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AGE-FRIENDLY STRATEGY PAGE 7

Tillsonburg POST

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Prepare to be scared: *Activities lined up for Halloween*

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg is about to get scary.

The annual Halloween activities organized by the Downtown Tillsonburg BIA are back, with a few new twists this year.

The Haunt, a volunteer-run haunted house with professional-quality production, will start Friday, Oct. 23. It will continue Saturday, Oct. 24, Thursday, Oct. 29, and Friday, Oct. 30. Hours will be 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. each day. In addition, a more youth-friendly version of The Haunt will run on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Admission is again $2 or a donation to the food bank, and The Haunt will again be on the second floor of The Tillsonburg Town Centre. Just because thrill seekers attended The Haunt last year doesn't mean they should expect the same this year.

"Every section is laid out differently; there are different themes in different areas," said Vanessa Fortner, events and marketing coordinator for the Downtown Tillsonburg BIA. "Whatever people experienced last year, they can't expect this year - it's darker, dimmer, scarier."

She added that more live actors will add to the event's scariness. Fortner credited Scott Foster, Bruce Bennett, Chip Barkhouse, and Mike Boldt as the main organizers.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OPEN HOUSE (CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTO)

Tillsonburg's Hayden Howe, 2, assisted by firefighter Dean Townsend, sprays water on a 'car fire prop' Thursday night at the Tillsonburg Fire Prevention Week Open House. More photos on page 6.

Council wrestles with future airport governance

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg council once again tackled governance of the Tillsonburg Airport, considering several options.

The report followed a request from council in March 2026 when a recommendation was made for a tender to operate the airport. At the time, council asked for a review of airport governance models, which came before council at the Sept. 28 meeting. The current contract was extended while the review took place.

One challenge is that that Tillsonburg Airport is located in South-West Oxford Township, not within Tillsonburg town limits. Although the town owns the land and buildings on the airport property, it receives none of the $113,596 generated in property taxes, which are all paid to SWOX, Oxford County, and the province for education taxes.

Since the March meeting, the town has requested that a portion of the taxes be paid to the town, which would all go to infrastructure improvements; another challenge is that the airport needs $7.8 million in updates over the next 20 years. The request was sent to SWOX and Oxford County, and SWOX has has since answered and denied it.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 2

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Council wrestles with future airport governance

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Airport operations netted a surplus of $43,808 in 2025, following losses of $50,000 to $72,000 in the three preceding years.

The 21-page detailed report identified four different models thatcould be used fto operatethe airport.

The first option is the status quo, which sees contracted management of the airport. The tender price for management was $164,000 per year. Option two would transfer airport operations to an airport commission or airport authority. The third option is to establish a regional airport authority or joint municipal partnership, while the fourth option is to sell the airport. Most options identified capital upgrade costs as the challenge.

Coun. Chris Parker noted the report gives options, but no prices with the options.

Carlos Reyes, Director of Operations and Development, said the first option is the status quo, but the challenge is long-term sustainability and asset management. He said he could look into costing on the other options.

Coun. Bob Parsons said the airport has been an issue for council for years, including in the 1990s when he was first elected to council. He said the mayor of the day and staff asked neighbouring municipalities to participate because of the economic benefits generated by the airport.

"No luck then, and no luck now," he said.

Parsons doesn't believe a regional authority option will go any further, given the response of neighbouring municipalities. He said this is an issue the next council needs to deal with.

"I don't think the airport will ever be a money maker, or ever break even. It is an expense and cost of doing business," he said, adding that the federal government is selling airports.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy asked if the report would go to the airport advisory committee for comment.

Reyes said the report's purpose was to review the options, and he can investigate further.

Gilvesy pointed out that, operationally, the airport is doing better, but said capital issues are the challenge. She noticed the option of the town hiring a manager is not included, which was used previously.

Reyes said the town could go back to staff operating the airport instead of a contractor, but the challenge is specific skills are required, and the issue is attracting and retaining staff. He said they would need one full-time and two part-time staff.

Gilvesy also asked if Reyes had reached out to neighbouring municipalities with airports for feedback. She did point out the airport operated last year without taxpayer dollars, with a surplus and capital funded through land sales.

Reyes said he had not talked to other municipalities with small airports, but was attending an airport conference the next week and hoped to talk to small airport operators there.

The final motion passed was to refer the report to the airport advisory committee and for Reyes to report back with more information when available.

Variety of activities planned in downtown for Halloween

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Downtown Tillsonburg will transform into Downtown Spookytown on Saturday, Oct. 24., from 2 to 5 p.m. This family-friendly event is geared toward youth and includes trick-or-treating at downtown businesses, pumpkin carving, an apple cider station, and costume photos at the center court of the Tillsonburg Town Center. Photos will include an option to enter the online costume contest, with voting through Facebook.

A scary story

Looking for a scary story?

In the past, Tillsonburg Library has held a one-day event where single pages of a story are told in storefront windows along Broadway. This year, the story will be in place from Oct. 3 to 31. It starts at the library and then moves through downtown.

This year's story is Halloween is Coming! by Cal Everett. The tale is a rhyming picture book full of fall activities, designed to build anticipation for Halloween.

"Even if businesses are closed, families can still read the story through the windows on their own schedule," said Kaitlyn Bennett, literary program specialist with the Tillsonburg branch. "During the daytime, we have fun action cards on pegs in the ground lining Library Park to end the story between the library and the Early ON building.

Printed maps of the 12 participating businesses are available at the library and online on the library's event page at ocl.net.

Break out the broomsticks

The broomsticks will be coming out on Thursday, Oct. 29 for Witches Night Out. Costumes are encouraged for this late-night shopping event. New this year, the event will be run in conjunction with the Station Arts Centre's Moon Market.

New this year is a booklet with a bingo card that participants can have checked off at 15 participating businesses. For every four businesses checked off on the bingo card, participants will receive one ballot for a draw at the Moon Market for Station Arts Centre and Downtown BIA gift cards.

"We encourage people to start downtown for Late Night Thursdays and get a bingo card, get a line and bring the card to the Moon Market," Fortner said.

Returning will be a special drink menu at participating downtown businesses with Halloween-themed drinks.

The booklets can be picked up at participating locations, at the Downtown Tillsonburg BIA office, and participating businesses.

The Moon Market

Almost 20 vendors are already lined up for Moon Market's outdoor market, plus three food trucks. The red station will transform into the Moon Tavern for the evening, with a DJ and dancing in the Patenaude Family Gallery. The evening will include costume activities and awards.

"This is the station's first year trying the Moon Market, and we're really hoping to establish it as a fun annual Halloween fundraiser that brings people downtown while supporting the station," said Tabitha Verbuyst, executive director/curator of the Station Arts Centre. "Admission to the market itself is free, so people can come down, explore, shop, eat, and take part in the evening."



OPENING OF PAINT BUSINESS (STAFF PHOTO)

Verne's Carpet One became a dealer for Cloverdale Paints about a month ago, adding the line of Canadian-made paints to its home decor solutions. Employees and management gathered for a ribbon cutting. Holding the ribbon were left to right: Kristen Gear of Cloverdale Paints, Meghan Kelly, Mayor Deb Gilvesy, Verne's co-owner Shawn Winters, MPP Ernie Hardeman, co-owner David Martin, Jennifer Kalmikov and Karley McConnell.



SONBEAM OPEN HOUSE (JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

In the 40 years since it opened, hundreds of youth have passed through the doors of Sonbeam Christian Daycare. A portion of those returned on October. 3 for an open house, including seven-year-old Ashton Prouse who shows his mother Madison his photo on a display of class photos through the years.

EDITORIAL

Get out and vote

After a campaign that began in August, Tillsonburg residents will soon know who their council will be for the next four years.

Voting for this year's municipal election opened on Tuesday and runs until Oct. 26, either online or by telephone. If you struggle with technology, the town can help.

Throughout the campaign, many issues have been raised on the pages of the Post, at candidate forums, and through online platforms. This is all part of the process of informing voters.

Beyond platforms and election promises, which are common to any election, voters can scrutinize incumbents through their voting records and actions during the last term. There are issues that raised the ire of the community and were topic of much debate at council. However, voters have issues important to them, and if so, they should discuss a candidate's voting record with them and why they voted the way they did. Or, ask questions about issues for the coming term to both incumbents and those new to running for council.

The beauty of municipal elections is that candidates are available and can answer any questions quickly. Reach out to candidates to discuss the issues that are important to you. This is one of democracy's cornerstones. Don't let misconceptions and discontent with the system keep you from voting.

Yet, something is keeping people away from the polls.

Locally, in Tillsonburg, voter turnout was only 37 per cent in the last election. We should consider ourselves fortunate that we can vote, become informed, and vote.

Ask for help if you need it; remember, though, help shouldn't come from individual candidates, as allowing them to cast your vote is illegal, but from the town's voter help center through the customer service center.



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Someone forgot to tell this wild turkey that turkeys should hide so close to Thanksgiving as it took a stroll down Baldwin Street on Saturday.

A younger generation highlights how time marches on



WRITER'S CORNER

NORMA COLLIS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

I first realized how quickly the years were passing when one of my kindergarten students asked me, "Are you a girl or are you a lady?"

While I always try to behave in a "ladylike" manner, I had to admit that I had probably moved from "girl" to "lady" category long before the youngsters posed that age-related question.

In later years, one of my Grade 8 students would, from time to time, ask me how old I was.

My standard answer was and still is, "I'm older than 19 and younger than 99 and that's all you need to know."

My high school friends will know the exact answer to that question, but I have sworn them all to secrecy.

Last summer, we had the privilege of taking a young brother (11 years) and his sister (9 years) to see a live theatre production in a town south of Tillsonburg. At first, the twosome was a little taken aback to discover that we didn't have video screens in the back seat for them to use while we traveled to our destination.

However, the 45-minute trip to the theatre was filled with much laugher and teasing as we played a game where the next vehicle to pass us would be the first vehicle one of the siblings would own. We were watching for a vehicle that would be the sisters' first "ride". The brother was overjoyed when that vehicle turned out to be a huge piece of farm equipment used for spraying the fields. The machine resembled some huge insect, and the driver would obviously need a ladder to get to the cab of the thing. The boy whooped with delight while his sister protested that farm stuff didn't count.

We knew we needed to quickly switch up the game, so we began one that required watching out for" For Sale" signs.

"The next real estate sign we pass will be your first home," we declared.

Again, the brother crowed with delight when the next piece of property was definite "Fixer upper" and included a dilapidated shed.

"Oh, look," exclaimed the brother "that shed is perfect for you" he said to his sister. "It has double doors; you'll be able to fit right through."

This statement was also not well received by his sister.

The play itself was a hit with our two young theatre goers, even though the boy was somewhat disappointed that there were no "special effect and pyrotechnics" included in the plot line. He pretended that he didn't really like his theatre experience very much, but it was interesting to note that when it came to meeting the cast after the show, he knew each actors given name as well as the name of the character that they had played. There were at least 30 actors in the cast, so this was an impressive show of memory retention.

The après dinner dining fare was of course, pizza followed by a rousing game of mini putt.

They then introduced us to the wonders of Dippin' Dots, which David and I kept referring to as "Dot and Dash." Some things never get old as they would scream with delight every time we "mispronounced" their' favourite desert place.

Now that everyone was on a bit of a sugar high, it was obvious that we would need a new strategy to pass the time during the trip home from our afternoon outing. The kids themselves came up with the solution to the homebound need for a distraction.

A loud chorus from the back seat demanded, "Hey Dave, turn up the tunes."

David obliged and turned on the play list that he listens to when he goes on his daily walk. We hadn't even gotten all the way through the first song when wails of protest emanated from the back seat.

"We don't want to listen to stuff from the '90's when you were kids, we want to hear our music," they firmly announced.

Both my husband and I were delighted! Those kids were only out by a decade or two when they assumed we had grown up in the 1990s.

Oh, how we love the innocence of youth. It gave a "day out" with we oldsters a whole new positive twist.

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

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Echoes in Granite: How Cemetery Art Has Changed Over Time

MUSEUM MUSINGS

KATHLEEN WATKIN

Culture and Heritage Program Coordinator, Annandale National Historic Site

A walk through a historic cemetery is like taking a journey through the past. The names and dates carved into the stones tell us who lived and died here. But cemeteries can also tell us much more. They show us how people thought about death, what they believed, what art was popular, and how technology changed over time.

As attitudes toward death evolved over the years, so too did the gravestones that commemorated those who had passed away. Soft stones were replaced by stronger granite, and careful hand carving was eventually replaced by modern machines and lasers.

Reading the Victorian stone

During the Victorian era, gravestones were more than simple markers. They were designed to tell a story. Families and visitors could look at the symbols carved into a stone to learn about a person's life, beliefs, age, and personality.

Early Victorian gravestones were often inspired by ancient Greek and Roman designs. Common symbols included weeping willows and draped urns, which represented sadness, mourning, and remembrance.

As the Victorian era continued, cemetery art became more personal. Flowers, animals, open books, and other symbols began appearing on gravestones. Each symbol often held a special meaning for the deceased or their family.

Creating these monuments was a labour-intensive process that required the hard work and skill of a stonemason. During the 1850s to 1870s, a gravestone usually started as a rough block of local stone. Stonemasons used tools such as iron chisels, mallets, wedges, and rasps to shape and smooth the stone.

The work was often very detailed. Masons carved wreaths, urns, flowers, and animals into the stone. Some designs looked as if they were coming out of the surface.

Before carving the words, the mason carefully planned the inscription using charcoal or pencil. Then, using a chisel, they carved each letter by hand. The letters were often cut into V-shaped grooves, which helped the words stand out and remain easy to read.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

This is the gravestone of John H. and Inez Cowell. The Cowells owned the Wallpaper and Paint Shop on Broadway in the 1930s. Their gravestone features the Freemason symbol, reflecting John's membership in King Hiram Lodge No. 78. He also served as Past Noble Grand of Otter Lodge No. 50, IOOF. Inez was a member of the Myrtle Rebekah Lodge, the women's branch of the IOOF.

Fraternal Badges and the Granite Boom

By the middle of the 20th century, gravestones began to look different. The angels, urns, and religious scenes that were common during the Victorian era became less popular.

Instead, people began using symbols that reflected a person's organizations, careers, hobbies, and achievements.

A gravestone might have the square and compass of the Freemasons, the emblem of the Knights of Columbus, a military symbol, or an image connected to someone's job or interests. These symbols showed how people wanted to be remembered as members of their communities, as well as for their faith.

Technology also changed how gravestones were made. Earlier gravestones were often made from softer marble or limestone. Over time, granite became more popular because it is extremely strong and can withstand many years of rain, snow, ice, and wind.

New tools also made the work faster. Pneumatic air hammers replaced much of the hard work of hand chiseling. Large wire saws made it possible to cut huge blocks of granite more quickly and accurately.

Another important invention was sandblast engraving. Instead of carving every letter by hand, workers placed a stencil over the stone and used high-pressure sand to carve the design. Names, dates, and pictures could now be created much faster than before.

The digital age of remembrance

Today, creating a gravestone often begins with a computer. Families can work with designers to choose the lettering, layout, symbols, and photographs they want to include.

Modern technology allows these designs to be transferred onto polished granite. Computer-cut stencils and laser engraving can create very detailed lettering, pictures, and designs.

Laser engraving has made it possible to create incredibly detailed images. A laser can carefully remove tiny layers of stone to create portraits, family photographs, landscapes, and other images. These detailed memorials would have been impossible for stonemasons to create in the 1800s.

Although the tools and techniques have changed, the purpose for creating a gravestone has remained much the same. From the hand-carved stones of the 1800s to today's laser-engraved monuments, gravestones help preserve stories, honour lives, and keep memories alive for future generations.

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8. Newspapers should be locally-owned and operated

Letter to the Editor

The recent editorial "Positive news… health care" is enthusiasm filling in for a lack of substance.

It's encouraging to see that Western University School of Medicine is expanding its residency program to go further afield. The most promising initiative however, has been the Oxford County Nurse Practitioner -Led Clinic. They bring tangible care to 13,000 previously under cared for patients.

But let's be real for a moment. Two positions for apprentice doctors to serve Tillsonburg, Ingersoll, and Woodstock, probably on a rotational basis. They will work in the hospitals, and in private practice. They will assist a fully credited doctor to serve an existing patient load, not increasing the patient load. Surely, an apprentice doctor isn't going to shorten the time for people on waiting lists for a doctor or increase patient care working in a hospital, private practice or a public clinic.

A cash incentive scheme to help with relocating a doctor to Tillsonburg. You could throw money at the doctor, but what are the reasons for a doctor to relocate in Tillsonburg rather than Woodstock or Ingersoll? Where are the facilities? Do we all have to go to a hospital to get primary care? As far as I experienced, the local Tillsonburg walk-in clinic on Broadway is open six days a week and very busy. Private practices are not taking new patients.

Enthusiasm is just noise. Cash incentives are not enough. Town council has to work on a robust campaign to attract fully credited doctors to Tillsonburg to serve an aging population, and, judging by the size of the proposed subdivisions, the many families that will be relocating here.

John Valle
Tillsonburg

Memorial benches dedicated at airport



(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

The Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association dedicated three new memorial benches at Tillsonburg Airport on Oct. 3. Taking part in the ceremony were: John Glayster, a veteran and volunteer; Walther Irie, president; Diana Spremo, public relations; Charles Thomson, pipe; Logan Lawrence, volunteer and cadet representative; and John Britton, vice-president.

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

Three new memorial benches offer an ideal place to watch planes arriving and departing from Tillsonburg Airport.

In a ceremony on Oct. 3, a piper led a colour party marching from the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association hangar to the new benches east of the airport terminal building. The families of Harvard association founders Bob Hewitt, Len Fallowfield, and Norm Beckham each donated a bench in memory of their relative.

The association was founded 41 years ago in Woodstock, and then moved to Tillsonburg and purchased its first hangar.

"This was set up by these guys as a reminder of the Harvards and how much Canada invested in training through the British Commonwealth Air Training Program, and later through NATO," said association vice-president John Britton.

The concept is that the benches, which are set in a temporary location, will eventually be part of a memorial garden set up at the airport. A committee will start shortly to fundraise for the garden, which will include a full-size replica of a Spitfire. The goal is to have the garden complete in 2027 or 2028.

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FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OPEN HOUSE

(CHRIS ABBOTT PHOTOS)



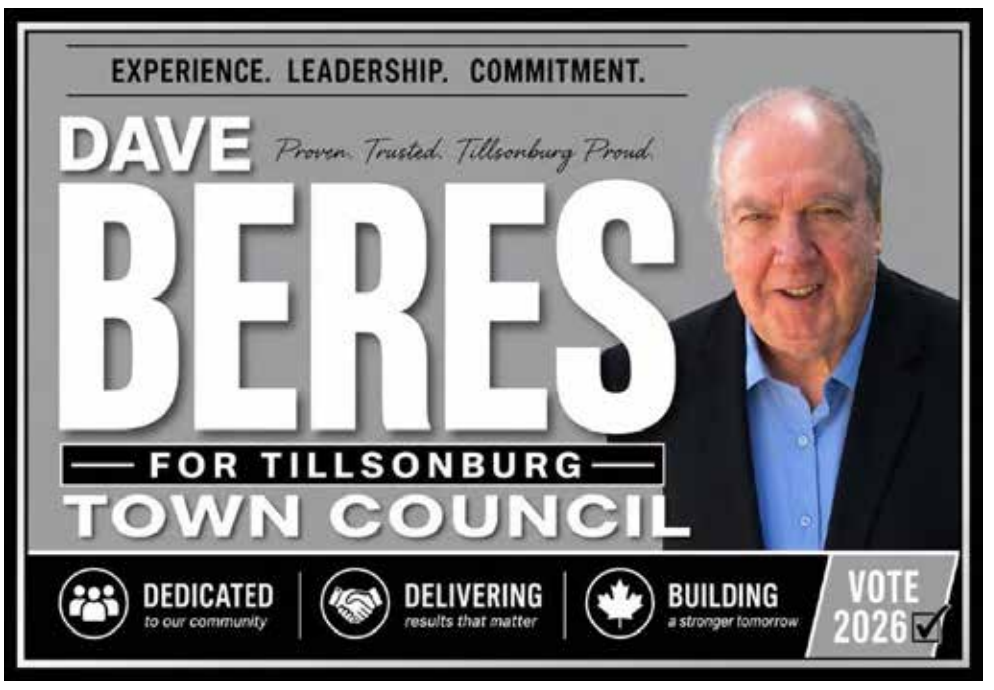
Firefighter Perry Thompson demonstrates the Reeve (Technical Rope Rescue) apparatus Thursday at the Tillsonburg Fire Prevention Week Open House. The equipment can be raised and lowered, and moved side-to-side, during rescue operations.



A hydraulic rescue demonstration.



Firefighter Dean Townsend assists a young 'volunteer' spray water on the controlled car-fire prop Thursday night at the Tillsonburg Fire Prevention Week Open House.







Tillsonburg council updated on age-friendly strategy

JEFF HELSDON
Editor

Some interesting facts on seniors in Tillsonburg were revealed during a presentation on Oxford County's Age-Friendly Strategy at the Sept. 28 council meeting.

Presenters Diana Handsaeme, Director of Home Support Services, Tillsonburg and District Multi-Service Centre; Meagan Lichti, Chair, Age-Friendly Committee; and Karen Devolin, Age-Friendly Committee member presented to Tillsonburg council as part of rolling out the strategy into the community.

Oxford has an aging population, with the rate of adults 65-plus continuing to grow, reaching 20 per cent of the population in 2021. Tillsonburg had the highest share of seniors, with 29 per cent of its population aged 65 or older. The study also found that seniors represent a larger share of the population in the low-income bracket, increasing from 18 per cent in 2016 to 25 per cent in 2021.

The 75-plus age category had the highest emergency room visit rates due to falls in the province in 2024.

A needs assessment study by the committee found several barriers, including:

- Transportation was a significant barrier
- Health care was listed, with wait times and limited home care
- Affordable housing scarce

Amongst the 18 recommendations from the study were:

- Explore transportation options, including increasing information
- Increase awareness of local services
- Explore ways to expand cognitive health and memory clinics
- Share the needs assessment to increase awareness
- Work on social inclusion and reducing ageism
- Increase awareness of the health risks of social isolation

Coun. Kelly Spencer said during the pandemic there was an increase in isolation-induced dementia in seniors. She asked if online spaces devoted to the issue are helping to negate this.

Lichti said the Alzheimer's Society is still seeing an increase in dementia and the need for its services.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy said she heard a presentation at county council from South-West Public Health on aging and noted that the number of seniors living in poverty in Tillsonburg was astounding. She also said many people used to small-town living aren't used to using public transit, and suggested outreach to seniors and perhaps launching a bus buddy program.

Council accepted the presentation as information.

ELECT
JOHN Gilvesy
FOR TILLSONBURG COUNCILLOR



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COUNCIL BRIEFS

Council claws back water approval for subdivision

Tillsonburg council clawed back part of a previously approved subdivision because of a lack of progress.

County planner Eric Gilbert presented council with two previously approved draft subdivision plans for 112 North St. E., one approved in 2021 and one in 2023, for up to 802 residential lots. The applicant wanted to consolidate the two plans into one and extend the approval.

Due to the lack of progress, he suggested allowing the water allocation approval to lapse, except for 222 units.

Council approved the suggestions.

Council allocates 2025 surplus

Tillsonburg council followed the suggestion of Director of Finance/Treasurer Renato Pullia in allocating the 2025 year-end surplus of $1.7 million.

He suggested the following allocation: Airport Reserve $29,446; Cemetery Reserve $9,896; Employment Reserve $784,078; Facility Infrastructure Reserve $164,393; Fleet & Equipment Reserve $162,737; and Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve $588,896.

Council also approved the 2025 investment report and summary of reserves and trusts.

Coun. Bob Parsons noted reserves were $19.9 million going into 2025 and forecast to be $16.4 million at year-end. He asked whether there is concern about the $3.5 million gap.

Pullia said reserves will always fluctuate, particularly capital reserves, as money is allocated for projects and then spent.

"The reserves are there to utilize when needed," he said.

The treasurer's only concern was that the 10-year forecast for the asset management plan is not fully funded, but the town is moving toward that goal thanks to council's efforts.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy asked whether a degraded section of the trail should be moved up and addressed this year, and whether the steps at the community center can be done sooner. Pullia said both are possible.

Tillsonburg supports doubling infrastructure funds

Town council endorsed a motion from the Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario to permanently double allocations through the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund.

The Ontario government doubled the fund from $200 million to $400 million from 2021-2026, but has not indicated its intentions for 2027. The motion stressed the fund's importance in helping municipalities maintain infrastructure.

Focus on Sanders and Hardy

Sanders Street and Hardy Ave came up in two separate reports at the Sept. 28 council meeting.

Council approved a $296,357 tender to resurface part of Hardy Ave., including the intersection of Hardy and Sanders Street, and a portion of the community centre parking lot that wasn't previously resurfaced. The cost of the work is $296.357.

Council also heard that that an investigation of traffic volume at the intersection of Hardy Ave and Sanders Street found that the traffic volume doesn't require a four-way stop and that sightlines are good. Logan Vandevyvere, interim manager of engineering, said staff would monitor the intersection in the future.

Coun. Chris Parker suggested that if traffic counts are done again next year, they not be done in August, but instead completed when both arenas are operating.

Potter's Gate playground green-lighted

Council gave the go-ahead for a new park in the Potter's Gate subdivision.

Council followed a staff recommendation to locate the playground equipment in the north part of a town-owned greenspace in the subdivision and to proceed with tenders for playground equipment, to complete it in 2026 if possible.

Community centre steps repairs

Deputy Mayor Dave Beres raised the possibility of repairing the stairs and doors on the north side of the community center before year-end.

Director of Recreation, Culture and Parks Andrea Greenway said her department has received the drawings and tenders will be going out for quotations shortly.

Gating Coronation

Coun. Chris Rosehart provided positive feedback on the installation of gates at the rear of the arena and the replacement of damaged poles on the Hardy Ave walkway. She noted that people were driving into Coronation Park because the gate is open due to construction.

Director of Recreation, Culture and Parks Andrea Greenway promised to have someone look into it.

Prefer to read online? **tillsonburgpost.com**

SPENCER ENDORSED BY EXPERIENCE

Dr. John and Pat Andrews

From the first time we contacted Kelly in April 2025 regarding physician recruitment in Tillsonburg, she confirmed this was a priority for her as well. Our concerns and suggestions were met with respect, knowledge and intent. Within a short time the physician incentive package was modified and this year we were able to attract two new doctors to Tillsonburg Family Physicians. With her people skills, business acumen and commitment to finding solutions for the issues facing Tillsonburg in the next decade, and beyond, we feel Kelly Spencer is an excellent candidate for Mayor.

Dr. John & Pat Andrew
Tillsonburg Family Physicians

Tillsonburg Councillor Penny Esseltine
(2014-2018, 2018-2022)

"I am pleased to be able to support Kelly Spencer for Mayor!"

Having served on Council 2014 - 2022, I can see that Kelly's service to the community in this past term has clearly shown: her commitment to our town, her interest in exploring best ways of solving municipal issues, and her ability to plan for the future and move forward. I believe she is a very strong candidate for Mayor and wish her well moving forward."

Penny Esseltine served 2 terms on council from 2014-2022. She remains active in the community volunteering for Founders Day festival committee and the Horticultural Society.

Tillsonburg Councillor Pete Luciani
(2018-2022, 2022-2026)

"I've had the opportunity to serve with Kelly Spencer on the Tillsonburg Town Council and have seen first-hand the commitment she brings to the role. She is thoughtful, prepared and genuinely invested in the future of our community.

One of Kelly's strengths is her ability to build strong relationships and make the right connections. She understands how to bring people together, leverage those relationships and advocate effectively for Tillsonburg. Combined with her practical approach to decision-making, I believe that Kelly will serve our community well."

I'm pleased to support Kelly Spencer for Mayor of Tillsonburg."

Luciani is a two term council member, a retired police sergeant, chair of Tillsonburg Traffic committee, Parks and Beautification Committee and life long resident of Tillsonburg.

Tillsonburg Councillor Bob Parsons
(1991-1995, 2022-2026)

"Navigating municipal planning in the next term of council is certain to be significantly more complex than the past term."

Kelly Spencer has proven that she can work collaboratively with residents, developers, the business community, municipal staff and neighbouring municipal leaders to find balanced solutions for Tillsonburg's progressive future.

Parsons chaired and vice-chaired a number of committees including the Finance and Administration Committee, the BIA board and the Economic Development Committee. He's a former member of the Police Services Board, the Hospital Board, and the Non-Profit Housing Committee. He also held a past position in municipal staff as Fire Chief.

Tillsonburg Mayor Cam McKnight
(3-term Mayor 1990-2000)

"I am supporting Kelly Spencer for Mayor.

During my three terms as mayor, I tried to live by a simple rule that also served me well in business: "If you push a string with your finger it crumples." I believe effective leaders need to create direction, motivation and unity. Ineffective leaders tend not to listen to experts instead, relying on chaos and division to promote their agenda.

Team Canada vs the American counterparts offers a clear example of these contrasting styles.

Tillsonburg's council may have had some success during the past term, but it has also had embarrassing missteps. Those missteps have largely occurred because of a lack of co-operative discussion at the municipal and Oxford county level. There has also been far too little reliance on our municipal planners.

These are professionals with years of education who know and understand the official plan (created based on the input of Tillsonburg councils). These same planners know and understand the ever changing rules the province forces municipalities to live by. A successful municipality doesn't ignore it's highly educated and specialized experts. It relies on them. It uses that expertise to move the municipality forward in an informed, thoughtful manner while trying to balance the concerns of local residents. Compromise is a word that comes to mind.

This past council (and at County council) has been largely split councils with far too many split votes determining (or failing to determine) substantive issues. That split has echoed through the community and through local internet pages.

I believe Tillsonburg needs a municipal leader who can move past petty divides and unite our council and community.

I believe Kelly Spencer can achieve whats needed and I'm supporting her with this end goal in mind.

McKnight is a pivotal part of our community serving as Mayor for three terms, Past President of Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and cofounder of Club Oxford Hockey and former publisher of Tillsonburg News.



Kelly Spencer has lived in Tillsonburg for 50 years. A registered Nurse, a small business owner, a council member and is rooted in our community.

Spencer for Mayor

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SpencerforTillsonburg@outlook.ca
https://spencerformayor.wixsite.com/2026

The campaign ad is approved by Kelly Spencer

Tillsonburg

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Notices

Voting is Now Open!

Voting is officially underway for the 2026 Town of Tillsonburg Municipal Election.

Eligible voters can now cast their ballot online or by telephone from the comfort of home. Voting remains open 24 hours a day until 8:00 p.m. on October 26, 2026. If you haven't voted yet, now is a great time to make a plan and have your say.

Learn more at www.tillsonburg.ca/election.

Give Your Pumpkins a Second Life After Thanksgiving

As Thanksgiving decorations make way for Halloween, start planning what to do with your pumpkins when the season is over. Through The Great Pumpkin Rescue, pumpkins can be repurposed instead of ending up in the landfill. Use them in recipes, compost them, or donate unpainted and untreated pumpkins to help feed local farm animals.

From November 1 to 7, residents can drop off pumpkins at the Tillsonburg Transfer Station during regular hours.

Fall Water System Maintenance

Our annual Fall Watermain Flushing program is now underway. Each week, a different area of Town will be flushed as part of this routine maintenance. Flushing will take place between 7:30 AM and 4:00 PM daily.

October 19 -23
All areas West of Broadway between North St E and Concession West.

Visit **www.tillsonburg.ca/news** for the full flushing schedule and map.

Business Services Pop-Up Event

Looking to start, grow, or expand your business? Join us for the Business Services Pop-Up Event and connect with local experts offering support with funding, business planning, marketing, training, and business growth. Free to attend.

Don't miss the featured presentation, "Fund Your Next Hire," with Jane Ramachandran of Resonant Solutions, sharing insights on hiring supports and workforce funding opportunities.

October 22 | 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
The Spot, Tillsonburg Town Centre (2nd Floor)
Keynote Presentation: 4:30 p.m.
Learn more: **www.tillsonburg.ca/popup**

Loose Leaf Collection Begins October 13

The Town's annual Loose Leaf Collection Program begins October 13 and runs through November 27. Leaves will be collected using the Town's leaf vacuum machine, with crews working throughout the community on an ongoing basis. There are no scheduled collection zones, so residents are encouraged to place leaves at the curb and leave them out until they are collected.

As a reminder, leaves, brush and other yard waste can be dropped off at the Transfer Station, 50 Newell Rd.

Leash Up Tillsonburg!

We love seeing pets out and about! Just a reminder that dogs must be on a leash when off your property, including in parks, trails, and sports fields.

Want to let your pup run free? Visit our off-leash dog park for some extra tail-wagging fun!

Culture Corner

Can Your Team Beat the Clock?



There's still time to book your team! Looking for a fun night out with friends, family, or coworkers? Oscar's Puzzles: A Museum Escape Room has plenty of spots available and is the perfect opportunity to put your problem-solving skills to the test.

Work together to uncover clues, solve puzzles, and unlock the mysteries hidden throughout historic Annandale House.

Friday, October 23
4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (timed event)
$25 per team of up to 6 people (taxes included)

Pre-registration is required and all supplies are included. Gather your team and see if you can escape in time!

Trick-or-Treat at Annandale

Saturday, October 31 | 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Get ready for a spooktacular evening at Annandale National Historic Site! Put on your favourite costume and make your way through the first floor of the museum to collect treats along the way. Open to trick-or-treaters of all ages, this family-friendly event is a fun and festive way to celebrate Halloween in a unique historic setting.

Active Living & Learning Opportunities

Senior Friday Night Fun: Pumpkin Carving

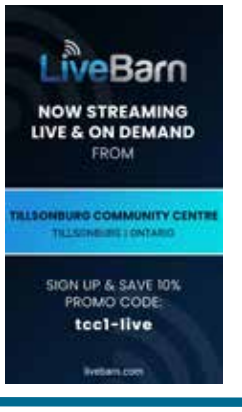


Kick off your Friday night with creativity, games, and new friends! This month's Friday Night Fun theme is Pumpkin Carving, where participants will design and carve their own pumpkin to take home and display. Whether spooky, silly, or uniquely their own, it's a great way to celebrate the fall season.

October 23 | 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Ages 8 to 13 | $13.60 per child

All materials are provided. Register using Course Code 22215 and join us for a fun-filled evening of fall-themed activities!

Watch Community Centre Events Live with LiveBarn



Can't make it to the arena's Tillsonburg Community Centre? With LiveBarn, you can watch events live or on demand from anywhere. The service allows users to stream games, practices, and other activities, save highlights, and share memorable moments with family and friends.

As a LiveBarn venue, Tillsonburg Community Centre users can also receive **10% off a subscription using promo code tcc1-live**. Learn more at **livebarn.com.**

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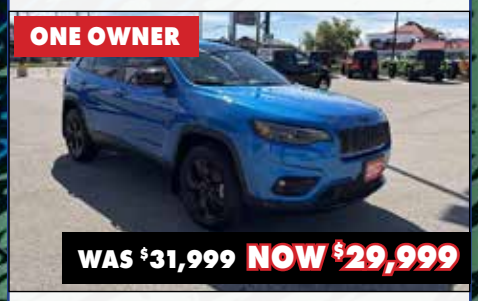

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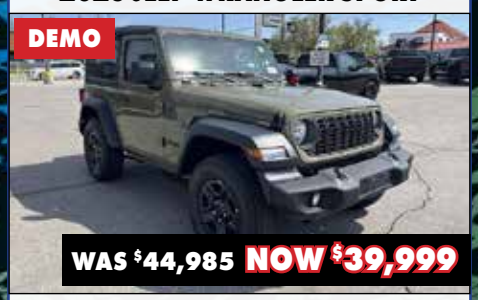

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Weapons call in Oxford County results in education

On Saturday, Oct. 3, at approximately 6:30 p.m., the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) received reports of individuals with firearms at an abandoned business on Highway 59, near Salford Road, in Norwich Township.

Police attended the scene and located nine individuals with BB guns. There was an increased police presence while officers completed their investigation. The investigation revealed that the individuals were making a video.

The nine individuals were educated on the safety and legal requirements of handling items that look like firearms in public.

Oxford OPP wants to remind the public that there are specific safety measures, permissions, and notifications that are required to be made in advance, if fake, replica or prop firearms will be visible to the public.

Individual charged in sexual assault investigations in Tillsonburg

An individual from the Town of Tillsonburg is facing multiple charges in connection with two sexual assault investigations.

On Wednesday, Oct. 7, the Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) arrested a 38-year-old male as the result of two ongoing sexual assault investigations that occurred at a workplace in Tillsonburg.

As a result of the investigation, the suspect has been charged with nine counts of sexual assault.

The accused was held for a bail hearing and has since been released. They are scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice, in Woodstock, at a later date.

A publication ban has been issued and as a result, the OPP will not be able to release further information.

Police are asking anyone who has experienced sexual assault and has not yet reported it to police, to please come forward. Victims of sexual assault are not alone. If you, or someone you know, needs support, contact Victim Assistance Services of Oxford County at 519-537-2824.

If you have any information that may assist with this investigation, please contact Oxford OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or to remain anonymous you can call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS).

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Authorized by Katherine Englander.

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Bewitching romantic reads for the fall



OCL BOOK TALK

HEATHER MATHERS

Branch Services Librarian,
Oxford County Library, Tillsonburg Branch

Fall is a magical time of year, thanks to the changing colours and cooler weather. It's also a spooky season, and who doesn't love a little witchy magic? Romance mixed with witchcraft is a great combination and makes for a perfect October read. So, don your witch's hat and hold onto your broomstick! Here's a list of bewitching titles filled with magic, romance, a little chaos, and plenty of swoon-worthy moments.

Not Your Crush's Cauldron by April Asher

Aside from the cheeky title, this book is full of charm. It's light, fun, and has just the right amount of mushy sweetness. he book's lead character is Olive, a teacher of the supernatural. While Olive enjoys teaching her students about all things magical and mystical, she prefers to play it safe and not delve into the supernatural much herself. When she gives her students an assignment that is meant to get them out of their comfort zone, Olive realizes that she's spent far too much time on her own. Insert guardian angel, Baxter Donovan, a handsome, motorcycle-riding heartthrob. Who needs to play by the rules when you've got a crush like Baxter in your midst? This is book three in the Supernatural Singles series.

The Farewitch of Foxe Holler by Ellen Pauley Goff

This sweet and cozy read gives Steel Magnolias meets Practical Magic vibes. Main character, Honey Frost, is Foxe Holler's resident Farewitch, carrying on her family's tradition of healing ailments with magical baked goods. Her life takes an unexpected twist when the local Warlock requests her help to fix a strange illness. What ensues is a slow burning romance mixed with hints of magic, danger, and high stakes. This book is filled with Southern Appalachian charm and includes an array of mouthwatering food descriptions, such as honey bourbon buns and jam cake. You won't want to read this modern fairy tale on an empty stomach!

A Witch's Guide to Magical Innkeeping by Sangu Mandanna

This British, witchy romance is set in Lancashire, England and is full of vivid characters and a captivating, magical setting. Lead character, Sera Swan, was once one of the most powerful witches in Britain. Unfortunately, she lost most of her magic. Now, she helps her resurrected Aunt Jasmine run an inn full of quirky guests. When she learns of a spellbook that might help her reclaim her magic, she requests the help of charming historian, Luke. This book is all about self-reflection, self-discovery, and found family. Fantasy lovers who appreciate strong-willed witches, whimsy, and mischief will enjoy this book.

Witch of the Wolves by Kaylee Archer

Author Kaylee Archer spins a romantic fantasy set in the Victorian age. Cordelia Levine comes from a long line of powerful witches and has quite the shock when she discovers that she is a Lycan – sharing both witch and werewolf traits. When she's kidnapped by werewolf and future Alpha, Bishop Danvers, Cordelia is cast into a dangerous world where she must unravel lies and build the right alliances. This is an atmospheric, fast-paced read with plot twists and romantic tension. The second book in this series, Wolf Queen's Curse, is set to be released this fall.

Perfect for cozy, fall reading, these books pair best with a warm drink, a comfy blanket, and a willingness to believe in a little magic.

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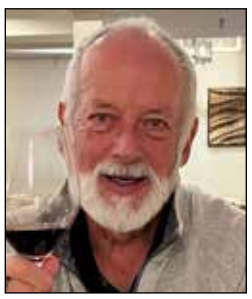
Time-travelling in Tarragona



OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO!

PAUL KNOWLES

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

"In Tarragona, you can't move soil, or you will find Roman remains." If I thought this was an exaggeration by our guide, I soon realized I was wrong – this Spanish city is absolutely chock-a-block with 2,000-year-old evidence of Roman civilization.

If you are anything like me – and I sincerely hope you do not bear such a curse – you find ancient ruins to be absolutely fascinating. I think it becomes we live in a land that, from the perspective of architectural ruins, is a "new world." A building 200 years old in Canada is astonishing; it's a recent renovation in Spain.

But still, walking around a city where large bits of Roman buildings still stand, next door to modern shops and homes, is an amazing experience. And it doesn't come much more amazing than in Tarragona, this city on the Mediterranean coast, an hour and a bit from Barcelona.

Like many – probably most – European cities, Tarragona has a history going back before accurate records. The Phoenicians were probably here in the 7th century B.C. The Romans were certainly here from the first century B.C. until the fall of the Roman Empire in the mid-5th century. Roman Catholic Popes were here – or at least, a would-be Pope, crowned as such at the time of the "Great Schism," when there were actually three Popes claiming the title – one in Rome, one in Avignon and one in Tarragona.

Supporters of one of the other Popes attempted to limit the field by poisoning the Tarragona prelate, but he survived, and lived to be over 90.

The so-called Pope was not the only public figure to claim heavenly status in Tarragona. Centuries earlier, the Roman Emperor Octavius Caesar chose this site for his declaration of personal divinity.

We were in Tarragona as guests of Viking on a terrific Mediterranean Cruise, and I found the visit to Tarragona to be one of the most interesting excursions on the voyage that took us from Rome to Barcelona.



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTO)

Roman chariot races once took place in the heart of Tarragona, and today, much of the "circus", the site of those competitions, still stands.

Today, Tarragona is a city in the region of Catalonia, home to seven million inhabitants, and still a very busy fishing port. Our guide told us that Tarragona fishers are responsible for half of all the fishing in Catalonia.

But frankly, while the modern city is interesting, it was all of the evidence of Roman life here that grabbed my attention. I'm not alone in this perpsective – Tarragona's ruins are so important that they have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Roman evidence continues to have so much impact on the city that the entire central city plan continues to follow what our guide called "the Roman urbanistic plan." Even the impressive Roman Catholic Cathedral, built starting in the 14th century, sits squarely on the site of a Roman temple.

And right in the heart of the city is an amazingly well-preserved Roman circus – a first-century chariot-racing arena.

The circus, once the site of two-horse chariot and four-horse chariot races, is one of the best preserved such treasures in the world. We visited part of the track, and, perhaps even more interesting, saw extensive spectator seating facilities sitting directly below much more modern houses.

Through the city centre, you will find large section of still-standing walls, begging for both historical research and selfie moments. We did both.

Equally impressive is the Roman Amphitheatre, sitting near the seashore and still a splendid sight from the roadside high above the theatre.

While Tarragona is filled with large, significant Roman ruins, there are also less obvious bits of evidence of that crucial period in western civilization. The walls of houses and shops have bits and pieces of Roman buildings re-used as construction materials.

In fact, our guide told us, one of the biggest problems facing today's heritage conservators is that the Amphitheatre, the Circus, the walls and other Roman buildings were used as quarries for readily available construction materials in more recent centuries. This practice is entirely illegal today, of course.

We visited a lot of historical Roman sites during our time in Tarragona, but still managed only to see about half of the significant ruins. Also found in and around the city are a Pretorium tower, two fora (provincial and colonial government meeting places), a Necropolis (burial place), the palace of Augustus, and several other towers, arches, and roadways. Rome certainly left its mark on this Spanish city.

There are plenty of legends around Tarragona, as well. One suggests that the city's origins date back more than 2,000 years B.C. Another says that St. Paul came to Tarragona, and thus, "Tarragona became the gate of Christianity," to quote our guide.

What is known for sure is that Caesar Augustus (who reigned over the burgeoning Empire from 27 BC to 14 AD) spent his winters in Tarragona. Thus establishing a tourism tradition that continues to this day. The Emperor enjoyed his visits to the place; so will modern-day travelers looking to get up close and personal with ancient history.

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.

"My decision to seek election to the position of Councillor is based on my personal commitment to every resident of Tillsonburg that I will once again accept the responsibility with all the time and energy I have demonstrated in the past. By working together we can ensure that Tillsonburg can be the "Place to Build Your Future."

I was born, raised and consider it a privilege to live in Tillsonburg with my wife Colleen.

Over my four terms as Mayor of Tillsonburg it was an honour to positively represent the interests of our residents and stakeholders on a daily basis. Recently I consider it a privilege to have been called upon by the Province of Ontario to bring my governance experience to multiple Boards and Committees.

With your support it is my intention is to ensure the efforts and results I have demonstrated in the past will be realized over the next four years."

- Stephen Molnar
(Mayor of Tillsonburg, 2003-2010, 2014-2022)



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Ivanyshyn locks up Gemini junior girls' hoops victory from free throw line

JEFF TRIBE
Post Correspondent

The Tillsonburg Gemini 37-31 Thames Valley Regional Athletics (TVRA) win over the Huron Park Huskies Thursday, October 8 in Woodstock, was every bit a junior girls' basketball game.

And then some.

Some great plays, some turnovers, considerable unpredictability, high tempo, enthusiasm and scoring runs in both directions, and lead and momentum changes capped by a dramatic come-from-behind victory guaranteed to raise the heart rate of both coaches.

In short, some things to work on, some to celebrate.

"It was something," smiled Gemini coach Kait Buchner close in its aftermath. "We pulled out the win - it was good."

Tillsonburg hit the court running, exiting the first quarter with a comfortable 10-3 lead, powered by six points from point guard Ashlynne Ivanyshyn. As easy as it seemed during the opening eight minutes, it became equally hard for the Gemini to score during the second period. Huron Park rallied with a 14-7 run to square accounts at 17 heading into halftime.

Huron Park stayed in the game offensively with a pair of three-point field goals in the third quarter, the Huskies' third and fourth on the game. The home side opened up a narrow 25-24 lead early in the fourth, extended with a 6-0 run beginning with 5:27 remaining. Huron Park's Zoey Moser received a tipped pass along the left baseline, draining a 10-footer. The Huskies forced a turnover on the ensuing inbounds, Moser finding Clarie Dow for a 12-foot shot from the right elbow extended. Huron Park extended its lead to seven, 31-24, on a contested Brianna Lapointe lay-in, finished on a bank shot down the heart of the key.

"That was a little 'stressy,'" admitted Gemini Sarah Scholten. "But then we played hard and got it back."

Tillsonburg's comeback began with 3:20 to play, Ivanyshyn driving down the right sideline and subsequently the baseline, finishing a contested old-time three-point play from the free throw line. Kate Bruder created a turnover on the inbounds, finding Ivanyshyn under the left 'corner' of the basket. Inanyshyn then finished off an 18-second, game-tying seven-point run from the foul line, fouled on the offensive rebound of her own preliminary miss.

Bruder picked up an assist on the go-ahead basket, pulling down a defensive rebound and hitting Dannah Cadotte in stride down the right sideline. The latter finished off the glass, lifting the Gemini into a 33-31 lead with 2:02 remaining. That narrow advantage stood through a tense 110 seconds, Inanyshyn fouled on a drive to the basket.

Through the game's earlier stages, she had struggled from the charity stripe, 1-10 into the third quarter. But with the game on the line, she knocked down seven consecutive free throws, her final two with 12.6 seconds to go to give Tillsonburg a little breathing space.

"I thought none were going to go in," Inanyshyn was able to laugh following the game's conclusion. "But then right as we needed them, they started."

Huron Park had one final try, Jasreet Sohi's three-point attempt rimming out with 6.7 seconds remaining. Tillsonburg's Nathalie Phongsavath rounded the final with a buzzer-beating fast-break lay-in.

Ivanynshyn finished with 20 points, Phongsavath four, Bruder and Scholten three apiece and Cadotte and Kailey Clark each a field goal. Dow had 14 for the Huskies and Moser six.

The Gemini know both sides of a tight finish, having opened their regular season with a tough 30-29 loss to Woodstock College Avenue. However, after a second setback, this to the Ingersoll DCI Blue Bombers, they entered the win column Tuesday, October 6 with a 38-26 victory over St. Thomas Central Elgin.

Despite the tension and drama, Bruder says she enjoys close games, loving the challenge while building confidence with the win.

"We've got two wins under our belt," she concluded. "Hopefully we can carry this into the other games."



(JEFF TRIBE PHOTO)
Gemini Ashlynne Ivanyshyn (foreground) hits the deck in a battle for possession with Huron Park's Jasreet Sohi.

SENIOR GIRLS BASKETBALL	
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8	
HURON PARK	47
GEMINI	27
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6	
CENTRAL ELGIN	28
GEMINI	18

SENIOR BOYS VOLLEYBALL	
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8	
HURON PARK	19, 20, 25, 25, 15
GEMINI	25, 25, 12, 23, 13
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7	
LORD DORCHESTER	25, 25, 25
GEMINI	18, 17, 20
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6	
CENTRAL ELGIN	25, 25, 25
GEMINI	23, 15, 20

SENIOR FOOTBALL	
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7	
GEMINI	16
LONDON MONTCALM	0

JUNIOR FOOTBALL	
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7	
LONDON CLARKE ROAD	34
GEMINI	14

WOSSAA GOLF

GEMINI:
PEYTON VOTH, 84, TIED FOR 14TH; CLARKE LESSIF, TIED FOR 31ST; EMERSON HODGES, 99, TIED FOR 63RD; DREW HUNTER, 102; TIED FOR 70TH.
TEAM SCORE:
271, TIED FOR 13TH.


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Sticky Bandits win ends 2026 slo-pitch season



EYE ON SLO-PITCH

DAVE WEAVER

Post Columnist

The slo-pitch season came to a conclusion on Thursday night with Sticky Bandits winning their second consecutive playoff championship - Division Three last year and Division Two this campaign.

This was my 47th year playing, and most of that time I've held various roles on both the men's and ladies' executives.

Our group this year in ladies was spearheaded by our President Tracey Carruthers. Jen Francis served as the vice-president, Mandi Vickers was our super treasurer, Kalyn Salmon kept all the minutes serving as secretary, Maddi Obar was in charge of social media and managed the league's website, Shannon Collings was an executive director in charge of checking diamond conditions and I was proud to be the scheduler for the league. All worked as a team and kept everything running seamlessly!

The men's league once again was headed up by President Chris Parker. Cheyne Sarafinchin served as treasurer, and I convened Division Four and managed rosters and player eligibility.

Kurt Vaughan was umpire in chief as well as looking after Division One. Josh Stubbs convened Division Two and took it upon himself to live stream some of the playoff games. Bryan Deblaire, Trevor Stuyt and Mike Schmeltz served as executive directors.

The games don't happen with officials and both eagues had some very dedicated umpires. In no particular order, the men and ladies behind the plate were: Scott Harris, Troy Temple, Jeff McKay, Carter McKay, Mike Schmeltz, Bob Long, John Nichols, Judy Legg, Nick Dovsek, Kurt Vaughan, and spares Chris Parker, Dave Weaver and Ric Ashley.

Both Leagues have some terrific sponsors and great spectator fan bases that make these leagues second to none.

As popularity increases yearly, hopefully the new diamond complex happens sooner than later.

One of the last anticipated events takes place this coming weekend as the Strafford-ville Giants three pitch coed tournament takes place. It is a very unique and fun event, for charity they encourage players to donate socks as they donate to the 519 Pledge for Socks!

That's a wrap on the season, see everyone in the spring!

Men's Division 2

The Sticky Bandits are this year's Division Two playoff champions following up a Division Three title from last season. They were full value for the win, as they combined power, solid base hitting and lots of speed throughout their playoff run. At My Playground/IQT Logistics were finalists the last two years.

Game#3

At My Playground/IQT Logistics-13, Sticky Bandits-2

AMP-Riley Balazs 4-4, HR; Brandon Balazs 3-3, 2HR; Duncan McLean HR; Connor Smith HR; Logan Partlo HR.

Bandits-Nicky Knelsen 2-2; Andrew Knelsen 1-2.

Game Synopsis-At My Playground/IQT Logistics played close to a flawless game in escaping elimination with a 13-2 win forcing a fourth game in the series. They brought out the savvy veteran for this one. Tyler Lamb made several slick fielding plays at shortstop and chipped in with a pair of sharp singles. Connor Smith kept the potent offence of the Sticky Bandits in check. AMP went yard six times, and more importantly, kept Sticky Bandits inside the park. The heart of the order accounted for five runs: Brandon Balazs homered in consecutive at bats and tripled, Duncan McLean homered and doubled twice.

Game #4

Sticky Bandits-26, At My Playground/IQT Logistics-11

Bandits-Jordan Weibe 5-5, HR; Nicky Knelsen 4-4; Austin Reddekopp HR; Kurtis Friesen HR.

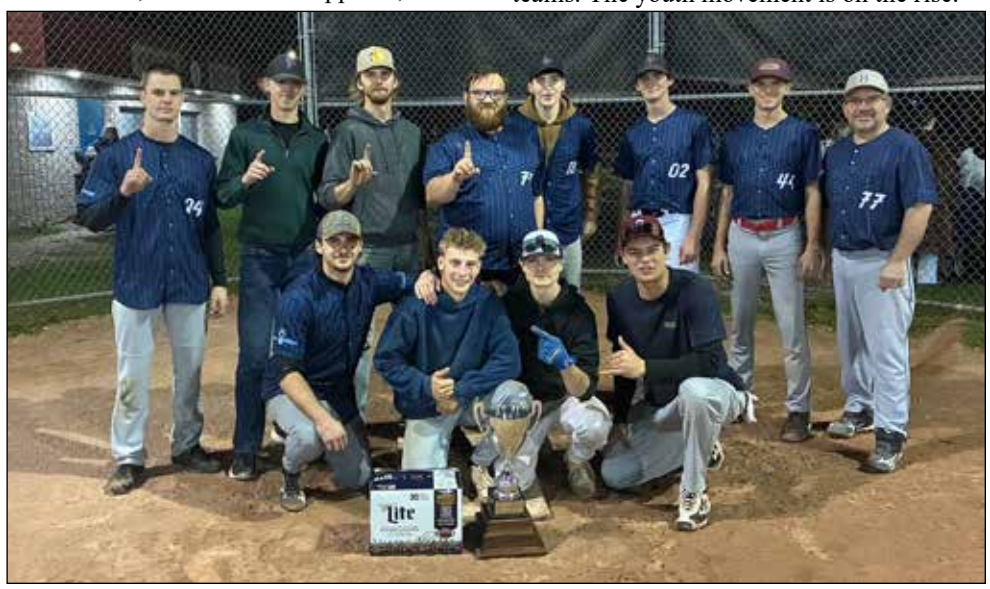
AMP-Brandon Balazs 3-3, HR; Travis Lamb 3-3; Connor Smith HR.

Game Synopsis-Despite the score being lopsided in the clinching game, both teams exuded lots of sportsmanship and the AMP leadership and veterans tipped their caps to Sticky Bandits performance in the series.

The Bandits scored seven in the second and fourth innings, and completed the mercy with a six-run sixth. Jordan Weibe went 5-5 and drove in five runs, Morgan Siemens had five hits as well leading off their order and also drove in five. Nicky Knelsen made two sparkling catches in the outfield.

AMP was led by Brandon Balazs, who homered and doubled twice, Travis Lamb doubled, singled twice and scored three runs.

All four playoff titles were won by younger teams. The youth movement is on the rise.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Sticky Bandits were winners of Division Two, finishing the series against At My Playgound/IQT Logistics to win in four games. The team won Division Three last year.





Club-Oxford hockey faces off for the season

JEFF GWYN

Post Contributor

The first games of Club Oxford hockey started on Oct. 4.

A Division

Birds Golf 5, Royal LePage 4

Birds Golf came out flying early. They had some early speed that kept Royal LePage on their heels. Quickness and strong presence down low helped secure the win. Royal LePage bounced back after a tough start. A late push just came up short in this one-goal game.

Dan King had four points for Birds Golf. John Bouck had four points for Royal LePage.

Source 4, Health Hut 3

Source found some chemistry in the first game. They had some very good chances offensively, but had to stay strong in their own zone to secure the win. Health Hut had some good chances and worked hard to create rebounds all night. Some small defensive lapses let Source in midway through the second.

Brendan Soares had four points for Source. Chad Goetz and Gaige Benish had goals for Health Hut.

ReMax 3, Fody's 2

ReMax had a strong game as their top line was dangerous all night. Limiting chances in their own zone helped the offence pounce in this one. Fody's did get some solid offence, but couldn't cash in on rebounds. A solid effort as they find their feet as a team.

Ben Sharp had a hat trick for ReMax. Christian Clifford had two points for Fody's.

CLUB OXFORD A DIVISION	GP	W	L	T	PTS
BIRDS GOLF	1	1	0	0	2
SOURCE FOR SPORTS	1	1	0	0	2
RE/MAX REALTY	1	1	0	0	2
FODY'S AUTOMOTIVE	1	0	1	0	0
HEALTH HUT	1	0	1	0	0
ROYAL LEPAGE REALTY	1	0	1	0	0

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



ROWING WINNERS (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Donna Sykes, left, and Tricia Giesbrecht of the Tillsonburg Rowing Club won the silver medal at the Head of the Welland which took place on Sept. 26. There were nine boats in the race. For more information on joining the rowing club, e-mail Tillsonburgrowingclub@gmail.com

B Division

JP Mortgages 3, Airmount 3

A solid back-and-forth game. Prouse Mortgages earned the point as they found some early connections and were able to get shots on net all game. Airmount were able to create rushes all night and had a strong presence in front of the net to add more pressure.

Ryan Crandall had two goals for Prouse Mortgages. Colby Jansen had two goals for Airmount.

B-Line 4, Glass 0

B-Line took over in the second with some offensive speed. They had some solid rushes and worked hard in close to create chances. Glass had some chances but still need to find out what works for their team. Pressure in their own zone took them out of the game in the second.

Connor McDowell had two goals for B-Line. Mark Gignac had the shutout.

RND 3, Carquest 0

RND started quickly and kept the pressure most of the night. They were able to limit Carquest chances which helped tilt the ice in their favour. Carquest couldn't sustain much offence but did create some chances on their limited rushes.

Nick Brotz had two goals for RND. Jamie Wilcocks had the shutout.

October 7

B Division

B-Line 3, Carquest 0

B-Line used their speed to get a bunch of chances in this one. They pressured in the neutral zone, causing turnovers and rushes for themselves. Carquest had some chances off rushes and limited offensive zone attempts. They were pressured through the middle and made some turnovers.

Derek Buchner has two assists for B-Line. Mark Gignac not his second straight shutout.

RND 4, Prouse Mortgages 3

After a quick first period, RND was able to claw back and earn the win in this one. They matched the Prouse Mortgages speed and forced a lot of chances in deep. Prouse Mortgages had the ice in their favour early with a bunch of chances and rushes. They couldn't break through a tough RND defence in the second though.

Jamie Braun had three points for RND. Cody Vandecappelle had two goals for Prouse Mortgages.

Glass 4, Airmount 1

Glass seemed to control the front of the Airmount net much of the night. They made quick passes and pounced on rebounds all night in this one. Airmount played a very good first period, but lost a step to Glass in the second.

Nate DaCosta had two points for Glass. Mason Gear had the goal for Airmount.

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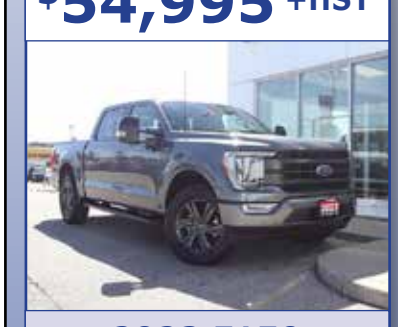

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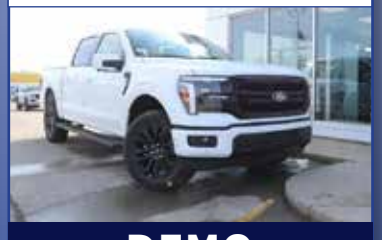

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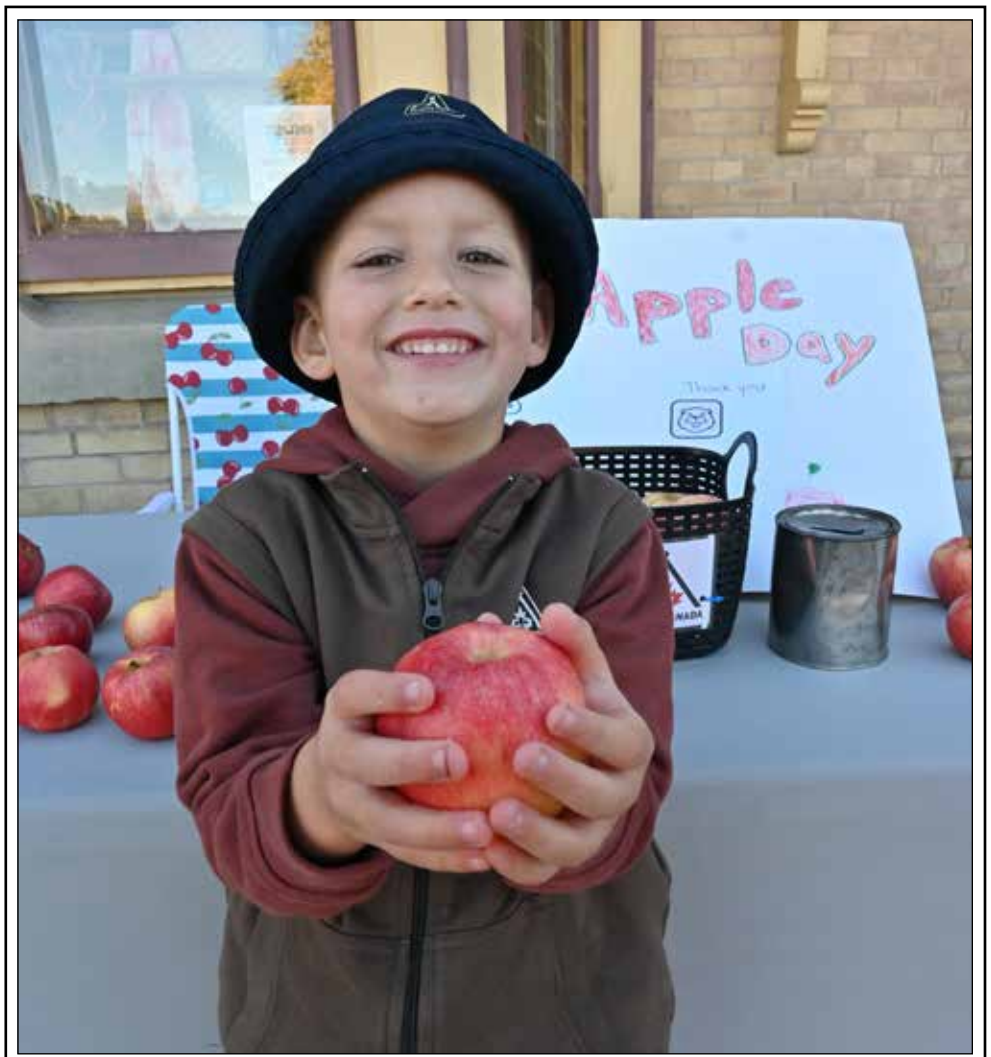

APPLE DAY

(JEFF HELSDON PHOTO)

Declan Stead, a member of the local Beaver troop, was busy selling apples at Station Arts Centre on Oct. 3 as part of Scouting Canada's annual Apple Day. Other members of local scouting organizations were at CIBC, Zehr's, No Frills, Canadian Tire, Metro, Sobey's, No Frills, Shopper's Drug Mart and other locations in town.

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B.R. Plumbing has returned to its original ownership.

The company was started in 1993 by Bart Rietveld, and grew substantially to become one of the largest plumbing/HVAC companies in town.

In 2022, the company was sold to a larger corporation. Bart bought the company back in the beginning of August, parenting with Brian Velthove.

The company has 18 employees to provide top-notch service for plumbing, heating, air conditioning and drain cleaning.

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Off road vehicle complaints rise across Oxford County

The Oxford detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is reminding off-road vehicle (ORV) operators to ride safely and lawfully, as complaints continue to be called in, across the county.

Off-road vehicles can provide a safe and enjoyable outdoor experience when operated responsibly. However, improper operation, excessive speed, stunt driving, impairment, lack of protective equipment, and riding in unauthorized areas continue to contribute to calls for service in Oxford County.

The law requires ORV operators to follow specific rules designed to protect riders, passengers, and the public.

Police are reminding riders that off-road vehicles operated in Ontario must be registered, display a licence plate, and be insured. Operators must carry proof of registration and insurance and produce the documents upon request.

Drivers and riders are reminded to put safety first when operating off-road vehicles.

Key safety reminders include:

- Always wear an approved motorcycle helmet that is securely fastened.
- Never operate an ORV while impaired by alcohol or drugs.
- Ride at a speed appropriate for trail, weather, and terrain conditions.
- Ensure passengers are only carried where permitted by the manufacturer and legislation.
- Conduct a pre-ride inspection of tires, brakes, lights, steering, and fluid levels.
- Stay on designated trails and obtain permission before riding on private property.
- Do not partake in risky behaviours such as stunt driving.

Riders are also reminded that off-road vehicles are not permitted on all highways and roadways. Municipal by-laws and provincial regulations determine where ORVs may be legally operated. Before riding on any public roadway, operators should familiarize themselves with local laws and ensure they meet all licencing and equipment requirements.

Riders, and in some cases both riders and owners, of ORVs may face charges for offences including operating without insurance, failing to wear a helmet, careless driving, driving while impaired, operating an unregistered vehicle, mischief and trespassing.

Police encourage riders of all experience levels to complete an off-road vehicle safety course and review Ontario's ORV laws before heading out.

For more information on off-road vehicle laws and safety requirements, visit the Ontario Federation of All-Terrain Vehicles at www.ofatv.org or the Ontario Government website at www.ontario.ca/atv .







McKinnon asking for transparency at TVDSB

LEE GRIFFI

Post Contributor

Bill McKinnon is no stranger to the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB), having served as a trustee for 11 years, including a stint as board chair from 2015 to 2021. He will be joined by Benjamin Lampkin.

Dave Cripps, who is vying for a spot on Ingersoll Town Council, and Leanne Hopkins did not run for re-election.

McKinnon, an Ingersoll resident, was first elected as a TVDSB trustee in 2010 and was acclaimed in 2014 alongside Graham Hart. He was elected vice-chair of the board in December 2014 and became chair in 2015, a position he held until 2021. McKinnon was re-elected as an Oxford trustee in 2018 but stepped down as board chair in the spring of 2021 and resigned his trustee position a few months later.

"I wanted to make sure Oxford County was represented by somebody who knows the ins and outs of public education and who served on the board before," explained McKinnon when asked why he signed up for the role. "I wanted to make sure there was some experience and the right questions were asked."

The TVDSB remains under provincial control, with some meetings being held behind closed doors and others open to the public but not livestreamed, meaning residents must attend in person to observe the proceedings.

McKinnon said one of his biggest concerns is the lack of a budget and financial clarity on the board's financial situation. When TVDSB presented its 2025–26 budget, the board was reporting a projected $32 million deficit, a figure that received considerable media attention. The province took control of the board's administration on April 23, 2025, following a financial investigation.

"They should have been able to clear this up and hand it back to the trustees. I want to know why that's not being done."

The TVDSB remains under provincial supervision, with provincial supervisor Paul Boniferro overseeing the board's financial and operational decisions. Day-to-day financial administration remains with TVDSB Treasurer Jeff Major, the board's senior superintendent of corporate services. Kevin Auckland is now the board's CEO, a position he took over on July 1, 2026, replacing interim Director of Education Bill Tucker.

McKinnon said he is also worried about the lack of transparency, with meetings being held out of the public eye.

"We do not know what's going on behind the scenes in these in-camera meetings, which are illegal. At least if you have your trustees there, they can make the decisions and know what's going on. That is not being done, and the public is not being made aware of anything happening at the board level."

He added while there was likely a good reason for the province to step in, locking out trustees doesn't make any sense.

"I don't think it was the trustees they should have gotten rid of. Somebody was spending the money, but it certainly wasn't the elected officials who make $1,100 a month. What are they really trying to do?"

McKinnon said he has already been contacted by several teachers, parents and Oxford County Warden Marcus Ryan, who are concerned about the issues facing the board. Unfortunately, there is little he can do to help at this point.

"They are concerned about what's going on in the classroom, classroom sizes, the area attendance review at East Oxford Public School, and they aren't being heard. They don't have anybody on their side to fight for them."

Before the province took control of the board, McKinnon said, parents would typically receive answers to their questions or see issues resolved quickly. He added that he is also concerned members of the media are not having their questions answered.

This reporter sent two emails to the TVDSB seeking a statement about the board's decision to terminate school bus monitors who assist with the safety of students with special needs. The first email was sent Aug. 21, followed by a second email on Aug. 24. The board did not respond to either request. The story can be found at https://www.granthaven.com/post/area-school-boards-cut-funding-for-school-bus-monitors-1.

Lampkin, also an Ingersoll resident, did not respond to Grant Haven Media's request for an interview.

Council looks at public nuisance bylaw to address loitering

JEFF HELSDON

Editor

Tillsonburg council hopes a new nuisance bylaw will address loitering downtown, and it will be brought forward in early 2027.

Council heard a report at the Sept. 28 meeting on the possibility of such a bylaw. Geno Vanhaelewyn, Chief Building Official,, said the report followed a council request to support downtown businesses and address smoking outside premises and loitering.

"The town has received complaints from downtown businesses and the public related to loitering, prolonged gathering in front of businesses, smoking near entrances and pedestrian areas and behaviour perceived as disruptive, intimidating or negatively impacting the downtown area," he said.

Between 2020 and 2026, there were 68 complaints related to homelessness, loitering, smoking, drug use and other nuisance issues in the downtown. Breaking this down, 40 were related to encampments, 12 were about smoking, six complained about drug use, and two were about loitering.

Vanhaelewyn said staff are enforcing existing bylaws in this regard, but, upon further review, realized one bylaw may be a nuisance bylaw and is reviewing the smoking bylaw.

The motion council passed directed staff to bring forward a public nuisance bylaw in the first quarter of 2027, identify gaps in the smoking bylaw, and address them.

Coun. Bob Parsons said he hoped the new bylaw would include public education and signage.

"It will take a bit to get the folks to recognize what the new rules will be," he said.

Vanhaelewyn said the bylaw enforcement officers would communicate the changes.

Coun. Kelly Spencer said she brought forward the concept of the review last summer, and was looking forward to seeing what comes of it.

Mayor Deb Gilvesy asked whether the bylaw would be complaint-driven or whether bylaw staff would be proactive in enforcement. Vanhaelewyn said he hopes staff will be proactive.



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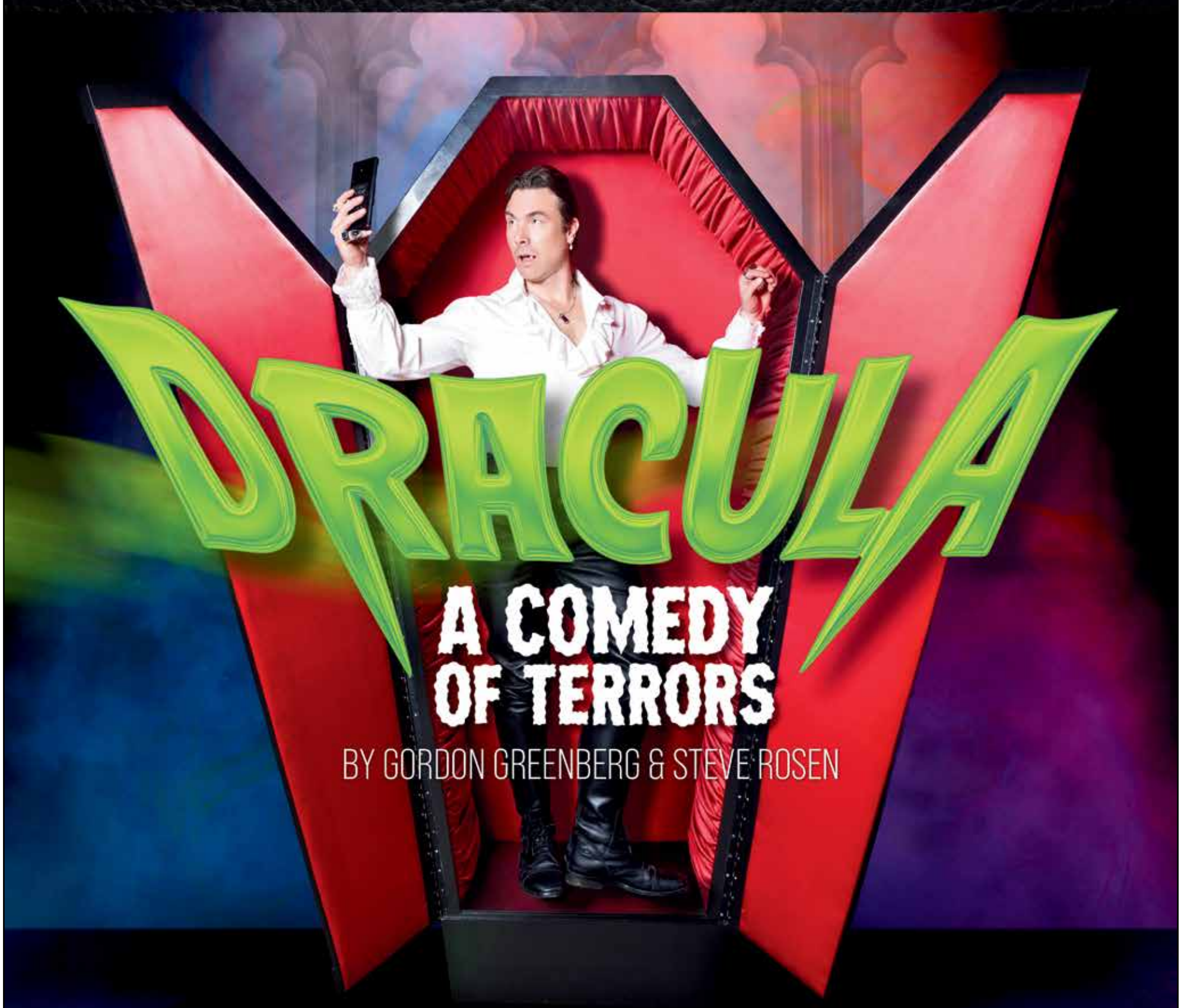

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BY GORDON GREENBERG & STEVE ROSEN

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Sunday: Closed

RIDDLES

What is always in front of you, but can't be seen?

The future.

You'll find me in Mercury, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus. But never Neptune, or Venus. What am I?

The letter "R."

How many months have 28 days?

Every month has 28 days.

I can be cracked, made, told and played. What am I?

A joke.

I cannot talk, but I always reply when spoken to. What am I?

An echo.

When you stop to look, you can always see me. But if you try to touch me, you can never feel me. Although you walk towards me, I remain the same distance from you. What am I?

The horizon.

What is it that no one wants to have, but no one wants to lose either?

A lawsuit.

SUDOKU

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Level: Advanced

Solutions on Page 30

PET OF THE WEEK



MR. KITTY

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ELECT
Stephen
MOLNAR
COUNCILLOR

"I hope you have all had a special Thanksgiving with family and friends. The voting period for the 2026 Municipal Election is currently open. If you require additional assistance, please follow the link at www.tillsonburg.ca/town-hall or call 519-688-3009. Your support is appreciated"

- Stephen

519-983-VOTE (8683)
votemolnar@execulink.com
Authorized by Stephen Molnar.

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

WORD SEARCH

GEOGRAPHY

S	F	S	A	P	P	Y	N	P	T	C	H	T	E	U	I	H	S	E	B
A	Y	F	I	B	B	A	O	P	A	R	C	H	I	P	E	L	A	G	O
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SCAN TO VIEW MORE OFFERS

OCTOBER 19 | 5 - 7 PM
OLDE FASHION HAM SUPPER
Otterville United Church, 231 Main Street East, Otterville
Tickets: Adults $20, Children 2-12 $8, Under 6 Free.

OCTOBER 18 | 1:30 PM
THE BLAZING FIDDLES
St. Paul's United Church, 88 Bidwell Street, Tillsonburg
Don't miss the fabulous live Music Show featuring "The Blazing Fiddles" as seen at Grand River Cruises playing your favorite fiddle music. Advance Tickets available by contacting Dianne Parnell at 519 871 3454 or at the door. $40 cash only.

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 16 | STARTS 5 PM
AN EVENING WITH TED BARRIS EXPLORING "CANADIANS IN KOREA"
Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON
Tillsonburg Military History Club invites you to an evening with Ted Barris exploring "Canadians in Korea" at the Tillsonburg Legion on Friday October 16. Social hour at 5:00pm, Roast Beef Supper at 6:00 pm. speaker Ted Barris at 7:00 pm. Tickets $30 per person. For more info call 519-842-5281.

OCTOBER 17 | 2 PM
NORWICH DISTRICT CURLING CLUB OPEN HOUSE & GRAND RE-OPENING
17 Phebe St Norwich
Join us as we "pass the torch" with the first rocks being thrown by three-generation families of the NDCC. Light refreshments will be available. More info curlnorwich@gmail.com

OCTOBER 19 | 7:30 PM
DELHI & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL "SILENT AUCTION" FUND RAISER.
Delhi Friendship Centre, 418 Queen St., Delhi, On.
Just like a big yard sale. Come and see what we have to offer and get a real bargain. MEMBERS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS all welcome. Enter at the parking lot off William Street.

OCTOBER 19 - 24
ROTARY BOOK FAIR
Located at Tillsonburg Town Centre Mall - new location by the LCBO.
Give your used books, CD's, puzzles and board games a new home. Proceeds go to community projects. Please bring your own reusable bag.

OCTOBER 24 | 10 AM - 3 PM
OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY CIRCUIT BOOK (STAMP) FAIR
Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7
Free Admission & Parking. Stop in and buy some stamps and meet fellow stamp collectors. About 8 participating stamp clubs.
Contact: dheaton3e3@gmail.com
Website: http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford

OCTOBER 24 | 9 AM - 1 PM
TILLSONBURG CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE FALL RUMMAGE SALE
St. Mary's Church, TILLSONBURG
Please come join us at our fall rummage sale. Clothing and footwear for the family. Housewares, glassware, bedding, home decor, toys and trinkets, jewelry, books and much more. Everyone is welcome. Fully Accessible. Admission is free. Please bring a bag (or two) to carry home your treasures. Thank you for your continued support

OCTOBER 31 | 7 - 11 PM
LEGION HALLOWEEN DANCE
Tillsonburg Legion, 16 Durham St, Tillsonburg, ON
featuring Kickn' Kountry Live! This is a 19+ event. $10 cash at the door. Cash bar open from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Prizes for best dressed!

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 6 | 10 AM - NOON
MESSY CHURCH "WE HEAR YOU"
St.Paul's United Church 88 Bidwell St., Tillsonburg
Fun crafts, a chance to do some early Christmas shopping, snacks, games, music, story and of course... a hot meal. Children should be accompanied by an adult.

NOVEMBER 9 | 6 PM
TILLSONBURG FAIRBOARD ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS
Tillsonburg Fairboard Office

ONGOING CLASSES, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

MONDAYS & THURSDAYS
OTTER VALLEY TAI CHI
St. John's Anglican Church, 46 Ridout St. W., Tillsonburg
Spots still available in new Monday morning and Thursday afternoon classes. Mondays 9:00 – 10:30 am Introduction, 10:30 – 11:30 am Foundations. Thursdays 2:00 – 3:30 pm Introduction, 3:30 – 4:30 pm Foundations. Enjoy gentle exercise with others as you work to improve flexibility, balance and stamina. Call 519-688-9779, email ottervalley@canadiantaichiacademy.org, visit canadiantaichiacademy.org

WEDNESDAYS | 6 - 7:30 PM
CANADIAN TAI CHI ACADEMY TILLSONBURG
Classes take place at St Paul's United Church, Fox Alley South entrance off Ridout Street
Continuing sessions and Lok Hup occur from 7:30 – 8:30 PM. Additional practice sessions are available Fridays from 10:00 – 11:00AM.
For more information: Email: tillsonburg@canadiantaichiacademy.org, Website: canadiantaichiacademy.org. Everyone welcome. Improve your health.

3RD TUE. OF MONTH | 6:30 - 8:30 PM
CAREGIVER CONNECTION
Revel Realty Woodstock, 111 Huron Street (Virutal/hyrbid options available)
Are you worried about your child or youth? Parents and Caregivers for Mental Health (PCMH) is here to listen, support, and walk alongside you on this journey. Our free Caregiver Connection peer support groups offer parents and caregivers a community of support. Can't make it in person? Join one of our virtual or hybrid groups! **Visit family.cmho.org or email oxfordcounty@pcmh.ca for more information.**

OXFORD COUNTY DIABETES EDUCATION PROGRAM
Appointments are available at Alexandra Hospital Ingersoll and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital and by phone
Are you looking for support with your Diabetes? Our Team of Registered Nurses, Registered Dietitians and a Social Worker is here to support YOUR goals. We can help with medication adjustments, lifestyle and diet changes, stress management, weight reduction strategies and more. **SELF REFERRALS ARE WELCOME.** Please call 519-485-9611 to book an appointment. Let's work together!

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

2ND TUES. OF MONTH (SEPT. TO MAY) | 2 - 4 PM
4TH TUES. OF MONTH (SEPT. TO MAY) | 7 - 9 PM
OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Church of the Epiphany, 560 Dundas Street, Woodstock Ontario N4S 1C7
If you have never belonged to a stamp club, now's the time. Meet new friends, grow your knowledge and collection. Contact: Don Eaton dheaton3e3@gmail.com. Website: http://www.rpsc.org/chapters/oxford

3RD WED. OF MONTH | 10 AM - NOON
LYNN RIVER PROBUS CLUB
Army, Navy & Air Force Club, Simcoe, ON. Corner of Water St. and Culver St. Simcoe. Enter via Culver St.
Our retired and semi-retired members enjoy diverse interest groups, friendship and fellowship. We have interesting speakers at our monthly meetings as well as time to socialise. Current and prospective members are welcome to join us at the Army, Navy & Air Force Club, Simcoe, which is on the corner of Water St. and Culver St. Simcoe. Enter via Culver St. For more information, please visit our website at: lynnriverprobus239.com or email lynnriverprobus239@gmail.com

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS | 7 - 9 PM
SATURDAYS | 10 AM - 12 PM
LEARN BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU (BJJ)
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EVERY OTHER FRIDAY | 1 - 4 PM
BE FALL-ISH AND COME TO THE INGERSOLL COUNTRY MUSIC JAMBOREE
Masonic Hall, 190 Thames St. S., Ingersoll
Join us, walk ins welcome. Qualifications - love 50-70's country music. Perform, listen, dance & enjoy! October 16 & 30, November 6 & 20, and December 4.

WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS
TILLSONBURG BRIDGE CLUB
Two games weekly at the Tillsonburg Senior Centre - 45 Hardy Ave.
SOCIAL BRIDGE - Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.
A relaxed, friendly game for learners, returners and everyone else.
DUPLICATE BRIDGE - Fridays, 1:00 p.m.
Still friendly, but a bit more structured and competitive.
Please arrive 10 minutes early.
Questions? tburgbridge@gmail.com or FB: TburgBridge

COMING EVENTS

SATURDAYS, JUNE 6 - SEPT. 19 | 10 AM - 4 PM

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

1ST AND 3RD TUES. OF MONTH

TILLSONBURG LIONS
The Tillsonburg Lions meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. You are invited to their dinner meetings in the Lion's Den at the Community Centre. If you are interested in giving back to your Community contact Jim at 519 409 0876 for more information.....all are welcome.

1ST WED. OF MONTH | 7 PM

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

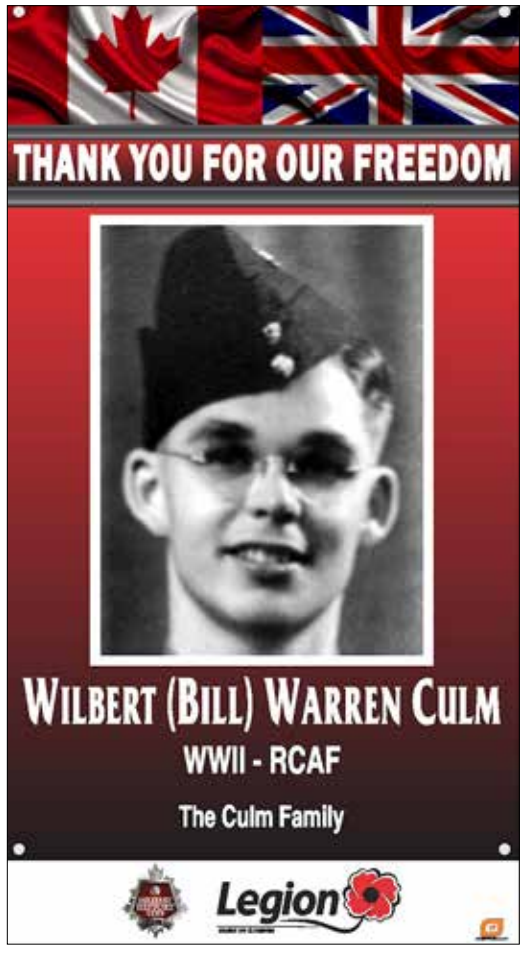
WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT ONE OF OUR EVENTS? WE WELCOME YOU!
The Wagner Memorial, Teeterville Legion Branch 526 - 3890 Teeterville Road, Teeterville, ON
You do not need to be a member to Volunteer, Just contact the legion and leave your name and number and purpose of your call. Someone will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

VON OXFORD SUPPORTIVE CARE PROGRAMS
Navigating any form of grief can feel overwhelming; however, with the right support, guidance, and education, individuals can discover a pathway to help in the healing of grief.
VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs offer assistance for grief stemming from various circumstances, such as the death of someone, caregiving, serious illness diagnoses, and life transitions. Through education, connection, and compassion, our programs create a safe space for individuals to explore their emotions and learn effective coping mechanisms during the grieving process.
Contact us today to learn more about VON Oxford Supportive Care Programs: Email: oxford.griefsupport@von.ca, Phone: 1-888-866-7518. All Programs are Free-of-charge.

MEET THE PEOPLE OF THE MEMORIAL VETERAN BANNERS

WILBERT (BILL) WARREN CULM

Bill was born February 14, 1922 in Hamilton and joined the RCAF in 1942 as a Lance-Corporal. He learned the top-secret radar technology at Clinton Air Base and then transferred to 9 Wing/CFB Gander, N.L where he trained recruits on radar and participated in operating/maintaining coastal radar. In June 1943, Bill married Verda Newcombe. In 1945, Bill was discharged and applied to the Post Discharge Re-establishment Order for a grant to attend the Electrical Engineering course at Queen's University. After graduation in 1949, Bill and Verda started their family of seven children. He had a 35-year career with Bell Telephone working from a linesman in Algonquin Park to Assistant Vice President Buildings/Vehicles/Supplies in Montreal and a 2-year contract in Saudi Arabia. On retirement, Bill supervised the construction of a cutter-rigged sailboat in Taiwan. He named it "Culmination" and sailed Canada's west coast. Bill passed in 2003 at 81.



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Music Sunday
Third Sunday of each month
All are Welcome

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Tillsonburg
P: (519) 688-5999



Aging Well Road Show
October 22nd from 10am to 1pm
At the Tillsonburg Senior Centre, 45 Hardy Ave.

A day of connection, learning, and building community!

The Community Importance of Sharing Our Stories
Dr. Jason Pankratz

Safety for All Ages and Safe Use of 911
Tillsonburg Fire Services & 911 Dispatchers

Seniors Defensive Driving
Vic Whitcroft

Movement break with Stonebridge Community Services and light refreshments available!

Need a ride to this event? Call 519-842-9008 ext. 275

AGE FRIENDLY Oxford County

Walk-ins welcome, but registration recommended!
Register today at **https://bit.ly/AWTillsonburg**

Six2s bring decades of punk, metal and DIY influence to Tillsonburg



MUSIC CORNER

BEN ANDRESS

Tillsonburg Post Columnist

What started as a loose collection of musicians messing around with Motley Crüe covers and heavy metal has evolved into the band Six2s – a group that has leaned heavily into being a punk and thrash outfit built around original music and a refusal to take itself too seriously.

The band is set to make their way to Tillsonburg with the current lineup featuring Sean Cavvanaugh on drums, Fraser Farquhar on lead guitar and vocals, Steve Gagliardi on bass and backing vocals and Cease Radder on rhythm guitar and vocals.

Six2s began in 2014 as a 'mess around band' where the original group included a drummer named Jer, a neighbour and another musician. The group experimented with covers before Radder began jamming with them on Christmas night in 2014.

"I cannot play metal," Radder recalls. The group began making up their own material instead.

The lineup continued to evolve. Johnny O joined on bass before Jer took a trucking job that pulled him away from the band. Paula O took over drums and B Rad Trojan joined on lead guitar and Jer eventually returned on vocals.

After one show, Jer stepped away and the remaining members continued as another project called Bleeter. Radder still wanted to keep Six2s alive and restarted the band with Jer in 2016. By 2017, they had accumulated a collection of original songs shared between Six2s and Bleeter.

The band also began inviting musicians to sit in for guest appearances eventually bringing Cavvanaugh into the fold, followed by Farquhar. Radder moved from bass into the role of vocalist while the lineup continued to take shape. By the summer of 2018, the Six2s was ready to hit the stage.

In 2019, the band recorded its album titled Break and Disintegrate which was originally scheduled for release in April 2020. Then, like countless other bands, their plans were derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The album was eventually released without the planned promotional push of radio and touring. CHRW's Faster n Louder radio program gave the record a memorable debut by playing the entire album twice during its release celebration.

The band eventually went quiet. By 2022, Jer was preparing to move north, bringing an end to Six2s. Other projects followed including Bleeter, The Wall Punchers and The Quills but each eventually ran its course.

After the summer of 2025 Radder, Cavvanaugh and Farquhar began talking about bringing Six2s back. They found a rehearsal space, recruited longtime friend Gagliardi on bass, and began relearning the songs from Break and Disintegrate. They also brought in songs from The Wall Punchers and The Quills that had never received their proper chance, and paired those songs along with a new collection of material.

That emphasis on writing has always been central to Radder's approach. The result is a band that draws from punk, metal and thrash while incorporating a distinctly DIY attitude. The music itself is difficult to fit neatly into one category.

"We are high energy. Danceable indie punk thrash. Some may call it skate rock. They would not be wrong," Radder says with a laugh. "We are all semi-retired skateboarders except Fraser. He is an enthusiast though. Musically, our influences span from the stuff we grew up with. 70s, 80s, and 90s punk and metal. With ethical guidance from Fugazi."

That eclectic list of influences reflects a band that is not interested in simply recreating the past. Six2s may draw heavily from the music its members grew up with but the goal is to continue creating rather than becoming a tribute act to their own history. The band members simply want to write songs and put on a good show while doing it on their own terms.

"We just like playing. It is getting tougher because I'm very adamant about how I want things to work," Radder explains. "Lots of things have changed in the past six years with venues and such. I'm flexible on some issues. Some I'm not and will not participate in. What I hope people take away from our show? That they saw a good show had a great time and come back again."

For a band that began more than a decade ago as a group of musicians simply making noise together, Six2s has travelled a long and winding road to make it to Tillsonburg this month. With a new lineup, old songs being rediscovered and plenty of new material in the works, the band is back where it belongs which is to be on stage making noise and having a good time.

Six2s will be bringing friends The Headcases and Nothing Shocking to Paddy's Underground located at 20 John Pound Road on Saturday, Oct. 17. Tickets are $10 for this 19-plus concert and will be available at The Mill, online at www.eventbrite.ca and also at the doors night of the show. If you want to follow and keep in touch with Six2s you can follow them on their official social media account at www.facebook.com/SIX2s

UPCOMING SHOWS IN TILLSONBURG

OCT. 8 - HAILEY ECKER
The Copper Mug
Free Entry – 8 p.m.

OCT. 9 - KICKIN KOUNTRY
The Copper Mug
Free Entry – 7 p.m.

OCT. 10 - JOEBREAKER W/ THE WASHOUT, JESSE LEBOURDAIS, NICK SHRUBSOLE & JON CREEDEN
The Copper Mug
$15 - 7:30 p.m.

OCT. 15 - YOUTH FOUNTAIN W/ WE WERE SHARKS & SUCKERPUNCH!
Paddy's Underground
$22.60 – 8 p.m. – 19-plus

OCT. 16 - GHOST TOWN CITIZEN
The Copper Mug
Free Entry - 8:30pm

OCT. 17 - SIX2S W/ NOTHING SHOCKING & THE HEADCASES
Paddy's Underground
$10 – 8 p.m. – 19-plus

OCT. 24 - THE ACTION W/ DESTINED FOR THE THRONE
Paddy's Underground
$20 – 8 p.m. – 19-plus

OCT. 30 - RIGHT TURN CLYDE
The Copper Mug
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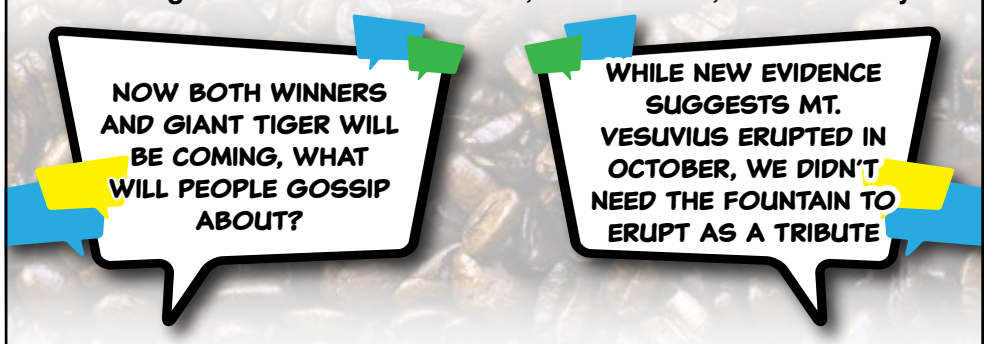

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CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARY

MARGARET 'MONCIE' GILVESY

APRIL 12, 1938 – OCTOBER 7, 2026



Peacefully, with her family by her side at Woodingford Lodge in Tillsonburg, Margaret Gilvesy passed away in her 89 th year. Born in Smooth Rock Falls, Ontario, she was known to her family and friends as 'Moncie'.

Beloved wife of the late George Gilvesy with whom she shared 59 years of marriage. Loving mother of George (Valerie), Bryan (Cathy), and Scott (Deb). Cherished grandmother of Grant, Adrienne (Erin), Paula (Parker), Joseph, Laura (Collin), Paige, and John (Alex), and great-grandmother of Ellie, Dillon, Oliver, Aiden, Norah, and Annie. Moncie is survived by her sisters-in-law, Elizabeth Gilvesy, Ella Szorenyi, and Irene Gilvesy, as well as several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, Joseph and Margaret Csuka.

She dedicated her life to her family, her friends and her faith. A devoted mother and wife, she offered endless support to her three boys and their families, as well as sharing many lifelong interests with her husband.

Moncie was an excellent cook and treasured her many culinary recipes which she guarded closely. Amongst her other lesser-known talents, she learned to pilot an airplane and had even flown her first solo.

As a lifelong member of St. George Greek Catholic Church in Courtland, Ontario, her angelic voice could regularly be heard as cantor of the choir. Her church community was a very important part of her life, and she used her talents as a gifted cook and organizer to support many church functions over the years.

Though typically quiet and unassuming, Mom had a flair for helping dad 'cement' many business deals through her ability to say the right things at the right time, while providing a delicious meal to seal the deal.

Mom was a model grandmother and great-grandmother, forming a special bond with each of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her grandchildren will always remember family getaways to places such as Dollywood and Santa's Village, along with the memory books she lovingly created for them to cherish for a lifetime.

Moncie was loved by many and will be remembered for her love, grace, class, and devotion to family and friends.

The family extends its heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Roth and the teams at Woodingford Lodge in Tillsonburg for the outstanding care and attentiveness shown to Moncie; we were consistently amazed by the loving commitment of Woodingford staff to our mother.

Cremation has taken place. Friends and relatives will be received at Ostrander's Funeral Home, 43 Bidwell Street, Tillsonburg (519-842-5221) on Thursday, October 15, 2026 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. A Private Liturgical Service for Margaret will be held in Ostrander's Funeral Home Chapel with Father Seejo John officiating. Inurnment will be at the Tillsonburg Cemetery. Memorial donations to the Canadian Mental Health Association or to the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital Foundation would be appreciated by the Gilvesy family.

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OBITUARY

RUTH (FINLAY) MCCORMICK LAZENBY

1931-2026



Ruth passed away quietly on 3 October 2026 at the Valleyview Home surrounded by family.

Ruth was born 26 January 1931 to William and Lucy Lithgow (Geddes) Finlay in Partick, Glasgow, Scotland. Her early life was heavily influenced by the hardships of WWII as her shipyard neighborhood was a primary target during the Blitz. She often recalled the buzz bombs, missiles, devastation and her evacuation to Wanlockhead. Ruth and her family survived and she married James Hattrick McCormick in 1949. The couple subsequently emigrated to London, Ontario and began their own family before moving to St. Thomas where they started the Highland Lodge Nursing Home.

Ruth was an avid reader and loved her mystery novels, often completing a book in less than a day. She also liked boating and camping having spent many a day on Long point Bay and in the northern woods. Another hobby involved aviation and she had her pilot's license. An oft-told story was of being pulled over for speeding and the policeman saying, "OK lady let's see your pilots license". She produced the requested document and the good-natured officer sent her on her way with a warning. She was also an exceptional baker and the holidays were filled with a vast assortment of baked goods including her trademark shortbread cookies.

Ruth is survived by her 6 children - David (Sharon), William (Lynda), Susan Chilcott (Danny), James (Diane), Ruth-Anne, and Catherine (Allan) Vaillancourt. There are also 11 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and 4 great-greatgrandchildren. She is also survived by four step-children, John, Nancy, and Sandra. Ruth was pre-deceased by her husband, James Hattrick McCormick (1970), husband John Lazenby (1985), a step-daughter Pamela and her dear granddaughter Sarah Maureen McEown (2023).

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, October 17, 2026 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM in the Community Room at the Valleyview Home, 350 Burwell Road, St. Thomas.

Arrangements entrusted to Simplicity Cremation 750 Talbot Street, Suite #203 St. Thomas N5P 1E2 (226-210-1086). If desired, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated. Share a memory at www.simplicity-cremation.ca

THANK YOU

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the many expressions of sympathy we received following the passing of Gerard. They have given us support and comfort.

Thank you for your kind words, the many cards, flowers and donations. A special thanks to Verhoeve Funeral Home and Fr. Seejo.

The family of Gerard Demaiter.

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WEEKEND QUIZ

by Jake Grant

1. What is the only U.S. state that can be typed in using only one row of a standard keyboard?
2. In human anatomy, what does the "hallux" refer to?
3. What is the only planet in our solar system to rotate clockwise on its axis?
4. Which freezes faster: hot or cold water?
5. What is James Bond's code name?
6. Weighing around eight pounds, this is the human body's largest organ?
7. What do you call a group of flamingos?
8. What is the distance from earth to the sun?
9. Which country is the largest in the world?
10. According to Guinness World Records, what's the best-selling book of all time?

This week's answers are found on pg. 30

Tillsonburg POST

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

Theatre Tillsonburg takes a chance on love with The Numbers Game

JENNIFER ANGER-JULL

Post Contributor

Sometimes life has a funny way of bringing the past back around.

That is exactly what happens in The Numbers Game, a Canadian comedy by John Spurway, coming to the Theatre Tillsonburg stage this November under the direction of Joe Sheik and produced by Mark Smith.

The story begins with a seemingly simple problem. Phil Gibson is an actuary who makes his living knowing the odds, but he desperately needs somewhere to live. Bernadette Davis has a room to rent, although Phil isn't quite the roommate she had in mind.

The complication? Phil and Bernadette knew each other in high school and it has been 37 years since they last saw one another.

Would you remember your first crush after all that time? Would you remember the combination to their locker? And what happens when someone you haven't seen in decades suddenly becomes part of your everyday life?

Those are some of the questions at the heart of The Numbers Game, a story about unexpected connections, second chances and the things in life that simply can't be calculated.

The Theatre Tillsonburg production features four familiar faces for our local audience. Melanie Watts-Potter plays Bernadette, Brian Stanhope plays Phil, Tina Hurley takes on the role of Gina, and Brandon Buckle plays Mitch.

For Watts-Potter, the production has already been a rewarding experience.

"Having Joe, Kelly, and Mark as a production team is always a great experience," she says. "They have brought together a cast that has gelled so well since the first night together. The rehearsal process has been so much fun. This cast is working so hard and I can't wait to see where this show goes from here."

Stanhope, who takes on the role of Phil, says the experience has been both challenging and exciting.

"The role of Phil Gibson is, without a doubt, the most challenging role I have ever performed," he says. Stanhope credits Sheik's direction and the support of his fellow actors for helping him tackle the role.

"Although this is the smallest cast I have ever worked with, I believe it is also one of the most talented ones I have had the pleasure to work with," he adds. "I absolutely love working with them. At the end of the day, I'm having a great time. This is turning into a fantastic experience."

Hurley shares that enthusiasm.

"This cast is stellar," she says. "I'm so excited to be working with everyone on this show and I just know the audience is going to love it!"

For Sheik, the enthusiasm of the cast has been one of the highlights of the production.

"It is a special moment for a director when you get an opportunity to work with a cast that's eager to dive into the script and pull out every bit of detail," he says. "That's what we have for The Numbers Game, an excited cast wanting to learn and wanting to give the audience a terrific show."

Sheik describes the play as a Canadian comedy that explores whether opposites really do attract, and whether it is possible to find true love later in life.

"I think we are all in for something special with this show," he says.

That sense of excitement extends beyond the actors on stage. Like every Theatre Tillsonburg production, The Numbers Game is the result of a much larger community of volunteers working behind the scenes, from stage management and lighting to sound, costumes, set work, front of house and all the many jobs that audiences may never see.

It is that community effort that continues to make live theatre at Theatre Tillsonburg such a special part of the local arts scene.

Perhaps that is fitting for a show about unexpected connections. Theatre has a way of bringing people together too. Actors, volunteers, friends, families and audiences all becoming part of the same story for an evening.

Don't miss The Numbers Game this November!

The Numbers Game runs Nov. 12–15 and 19–22, at Theatre Tillsonburg.

Evening performances are Thursday, Friday and the second Saturday at 7:30 p.m., with matinees on the first Saturday and both Sundays at 2 p.m.

Tickets are $28 for a single show.

Theatre lovers can also purchase Theatre Tillsonburg's three-show subscription for just $75, offering a chance to enjoy all three productions in the 2026–27 season at one great price.



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Actors Tina Hurley and Brian Stanhope rehearse a scene in The Numbers Game, which debuts on Nov. 12 at Theatre Tillsonburg.

Tickets and subscriptions are available online at www.theatretillsonburg.com or by calling the box office at 519.688.3026

After all, when an old crush, a room for rent and 37 years of history come together, even an actuary might admit that some things are impossible to predict.

Come see what happens when the numbers stop adding up at Theatre Tillsonburg.

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

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Alaska.
2. The big toe.
3. Venus.
4. Hot water.
5. 007.
6. The skin.
7. A flamboyance.
8. 93 million miles.
9. Russia.
10. The Bible.

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