

Tillsonburg POST

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Tillsonburg passes budget with 4.78% increase

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Tillsonburg council passed its budget at the Jan. 27 meeting with a 4.78 per cent increase.

The budget started with a 13.69 per cent increase, and was whittled down after council sent it back to staff with instructions to lower the increase. Part of the reason for the huge increase was impacts of a court-ordered retroactive settlement with the OPP, but the province since then announced it would absorb most of this cost. The increase will equate to a \$143.74 increase in taxes on a

median residence value of \$242,000. The 2025 total town budget of \$42.7 million is comprised of an operating budget of \$31.7 million and a capital budget of \$11 million.

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres asked if the reserves were being depleted too much with this budget, as some of the costs were funded from reserves instead of the tax levy. He was told by Director of Finance/Treasurer Renato Pullia that the reserves were \$7.1 million at the beginning of 2024, \$6.1 million at the end of the year and are predicted to sit at \$3.5 million at the end of 2025. The treasurer said this was okay.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

Tillsonburg native on Tonight Show

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg native Debra DiGiovanni hit the big time when she appeared as a guest on The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon on Jan. 22.

"It's the holy grail of comedy," she said. "There's something special about The Tonight Show, it's been running so long."

DiGiovanni went to New York City to film the show. She arrived about 2 p.m., and taping started at 5:15 p.m. and ended at 6:30 p.m.

"A well-oiled machine," she said of the

show. "After it's done, everyone is gone. Just a regular day for them and a dream for stand-ups."

Growing up in Tillsonburg, DiGiovanni never imagined she would be on The Tonight Show, or a comedian for that matter.

She went to college in Toronto to study art. Although she quickly realized art wasn't for her, there was an oral communications course. As part of the course, students had to reach into a bowl, pick a topic, and speak about it for two minutes.

"I thought this is for me," DiGiovanni quickly found.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



IT DOESN'T GET MORE CANADIAN THAN THIS (JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)
Lake Lisgar was a busy place on Jan. 26 with the sun shining and the thermometer creeping a little higher from the bone-chilling temperatures from the polar vortex the week before. The frigid conditions did solidify the ice and many Tillsonburg families took advantage of it. (Top) Cade Wilson and sister Raeya enjoyed pond hockey on a rink that was cleared. (Bottom) Ardent angler Mike Dearden and his sons Benny and JJ hit the ice to see what they could catch. Here Mike and Benny are hard at it.



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Tillsonburg comedian touring Southwestern Ontario this fall

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Her professor agreed, telling her she should be entertaining people.

"That planted the seed, if you will," she said.

Then DiGiovanni started working at CITY TV. Part of her job was giving tours to the public through the building, which then housed CITY, Much Music, and Bravo.

"I liked it, it was entertaining and I was performing," she said, adding she had another taste of entertaining at CITY when she co-hosted the company's Christmas party.

In 1999, she saw a press release about Humber College's new Comedy Writing and Performing course. At the encouragement of her friends, she signed up, and her first experience with stand-up comedy was

in the classroom.

"I was hooked immediately. That was all I wanted to do," she said.

She performed as much as she could, and it took eight months with a day job before she became a full-time comedy performer. She moved to Los Angeles in 2014, and has been there since.

Along the way, DiGiovanni has made her mark. She won the Canadian Comedy Award for the best newcomer in stand-up in 2002. Over the next decade, three more Canadian Comedy Awards followed for the best female in stand up. DiGiovanni co-hosted the Gemini awards with Sandra Oh in 2008 and made other television appearances.

Now, DiGiovanni is typically in Los Angeles, working in clubs. Her working day

starts at about 7 p.m., and she does 99 per cent of her work at night.

Asked about the source of her jokes, DiGiovanni said she sees things as she is out and about, writing them down or making notes in her phone. Really, just every day stuff. She looks over her list every couple of weeks to see what she can use.

"If I write down 10 things, one or two I will use. It's always happening," she said.

In the beginning of her career, she had a few jokes with material about growing up in Tillsonburg.

Generally, she doesn't practice, and gets up on the stage to present her material.

"The only way to learn do comedy is to do it. It does require an audience," DiGiovanni said.

Stand-up comedy is about audience re-

sponse.

"The energy is different," she said. "It's like a monologue that just doesn't stop. It's not a two-way conversation, you just talk. You can't find that by yourself. You have to have real people to figure that out."

DiGiovanni's father, Joe, still lives in Tillsonburg. Her mother, Susan, passed away. Her siblings Andrea, Erica, Michael and twin sister Joanne also grew up in Tillsonburg.

Following her appearance on The Tonight Show, her family all texted in.

"I hoped they liked it. I can only go by what they say," DiGiovanni said.

Locals will have a chance to see DiGiovanni live this fall when she tours Ontario. Although Tillsonburg isn't on her prospective dates, London will be.

Tillsonburg passes budget with 4.78% increase

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Beres made the analogy, "We have a saving account, and at times you have to go to the cupboard and go to the cookie jar and then when we have a good year you put the money back in the cookie jar."

A motion was made by Coun. Kelly Spencer, and seconded by Coun. Chris Rosehart to add \$9,000 to the budget for Turtlefest from the tax rate stabilization reserve. Spencer cited lost sponsorship money and the BIA, which is assisting with the operation of the festival, believing the funding was still there as the reason it is needed this year. She noted costs have been reduced dramatically but there are still expenses.

"It is a signature event in Tillsonburg. Over 30,000 people attended it last year," she said.

Rosehart asked for a report back on how the money was spent, which was added to the amendment.

Coun. Chris Parker had issues with the addition of an IT position, while only adding one public works worker. He noted there hasn't been an increase in public works staff since 2020 and there have been a significant number of new roads

and sidewalks added since.

"There's some key components and areas we are adding to, and not adding to, that are going to have an effect on the community," he said.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy said she spent the entire day going through the budget and supports items like the health care funding and one time Station Arts Centre funding, but doesn't support depleting the tax rate stabilization reserve. She said adding to the IT department and a director of strategic initiatives comes with a cost. Gilvesy also wanted to see more front-line staff and noted council hasn't received the final bill for the pool renovation.

"Things have changed drastically since we started this process," she said, pointing to the possibility of tariffs. "Ontario estimates there could be up to 500,000 job losses which represent up to 6 per cent of the work force."

Gilvesy said many local companies have contracts with the United States.

The budget was passed with Coun. Bob Parsons, Coun. Pete Luciani, Beres and Spencer voting for it and Gilvesy, Parker and Rosehart voting against it.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Tillsonburg native Debra DiGiovanni was a guest on The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon. The stand-up comedian regularly performs in night clubs in Los Angeles.



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Ground breaking on new long-term care facility



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The official groundbreaking for the peopleCare long-term care home on Maple Lane took place recently. Taking part in the ceremony were left to right were: Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Long-Term Care Tyler Allsopp, Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy, Jenn Killing of peopleCare, and Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman.

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Tillsonburg will see 160 new long-term care beds in a modern, person-centered facility operated by peopleCare on Maple Lane.

The official groundbreaking for the facility at 25 Maple Lane, the site of the former Maple Lane Public School, was Jan. 23, but construction at the site has been underway for several months. The new facility will open in fall 2026. A ceremony in the Livingston Centre was attended by peopleCare officials, MPP Ernie Hardeman, MPP and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Long-Term Care Tyler Allsopp and Mayor Deb Gilvesy, prior to a groundbreaking.

Jenn Killing, vice-president of quality, research and strategic partnerships with peopleCare, provided insight into the new facility.

"The new home in Tillsonburg will provide 160 beds in a modern, person-centered space, featuring welcoming lounges, vibrant activity areas and a beautiful central courtyard," she said. "Unique additions include a children's play area, a family stayover suite, and specialized care of residents living with dementia."

She paid tribute to Mary and O'Derald Gingerich, who are the second generation of the family-owned organization. peopleCare started with a facility in Tavistock in the 1960s. Today, peopleCare has facilities in five other communities, with the closest being Delhi.

The facility will be divided into five 32-bed resident areas. Each area will have lounges, a smaller dining space, a bistro, chapel, hair salon and kitchenettes to promote social connections. The smaller home areas will also make for easier navigation. It will also feature a secure outdoor courtyard within the complex.

"We are excited to create a warm and welcoming home for Tillsonburg seniors, offering care that exceeds expectations and supporting families who want the best for their loved one," Killing said. "Our vision is to develop a vibrant community of care campus that helps seniors live

well in this community for generations to come."

In Oxford County, the long-term care wait list is approaching 1,800 people for the existing 749 beds. Allsopp said the construction of the peopleCare facility is part of a government plan to fix long-term care. This includes hiring tens of thousands PSWs and nurses, driving quality through transparency and enforcement and building 58,000 new beds.

"It's the largest building program of its kind in Canadian history," he said. "We're building Ontario's long-term care capacity at an unprecedented rate."

Hardeman paid tribute to peopleCare, and to the work the Gingerich family has done for long-term care in Oxford and the province.

"It's your family business to help seniors," he said.

Saying he had been in the Tavistock facility and speaking highly of it, Hardeman added "For anyone needing this service, this is the type of service they will want."

Mayor Deb Gilvesy thanked the company for providing a needed service in the community. She gave a shout out to the former mayor and council for their efforts in moving the facility forward, and said she heard positive things from mayors in other peopleCare communities.

Mentioning that Tillsonburg is a health hub, not only for south Oxford but also parts of Elgin and Norfolk, she pointed to data from Southwestern Public Health showing the population dynamics.

"The population in Oxford County is aging. This data, combined with the growing population, exasperates the need for this project."

Following the ceremony, there was a ground breaking on the site under the shadow of the building shell with the first floor roughed in and ready to move on to the second story.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The outer shell of the first floor of the peopleCare long-term care facility is nearing completion, with supports installed for the second floor. The 160-bed facility will open in 2026.

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at a time!*

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EDITORIAL

What's your response to Trump's tariffs?



STEWART GRANT

Publisher

During Justin Trudeau's address to the nation on Feb. 1, the Prime Minister spoke of the "many ways

for you to do your part", from checking the labels at the supermarket and picking Canadian-made products, to electing to explore Canada for your next family vacation.

Ultimately, he asked Canadians to find "your own way to stand up for Canada," whatever that may be.

What will your response be to Trump's tariffs? How will you stand up for Canada?

Personally, I can tell you that I've had a wonderful time in my life traveling the United

States.

The young sports fan in me loved going to as many NHL arenas, baseball stadiums, and golf courses as I could get to. Later, as a parent, I have such great memories with our family of driving to Florida, enjoying the warm winters and visiting the Disney parks. As an adult who loves travel in general with my wife, I've savoured the timeless beauty of Hawaii and revisited the ever-evolving cityscape of Las Vegas. With 39 of the 50 states checked off my bucket

list, I always figured I'd see them all eventually.

Well, it won't be any time soon that I'll be stepping foot in the United States.

Today marks Day 494 of my American tourism boycott, which I began in 2023 during the U.S. Republican primary process. This was during a time when despite criminal indictments stacking up against Donald Trump, he remained largely uncontested to run for another term as American president. Large portions of the American public,

including friends of mine in Michigan, seemed unbothered with the idea of this low-life returning to power, and this really bothered me because I knew that his return would lead to trouble for Canada.

I know that my absence from the United States doesn't mean much in the grand scheme of things, but it is my own small way of standing up for what I believe in. My 2025 could have involved a night in Detroit to see Billy Joel, a golf getaway to Florida, and a wine

tour of Napa Valley, but no thanks. I can't do it.

Our local grocery store posted on the weekend that they've ordered Maple Leaf stickers to help inform customers on which items on the shelves are Canadian made. For many of us, our actions at the cash register are the best way for us to collectively have our voice heard.

How will you stand up for Canada? Let me know at stew@granthaven.com and I'd love to post some of the responses in our next issue.

Serendipity and young love lead to years of precious moments



**EVERYONE
HAS A
STORY
TO TELL**

ROBIN KRAFFT

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

When Darlene met the new guy in town at the tender age of 11, she had no idea what the future held for them. It wasn't until a few years later, when the two shared an innocent kiss, that her feelings became clear. She told him: "I'm going to marry you, or someone just like you, because I like your style!"

Then he seemed to vanish, and Darlene discovered that his family had moved away. A couple of years later, fate drew them together once again when they met unexpectedly at the grocery store. She remembers feeling a bit awkward and nervous with her father there. She had just started high school and wasn't allowed to go on dates yet, so she didn't want to seem overly interested in this boy.

The following summer, she was walking home with her best friend one evening when a car pulled up alongside them. There was Hoss (known by his nickname), and he wasted no time asking her out on a date. When the evening arrived, he came to her house to meet her parents, more than willing to obey their rules. She wasn't allowed to go in his car, so they took the bus to see a movie.

Darlene ponders: "Looking back at the 14-year-old, I don't even know what I meant in saying I liked his style... perhaps it was the essence of his personality and character that I was attracted to."

As the evening progressed, her feelings about him solidified and as he walked her home, she asked him if he planned to get married someday. He replied, "it's inevitable".

"That was it," Darlene says, "I knew this is the guy!" With a sense of serendipity, their reunion soon blossomed into romance.

Many dates and several years later, they were married, but the day presented some challenges.

"We had a horrible snow storm the day before we were married. Guests were calling to say that they couldn't make it, and the minister was still not out of the hospital after suffering a heart attack. By the grace of God, it all turned out well the next day, and when we kissed as man and wife, a beam of sunlight began streaming in through a window enveloping us in its embrace."

During the customary speeches after the wedding, Darlene remembers, "His best friend stood to recall word for word what I had said to my now husband at age 14."

On the first day of their marriage, they made a pact not to go to bed, or go away, angry.

"We did have some strong discussions and spirited disagreements", Darlene recalls, but that's part of the package. She notes that "...everything is transitional; the challenges we encountered were exactly as required to overcome our fears." Along with the hurdles, many amazing things happened over the course of their marriage and she's proud of the fact that they "always had each other's back and never spoke ill of one other."

When they became parents, Darlene recalls that "Hoss was a real dedicated family man who loved and cared about us dearly."

She shares her view of marriage and some advice for couples.

"I believe it's a life with our best friend as we go through peaks and valleys, and if we find ourselves at the end of our rope, tie a knot and just hold on!"

She lost him too soon, but as Darlene reflects on all of the precious moments they shared over the years, she has no regrets; she knows that they will stay in her heart forever.

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Join in an economic war caused by Trump tariffs



**THE
STAGE
IS THE
WORLD**

LAUREL A. BEECHEY

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

I don't know about you, but I have had enough from Trump's threats against Canada, Greenland and other countries, and the sudden drastic changes to the lower-income American people. I do not understand how a country, known around the world to help other countries form a democratic government, suddenly is no longer using their own governmental 'due process' before making so many drastic changes in their country and making threats to other countries. Since Canada is on his radar, let's fight back against Trump now! There is something everyone can do.

But first, I must preface my strong words

with some background. I was born in 1952 in Windsor, a border city. Of the 13 tv channels and multiple radio stations, the only Canadian content was CBC. Windsorites fought hard to not be 'American'. We were witness to the Detroit race riots in 1967. The president sent in the army: we could see the tanks, hear the gunshots, and depending on the wind, the screams. We didn't see it on the news; we sat on the banks of the Detroit River and watched. My best friend Joan Carter, was black and terrified, but also thankful to live on the right side of the river. As I grew up, other friends were mugged in Detroit, in daylight and people stepped over them, rather than help. Stop at a red light, you lose your tires. I did love the Red Garter Pub with a Dixieland band! I must confess I have always been wary and nervous anywhere in the U.S., more so than in the third world countries away from the tourist traps, that I have visited. Yet, I still have many American friends and people I love there.

In part, my past influenced this article, but more so because the current U.S. Trump administration and his oligarchy of gazillionaires with online tech companies ruling the U.S. to threaten Canada and other countries.

Trump's Tariffs have been put on us. Let's fight back! Instead of guns and losing lives, let's make a few changes in what we buy! You and I can do something: Stop buying American and buy Canadian. I received a forwarded email that said: 'For anyone interested in buying Canadian' and gave a list of popular U.S. companies and names of Canadian equivalents from the grocery stores. This is a small list, and unvetted, but can be found at: https://www.ufcw.ca/index.php?option=com_content At the moment we have to read the labels to learn, which are U.S. products. What if it is made in U.S. and packaged in Canada? Well, that would hurt Canadian jobs, so I leave that to you.

Maybe Canadian Manufacturers could print a small Canadian flag on their products? Humm, that is probably not cost effective and would take time. Hubby, Peter, suggested putting Canadian flag sticker beside the item price on the shelf edge!

This is a way that we, the people of Canada, can show our objection to Trump's tariffs; support Canadians and be happy knowing there is actually, something we can do! So, I verified that Tillsonburg's three large grocery stores are Canadian owned, as

well as their own brands Sobey's and their Compliments & Good Idea brands; Metro, and Irresistible, Selections, and Life Smart Brands and Zehrs [Loblaws] with President's Choice & No Name brands. Then, I contacted each company and shared the idea. Those I talked to, liked it. I also suggested that perhaps our three local stores could come together to do a publicity/advertising campaign and show solidarity. The three corporate companies are in three different provinces!

If you like the idea, you can help by calling: Zehrs -corporate customer service 1-866-541-6315, Metro at 1-866-595-5554 and Sobey's at 1-866 948 0196. All are toll free. The more who call, the better chance they might join the crusade.

I suggest that until someone can reign Trump in, we think of this as a war, and so we never have to physically fight for our freedoms as our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents did. You might have to give up a few favourite brands, but then, you may find a much superior Canadian brand and you can take pride in supporting Canada.

This e-mail got me started and now the rest of us must take up the gauntlet.

A different Family Day event

Family Day is not usually thought of as a day for building robots, but a new Tillsonburg business is providing that opportunity.

Techwillow Inc. is part of a worldwide company that lets those with an interest in technology learn more about and explore opportunities. The Tillsonburg location opened in September 2024 at 20 Baldwin St.

Elvis Sequeira has 15 years of experience in robotics and has worked for numerous multinational companies. Company partner Anusha Dsouza bring

15 years of experience in game development and programming.

Sequeira said participants in the Family Day program will learn about motion and light sensors in robots.

"How they can be put in different robots, that is one of the activities," he said, adding there will also be an introduction to programming and game development.

There is no charge for the event, but free-will donations for St. Joseph's playground equipment fundraiser are being accepted.

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(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

LIBERALS LAUNCH OXFORD CAMPAIGN IN TILLSONBURG

Oxford Liberal candidate Bernia Martin, left, launched her campaign for the provincial election at the Station Arts Centre on February 2. A Woodstock city and county councillor, this is Martin's first run at provincial politics. Her campaign launch was attended by Kathryn McGarry, president of the Liberal Party of Ontario, the president of the local riding association and local supporters.

Dead geese on Lake Lisgar confirmed with avian flu

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Forensic testing confirmed that dead geese found on Lake Lisgar were victims of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)

Brian Stevens, a wildlife pathologist with the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative at the University of Guelph, confirmed that dead geese found on Lake

Lisgar expired from influenza. He said similar Canada goose deaths are being seen at multiple locations across southern Ontario, from Windsor-Essex to Prince Edward County. Most of the birds that were tested were Canada geese, but there were also some shorebirds, swans, and gulls. In addition, bald eagles, snowy owls,

and great horned owls died from HPAI.

"It's likely those were scavenging on birds dying from it," he said.

The deaths are a continuation of the HPAI that has been circulating amongst wild birds the past three years. He said outbreaks appear at different times, but are mostly associated with migration.

"I think this one in particular is related to fall migration," he said.

Stevens explained that the virus survives better in the winter and transmits more easily. Birds clustering together as waterways freeze facilitates easier spread of the virus. Die-offs have been occurring over the past month.

While avian flu outbreaks are relatively common, the outbreaks are usually short-lived.

"We usually see this run its course in a couple weeks at most, and then it lets up and calms down in that area," he said.

HPAI has been ongoing for more than three years, with occasional flare-ups. It's believed to have originated in Asia in December 2021 in wild birds. Although the virus is mutating, it's not weakening as it usually is. Stevens was still hopeful it will eventually fizzle out.

Anyone finding a dead, or dying, Canada goose is asked to contact the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative at cwhc-rcsf.ca to report it. Ideally, trained professionals will be dispatched to pick up the bird, but in some cases, residents will be asked to.

"We do recommend people contact us before handling a deceased wild animal because we want to ensure they do it in the safest way possible," he said.

With some Canada goose seasons still open, Steven advised hunters to use gloves when handling geese. He said geese with HPAI are safe to consume as long as cooked properly. More information is available at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/avian-influenza-wild-birds.html#toc7>



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Several Canada geese found dead in Tillsonburg have tested positive for highly pathogenic avian flu. Anyone discovering a sick or dead goose is asked to report it to the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative.

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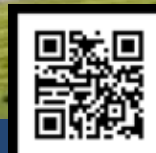
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Traffic stop in Tillsonburg results in numerous changes

A traffic stop in the Town of Tillsonburg has resulted in numerous charges and the arrest of three individuals.

On Jan. 23, at approximately 10:30 p.m., members of the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) were on general patrol in the Town of Tillsonburg when they conducted a traffic stop. As a result, three individuals were arrested and controlled substances and prohibited weapons were seized from the vehicle.

Hailey Derocco a 22-year-old resident of St. Catharines, Joshua Spence a 22-year-old of Thorold and Raymond Toneri a 23-year-old resident of Welland

were all charged with the following offences:

- Possession of a Schedule I Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking (three counts)
- Possession of a Prohibited Weapon for a Dangerous Purpose (two counts)
- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime Under \$5000

The three accused were held for a bail hearing and will appear in the Ontario Court of Justice, located in Woodstock, on a later date.

The estimated street value of the seized controlled substances is over \$10,000.

Single-vehicle collision in Oxford County results in impaired charges

On Jan. 24, at approximately 5 p.m., members from the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a collision on Mount Elgin Road in South-West Oxford Township.

A vehicle had struck a hydro pole and minor injuries were reported.

Mount Elgin Road was closed for several hours between Dereham Line and Culloden Line to allow for the investigation and repairs.

As a result of the investigation, a 78-years-of-age resident of South-West Oxford was charged with the following:

- Dangerous Operation of a Motor Vehicle

hicle

- Operation While Impaired
- Operation While Impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration (80 plus)

The accused has been released and is scheduled to appear in the Ontario Court of Justice, located in Woodstock, on March 4.

The OPP remind motorists that no amount of alcohol or drug is acceptable to consume and drive.

Report impaired drivers. Should you observe a suspected impaired driver, please dial 911 or contact the Ontario Provincial Police at 1-888-310-1122 or *677.

Pedestrian struck by vehicle in Tillsonburg

A pedestrian was struck by a passenger vehicle in the Town of Tillsonburg.

On Jan. 24, at approximately 9 a.m., members from the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a collision on Broadway in the Town of Tillsonburg.

A 67 years-of-age pedestrian was struck while crossing the road by a SUV.

The driver, a 36 years-of-age resident of Tillsonburg has been charged with Careless Driving.

The pedestrian sustained minor injuries.

Single-vehicle collision results in impaired charges

A single-vehicle collision in Oxford County resulted in impaired charges.

On Jan. 24, at approximately 6 p.m., members from the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a collision on Mall Road in the Township of Norwich.

No injuries were reported.

As a result of the investigation, Claude Rancourt, a 51-years-of-age resident of Tillsonburg, was charged with the following:

- Operation While Impaired

- Operation While Impaired - Blood Alcohol Concentration (80 plus)

The accused has been released and is scheduled to appear in the Ontario Court of Justice, located in Woodstock, on March 4.

The OPP remind motorists that no amount of alcohol or drug is acceptable to consume and drive.

Report impaired drivers. Should you observe a suspected impaired driver, please dial 911 or contact the Ontario Provincial Police at 1-888-310-1122 or *677.

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GIVING BACK

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The Tillsonburg Post donated 10 per cent of its Christmas greeting advertising sales to the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation as a way of giving back to the community. Publisher Gerry Dearing, executive director of the foundation, accepted the donation from Stewart Grant, publisher of the Tillsonburg Post.

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Cemetery memorial bench policy being examined

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Tillsonburg council wrestled with a resident's request to honour the price he was given for a memorial bench in 2022.

Paul Woods appeared before council, describing the situation in which he went to the cemetery office in 2022 to request a memorial park bench. He offered to pay at the time but was told he could pay the \$2,373 cost when the bench arrived. He phoned the office in 2023 and 2024 and left a message, but there was no return call. When he talked to a cemetery employee last month, he was told the price would now be over \$3,000.

"I realize prices are always going up, but when a person is given a price list from 2022,

I would expect that would be the price to pay, not the price three years later," he said, comparing it to a rain cheque.

Through questioning by council, Director of Parks and Recreation Andrea Greenway filled in some of the blanks, saying the supplier in 2022 didn't come through with benches, and a new supplier has been found since. The 2022 price didn't include the cost of the cement pad under the bench, or a 10 per cent maintenance fund, which is now included. Since 2022, 12 benches have been received and installed for other people. All paid the current price at the time, which is now \$3,485.

Coun. Pete Luciani pointed out that since the town wouldn't take Woods' money, he now has to pay more.

"I personally don't think it's fair. I think he

went in in good faith and thought he would pay that price," he said, asking for a friendly amendment to the original motion to just accept the presentation as information and allow the 2022 rate. His amendment would have allowed the 2022 pricing for Woods.

Coun. Chris Parker, who made the motion, said he would allow that if it was added this was a one-time situation. He also suggested that if the wait list is caught up, people should be allowed to pay when they order a bench.

Coun. Kelly Spencer sympathized with the situation, but asked if the people who bought the other 12 benches would also want the same price.

"Then what is council going to do, do we do one-offs for everybody," she asked. "This could be a dangerous precedent for the other

12 that got the same price in 2022 and paid 2024 prices."

"It's precedent setting that's the scary part," said Deputy Mayor Dave Beres, but added the caveat is this is one time.

Luciani agreed it was precedent setting, but he pointed out the others received their bench and it was installed.

"They did get their benches; they did get their service. Mr. Woods didn't get his service," he said.

Spencer questioned how many other people hadn't received benches yet and suggested the issue be referred back to staff to determine this information. A motion was passed to refer the issue to staff to determine the number of benches sold and at what cost and to provide an update on the waitlist.

Trails to be upgraded as part of land swap

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Tillsonburg trail users in the north end of town and residents on Bobolink Drive will be beneficiaries of a land swap between the town and Performance Communities Realty Inc.

Council first heard about the matter late last year when developer Will Hayhoe gave council a brief overview of the proposal to provide \$50,000 worth of upgrades to trails, including paving the trail in a portion of the north end and installing benches, in ex-

change for town-owned land where he wanted to build a stormwater management pond for Rolling Meadows subdivision. As part of the deal, the town would fund oversizing the pond to deal with outstanding Bobolink Drive drainage at a cost of \$125,000.

The issue was back before council on Jan. 27 after staff had worked out the details of the deal.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy pointed out from a taxpayer standpoint, the town doesn't usually contribute to stormwater management ponds and asked for an explanation of the run-off situation on Bobolink.

"Every time there is a subdivision plan, water is supposed to be contained but my understanding is this situation that is different," she noted.

Acting director of Public Works Chris Baird said the proposal cleans up a past issue with Bobolink drainage. He said there is a gradual slope along the north end of town that goes towards North Street.

"Those homes along that stretch of Bobolink never had an appropriate outlet for stormwater management," he said. "In theory what was happening is all the surface run-off continues across the properties, down the

road networks and onto North Street."

He explained a stormwater management pond would have to be installed with the subdivision expansion and there was an opportunity for the town to partner with Hayhoe to fix the problem.

"Why it wasn't done 25 plus years ago, I'm not able to say," he said, adding having an appropriate stormwater system for Bobolink is the right thing to do.

Council passed a motion authorizing the sale of the land, the cost of upsizing the pond and agreeing to the donation for trail enhancements.

Province announces increase to farmer support program

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Ontario government announced a substantial Risk Management Program increase at a Eden farm last Tuesday.

Elgin-Middlesex-London MPP and Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness Rob Flack was on his home turf for the announcement in Bayham just a day before Premier Ford dissolved the Legislature for an early election. Flack was joined by Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy and farm leaders for the announcement at the VanQuathem farm.

The Risk Management Program (RMP) is a safety net that helps offset rising production costs and falling commodity prices. Payments are made if the market price falls below the cost of production. RMP covers sectors such as grain and oilseeds, cattle, horticulture, sheep, veal, and pork but does not include supply-managed commodities such as dairy and chickens.

The announcement boosts RMP from \$150 million to \$250 million over the next three years.

Flack told those in attendance for the announcement that the government understands the importance of the \$51 billion agri-food sector to the province's economy. This includes more than 200 commodities, livestock and poultry. From farm gate to plate, 871,000 people, or one in nine jobs, are in the agri-food sector.

"Our farmers are the lifeblood of our grow-

ing, our vibrant, our thriving agri-food sector," he said.

Since 2018, the number of people employed in agriculture grew by 30,000, the gross domestic product increased by \$3 billion and exports increased 65 per cent to \$26.2 billion. Expanding on trade with the U.S., Flack said the two-way trade, which he called "dynamic and complementary", is worth \$45 billion. In the agriculture sector, Ontario has a small trade deficit with the States.

"The bottom line is there is no need for President Trump to add tariffs to our sector," he said. "Tariffs will only increase costs, cause potential job losses, and inflict consumer pain that is not needed."

He told the farmers if tariffs were implemented, the Ontario government "has your backs".

"Today's announcement moves the needle in providing more confidence in our fast-moving sector, and we want to keep it that way," Flack said.

Ontario Federation of Agriculture president Drew Spoelstra said farmers need reliable safety net programs to offset growing tax burdens and increasing production costs.

"We also face significant challenges that are out of our control when it comes to market conditions, trade tariffs, and we might be facing down our bigger challenge yet," he said.

While Ontario farmers are adaptable and resilient, he added, "Farmers can only do so much and need reliable and effective safety net programs, like Ontario RMP, and others to

stand behind our efforts to feed Ontarians, and others, around the world."

Mike Chromczak, a local cash crop and vegetable producer, is also the co-chair of the Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition. This group has representation from the commodity groups eligible for RMP.

"Today's announcement is a monumental investment by our government that will help to fortify our domestic food supply, support jobs, economic growth while strengthening the resiliency of our respective sectors," he said.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Rob Flack, Elgin-Middlesex-London MPP and Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, announced an increase to the Risk Management Plan at an Eden-area farm on Feb. 28. Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy, to his immediate right, and farm leaders were on hand for the announcement that has been asked for by various farm groups.

Recommended Read Alouds for the Family



OCL BOOK TALK

HEATHER MATHERS

Community Librarian, Oxford County Library

With Family Day right around the corner, I've been thinking about the things I enjoy doing most with my family. One of my favourite things to do on a consistent basis is read a story with my daughter before bedtime. It's a great way to unwind after a busy day, plus it promotes bonding and helps her continue to grow her literacy skills. It's also a good reason to snuggle up under a warm blanket during those cold, February evenings! Here is a list of some children's books that are perfect to read aloud with your family:

Tubby by Leslie Patricelli

This is an adorable board book for toddlers that highlights all that is fun about bath time. There are rubber ducks, bubbles and a quirky baby that will make readers smile. Little ones will learn about bath time routines and parents will chuckle at the illustrations and relatable bath time moments.

The Little Blue Truck Series by Alice Schertle

The Little Blue Truck series is a selection of heartwarming titles about a truck and his best friend, Toad. There are six titles in the series, plus four seasonal titles, including Little Blue Truck's Valentine and Little Blue Truck's Springtime. This series is best suited for preschoolers and teaches early readers

important messages about friendship, being helpful and working together to solve a problem. With rhyming text and lots of animal and truck noises (Beep! Beep!), this series is fun for parents and early readers to enjoy together.

Pig the Pug Series by Aaron Blabey

This picture book series is about a selfish, mean-spirited Pug named Pig. The series follows the various laugh-out-loud antics of Pig and his long-suffering buddy, Trevor the wiener dog. Readers will be amused by the hilarious illustrations and story lines. Between the countless laughs, there are still many lessons to be learned, including lessons about sportsmanship, honesty and sharing with your friends.

Dog Man Series by Dav Pilkey

Dog Man is a series of graphic novels about a crime-fighter who is part dog and part human. The series is a spin-off of Dav Pilkey's Captain Underpants and is told in the words of Captain Underpants' protagonists, George and Harold. Pilkey's approach to storytelling involves integrating traditional comic book elements with expressive drawings and vibrant colours. Add lots of humour and this series is a recipe for great family reading! The series has gained immense popularity and is now a major motion picture, released in theaters on January 31.

You'll never regret spending time with your family and a good book! Pop into any branch of the Oxford County Library or visit our website at www.ocl.net to place a hold on one of these highlighted titles. And if you miss seeing Dog Man in theaters, join us at the Tillsonburg Branch later this year for a screening at our monthly Family Movie Fridays.

Heather Mathers is the Branch Services Librarian at the Oxford County Library's Tillsonburg Branch.

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Authorized by the CFO of the Ernie Hardeman campaign.

SWOX Council rejects request to declare December as Christian Heritage Month

DEBBIE KASMAN

Tillsonburg Post Correspondent

At its Jan. meeting, SWOX Council considered a request from Molly Banerjei, a real estate broker and Canadian television talk show host of “Chai With Molly,” to officially declare December as Christian Heritage Month. Banerjei’s request was initially declined by the clerk’s office.

A motion was made by Councillor Pete Ypma to approve the request and was seconded by Councillor Valerie Durston.

Mayor Mayberry expressed concerns about supporting the motion, emphasizing that such a declaration could blur the line between “church and state”, which should remain separate.

Councillor Ypma requested a recorded vote and his motion was defeated as follows with he, Durston and Coun. Craig Gillis voting for it and the other four voting against it.

Engage and Inform Committee planning township-wide community event for township’s 50th anniversary

The township’s Engage and Inform Committee is planning a township-wide community day event in Mount Elgin for the township’s

50th anniversary. More details will follow early in 2025.

Strategic Plan tracking 2023 to 2026

Clerk Julie Middleton and Chief Administrative Officer Mary Ellen Greb are looking into available parks development/design consultants to work with the township in relation to the new park in Mount Elgin (phase 6).

Funds have been included in the 2025 budget for beach volleyball courts at Hilltop Park.

There are continued concerns regarding lack of services within Mount Elgin and ongoing concerns with the Mount Elgin Road and Plank Line intersection. Staff will review traffic data to see if there is justification for a roundabout, but follow up with the Ministry of Transportation and local MPP Ernie Hardeman is required.

Ward boundary adjustment update

SWOX Council approved a motion to authorize the allocation of \$4,500 plus HST from the township’s election reserve account to fund the cost of surveying services required for the ward boundary adjustment, and to engage a licensed surveyor to prepare the meets and bounds land description for the updated ward boundaries.

Wins on health front from conference

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Tillsonburg Mayor Deb Gilvesy hopes that meetings with key provincial ministers at the recent Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) will benefit town residents.

ROMA is an annual meeting of rural municipality officials attended by Ontario cabinet ministers. Municipal officials can apply to meet with ministers or ministry officials to discuss pressing issues in their municipalities. Gilvesy attended the meeting with Deputy Mayor Dave Beres, who is also on the ROMA board, and CAO Kyle Pratt.

Meeting with Anthony Leardi, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health, the Tillsonburg delegation reiterated its support for a nurse practitioner-led clinic from the Ingersoll group. Applications for this started in 2017. Each nurse practitioner could care for 800 patients, and Gilvesy said the clinic could also attract a doctor.

“When they view Tillsonburg, they view Tillsonburg as Oxford, which is correct,” she said. “The problem is Tillsonburg is actually a regional hub for Elgin and Norfolk.”

Gilvesy said Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman attended the meeting and helped drive that point home.

New health care clinic

The Tillsonburg team also told ministry officials that council has passed funding for a temporary clinic in Tillsonburg for individuals without a primary care provider. The Oxford Health Team announced the establishment of this clinic on Monday. It will be

appointment-based only, and not for people with a primary care provider. Details regarding clinic dates, location and duration will be shared in coming weeks. The Oxford Health Team advised to follow its social media and website (oxfordoht.ca) for updates. Besides the Town of Tillsonburg, funding for the clinic is being provided by the Ingersoll Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic, Roulston’s Pharmacy, Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital and Thames Valley Family Health Team.

Since the convention, the province announced \$1.8 billion in funding to connect every Ontario resident to a primary care provider within the next four years. Gilvesy saw that as a positive for Tillsonburg.

Other issues

During a meeting with Minister of Tourism, Culture, and Sport Neil Lumsden, recent discussions at council regarding the inability to use the money raised from lotteries by service clubs on town projects were discussed. Although all of the council expressed frustration with this, as service clubs funded many town projects in the past, Gilvesy and Beres were particularly vocal about it. Gilvesy said Lumsden wasn’t aware of this, and town officials will have a follow-up meeting with the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario, which oversees lotteries, for follow-up.

“This is an easy fix. It’s just a regulation fix. It won’t cost any money,” she said.

The Tillsonburg delegation also discussed funding for cyber security and a grant for the Multi-Service Centre to the Ontario Skills Development Fund with ministers.

More local measles cases reported

With five more potential measles exposures reported in hospitals over the past two weeks, Southwestern Public Health is asking the community to call ahead before visiting any health care settings – including emergency departments – if you have been exposed to or have symptoms consistent with measles.

The potential exposures occurred at the following locations and timeframes:

- Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital – Emergency Department between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Jan. 25
- St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital – Emergency Department between 4:30 p.m. and 6:52 p.m. on Jan. 26
- Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital – Emergency Department between 10:37 p.m. on Jan. 26 and 12:45 a.m. on Jan. 27
- Woodstock General Hospital – Emergency Department between 10:41 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. on Jan. 27
- Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital – Emergency Department between 10 p.m. on Jan. 27 and 12:15 a.m. on Jan. 28

If you were present at these locations during these timeframes, were born in 1970 or later, and are not up-to-date with your vaccinations, please call public health at 1-800-922-0096 ext. 1232. This in-

cludes those who were only present briefly as measles is highly contagious and can linger in the air for up to two hours.

Actions to take if you were present during these times:

1. Check your immunization history or contact your health care provider to confirm if you and your family members are up-to-date with your measles vaccinations (MMR or MMRV). Two doses are generally recommended for anyone born in or after 1970. In general, those born before 1970 are considered protected against measles.
2. Watch for symptoms of measles for up to 21 days after exposure, even if you are up-to-date with your measles vaccinations. During this time, if you are unvaccinated avoid contact with vulnerable populations, including pregnant women and children.
3. Those who were present with an infant under twelve months of age, are pregnant, or are immunocompromised, are advised to immediately call public health at 1-800-922-0096 as you may be eligible for preventive treatment.

Measles is a reportable disease of public health significance that can result in complications such as diarrhea, ear infections, and pneumonia.

Agreement renewed for Station Arts Centre

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A new three-year Memorandum of Understanding with the Tillsonburg District Craft Guild to operate the Station Arts Centre was approved by town council at its last meeting.

The agreement includes a continuation of past terms and outlines the responsibilities of the craft guild and what the town will do to support it. This includes funding of \$48,756, which is a constant amount that increases annually by the Consumer Price Index. Guild president Sarah Senior made a presentation to council last fall, outlining some of the challenges and goals of the group. Citing decreased donations and increased demands for programming, she requested one-time funding with the option of two levels.

Coun. Kelly Spencer referred to Senior's presentation, and also to what she heard from residents, asking for a one-time grant of \$7,844 funded from the tax rate stabilization reserve.

"Their donation numbers are down 37 per cent," she said. "We've heard from several groups and people in town who said arts and culture take a back seat to sports."

Spencer cited some of the statistics Senior presented, that 30,000 people visited the Sta-

tion Arts Centre in 2024, more than 400 youth take part in the PA day programs and camps, and more than 200,000 visited the arts display at Turtlefest. She also said the youth council stated there is a need for more than sports in Tillsonburg.

"Their programs are affordable and accessible and families are already strained," Spencer said. "The option of increasing prices is something they said they want to avoid."

Since the last agreement was signed, minimum wage has increased 20 per cent and donations decreased 37 per cent. Spencer explained the funding would allow increased programming, which would increase revenue.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy cautioned against making agreements that will impact future years prior to the budget being set, but said she would support one-time funding.

Parker said he would also lean to one-time funding.

"It's tough because I know we struggle to have enough spots for day camps and the Station Arts Centre offers an alternative," he said.

Saying she would like this to pass, Spencer suggested sticking to adding one time funding of \$7,844, instead of increasing the amount annually. The motion passed with renewal of the agreement and the additional funding.

Library Lane solution still at bay

JEFF HELSDON

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A solution to deal with issues associated with the Library Lane walkway is still at bay.

Council heard a deputation from area businesses late last year, raising concerns associated with public safety, uneven surfaces in the brick walkway and drainage of the walkway towards businesses at One Library Lane. Council asked staff to look into the issue and report back with possible solutions. That report, presented at the Jan. 27 meeting, suggested installing better lighting in the walkway and installing convex mirrors to allow the public to see anyone potentially hiding behind the pillars supporting the roof. The cost of the changes was \$5,000.

Coun. Chris Rosehart questioned how the drainage issue was going to be dealt with.

"We did have it looked at by public works and parks and they concerned me they would be able to make it level," said Andrea Greenway, Director of Recreation, Culture and Parks.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy questioned if the mirrors were breakable and how concerns about the potential for someone hiding behind the pillars was addressed.

Greenway said the lighting and mirrors would address the safety concerns associated with a person hiding. She said the

mirrors are pretty sold can be broken.

Gilvesy recalled the issue being discussed several years ago and money being set aside for the walkway.

Chris Baird, the acting Director of Public Works said in his former role as Acting Director of Recreation, Culture and Parks, said a plan was put together to deal with the walkway but there wasn't money to fund the initiative.

Coun. Chris Parker suggested referring the issue back to staff until that plan is looked at.

"I don't know if we want to put money into this until we see the conceptual plan," he said mentioning the possibility of removing the roof and pillars from the walkway in the future.

Since public safety is one of the big concerns relating to the issue, Coun. Kelly Spencer questioned if there are known attacks in the area. She said if this is a problem, perhaps quick action is needed on the lights and mirrors.

Coun. Pete Luciani mentioned past concerns with drugs and related paraphernalia in the area. He said a report should look at how bad that issue is.

End of life for the walkway roof is 2028 in the town's capital budget. Gilvesy questioned the logic of putting money into the walkway if it would be torn down in three years.

Council agreed to refer the issue back to staff for examination into past plans for the area.

100 YEARS OF CARING FOR YOU!

The day was October 6, 1981: The Tillsonburg Community was invited to the official opening of Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital's (TDMH) latest renovation. The new wing, which began daily operation in July 1980, included the new emergency area which housed patient and visitor waiting rooms, emergency operating rooms, a day surgery recovery room and an X-ray department. Other renovations supported a refresh of older sections of the hospital, and the addition of air conditioning!

As this was the biggest renovation TDMH had experienced, the hospital was grateful for significant community support through the "My Hospital I Care" fundraising program. The Hospital Auxiliary (now known as the TDMH Volunteer Association) shared a large pledge showing their significance to the operations of the hospital.

Today, you can see TDMH Volunteers wherever you look in the hospital, especially in the gift and coffee shop and at

Information, sharing their commitment and dedication to our community hospital.

Over the last year, the "new" emergency department has seen some exciting changes with the addition of "eDash" – the electronic patient access and flow dashboard which shares information and updates about the hospital in real-time in the patient waiting area.

Also new this year is the Rapid Assessment Fast Track (RAFT) area where our Nurse Practitioner (NP) performs health assessments, diagnosis and management of illness and injuries for non-urgent patients, helping us to reduce wait times in the emergency department.

TDMH is excited to celebrate all our successes in the community and looks forward to another 100 years of caring for you!

Remember, you can share your memories of the last 100 years – TDMH-100years@tdmh.on.ca #TDMH100years #TDMHvolunteers100years



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'Opening Night' is a celebration of community

JENNIFER ANGER-JULL

Tillsonburg Post Contributor

Theatre Tillsonburg is hard at work preparing for its upcoming production of "Opening Night," a comedy by Canada's own Norm Foster. Directed by Mark Smith and produced by Joe Sheik, it will run from Feb. 13-15 and 20-22 at 7:30 p.m., with matinee performances on Feb. 16 and 23 at 2 p.m.

If you are looking for that perfect Valentine's Day outing or date night, Theatre Tillsonburg has got you covered. This hilarious comedy is a delightful exploration of life's unexpected surprises and how theatre brings people together, making it a fantastic choice for couples and friends alike.

"Opening Night" is set during the opening night of a rural production titled "Whisper on the Wind" at the Charles Killian Theatre Noir Repertory House. The play follows accountant Ruth Tisdale (Tina Hurley) as she drags her varnish salesman husband, Jack (Pete Matthews), to his very first theatrical experience. As the couple navigates the evening, they encounter the many highs and lows—mostly lows—of putting on a play. This leads to a series of hilarious moments and encounters with TV actor Michael Craig (Jason Leighfield), cynical director Richard Hyde Finch (Brian Stanhope) and his needy girlfriend Cilla Fraser (Monique Bouchard), ingenue Libby Husniak (Katie Raymond), waiter and aspiring actor Tom Delaney (Rendall Lackenbauer), and stage actor Clayton Fry (Dave Butcher).

Theatre has a unique way of bringing people together, often in unexpected ways, especially for those who have been dragged to a play by their significant other. You may just be in for delightful surprise.

Among the cast and crew of "Opening Night," you may recognize more than a few familiar faces from Theatre Tillsonburg, which is a true testament to how amazing our little community theatre really is. More often than not, community members come to see a show, volunteer or audition and end up falling in love with the experience, and becoming a part of the Theatre Tillsonburg family. That's what sets Theatre Tillsonburg apart from the rest—our theatre commu-



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

nity becomes our family, and we really do care about each other and our theatre because, for so many of us, that is our happy place. It's this sense of belonging and passion for the arts that makes our productions so special!

Tina Hurley, who is appearing for her third time on Theatre Tillsonburg's stage in 'Opening Night' said, "I have loved every experience I've had with Theatre Tillsonburg. I keep coming back for more! How could I not? I get to spend time with some amazing people and when the audience is enjoying the show? Best feeling ever!"

What makes this production particularly exciting is the collaboration of both seasoned and new members of our community theatre. Veteran actors and crew members are stepping up to mentor newcomers, fostering a spirit of integration and camaraderie that lies at the heart of Theatre Tillsonburg. Katie Raymond is excited to make her debut on Theatre Tillsonburg's stage and is eager to become a part of the Theatre Tillsonburg family, hoping to participate in future productions. Although this is her first production here, she is not new to acting and brings a wealth of experience to the stage despite her young age. Another new face is a young artist from our community in Otterville, Christian McCall. He has created a magnificent backdrop for opening night, featuring a stunning farm setting. Although he usually specializes in paleoart, blending artistic creativity with scientific research to reconstruct ancient animals and environments, this piece showcases his versatility. With experience working alongside scientists and museums

worldwide, Christian uses 3-D software to digitally sculpt and paint his subjects, ensuring each piece is grounded in extensive research. We're incredibly thankful to have such a talented artist contributing to our community!


Jason Leighfield who plays a TV actor in "Opening Night" and is longtime Theatre Tillsonburg member wrote, "The thing about community theatre is that you are coming to it of your own free will. It's not paying bills; it's not an obligation. There's a satisfaction to that. You get to be a part of a team and build and create something. You're just there because you want to be. Every piece is just as important as the next. We don't often get to experience that as adults. From the start of a play, when you first open the script to the last curtain, it's just discovery. I love that feeling. The sense of accomplishment. I can't think of a role I've done that I feel like I've discovered every moment, every facet of a character. It's perfectly imperfect."


And the family you build. It's this intense, hyper-focused time. A group of people coming together from all different angles for a common goal, to stage the best possible performance they possibly can. In doing so, you build these super strong bonds. You rely on each other to know their job and trust that if something goes off the rails, you, as a group, can bring it back. I always marvel at the experience. As adults, it's difficult to foster new relationships, but with theatre you have no choice. You have instant bonds with some people, while others take a while. Still others, you figure out how to work together. Life is life. You won't like everyone. But in all those people, you build lifelong connections. Whether it's true friendships or simply that shared experience, it's all building community and being able to have some pride in knowing that you had a hand in creating something that was an experience."

Join us for "Opening Night" and experience the magic of community theatre. Not only will you enjoy a night filled with laughter, but you will also be supporting our community theatre, which is dedicated to building a better community through the arts. Whether you come to Theatre Tillsonburg for just one night or find yourself falling in love with the magic, there's so much more waiting for you. It's not just about enjoying a show; it's about building connections, strengthening community ties, and escaping the real world, if only for a moment. When you take a chance on a night at the theatre, you never know what unexpected experiences and friendships might await you.

As a 100 per cent volunteer-based, not-for-profit organization, we are dedicated to bringing the joy of theatre to our community while providing a supportive environment for all involved. This show is also part of a broader Tourism Oxford collaboration, featuring all Oxford County community theatres in the "Foster Four" series, which celebrates four great Foster shows at four great Oxford County theatres.

Tickets are available at www.theatretillsonburg.com or by calling the Box Office at : 519.688.3026 Follow Us on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date with all things Theatre Tillsonburg.







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Weekend Quiz

by Jake Grant

- What is the birthstone for February?
- What does GDP stand for?
- Who won album of the year at the 2025 Grammys?
- What color is the brick road in Wizard of Oz?
- Who is the Roman god of love, desire and attraction?
- Did Warton Willie see his

- shadow on groundhog day?
- Who wrote Pride and Prejudice?
- What is the name of the largest mountain in Canada?
- What do you call people born on Feb. 29th?
- What year was marijuana legalized in Canada?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27

Senior's Centre hosting health and wellness fair

This year, the Tillsonburg Seniors' Centre wants you to be happy, be healthy and be here – at their 2025 health and wellness fair.

That's the theme of this year's health and wellness fair, which is being hosted by the Tillsonburg Senior Centre in partnership with the Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario, and with funding from the Government of Ontario. Scheduled for Wednesday, March 5, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., the event will feature a trade show component as well as educational seminars and demonstrations.

"This will be our sixth health fair," said Senior Centre Administrator Nancy Puhrl-Slingerland in a release. "We're very appreciative of the opportunity to once again host this event, because it's a great way for those new to Tillsonburg to find out all the great things our community has to offer, and hopefully, for those who have lived here for years to learn something new. Because when it comes to living your best life as a senior, knowledge is power."

As in the past, the trade show will feature exhibitors running the gamut from those offering social opportunities, to those whose businesses or organizations provide services for seniors such as home help or financial services. And in an effort to start the New Year on a healthy footing, Puhrl said the trade show will also focus heavily on ways to promote and maintain good health.

"We'll be offering free healthy snacks throughout the day courtesy of Lifetimes Living Inc. (Tillsonburg Retirement, Park Place Retirement and Oxford Manor), free bottled water courtesy of Sobeys Tillsonburg and of course there will be great demonstrations including Essentrics - a gentle form of fitness focusing on thoroughly stretching all the body's muscle fascia and promoting toning, improved balance and more.

Information seminars have always been a staple of the senior centre's health fairs, and the 2025 event will be no exception. Ontario Provincial Police Community Safety and Media Relations Officer Randi Crawford will talk about scams targeting seniors (how to avoid them and what to do if you're a victim), the Oxford Genealogical Society will talk about how to get started in genealogical research, and Deb

McKay of Compassionate Grief Support will speak about the myths and realities of grief and moving forward after loss. Additionally, Matthew Griffis from Tillsonburg Public Library will talk about digital literacy and technology training resources available locally.

"The seminars are offered at intervals throughout the day and I'd encourage those who attend our show to take part in one or more of these talks," said Puhrl-Slingerland. It's a great way to ask your questions of highly-knowledgeable experts so you have the straight goods on how these topics affect you."

This year's show will also feature interactive opportunities for participants.

"The VON will be offering free blood pressure checks throughout the day, and we'll also have someone on site to do hearing checks as well. It's a great opportunity to take advantage of these types of screenings."

Volunteers will be on hand to offer tours of the Senior Centre, and to provide information on its programs and activities.

"We're very fortunate here at the Senior Centre to have a wealth of volunteers who are happy to share their talents with others at events like these. And of course, we want to showcase all the great things we do and offer, and this is the perfect place to do that."

Although the health fair targets seniors, family members are encouraged to attend as well, as there's a wealth of information available to assist those with aging parents, such as household modifications to improve safety and mobility.

"Our hope at the end of the day is that people who are new to town as well as those who have lived here for years will attend our show and have a better idea of the services and programs that exist in our community to help them live happier, healthier lives," said Puhrl.

The show will kick off at 9:30 a.m. March 5. Following the official opening ceremony at 9:45 a.m., the booths will be open until 2:30 p.m. so that participants can make their way through the show. There will be draw prizes, giveaways and more. Admission to the show is free and all seniors and their families are welcome. For more information on the show or about being an exhibitor, call the Senior Centre at 519-688-2520.

Funding provided by:



tillsonburgpost.com

Senior's Health & Wellness Fair 2025



CALL 519-688-2520 FOR MORE INFORMATION

WHEN: Wednesday, March 5, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

WHERE: Tillsonburg Senior Centre, 45 Hardy Avenue, Tillsonburg

WHAT: Free admission, educational seminars, information booths, free healthy snacks and refreshments courtesy of Lifetimes Living Inc. (Tillsonburg Retirement, Park Place Retirement and Oxford Manor) and Sobeys Tillsonburg, free blood pressure and hearing screening, draw prizes, giveaways and unique interactive opportunities!

WHO: Open to all seniors and those who want to learn about healthy, active living

Hosted by the Tillsonburg Senior Centre in partnership with the Older Adult Centres Association of Ontario and funding support from the Government of Ontario.



Funding provided by:



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Thunder split pair of games with Delhi

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

The Tillsonburg Thunder split a home-and-home series with the Delhi Flames with the home team being the loser in both cases.

Playing in Delhi on Feb. 1, Tillsonburg took a 2-0 lead early in the first period, with Sheldon Thompson and Thomas Maia hitting the mesh with only 2:02 off the clock. Delhi came back with a vengeance, tying it up before the five-minute mark. Maia and Taylor Doherty added two more period's end to put the Thunder in the lead.

It was a second-period scoring fest for Tillsonburg with four goals. Brandon Couto had a pair, and singles came from Nicolas D'Agostino and Josh Pietrantonio for an 8-2 lead. The third period was all Delhi, with the Flames rallying for three goals, but they were unable to overcome the deficit and lost 8-5.

Assists through the game came from Thompson (5), Kurtis Heggie, Couto (2), D'Agostino (2), Mitchell Fitzmorris, Tucker Firth (2), and Kyle Brezinski.

It was a much tighter game on Jan. 25, going into overtime before the Flames eked out a 3-2 win.

Delhi was first on the board,



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

All eyes are on the puck Saturday night in front of Tillsonburg Thunder goalie Jesse Raymond who faced 38 Delhi shots in an 8-5 Thunder WOSHL victory.

with a goal with only seven minutes left in the first. Spencer Hutchison and Cory Mallet fed D'Agostino to even the score before period's end. Delhi took the lead in the second, and held it most of the way through the third until Pietrantonio accepted a pass from Braden Roberts to send the game into overtime. Delhi scored the winner half-way through overtime.

The Thunder have two games left in regular season play and are sitting in fifth place at 25 points, a point behind the Petrolia Squires with a game in hand. The Stratford Fighting Irish are only two points ahead for third place. The Thunder face off against the Irish Saturday night at 7:30 in what promises to be an exciting game, before finishing the season on the road in Stratford.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

WOSHL's Tillsonburg Thunder defeated the Delhi Flames 8-5 on Feb. 1 in Delhi. Tillsonburg's Sheldon Thompson (37) scored the opening goal, and assisted on five.



(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Tillsonburg Thunder's Brandon Couto had two goals and two assists in Saturday's 8-5 WOSHL victory in Delhi.

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South Oxford Storm U12 A celebrate 'huge accomplishment' at International Silver Stick championships

JEFF TRIBE

Post Correspondent

Simply getting to the International Silver Stick finals is a stated annual goal for Ponting Financial Group U12 A South Oxford Storm coach Greg Mitchell.

"To compete and win it is next level," he said of a 4-3 victory over the Woodstock Jr. Navy Vets in the U12 11U A championship game Sunday, Jan. 19 in Newmarket. "A huge accomplishment."

Admittedly, Mitchell had been anticipating a rematch with a strong Welland Tigers team which last year, 'won everything' (league, Silver Stick and OMHA A) available.

"We were looking forward to playing them again, but they didn't make it."

The Tigers were doubled 2-1 in their semi-final, the identical score the Storm got past St. Marys Rock with through a 7:30 a.m. start to set up a Pool A rematch in the final.

"We're not a morning team, so it was good to win that one," said Mitchell.

South Oxford had taken a 6-3 win over Woodstock in round robin two days earlier. In that outing, the Jr. Navy Vets had dominated the first period.

"Our goalie kept us in the game," said Mitchell.

The Storm took a 1-0 lead on a power-play goal four seconds prior to the end of the first period. The teams traded two second-frame goals each, with South Oxford scoring the eventual game-winner 4:10 into the third frame, adding an insurance goal 28 seconds later. The Jr. Navy Vets got back within two with 2:10 remaining, but the Storm countered 1:07 later to wrap up the win.

In the final, it was the Storm which got off to a quick start, up 2-0 on goals just 11 seconds apart near the end of the first period.

"And kind of rolling a little bit," said Mitchell.

Woodstock responded with two unanswered markers in the second 15-minute frame, with 5:50 and 3:49 to play, taking a 3-2 lead at the 1:38 mark of the third.

South Oxford netted the equalizer with 6:31 remaining in the period. With the clock running down, Mitchell was preparing mentally for overtime, when Carter Tryon scored the game and tournament winner with 51 seconds left on the clock, just three seconds after Woodstock had killed off a minor penalty for tripping.

Tryon was kind of skating away from the net said Mitchell, turning and firing a top-shelf shot that would have taken the water bottle off the net, had there been one.

"There wasn't a water bottle, but that was the shot," credited the Storm coach. "It was a snipe."

South Oxford held on through the final seconds for an emotional come-from-behind victory.

"Drama too," added Mitchell. "It wasn't a walk in the park."

Apart from the elevated stakes at the final tournament, a correspondingly challenging level of play added to the experience for the Storm, which had won its regional semi and final games by scores of 10-0 and 7-0 respectively.

"This tournament as a whole was tough. All good hockey games."

South Oxford opened Pool A round-robin play with a solid 5-2 win over the Kent Cobras Thursday, Jan. 16, following up with



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Ponting Financial Group U12 A South Oxford Storm won gold at the recent International Silver Stick held in Newmarket. The team is preparing for its upcoming league championships. the 6-3 win over Woodstock the following morning, and a 5-1 success against the Barrie Colts.

"We handled them pretty well," said Mitchell.

Having already clinched first place in their pool, the Storm closed round-robin play with a 9-0 win over the Flint Ice Raiders, good for a 4-0 record and a plus-19 goal differential (25 for, six against).

St. Marys was 3-1 in Pool B, its lone loss a 5-1 tournament-opening setback to Welland. Subsequently finding their legs, the Rock defeated Newmarket 7-1, East Nipissing 4-2 and Rochester 8-1 to set up a tight semi-final with the Storm. Welland finished pool play at 4-0, dropping an equally tough semi to the Jr. Navy Vets.

With the Shamrock League regular season games winding down, South Oxford is focussing on getting ready for league championships and its single associated OMHA A berth. A championship will not come easily given the first-placed St. Thomas Jr. Stars (19-2) South Oxford (18-2) and St. Marys (12-8-3) are one-two-three respectively in the standings.

Pool A will feature the first, fourth, fifth, eighth and ninth-placed teams vying for two cross-over semi-final berths against the top two teams from Pool B (second, third, sixth and seventh). The two winners from best-of-three semi-finals will meet in a best-of-three final. The winner will advance to OMHA A championships in Whitby April 4-6.

Registration for soccer is open

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Registration for soccer is now open for players of all ages.

Jen Bakker, chair of the operations committee and vice-president of Tillsonburg Minor Soccer, advised parents to register their players now before the prices go up on March 1. Last year there were about 900 youth house league players and 200 in the adult league. In addition, this year there will be a women's-only adult league. For more information, visit tillsonburgsoccer.ca

Mark Locker, president of the Tillsonburg Football Club, which runs the competitive or rep soccer, said pre-tryouts for the teams took place last fall. Teams have been practicing indoors over the winter. The league had about 250 players last year, with teams for males from eight to 14, females nine to 14, and a men's premier division. There is also the possibility of teams in older age groups. Locker said there are still opening on teams in some situations. Check the league's web site at tillsonburgfc.ca for more information.

Although players hitting the field won't see

a difference, there were behind-the-scenes administrative changes at the club since last season. The house league and rep leagues operated separately the past few seasons due to bylaws and insurance requirements from Ontario Soccer, the provincial soccer body. Changes at the provincial level are allowing the two to operate together again.

"Merging the club will allow for growth for players," Bakker said. "It's going to allow an easier transition to playing competitive."

Locker agreed the change will allow simpler moving players from house league to rep, and also allow sharing of coaching resources. He wants what's best for the player.

"We want the player to play at appropriate levels and what meets their requirements," he said.

"We are really happy that the house league and competitive soccer programs are working together as one club again," said TMSC president Frank Deutsch. "With the growth in the town, we are seeing significant growth in Tillsonburg soccer and therefore we are working diligently to ensure soccer programming continues to evolve and improve."



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

BRINGING HOME THE HARDWARE

Two Tillsonburg teams won medals in this past weekend's Kitchener Golden Ring Tournament. (Top photo) Fun3 Ratter won all four of their games, making them undefeated bringing home gold on Sunday. (Bottom photo) U12-Jacko lost their first game 9-7, won their second game 6-0 and their third game 9-3, taking them to finals where they won silver against Saint Mary's.

CLUB OXFORD HOCKEY

Club Oxford heating up as playoffs approach

JEFF GWYN
Post Contributor

Jan. 19
Distinct 3, ReMax 1
Distinct was able to play a simple game and take advantage of their breakouts. Good defence kept the rebounds away from the front of the net. ReMax had some odd-man rushes, but couldn't get second chances tonight. They didn't let Distinct stay in front for long, which gave them a chance. Kyle Smith had two assists for Distinct. Ben Sharp had the goal for ReMax.

Fody's 4, Agrospray 4
Fody's looked like this one was slipping away, but they bounced back quite well. Balanced scoring helped secure the points. Agrospray built a lead, but let Fody's back into this one. They fought hard for the point, but could use a break or a bounce for a win. Ryan Bruckler had three assists for Agrospray. Kevin VanKooten and Jeremy Hilliard had two points each for Fody's.

Royal LePage 4, B-Line 3
Royal LePage had a strong night from the blue line, which helped keep pressure all night. Fighting hard for a top playoff spot is motivating this squad. B-Line were strong in this one and didn't let Royal get ahead for long. A late goal was hard to take, but the effort is there. Mitch Ryksen had two goals for Royal LePage. Kurtis Burton has two points for B-Line.

Precision 3, Airmount 0
Precision keeps playing their game. They have been doing well keeping their zone clean, which lets the offence get more chances on a tougher forecheck. Airmount just couldn't get past a hot goalie in this one. They played well defensively except for a minute in the first, but couldn't find any offence. Justin French had three points for Precision.

Source 4, RND 1
Source played a tight checking game and were able to find some secondary scoring in this one. They didn't give RND much space, which

helped steer the game. RND couldn't get into the offensive zone very well tonight, when they did, they couldn't mount much. The focus on scoring took away from the defense in the second. Mike Murray had two points for Source. Brendan Ryksen had a goal for RND.

Glass 5, Carquest 2
Glass keeps rolling, they controlled most of this one. Their defense helps make their offence even more dangerous. Carquest couldn't get their normal net-front presence and it frustrated them. They worked hard to break the shutout, which was a moral victory. Gaige Benish and Jordan Roesch had two points each for Glass. Derrick French and Ryan Crandall had goals for Carquest.

Jan. 22
Distinct 4, Fody's 3
Distinct seemed to have more energy tonight and were able to make plays to get breaks in the neutral zone. They used the whole ice to get scoring chances and it paid off. Fody's started quickly, but couldn't quite match Distinct tonight. They did have some good chances in close, but couldn't cash in. Kyle Smith had two goals for Distinct. Chris Sanders and Mike Mudford had goals for Fody's.

ReMax 4, Agrospray 2
ReMax were able to battle back after being down 2-0. They were able to take advantage of a frustrated Agro team, while also stopping them defensively. Agrospray looked to be in control, but got off their game in the second. They are putting in the effort, but the second period hasn't been kind lately. Dan Andersson had two goals for ReMax. Travis Horvath and Brady VanYmeren had goals for Agrospray.

Source 3, Carquest 1
Source was able to create more chances tonight. They had some good rushes and also kept Carquest from getting many second chances. Carquest hasn't been able to find their offence lately. They are getting chances, but not getting

rebounds in close. Craig Robb had two points for Source. Adam Matthews had a goal for Carquest.

Jan. 26
Agrospray 6, Distinct 1
Agrospray finally broke through and had a dominant full game. They have been on the cusp of wins, maybe this will continue for the rest of the season. Distinct started off strong, but a speedy and tight-checking Agro made it tough. They'll bounce back with their full team. Kelsey VanYmeren had three points for Agrospray. Braydon Rodgers had a goal for Distinct.

ReMax 3, Fody's 3
ReMax started off strong with some great rushes, they couldn't hold off a tough Fody's team, but held on for the tie. Fody's had a slow start, but found a rhythm and next gear in the second. A solid comeback. Marty Friedrich and Jeremy Hilliard had goals for Fody's. Brady Sutherland and Jordan Kobayashi has two points each for ReMax.

Glass 5, B-Line 3
Glass continues their strong season. They are able to push through other tough teams and are a very cohesive unit with 100-plus goals on the season already. B-Line was in this one and were pushing for the tie at the end. An empty-netter ended that, but a solid game from them. Kris King and Parker Terryberry had two points each for Glass. Adam Gignac had two points for B-Line.

Precision 4, Carquest 2
Precision is really finding their way. They are playing a strong game lately and finding ways to score against all teams. Carquest needs to find a way to get through the last few minutes of games. They are a good team, but just not having any puck luck. Justin French and Christian Devlin had two goals each for Precision. Brett Ferguson and Brad Henderson had goals for Carquest.

RND 3, Airmount 3
RND had a lot of speed in this one, they had

rushes and worked hard on the forecheck. They held on after a late Airmount push. Airmount looked a step behind early, but came in clutch to make it a game just before the curfew. A good comeback to salvage a point. Peter Burgon had a goal for RND. Jacob Bauman had two points for Airmount.

Source 3, Royal LePage 1
Source finally broke through in the second, led by a Nate Bisschop hat trick. They fought hard in the second as playoffs are approaching to earn the win. Royal LePage plays a good defensive game, but their offence is struggling to get a bounce or pressure. Maybe their frustration will turn into wins in time for playoffs. Nate Bisschop had a hat trick for Source. Nathan Ryksen had a goal for Royal LePage.

Jan. 29
Carquest 1, Royal LePage 0
Carquest was able to gut one out at the end and get back in the win column. A solid effort all game and a relief for the squad with a good second period. Royal LePage must be frustrated with these close losses. They need to find their scoring to have a chance down the line. Ryan Crandall had the goal for Carquest.

Glass 5, RND 3
Glass bounced back after being down for a rare time this year. They let their scoring takeover, while their defence calmed down a fast RND team. RND looked to be on the right path, but they couldn't hold the Glass offence back in the second. A good effort overall though. Brendan Soares had three points for Glass. Dylan Ralf had two points for RND.

Precision 4, B-Line 2
Precision lost only one game in January, vaulting into second place. They took advantage of their breaks in this one and didn't let B-Line get much to the net all night. B-Line has been having trouble in the second periods. They had trouble getting into the zone tonight and that led to very few chances. Mike Haegens and Matt Vanbesien had goals for Precision. Kurtis Bull and Kurtis Burton has goals for B-Line.

CLUB OXFORD A DIVISION	GP	W	L	T	PTS
DISTINCT EXTERIORS	23	12	8	3	27
FODY'S AUTOMOTIVE	23	10	7	6	26
REMAX REALTY	23	9	11	3	21
AGROSPRAY	23	6	11	6	18

CLUB OXFORD B DIVISION	GP	W	L	T	PTS
TILLSONBURG GLASS	24	21	1	2	44
CALIBRATED PRECISION	24	9	8	7	25
CARQUEST AUTO PARTS	24	9	9	6	24
RND CONSTRUCTION	24	9	9	6	24
SOURCE FOR SPORTS	23	11	11	1	23
ROYAL LEPAGE REALTY	24	8	11	5	21
AIRMOUNT FARMS	23	6	13	4	16
B-LINE TRUCKING	24	6	17	1	13



BRIDGE ANYONE?
Members of the Tillsonburg Bridge Club participated in a bridge marathon in the Tillsonburg Town Centre on Jan. 25. The event was held to celebrated the anniversary of the game of bridge. New players are welcome to join the club and lessons are offered. Anyone interested can email tburbgbridge@gmail.com.
(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Tariffs could cause damage for Tillsonburg locals

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg won't be immune if U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs come into force in the future.

Things were down to the wire on Monday before tariffs were to start on Tuesday, when Trump announced a 30-day reprieve on the tariffs in exchange for increased border security.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy said it's hard to quantify potential damage if the tariffs came in place, but she had concerns in a few sectors.

"I am very concerned about the manufacturing sector and any potential looming layoffs," she said. "The auto industry will face immense pressure and even though the Town of Tillsonburg has diversified its industry, the tariffs will also have a negative effect on the food industry and any other manufacturers with U.S. contracts. The surrounding area that feeds into our town is highly agricultural, which will also face challenges in the U.S. market. In 2022 alone, the U.S. imported over \$37 billion of agriculture goods from Canada."

Tillsonburg BIA executive director Mark Renaud said he was grocery shopping on the weekend and saw people pick up products, look at the labels and put the products back if it wasn't Canadian. The BIA is also encouraging its members that manufacture products to register those products at madeinca.ca

Candace Laing, president and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, noted how intertwined the Canadian and Ameri-

can supply chains are. She suggested if President Trump wanted to bring down the cost of goods for Americans, he would look at strengthening trade ties, not tearing them apart. Over the next 30 days, she said it will allow more time for Canadian businesses and government to "drive home the point tariffs make no sense."

"Nevertheless, with tariffs on the table, the turmoil and uncertainty persist," Laing said. "Tariffs tomorrow instead of tariffs today still leaves businesses, workers and families in the lurch. This is not a game we want to play when livelihoods depend on existing U.S. relationships. For some provinces and communities, the continued risks of these changes are a body blow."

At Sobeys', owners John and Wendy Cameron noticed customers are asking which products are Canadian. Prior to the delay in implementation of tariffs, they also noticed an uptick in sales of American alcohol products with customers buying large quantities.

Marwood International Inc. is one of the local automotive manufacturers with large exports to the U.S. Tyler Wood, vice-president of business development at Marwood, said the company exports between 60 to 75 per cent of its products to the U.S. He explained the automotive industry is dependent on parts manufactured in all three countries. While Trump states he is trying to get people to buy American-made vehicles, Wood says there isn't enough manufacturing capacity in the States to meet the demand.

"If we assume that the latest threat from President Trump does become law, it will be extremely impactful for virtually every industry and would have a drastic negative impact on the US con-

sumer because ultimately, and counter to the narrative that President Trump likes to push, it is the consumer who will bear the brunt of any tariff regardless of whatever that value may be," Wood said. "This is because businesses will do whatever they need to in order to survive and they are not in a position to absorb much, if any, tariff value and remain sustainable."

He predicted if the tariffs come into force, orders would be status quo in the short term, followed by massive declines in orders in the long term. That would result in huge layoffs in all three countries, Wood maintains.

Tillsonburg council briefs

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Consent granted for high-rise apartment buildings

Tillsonburg council supported an application by Harvest Ave. Inc. to sever a property containing four high-density residential lots into four separate parcels at 1 Simcoe St. The application was to sever three lots and retain one.

Updated naming policy

The Town of Tillsonburg has a new naming policy for municipal parks, and other assets.

The new policy has an evaluation framework for the process. It adds sponsorship levels, a length of time associated with a name and the requirement for an annual 10 per cent reinvestment. The policy applies to new municipal parks or assets, re-opening of facilities following renovations, renaming of facilities to recognize past contributions. The policy is not intended for park bench or tree memorials.

Hiring of new museum curator coming soon

Former Tillsonburg Mayor John Armstrong weighed in on the vacancy of an Annandale House curator in a letter to council.

Armstrong wrote the letter after attending the mayor's New Year's levee. While he had good things to say about the mayor's remarks and the event, he encouraged council to fill the vacancy for the curator since Patti Phelps' retirement in March 2024.

Andrea Greenway, Director of Culture, Recreation and Parks, updated council, saying the hiring process is underway.

New rates and fees

As part of an annual update, most rates and fees charges by the town increased by less than five per cent with a couple of exceptions. Included in the fee update were a \$50 NSF fee in all town departments, a new fee for the recently-constructed Deep End meeting room in the complex addition at \$31.30 per hour or \$82.80 per day, and the fee for brass plaques at the cemetery jumped from \$774 to \$950 due to increased cost from the supplier.

One exception to the small changes was the planning fee was in the planning department where fee increases varied from 3 per cent to 44 per cent. For instance, a planning application for a zone change went from \$1,793 to \$2,590.

"Some are items that were in previous bylaw, some were slight changes and some were new additions," said Renato Pullia, Director of Finance/Treasurer.

"I'd like to thank the finance department for essentially going

with the cost of living on all of these," said Deputy Mayor Dave Beres, adding gradual increases will be better accepted than a huge increase after three or four years of no increase.

Cemetery issues

A report on decorations placed on cemetery stones requested by council to alleviate confusion was sent back to staff for further clarification.

Council requested the report at the Dec. 9 meeting after there was confusion resulting from a Facebook post about removing "seasonal toppers". While the report outlined care of stones and placement of flowers and lights, it didn't address seasonal toppers on stones.

"Nowhere in here did I see seasonal toppers mentioned," said Mayor Deb Gilvesy, raising the issue of why toppers need to be removed.

Greenway admitted the information could be clearer.

Coun. Chris Rosehart said the advertisement she saw said the toppers need to be removed by Nov. 1. She said the report says toppers must be securely fastened between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31 or staff will remove.

"We don't have the staffing; we are the keepers. I think we need to look at being more efficient," Rosehart said.

The report was sent back to find more efficiencies.

New rental fee waiver policy

A new rental fee policy for Tillsonburg town facilities was endorsed by council.

Previously, groups seeking a fee waiver needed to make a deputation to council to request the exemption. The new policy provides a set of guidelines for local non-profit organizations to apply and for the decision to be made by staff if criteria are met.



The Tillsonburg Minor Soccer Club (TMSC) has one part-time job posting and is accepting bid submissions for 2 open tender opportunities.

- Part-time Referee Coordinator position
- Grass Cutting Tender
- Lawn Maintenance
- Clubhouse Hall/Canteen Tender

Please go to the TMSC website home page www.tillsonburgsoccer.ca to view the requirement documents to apply for the open position and to submit your tender bid.

Youth house league and competitive registration, as well as adult league registration, is now open.

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Photography has been a lifelong passion for Helsdon Photography owner Jeff Helsdon

Jeff Helsdon initially became interested in photography when joining the photography club while attending Maple Lane Senior Public School in Grade 8. His interest continued through high school and he attended Fanshawe College's photography program. Fast-forward to the present and he's still at it.

"I feel privileged to have captured the memories of thousands of local residents, and been part of their special moments, including weddings and graduations," he said.

Speaking of graduations, now is the time when graduation photos are in full swing. Helsdon takes a different approach to graduation photographs, taking several different poses and letting the customer view the photos to ensure they are

happy. Beyond Glendale and Anandale, Helsdon Photography has the graduation collars for Valley Heights, Delhi District Secondary School, East Elgin Secondary School, Fanshawe College and Mohawk College. And the prices are usually more economical than is offered through schools.

Although team sports photography is a big part of Helsdon's business, he still takes weddings, portraits, and has a special emphasis on business head shots.

Well known as the Santa photographer in the Tillsonburg Town Centre, this task adds special joy to the Christmas season for Helsdon and his staff.

"Many people have commented to me over the years what better way is there to get in the Christmas spirit," he said.



Helsdon has some interesting tales of what he has seen in front of his lens with visits with Santa. From a special surprise visit for a baby and mother coming home for the first time to the joy on the faces of children and seniors alike, he has seen some emotional moments. And then there's the pet photos with Santa that have ranged from pot-bellied pigs and rats to snakes and lizards, on top of the expected dogs and cats.

As a past member of the Professional Photographers of Canada, Helsdon earned his Craftsman of Photographic Arts. One of his career highlights was having a photo displayed at Disney's Epcot Centre after winning in the Professional Photographers of America contest.



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Getting the real story at Pier 21



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

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

Some travel experiences are just plain fun. Some offer a combination of entertainment and education. And some are simply serious, sometimes life-changingly serious. I would put the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 in the latter category. If you spend the time and pay attention as you make your way through the exhibits at this museum on the Halifax waterfront, you will come out with a lot of new knowledge, and perhaps even some changed perspectives.

You may even learn some new things about your own personal heritage – but more about that later, in our last stop at the Museum.

Pier 21 was where about a million immigrants first set foot in Canada, beginning in 1928, until 1971. It was also an important transfer site for the Canadian military during World War II. So, ironically, this is the place where many new Canadians entered the country for the first time, and also the place where many young Canadians left the country, too often for the last time, as they headed for the battlefields of Europe.

Those kinds of stories would make it easy for Pier 21 to be romanticized, as heartwarming stories of newcomers and courageous stories of young soldiers are told. And while, yes, those accounts are part of the narrative here, Pier 21 does not duck the ugly realities of Canada's racist immigration policies that lasted throughout the majority of our national history.

And that is, above all, the cause of the new knowledge and changed perspectives that can re-

sult for your visit, as I mentioned above.

The problem is summed up on one information panel, entitled "Why Europeans?" It reads, in part, "Canadian immigration policies overwhelmingly favoured white Europeans and Americans. Racist immigration policy and practice effectively excluded African, Asian and other racialized people until just a few years before Pier 21 closed in 1971."

The museum tells its stories with brutal honesty. When we visited, there was a deeply moving exhibit concerning the reality of slavery in Canada. The facts as presented were in stark contrast to our comfortable image of Canada as the welcoming terminus of the "underground railway" which welcomed enslaved persons escaping from slavery in the U.S. That certainly happened – but so did slavery, with all its horrors, for a period that extended from 1629 to 1834.

Pier 21 owes its very existence to the work of a woman, herself the daughter of Jewish Russian immigrants who settled in Cape Breton. Ruth M. Goldbloom led the campaign to restore Pier 21 as a museum telling the stories of immigrants. Pier 21 opened in 1999. A decade later, it officially became The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, Canada's sixth national museum (four are in Ottawa, the fifth, the National Museum of Human Rights, is in Winnipeg).

Pier 21 is a facility that rewards those who take the time to read all of the information panels. There you find the true story of immigration, and you will inevitably pause to reflect on our national history, a mixed bag at best. Rivalling the stories of slavery for sheer horror is the account of the ship, the MSS St. Louis. In 1939, the MSS St. Louis attempted to land in Canada. It carried 900 Jewish refugees attempting to escape Nazi Germany. Prime Minister King refused to allow the ship to land, and sent it back to Germany, where over a quarter of the passengers eventually died in concentration camps.

This, one of the darkest moments in Canadian history, is commemorated in an installation at Pier 21 called "The Wheel of Conscience." The dramatic creation of Daniel Libeskind includes four interlocking gears. The smallest, labelled



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

Pier 21, the Canadian Museum of Immigration, on the Halifax waterfront.

"hatred", activates the "racism" wheel, which moves the "xenophobia" gear, which drives the "anti-Semitism" wheel. The names of the passengers are etched on glass in the piece.

The museum not only offers hours of exhibited reading materials, carrying the visitor from the darkest days of immigration policies to today's much more inclusive times, but also there are also regular tours presented by clever and entertaining guides.

The Museum's theatre shows an uplifting film featuring recent immigrants to Canada.

And visitors may be surprised to discover the family research centre, where knowledgeable staffers are poised behind computer screens, ready to help you with your individual quest for personal history.

We had come quite unprepared for such an opportunity, but after dredging up a very few bits of personal genealogy, I was surprised at how

much information our guide was able to excavate from the records. In a matter of minutes, we had gone back six generations in the history of my birth family – a family I only discovered a few years ago. I left with a few sheets of information, including the earliest ancestor discovered in that brief time, a man with the intriguing name of Ritchison Travers.

So avid amateur genealogists may want to skip the tour and spend all their time in the family research centre! But that would be a shame, because time spent at Pier 21 will change your perspective on the history of our country. You will feel shame at what we were, and perhaps pride at what we are becoming. We can hope so, anyway.

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



An art installation by Métis artist Tracey-Mae Chambers. The piece reflects the conflicting emotions inspired by the colour red and according to the artist is an attempt "to bridge the gap between settlers and first nations."



The Wheel of Conscience is inspired by the horrific story of Canada's rejection of the MSS St. Louis, which carried 900 Jewish refugees trying to escape Nazi Germany.



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MUSIC CORNER

From gastropub to entertainment hub: Tillsonburg music venue celebrates rebranding



BEN ADDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

With the COVID-19 lockdowns in full force all music venues sat empty, including the recently finished room underneath one of Tillsonburg's historic landmarks. The Mill was originally built in 1878 by the Tillson family and is now home to a locally-inspired menu served in a dining room overlooking the Otter Creek. Every year since the winter of 2022, The Mill has also been a host to over 80 national and international touring acts as well as host to thousands

of fans coming together to create a community and bond over the love of live entertainment.

The Mill's owner Patrick McMahon is no stranger to community and wanted to apply his background and ideals into the opening of the pub.

"We value honesty and doing things the right way, even if it's the hard way," McMahon reflects on the venue's mission statement and values. "We strive to differentiate ourselves from the increasingly corporatized music landscape by prioritizing community and culture over profit."

With lockdowns ending, the team at The Mill jumped right into hosting live concerts and comedy shows without a planned rollout of the venue's brand. An official name of Paddy's Underground Gastropub was given to the space downstairs, however over the past two years, the venue has been called different names on event listings adver-

tised by the artists which has led to confusion for people making plans to attend. Even with the branding issues, the pub had no issues selling out consecutive events due to the impressive calendar and vibe. This year was already starting off to be bigger than the previous year.

An unfortunate setback occurred in the second week of the new year when a water line froze and burst damaging the green room, stage and sound equipment. With a couple postponed events and construction in progress, the team took the time to plan instead of dwell.

With quick actions, the team were able to reschedule and plan a soft opening for Feb. 7 with an improv comedy show hosted by FM96's morning show host Jim Kelly, and the following weekend having Texas King perform their new album Ultraviolet two nights in a row on Feb. 14 and 15. A grand reopening is planned for

Feb. 20 with the return of the Open Mic Night hosted by Billy Gibbons. A new logo designed by the Canadian company Q+A will be launched during these events as well as cutting 'Gastropub' from the venue name leaving it known as 'Paddy's Underground'.

Q+A, also known as Quite Alright, is a Welland, Ontario based graphic design and illustration company made up of Connor Johnstone, Tone Ventresca & TJ Charlton. As three active partners, they produce concept-driven projects for bands and brands of all sizes.

"We hired Quite Alright recently to work on a new logo package and poster templates as well as a presentation package on how to roll it all out," McMahon said.

He explained the plan for moving forward with bigger events, drink and food specials as well as other projects including a Paddy's Underground record shop and record

label.

"Our atmosphere is a bit edgy but inherently comfortable, deeply rooted in an underground-punk feel."

McMahon explains how similar, but different the basement of The Mill is from the main floor. One of the similarities is the shared kitchen and outstanding hospitality from the staff which keeps bands returning.

Jordan MacDonald from London-based rock band Texas King agrees that the vibe keeps his band returning to Tillsonburg.

"We love the way we're treated like family. Love the small-town vibe. Love getting to know the familiar faces, beautiful riverside scenery and then you walk downstairs and it's like you're in a small club in Toronto," he said.

Macdonald and his band are no strangers to Toronto, spending two weeks living there last year while recording their new album Ultraviolet at Noble Street Studios.

This time around when

the band visits Paddy's Underground, they will be coming for a weekend performing their new album Ultraviolet front to back.

"The new record is about how talk is cheap and in order to make change you have to change your actions and behaviours. Not just say it," MacDonald said, adding details about the theme of the band's new album. "It's about asking for help and being better even when no one is watching. It is about the deep-down truth that is invisible unless viewed in the presence of ultraviolet light."

MacDonald agrees that an evolving band like Texas King is the perfect fit for an evolving venue like Paddy's Underground.

Tickets for all events are available in advance by visiting the venue box office or online at www.eventbrite.ca

Anyone wanting more details can visit www.paddysunderground.com or Paddy's Underground Facebook page.

UPCOMING SHOWS

FEB. 6 - YOU HAD ME
The Copper Mug
Free - 8:30 p.m.

FEB. 7 - RUN OF THE MILL! IMPROV COMEDY w/ FM96'S JIM KELLY
Paddy's Underground
\$20 - 8 p.m. - all ages/ licensed

FEB. 7 - MUSIC TRIVIA
The Copper Mug
Free - 8 p.m.

FEB. 8 - RIGHT TURN CLYDE
The Copper Mug
Free - 8:30 p.m.

FEB. 9 - SUPERBOWL PARTY
The Copper Mug
Free - 6 p.m.

FEB. 12 - EUCHRE GAME
The Copper Mug
Free - 5 p.m.

FEB. 13 - JACK REDMAN
The Copper Mug
Free - 8 p.m.

FEB. 14 - TEXAS KING, THE WILDERNESS, ETHAN WALL
Paddy's Underground
\$50 - 8 p.m.

FEB. 15 - TEXAS KING, PKEW PKEW PKEW, GAVIN MCLEOD
Paddy's Underground
\$50 - 8 p.m.

FEB 14. - KARAOKE
The Copper Mug
Free - 8 p.m.

FEB 15. - BLIND DOG JOE
The Copper Mug
Free - 8 p.m.

FEB. 20 - OPEN MIC NIGHT WITH BILLY GIBBONS
Paddy's Underground
Free - 7:30 p.m.



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Tillandsia can add colour to indoor window gardens



**IT'S
STILL
JUST
DIRT**

SUE HEALEY

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

I've written before about window gardens, about their importance in getting me through the winter months of Southwestern Ontario.

Last year I introduced you to my orchid window and they are once again stretching their way to the light, buds still clasped tight. This year I wanted to introduce you to another of my window gardens. This one, strange and wonderful and filled with plants unlike most. Here on a narrow ledge in the milky northeastern light, grow my collection of Tillandsia, sometimes known as air-plants. Reclining in their glass houses, seemingly



Tillandsia bulbosa. (SUE HEALEY PHOTO)

sipping on nothing more than air, these alien beauties bring interest and colour to indoor spaces with their varied forms and spectac-



Tillandsia circinnata. (SUE HEALEY PHOTO)

ular blooms. This epiphytic member of the Bromeliad family is easy to grow, long lived, and worthy of featured spot in any indoor plantscape.

The Tillandsia family is vast and varied with varieties that range from miniature puffs to bulbs as large as the hand. As always, the rabbit hole of collection beckons, so consider yourself warned. Native to the southern regions of the Americas, both arid and moist, these plants come in dozens of forms adapted to each. Most send out spectacular blooms, usually blue and often preceded by richly coloured leaf bracts or foliage in hues of pink and red, and all done without the benefit of a traditional root system. Instead, they take nutrients from moisture in the air using small appendages along their leaves called trichomes. Species from dryer areas (known as xeric types) are often covered in more than their rainforest cousins (mesic types) giving them a fuzzy appearance. In their native habitats, Tillandsia situate themselves in the crooks of trees where accumulating debris and moisture secure and feed them. Blooming is usually followed by the formation of offsets, called 'pups' and the gradual decline of the parent plant. Pups can be gently pried loose at half size or left attached until they mature and bloom.

The ability to grow without soil allows us to use the species at home in ways that traditional flora can't be. Whether set in glass globes designed specifically for them, or strung on frames, wired to driftwood or tucked into the fork of an indoor tree, your imagination is the only limit to how these plants can be displayed.

My window is blessedly long, providing enough light and ledge for just a few of the small to medium varieties available. The largest is *T. circinnata*, known as the pot-bellied air-plant. 45cm tall and heavy in the hand, the bulbous base and arching leaves are covered in long trichomes, giving it a furry look. This species can be slow to bloom and divide. *T. ionantha* is the exact opposite, fitting into the palm of your hand and blushing to the tips of its crown before sending out up to three violet blooms and sprouting multiple pups. Commonly found glued to driftwood or blown glass balls, they are an easy introduction to the family. *T. baileyi*, with its squid-like silhouette and rich purple skin, makes an impressive statement piece alone or as the star of a dry terrarium. *T. balbosa*, small and bulbous with crook-



Tillandsia ionantha. (SUE HEALEY PHOTO)

ed, cylindrical leaves adds a comical touch amongst the heavier species. My *T. balbosas* haven't bloomed yet but I've read there is hope. I would have them regardless. There are others, isolated in their crystal homes - *T. juncea*, like a fan of long grass, *T. fuchsia*, needle fine leaves forming an almost perfect silver sphere, and *T. brachycaulos*, unassuming when not in flower, but a showstopper once it begins. August brings leaves striped in bubble-gum pink that quickly suffuses the whole plant to shocking pink before sending out a single, trumpet of violet blue and gold tipped stamens. Superb. These are but few examples of this broad and unique genus, each one offering an exciting challenge and a new perspective on what flora is.

In the wild, Tillandsia rely on humidity and rainfall to provide them with nutrients. At home, that role falls to us. If kept indoors, there are two methods of watering recommended: misting and soaking. Misting is most often advised for xeric types but must be done consistently and thoroughly to maintain healthy plants. Soaking is easiest,



Tillandsia brachycaulos. (SUE HEALEY PHOTO)

and my preference, but only if plants aren't mounted. An hour-long soak in shallow, tepid water is a bi-weekly ritual in summer and a monthly one in winter. Drying them on the slant will ensure there's no water hidden in their plated leaves to cause rot.

I enjoy the watering of my Tillandsia as much as the flowering. Handling the plants gives me an intimate view of how they live. Their growth, ailments, even their decline, all part of the fascination, placing somewhere between pet and plant. Given this treatment and an occasional spa day in the summer rain, they have bloomed and become many in their gratitude, just the thing to distract us from a bitter and bleak February morning.

Your local horticultural society has some great distractions planned for every season. Join us the first Tuesday of every month for our general meeting at the Tillsonburg Seniors Centre, 7:30 p.m. Dues are \$20/year \$5/meeting. Come as a guest, stay as a member.



Tillandsia fuchsia v. gracillus. (SUE HEALEY PHOTO)

You are invited to our

Anti - Valentine's Day Party

"Single & loving it" Cocktails
DJ starts @ 9 pm
\$10 Cover - Cash only

15 FEBRUARY | AT 9:00 PM
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RUST CHECK

- What has a face but can't smile?
A clock.

What has keys but can't open locks?
A piano.

I'm tall when I'm young, and I'm short when I'm old
What am I?
A candle.

What goes up but never comes down?
Your age.

What can you catch but not throw?
A cold.

What is full of holes but still holds a lot of weight?
A sponge.

What has a head, a tail, but no body?
A coin.

What animal says "moo"?
A cow.

What is yellow and can make you smile?
A banana.

What gets wetter as it dries?
A towel.

SUDOKU

by PeterS 2024

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

Solutions on page 27 Basic (4)

PET OF THE WEEK



EACH PET OF THE WEEK WILL RECEIVE A FREE GOODIE BAG FROM RUFFIN'S TILLSONBURG!



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SATURDAY: 9AM-5PM
SUNDAY: 10AM-5PM

NOMINATE YOUR PET TO BE PET OF THE WEEK BY EMAILING INFO@TILLSONBURGPOST.COM

WORD SEARCH
JANUARY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

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

- Trudeau resigns
- LA fires
- Gaza ceasefires
- Trump inauguration
- Canada
- Greenland
- Panama Canal
- Ford election call
- Kansas City Chiefs
- Philadelphia Eagles
- DeepSeek
- DC plane crash
- Tariffs

COMING EVENTS

THE FRIENDSHIP TABLE - FREE FRIENDSHIP DINNERS

Monday, Feb. 10, Mar. 10, Apr. 14, May 12, June 9, 2025;
Doors open at 4:30.

Dinner Served 5:00-6:30

St. Mary's Church Basement, Corner of Rolph St & Venison St, Tillsonburg

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HELPING THOSE IN NEED. GOOD NEWS!! FREE FRIENDSHIP DINNERS ARE BACK! Everyone Welcome

WHAT MAKES WINTER SHORTER?

Listening, dancing and enjoying 50's-70's country music at the Ingersoll Jamboree! Every other Friday afternoon from 1-4 p.m. at the Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St S, Ingersoll. February 7 & 21, walk ins welcome at the door.

KIDS' FREE VALENTINE'S CHOCOLATE BAR BINGO

Tillsonburg and Area Optimist Club

Tillsonburg Legion Branch 153

Sunday, February 16th, 2025. 2-4pm

VON OXFORD GRIEF CARE:

FREE Monthly Grief Support Group

Register at: oxford.griefsupport@von.ca or 519-539-1231 Ext 6299 or 6296

TILLSONBURG

WHEN: 2nd Tuesday of every month

WHERE: VON Oxford Office 24 Brock St. W., Tillsonburg

TIME: 6:30PM-8:00PM

INGERSOLL

WHEN: 4th Tuesday of every month

WHERE: Ingersoll Public Library 130 Oxford St., Ingersoll

TIME: 10:30AM-12:00Noon

WOODSTOCK

WHEN: 3rd Saturday of every month

WHERE: Sakura House Hospice 715180 Oxford Rd.4, Woodstock

TIME: 10:30AM-12:00Noon

VON OXFORD JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF:

FREE 6-WEEK Grief Support Program.

Register at: oxford.griefsupport@von.ca or 519-539-1231 Ext 6299 or 6296

UPCOMING SESSIONS:

March 13 - April 17 2025;

6:30-8:00PM

April 10 - May 15 2025;

1:30 - 3:00PM

May 14 - June 18 2025;

1:30 - 3:00PM

June 5 - July 10 2025;

6:30-8:00PM

OTTER VALLEY TAI CHI

New Monday morning classes began Feb. 3: 9:00 - 10:30 am Introduction, 10:30 - 11:30 am Foundations.

Location: St. John's Anglican Church, 46 Ridout St. W., Tillsonburg

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

TILLSONBURG AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The February General Meeting will be held on Monday, February 24th at 7 pm at Annandale House NHS. We

welcome Dr. Jason Pankratz who will once again be hosting his always entertaining Trivia Night. He will be offering a variety of historical and popular subjects. Don't miss this free, fun event!! All are welcome!

The March General Meeting will be held on Monday, March 17th at Annandale House NHS starting at 5:30 pm.

Please join us for a potluck dinner followed by the Business Meeting at 7 pm. Please bring a main course, salad or dessert, along with your own utensils and dishes. The Business Meeting schedule includes the election of the Executive for the next year as well as the adoption of the Annual Budget. All are welcome!

INTERESTED IN BRIDGE?

Join us every Friday at the Tillsonburg Duplicate Bridge Club at 1 p.m. at The Senior Centre. Don't have a partner? Come anyway and we will match you up with someone. For more information, visit their Facebook page: TburgBridge.

JOIN US FOR A FRIENDLY GAME OF DARTS

Friday, February 7th, 6:45pm

The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526
3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario

For More Information call, the Legion at 519-443-5588
<https://www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca>

SUPER BOWL PARTY

Sunday, February 9th, Starting at 4 pm.

The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526
3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario

For More Information Call, the Legion 519-443-5588
<https://www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca>

JOIN US FOR A FRIENDLY GAME OF DARTS
Friday, February 21st, 6:45pm

The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526
3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario

For More Information call, the Legion at 519-443-5588
<https://www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca>

OPEN JAM

Saturday, February 22nd, starting at 1:00 pm

The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526
3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, Ontario

Last Saturday of every month.

Everyone is welcome to bring an instrument or just come out and listen to the music.

For More Information call, the Legion at 519-443-5588 or
Check out our website at <https://www.teetervillelegionbranch526.ca>

TILLSONBURG LEGION LUNCH

Wednesday February 12 from noon to 1pm

Serving Beef stew with biscuits, homemade desserts, tea and coffee for only \$15 cash per person at the door! All Welcome! For more info call 519-842-5281.

TILLSONBURG LEGION ROASTED CHICKEN DINNER

Friday February 28 from 5 to 6pm

Serving roasted chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, dessert, tea and coffee for \$18 cash per person. All Welcome! For more info call 519-842-5281.

OPEN MIC JAM AT THE TILLSONBURG LEGION

Saturday March 1 from 1-4pm

\$6 cash at the door. Featuring North of Sixty Band. Jumbo Hot Dogs for \$5 available from noon to 2pm. Cash only. All Welcome! For more info call 519-842-5281.

AUDITIONS
THEATRE TILLSONBURG

HABIT OF MURDER

BY JOANNE MILLER

SHOW DATES:
MAY 29 - JUNE 1 & JUNE 5-8, 2025

AUDITION DATES:
MON. FEB 17TH & TUES. FEB 18TH
6:30 PM UNTIL 9/9:30

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4 MEN

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KELLY VERHOEVE
PRODUCED BY
JEFF AND SHEILA TRIPP

SELECTIONS FROM THE
SCRIPT WILL BE
PROVIDED FOR THE
AUDITION

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Phone Number
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Email Address
Janet.somers@von.ca

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Coming Events are for non-profit organizations to promote their free admission events at no charge. Event listings can include your event name, date, time and location as well as a phone number, email address or website. If your event is not free admission or you would like to include more details than stated above, you have the following options:

Coming Events Word Ad (50 word max.) - \$10 + hst

Coming Events Boxed Word Ad (50 word max.) - \$15 + hst

Display Ad - Sizes begin at a classified business card size for \$35 + hst

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Amethyst
2. Gross Domestic Product
3. Beyonce
4. Yellow
5. Cupid
6. No
7. Jane Austen
8. Mount Logan, Yukon
9. Leapers or leaplings
10. 2018

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FROSTY AND WINDY NIGHT OUT

The weather was almost perfect for Tillsonburg's Frost Night Out held at the J.L. Scott McLean Outdoor Rink on Jan. 27. There is no doubt the weather was frosty with temperatures being below zero, but windy conditions added to the wind chill. The evening provided skating, games on the rink and hot chocolate and treats from Tim Hortons.

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

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Krystyna Verhoeve,
Funeral Director



Hector Verhoeve,
(1938-2015)

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 - Coroners Fee to Authorize Cremation - \$75
 - Municipal Death Registration Fee - \$27
- Website Obituary & Photo (perpetual tribute page) - no charge
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