN STANLEY BOOTHBY

(MAY 5, 1945 – AUGUST 13, 2026)



It is with the heaviest of hearts that we announce the unexpected passing of our father, grandfather, brother, friend and neighbour, Michael J. Boothby, on Thursday, August 13, 2026.

Born in Quebec City, Quebec, on May 5, 1945, as the eldest of three children to parents Stanley and Yvette Boothby, Michael, known to his loved ones and friends as Mike, will be lovingly remembered by his daughter Michele Saran and is predeceased by his daughter Andrea Boothby-Gysling (Oct. 28, 2026) (surviving husband Philipp). Also dearly missed by his grandsons, Tristan and Gabriel Gysling. Mike is survived by his brother, Richard Boothby, and predeceased by his sister, Marjorie Smith.

There were many defining points in Mike's life, one of which is when he joined the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force in the 1970s. He was a proud member of the Force for many years and held a variety of roles throughout his exciting career as Sergeant. The second is perhaps when he made the move from Oakville, Ontario, to Norfolk County in the early 2000s where he would painstakingly renovate what would become known as "Fairnorth Farm" — Mike could fix, build or design anything and many came to him for advice on a variety of topics ranging from the latest in tech to tools and cars; law to policing and politics and so much more. He adored sharing his skills and learnings with others.

But perhaps nothing made him happier than living "South of 45," which he often referred to as "God's Country." Whether that was taking his grandsons for Gator rides or socializing at the local Tim's, Mike spent his retirement enjoying sharing a laugh and one of his many colourful police stories with whoever he'd meet and spent his final days looking over the property he loved, just as he said he would.

A Celebration of Mike's Life will be held on Saturday, November 28th, 2026. Family eulogies and memories will be shared at 10:00 a.m. Everyone who knew Mike is invited to share favourite memories and photos, express personal condolences or in lieu of flowers contribute memorial donations to the "Arthritis Society" via his online tribute page at www.verhoevefuneralhomes.com or by contacting the Maurice J. Verhoeve Funeral Homes, 262 Broadway, Tillsonburg (519) 842-4238.

SUDOKU

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3	8	5	4	2	6	7	1	9

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OBITUARY

RICHARD COLLINS
1947 ~ 2026



It is with great sadness the family of Mr. Richard Collins of Delhi, announces his passing at the Juravinski Hospital, Hamilton on Friday, November 6, 2026 in his 80th year after a brief time with cancer. Rick was born in Trail, B.C. and became a Military Police officer. After coming to Ontario, he first worked in tobacco on Wulleman's farm in Langton. Following his tobacco experience, he achieved his electrical license which opened many doors. A great part of his life was in mining as a construction manager at Detour Lake, Key Lake, Cigar Lake, Areva, Mosaic and Diavik Diamond Mine. On his return to Delhi, he worked at DDM Plastics in Tillsonburg. The last love of his work life was 'Operations Manager' at Collins Harbour Marina Resort. The joys of his life were his boat, "Gayle Force", his '58 Chevy and scuba diving. Beloved wife of Gayle (Mawhiney) Collins for 52 years. Proud and loving father of his two sons, Marshall (Stacy) and Duke. Richard was the youngest of 12 siblings. He is deeply mourned by his cousins, nieces, nephews and numerous friends. Predeceased by his parents, Isobel (Rutland) & Ed Collins. As per Rick's wishes, a Private Family Service will be held with Inurnment in Delhi Cemetery. Memorial Donations to Simcoe & District Humane Society can be made through the MURPHY FUNERAL HOME, Delhi (519) 582-1290 (www.mfh.care) and will be gratefully appreciated by the family. His passing leaves an ache that words cannot heal. The family would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Dr. Thorogood, the staff at Juravinski Cancer Centre and Hamilton Health Sciences.

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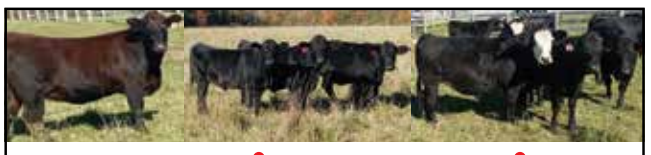
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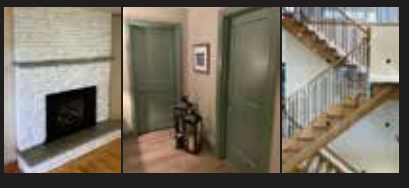
Directions: Go west through Orangeville on Hwy 9 to County Rd 16 (Veterans Way at Greenwood Cemetery), turn north 5 miles to farm on East side. OR From Shelburne go east on Hwy 89 for 2 miles to Mono-Amaranth Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.Townline, turn south & go 5 miles to farm on East side.

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