

Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

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AUGUST 15, 2025

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Woodstock hosting another U13 national baseball tournament

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Play ball! Those words will be heard starting Aug. 21 as Woodstock Minor Baseball (WMB) plays host to the best U13 baseball teams in the country.

The Friendly City is hosting the tournament for the third consecutive year and will do so again in 2026.

"I've been involved in bidding on these events over the last few years," said executive member Brent Paltola. "We did one in 2018 and had a few years off. We were supposed to do 2021 but it was sidelined because of the pandemic but we ended up with 2023 through 2025 and now 2026."

He explained the Baseball Canada application process is extensive.

"It goes into the quality and availability of your facilities, the willingness of the host city to support the application, specific details about the dimensions of your diamonds, access for people with mobility issues, hotel accommodation, transportation, you name it."

Paltola added support from the provincial association is also important along with backing from the municipality and key sponsors.

"Any evidence regarding how we have successfully conducted big events in the past. We've been through it a few times now and we're starting to get pretty good at it."

The association has an organizing committee that has grown to 11 people over years, including a core of half a dozen people who have been around since the first year. Volunteers during the actual tournament itself is crucial to its success.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 14



(LEE GRIFFI PHOTO)

COWAPOLOOZA 2025

Attendees braved the heat to watch musical performances at Southside Park in Woodstock during this year's Cowapoolooza festival. Thousands showed up to enjoy the two-day annual event of music, family fun, and community spirit. Story on Page 6.

Ingersoll mayor talks about his first Strong Mayor budget

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Brian Petrie gave members of town council, staff and the public a sneak peek of what Ingersoll's first-ever Strong Mayor Power budget will look like. Staff tabled a report on what's to come regarding the new budget process, one led by the mayor after a sweeping change at Queen's Park.

Petrie, along with the heads of council from 168 other municipalities, was granted strong mayor powers on May 1 of this year.

On or before February 1 of each year, the mayor is re-

quired to prepare and table a proposed budget by providing it to each member of council and the clerk, and by making it publicly available. This action does not need to occur at a council meeting.

Council may consider and pass a resolution to amend the proposed budget within 30 days of its tabling. That must happen at a council meeting and any amendments are subject to the normal procedural rules governing motions. If Council amends the proposed budget, the mayor has 10 days to issue a veto. A veto must be provided in writing to each member of council and the clerk, along with the mayor's reasons for the veto, and does not require a council meeting.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



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Promises collaborative approach

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Petrie assured council he won't be using his veto powers.

"I'll tell you right now, I'm not vetoing anything, so the 30 days is as long as it's going to take."

Coun. Kristy Van Kooten-Bossence took the opportunity to thank the mayor for continuing to be a team player as head of council.

"...from the very beginning, you've said you didn't want them but would try to work around them. By doing this process, I feel we all have an equal say at this table. In 18 years, up until this year, I always felt that - but with bringing in the strong mayor I thought wow, what are we doing sitting around this table because it could take all of us out."

She also thanked staff for keeping the rest of council informed and took a shot at the Doug Ford government.

"I'm sad that's how the province thinks it should go because that's not how it should go. We have a democratic system for a reason, and this takes out the demo-

cratic system. But the way you are doing it leaves it there for us to be able to continue to have a vote and to have a say."

Petrie said the budgetary powers he now has creates an adversarial process, but his priority is to keep a collaborative tone.

"We were all elected to be at the table. I don't agree with any legislation that takes away that right. It doesn't work well. My biggest worry was staff would have to make a budget then I would have to look at it and then council. We do this all the time without this double process."

He added other municipalities have done the same route as Ingersoll and the province has not stepped in to intervene.

"We can do the process ahead of time just like we've always done and until I say this is the budget from the mayor's office, it's not the budget so we can have consultation and input and hopefully a consensus about where we want to go."

Coun. Rick Eus asked how the mayor sees the collaboration with the rest of council and the community developing in

addition to how the community grant process could be affected.

"I see it the same way it's always happened," explained Petrie. "If I want something to happen, I have the right to put it in the budget but to me, I want to talk to my colleagues. As far as the community grants, we have a policy and staff look at what qualifies or not. I think we should sit around the table, have a discussion and get feedback about what should be in there."

He added if the majority of councillors want something to be in the budget, it will be there.

"There's nothing that says you can't have a vote on something. That's the way I see it happening. Having those meetings that we normally do and having that process."

A meeting has been scheduled for Nov. 2 where staff recommendations for the budget will be presented to council the way it has previously been done. It will include both the operating and capital sides and councillors will have until Nov. 24 to provide feedback.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)
Ingersoll mayor Brian Petrie.

Woodstock Police Service briefs

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Fentanyl Seized During Foot Patrol in Downtown Woodstock

A 35-year-old man is facing a drug charge following the seizure of a significant quantity of suspected fentanyl during a proactive foot patrol in the downtown core.

A Woodstock Police Service officer conducting foot patrol in the area of Museum Square in the early afternoon of Aug. 2 at approximately 1 p.m. observed a male holding drug paraphernalia. The male was arrested and police seized multiple containers containing suspected fentanyl.

The Woodstock man has been charged with possession of a Schedule I Substance. In total, police seized approximately 13.5 grams of suspected fentanyl. The accused was released on an Appearance Notice with a future court date.

"Woodstock Police Service remains committed to proactive drug enforcement and encourages the public to report suspicious activity. Fentanyl is a highly potent opioid, and its presence in the community continues to pose a significant risk to public health and safety," said a release from police.

Charges laid following public complaint

A male from Woodstock is facing multiple charges after police responded to a traffic complaint on Highway 403.

City cops were notified by the OPP about a vehicle travelling at high speeds and passing vehicles on the shoulder on the morning of July 31.

The vehicle was located a short time later and police conducted a traffic stop on Parkinson Road. The driver, a 43-year-old male from Woodstock, was arrested and, following a Drug Recognition Expert he was charged with dangerous driving and impaired driving.

City man charged with theft and breach of probation

A 40-year-old man is facing multiple charges after police responded to a theft at local business during the morning of July 31. Police were called to a Dundas Street



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

grocery store after staff observed a male concealing the stolen items. He was arrested inside the store and charged with theft under \$5,000 and failing to comply with a probation order.

The accused was released with conditions and a future court date.

Driver busted going more than double the speed limit

Police clocked a car going 111 km/h on Springbank Avenue on Saturday. The street has a speed limit of 50 km/h. A charge of stunt driving was laid which comes with a 30-day license suspension and 14-day vehicle impound.

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Woodstock celebrates local artist's new exhibition at art gallery

ALEX HUNT

Echo Contributor

Woodstock's own Jaquie Poole is featured in a new retrospective at the Art Gallery, tracing her artistic journey from early works to today.

The display was brought to the community by Poole and curated by Danielle Hoovenaars from the Woodstock Art Gallery. Pulled from the gallery's permanent collection, *Present in the Moment* is an exhibition that focuses on works that stretched across Poole's entire life.

Living in Woodstock since 1957, Poole has had a long career as an artist, working in a variety of mediums such as painting, photography, drawing, collage, medium, and assemblage. She was born in Port Colborne to artist Betty McArthur who passed away in 1994.

"We have work by Betty McArthur and Jaquie Poole in our permanent collection and this exhibition is a part two to an exhibition that we mounted from 2024 to 2025 which was called *Present in the Moment* but that included work by McArthur," said Hoovenaars. "That's where the concept of this exhibition came from, an opportunity to present work by the mother and the daughter and draw these parallels in terms of their practice and their connecting message of trying to stay present in the moment."

The exhibition will run until Jan. 24, and arts lovers will have a chance to meet Poole at reception on Oct. 25 helped by the gallery.

Hoovenaars said that *Present in the Moment* focuses on Poole's practice as an overall retrospective of her career. Beginning from her early work as a child as well as showing off her current projects. Poole is heavily inspired by nature and encourages audiences to slow down and focus on what's in front of them. Hoovenaars explained the exhibition has been met with positive feedback from the public which has been on display since July 26.

"As a curator I worked directly with Jaquie and were able to collaborate in a really beautiful way and envision this exhibition together in a period of about a year. We included the works from our permanent collections and



(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

Danielle Hoovenaars at the Woodstock Art Gallery among the life works from Jaquie Poole that bring the community to life in creative ways.

explored the collection, making sure we picked works from each different series throughout her career to show all the different works she's done over the course of many decades."

Hoovenaars stated it was a significant curatorial challenge when assembling works that were created at different times of Poole's career and bringing them together harmoniously.

"I hope that visitors will take that title of the exhibition as a message to heart while visiting. Jaquie has a beautiful ability to really pay attention to her surroundings,

and she captures these small moments and details of our landscape in order to create these impactful artworks. I hope that the audience appreciates that and in turn appreciates all the beauty that we have here in Woodstock."

Hoovenaars said the gallery places great importance on supporting local artists through exhibitions, scholarship programs, and one which showcases regional talent. Its mission is to serve as a creative resource for the community and preserve artistic heritage while fostering new art experiences. This exhibition reflects both of those goals.

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Woodstock Ingersoll Echo

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8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

A conversation with Sass Jordan

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

"Because they asked me to!"

That was the response from Sass Jordan when asked why she decided to come to Ingersoll as the headliner for the second Good for the Soll Music Festival.

"They're paying me to go. They asked me to go. They want to celebrate and enjoy and I'm always up for that."

Jordan, born in 1962 in England, won a Juno Award for Most Promising Female Vocalist in 1989 and since then she has been nominated three more times for Juno Awards. She said her passion for performing is as strong now as it was decades ago.

"You could not possibly be doing this as long as I have without loving it. I love music and people gathering together, enjoying themselves, and letting go of their daily cares and worries to just celebrate life. I think we need to do more of that. How many opportunities do you have in a day to do that?"

She added someone needs to carry to torch to let society de-stress and get away from social media and the times of instant news 24 hours a day we find ourselves in.

"Someone has to carry the torch and I feel like musicians, in general, that's our job."

When it comes to the music on Jordan's playlist, she said the question was a difficult one to answer because her likes are so varied.

"That's the hardest question because it depends on the moment. I have a very wide and eclectic palate when it comes to music because I love it so much. I am not a fan of music that is heavily processed. It sounds like robots to me and there has been a tremendous amount of that over the last 20 years."

Jordan said Cher's 1998 hit song "Believe" was the start of what she called hell in the music industry. The song went on to become one of her biggest hits, topping charts worldwide and popularizing the heavy use of what's known as Auto-Tune in mainstream pop.

"It split every corner everywhere. There is some stuff I like that has come out over the last 20 years, but so much less. I particularly like something called low-fi chill hop instrumental.

That genre is loosely defined as the soundtrack to relaxing while pretending to be productive. Low-fi means the sound isn't perfectly polished as it often has a bit of vinyl crackle, tape hiss, or imperfect recording quality on purpose. Chill hop is a blend of chill-out music with hip-hop beats.

"I also listen to world music, especially when they aren't singing in English because the second I understand what they are saying I have to pay attention," she quipped.

The very first band Jordan saw live was the Partridge Family and tens of years ago she was into the Rolling Stones and the Beatles. The music that influenced her depended on the decade.

"That was back in the early days. There were the Chambers Brothers, Curtis Mayfield, the list is somewhat endless. Little Feat, The Eagles, the list goes on and on. I had so many influences and I love Bach while we're at it."

While Jordan doesn't have a favourite song she has performed, she did say she normally likes the most recent one. She added every time she performs a song live it sounds slightly different each time.

"Music, to me, is never just me and the band. It's me,



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

After a successful event in 2024 headlined by Helix, Sass Jordan takes the reigns as the top performer in the 2025 version of Ingersoll's Good for the Soll.

the band, and the people listening because their energy is getting integrated into it and that's what fuels the whole thing."

In 1992, Jordan recorded the duet Trust in Me with Joe

Cocker for the motion picture The Bodyguard after star Kevin Costner heard Jordan on his car radio. The album for The Bodyguard would sell in excess of 45 million copies worldwide.

When asked what concertgoers can expect in Ingersoll, Jordan said each of her live shows is to a large degree spontaneous, aside from the playlist she and her band decides on.

"We will know what songs we're playing because we had to rehearse them to make sure we are bringing them to you fully cooked to the degree we can cook them. Sometimes the oven is a little off but that just makes it more exciting!"

Jordan, not one to be timid in any way during the interview, asked the Echo what she can expect from the people of Ingersoll and area.

"It's just a good small-town atmosphere, and it's great." I replied. "There will be a few thousand people looking to have a great time with great music which is something you can deliver."

She added playing a concert in small town Ontario is right up her alley.

"I've lived in a small village for the past 30 years. I am definitely not a big city lover. A day or two max, then get me the heck out of here. As far as small towns, that's my jam."

Jordan first started touring in 1978 at the age of 16 years old but played in Montreal bars even before that. While she can't put a finger on the exact number of performances, one in particular does stand out.

"It's been a long, long time. I have literally thousands of shows I have done. But there were about 450,000 people at SARSfest and the Rolling Stones were there.

The event, officially called Molson Canadian Rocks for Toronto, was a massive benefit concert held on July 30, 2003, at Downsview Park in Toronto. Other performers included AC/DC, Rush, The Guess Who and Justin Timberlake. Timberlake, despite being pelted with water bottles from rock and roll fans, carried on, despite the abuse.

Good for the Soll is a free concert set for Aug. 23 at 5 p.m. at Ingersoll's Memorial Park. Proceeds from the event will go to charitable causes in the town and donations for the Ingersoll Multi-Use Recreation Centre will be accepted.

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Cowapolooza draws thousands on sweltering weekend

Woodstock’s signature summer festival, Cowapolooza, returned to Southside Park for its 22nd year on August 8 and 9, offering two days of free entertainment, family-friendly activities, live music, and community celebration.

Thousands of attendees gathered over the weekend to enjoy Cowapolooza Country, Cowapolooza Kids, and Cowapolooza Rocks, three themed programs that brought diverse entertainment to festivalgoers of all ages. The festivities kicked off Friday evening with Cowapolooza Country. From 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., country music lovers filled the park for performances by Coty Robinson, Ryan Langdon, and the headlining act, Outlaw State of Mind, a Chris Stapleton tribute band.

Guests enjoyed local fare, shopping in the vendor marketplace, and relaxing in the beverage garden while taking in the music. Saturday afternoon was all about families during Cowapolooza Kids. Children explored inflatables, soft play areas, a photo booth, and hands-on activities presented by the Woodstock Public Library. Live pro wrestling matches by

Independent Pro Wrestling captivated the crowd throughout the afternoon. The evening wrapped up with Cowapolooza Rocks, as the Joel Dupuis Band, Harm & Ease, and Big Wreck took the stage to deliver powerful performances from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., electrifying the crowd and closing the festival on a high note. Throughout the weekend, guests browsed food, beverage, and marketplace vendors, with an ATM and cashless payment options available on-site. The beverage garden offered a prime view of the main stage and remained a popular destination for festivalgoers.

Cowapolooza continued its commitment to sustainability in 2025, with the support of the festival’s Green Team, helping to reduce environmental impact and promote eco-friendly practices. Free shuttle buses from Civic Centre Arena and extended transit service until 11 p.m. helped ensure safe and accessible transportation for all attendees.

The event continues to rely on the dedication of community partners, sponsors, and a team of enthusiastic volunteers who help bring the event to life each year.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Outlaw State of Mind, a Chris Stapleton tribute band, thrilled the audience Friday night.



(LEE GRIFFI PHOTO)

Headliner Big Wreck put on a high-octane performance in front of over 5,000 fans to bring Cowapolooza to a close.



Crowds browsed the many vendors at Cowapolooza.



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Avori with Shyla enjoyed everything the event had to offer.

TV show Collar of Duty Kids visits Transitions Encompassing Wellness

LEE GRIFFI

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

"It's all about the powerful pairings between kids and animals, as well as the life adventures they experience together, in this inclusive, fun and touching documentary series. It's about the magic that can happen between them."

Those are the words of Laura Lille, the producer of Collar of Duty Kids, a series that takes viewers into the lives of children and their service animals. The show's last episode of the season featured the story of 12-year-old Woodstock resident Sierra Meidel and therapy horse Thunder. Thunder is part of the herd at Transitions Encompassing Wellness, a tourism and wellness farm near Tavistock, operated by Alisha Wilson. The hope was for Sierra's anxiety to improve through a relationship with an animal.

Sierra's mother Brittany said horses have been a part of their family's life for years and her brother is a top standard-bred driver. She added her daughter did ride when she was younger, but the pandemic put an end to that.

"She had to take a break from it and after COVID, when she was struggling with anxiety, we were trying to find different things for her to take part in but she didn't find anything she was interested in. I brought up the idea of going back into riding."

Brittany is a self-employed aesthetician and Wilson is one of her clients. The two talked and the rest, as they say, is now documented history.

"When I went to the farm for the first time I looked at Thunder and we just clicked," said Sierra. "I was nervous but when I started going on her I knew she was the horse I could trust with my life. She was just different from the other horses."

Brittany explained her daughter's relationship with Wilson and Thunder has resulted in a marked improvement in Sierra's mental health.

"When she went back to school after

the pandemic, she was having separation anxiety, and she was having a hard time being away from us and getting back into a routine. She was also having major general anxiety and would ask for permission to do any little thing, but she has gained more confidence and leadership skills by working with such a big animal. It is an immense change and it has carried over into her homelife and school."

Sierra said it is her hope the show will reach other children struggling with anxiety and other health issues.

"I would love that for them. When I was at camp on Monday (at Transitions) they put it on for the kids and I hope they got the meaning of it. I wasn't nervous doing the show because they make you feel like you are a part of a family. It was a really fun experience."

Lille echoed those remarks and said filming in Oxford County was something she and her crew won't soon forget.

"This was our last shoot of the season, and I think we were all (the crew) feeling the bittersweetness of it on that particular day. Alisha made us feel right at home and the horses on the farm seemed to welcome us as well."

Despite the fact Sierra has found an animal which has made a huge impact on her life, Lille said at the same time so many children aren't as fortunate.

"What would be going on with Sierra if she didn't find Thunder as she enters her tween to teen years? What does that look like for so many kids in our country and around the world who don't find that thing? What happens next?"

Transitions Encompassing Wellness offer a wide variety of experiences from horse therapy, reiki with horses to fun group activities with playful names including Cowgirl Kickback, Horse Play date nights. Wilson said she's grateful to Summerhill Media for the opportunity to showcase her business.

"It was an honour to be featured, and we're especially proud of the young lady they chose to interview. She represents the heart of what we do. We're beyond



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

— The story of Woodstock resident Sierra Meidel and therapy horse Thunder is featured on an episode of Collar of Duty, a show featuring the incredible relationships between humans and animals.

excited to see our farm and programs come to life on Collar of Duty Kids and can't wait to share this special feature with our community."

Lille said the episode also features visits to the Woodstock Veterinary Hospital.

"We got to meet Dr. Rob and Marley, a senior rescue dog from Happy's Place

senior dog rescue. We can't wait to share this incredible episode and hope to be back to film again soon in Oxford County."

The episode aired live on Monday Aug. 4 on Accessible Media Inc (AMI+) and is available on its streaming service at <https://www.amiplus.ca/>. The episode will also air on TVOKids in December.

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Codelets introducing coding, circuiting, and tinkering to young children

EMILY STEWART
Echo Correspondent

After recognizing the need for opportunities to learn coding, circuits, and other aspects of engineering in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) in Oxford County, Marlena Sfetcu founded Codelets.

Sfetcu, a software engineer by-training, held a soft launch of Codelets in June. After having children and figuring out the next stage of her career, she considered teaching. Then, Sfetcu realized the lack of STEM opportunities in Oxford County.

"There's not a lot of coding, robotics, circuits and sort of the engineering side of STEM in this area and I thought I could do that," she said. "I love to work with my own children, I love to come up with curriculum, I love to come up with activities, I'm very passionate about technology and the role that technology can play in giving people a better understanding of the world and how things work."

Codelets offers drop-in sessions known as test labs where children three-years-old and older, accompanied by their parents, learn coding, circuiting, robotics, and physical computing like tinkering with computer interfaces. Summer classes known as STEM samplers spend a week each on each of the strands over the

course of four weeks.

Children between five to seven-years-old work independently and those between three-to-five-years-old work with their parents in a "parents and tots" style class.

In the fall, Codelets will offer a membership model and a LEGO club. Along with offering hands-on learning, Sfetcu said that STEM teaches kids necessary soft skills to overcome obstacles.

"It's resiliency, it's troubleshooting, it's problem solving, it's creative thinking, it's expanding your understanding of how things work," she explained. "A lot of people don't, I think, if you haven't written any computer code, it can be very easy to have absolutely no idea what the supplemental benefits of that are."

Sfetcu tests all of Codelets programming and activities with her own children first, who are engaged like kids older than them. She also likes to introduce young kids to the coding, robotics, and engineering side of STEM for the feeling of magic.

"It's also a bit magical for younger kids, right? It's seeing if you touch two balls of Play-Doh together, you can turn on a light and there's a bit of magic in that. It's appealing to young kids it's very engaging for that young age group."

More information can be found online by visiting the Codelets Facebook page.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)
Codelets founder Marlena Sfetcu was inspired to bring coding, robotics, and engineering activities to young children from her career as a software engineer and her experience as a mother."



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New Exhibit at Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum “Curtain Call: The Stage and Stories of ITOPA”

KYRAH SMITH

Echo Contributor

The Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum and local theatre company ITOPA (Ingersoll Theatre of Performing Arts) are teaming up for the first time to present a brand-new exhibition: “Curtain Call: The Stage and Stories of ITOPA.”

Curtain Call made its debut on August 1st. This tempo-

rary addition to the museum will only be open for a couple of months. Admission is by donation. The exhibit takes visitors on a trip down memory lane, highlighting the company’s humble beginnings in 1976. It pays homage to ITOPA’s first-ever musical production, Oh Coward, staged in 1983. The show was a major success, breaking attendance records and earning ITOPA recognition from the Western Ontario Drama League (WODL), which awarded it the 1984 prize for Impressive Visual Presentation.

The exhibition continues through the decades, showcasing memorabilia from past productions: including photos of cast and crew members, programs, audition notes, costumes, props, and set pieces. The museum’s management team, who created the exhibit, expressed hopes of continuing to collaborate with ITOPA and the town’s Creative Arts Centre. If you’d like to check out this limited-time collaboration, you can visit the Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum, located at 290 Harris St. in Ingersoll.



(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

A display from ITOPA’s production of “Bus Stop” featuring various nods to the show.



(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

Costumes from various ITOPA productions including Jenny’s Place and The Secret Garden are a part of the display.



(KYRAH SMITH PHOTO)

Curtain Call script from ITOPA’s first ever musical production.

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ReusapalooZaha returns for two fall events

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

Whether you are trying to declutter your home, find something new to refresh your space, or hang out with your friends, there's something for you at ReusapalooZaha.

There will be two ReusapalooZahas in the fall, at the Embro Community Centre on Sept. 6 and the Mount Elgin Community Centre on Sept. 27. Both events will run from 8 a.m. to noon, and will be an exchange of items such as books, furniture, clothing, electronic waste, toys, tools, and gardening equipment. Organizations such as Victoria Quilts, Transition to Less Waste, and Operation Sharing will be present.

"We'll see a lot of good things and a lot of good people exchanging those good things," said organizer Bryan Smith. "We'll see all sorts of things that might have been destined for a dumpster, a dump, a landfill, a ditch, I hope not a ditch, but anyways and instead find new homes that want them and cherish them and need them."

Although most of the event takes place outdoors, some of the items stay outdoors

either if they are too heavy for volunteers to carry in the building, or if a trunk-to-trunk exchange happens. Sometimes, items will be passed off from one participant to another in the parking lot.

"I kind of like those too because it means our volunteers aren't then carrying something into a room, putting it down, and later having someone say 'Oh, I could use that,' and help them carry it out, so there's less physical energy expenditure there as well," Smith said. "I'm all for saving energy as well as saving stuff."

Smith added that events like ReusapalooZaha encourage residents to come up with different ways to pass along items they no longer need that aren't throwing it out. For example, clothing can either be donated to a thrift store, recycled into new fabric, or cut into cleaning rags. When it comes to what can be repurposed, there are plenty of options.

"I hope it also makes people think 'does it just have to be this kind of stuff, or could it be other things too? Could it be other categories that I could stop buying and acquiring and instead, engage in a true sharing economy,'" he explained.

More information can be found by visiting <https://www.reuseapaloozaha.ca>.

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Woodstock witches market

The Woodstock Agricultural Society and Fairgrounds transformed into a realm of magic and mystery on Saturday evening as the very first Luna Witches Night Market brought together over 40 mystical vendors and intuitive readers for a night of enchantment.

Guests explored a whimsical marketplace filled with crystals, spell kits, handcrafted potions, tarot readings, and other mystical creations. The event attracted both seasoned practitioners and curious newcomers, all eager to connect with like-minded souls and embrace the evening's "witchy wonder."

Early arrivals were treated to special giveaways, including free mystical swag bags for the first 30 guests and mini mystery bags for the first 30 children in attendance. Many attendees arrived in costume, adding to the market's magical atmosphere. Pets were welcomed into the fairgrounds, while the on-site restaurant served a variety of delicious meals to keep visitors fueled during their exploration of the stalls and activities. Organizers were thrilled with the community's warm response to Woodstock's inaugural Luna Witches Night Market, hinting that the magic may return in future years.

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Sapphira sensed the healing vibrations given off by Nex at Sapphira's Witch Cupboard.



Dylan, Athena, Kaeli and Jace stopped by the Ellipse Refunderer booth.



Dana and Sala of Yosei Piri offered unique jewelry at the event.

STAGES to present Disney's Dare to Dream JR. for summer camp production

EMILY STEWART

Echo Correspondent

A summer day camp is giving young performers a chance to sing Disney's hits on stage.

Theatre Woodstock's STAGES summer camp will present their production of Disney's Dare to Dream JR. between Aug. 21 and Aug. 23. The show features enthusiastic trainees on their first day of the fictional Walt Disney Imagineering Studio. Imagineers come up with ideas for Disney.

"It goes to the story of these kids and one kid is really, really scared and doesn't know how to dream and opens up by the end of the show, while another kid is 'I know exactly what I want right now' and eventually, learns that it's okay to take his time with his dreams and stuff like that," said director Ben Shalley. "But the show was picked because of the vast musical numbers in it."

Dare to Dream JR. will feature beloved

Disney songs such as "Friend Like Me" from Aladdin, "How Far I'll go" from Moana, "Surface Pressure" from Encanto, "Go the Distance" from Hercules, and "Hakuna Matata" from The Lion King.

The young performers taking part in the STAGES summer camp are between the ages of seven to 13-years-old. After rehearsing and playing games over a few weeks at a day camp, the campers put on their production at the Market Square Theatre.

Usually, the summer camp production is about 30-minutes long but Dare to Dream JR. is an hour long. Shalley said that even though this year's production is twice as long, the counsellors and artistic team are running out of activities for the campers.

"Honestly, there is not enough for these kids to do. They're learning so quickly and they're beyond fantastic," he said.

Shalley spoke highly of the young performers part of Dare to Dream JR. and said that even on the first day, they learned one of the musical numbers while



(JOANNA KENNEDY IMAGE)

playing games.

"This is one of the best groups I've ever seen working on a show," he said.

Evening performances begin at 7 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee show on Aug. 22.

Tickets are \$15 each and can be either bought in person at the box office on 22 Reeve St., by calling 519-537-2582, or online by visiting <https://theatrewoodstock.com>.

It takes an army of volunteers to make a meal

STUART BLOWER

Echo Correspondent

Bryan Smith, vice president of STICH (Stronger Together Ingersoll Community Harvest), explains how the supper club works in the community.

"Men, women, families, seniors, people of all ages and economic circumstance are invited. First timers are greeted at the door and are shown around, everything is explained. There are no questions, we do not ask about their circumstances. We consider them our guests".

There are approximately 250 families or individuals who used STICH in Ingersoll, and although the majority of them are affected in some way by food insecurity, the sense of belonging and social involvement also play an important part of the individual's health and well being.

"We are 100 per cent volunteer driven. We rely heavily on our volunteers, working at various jobs all week long, to make the single-evening supper a success. Starting as early as Monday, volunteers are collecting surplus foods, fresh produce, shelf and packaged items, we think our guests will want," explains Smith.

He points out that volunteers can now use a commercial van, donated by Farm Credit Canada which can accommodate larger bulk packaging, such as pallets of frozen items, from Harvest Hands or donations from Giant Tiger and Dot Foods, making the transport logistics much easier.

Smith is adamant when he notes "Our goal is to locate more sources of food. We know there is excess food out there, that is edible, but going into dumpsters, land fill and plowed into fields."

Thursday is the big day everything comes together. The kitchen group under the leadership of chief cook Jo-Ann Claessens starts at 10 a.m., cooking and prepping.

"My concern is the supper meal, I start planning a week in advance. We have donors who provide foods, proteins and even financial aid that allows us to make purchases, either retail or wholesale, in order



President Paula D'Orazio and Vice President Bryan Smith from the STICH Supper Club, show off some of the fresh produce that is available to take home, during the Thursday evening meal served at the Trinity United Church in Ingersoll.

to supplement that planned meal. We can also add some of the collected produce, for additional variety," she adds.

Some of the group have already set up tables, washed dishes and even wrapped the cutlery in napkins. By 3:30 the desserts are on the table and boxes of collected produce are pulled out of the fridges and stacked on display.

Volunteers arrive with soups and pizzas to round out the planned meal options. The menu is always posted ahead of time on Facebook and the website where local contributors are given recognition for their donations, but some produce items rely on seasonal surplus or overstocking, that can change every week.

Close to 4 p.m., the Thursday afternoon line up for the STICH once a week supper meal has already started to form. The parking lot entrance to the church basement will provide a temporary relief, not only from the summer heat, but also from the constant worry about food insecurity and the struggle to make ends meet or keep a roof over your head.



(STUART BLOWER PHOTO)

The kitchen volunteers, Michele, Sam and Linda, are busy chopping chilies for the evening meal.

"After paying her rent, my daughter has about \$40 a week to spend on herself and her young child," she adds, as she also fills a bag to take home for them.

One of the volunteers introduces me to a recent arrival who lives alone, and admits that although the food is welcome, her biggest need is meeting and talking to people.

"I was really nervous the first time I came here, but everyone was so friendly, especially the volunteers, they showed me around and made me feel very comfortable. I didn't know anyone. As I was walking by a table, a woman invited me to sit at her table. Since then, we are good friends and I look forward to meeting her every Thursday. I really enjoy talking to people and being able to visit," she says.

As she makes her way to the busy produce corner. I follow her and with my newly acquired insight, I encourage her to pick up the orange low acid tomatoes as I convince her she needs to try the container of healthy pea sprouts, to include in her salads.

While I move around the tables, an older gentleman offers his explanation.

"This is just wonderful. I am retired and can get by on my own, but I enjoy the company and conversation as we share a meal. I look forward to the feeling of belonging this place offers."

I wander past the mom and her five kids and get an appreciative thumbs up from the young ones enjoying a desert of purple glazed doughnuts, they were able to select themselves.

Responding to my question about financing, Bryan responds.

"STICH does not receive any financial help from the town of Ingersoll or Trinity church. Although we are considered friends of the church, we rent the kitchen and basement space and are a secular organization."

The organization receives financial donations from Unifor Local 88, which has always been involved, as well as monthly donations, from other charitable groups in Ingersoll. STICH has the financial resources to do what they need, at the present, but they do not amass a large contingency fund.

"Like many people, we have a concern about rising food prices. To offset some of those costs Cargill offers us chicken once a month that helps to buffer some of those higher prices," adds Smith.

Volunteers are unanimous in their praise of how STICH operates, by providing a friendly atmosphere to all guests and volunteers and not only meeting the need for well balanced adequate meals but also providing volunteers a way to give back to the community by developing a powerful social presence where you can make new friends and develop a sense of belonging.

STICH also allows for certification and training of volunteers in certain areas of food preparation. And welcomes high school students who want to volunteer as part of their community hours requirements.

Whether you are a teen, an adult, a senior, or a parent, STICH builds intergenerational relationships and helps bring your community together.

The "guests" all seem to know each other. An older gentleman comes up to me and confuses me with an old friend from years ago. I explain I am here to write a story about STICH. I assure him and anyone else I chat with, their names will not be used.

As I stand close to the church doors, a young woman pushing a baby carriage and herding four other children, approaches and stands behind me in line. I ask her. What does STICH mean to you?

She takes a breath, pauses for a second or two and then shares with me.

"It is a breath of fresh air. I am a single mom that stays home to look after five kids. It can be very difficult managing everything and finding enough at the end of the week. I have to walk everywhere and bring the children with me. Sometimes the children can be a bit much to handle, but the volunteers here are wonderful and they come and help me with holding the baby. This meal is a welcome break for us."

I sit down on the pavement next to a man, a backpack and a larger bag resting next to him. He tells me that the STICH volunteers are wonderful and welcoming, the people are friendly and there are no questions.

I ask him if he will be picking up some of the produce available, to take home.

"It's difficult", he answers, "I live in a tent".

Inside the church basement, garden produce is stacked on the corner tables and the stage is covered with dry and packaged goods and plenty of bread and buns. You simply line up and take what you need.

Standing in front of the kale, an elderly woman starts up a conversation with me and explains, she is picking up vegetables, including orange tomatoes for a neighbour who can not get around very well.

"I have to get the orange ones", she says. "They are low acid and won't bother her stomach."

She goes on to explain that she also picks up for her daughter who can't be here tonight, because she has to work.



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Woodstock Ingersoll Echo SPORTS

Woodstock hosting another U13 national baseball tournament

CONTINUED FROM FRONT



(CONTRIBUTED IMAGE)

"As you noted, Woodstock is a baseball town. We had a lot of people who are interested in participating. We have 12 to 17-year-olds doing food service and adults in charge of selling tickets, field preparation and transportation. We have a beverage tent where we have Smart Serve certified individuals. We do a lot of work around ensuring our volunteers are able to meet the needs of the event," explained Paltola.

It takes between 45 and 60 volunteers on any given day to pull off the event each year. It also doesn't hurt to have a pretty good ball team on the field.

"The goal was always to make it to the tournament whether we had to win the year-end tournament or not. This group has done a lot of bonding. We went to Cooperstown last year to a similar style tournament," said coach Mitch Latimer.

"These boys are ready to go and nothing is going to surprise them. It's going to be high-level competitive baseball. We've done everything we can to be ready for this moment."

He added if any of the kids on the team were asked if they wanted to live in Cooperstown, they would likely say yes.

"It's like Disney World for baseball. They still talk about it to this day and I feel like this tournament will have the same kind of feel. I have a good group that will be competitive. It won't be overwhelming for them from the baseball side of it. They will make memories and stories to talk about for years to come."

The team has compiled a record of 27 wins, 11 losses and a pair of ties this season. They earned a gold and silver medal at AAA tournaments and now have the opportunity to compete for a national ti-

tle in their hometown. The action begins on Thursday, Aug. 21 at Southside Park with the gates opening at 5 p.m. Opening ceremonies kick off at 6 p.m. and Woodstock will battle New Brunswick at 7:30 p.m.

Nathan Webster is the association's president and said the opening night has been branded as Woodstock Baseball Night. His hope is to get not just baseball fans out to the event, but anyone in the community interested in having a good time at no charge.

"We'd love to get locals down to support it. There's always been of a questions around the financial barrier, what are people willing to pay to come out. The opening night is donation only in support of the United Way. Come on down and watch some baseball. All our travel teams are expected to come down so there's 250 kids there along with our house league kids and all their parents."

Webster said he's hoping some people who maybe don't think about baseball will come out and decide it's a sport they'd like to get their kids into.

"They can take a look and see the impact it has on the community."

He added his job is to ensure the good ideas people have get incorporated into the event.

"This year we have some new faces on the board who brought in some new ideas so we have incorporated some of that in along with keeping what's been working for a few years. A lot of props go out to the board that has been in place the last 10 or 15 years. They have put WMB in a good financial position."

He added a solid relationship with the city has helped land big events such as the Canadian championship.

"We want to continue to move the organization forward and build on that legacy."

A 50/50 draw is also being held throughout the weekend with all teams taking part in ticket sales. Money raised will go towards the installation of scoreboards at the Tip O'Neil and Southside diamonds.

More information, including ticket prices, is available at https://baseball.ca/?fd=champ&pg=participant_in-



(WOODSTOCK F.C. PHOTO)

U14 CHAMPS

The Woodstock F.C. U14 girls brought home gold from a tournament in Niagara for the second straight year with a dominating performance. The team allowed just a single goal against over the entire weekend.

Correction Notice:

In the August 1, 2025 issue (page 14), the story titled "Stallions B strike like lightning, thunder off with 4-0 First Division victory" incorrectly named one of the players as Adam Dunlop. The correct name is Logan Dunlop.

Woodstock Lawn Bowling Club tournament winners



A FLIGHT WINNERS
The Woodstock Lawn Bowling Club hosted its Open Pairs Tournament Thursday, July 24 and Friday, July 25, sponsored by TD Wealth Management, TD Bank and Kody Olthof. From left, are: Olthof, Championship Flight winners Jake Masterson and Rick Lyons from the Heritage Lawn Bowling Club in Kitchener, and Dominique and Michele Gomes of TD Wealth.



A FLIGHT FINALISTS
The Woodstock Lawn Bowling Club hosted its Open Pairs Tournament Thursday, July 24 and Friday, July 25, sponsored by TD Wealth Management, TD Bank and Kody Olthof. From left, are: Olthof, Derek McKie from Woodstock Lawn Bowling Club, Murray Bennewies from Seaforth Lawn Bowling Club, and Dominique and Michele Gomes of TD Wealth.



B FLIGHT WINNERS
The Woodstock Lawn Bowling Club hosted its Open Pairs Tournament Thursday, July 24 and Friday, July 25, sponsored by TD Wealth Management, TD Bank and Kody Olthof. From left, are: Olthof, Petter Mutter and Everett from Lambeth, and Dominique and Michele Gomes of TD Wealth.



B FLIGHT FINALISTS
The Woodstock Lawn Bowling Club hosted its Open Pairs Tournament Thursday, July 24 and Friday, July 25, sponsored by TD Wealth Management, TD Bank and Kody Olthof. From left, are: Olthof, Laura Seed from Milton and Andy Caldwell from the Woodstock Lawn Bowling Club, and Dominique and Michele Gomes of TD Wealth.



C FLIGHT WINNERS
The Woodstock Lawn Bowling Club hosted its Open Pairs Tournament Thursday, July 24 and Friday, July 25, sponsored by TD Wealth Management, TD Bank and Kody Olthof. From left, are: Olthof, C Flight Winners Fred Erickson and Paul Hutcheson from the Woodstock Lawn Bowling Club, and Dominique and Michele Gomes of TD Wealth.



D FLIGHT WINNERS
The Woodstock Lawn Bowling Club hosted its Open Pairs Tournament Thursday, July 24 and Friday, July 25, sponsored by TD Wealth Management, TD Bank and Kody Olthof. From left, are: Olthof, Dianne Trask and Rebecca Coon from St. Catharines, and Dominique and Michele Gomes of TD Wealth.

Competition and fun highlight annual Dragon Boat event



Woodstock's Team Sierra was ready to take on the competition.



Competitors relaxing between their races.

The 25th annual Pharmasave Woodstock Dragon Boat Festival took over the north shore of Pittock Conservation Area on August 9, drawing large crowds for a full day of high-energy racing and community celebration.

Hosted by the Woodstock Rotary Club, the event featured over 30 teams from across the region and beyond, competing in a series of 500-metre heats throughout the day before the top six teams faced off in an exciting 2,000-metre final. The races showcased the strength, timing, and teamwork needed to propel the 40-foot-long dragon boats, each manned by 20 paddlers, a drummer at the bow to keep the pace, and a steer person at the stern for direction.

Families took advantage of the splash pad, playground, and local food vendors, while many supported the festival by purchasing commemorative t-shirts and par-

ticipating in the 50/50 draw. In keeping with its tradition of giving back, the club announced that proceeds from the festival will benefit numerous charitable initiatives. These include support for the South Gate Centre's Angel Food program, which assists Oxford County residents facing food insecurity, and a five-year pledge of \$17,000 annually toward the Centre's new Community Kitchen.

The club also funds a Dragon Boat scholarship for young athletes who qualify for Canada's national team. Dave Harris, a member of the Woodstock Rotary Club, reflected on the festival's impact.

"With 20 paddlers in each boat, you need someone keeping everyone in sync. That teamwork is what makes dragon boating special, and it's the same spirit that drives our community to support each other. We're proud to see so many people come together for such a great cause."

(RON YUZARK PHOTOS)



Competitors tried to stay cool at the splash pad on a 30-plus degree day.

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Dave McLaren's lifelong commitment to sports is as far more than a figurehead

JEFF TRIBE

Echo Correspondent

At the recent South Oxford Softball League U11 Girls championship tournament, the Hickson Sports and Recreation treasurer was among a posse of volunteers making it happen through a brutally hot three-day event. Beyond hosting and scheduling, community members gave up their time preparing and maintaining the diamond, manning the refreshment booth and little touches like announcing players' names and greeting them with walk-up songs as they approached home plate.

"My goal is to make it fun for kids to come to the park," said McLaren.

He was at the diamond from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Friday, Saturday from 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and back again for Sunday's championship round from 8 a.m. until 8:30 p.m.

"It was a long weekend," said McLaren, 73 years of age as of Aug. 19. "But you do it because you love it and want to give back."

Born in Woodstock he was raised in Hickson and played fastball competitively until 46 after growing up as a southpaw in a long-standing lefty-righty OR-SA-winning pitching duo featuring Don Oliver. McLaren enjoyed minor hockey in Woodstock, joining the Junior C Woodstock Navy Vets full-time as a 15-year-old.

"There was no Gameboys or X-boxes around and we didn't have a lot of money, so we went out and played the games," said McLaren, remembering ball with friends, street hockey, or throwing and catching a ball off a wall if no one else was available. "It was just one of those things."

It was a different time he admitted, recalling taking his hockey bag to the corner of Hickson's main drag (Oxford Road 8) and 59 Highway if his dad had to work

later than practice began, and hitchhiking to the arena as a 10, 11 or 12-year-old.

"You wouldn't do that now."

McLaren played two seasons with the Vets, nicknamed "The Hammer" while winning an all-Ontario championship in 1968-69.

"I'm not sure why," said McLaren, insisting he wasn't a fighter, although he did amass 185 penalty minutes along with 35 points during his second season in the OHL. "It's kind of stuck."

McLaren began playing Junior A with London in the 1969-70 season, two seasons with the Knights before being traded to the Kitchener Rangers for his third. At the time, players had to be either fighters or a magician with the puck.

"I was neither," he laughed, "but rather a stay-at-home defenceman who thought the game well, was strong positionally and moved the puck quickly out of his own zone. I prided myself on that first pass."

McLaren played a year with the New Jersey Devils, then of the East Coast Hockey League, before returning home and playing senior hockey. Laughing, he remembered Vic Shelton, whose signature move was throwing a fish on the ice during games at the Perry Street Arena, and the time fans dressed up eight pig's heads sourced from Rudy's Meat Market as opposing Cambridge Hornets fans.

"It was absolutely hilarious."

McLaren began coaching, including fastball in his home community where he had one prerequisite.

"I don't care if we lose every game, just not to Innerkip," he laughed of an old rivalry, similar to that between Junior C squads in Woodstock and Ingersoll. "Back in the day, oh man!"

As a hockey bench boss, McLaren helped three Tavistock Mi-



McLaren congratulates Sweaburg Storm head coach Matt Walker following the title game. (JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)

nor Hockey teams win OMHA titles, a senior division crown with that same centre, and a senior title alongside Brad Wilkins in Tillsonburg. McLaren's sons Jack and Rob also played hockey, joining the Navy Vets before suiting up for the Junior B Stratford Cullitons and eventually, the Thorold Black Hawks as they attended Brock University. Both won Sutherland Cups in Stratford and eventually a second together with the Black Hawks, both as defencemen.

"Seems to be a McLaren thing," Dave laughed.

Four grandchildren all play sports, two lacrosse in Toronto, two fastball in Innerkip where Dave has learned to embrace them in an Eagles' uniform. All also lace up their skates, one forward among three defenders.

"They love the game," said McLaren. "Makes grandpa proud, let's put it that way."

He concurrently ran a sporting goods store in Woodstock for two decades in partnership with Don Jones, beginning as Cupolo

Sports, progressing through Double D Sports to Collegiate Sports, Sports Experts and finally Inter-sport.

Just to check off another couple of boxes, McLaren has offered a one-week hockey school in Woodstock that in 2025, is celebrating its 39th year. He was also a baseball umpire for 52 years. In short, sports is a huge part of his life.

"Love it, it's my passion, my passion," he said. "I don't know what I'd do without it," McLaren continued, noting how supportive his wife Kim has been through his ongoing athletic journey.

"Her understanding of my passion for sports has meant everything."

Admittedly, there are times he feels like banging his head on a brick wall.

"But there are a lot of really good kids out there that make it a lot of fun."

As a member of Hickson Sports and Recreation, McLaren honours his father, who started minor ball in the community 63 years earlier. He has been responsible for

scheduling umpires, booth staff and a T-ball program resuscitated following COVID, initially with free registration, now 'raised' to \$10 which includes a T-shirt and hat.

As well as behind-the-scenes work, McLaren took his turn selling 50/50 tickets at the South Oxford tournament, handing out pennants to the championship Sweaburg Storm as well as less-glamorous duties including cleaning out the deep-fryer.

"When you slow down, you die," he summed up. "So, keep on going, as long as you can, anyway."

And in closing, he passed along the thought that if a child wants to kick a soccer ball, needs a ball hockey goalie, or wishes to play catch, it's up to an older generation member to do so.

"No matter what it is, do your best job as an adult to keep them in the game," he concluded, noting that kids playing games are not finding trouble on the street. "That's the key in this day and age for sure."

Echo

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Weekend Quiz

By Jake Grant

1. What is the Michelin man made of?
2. How strong is an ant compared to its body weight?
3. What was Prince's first album called?
4. What are the zodiac signs for August?
5. What is the capital of Alberta?
6. Cindy Lou Hoo is from what story?
7. When was the "Summer of Love"?
8. Which U.S. state is known as the "Sunflower State"?
9. What is the largest species of shark?
10. Who sang the 1970s rock anthem "School's Out"?

This week's answers are found on pg. 27

OFA Viewpoint: How summer helps connect farmers and politicians, from fairs to farm tours

TRACEY ARTS

Director, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Summer is a time of long days, local fairs, barbecues, community celebrations — and for Ontario farmers, it's also prime harvest season for everything from hay and grain crops to fruits and field vegetables.

At the same time, summer is also a great opportunity for some informal advocacy about the importance of food and farming. After all, it's when local MPPs and MPs are home in their ridings and on a break from their Queen's Park and Parliament Hill commitments, but that doesn't mean their work has stopped.

That presents a golden opportunity for Ontario farmers and agri-business leaders to engage with MPs, MPPs, and municipal councillors in a more relaxed, face-to-face setting at local community barbecue, open house, festival or other special event — one where interesting conversations can happen outside of the pressures of more formal political settings.

My family and I farm in Oxford County between Woodstock and London and I'm also a director with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA). As an organization, our job is to build relationships on behalf of our members and or sector and to bring our needs and opportunities to the attention of policymakers.

Although we regularly meet with politicians from all levels of government, it's just as important that farmers from across Ontario also taking the opportunity to get to know their local elected officials and share their perspectives with them.

Summer time offers the perfect settings for those relationship-building moments.

Whether it's chatting over burgers at a local fundraiser, walking the midway at a rural fair, or attending a farm tour, these casual touchpoints allow politicians to connect with farmers as people — neighbours, business owners, parents — and let them learn about who we are and what we do.

Ontario's farmers do more than grow food — they help power our economy. With nearly 50,000 farms across the province, agriculture adds more than \$50 billion to Ontario's economy every year.

Our agri-food sector exports more than \$26 billion worth of products annually and supports more than 871,000 jobs — that means we employ one in 11 people in Ontario. From field to fork, farming plays a big role in keeping Ontario strong.

Some of OFA's county and regional federations, including in my own area, regularly organize local open houses, bus tours or other events where elected officials from all levels of government to experience firsthand what happens on local farms and in agri-businesses.

There's an adage that says a picture is worth a thousand words. I would suggest that so is a first-hand experience that shows just how modern and technology-driven agriculture is and highlights why Ontario needs investments into rural roads and bridges, reliable cellular service and highspeed internet, and affordable energy.

It helps illustrate the importance of workforce supports, mental health resources for the farming community, and streamlining red tape that hinders farm business growth and development and builds not just relationships but also understanding that can carry over into future decisions.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Graydon Smith (left), MPP for Parry Sound-Muskoka and Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, at the Argyle Farmers' Market with Lana Reading (right), President of East Nipissing-Parry Sound Federation of Agriculture.

Advocacy doesn't have to mean organizing a large-scale event, though. Sometimes, it's as simple as inviting your local councillor, MPP or MP out to your farm or business for a coffee and a quick tour.

The key is finding common ground — around food, community, sustainability, or economic impact. Agriculture contributes to every region in Ontario, and the more our decision-makers understand what we do, the better equipped they are to support policies that matter to our sector and by extension, to our entire economy.

Ontario is uniquely positioned in the

world. We can grow over 200 different food and farm products right here at home thanks to our diverse soils, climates and farm types. But that abundance depends on preserving our farmland, supporting our rural communities, and ensuring our food systems stay strong.

It's important for our leaders know that — not just in boardrooms and policy meetings, but also at local events and informal gatherings.

Because when the time does come to make a formal ask, a relationship built on trust, shared experience, and mutual understanding can make a difference.

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Summer slump in food donations hits Woodstock Salvation Army Food Bank

ALEX HUNT

Echo Contributor

Despite steady numbers of people using its services, the Woodstock Salvation Army food bank is facing a drop in donations this summer, prompting a call for community support to restock essential items.

"I have heard that other food banks have been seeing an increased need in food but not in Woodstock. We have not seen an increased need in the number of people that we are serving but our donations are down," said Major Kristen Adams, Corps and Community Ministries Officer at the Salvation Army Woodstock Community Church.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 21



(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

The team from The Woodstock Salvation Army food bank are happy to serve the community.





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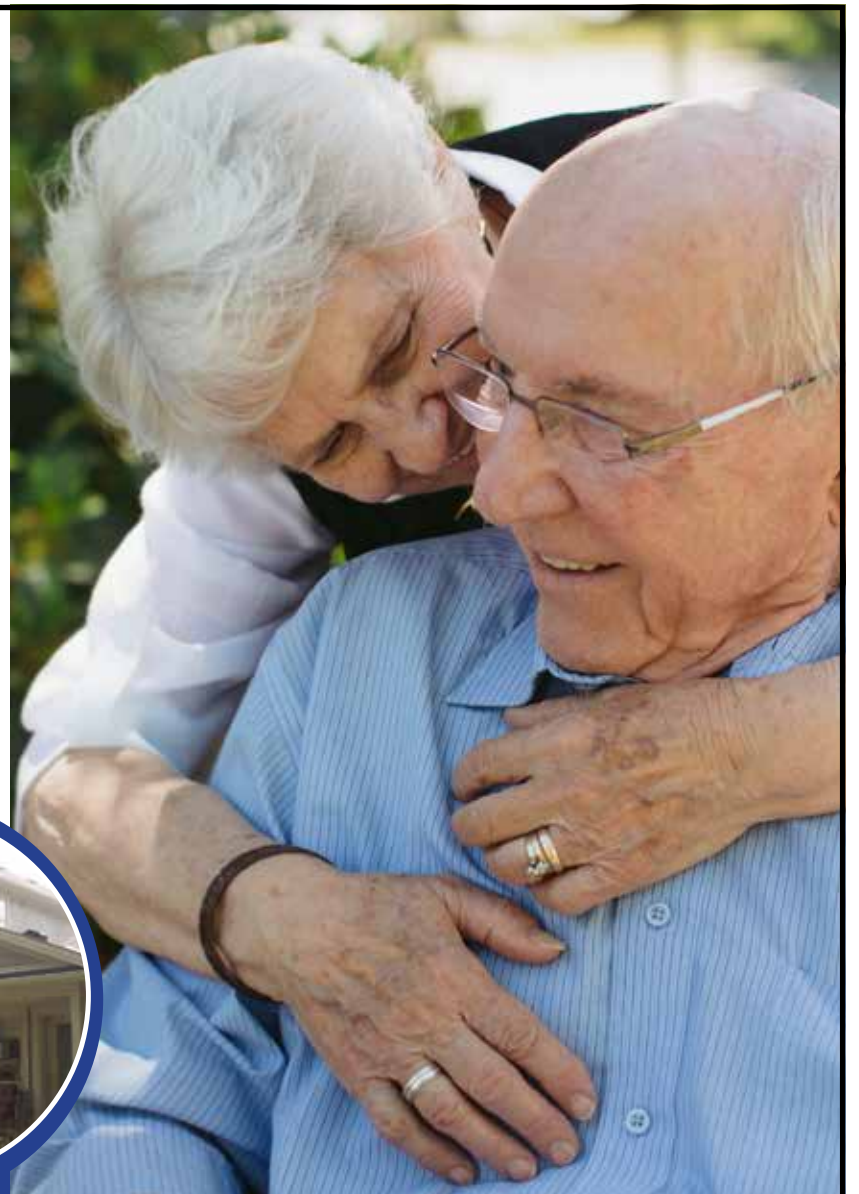
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Route to the Past – W.W. killed in WW

SCOTT GILLIES

Contributor

I don't plan to go into the deep end with this article but rather wade into the history of one local individual and just dip a toe into the story of Bomber Command during the Second World War. This is the story of William Harold Wade.

Bill Wade was born in Ingersoll on May 22, 1920. He was the only child of Ernest Wade and his wife, the former Annie Maude Annison – an ex-patriot of Great Britain. Ernest worked as a machinist while young Bill received an education at the local schools. He completed 3 years at the Ingersoll Collegiate Institute before finding a job.

From 1939 until he enlisted with the RCAF, William Wade worked as a clerk for the Loblaw Groceteria, reporting to store manager Harold Smith. Given Smith's own history in the community, there is a likely chance that young William Harold Wade had been a member of the local Boy Scouts troop before coming to work at the store at the age of 19.

The Wade family were members of St. James' Anglican Church. It is interesting to note that that particular church is currently renovating the building which was formerly Dorothee's ladies clothing store and before that, Loblaw's grocery store. In that sense of the story, this brief history of young Bill Wade has gone full circle. As a grocery clerk, stocking shelves, packing away inventory, or assisting shoppers with their purchases, young Wade would have been familiar with every nook and cranny of the building. Today, the construction workers who are currently renovating the building which was originally constructed in 1929 by former Ingersoll mayor and Ox-

ford MP Ken Daniel, are becoming familiar with all its hidden assets. Perhaps young Wade even carried groceries up the stairs to one of the four apartments on the second floor of the building.

The Wade family lived at 264 Wellington Street in Ingersoll. Standing at 6 feet tall, William was a bit of a local athlete. He particularly enjoyed swimming; perhaps frequently dipping his toes and body into what was the much larger Smith's Pond just outside his door.

Apparently, he was also an avid stamp collector. Perhaps another clue to his connection with the Boy Scouts. Did he earn his stamp collector's badge?

Examining Officers with the Royal Canadian Air Force noted on his attestation papers that William H. Wade was "physically fit, quiet, well-mannered, pleasant and intelligent". He was a volunteer with the Oxford Rifles, no doubt influenced by his former secondary school teachers J.C. Herbert and Currie Wilson who were both active as officers with the Ingersoll Armouries and the Rifles.

Principal of ICI, Mr. C.L. Boles was one of William's three character references he submitted at the time of his enlistment. The other two were local insurance agent Tom Jackson and his clergyman Reverend Merrifield.

Following Wade's enlistment with the air force, he underwent basic training and then further specialized training at Lachine Quebec, Centralia, Fingal, Toronto, London and Halifax. He qualified as an Air Bomber in December of 1942 and earned his Flight Sergeant's rank on June 30, 1943. In all, he spent close 300 days in basic training followed by another 306 days of operational service overseas.

Wade was assigned to RCAF 428



William Harold Wade. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Squadron stationed at Middleton St. George in England. The 428th was known as the "Ghost Squadron" because they specialized in night operations over Germany and occupied Europe. Their motto was "To the Very End". Amongst themselves they were known as "Hitler's Haunters".

William Wade was part of an aircrew flying Halifax bombers. He and his fellow mates were flying home following a successful bombing mission over Stuttgart Germany. At the controls was pilot Flight Sergeant Robert Moscrop Buck, a 29-year-old from Kinross Scotland. Other crew members included Navigator Sergeant W.S. Bruce from Edinburgh, Flight Engineer J.H. Muir – another Scot, Wireless Operator and Air Gunner Sergeant A. H. Briggs from Bristol England, Mid-Gunner was L.J.W. Shirvell

of Portsmouth England, and 20 year-old Magnus James Lindsay of Toronto.

Flight JN966 was approaching their home base, with lights off for war-time security. At the same time, a Lancaster bomber from 103 Squadron was making an unauthorized approach to the same landing strip. In an eerie prelude to more recent events involving aircraft mishaps and disasters, these two airplanes did not see each other and tragically met a fatal ending 200 feet above the landing strip. Only one of the Lancaster crews survived the crash. All of William Wade's crew were killed in the crash and subsequent fire.

The date was November 27, 1943. William Harold Wade was 22 years old.

Word of the disaster travelled quickly. His mother, his listed next of kin, was notified of the accident the following day. (Messengers from the local telegraph office were generally viewed as harbingers of bad news; many of them were haunted by images of grieving mothers and loved ones long after the war had ended.)

The RCAF and the Canadian government were quick to address the loss felt by the Wade family. The few personal belongings which William had with him in England were returned to his mother, and an accounting of his personal finances show that his bicycle had been sold for \$19.67. (Bikes were a common article purchased by young Canadian airmen; few could afford a motorcar or motorcycle.) Here at home in Oxford County, lawyer Roy Start of the Ingersoll firm of Patterson Start and Marshall helped Mrs. Wade wade through the bureaucracy. With the sale of his bicycle and other outstanding finances owing to Wade, his mother received \$260 – the price for freedom, the price of peace.

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Summer slump in food donations hits Woodstock Salvation Army Food Bank

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Major Adams said that the organization sees lots of donations coming at celebratory times of years, mostly during Christmas and Thanksgiving. She explained people are busy during the summer doing other things and not necessarily bringing in donations, a common pattern throughout the years.

"One thing that we are seeing that we are very appreciative about is that we are seeing people bring produce in from their gardens, we are incredibly grateful for that. If people have access to their gardens, like tomatoes, cucumbers or anything really. We always welcome those products."

She explained they are purchasing a lot of canned products, along with rice and Kraft Dinner because they have a suitable stock.

We don't have enough for those right now. With a food drive we can stock up on those items. We encourage the community to donate with mandatory donations which allows us to purchase the items that we need."

Major Adams said the organization is always looking for food drive opportu-

nities with community partners. She encouraged businesses that are interested in doing so to reach out to the Salvation Army beforehand and inquire if the food bank is in need, to ensure proceeds are used to replenish a low or out of stock necessity item.

"The need does not relate to a specific demographic, the need is across all demographics, young and old, different cultures, people that never used the foodbank before and are not because of the cost of groceries. Unfortunately, food insecurity is not prejudicial."

She added the reality is food is a necessity of life.

"Everybody needs food, there is no discrimination to who is in need. We are happy to be able to provide that resource as much as we're able to. We are so grateful for all the donors that make it possible for us to do what we do."

Those interested in donating can do so by visiting the website at woodstocksalvationarmy.ca or by dropping by in-person the Salvation Army on 769 Juliana Drive between the 9 to 5 operating hours. For more information call 519-539-9345.

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Zorra Township News

Zorra Township celebrates 50 years of local government and countless years of local heritage

CONNOR LUCZKA

Echo Correspondent

Fifty years ago, the provincial government of the day ordered the amalgamation of various municipalities across Ontario in a broad push to streamline local governance.

All these years later, the community of Zorra Township is one to be celebrated, and celebrated it was. On Aug. 12, the local government hosted a community barbecue in the parking lot of the Zorra Municipal Centre (ZMC), complete with tours of the building, free food and drinks and complementary music, courtesy of Uncle G, a singer-songwriter native to Kintore.

"I'm really surprised and pleasantly so at how many people showed up today for this," Mayor Marcus Ryan told the Echo during the festivities. "I think it's a testament to how much this township has done, to (promote) residents, to promote ourselves and say we have come together as a community."

"On a per capita basis, we probably participate at a higher level than a lot of large municipalities, because things feel close. If a business is doing something or somebody's building something, you know the person who owns it or the person who's building it, so people feel connected to it, right?"

As Ryan said, the roots of the township go back much farther than 1975. Before becoming the municipality that it is today, Zorra was split up into East Nissouri, West Zorra and North Oxford. Before then, there was a long history of settlers and Indigenous people living in the area. Although the day was really to celebrate 50 years, in some respects it was a day

to celebrate all that came before as well. With the exponential growth the township has seen and will see, Ryan said it is important to continue sharing that shared heritage with longtime residents and newcomers alike.

"Hopefully over the next year, (we can) make people more aware of that part of it as well," Ryan said.

As part of the celebration, a display in the vestibule of the ZMC had a historical map of the region, linking to a project undertaken by the Beachville District Museum called "Zorra's Crossroad Communities," which connects many of the historical hamlets of the area like Cobble Hill and Dunn's Corners together.

Visitors could scan a QR code and click on the links to the hamlets, where they could learn more about the history of the community. For instance, Bennington, a hamlet just north of Embro that was once a "bustling and dynamic community boasting general stores, a blacksmith, a post office, a community hall, a cheese and butter factory, a flax mill, a steam-powered sawmill, hotels, a train station and schools."

For Ryan, aside from celebrating heritage, it was important to celebrate the people of Zorra today.

"I see people from every little corner of the township all standing around and having a chat," Ryan said. "I've talked to people here from Thamesford, obviously, Embro, Harrington, Lakeside, Uniondale, where I'm from. Literally every part of the township."

For more on the crossroad communities project, or to check out the crossroad communities yourself, visit <https://beachvilledistrictmuseum.com/zorras-crossroad-communities>.



(CONNOR LUCZKA PHOTO)

Steve Oliver and Maggie McLaughlin handle the grill at the 50th anniversary celebration of Zorra Township on Aug. 12.



(CONNOR LUCZKA PHOTO)

A huge crowd came out that day to celebrate the milestone year – despite the heat. With a high of 30 degrees that day, the parking lot at the Zorra Municipal Centre was sweltering.



Kintore-native Uncle G sings to the crowd at the barbecue.

(CONNOR LUCZKA PHOTO)

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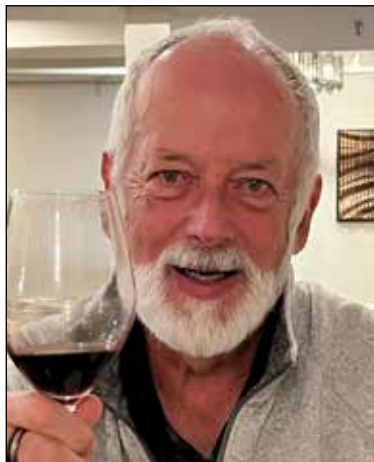


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OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: A superb destination a few minutes from home



PAUL KNOWLES

Echo Contributor

There are literally dozens of reasons to visit Stratford, Ontario. Those of us who live within an easy drive of Canada's premier theatre destination are very lucky, indeed.

Now, let's be honest – the things you can enjoy in Stratford range from the free-of-charge to the “pretty pricey.” But I am here to argue that activities on both ends of that financial spectrum are worth the price of admission.

Top of mind in Stratford, of course, is the Festival. The plays at the sundry Stratford stages certainly can fall into the “pretty pricey” categories, but there are some more economical options for locals who can visit Stratford on shorter notice – ticket bargains offered on social media, or to festival members, or as last-minute purchases. All worth

exploring.

I was amused to discover that even the Festival folks themselves are aware of the discussion about prices. One of the songs in “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels,” “Great Big Stuff,” features lyrics adapted to this particular performance. The character Freddy Benson, played hysterically well by Liam Tobin, sings about what it would mean to strike it rich. One of those perks, he sings, would be to be able to afford tickets to Stratford!

We've attended the two big musicals at Stratford so far this season (with apologies to Mr. Shakespeare), and both were amazing.

And I have to be honest: I went to see “Annie” with a certain amount of skepticism. After all, the success of the play hangs on the work of a bunch of children, and how good could young kids really be?

As it turns out, really, really good. To my surprise, I loved every minute of the production. I should not have had any doubts, because “Annie” is directed and choreographed by Donna Feore, and everything Donna does turns into gold. She is an amazing talent, and every theatre-goer in southern Ontario should be grateful that she chooses to make magic in Stratford almost every year.

And those kids! Singing, dancing, acting, and doing it all to perfection. Most surprising, per-



Members of the company in *Annie*. Stratford Festival 2025.

(DAVID HOU PHOTO)

haps, was that at the show we saw, the girl who stars as Annie was unavailable, and her understudy, Olivia Padfield of Cambridge, played the lead role... superbly.

The adult actors are really fine, as well. The versatile Dan Chameroy (who was so good as the outrageous Dr. Frank-n-Furter in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, and the also outrageous Nostradamus in last year's

Something Rotten), has a lot of fun playing Oliver Warbucks as a buttoned-down businessman who has his life turned upside down by an orphan girl.

Laura Condlin plays Miss Aggie Hannigan with hilarious abandon; her numbers alone are worth the price of admission.

All in all, “Annie” was a delightful surprise – to cynical old me, anyway.

“Dirty Rotten Scoundrels” offered some surprises, too. I have seen the movie on which this musical is based – it starred Michael Caine and Steve Martin, and I remember laughing a lot.

The musical follows the same plot, but as a more modern production, the book and lyrics are far bolder – which you could interpret as far more vulgar – and at times, I was mildly shocked.

But by the end of the play, I was entirely a fan. I enjoyed seeing Jonathan Goad in one of the lead roles, playing sophisticated Lawrence – I have enjoyed his work often in his 18 Stratford season. As mentioned, Liam Tobin is perfect as the over-the-top Freddy. And you will fall in love with Shakura Dickson as Christine Colgate.

There is also a lovely subplot – which also involves some rather scandalous declarations – involving the excellent Derek Kwan as Andre, and Sara-Jeanne Hosie as Muriel Eubanks.

So, yes – the musicals at Stratford this season are certainly worth the price of admission.

But if you want to mitigate your budget in Stratford, there are also plenty of things to do and see that cost nothing! If you wander around the city, especially the riverfront area, I can almost guarantee you will encounter excellent musicians performing as buskers, or on the jazz boat, or in the park, or in one of the many outdoor music and arts festivals that take place in Stratford in the summer months.

And speaking of art – it's always intriguing to stroll through “Art in the Park” and take in the truly fine work being done by local artists.

One of our favourite things to do is to bring a picnic – and I mean, a real, old-fashioned picnic, served on a table cloth, with napkins, silverware, elegant beverages and sundry edibles. I don't think there is a city anywhere that offers as many picnic tables along a river as you will find in Stratford. Full points to the city leaders.

And I have not even mentioned the fine dining, the interesting shops of the main street, or the astonishing gardens, both public and private. Tell you what – make the quick trip to Stratford, and discover all your personal favourites, yourself.

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



(DAVID HOU PHOTO)

From front-left: Jennifer Rider Shaw as Grace Farrell, Harper Rae Asch as Annie and Dan Chameroy as Oliver Warbucks with members of the company in *Annie*. Stratford Festival 2025.

COMING EVENTS

CANADIAN HARVARD AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION OPEN HOUSE & FLY DAYS

August 16 (Rain Date: August 17)

Sept 13 – Wings & Wheels

All event dates take place from 9am to 4pm Tillsonburg Regional Airport

Join us for our Open House & Fly Days during our special 40th anniversary season. These monthly family-friendly outdoor events are always FREE and offer the opportunity to see our collection of Harvard aircraft up close, tour our hangars, explore restoration projects, purchase souvenirs, and best of all, purchase a flight! Pre-booking your flight experience is recommended by contacting crewflights@harvards.com.

INGERSOLL PIPE BAND 115TH ANNIVERSARY TATTOO

Saturday, August 16: 1 to 4 pm

Parade - Downtown Ingersoll: 1 pm

Tattoo - Yvonne Holmes Mott Memorial Park Ingersoll: 2 to 4 p.m.

Free Admission

The Ingersoll Pipe Band will be hosting five additional area pipe bands that will converge upon the Town of Ingersoll.

The IPB is delighted to offer you this afternoon of free entertainment to help us celebrate this anniversary milestone.

This is your opportunity to see and hear the traditional sounds of bagpipes and drums! Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/IngersollPipeBand>

Website - ingersollpipeband.com

DECORATION DAY AT THE PRINCETON CEMETERY

Sunday, August 17: 2:30 p.m.

(if it is raining it will be held at the Centennial Hall in Princeton) Bring your own lawn chairs.

SACRED HEART PARISH EUCHRE

We invite everyone to join us for a Euchre afternoon.

Henderson Hall, 133 John Street Ingersoll Tuesday August 19: Starts at 1 p.m.

Refreshments provided.

For more info call or text Martha 519-320-0785

NEW DURHAM CEMETARY DECORATION DAY SERVICE

Sunday, September 7: 2 p.m.

Service of Remembrance by Lola Mather-Dyer. Music by the Norwich Musical Society Band.

TILLSONBURG FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION IS HOSTING ANNUAL STEAK BBQ FUNDRAISER

Saturday September 13:

Meal is served from 4 to 8 p.m.

Lions Auditorium, 45 Hardy Ave, Tillsonburg

\$30.00 per person

Children under 12- Free Hotdogs

Tickets Available through one of the local Firefighters or email dvan.occ@gmail.com

LET'S FALL INTO COUNTRY MUSIC WITH THE INGERSOLL COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE

Every other Friday: 1 to 4 p.m.

Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St., Ingersoll

Join us. Walk ins welcome. Qualifications,

love 50-70's country music, perform, listen, dance, and enjoy. September 5 & 19, October 3, 17 & 31, November 14 & 28, and December 5.

MODERN SQUARE DANCING IS FOR YOU!

Looking for something to do in the evening or something new to try? Modern square dancing is a great way to learn something new, have fun, meet new friends, relieve stress, and get some exercise! **At Thames Valley Dance Club, we dance on Monday nights from 7 to 9 p.m.** All you need is comfortable shoes and casual clothing. No experience or partner is required and anyone over the age of 12 is welcome (children from 12-15 with an adult, please). **We will be starting our 2025-2026 season on Monday, September 8, at the Ingersoll Pipe Band Hall, 108 Wonham St. S. Ingersoll.** The first night is free, and after that the cost is \$7.50 per person each Monday, paid monthly at the start of the month. For more information, contact Julie at 519-535-3314.

INGERSOLL CHORAL SOCIETY Rehearsals for the 2025/26 season begin

Monday, September 8: 7 to 9 p.m.

at Ingersoll CRC, 429 King St. W., Ingersoll.

Come out to 3 rehearsals with no commitment necessary. Find us on FB or email holly.langohr@gmail.com for more info.

MONTHLY VON BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

Last Tuesday of every Month:

10 a.m. to Noon

Ingersoll Pharmasave

19 King St. E., Ingersoll

TILLSONBURG DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

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.

THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF OXFORD COUNTY

The Optimists bring out the best in Youth, Community, and Themselves. If anyone is interested in coming out to meet us and learn more about us please email brenda7621@outlook.com

REPAIR CAFÉ - TOSS IT? NO WAY!

1st Saturday of each month: 9 a.m. to Noon

St. John's Church 685860 Oxford Highway 2, Eastwood, ON N4S 7V9

St. John's, Eastwood, now affiliated with Repair Café International (look for us at repaircafe.org). Meets the first Saturday of every month 9am to noon at St. John's Church 685860 Oxford Highway 2, Eastwood, ON N4S 7V9. Repairs made to clothing, linens, household items, toys, musical instruments etc. Save money, learn how to make your own repairs. Volunteers welcome. Payment by donation.

GRIEF SUPPORT FOR MAID RELATED LOSS

This monthly in-person grief support group

for loss related to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) offers a compassionate, safe space to explore this unique loss. **The group will meet the 4th Wednesday of the month from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Thamesford Library, 165 Dundas St., Thamesford. The group is free of charge and pre-registration is requested.** To register or inquire about an evening group, contact Faye Brekelmans at 519-866-3016 or email faye@compassionategriefsupport.ca.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLANDFORD-BLENHEIM TOWNSHIP'S AMALGAMATION

The Plattsville & District Heritage Society at Chesterfield Museum/Archives, 816661 Oxford Road 22, Bright

Yummy food at the free outdoor barbeque, cool drinks and groovy music on Saturday, August 16, by Bill & Bev Bell, happening from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Enjoy the Exhibit in the Museum/Archives **"Retro Rewind to the 70's & 80's" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., every Saturday until September 13,** or by appointment (519-535-1417). Donations appreciated.

PEER SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

Third Wednesday of each month:

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

21 Wellington St., Woodstock

(Virtual options available)

PCMH is a peer support program providing support to parents and caregivers across Ontario with lived experience raising children and youth with mental health challenges. For more information, please visit family.cmho.org or oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca. We are also on Facebook: Parents for Children's Mental Health ~ Oxford County

LIVING WITH LOSS:

A SIX-WEEK GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Caring Hearts Support Network:

St. David's United Church,

190 Springbank Ave., Woodstock ON

The next 6-week Living with Loss Grief

Support Group will begin on **Tuesday,**

September 2. For more information please

call 519-536-3370 or visit our website www.caringheartssupportnetwork.com

COLOURING THROUGH GRIEF

Caring Hearts Support Network:

St. David's United Church,

190 Springbank Ave., Woodstock ON

Third Wednesday monthly. One time fee of

\$15. Registration is required.

Call 519-536-3370. Check out website

www.caringheartssupportnetwork.com

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-12:00 Noon

THE LIONS CLUB OF WOODSTOCK

The Lions Club of Woodstock has been serving the community and Oxford County with kindness and generosity since 1931. The Lions always place the needs of neighbours and communities first. Through the dedication and hard work of our volunteer members, we are serving those in need together. If you are interested in becoming a member or simply wish to learn more by attending one of our monthly meetings, please email Steve Iorio at steveiorio4@gmail.com for more information.

OXFORD COUNTY BRANCH OF ONTARIO ANCESTORS

Are you looking to start a summer pastime?

Are you interested in your family history?

Oxford Branch has an extensive collection of family history and genealogical resources that can help you. **Come visit our Resource Centre at 82 Light Street, Courthouse Square, Woodstock. We are open Tuesdays to Thursdays 10:00 am to 4:00 pm** where volunteers are ready to help you get started or help you research for missing information. You can also connect with us on the web at <https://oxford.ogs.on.ca>. We are dedicated to supporting and promoting genealogical research in Oxford County. Hope to see you through the summer!

OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY Meetings: 2nd Tuesday (2 to 4 p.m.) and 4th Tuesday (7 to 9 p.m.)

September to May

Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas

Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7

If you have never belonged to a stamp club, now's the time. Meet new friends, grow your knowledge and collection. Contact: Don Eaton dhfe@silomail.com

Website: <http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford>

FOOD TRUCKS AT GRACE UNITED CHURCH, TAVISTOCK

August 18: 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Crystal's Fries, Ish n Chips, Fo'Cheezy

Donations to Tavistock Agricultural Society

August 25: 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Berlin 95, Born2Eat, Los Rolling Tacos,

Beavertails

Donations to Grace United Church

HURON PARK BAPTIST CHURCH EVENTS:

199 Berwick St, Woodstock

PANCAKES AT NIGHT

August 18: 7 to 9 p.m.

A youth Alpha program - discussions about faith, Jesus and Christianity. Please free to come to some or all of them.

BASKETBALL POWER CAMP

August 18-22: 9 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.

Ages: 5-14

Call the church 519-421-4722 for

Registration details.

COMING EVENTS

BEACHVILLE LEGION EVENTS:
434852 ZorraLine, Beachville

EUCHRE: THURSDAYS - 7 p.m.
DARTS: FRIDAYS - 8 p.m.
FREE POOL

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
BRANCH 55 EVENTS:**
642 Dundas St, Woodstock

WE ARE CLOSED ON MONDAY'S
DARTS: Tuesdays and Thursdays
SHUFFLE BOARD: Every Thursday afternoon at 3 p.m.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON MATINEE
August 2: 2 of Kind, 2 to 4 p.m.

SATURDAY EVENING ENTERTAINMENT
August 16: East Hill, 7 to 11 p.m.
August 23: 50-60's, 7 to 11 p.m.
August 30: Randy Thomas, 7 to 11 p.m.

MEAT DRAW
August 16: 3 p.m.

FISH N CHIP DINNER
With Coleslaw & Baked Beans, plus Dessert. Must Pre-Order & be paid by August 19th. Dinner on **August 24: 5 to 6 p.m.** Please contact the Office or Canteen for more details.

NO GENERAL MEETING THIS MONTH

EXECUTIVE MEETING
August 12: 7 p.m.

CANTEEN CLOSED
August 1, 15, 22, 29
Unless we have functions booked.

OFFICE OPEN IN THE MORNINGS ON:
August 15, 22, 29.

OFFICE IS OPEN:
Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Thursday: All day 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**DOWNTOWN WOODSTOCK BIA
IMPORTANT DATES:**

MUSIC IN THE SQUARE
Every Thursday Until August 28
Come to Museum Square for a little lunchtime concert. Music in the Square happens every Thursday from 12 pm to 2 pm during the Summer months.
Grab some lunch from one of the neighbouring businesses or bring your own and enjoy live bands and musicians.

DOWNTOWN WOODSTOCK SHOPPING NIGHT
August 28, September 25, October 23, November 27, December 18: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Our monthly shopping event, Woodstock Shopping Night, typically occurs every 4th Thursday of the month. Participating stores stay open late until 8 pm to facilitate late-night shopping. Enjoy a great night out in downtown Woodstock with extended store hours & exciting specials.

CHRISTMAS IN THE SQUARE
December 12/13 & December 19/20
Get ready for a festive family adventure in Downtown Woodstock! Join us for free festive fun in Museum Square; expect smiles, laughter, and a jolly good time. Bring the kids and snap a free photo with Santa at his house. Take the opportunity to do some last minute shopping for your loved ones at the wonderful downtown businesses.

SOUTH GATE CENTRE EVENTS:
www.southgatectr.com or 519-539-9817

FALLSVIEW CASINO
Friday, September 19: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
South Gate Centre Bus Trip
Members pricing and non-members pricing.

DAY IN PORT DOVER
Wednesday, September 10: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

South Gate Centre Bus Trip
Lunch at Erie Beach Hotel, Lighthouse Theatre's "Here on the Flight Path," travel by luxury motorcoach. Members pricing and non-members pricing.

BLUE JAYS VS. TAMPA BAY
Saturday, September 27: 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
South Gate Centre Bus Trip
Members pricing and non-members pricing.

SUPER FRESH

CRISPY'S
FISH & CHIPS

Perch & Chips
Straight from the Lake to your plate!



Do not need to go Port Dover!

\$24.99
2 for 45

519-290-8800
194 Springbank Ave. Woodstock, ON



Register Now For Fall Programs!

Tuesday to Saturday | 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
466 Dundas St., Woodstock
519-537-8411
woodstockmuseum.ca



Wood Carving Workshop **Ages 16+**
Sept. 9 & 16 | 6:30 – 9 p.m.
Cost: \$70 (Members \$63)



Lunch & Learn: Fall Series **Ages 16+**
Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18 | 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Cost: \$25 (Members \$20). Lunch included!



Super Structures PA Day **Ages 5 – 12**
Oct. 10 | 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Cost: \$55 (Members \$49.50)



Electricity & Magnets PA Day **Ages 5 – 12**
Nov. 14 | 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
\$55 (Members \$49.50)



13 GHOSTS ESCAPE ROOM
September 12 – October 25 | Book now!



PHYSICS MATTERS
An Interactive Science Exhibit
Held over until January 2026

School & Group Programs
Explore Woodstock's past with hands-on programs for all ages and grade levels!

Contact the Education Officer:
 519-537-8424

THE QUILT PLACE

RETIREMENT SALE

CONTINUES AT

50% OFF

Fabric, Quilts, Shelving & Display items

New Hours/Days:
Closed Mon. & Tues.
Open Wed. to Sat. 10 - 4

**3991 Perth Rd. 107
Shakespeare
519-625-8435
www.thequiltplace.ca**

Riddles

I cut hair every day, but my hairstyle stays the same. Who am I?
Barber

I have branches but no fruit, trunk, or leaves. What am I?
Bank

I run around the yard without moving. What am I?
Fence

You buy me to eat, but never eat me. What am I?
Plate

I have 13 hearts, but no lungs or stomach. What am I?
Deck of cards

I have a neck and two arms, but no hands or head. What am I?
Shirt

You throw me out when you want to use me, and take me in when you're done. What am I?
Anchor

Where does today come before yesterday?
Dictionary

Turn me on my side and I am everything; cut me in half and I am nothing. What am I?
The number 8

Sudoku

by PeterS 2025

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

Solutions on page 27

Featured Pet



SKYE AND STORM

Nominate your pet to be a Featured Pet by emailing info@theecho.ca

Word Search

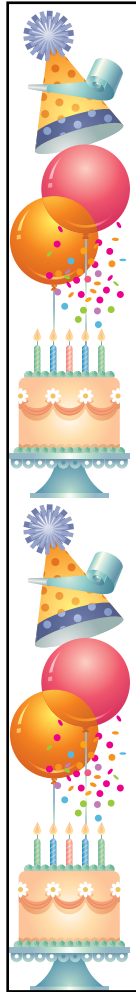
CREATIVE HOBBIES

E	Z	T	R	I	X	U	G	A	R	D	E	N	I	N	G	T	H	K	Z
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- PAINTING
- KNITTING
- JOURNALING
- ORIGAMI
- PHOTOGRAPHY
- SCRAPBOOK
- GARDENING
- POTTERY
- CALLIGRAPHY
- COOKING
- SEWING
- SKETCHING
- WOODWORK
- CROCHET
- COLLAGE

CLASSIFIEDS

CELEBRATION



Happy Birthday!

September 7, 2025
Mary Anne Silverthorn
 will be
 Celebrating her 80th birthday

Come and celebrate with her
 at an Open House on
 Sunday, September 7
 2 - 5:00 p.m.

St. Paul's United Church
 88 Bidwell Street, Tillsonburg (ramp entrance)

Please, please - NO GIFTS!! CARD ONLY!!
 (if you must - Donations to Domestic Abuse
 Services Oxford)

Questions?? Call Mary Anne
 519-421-3241 home or 519-788-3705 cell
 m.silverthorn@sympatico.ca

FOR SALE

5th Wheel Trailer & Truck
 2014 Chaparral Lite 5th Wheel. 2015 Dodge Ram
 1500. Willing to sell as a set. Good condition. \$29,950
 or best offer.
 Innerkip 519-469-3760

TREES

Shade trees, Fruit trees, Apple, Pears, Peaches, Plums,
 Sweet and Sour Cherries, Apricot, Nectarines, Blue-
 berry, Haskopp, Black Chokeberry, Grapes etc. Lots
 of Spruce, Pine, Cedars for windbreaks and privacy
 hedges, Sizes 1 to 6+. Flowering shrubs and much
 more. Come check us out Mon-Sat 7:00am - 6:00pm
 Martin's Nursery, 42661 Orangehill Road, Wroxeter (1
 concession north of Wroxeter on Belmore Line)

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anytime:
theecho.ca

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

REAL ESTATE

CARLY BRINTNELL
 REALTOR®

Gale Group Realty Brokerage Ltd.
 425 Dundas St. Woodstock ON
 519-635-8640
 carlybrintnell@gmail.com



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CRAFT SHOW

Sharlene Creative Presents:

**CRAFT SUPPLIES
 CLEAN-OUT**

The Polish Hall Woodstock
 878 Dufferin St, Woodstock, ON
 Sunday October 19th, 10am-2pm

\$4 at the door
 or cheaper online!

Make and Take
 pre-reg. required

VENDORS WANTED!



PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR HOUSE IS



Keep your dollars in Canada to strengthen communities and support local
 businesses, including your local newspaper.

News Media Canada
 Médias d'Info Canada



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 Woodstock Ingersoll Echo**

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SUDOKU

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. White Tires
2. 20-50x
3. For you
4. Leo & Virgo
5. Edmonton
6. "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"
7. 1967
8. Kansas
9. Whale Shark
10. Alice Cooper

Echo

PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS WITH US! HERE'S HOW

Deadline: Tuesday prior at 3 p.m.

Contact: info@theecho.ca

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 business card size for \$35 + hst



GROUP TRIP TO *Dubai*

Abu Dhabi & Oman

January 16-28, 2026

Experience luxury like never before with 5-star hotels and Emirates flights on a breathtaking journey to Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Oman. With dazzling futuristic skylines, stunning coastal views and ancient charm, this is the Middle East at its most magnificent!

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☎ 519-284-2332

✉ agent@stonetowntravel.com

TICO #5002839

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